

Wiscasset Public Library Newsletter

December 2019



Wiscasset Public Library
21 High Street
Wiscasset, ME 04578

Library information

Hours:

Tue. 10:00am-5:00pm
Wed. 10:00am-7:00pm
Thu. 10:00am-5:00pm
Fri. 10:00am-5:00pm
Sat. 10:00am-2:00pm
Sun. Closed
Mon. Closed

Staff:

Pamela Dunning, Director
David Cherry, Assistant Librarian
Karen Delano, Assistant Librarian
Laurie Ridgway, Children's Librarian

Contact:
(207) 882-7161
wpl@wiscasset.lib.me.us

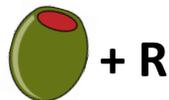
Website: www.wiscasset.lib.me.us
See the Library website for the latest information.

Library Trustees:

Richard Litz, President
Linda Bleile, Vice President
Thomas Boudin, Treasurer
Sandra Crehore, Secretary
Cindy Fischer
Sally Gemmill
Cheryl Rust
Greg Uthoff

Guess the Book Title!

Each week during the month of December, come in to the Library and solve the book title rebus puzzle for a chance to win a small prize. Patrons are limited to one entry per week but if you list the authors, you will receive a bonus entry. All correct entries will be entered into the prize drawing to be held on Dec. 31. Come in and try your luck! Here is the puzzle for week 1:



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

WPL's annual **Holiday Sale** is going on now at the front desk. A number of delightful items are available for purchase. You'll find art, giftware, jewelry, totes, puzzles and more. All proceeds benefit the Library.



As the year comes to an end, many people will be making charitable contributions. WPL is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is dependent on the generosity of its patrons. Please consider donating to WPL. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Great Reads — New at WPL

Syria's Secret Library: Reading and Redemption in a Town Under Siege

by Mike Thomson

Review by Janet Morgan

Enter 14-year-old Chief Librarian Amjad "picking his way across the lifeless landscape" of Daraya to go to work at Syria's secret library. Born from the rubble of a city under siege, this library stayed hidden from a terrorist regime for a time and became a lifeline to Daraya's oppressed citizenry. Amjad and his friends collected thousands of books in 2013 to establish a library for all Daraya citizens.

Picture a basement hidden deep below a burned-out building. Those fortunate enough to find the entrance passed a pile of sandbags hiding a dark stairwell. At the bottom of the stairs, they entered a place filled with hope. Books lined the room from floor to ceiling, books that Amjad personally dusted and cleaned with loving hands. Titles on almost every subject imaginable were available to anyone who could find this library. Amjad even figured out a system to keep track of books and checked out books from his tiny office. Tables and comfortable chairs provided a warm and comforting atmosphere, despite the war going on overhead.

I found it amazing that author Mike Thomson never visited Syria. He conducted all his interviews from the comfort of England, where he conversed online via Skype and WhatsApp with Syrian citizens over "constantly failing lines." Sprinkled throughout the (Continued, pg. 2)

Shopping for Good :)

Are you an online shopper? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Wiscasset Public Library every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to WPL.

Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier. You use the same account (i.e. login) on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select "Wiscasset Public Library" as the organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

◆ Great Reads (continued from pg. 1)

book, Thomson fills the reader in on the history of the town's rich background. "Daraya is a town with a proud and fascinating history of protest and a strong will to survive." It is not surprising that this thriving city of 90,000 in 2011 should have developed a "rebellious reputation that goes back to AD 730."

Syria was once "home to the world's first library, established around 4500 years ago – the Royal Library of the ancient kingdom of Elba." From those ashes came other libraries that were destroyed over the centuries. Amajad was hopeful that "his library would be the one to survive. If it did not, however, these indomitable peoples would persevere and try again... The few thousands who remained in 2016 had an unbreakable spirit, despite a grim future."

This is not an easy book to read, but it is essential for us to understand Syrians who live with endless war in a land that is filled with oppression and censorship. Read this book and be thankful that we live in America.

◆ New Books in Large Print

We have been enhancing the Large Print collection with your help. In September, we published the results of the LP survey where we asked what you want to read. Check out some of these new additions to our collection:

Mystery/Thriller

Death in Kew Gardens by Jennifer Ashley

Almost Midnight by Paul Doiron

A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee

A Necessary Evil by Abir Mukherjee

The Third Man by Phillip Margolin

Fiction

The Long Flight Home by Alan Hlad

The Beantown Girls by Jane Healey

Christian Mystery

Breaking News by Susan Page Davis

Women's Fiction/Romance

All the Flowers in Paris by Sarah Jio

The Bakeshop at Pumpkin and Spice by Donna Kauffman

Non-Fiction

Fire in the Sky by Gordon Dillow

Reading Behind Bars by Jill Grunenwald

How to Build a Boat by Jonathan Gornall

Sea Change by Maxwell Taylor Kennedy

Staff Picks: Christmas Movies by Janet Morgan

Even if you don't celebrate Christmas, holiday movies are a wonderful diversion. WPL's collection includes many much-loved classics. In *A Christmas Story*, set in 1940s Indiana, 9-year-old Ralphie desperately wants a Red Ryder air rifle. He despairs over getting one after everyone tells him, "You'll shoot your eye out!" *Christmas with the Kranks* is taken from the hilarious John Grisham book *Skipping Christmas*. In *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, Clark Griswold takes down the local power grid when he goes overboard decorating his house.

These are some of the Christmas movies in our DVD collection:

A Christmas Carol

Christmas Cottage

Christmas in Boston

A Christmas Story

Christmas with the Kranks

Hercule Poirot's Christmas

The Holiday

The Ice Harvest

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Saturday Night Live Christmas

The Seeker

You'll find many more holiday movies in the Children's Room, including animated classics like *The Polar Express*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*. Happy holidays to you!



