

Renovations Enhance Library Use

Since the opening of the renovated mezzanine last fall, many library users are finding the upstairs an attractive and comfortable space to read, use computers, or study. In the morning many senior men can be found sitting in the lounge chairs reading the *Springfield Republican* or *Wall Street Journal* and seniors and adults often use the counter space or study carrels for their laptop computers to search the internet using the library's wireless access. During the afternoon the teens take over the space to browse the fiction collection, do homework, or work with their friends on projects.

The mezzanine attracts a lot of people of all ages who just want to see what we've done with the space. We've received compliments on the lighting, the ample space to spread-out work, or just to enjoy a quiet time reading.

We are proud and happy to provide this kind of space and atmosphere in the library and look forward to accomplishing something similar on the first floor. This spring we plan to complete the first part of Phase 2 of renovations—the installation of the new, combined service desk. The new desk will be located in the center of the library where the stairs were previously, and will combine circulation, reference and children's service points at one desk. This arrangement will offer convenient access to all our patrons, provide efficient use of library staff, and allow us to reallocate space for public use.

Our future plans involve extensive renovations for the children's and adult areas and lastly, the staff offices. LIFT, Inc. continues to fundraise to provide the money to accomplish these improvements. You can help by making a donation or pledge to LIFT and by joining LIFT to help ask others to give. For more information, contact Library Director Christine Bergquist at the library.

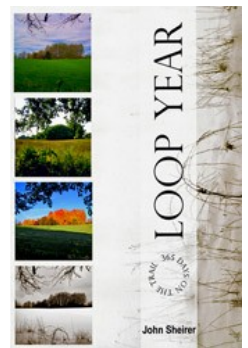
E-Book Demos Scheduled

Interested in learning more about e-book options and downloadable audiobooks? Adult Services Librarian Karen Demers will demonstrate the use of the C/W MARS Digital Catalog on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m. and Friday, March 25 at 2:00 p.m. Attendees are invited to bring their laptops, e-readers, iPods, or other MP3 players for individual questions. Space is limited, so please register through the library's online event calendar, or call the Reference Desk at 596-6141 ext. 101.

The Wilbraham Public Library offers e-books through the C/W MARS Digital Catalog, powered by Overdrive. Titles, software, and tutorial videos are available at <http://digitalcatalog.cwmars.org>. This service is compatible with a variety of e-readers for home use only at this time. Overdrive is working on a way to make downloading titles and transferring to devices at public libraries possible.

Visit from John Sheirer Author of Loop Year

The Friends of the Library welcome author John Sheirer on Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss his memoir *Loop Year: 365 Days of the Trail*. An amateur adventurer and environmentalist, Sheirer hiked the same trail in Somers, Connecticut once a day, every day for a year. The book chronicles the year in 365-word accounts. His adventure includes blistering heat, flooding rain, whiteout snowstorms, early mornings, dark nights, an unexpected love story, and a really cute dog! This event is free for students and members of the Friends. Admission for the general public is \$3.00. Please register through the library's event calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.



Social Media is all the rage and the Wilbraham Public Library makes use of Facebook and Twitter to promote services and events. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter so see all our postings.

President's Message

The Wilbraham Friends of the Library is the group which financially supports many of the library offerings including printer and copier services, passes to local museums, many of the programs for children and adults, and trips and media that patrons would not have available without the Friends' help. Libraries across the state have continued to get less and less state budgetary support for many years now. More communities are being forced to cut hours and/or collections and services. Revenues from WFL memberships, the book sales, trips and art show are critical for WFL to continue helping to fund our library needs. Membership in the Friends isn't just a benefit for yourself, it is also important for your community. Please consider becoming a member if you are not yet one, and if you are a member, spread the word to others.

It's here again!

The annual Friends of the Wilbraham Library Art Show will be March 2-30 in the Brooks Room. The show includes art works in a wide range of fine art genres by talented artists/members of the Friends of the Wilbraham Library. The show will open with a welcoming reception on March 2, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. At the reception, you will have a chance to meet the artists, view wonderful art, enjoy some sweets and review available unframed works in our sale bin. Whether a participating artist or an interested art or library patron, please stop by. The actual show will continue through March during regular library hours. Don't miss this opportunity to see some of the wonderful talent in our community!

Irish delights at WPL

This program was announced in our last newsletter, but details were not yet solid, but here they are now. Hopefully many of you have signed up to attend! "An Irish Evening" is an adult program designed to entertain and help to banish some of our winter doldrums. Cosponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library and the Wilbraham Community Association, it was organized by WFL's John Harrington and features the musical group, "Banish Misfortune". The six member group will entertain with lively banter and music from Ireland, Scotland and Cape Breton. Tea and scones will be served to further delight the Irish spark in all of us. "An Irish Evening" will be presented February 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room of the Library. Attendance is free for Friends and \$5 for nonmembers. Seating is limited so it will be necessary to register ONLINE (www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) to guarantee a seat at the event.

Book Sale in the Works!

Please save your good used books and bring them to the library Wednesday, April 20 through Saturday, April 23. We will definitely use them for a special event... THE ANNUAL BOOK SALE of the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library. The actual sale will take place Monday, April 25 through Saturday, April 30 with Monday's sale exclusively for Friends members. The sale is a major fundraiser for the Friends and without a good sale, we would not be able to help the library provide many of the services and events our community has come to rely on. SO COME EARLY AND COME OFTEN TO OUR BOOK SALE!

