

Library Completes Mezzanine Renovations and Plans Open House

You are invited to an *Open House Celebration* to mark the completion of renovations to the Wilbraham Public Library's mezzanine on Saturday, November 20 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m.

RAC Builders recently completed construction including new stairs, carpeting, lighting and electrical work on the 1,724 square foot space. The nonfiction books were returned to the shelves and teen materials moved upstairs over the summer. And the new furniture should arrive just in time for the *Open House*.

"We are excited to finally complete this important first phase of our four phased renovation program, and want to take this opportunity to thank our donors and supporters," said Christine Bergquist, library director.

James Jurgens, chairman of Library Improvements for Tomorrow Fund, Inc. (LIFT), expressed his gratitude to the many donors who have contributed gifts and pledges so far totaling just over \$170,000. "We are grateful to everyone who has generously supported our fund raising effort to this point," said Jurgens. "While we have made terrific progress thus far, we do need an additional \$230,000 in community support to complete the renovation plan and to modernize our great public library. I urge the entire community to give generously to LIFT, so that we can finish renovations according to our schedule. It is very straightforward; completing the renovation is dependent upon the availability of contributed funds."

LIFT money, combined with the Town Capital Improvement budget, Library State Aid, and grants, has already enabled the library to renovate the mezzanine, upgrade the HVAC system, replace windows, install automatic door openers, and upgrade emergency lighting. Future renovations include a new combined service desk, renovations to the children's and adult areas on the first floor, and upgrades to staff offices.

If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation, please contact Jim Jurgens or Christine Bergquist at the library to learn more. LIFT is accepting pledges for up to five years to support the project, and contributions can be made by check or appreciated securities.

Author Michael Tougias to present *Overboard!*

The Wilbraham Public Library welcomes author Michael Tougias on Monday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. to give a slide presentation on his new book *Overboard! A True Bluewater Odyssey of Disaster and Survival*.

This true story begins in early May of 2005 when Captain Tom Tighe and first mate Loch Reidy of the sailboat *Almeisan* welcome three new crewmembers for a five day voyage from Connecticut to Bermuda. Tighe, has made this bluewater trip 48 times, and Reidy has joined him 20 times. Each year they take three additional passengers who seek to learn about offshore sailing and are looking for adventure. That year the new crewmembers were Chris Ferrer of Massachusetts, Ron Burd of New Hampshire, and Kathy Gilcrest, from New Jersey.

Four days into their voyage a massive storm strikes and Captain Tighe and first mate Loch Reidy are swept from the boat during a knockdown and carried away by huge seas. The three new crewmembers somehow remain on the vessel as it is torn apart by the seas. Tougias, author of *Overboard!*, will use slides of the storm, the sinking sailboat, the crew, and the rescue missions to bring this story to life.

"I enjoy doing these programs," says Tougias, "because I like to transport the audience into the heart of the storm so that they ask themselves 'what would I have done.' I think author readings can be a bit slow, but with a slide presentation, the viewer can visually relive the adventure."

A book signing will follow the program, and the presentation is suitable for all ages. Students and members of the Friends are admitted for free, the cost for the general public is \$3.00. Space is limited and registration is required. Please register through the library's Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.



Michael Tougias
Photograph by Mark Tougias
Fatal Forecast, Scribner

Special Documentary Screening at WPL

Millennium: The Story

Learn about Swedish author
Stieg Larsson and the
literary phenomenom of the
last decade!

Two showings

Monday, Nov. 22, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 26, 3:00 p.m.



**Wilbraham Friends of the
Library, Inc.**

Board Members 2010-2011

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Friends Website

www.wilbrahamfriends.com

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, please direct them to Susan Magee at twin.javanet@rcn.com.

Library News is written and edited by the Wilbraham Public Library staff and the Friends of the Library.

Wilbraham Public Library
25 Crane Park Drive
Wilbraham, MA 01095
www.wilbrahamlibrary.org

Circulation Desk (Renewals)
596-6141 ext. 103

Reference Services
596-6141 ext. 101

Children's and Teens' Services
596-6141 ext. 102

Library Director
596-6141 ext. 105

News from the Board

Don't miss out. The first annual *WFOL Quilt Show* is a special current attraction in the Brooks Room at the Library. Take time to see this array of beautiful handworked quilts and take a chance on winning one! The show runs through Tuesday November 30.