The Children's Room News

December 2019



PROGRAMS

Storytime, Friday Dec. 6, 13 and 20 at 10:30am
Stories, songs, and a snack*. All ages welcome.

Book Bingo, Wednesday Dec. 11 @ 11:00am
Join us for Bingo games, book prizes, snacks and FUN.*

Drop-in Fun, Friday Dec. 27, from Noon to 5:00pm
Games, crafts, snacks*, movies and Legos!

*Alert us to allergies prior to the program please.



December Reading Round-up Holiday Books (and movies, too)



'Tis the season! Our holiday books are flying off the shelves. We have all the classics — *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Charlie Brown's Christmas*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Polar Express* and many, many more. We have holiday tales starring your favorite characters such as Fancy Nancy, Olivia, and our favorite llama in *Llama, Llama and his Christmas Pajamas*. We also have holiday DVDs like *The Little Drummer Boy*, *Frosty the Snowman* and *Elf* to name a few. The WPL Children's Room is a great resource to help you celebrate the holidays. Pick a book or movie to share and create a new family tradition.

Holiday Take & Make Crafts

Check out these kits to make gifts for yourself or to share with family and friends. Available while supplies last.

Snowman Wreath



Color your own gift bags



Candle center piece



Sand art ornaments



Snowman Ornament



Luminary wraps with battery tea light



Picture Frame



A few of our new STEM kits



- Clockwise from top left:
- Survive the Earthquake
 - Gingerbread Man Problem
 - 3 Billy Goats Gruff Problem

Hooray For More STEM Kits!

Many thanks to the Friends of WPL who donated \$300 to the Children's Room to fund the purchase of more STEM kits. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. STEM education sparks kids' creativity and draws on their natural curiosity. Our newest project-based activity kits boost skills in STEM and are specifically designed for younger children. These augment our existing collection of kits for ages 8+. STEM kits can be borrowed like any other resource except that families may only borrow one kit at a time.

Friends to Friends

News from the Friends of Wiscasset Public Library

Next Friends Meeting

Our first meeting of 2020 will be held on **Monday, January 13 at 10:00am**. Come early for coffee and and socializing. New members are always welcome.

We are still looking for a volunteer to serve as President of the Friends. The President keeps the Friends on track by coordinating volunteers' efforts and chairing the bimonthly meetings. The job is not demanding in terms of time or responsibilities. Several past Presidents are acting as interim leaders of the Friends. They will provide excellent support for a new volunteer. Please consider sharing your time and talent.



Did you know...?

Build your family tree at WPL

Ancestry.com, the world's most popular online genealogy database, is available to use *free of charge* in the Library. You must be on WPL's WiFi to access this service. In the database you will find census data, photos, town directories, church and state records, and more. Not sure where to begin? Video tutorials are available if you need assistance.

NEW Evening Book Club

Starting in January, the Evening Book Club will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:30pm (unless noted below*).



The group will be reading fiction and nonfiction selected by the group members. The January book is **Open Season: True Stories of the Maine Warden Service** by Daren Worcester. For more information or to suggest titles, contact Tracy Joyce at tracydawsonjoyce@gmail.com.

Jan. 8	May 13	Sep. 16*
Feb. 12	Jun. 10	Oct. 14
Mar. 11	Jul. 8	Nov. 18*
Apr. 15*	Aug. 19*	Dec. 9

Evening Book Club: 2020 meetings
*3rd Wednesday due to WPL schedule

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.
~ Andrew Carnegie



Used Book Room News

Books, books and more books! If there are readers on your holiday gift list, you must stop in. New selections arrive weekly and most items are \$3 or less. Our shelves are full of excellent fiction and nonfiction selections. Be sure to check out our inviting Children's Corner which is filled with book bargains for Pre-K through teen book lovers. The UBR is open whenever WPL is open. Library staff members will handle your purchases at the front desk.

We are very pleased to welcome our new UBR Chairperson, **Lynn Maloney**. Lynn is excited to step into this leadership role starting in January. We are also grateful for the support the WPL staff and UBR volunteers who keep Second Hand Prose running smoothly. Kudos to Nancy Roby, Virginia Forrest and Sharman Ballantine, who have done an amazing job this fall. Thank you, all!

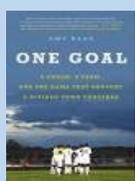
We sincerely wish all Patrons, Friends of WPL and UBR Volunteers a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year.

Friends Book Discussion

Friday, December 20 at 10:15am
Book Share (reader's choice)

The Book Group meets in the Fiction Room. We are having a Book Share discussion this month. You choose the books you want to read, then tell us about one. All are welcome.

We will also discuss the meeting dates for 2020 at the December meeting. We are looking at new meeting days and times to better accommodate group members. If you're unable to attend, please email input to janetcmorgan@gmail.com.



Our January book is **One Goal: A Coach, A Team, and The Game That Brought A Divided Town Together** by Amy Bass.

- Nov. Book Share recommendations:
- The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*
By John Boyne
 - Arctic Dreams* by Barry Lopez
 - The Butterfly's Daughter*
by Mary Alice Monroe
 - Cilka's Journey* by Heather Morris
 - The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
 - Jacobites* by Jacqueline Riding
 - Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev

Be a FRIEND!

Would you like to support your community and have some fun? Come to a Friends meeting to learn about the many ways we support WPL. We meet at 9:30am on the 2nd Monday every other month. We start with a coffee social followed by the business meeting at 10:00am. Our 2020 meeting dates:

January 13	July 13
March 9	September 14
May 11	November 9