

Wilbraham Library News

Winter 2023-24



WINTER READING

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024

Winter Reading Begins Jan. 1

Our annual Winter Reading Challenge is back! Pre-registration opens Dec. 18 and beginning Jan. 1, children, teens, and adults can read for a chance to win gift cards and other prizes. If you've participated in our Summer or Winter Reading Challenges in the past, simply log onto your Beanstack account to get started. First-time participants can create an account online at wilbrahamlibrary.beanstack.com, or by downloading the Beanstack Tracker app. Receive one raffle ticket for each book read by Feb. 29, up to three books. Teens and adults must log a review with each book to receive a raffle ticket. Winners will be notified starting Mar. 7.

Questions? Give us a call or visit us at the Service Desk and we'll be happy to help. Cozy up with a good book this season and help us make this Winter Reading Challenge better than ever.

Library Website Revamped

The library's website has gotten a refresh! Working with our vendor, Piperwebs, library staff have made some updates to the design of our website. We hope to be able to use the front page to promote our electronic resources and highlight upcoming programs. The event calendar listings will continue to be found on the right hand side of the website, with a quick link to the full month view. A new feature that we hope to expand is the "Community Bulletin Board" – a place where we post digital flyers for community activities.

In addition to the library website getting updated, this spring the C/W MARS public catalog will be getting an upgrade with a product called Aspen Discovery. This is an interface that will improve the search feature in the online catalog as well as allow libraries to feature lists for new materials, bestsellers, and seasonal picks. We hope you are pleased with the improvements!

-- Director Karen Ball

Great Decisions Returns Feb. 7

Great Decisions, America's largest discussion program on world affairs, returns to the Brooks Room beginning Feb. 7. The group will meet Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. through Mar. 27.

Each year, the Foreign Policy Association selects eight critical issues facing the country to be the subjects of conversation. It also publishes a briefing book for participants to read in advance so they can be informed and ready to participate. Participants are encouraged to order their briefing books on the association's website, fpa.org/great_decisions. The price is \$35. There will be one copy of the briefing book available at the Service Desk for in-library reading.



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Wilbraham
WPL
Public Library

Mon to Wed 9-8
Thurs & Fri 9-5
Sat 9-2

Closed Sundays & Holidays

Wilbraham Friends

Letter From the President

Wilbraham Friends of the Library Inc.

friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org

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*Wilbraham Library News is
produced by library staff and the
Wilbraham Friends of the Library.*



Dear Fellow Friends,

The fall WFOL newsletter included a survey form asking how you would like to receive your newsletter - hard copy or digital. There was also an email sent to all members who have an email on file.

The newsletter is a valuable source of information about library programs. It should also make you aware of the events the Wilbraham Friends of the Library hold to raise funds for library programs. However, during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, \$976.27 was spent printing and mailing the quarterly newsletters. It is important that the funds raised by the WFOL are spent responsibly so I would like to see this number go down significantly. Then, more money can be used for programming and supplies for the library.

The survey was sent to all 288 WFOL households - both via email and printed insert. The results of the survey showed that 62% of the respondents were happy with digital, 9% preferred print and 29% did not reply. Of the ones who prefer print, 10 have indicated they will pick the newsletter up while at the library. At 66 cents apiece, that saves \$26.40 a year in postage - that's a book! Based on the survey results, we will stop having the newsletter commercially printed and mailed to all members after this edition.

Hard copies will be printed as needed in-house and mailed to those who requested a mailed copy. Extra hard copies will be available at the library's Service Desk. The current and past newsletters are always available on the [library's website](#) if you would like to print one out and stick it on your fridge. 😊

Thank you all for understanding the financial and environmental benefits of going digital. And again, those who do not have the ability to access a digital copy will continue to receive the print copy.



-- WFOL President Mary Bandouveres

Fiction Series to be Re-cataloged

If you've browsed our Adult Fiction collection lately, you may have noticed a change to some call numbers: the series information is now included. Staff is going through and identifying books that are part of a series and adding the name and the book number to the call number. The books will then be put in order as book 1, book 2, etc. For example Game of Thrones will now say:

FIC
MARTIN
GAME
Bk 1

All the fiction will continue to be shelved under the author, and if a book is not in a series, no change will be made. However, we believe this change will make it easier to browse and find the next book in a series. Let us know what you think, and happy reading!