Save your books. It is never too early (or too late) to start saving books for our annual *Friends Book Sale*. Our 2011 sale will take place Monday April 25 through Saturday April 30 and books may be brought to the Library from Wednesday April 20 through Saturday April 23. We'll be giving you all more information later, but wanted you to start remembering

to hang on to those materials you no longer want for just a bit longer! We need them and appreciate your setting them aside for us.

You can be a real friend to the Friends : If you have a 4' to 6' fiberglass folding table that you are no longer using, the Friends could use it! Please call our President if you are willing to gift it to the Friends.

Early Alert for WFOL Art Show 2011 : The 2011 annual *Wilbraham Friends of the Library Art Show* is scheduled for March 2011 in the Brooks Room. All artists interested in participating in the show should contact the chairperson of the show, Linda Lastoff, at 599-3216.

Thank You Rewards Each month the Friends draw for a "reward" from all new/renewed memberships. Recent recipients of gift cards to a local business are:

September: Ms. Sherri Montagna

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendars!

- *'Tis the Holiday Season* - Through Sunday December 5, 2010 the Wilbraham Atheneum will be exhibiting a marvelous array of Christmas Trees done by various town groups. Stop in and see what the WPL Teens have done as their part of the exhibit - it is sure to be special!

- A brand-new program , *An Irish Cultural Night* , will be held on February 23, 2011 in the Brooks Room. The program will highlight the Irish culture, language, music and traditions. Seating will be limited, so plan early.

- March brings our annual *2011 Friends Art Show* to brighten up the expectedly dull end of winter.

- Our annual *Friends Book Sale* will be the week of April 25.

- Expect another great Friends-sponsored trip to be announced very soon. We are working to firm up details now and will let all members know about it as soon as possible.



The fall trip to the Adams' Family Homestead was a big success.

Message from the President:

As we head into the season where most of us hunker down and tackle our backlog of indoor projects (including reading some good books) or simply waiting for Spring, it is important to consider others in our community who might need a hand, a visit, or simply a call. Take time to see where you can help. I can almost guarantee you'll never miss the time you spend doing it. Have a good winter.

Sue Magee

Winter Activities in the Children's Department

The *Winter Storytime* session will meet over a period of five weeks, from January 19 through February 17, and will accommodate over 50 children. The following times are offered: ages 2 – 3 ½ (with an adult) on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. The older group, for ages 3 ½ - 5, will meet on Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. Registration for Storytimes will be held in the Brooks Room at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 3 for Wilbraham residents. Phone calls will be taken starting on January 5. Non-residents may sign up on January 10, as space allows. The Spring Storytime registration will be held on Tuesday, February 22nd.

Cover to Cover, the 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. – 7:45 p.m. On December 14, January 11, and February 8. Titles are as follows:

December – *Lawn Boy*, by Gary Paulsen

January – *The Dog Who Thought He Was Santa*, by Bill Wallace

February – *Ice Drift*, by Theodore Taylor

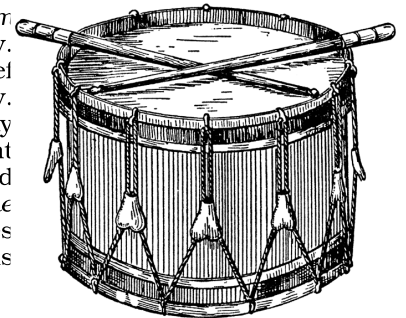
The monthly book should be read before the meeting, in which opinions and questions will be posed, and refreshments will be served. Copies of each month's books will be available upon registration at the Children's Desk. Please address any questions to Heidi Kane in the Children's Department.



