

Wilbraham Library News

Winter 2024-25

Winter READING CHALLENGE

January 1 - February 28



Winter Reading Kicks Off Jan. 1

Get a head start on your 2025 reading resolutions with our annual Winter Reading Challenge! Starting January 1, record your reading for a chance to win gift cards, books, and other cool prizes. If you've participated in our seasonal Reading Challenges in the past, get started by logging into your Beanstack account and selecting the challenge for your age group. First-time participants can create an account by visiting wilbrahamlibrary.beanstack.com, or by downloading the Beanstack Tracker app. Paper logs and review forms will also be available in the library.

Teens and adults will receive one raffle ticket for each book read. Participants must log and review each book to earn a ticket. Children through Grade 5 will earn raffle tickets by tracking the minutes they read each day. All reading and reviews must be submitted by February 28. Kids and teens can pick up participation rewards starting March 3. Raffle winners will be notified starting March 4.

Questions? Give us a call or visit us at the library for more info.

Library Announces New Event Calendar

In early October, the Wilbraham Public Library and several other area libraries were given just two weeks notice that the vendor (EventKeeper) that we had been using to manage our library events and Brooks Room meetings was shutting down. We looked at several options for a replacement and decided to go with the company Communico.

The new platform will be easier for our patrons to find and register for programs. Additionally, it will have an improved component for keeping track of our attendance at events - which we use for our yearly reports to the state. A new feature will be that community groups will now be able to request the use of the Brooks Room directly from our website. Reservations will

be reviewed by library staff and groups will receive a confirmation of their bookings via email. Another new feature that we hope to launch later on in the year is the ability to request appointments for proctoring exams.

Library staff currently produce both print and e-mail newsletters that include library activities. The new calendar will allow our patrons to subscribe to customized email "brochures" of events, filtered by age group and event type. As an example, if someone is only interested in Arts and Crafts programs for Adults, they can sign up to have a brochure of those events sent to them each month.

We look forward to the enhanced features that Communico will bring, and we appreciate your patience as we begin to implement the new system.

--Director, Karen Ball

Wilbraham
WPL
Public Library

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

**Closed Sundays &
Holidays**

413-596-6141

Special Hours & Holiday Closings

The library will close early on Dec. 24 at 12:00 p.m., and on Dec. 31 at 4:30 p.m. Additional closures this Winter include Dec. 25 (Christmas), Jan. 1 (New Year's Day), Jan. 20 (MLK, Jr. Day), and Feb. 17 (Presidents' Day). Please refer to our website for information about future closures and special hours.

Wilbraham Friends of the Library Inc.

Board Members

Karen Ball
Mary Bandouveres
Martha Lyman
Tanja Olson

Officers

Gayle Fogarty, Co-President
Sara Martin, Co-President
Susan Magee, Clerk
Jo Ayers, Treasurer

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

Liaisons

Allison Demetri
Caroline Euber

Save the Date: WFOL Book Sale



Have some used books in good condition that you're ready to pass on? Please save them and bring them to the library May 2, 3, & 5, 2025 during library hours. We'll use them for a special event... the annual Book Sale of the Wilbraham Friends of the Library!

An opening reception for Friends members will be held on Tuesday evening, May 6. The public sale will take place May 7 - 10 during library hours.

Donors will receive a coupon to be used for two free items during the sale. Funds raised by the WFOL are used for library museum passes, programs for all ages, and other library services. Stay tuned for more details.

Book Clubs for All Ages

Check out these book groups for all ages and interests. New members are always welcome. Registration is not required unless otherwise noted. Copies of books will be available at the library Service Desk on a month-by-month basis. Visit our [Event Calendar](#) for more information about book selections and upcoming meeting dates.

• **History Book Discussion**, 4th Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.: Explore a new era of history each month with these nonfiction books. Facilitated by group members.

• **Booked for Lunch**, 1st Tuesday of the month at 12:00 p.m.: The daytime monthly book discussion group facilitated by Library Director Karen Ball.

• **Cookbook Club**, 1st Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.: Pick a recipe from the selected cookbook to prepare and share with other group members! Help us plan for 2025 by filling out a survey at our Dec. 4 meeting. We'll ask for your recommendations of book titles, chefs, or types of cuisines to try. Registration is requested to reserve recipe selection.

• **Evening Book Discussion**, 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.: A monthly book discussion facilitated by Assistant Director Mary Bell.

