

## Update from the President

We are pleased to announce that the winner of a free pass to our Mt. Auburn trip in June is Karen Dufresne. A hearty welcome to Karen, her family, and the other 30+ new members who've joined this year. Our June 4th trip to Mt. Auburn still has a few seats open so please join us. We will be visiting Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and the New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods with lunch at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury. You can find detailed information about this trip in the library. We will planning out next

trip soon and hope to have information available by the end of July.

Our Spring Book Sale was held May 12th - 17th. Many thanks to Michelle Tremblay, Sue Magee and Nancy Menard for overseeing another successful fundraiser and to our member volunteers who pre-sorted books, set-up the tables and staffed the sale. This sale was two days shorter than our previous sales with an eventual goal of moving towards a two day sale: Friday for members only and a public sale on Saturday. As in prior years, we will be selling paperbacks at the Peach Festival. Please contact Michelle Tremblay to volunteer for this fundraiser and membership drive.

Another round of thanks to the Daisy Troop who did a great job planting petunias and pansies in our containers located at each entrance to the library. You deserve your badges! The Troop uses the Brooks Room for their meetings and thought this would be a great way to give back to the library.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for June 27 at 7:00 p.m. Please come out to the meeting and learn how you can be an active volunteer in our organization. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Have a terrific summer reading and relaxing!  
Ron Haislip-Hansberry  
President, Friends of the Library

## Readers Explore Literature of the Portuguese-Speaking World



This summer, the Wilbraham Public Library will once again encourage readers to explore the world through literature. (You may recall that last year we read works by Japanese writers.) This year, we will expand the focus from one country to countries with language ties and shared histories of colonization.

**Professor Malcolm McNee**, a lecturer of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Smith College, will guide participants through the literature of Portuguese-speaking countries - such as Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mocambique, Cape Verde, and East Timor. The introductory session will be held on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brooks Room of the library. Professor McNee will provide an overview of recommended titles and authors. Participants will be able to spend the summer reading at their leisure and then re-convene on Thursday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. for a pot-luck dinner and discussion with Professor McNee at 7:00 p.m.

Additional informal discussions among the participants may be scheduled during the summer as interest demands. The suggested list will be available at the library and on our website at [wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://wilbrahamlibrary.org).

## Oil-painting demo with artist Debbie Padden



Sat., June 17, 10:00 a.m.—noon  
Free admission. Refreshments served. Sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.  
Call 596-6141 to register.

## Five-Year Plan on the Horizon: Town-wide Survey to be Conducted

Christine Bergquist, Library Director

The Library is engaging in a new strategic planning process that will determine the future direction of library services for the next five years. We are doing this because our current strategic plan expires June 30, 2006, and we need to have a new plan on file with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners by the fall. However, more importantly, this process affords us the opportunity to consider the future direction of the library to meet community needs at this critical juncture.

We have retained Vandermark Associates, a firm specializing in library strategic planning, for our planning study. Their work with libraries is extensive and impressive. The planning process began in April with ten personal interviews of town leaders representing a wide spectrum of interests. During the spring and summer we will conduct focus groups, administer a town-wide mail survey of residents through the University of Massachusetts Local Community Resource Group, and hold two Strategic Planning Committee meetings. Planning will conclude in September with the establishment of goals and objectives for library services through 2011.

Many of you may receive a library survey in the

mail during the next few weeks. I urge you to please take twenty minutes to complete this survey and return it. Here is your opportunity to participate in this important process.

This is the library's fourth strategic plan. Earlier plans lead to several improvements to library services and introduced new initiatives in the areas of collection development, programs for people of all ages, local history services, and the plan for expanding and renovating the library building.

The library is a vital component of what makes the quality of life in our town so special. Today in Wilbraham, about 75% of town citizens are active library patrons, over 400 events are scheduled in our single meeting room each year, and our programs are fully subscribed. Our internet capacity – a key patron demand area – has exhausted available facilities, and our collection growth is now extremely limited. Our needs our great and our constraints are many.

The new plan will vastly enhance educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for thousands of residents each year and will enable the library to better support children, teens, adults, seniors and businesses within the existing facility.