Looking for something to do with the kids while on Christmas break? Join us for magician Ed Popielarczyk's popular and wildly entertaining *Flea Circus* on Wednesday, December 29 at 10:15 a.m. The Flea Circus is a great show from days gone by and is an entire big-top circus in miniature. The audience will be thrilled and amazed with these trained fleas, who perform such feats as a trapeze act, a high dive into a pool of water, a high wire walk and a cannon shot. Some audience members will help during the show by holding a flea while the flea does a stunt. This show, brought to you by the Friends of the Library, is for ages 3 and up. Registration begins on December 15.

To celebrate the season of giving, the Library will again feature a *Mitten Tree*, which will be decorated with your donations of gloves, mittens, hats and scarves for children and adults. All donations must be new and brought to the library for the tree between November 17 and December 17. After that time, all donated items will be brought to the Community Survival Center for distribution. Please help us with this worthy cause, as you know the winter will be a cold one!

During the school vacation week, there will be an exciting interactive show, *Drum to the Beat*, for children ages 5 and up, brought to you by percussionist Mr. Otha Day. Mr. Day facilitates fun and lively drum and rhythm circle events from the deep belief that rhythm has the power to build community, promote well-being and create joy. Every audience member will be able to use an instrument and participate. Mr. Day teaches on the faculties of several schools in the Berkshires and Southern Vermont and has given many concerts as a solo pianist. He currently teaches Classical and Jazz piano to students of all ages. This show also serves to highlight our *We The People* "A More Perfect Union" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association. Registration, beginning on February 17, is required, as space is limited.



Teen Meetings and Programs

Our three groups are meeting monthly, have fun events planned and are always welcoming new members. (Check the website event calendar for dates and times) Our *Anime club*, *T.O.W.L.* (6th -8th grades) and *T.A.B.* (high school) are making ornaments and decorations for their *WPL Teen Tree*. It will be displayed at the Atheneum Festival of Trees December 5 from 1:00-5:00 p.m., and then in the library Teen Space until the end of December.

Come visit our Teen Table at the Holly Fair at Wilbraham United Church on Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. We will be selling gently-used teen books and also baked goods, with proceeds to benefit LIFT.

Friday, January 28 is our *Murder Mystery dinner* for 6th-8th grades and during February school vacation we will host a *Jean Crafts* event for teens of all ages.

Universal Class now available to Wilbraham Library cardholders

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. There is a wide variety of topics, from computer training to nutrition, with some offering "continuing education units" that may be accepted by employers. Contact the Reference Desk to learn more!

Wilbraham Friends of the Library
25 Crane Park Drive
Wilbraham, MA 01095

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Library News

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In this issue:

Mezzanine Open House

Michael Tougias lecture scheduled

Great Decisions

Flea Circus, Book Groups for kids, Jeans Craft for Teens

Great Decisions Group to launch third year!

Registration has begun for the 2011 *Great Decisions Discussion Group*, to be held at the Wilbraham Public Library beginning in January. The topics from the 2011 series, selected by the Foreign Policy Association, are "Rebuilding Haiti", "U.S. National Security", "Horn of Africa", "Responding to the Financial Crisis", "Germany Ascendant", "Sanctions and Nonproliferation", "The Caucasus", and "Global Governance".

The Briefing Books cost \$20 to purchase and can be pre-ordered from the library by December 15. Please make checks payable to the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. There will also be a Briefing Book available for in-library use for participants who may not wish to order their own copy.

The series will again be facilitated by members of the Friends of the Library. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m.-5:25 p.m. on January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 9, 16, and 23. April 6 is reserved as a snow date. Please register through Adult Programs and Events page at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, or contact the Reference Desk at 596-6141 ext. 101. Learn more about the program at www.greatdecisions.org.

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.



December 13



January 10



February 7

Tonya Menard Joins Library Staff

Tonya Menard joined the WPL staff in August as the Administrative Secretary/Bookkeeper. Tonya is a native of Granby. In her job she processes invoices, maintains the library's financial records, procures supplies, tracks all orders, receives shipments, distributes mail, perform secretarial duties, and works at the circulation desk. We are all very happy to have Tonya on board.



Tonya Menard, participating in the monthly Dress Down for the United Way, maintains the library's accounts.