• **Classics Book Club**, 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.: Back to the classics! A different time-honored work will be discussed each month. Facilitated by group members.

• **Graphic Novel Book Club**, monthly on Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.: Discover more graphic novel titles you're sure to love! We will meet to talk about the book, maybe make a craft or play a game, and most of all, have some fun! For children in grades 2-5. Registration required.

• **6th and 7th Grade Book Club**, monthly on Fridays from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.: A fun, informal monthly book club where we share our love of reading. Students in grades 6 & 7 can check out the book, sign up each month for the club, and join us for some bookish fun! Registration required.



Adult Services

*Programs with an asterisk are supported by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.
Please refer to the online Event Calendar for detailed information about each program.*

Tech Help, Workshops, & More

Drop-In Tech Help with WMA Students, select Fridays from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Students from Wilbraham & Monson Academy will assist with technology-related questions. Assistance is available on a first come, first served basis. Please bring any relevant devices and log-in/password information. Refer to the online Event Calendar for more information about upcoming dates.

Diamond Painting Ornaments*, Monday, Dec. 9 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for another relaxing session of diamond painting. Choose one of several adhesive designs to apply gems and create a Winter snowflake or holiday ornament. Estimated time to complete this project is 1.5 hours or less. All materials will be provided and space is limited.

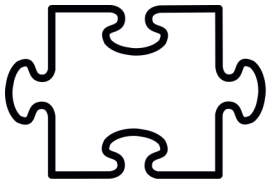
Drop-In DIY Gift Wrapping*, Friday, Dec. 13, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., & Monday, Dec. 16 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Need more space to wrap gifts, or want some privacy away from prying eyes? Wrap your gifts at the library! You bring the gifts, we bring the supplies. We will provide scissors, tape, wrapping paper, and basic ribbon and tags, along with plenty of room for you to work. Available while supplies last.

Simple Steps to Get Organized in 2025*, Monday, Jan. 6 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

New year, new you! Professional organizer Jenna Elliott will lead this fun and interactive workshop to help us all keep our new year's resolution to be more organized. Everyone can benefit from a more mindful approach to increasing organization in our busy lives. This workshop will discuss: new ways to think about your stuff, Where to start the purging process, how to create better habits to help you tackle clutter, and how to utilize your calendar and to-do lists more effectively. Registration opens Dec. 23.

Puzzle Race*, Saturday Jan. 25 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Think you have the fastest puzzling skills in town? Gather your team of 2-4 people to see who can complete a 500 piece puzzle first. Each team will receive the same puzzle and will have 2 hours to complete it. The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins! Prizes will be awarded to first and second place. Adults, teens, and families with children ages 12+ are welcome to participate. One registration per team. Registration opens Jan. 6 and space is limited.

Intro to Ancestry Library Edition, Wednesday Jan. 29 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition in our hands-on program! Assistant Director Mary Bell will give a brief presentation in the Brooks Room, using examples from her own family tree, in researching genealogy using Ancestry Library Edition. Then for the remainder of the time, participants will be able to use library computers or their own devices to search while in the library. Appropriate for beginners and advanced genealogists. Registration is required as space is limited.

Paint Sip Fun*, Monday, Feb. 10 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Learn to paint on canvas with instruction from Erin Boughamer of Paint Sip Fun. No experience is necessary and all supplies will be provided. Registration opens Jan. 27 and space is limited.

Paper Flower Workshop*, Saturday, Feb. 22 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Get ready for Spring with this floral DIY. Learn how to create paper hyacinths with basic crafting materials. All supplies will be provided. Registration opens Feb. 3 and space is limited.



Adult Services

Great Decisions 2025

Great Decisions, America's largest discussion program on world affairs, returns to the library starting February 5. The group will meet in the Brooks Room weekly on Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. through March 26.

The Foreign Policy Association has selected eight critical issues facing the country to be the subjects of conversation. Participants are encouraged to order a briefing book to read in advance so they can be informed and ready to engage. Briefing books are available on the association's website, fpa.org. One copy of the briefing book will be available at the Service Desk for in-library reading.

Here are the topics for 2025:

- American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads
- U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy
- U.S.-China Relations
- India: Between China, the West, and the Global South
- International Cooperation on Climate Change
- The Future of NATO and European Security
- AI and American National Security
- American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead.

More information on each topic is available on the Foreign Policy Association website. [Register for this discussion series on our Event Calendar.](#)



Virtual Programs

The following virtual programs are presented in partnership with the Ashland Public Library. Visit the Event Calendar for more information about each program.

