



Wiscasset Public Library

# Newsletter

April 2020

**WPL remains closed due to the COVID-19 Stay Healthy at Home directive.  
Be well and thank you for reading.**

## A Letter from Pam

On March 16, the Library made the difficult decision to close due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. Staff members opted to come in and work during the first two weeks of closure, prior to the Stay Healthy at Home directive. We practiced social distancing by working in different areas of the building. During this time, we were able to:

- Sanitize all computers, mice, keyboards, desktops, door knobs and other surfaces that may have been touched by anyone.
- Weed most of the Adult collections to get rid of items that have not been read in recent years or that are read by few people. Don't panic. Everything removed can be borrowed from other libraries. This makes room for new materials to be added.
- Reconfigure the biography section to allow more space around the table.
- Add a set of shelves to the Young Adult Room. Karen has done a wonderful job of rearranging the space and making the collection more attractive to borrowers.
- Weed the Non-Fiction in the Children's Room. Laurie is looking for new titles to replace the old while she is being careful to keep the standards and the classics.

While we are closed to the public, remember that:

- If needed, WiFi is still available 24/7 in the area outside the Library.
- If you have items checked out, please keep them until we reopen. All checked out items will be renewed through June 1.
- Interlibrary loans won't be processed until we reopen.
- We are monitoring email and voice mail. Leave a message and a librarian will get back to you as soon as possible.

The first and most important function of your Library Staff is to serve the public. At this time, the best way we can do that is to maintain the collection and get the building ready for when we can welcome you back to WPL. We miss our patrons and hope to see you all very soon.

Best wishes for your safety,  
Pam Dunning

**Upcoming Events**

All in-Library programming has been suspended until further notice. Pam is working to reschedule the 2020 events. Check the WPL website for updates.

**Join us online: Thursday, April 16 at 10:15 a.m.**



We hope you are finding time to read some great books while you are at home. We will hold the April Book Club meetings (both the Friends' Morning Book Club and the Library Evening Book Club) online and the discussion will be a Book Share. Tell us what you're reading and why you would recommend it. To attend our online discussion, email [Tracy](#) and she will send you an invitation to join us via Zoom. Tracy can also provide technical assistance if you are a first-time Zoom user.

## Online Library Resources

The Maine State Library has spent more than \$40,000 on new ebooks and audiobooks for [CloudLibrary](#). Anyone with an active library card can use CloudLibrary and there are books for all ages.



[digitalmainelibrary](#) The [Digital Maine Library](#) is accessible to everyone in Maine. You do not need an active library card.

The Digital Maine Library includes a collection of full text articles and abstracts from magazines, newspapers, journals and reference materials. It also includes resources for children.

While libraries are closed, [Ancestry.com Library Edition](#) is available for Maine residents to use at home. MyHeritage, another genealogy website, is



also available to Library patrons at home. These resources can be accessed through the [Digital Maine Library](#) (search subject "Genealogy"). Once you open the page, it will ask if it can use your location to ensure you are in Maine.

## More Resources



If you have young children, visit [StoryLine Online](#). It's an award-winning children's literacy website features dozens of Story Time videos.

Want to put your little ones to sleep? There are some great free children's podcasts that are short and sweet. Try [Little Stories for Tiny People](#) (young children) or [Stories Podcast](#) (older children).

## Free E-books and Audiobooks

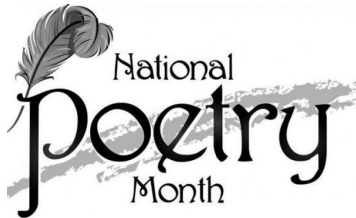
You can find thousands of older titles on these websites:

- [Project Gutenberg](#)
- [Open Library](#)
- [ManyBooks](#)
- [LibriVox](#) (audiobooks)

Several online book sellers offer some of their products for free. Search for "free" on these sites:

- [Amazon Kindle store](#)
- [Barnes & Noble Nook store](#)
- [Google Play Books](#)
- [Audible.com](#)

## April is National Poetry Month



Did you know that Maine has had five Poets Laureate? As soon as National Poetry Month began in 1996, Governor Angus King appointed Kate Barnes to be our first Maine Poet Laureate. The appointments were to be five year unpaid terms. You can learn more online at <https://mainearts.maine.gov> and <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>.

### Maine Poets Laureate

Stuart Kestelbaum – 2016-present

Wesley McNair – 2011-2016

Betsy Sholl – 2006-2011

Baron Wormser – 2000-2006

Kate Barnes – 1996-1999

Books by all five Maine Poets Laureates can be found in our "811 Maine" collection. The Poets Laureate are joined by many other wonderful Maine poets. This is just a sampling of the poets who currently or once lived in Maine. Among those listed below is the mother of Laureate Kate Barnes. Did you know that Kate's parents were Maine authors Elizabeth Coatsworth and Henry Beston? Or that Leonard Heile once lived on Lee Street in Wiscasset? Many of these authors are available online as well as on our shelves. Enjoy!

Aldridge, Richard  
Brooks, Bob  
Coatsworth, Elizabeth  
Coffin, Robert Peter Tristram  
Cohen, William S.  
Coursen, Herbert  
Day, Holman  
Heile, Leonard  
Hersom, Claire  
Lignell, Kathleen  
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth  
Lowell, Robert  
Millay, Edna St. Vincent

Moore, Ruth  
Nye, Ken  
Pye, Joyce  
Robinson, Edwin Arlington  
Sarton, May  
Steingesser, Martin  
Taylor, Helen  
Thomas, Larry D.  
Van Deventer, George V.  
White, E.B.  
Woodsum, Doug  
Woolf-Wade, Sarah J.

## The Children's Room

**Daily Indulgence or a Treat?** by Lucas Brown, age 11

“When I got my library card, that’s when my life began.” Rita Mae Brown



While there are many forms of entertainment, books are my favorite. Pleasantly, books can be magical, mystical and magnificent. Activities are generally more of a physical entertainment, which you cannot do quietly in your home. You can have daily treats or cherished one. A regular treat for our family has been going to the library for the past few years. Books are a treasure ... bowling is a rare, special treat since it is not local to us.

At the library I can go anywhere and practically get any book. We go to the library ... on a Wednesday. Perfectly placed in the center of town, the library can be easily accessed. When we go, we enjoy seeing and visiting with our librarian. We get books, play games and do crafts. ... I read mostly fantasy but sometimes historical fiction. We usually pick up a considerable number of books. I love the library because it has so many books!

I enjoy going bowling. ...While I am there, I like to play against myself and see if I can beat my previous score. ... When I go bowling I have tons of fun. I enjoy the arcade and the food.

The library gifts me a ticket to travel anywhere I can imagine without leaving home. Regarding physical fun, I truly enjoy going bowling. Most important to me is the library though. I love it! Truthfully, I really relish how I can be myself there. The friendship I have formed with the librarian means so much to me, whom I see weekly. Every day reading is like a sweet indulgence and bowling is a rare treat.

*Lucas is a Wiscasset student who is home-schooled by his mother, Maggie. We hope to see him back at WPL soon. This writing sample, submitted to Miss Laurie, has been edited for length.*

Visit our website

**Connect with WPL**  
(207) 882-7161  
[wpl@wiscasset.lib.me.us](mailto:wpl@wiscasset.lib.me.us)