-- Assistant Director Mary Bell

WFOL Book Sale Scheduled for Spring

Have some good, but used books? Please save them and bring them to the library April 26 - 29 during library hours. We'll use them for a special event...

THE ANNUAL BOOK SALE of the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library will take place in the Brooks Room May 1 - May 4, 2024 during regular library hours. Stay tuned for more information.

Adult Services

Most programs are funded by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Adult Craft: Diamond Painting Bookmark, Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a relaxing craft in the Brooks Room. Choose from several pre-made adhesive designs to apply gems and create a sparkling bookmark. This project is ideal for beginners interested in trying diamond painting for the first time. Estimated completion time is 1 hour or less. Online registration is required. The diamond painting project on Saturday, Feb. 10 is TBD. Sponsored by the WFOL.

The Drive to Sing Documentary Screening, Saturday, Jan. 13 at 10:00 a.m.

The Drive to Sing is a new documentary about choirs during the pandemic and the importance of making music together. Featuring choruses from MA, NJ, VA, WI, and Alberta, this uplifting film has been accepted into 11 film festivals and won Best Indie Feature at Oniros Film Awards in New York. It is family-friendly and resonates with anyone who has sung in a choir. Director and producers Bryce and Kathryn Denney will participate in a Q&A session following the screening. A trailer for the film can be found at thedrivetosinging.com.

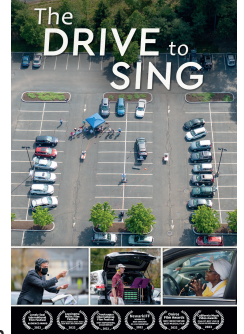


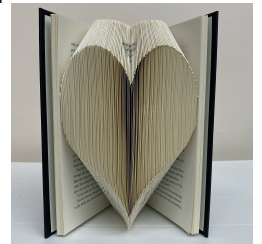
Photo courtesy of Sourdough Brandon

Sourdough Starter Workshop with Sourdough Brandon, Monday, Jan. 22 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Learn how to make, maintain, and store a sourdough starter from expert baker and food blogger Sourdough Brandon. You'll leave with many tips and tricks and even some free starter! Online registration begins Dec. 18 and space is limited. Sponsored by the WFOL.

Folded Book Heart Craft, Monday, Feb. 5 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Adult Services Librarian Emilie Lang will demonstrate how to measure and fold pages to create a book heart. Bring your own hardcover book or choose from one of ours. Attention to detail and ability to measure accurately with a ruler are required. Estimated completion time is 1.5 - 2 hours. Online registration begins Jan. 2.



Virtual Programs

Virtual Baking Demo & Discussion with Chef Erin Jeanne McDowell*,

Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Chef and Cookbook Author Erin Jeanne McDowell will demonstrate how to make one of her favorite holiday recipes, then answer questions.

Ryan Bernsten: 50 States of Mind,

Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Ryan Bernsten, author of *50 States of Mind: A Journey to Rediscover American Democracy*, traveled through every state to find the answer to this question: is America as divided as it seems?

Holiday Romance Book

Recommendations*, Monday, Dec. 11 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Library Journal and *Booklist* reviewer John Charles will share his "best of" list of 2023.

Panel Discussion: The Challenges & Rewards of Being a Debut Author*,

Monday, Jan. 29 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join authors Lauren J.A. Bear, Rita Chang-Eppig, and Nishita Parekh as they talk about the challenges of getting into publishing, as well as the fulfillment and enthusiasm that makes it worthwhile.

Peter Bellerby Discusses The Globemakers*,

Thursday, Feb. 22 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Peter Bellerby, founder of Bellerby & Co. Globemakers, will share a visual tour through the history of globemaking, how it almost became a lost art, and how he is bringing it back, one beautiful hand-painted globe at a time.

*Presented in partnership with the Ashland Public Library.

