

**Check It Out:**

- Mango Language Day
- Library Conference
- Last First Wednesdays
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**Can You Mango? Mango Day is May 20th**

*Have two left feet and can't Tango? Lack the will power to exercise with Zumba? Mango may be perfect for you.*

Mango Languages is an individualized language-learning service available to Mark Skinner Library patrons for use at home; all you need is a computer and a library card number. Like the popular Rosetta Stone programs, Mango tracks your progress. It combines visual and auditory learning and is perfect for teaching conver-

sational skills. The program will even compare your pronunciation of a word to the correct pronunciation, providing you with instant feedback.

Mango is an online application which is free to library patrons, but costs hundreds of dollars if purchased individually. Using real life situations and conversations, it is invaluable for immigrants, business travelers and tourists. Twenty-nine languages

are available from French and Spanish to Chinese, Turkish, Hebrew and Hindi.



Stop in and celebrate Mango Day! Watch demonstrations, hear testimonials from users, enjoy snacks and giveaways in a tropical atmosphere.

**Mango continued on 2**

**Mark Your Calendars**

The library will be closed all day on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> to allow our library personnel to attend the annual Vermont Library Conference at St. Michael's College in Burlington. It's interesting to look at the conference program to see what library professionals are discussing and studying.

It's not surprising to see that a number of the workshops focus on technology issues, from deciding whether or not to join

Facebook to learning how to use Skype to provide virtual visits by authors. E-books are on the topic list as is a workshop on how to work with UVM Libraries' Center for Digital Initiatives to digitize early Vermont treasures in print.

Children's workshops include: picture book crafts; the challenges in choosing young adult materials; and overviews of new books for children. Financial issues influenced workshop

selections such as whether books should be borrowed or bought and how the acquisition of books is changing in the new digital world.

As with any professional conference, a major benefit of attendance does not appear in the program list. It's the opportunity to talk with one's peers and learn from the experiences of others. We wish all our librarians an inspiring day at St. Michaels.

*“Learning, or brushing up on a foreign language or two is a most valuable and mind/world expanding exercise.”*

Kirk Osterland

## Mango Languages

**Mango** continued from 1

In addition to Mango, your library card number will give you free access to Powerspeak, a unique integration of training, coaching, practice and assessment features similar to those on Mango.

And the Library's foreign language offerings do not stop there. During the school year, the MSL offers conversation groups in French,

German and Spanish two times each month. Groups of 5 to 15 people meet for about one hour and are led by language teachers from Burr and Burton and Maple Street School.

Kirk Osterland, a participant in this year's French conversation group, tells us, "I consider this to be yet another of the many excellent and valuable services provided by

the MSL. Learning, or brushing up on, a foreign language or two is a most valuable and mind/world expanding exercise. A successful outcome of the lessons will be achieved when participants organize periodic sessions among themselves devoted to having discussions in their chosen languages."

Watch the MSL calendar for announcements about the 2011-12 schedule.

## The Last Wednesday

All good things must come to an end, and last week *First Wednesdays* presented its final program of the 2010-11 series. Supporters of the *First Wednesday* programs will be pleased to know that *First Wednesdays* will return in October.

The final speaker was Carol Ockman, an art history professor from Williams College. Her presentation, **Barbie after 50**, looked at Barbie both as a cultural phenomenon and in relation to the nude in Western art.

Barbie, introduced in 1959, turned fifty in 2009; her on-and-off-

again boyfriend, Ken, didn't show up until 1961. Despite constant debates about the suitability of Barbie for children, Dr. Ockman proposed that Barbie's remarkable longevity is due in large part to her improbable body, a problematic ideal. She supported her contention with numerous slides of Barbie and her 21<sup>st</sup> century competitors, the Bratz dolls, an American line of fashion dolls and related merchandise manufactured by MGA Entertainment.

One interesting note in the lecture dealt with Barbie's inability to stand alone; her feet

are molded and ankles bent to wear only high heels. Dr. Ockman referred to this, and other parts of Barbie's body, as phantasmatic.

Mention was made of the minor changes made in Barbie's body over the years while her collection of accouterments has multiplied exponentially, sometimes to respond to changes in society, at other times, to anticipate social changes.

