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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Wilton Library's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Wilton Reads gets underway with *The Namesake*

Wilton, CT – Once again the Wilton community will come together to read, discuss and reflect on a story that embraces different cultures and family values with Wilton Library's 2008 Wilton Reads! selection of *The Namesake* by Pulitzer-prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri. *The Namesake* explores the ways in which communities, families and individuals establish their own identities as they are shaped by both internal and external forces. The fourth annual town-wide event began at the library's Discovery Day last week with the distribution of free books and continues through Oct. 19 with film screenings, book discussions and a visit by the author. In recognition of her important contributions to contemporary literature, Ms. Lahiri will become the recipient of Wilton Library's very first Castafiori Award for Outstanding Writing when she speaks at the library on Sunday, Oct. 19 beginning at 4.

The programming planned for Wilton Reads! is as follows:

- **Film Screenings, Thursday, Oct. 2, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m.**  
The film will be presented twice on the library's large screen projection system in the Brubeck Room.
- **Book Discussion with Dr. Joanna Ecke, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 10:30 – noon.**  
Joanna Ecke returns to Wilton Library to lead a daytime discussion of Jhumpa Lahiri's book, *The Namesake*. Dr. Ecke, a graduate of Smith College with a doctorate in literature from Duke University, is a retired Wilton High School English teacher and an "occasional" columnist for The Wilton Bulletin.
- **Book Discussion with Susan Boyar, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 7 – 9 p.m.**  
Susan Boyar, discussion leader of the popular daytime Wilton Library Readers group, leads an evening discussion of *The Namesake*. Additionally, the Wilton Library Readers group reads and discusses Ms. Lahiri's latest short story collection, *Unaccustomed Earth* on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from noon – 1:30.

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- **Author Visit: Jhumpa Lahiri, Sunday, Oct. 19, 4 p.m.**

The Pulitzer-prize winning author recently won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award for 2008, the world's largest prize for a short story collection for *Unaccustomed Earth*. Ms. Lahiri will visit the library to discuss her writings and to sign books.

The Wilton Reads! 2008 program is made possible by a generous contribution from The Wilton Bank, the lead sponsor of the event, who underwrote the purchase of 250 free books, publicity and fees associated with the program. The United Way of Norwalk & Wilton also contributed to the programming, along with media support from the Wilton Bulletin.

As with previous Wilton Reads! programs, book groups are expected to be very involved with the reading. According to Kathy Leeds, executive director of Wilton Library and this year's Connecticut Library Association president, "This year, we're planning a new twist for book groups – I'll be available to visit a number of groups and contribute to their discussions of *The Namesake*. If a group is interested in scheduling a talk, just let me know via email ([kcleeds@wiltonlibrary.org](mailto:kcleeds@wiltonlibrary.org)) or phone (762-3950 x215) and we'll get a date and time on the calendar. I look forward to sharing insights about this rich, textured story at many wonderful gatherings."

Extra copies of the book have been purchased by the library, along with multiple copies in large print, audio books and even DVDs of the film. Any of the versions of the story can be reserved by visiting the library's Web site and clicking on the Catalog. The items can be picked up upon availability notification at either the circulation desk or the drive-up window.

Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center. All the programs are free of charge with advance registration recommended. To register for any of the programs listed above, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org/events](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/events) or call (203) 762-3950.

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