Great Decisions

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Here are the topics for 2024:

- Mideast Realignment
- Climate Technology and Competition
- Science Across Borders
- U.S. - China Trade Rivalry
- NATO's Future
- Understanding Indonesia
- High Seas Treaty
- Pandemic Preparedness

More information on each topic is available on the Foreign Policy Association website.

Register for this discussion series on the [Feb. 7 session](#) in our Events Calendar.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS: 12/23 - 12/25 Christmas, 1/1 New Year's, 1/15 MLK Day, 2/19 Presidents Day

Children's Services

All programs are free and have online sign ups when required.

These programs are funded by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Storytime, Crafts

Storytime. Thursdays, Jan. 11 - Feb 15 from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Storytime with Assistant Children's Librarian, Rachel Smythe, runs for 6 weeks in the Brooks Room for kids ages 3 1/2 - 5 yrs. Kids must come in independently and parents/caretakers must wait in the library. Sign-up starts Dec. 8 on our website Events page.

Craft and Play, Saturdays, Jan. 27, Feb. 24 & Mar. 23 from 10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Stop by the library to make a special craft with Ms. Rachel, Assistant Children's Librarian. KEVA planks will be available for free play, along with plenty of coloring pages. This is a family event. Parents and caregivers, please remain in the room with your child during this program. No registration is required.

Take and Makes

Special take-home crafts will be offered throughout the year in the Children's Department while supplies last. No registration is needed. Craft is packaged with instructions and ready to bring home!

Pathways for Parents

Online sign ups are required & start on date stated.

Grow, Play, and Learn, Tuesdays, Jan. 9 - Mar. 26 from 9:30 -10:30 a.m.

Grow Play and Learn with Nicole Landry. Play group meets for 11 weeks in the Brooks Room. Learn how to increase your child's attention span with ways to support sensory play. This program is for kids ages 18 mo. - 4 yrs. with an adult. Online sign-up starts Dec. 8.

You Me & We with Ms. Jennifer, Fridays, Jan. 5 - Feb. 9 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

This 6 week session is for children ages 3 - 5 and their families. This play group focuses on practicing social & emotional skills. Each week a different concept will be introduced. Online sign-up starts Dec. 8.

S.T.E.A.M with Ms. Jennifer, Friday, Feb. 16 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3 - 5 with their caregiver. Children and families will explore the concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Online sign-up starts Jan. 2.

You and Me in Music with Renee Coro, Wednesdays, Mar. 6, 13, 20, & 27 from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

This program is for ages birth - 3 yrs. and an adult and engages in many aspects of music like singing, instruments, and movement. Online sign-up starts Feb. 14.

These free classes are made possible by Pathways for Parents, administered by Ludlow Public Schools and funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Winter Vacation

Read to Cadence, Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Megan Marshall will bring her dog Cadence to the library for children to read to. Kids ages 5 and up can sign up for a 10-minute slot. Kids are asked to bring a book to read. This program is designed to help children gain confidence and reduce anxiety about reading. Sign up for 10 minute slots from 2:00 - 3:10 p.m. Online sign-up starts Feb. 1.



Stuffed Animal Sleepover!, Feb. 22 - 23.

Facilitated by the Teen Advisory Board for ages 3 and up. Drop off your stuffed animal Thursday, Feb. 22 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and pick them up Friday Feb. 23 from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Look for more info on our website.

Please note that all dates and times are subject to change due to unexpected circumstances. Stay warm with some hot chocolate and book!

-- Children's Librarian Heidi Kane and Asst. Children's Librarian Rachel Smythe

Teen Services

Unless otherwise noted, programs are for Grades 6-12, supported by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, and require online registration.

In the spirit of community service, our **Teen Advisory Board (TAB)** has been busy making fleece hats for the library's Giving Tree, and fleece blankets for the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, MA. Our next monthly meeting is Monday, Dec. 18 at 4:00 p.m. and we are always looking for new members.



Members of TAB create fleece blankets.
Photo courtesy of Rachel Hapgood

With the popularity of our teen movies, we are hosting another **Teen Movie & Pizza** event on Friday, Jan.