Holiday Romance Book Recommendations with John Charles, Monday Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m.

We had such a great time chatting with John last year, we just had to do it again! With the holidays right around the corner, take a minute (or an hour) to relax and find some good holiday romance reads! John Charles will give us his "best of" list of 2024 that will have your TBR pile tipping over and your holidays spent cozying up to a good book. No need to bring papyrus and quill, we'll send out a list after the session. We hope you can join us!

Cat People To Judge In Art And Life, Monday Dec. 9 at 7:00 p.m.

It's a discussion about cats and their people! What could go wrong? We can't wait to chat with bestselling author Nicole Tersigni about her most recent book, *Cat*

People To Judge In Art And Life. Against the backdrop of fine art, Nicole delves into the minds of our feline companions and the people who serve them.

How Birds Created the World with Author Randi Minetor, Monday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Chat with author and journalist Randi Minetor who, with her photographer husband Nic, have visited 354 (out of 429) National Parks! All of their travels have inspired one of Randi's books, *The Complete Language Of Birds*. Randi will discuss her book, birds, and their evolution.

Encounters with Killers with Katherine Ramsland, Monday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Katherine Ramsland, true crime author & professor of Forensic Psychology, recounts her most memorable interactions with serial killers over the course of her life, describing how it shaped her career in forensic psychology. A Pied Piper, two Coed Killers, a Candy Man's handyman, and BTK, among others, have left their marks on her research and writing, both fiction and nonfiction.

Teen Services

All teen programs are for grades 6-12 and are sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library unless otherwise noted.
Online registration is required and all supplies are provided unless otherwise noted.

Teen Workshops, Book Clubs, TAB

Teen Advisory Board, monthly on Mondays from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

In the spirit of community service, our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has been busy making fleece blankets for Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, MA. Our next monthly meeting is Dec. 16, and we are always looking for new members.

6th & 7th Grade Book Club, monthly on Fridays at 3:30 p.m.

Our new book club will meet monthly on Fridays at 3:30 pm in the Brooks Room at the library. At our Dec. 6 meeting, we will decide on a book club name, talk about the book *Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj, and eat a snack. Copies of each month's book can be picked up at the front desk of the library or in the Teen Loft. Students in grades 6 & 7 can check out the book, sign up for



Teen Advisory Board (TAB) creates fleece blankets for Ronald McDonald House at their meeting on Nov. 18.

our book club, and join us for some bookish fun!

Teen Movie & Pizza, Friday, Jan. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

We are hosting another Teen Movie & Pizza event on Jan. 17 at 1:30 pm (an early release day for HWRSD). Stay tuned to our website for TAB's movie pick and more details.

Paint Sip Fun, Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Teens will learn to paint a winter image chosen by the Teen Advisory Board, with instruction from Erin from Paint Sip Fun. No experience necessary and all supplies are provided. Check out our website for more details.

Teen Winter Reading

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

February Winter Vacation Week

Teen Copper Bookmark Workshop, Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

A hands-on experience with local metalsmith, Heather Beck. Teens will learn about the structure of copper and how to create drawings in metal and use letter stamps to make textures and words on a copper bookmark. Each teen will go home with a unique handcrafted copper bookmark.



Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Thursday-Friday, Feb. 20-21

Teen Advisory Board is 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 afternoon, Feb. 20, and pick up their stuffed animals on Friday, Feb. 21 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Registration will be in the Children's Dept in early February.

Teen Ceramic Tile Painting, Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Teens can join Ellie, from Art Lessons with Ellie, for a creative painting workshop! Design your own ceramic tile in this exercise that focuses on pattern and symmetry. Artists can take home their designs to display at home. All supplies are included.



Children's Services

*Programs with an asterisk are supported by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.
Please note dates and times are subject to change due to unexpected circumstances.*

Workshops & Family Programs

Read To Cadence, Mondays, Dec. 9, Jan. 6, & Feb. 3 starting at 3:30 p.m.

Megan Marshall from Bright Spot Reading Buddies will be bringing her dog Cadence to the library to have children read to her! Open to kids in grades K - 5. Sign-up for a 10 minute time slot. Kids are asked to bring a picture book to read.



Graphic Novel Book Club*, Thursdays, Dec. 19, Jan. 23, & Feb. 27 from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

Do you love graphic novels? Me too! Join our club to discover more graphic novels you're sure to love! Each month features a new title (available at the library). We will meet to talk about the book, make a craft or play a game, and most of all, have some fun! Registration required. Grades 2-5.