### 6/17 - 4:00 p.m. *Roads to Koktebel* (Russian with English subtitles, 110 minutes)

After an alcoholic widower loses his flat, he and his 11-year-old son set out across Russia to Koktebel, where the father's sister lives. Penniless and with rucksacks on their backs, they head south and look out for chances to earn money. When the father is shot during an argument with a rough landowner, he and his son find help in the next village. There the father forms a bond with a young healer named Julie. The boy is uncomfortable with this new relationship, so he leaves for the Black Sea on his own.

### Brooks Room Art Exhibits

June - *Amy McNeil* - Reception scheduled June 15, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

July - *Debbie Padden's Students' Work* - Reception TBA

August - *Michael Powers* - Reception scheduled August 5, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**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 (413) 596-6141 [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org)  
Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs, 9-8, Wed. 12-8, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-4 (Summer Saturdays 9-1)

## Summer Activities for Children

### Summer Reading Club:

**What's buzzin' @ your library** is the theme for the summer reading program at the Wilbraham Public Library. Children ages 6 and up are invited to participate in the program which will transform the children's department into Camp Read-A-Lot. Younger children may participate with a reading partner. This year children will be asked to sign a contract to read for 21 days during the summer. As children work towards their goal, they will receive incentives along the way. Each child who completes his or her contract will be invited to a private rollerskating party in August. The child will also receive a certificate of completion, a free prize plus a free paperback book. A variety of special events will be offered throughout the summer, such as storytimes, **"That Was a Good Wun" campfire stories, Incredible Insects, Buzzin' Beadin', Building Birdhouses**, and a program on drawing with pastels. Children going into grades 6 and up will join the Young Adult portion of the summer reading club, "tune in @ your library" and will have their own programs, such as Beading, Chess and World Beat Dancing. Registration for the reading club will start on Saturday, June 24. To help kick off this celebration, accomplished musician **Bob Bloom** will present a concert, **Drumming About You**, on Saturday, June 24, at 10:00 a.m. All summer programs are supported by the Friends of the Library and the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems.



**Bob Bloom's "Drumming About You"** will be held for families at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 24 to kick off the summer reading club, **"what's buzzin' @ your library"**. The library is going to swing at this participatory musical hoot. You're invited to get your hands on **Bob Bloom's** huge and beautiful bouquet of drums and percussion instruments. The entire audience joins this Drum-Ride with BB as he sings some of the most engaging songs of North and South America, Africa, and the Caribbean region. **Mr. Bloom** presents recreational drumming events nationwide. Recognized for the high level of interactivity of his programs, Bob was certified as a "Master Teaching Artist" by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Registration for this entertaining and lively event will begin on June 9. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Experts from the Hitchcock Center in Amherst will present **Incredible Insects** on Friday, July 7 at 10:00 a.m. for children who are 5- through 9-years-old. Space is limited for this fascinating program on bugs all around us. Registration begins on June 30 for this Friends-sponsored program.

**Todd Goodwin**, storyteller, will be here to present his campfire songs and stories, **"That Was a Good Wun"** for children who are 5-years-old and up. Join us on Friday, July 21 at 10:00 a.m. to sit around a campfire and hear camp songs and entertaining stories. **Mr. Goodwin** creates many of the stories he tells from his camping background and growing up as a New England Yankee. He sings and plays the harmonica to create a complete campfire experience. Registration for this Friends-sponsored storytelling experience begins on July 14.

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

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**Library News**  
**Summer 2006**

SUMMER SATURDAY  
HOURS REMINDER!  
JUNE 24 - AUGUST 26  
OPEN 9AM-1PM

**Youth activities continued...**

***Special Storytime:***

***"I'm Going to School!" Storytimes*** will be held on Monday, August 21 for Wilbraham children going into kindergarten. There will be one class at 10:00 a.m. then again at 1:00 p.m. This will be held again for a third group on Tuesday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m. This storytime includes picture books, a simple craft and information about safely riding a school bus. Space is limited. Registration begins on August 14.

***Cover-to-Cover***

***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. – 8:00 p.m. Titles are as follows:

June 13 – ***Hanne's Quest*** by Olivier Dunrea

July 11 – ***Skunk Scout*** by Laurence Yep

August 8 – ***The Penderwicks*** by Jeanne Birdsall

Please address any questions to Cindy Ruscsek in the

Children's Department.

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Titles are as follows:

June 8 – ***Crossing Jordan*** by Adrian Fogelin

July 13 – ***Code Orange*** by Caroline Cooney

August 17 – ***Convicts*** by Iain Lawrence

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 about the Young Adults group to Susan Kent.