19 at 2:00 p.m. (an early release day for HWRSD). Stay tuned to our website for TAB's movie pick and more details.

A special **Teen Makers: Edible Terrariums** will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 5:00 p.m. Teens will use chocolate cake, pretzels, graham crackers and more to make their own edible terrarium to take home (and eat).

The first meeting of **Teens Who Code** will be on Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 3:30 p.m. Grades 6 - 12 can explore project-based coding in a fun and friendly environment with facilitator Mrs. Christine Goonan. Meetings are once a month in the Teen Loft, and all attendees need a laptop to join in.

And remember to sign up for **Teen Winter Reading** on Beanstack to win a book of your choice, prizes, and raffle tickets to win gift cards and more!

-- Teen Services Librarian Rachel Hapgood

Virtual Author Talk Series Continues

If you've participated in our program offerings since July, you may have already joined in on one of our virtual author talks. We've partnered with the Library Speakers Consortium to offer a series of live discussions with bestselling authors such as Amor Towles, Rick Steves, Cassandra Clare, John Stamos, and more. December will feature YA Fantasy Author Victoria Aveyard as she shares world-building tips, and New York Times bestselling author Stephanie Land as she discusses her memoir.

Each session features the opportunity to participate in author Q&A or pre-submit questions during registration. Every talk is recorded, so you can

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Winter Vacation

At **Teen Cookie Decorating: Super Mario/Nintendo** on Tuesday, Feb. 20, Mandy Roberge of Wicked Good Henna will be teaching teens cookie decorating techniques like flooding. All supplies are provided and teens will go home with Super Mario & Nintendo themed cookies.

TAB is also pleased to announce our annual **Stuffed Animal Sleepover** over February vacation. Facilitated by the teens, kids (ages 3 & up) will drop off their stuffed animals on Thursday, Feb. 22 and pick up their stuffed animals on Friday, Feb. 23 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Registration will be in the Children's Dept. in early February.

Due to a full and waitlisted Teen Spooky Candle Workshop in October, we have scheduled another candle workshop with Kulina Folk Art. **Teen Lucky Clover Candle** will be on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., just in time for the candle to be cured and ready for St. Patrick's Day!



Photo courtesy of Kulina Folk Art

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

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Library News Winter 2023-24

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Library Welcomes Additions to Staff

Three new staff members joined the library to fill recent vacancies. Jaime, Borrower Services Assistant, joined our full-time staff in August. Previously one of our temporary Sunday staff, Judy is now a part-time Borrower Services Assistant and also works at the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown. Maddy, part-time Assistant Adult Services Librarian, has worked at the Springfield City Libraries and the Chicopee Public Library.

Author Talk Series

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access the full video after the live session is over. Online registration is required. Register and learn more about upcoming authors at libraryc.org/wilbrahamlibrary. Spend an hour with your favorite authors as they discuss their work and answer your burning questions.

New & Renewing Friends, August to October 2023

Ann Bagge, Jennifer Banker, Jim Sadoski & Lydia Bell, Melissa Binns, Suzanne Boudreau, Barbara & Donald Bourcier, Elaine Broderick, Beverly Corriveau, Martha & Walter Damon, Erika Duke, Joyce Emerle, Pauline Fillion, Eloise Genest, David Goodman, John & Rita Grover, Grycel Family, Richard Hanrahan, John Harrington, Kristen Harvey, Dan Hatten, Nancy Joyce, Lois Kalesnick, Gloria King, Cathy & Ed Lamoureux, Ellen Leritz, Lorraine MacAlpine, Brad & Nancy MacPherson, Sara & Paul Martin, Autumn Mathias, Sharon McKeon, Sharon Meaney, Leo Morrissey, Newell Murri, Sheila Nadolski, Doris Naiman, Rachel & Dennis Nelson, Marjorie Pessolano, Barbara Pino, Sue Post, James & Corry Rooks, James Ryan, Dorothy Schwendenmann, Patricia Serra, Janet & Dan Shea, Sam & Beverly Williams. Four members wish to remain anonymous.

*Use this QR
code to read
the newsletter
online, with
active,
clickable links.*

