



Wiscasset Public Library
21 High Street
Wiscasset, ME 04578

www.wiscasset.lib.me.us

Friends to Friends

January 2018
Volume , Issue

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Schedule for 2018 Friends Meetings: Mondays at the Wiscasset Public Library:

January 8
March 12
May 14
July 9
September 10
November 12

All meetings include refreshments at 9:30 am and the business meeting at 10:00 am.

Fritz a Hit at the Children's Christmas Sale

Countless children visited the Wiscasset Public Library Christmas sale in the Friend's Used Book Sale Room on Saturday, December 9th, to purchase Christmas gifts for their parents, siblings and other relatives.

During their visit, 41 children had their pictures taken with Fritz the Reindeer Dog (seen below with his loving parents, Herb & Loretta Leighton).

This was part of Wiscasset's Holiday Marketfest, which took place all over town. The Library's contribution was to open up the book sale room to children on Saturday. A number of Friends met to price the items and set up the room on Friday evening. On Saturday from 9:00 to 2:00, Santa's Helpers assisted the children in making their selections and wrapping the gifts at no cost. \$340.00 was made during this endeavor.

For more information on the event, see page 3 in this newsletter.



Meet Linda Bleile

Although I consider Maine my home state, I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and lived there until I was five. Then my parents, sister and I moved to Skowhegan, Maine. My Dad owned an independent supermarket called “George’s Banana Stand” and my mother was the school nurse. After graduating from Skowhegan High School, I went to the University of Maine at Orono where I majored in secondary English and was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority.

Upon graduating from UMO, I began teaching grade 8 reading at the Wiscasset Elementary School and did so for the next 29 years. During this time I returned to college twice and received a Master’s degree in Literacy and a CAS degree in Educational Leadership. In 2002, when the principal position at the Wiscasset Middle School opened up, I was asked to assume this position and remained principal for twelve years.

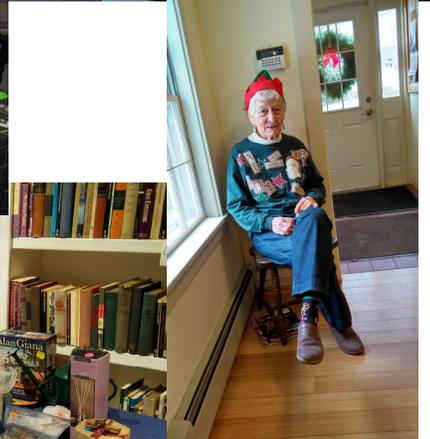
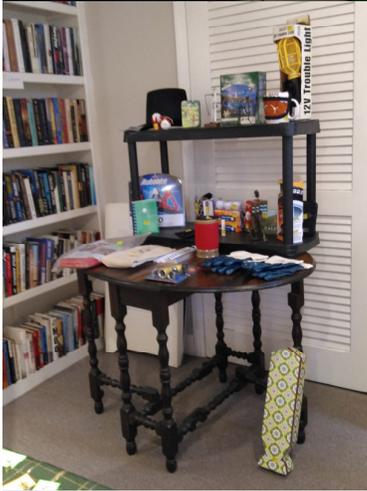
Many people ask me whether I enjoyed being a teacher or principal more and I have to say, I thoroughly enjoyed both positions. During my tenure as principal, I was very fortunate to have a wonderful, dedicated and professional staff that wanted to create a safe and interesting learning environment for our students. We began to deliver our curriculum using the Expeditionary Learning model where students experienced authentic learning for authentic audiences. We also applied for and received a national grant, the 21st Century Learning Community Grant, which provided enriching and enjoyable after school activities for our students.

In 2009, I was very surprised to be nominated and voted President of the Maine Principals’ Association. This afforded me multiple opportunities to travel and meet with principals from all fifty states, meet with Maine’s Congressional members in Washington, DC, and visit the White House. In 2011, I was very honored to be chosen Maine’s Middle Level Principal of the Year and recognized as a National Distinguished Principal.

I have been married to my husband Edward for 44 years. Ed was a lobsterman for several years and then worked at Maine Yankee for 23 years. When the plant closed he started driving a school bus for Wiscasset and continues to do so. We have two sons Eric and Steve who graduated from Wiscasset High School. Eric and his wife Tara live in Weston, Connecticut, and have a five-month-old son. Steve and his wife KC live in Richmond, Virginia, and have a two-year-old son and are expecting a second child in March. I love being a grandmother! Eric and Steve participated in sports, band, chorus and many extracurricular activities while at WHS. In 1994 they were both members of the high school golf team that won the state championship. They attended college on golf scholarships and Eric won a NCAA Division 1 golf tournament and was featured in Sports Illustrated magazine. Presently, Eric has his own modern country band called



Children's Christmas Sale with Santa's Elves:



And upstairs the Adult Christmas Sale continued throughout December. Sales totaled over \$300.00 before the end of December.

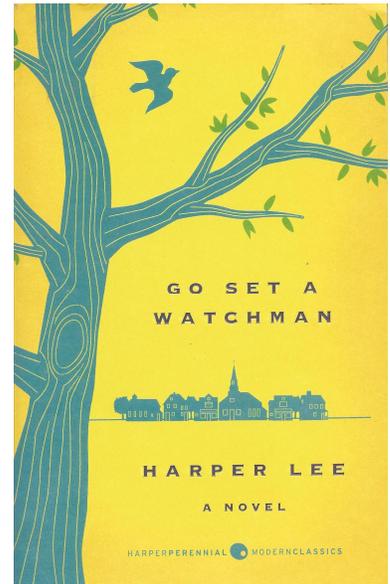


Upcoming Friends Book Discussions

The next two book discussions will take place on Friday, January 19, and February 16, at 10:15 with open discussions on books of your choice.

The March discussion will be on Friday, March 16, at 10:15 with everyone discussing the same book. At the December meeting we chose *Go Set A Watchman* by Harper Lee. Since this is a prequel to *To Kill A Mockingbird*, people might want to read that book first to keep things in context.

This monthly program is free and open to the public.



Friends Enjoy Bill Bryson's Book over Tea

Seven people met on December 15th, to discuss *The Road to Little Dribbling* by Bill Bryson over tea and Walkers shortbread. Everyone relaxed and read favorite passages, followed by discussions on various trips to England.