Thank You Rewards For Friends

Monthly the Friends draw for a "reward" from all new/renewed memberships. Congratulations to our latest "winning" Friends who were recipients of gift cards to a local business:

November- John-Michael Glates & Heather Field

December- Chet Jez

Spring trip on Wednesday April 13, 2011

Travel "North to Albany" (not ... Alaska) and discover a wealth of interesting places, facts and exhibits. We will stop first at the NY State Capital and then at the New York State Museum. Topping these trip segments will be a full late luncheon at the renown restaurant "Jack's Oyster House". Our day starts with a one hour guided tour of the NY State Capital which is filled with amazing architecture and history. We will then go to the New York State Museum where our three hours will be filled with fascinating exhibits including original information and displays on the events of 9/11/01, detailed NYC history, exhibits on all NY regions from Coney island to Niagara, Fire Engine Hall and native peoples of NY from Ice Age to present. There is also a coffee shop available for snacks.

"Jack's Oyster House" was designated Albany's Greatest Restaurant and best Restaurant of the Century and has been operated continuously by the same family since 1913. Further information and signup for this trip is available at the Library.

A Friends' fall trip is in the works. Our main destination for the Fall 2011 Friends-sponsored trip is Gloucester MA - our Nation's newest designated National Park.

Children's Spring Activities

The **Spring Storytime** session will meet over a period of six weeks, from March 9 through April 14, and will accommodate over 50 children. The following times are offered:

Ages 2 – 3 ½ (with an adult) - Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.

Ages 3 ½ - 5 - Thursdays at 11:15 a.m.

Registration for all storytimes begins in the Brooks Room at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 22 for Wilbraham residents. Phone calls will be taken on Thursday, February 24. Non-residents may sign up on Monday, February 28, as space allows.

Toddler Two-Step will be held for children 12 - 24 months old at 10:15 a.m., on Mondays March 28, April 4 and April 11. Toddlers is 20 minutes of nursery rhymes, singing and music for toddlers and their parents or caregivers. It will be an especially active (marching, movement and dancing), fun-filled program that develops appreciation of language and understanding of symbols that prepare children for reading and a lifelong love for their library. Registration begins on Monday, March 7.

The Cover-to-Cover book discussion groups for students are on-going, meeting once a month. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 will be meeting Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on March 8, April 12 and May 10. Titles are as follows:

March 8 – *The Big One-Oh*, by Dean Pitchford

April 12 – *The Potato Chip Puzzler*, by Eric Berlin

May 10 – *On the Wings of Heroes*, by Richard Peck

The monthly book should be read before the meeting, in which opinions and questions will be posed, and refreshments will be served. Copies of each month's books will be available upon registration at the Children's Desk. Please address any questions to Heidi Kane in the Children's Department.



The Nutshell Playhouse performers will delight children in April.

Live theater for children! *Dance with a Clown*, presented by the **Nutshell Playhouse** of Lenox, will be held on Tuesday, April 19 at 10:15 a.m. Live theatre awakens the imagination, sharpens the mind and deepens awareness, creating a joyful and meaningful experience for the family. Nutshell Playhouse is a non-profit company dedicated to creating innovative and exciting theater and music for family audiences. Don Jordan, founder and Artistic Director, has performed as a mime and a clown throughout Europe and the U.S., has appeared on Broadway and has taught at several colleges and theater schools. The one-hour show features music and song, puppetry and masks, clowns and visual fantasy. This stage play is for ages 3 to 10, plus parents. Registration begins on April 11. *Dance with a Clown* is brought to you with equal funding from the Friends of the Library and the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Also during school vacation, a creativity workshop, *Time to Clay*, will be presented by **Let's Gogh Art** for students who are in grades K – 3. This workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. Let's Gogh Art instructors will help art explorers think outside the box about art as it relates to the world around us. The exact project and medium will be announced in April. Registration begins on April 11 and space is limited. This is brought to you by the Friends of the Library.



Universal Class Launch a Big Success!

The Wilbraham Public Library recently subscribed to *Universal Class*, an online continuing education service, for our patrons. Users may access *Universal Class* at the library website, www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, register for a free account, and begin taking classes right away. In the first three months, nearly 100 people registered for accounts and began taking courses. If you made a New Year's Resolution to learn a new skill, this may be the service for you. Contact the Reference Desk to learn more!

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Library News

Spring 2011

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Friends Spring Art Show and Booksale

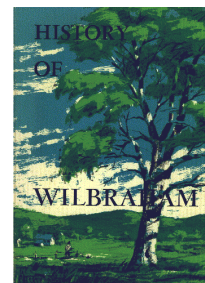
E-book demos scheduled

National Library Week

Nutshell Playhouse performance for children

Library Begins Community Project to Narrate Town History

The theme to the 2011 National Library week is *Telling Your Story At The Library*. The Wilbraham Public Library is using this theme to coordinate with the Town of Wilbraham's upcoming 250th anniversary in 2013 and is launching a project to narrate the 1963 *History of Wilbraham*, by Charles Merrick. We are looking for volunteers who would like to read sections of the book to be recorded and made available as audio files through the library website. "This is a great opportunity to make the town's history available in audio format," claims Adult Services Librarian Karen Demers. "expanding its use by students, genealogists, and anyone interested in learning about Wilbraham."



The library will have a computer set up with a microphone and special software to create the recordings. As chapters are completed, they will be posted to the library's website. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Karen Demers at karendemers@wilbrahamlibrary.org or 596-6141 ext. 127.

Wilbraham offers Wowbrary Email Service



The Wilbraham Public Library has partnered with **Wowbrary** to offer patrons a free weekly email of new library materials in a variety of categories, including DVDs, non-fiction, recreation, personal growth, fiction, young people, and large print. Patrons can sign up for this free service at www.wowbrary.com.



March 14



April 11



May 9

Film Movement Series

Mondays, 7:00 p.m.

Free admission, popcorn, and soda.

Brad MacPherson will facilitate a discussion following the screening. See wilbrahamlibrary.org for film synopses.