However one looks at Barbie, her success, as a commercial product for over 50 years, is remarkable and probably won't be matched in our lifetime.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays**  
Humanities Lecture Series

## Summer at MSL: A Wonderful Place to Spend Your Vacation

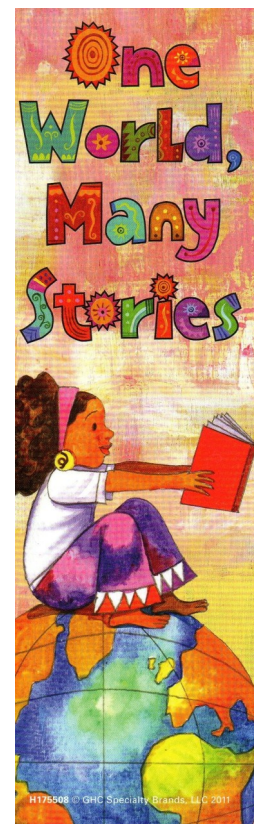
As the final days of school approach, it's time to make plans for the long summer vacation. The Mark Skinner Library staff invites local children to take some journeys with them. The library's annual summer reading program for 2011 has an international flair and is entitled **One World – Many Stories**.

Beginning on July 7<sup>th</sup>

and continuing through August 11<sup>th</sup>, the summer reading program will be filled with books and speakers and crafts and special events. Designed for children from 3 to 12, the kick-off event is a visit from Tom Joyce. Mr. Joyce is a magician with a comic flair; the title of his program is **One World, Many Magical Stories**. He will take children to

Italy for some "Pizza Magic" and to Germany to meet "The Ladybug from Luxembourg." Books, puppets and audience participation will keep all ages involved in the journey.

Check the MSL calendar for the dates of all the summer reading events and encourage all the children you know to attend.



## Summer at MSL: Build and Buy a Basket

The library's summer reading program, run by children's librarians Jan Ketterer and Janet Kleinberg, is a highlight of the summer season. However, programs, speakers, materials and books are not inexpensive, so the Library's Board of Trustees has created an event to help with the costs. The Basket Sale has become a much anticipated event on the library's social calendar and an effective fund-raiser for support-

ing the summer reading program.

Sharing a theme with the reading program, the **One World-Many Stories** Basket Sale will kick off on June 7<sup>th</sup>; the drawing for prizes will occur on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Individuals, small groups and organizations are encouraged to fill baskets, based on the titles of children's books, for the sale. The librarians at the front desk will guide you through the basket

filling process.

And everyone should plan to buy raffle tickets and place one, or many, in the baskets they hope to win. This really is a win/win proposition; children, the MSL and the successful raffle winners all benefit from this annual event.



## Mark Skinner Library: Manchester's Public Library

The Mark Skinner Library: Manchester's Public Library is committed to serving the life-long journey of learning by providing information and opportunities for personal enrichment and enjoyment to people of all ages in our community.



[www.markskinnerlibrary.org](http://www.markskinnerlibrary.org)

P.O. Box 438  
48 West Rd.  
Manchester, VT  
05254

Phone:  
802.362.2607

E-mail:  
[info@markskinnerlibrary.org](mailto:info@markskinnerlibrary.org)

### Take a Roman Holiday @ MSL

Mark Skinner Library's Summer Getaway Film Series debuts with *Roman Holiday* on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00 pm.

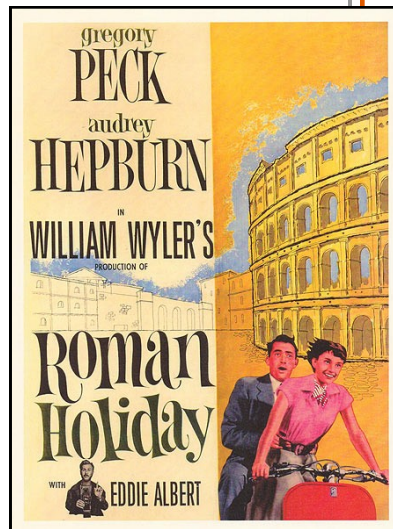
The recent royal nuptials illustrated that royalty never goes out of style. In *Roman Holiday*, a young princess (Audrey Hepburn), tired of the constraints her position places on her, runs away. "It is easily one of the most charming films to ever hit the big screen and

manages to be romantic, dramatic, bittersweet, and funny all at the same time," stated David Williams of *DVD Movie Guide*. Resplendent with stunning location shots, this multiple Oscar winner will delight on a summer's eve.

#### Oscar Wins:

- Best Actress
- Best Costume Design
- Best Writing, Motion Picture Story

Seven other  
Oscar  
Nominations!



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LIBRARY  
MANCHESTER'S PUBLIC LIBRARY • 48 West Rd. Manchester, VT 05254 • [info@markskinnerlibrary.org](mailto:info@markskinnerlibrary.org)