

Dear Friend,

I have committed to participating in the 5th Annual Dover Town Library Spelling Bee, a fundraiser to benefit the Dover Town Library, and I am writing to ask for your support.

The Library is one of the most-loved and most-visited places in Dover. The Library was recently (November '09) ranked as #7 in the nation, and #1 in Massachusetts for libraries in towns the size of Dover. Part of that success is linked directly to community support.

It is not widely known that Dover's Town budget does not pay for all of the books in the Library, but it's true. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires libraries to spend a certain percentage of their budget on books and materials in order to qualify for State Aid. Dover's municipal budget covers only a portion of that requirement, and the Friends of the Dover Library - made up of people like you and me - pays for the rest. Without this support from volunteers and donors, our Library would not be the library we all know and love.

The Friends of the Dover Library (a 501c3 corporation) also pays for all of the programming that goes on at the Library (author nights, movies, children's events, the summer reading program), all of the free or low-cost museum passes available at the Circulation desk, and the other "extras" that we enjoy, such as magazine subscriptions and online databases.

I'm playing in the Bee because I want to support the Library, and I hope that you will help me. If you can make a donation to help cover the \$300 team entry fee, we will have another team to help raise money for the Library.

The Bee will be held on Thursday, March 25th, from 7—9 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Town House. There will be refreshments for sale in the Bee Café downstairs, and gifts and prizes will be available for purchase from the Bee Tree. It is a fun, family-friendly community event, and I hope you will come cheer me on.

If you can support me, please send me a check made out to Friends of the Dover Library, with "Bee" in the memo line. And please come and root for our team. With your help, we will all win - and so will the Library.

Thank you.