Saturday Family LEGO® Builder Challenge*, Saturday, Dec. 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Work with your family to recreate LEGO® designs! There will be LEGO® Challenge Cards available to build with, as well as LEGO® "Free Build". This program is for children 5+ with adult supervision. Adults are required to remain with their child/ren at all times.



Kids' New Year's Celebration*, Monday, Dec. 30 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Kids ages 8+, join us for New Year's Eve crafts & activities sure to make for a memorable celebration. Registered participants will receive a take home treat.

Bubble Letter Bonanza*, Wednesday, Jan. 8 from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Celebrate National Handwriting Day by learning the art of writing bubble letters! Each child will practice writing bubble letters and designing their name. Ages 8+.



Valentine's Cards for Care*, Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Join us for a family-friendly Valentine's card craft event! Stations will be set up with a variety of homemade card designs, and completed cards will be distributed to the Wilbraham Senior Center and Home-bound patrons. Ages 5+ with a caregiver.

Saturday Family Open Art Studio*, Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for a fun open art session. All craft supplies will be provided, bring your imagination! This program is open for ages 3+ and requires adult supervision/participation.

Random Acts of Kindness Celebration - Friendship Bracelets*, Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Join us in creating positive affirmation friendship bracelets for each other and our community! Children will have the opportunity to make 2 bracelets, 1 for a friend & 1 to donate to a local recovery & wellness center in the hopes that the positive messages will serve as a mantra for those in need.

Visit with the Snow Queen, Thursday, Feb. 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Ready to visit a real life princess? Join us for special visit from the Snow Queen for an hour of stories, songs, magic, photographs, and more!

Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Thursday-Friday, Feb. 20-21

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) will facilitate their annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover for children ages 3+. Kids will drop off their stuffed animals on Thursday, Feb. 20 and pick up their stuffed animals on Friday, Feb. 21 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Registration will be in the Children's Dept in early February. Stay tuned for more information on our website.

Children's Services

Storytime & Children's Dept. Activities

Celebrate the Holidays with a Family Storytime*, Thursday, Dec. 12 from 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Families, join us for holiday stories & songs! All ages.

Winter Storytime*, Thursdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, & 30, Feb. 6 & 13 from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Children ages 3 – 6, join us at the library for a fun-filled time of stories, songs, and crafts. Kids attend independently, caregiver waits in library.

Saturday Family Storytime*, Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate wintertime with stories, songs, & activities for the entire family! Join Mrs. B to read, sing, & play together in a format appropriate for young children.

Rubber Duck Day Evening Storytime*, Monday, Jan. 13 from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate Rubber Duck Day with stories, songs, and activities for the entire family! We will read, sing, and play together in a format appropriate for young children.

Scavenger Hunts at WPL*

Search the children's department for the hidden pictures to win a prize! Hunts available in Dec. & Feb.

Take and Makes at WPL*

The children's department provides seasonal crafts and activities to take home. Available in Dec., Jan. & Feb. while supplies last.



Pathways for Parents

Sponsored by Pathways for Parents and funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Virtual Parenting Workshops

Raising a Child with Strong Moral Courage & Values, Tuesdays, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Dissecting Behaviors, Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Supporting social emotional growth and self-regulation.

In-Person Groups & Workshops

Grow, Play, Learn, Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and/or Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 and/or Feb. 4, 11, 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Join Ms. Nicole for a playgroup including storytime curriculum and fun play activities. This program is geared for children birth through age five with a caregiver.

Preschool Pals with Ms. Joanne, Mondays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 and/or Feb. 3, 10 at 9:30 a.m.

This playgroup supports children ages 2-5 & their families. Each week will focus on an area of development & provide fun activities to support learning through play. Areas explored include early literacy, fine motor development, science, math, and cognitive & social emotional skills.

Story Art with Ms. Jennifer, Fridays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 at 10:30 a.m. No class 1/3.

This group will support learners ages 4-6 and their families, in a multi-sensory format. We will engage with a story book, then facilitate hands-on, creative activities, while using art as a way to contribute to more successful learning.

Winter STEAM with Ms. Jennifer, Fridays, Feb. 7, 14, 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Children ages 3-6 are invited to join this group with their caregivers. Children and families will explore the concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, while completing the activity provided.

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

Library News Winter 2024-25

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New & Renewing Friends, August - November 2024

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