



Wiscasset Public Library

Newsletter

October 2020

Director's Note

October marks the beginning of the Library's fifth month running with new COVID-19 protocols. Library staff members have been overwhelmed by the support and compliance of library users. Your confidence in us to keep you safe during your visits is a gift that we appreciate and a mandate from you that we are dedicated to upholding.

The current mission of Library staff is to do everything we can to continue to keep this Library a safe place for us all. It is clear that the Library is an essential service area for many and we strive to keep providing the WPL resources to the public. We are intent on keeping the doors open for circulation of materials, computer usage, printing needs and more. We could not have reopened or stayed open without your assistance and continued support. Thank you for all that you do to assist the Library in fulfilling its mission.

Pam Dunning, Director

COVID-19 Safety Precautions

We are continually monitoring the COVID-19 news. Our top priority at this time is to provide library services to the public in the safest manner. Our current policies are:

- 10 patrons allowed in building at a time
- A **face mask** is required to be worn in the building (bring your own). A face shield is not an approved mask alternative at this time.
- Curbside delivery is available for those who can't wear a face mask
- Use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the building, even if you are wearing gloves
- Patrons must be symptom free of any illness for the last two weeks
- 30-minute time limit
- Place items that you touched and aren't checking out on one of the tables, so they can be added to the quarantine cart. **Do not return items to shelves.**
- No public bathrooms
- No meetings
- The Used Book Room is closed until further notice
- Patrons who are non-compliant will be asked to leave the building

The Library is committed to keeping everyone healthy and to maintaining a safe environment that will allow us to stay open. **We can do this together!**

Community Resources

Ready for Medicare?

"If things get better with age then I'm approaching magnificent!"



WPL has copies of the "Medicare & You 2021" handbook. Anyone reaching the age of Medicare eligibility or who has an interest in looking into Medicare may come in and pick up a copy. Learn more on the [Medicare & You](#) website.

Keeping Maine Healthy

The State of Maine has expanded its COVID-19 testing capacity. Under a [standing order \(PDF\)](#), anyone in Maine over the age of 12 months who feels they need a test for COVID-19 may get a test at participating sites, without the need for a test order from their own health care provider. However, people are encouraged to contact their provider with concerns about COVID-19. A number of sites in Maine are providing COVID-19 tests, with or without symptoms, as described in the standing order. For more information, see the "[Keep Maine Healthy](#)." website.

Upcoming Events

Book Group (via Zoom):
Thursday, Oct. 15 at 10:15am



It is a pleasure to announce that Stephanie Hergenroeder has volunteered to be our new Book Group coordinator. Cynthia Davis has offered to serve as a backup coordinator. Thank you, Stephanie and Cynthia! We are also very grateful to our retiring coordinator, Janet Morgan, for her many years of service.

The Friends' Book Group went back to online meetings in September. The very few attendees discussed the common read, **Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania** by Erik Larson. The general response was that the book was interesting but not compelling reading.

Due to dwindling numbers of participants, we emailed current members to ask if they wanted to continue the online Book Group. Those who responded were unanimously in favor of continuing online until we are able to return to the Library. To make it worthwhile, we need people to attend the meetings. If you are new to Zoom, email the [Friends \(wiscasset.library.friends@gmail.com\)](mailto:wiscasset.library.friends@gmail.com). We would be happy to walk you through a test Zoom session. For others, please

add our meetings to your calendar [now](#). We meet at **10:15am on the 3rd Thursday** every month.

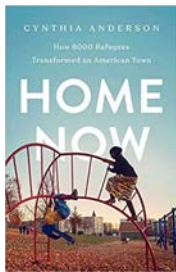
In October, we will have a Book Share discussion. Tell us what you are currently reading and why you would recommend it. If you would like to be added to our Book Group list, email [The Friends of WPL](#).

Collection Highlight

Puzzled over what to do? Concerned about how to manage your time at home? With the reduction of social interactions and the colder weather coming, you may be searching for something to occupy your mind and time as you move indoors this Fall and Winter. Why not try a puzzle? The Library has a dozens of puzzles ranging from 250 to 1000 pieces. Come in and find a intriguing picture to take home and enjoy. Share the puzzle with the family and make it a bonding time; or, enjoy some personal quiet time while you study shapes and colors.



Staff Picks: New & Noteworthy



Home Now: **How 6,000 Refugees Transformed an American Town** by Cynthia Anderson

Cynthia Anderson, the author of *Home Now*, grew up near Lewiston, Maine. Now a teacher of writing at Boston University, Anderson affectingly describes the changes that have occurred in Lewiston since the introduction of 6,000 immigrants to this city of 30,000 people. Anderson tells the story of this resilient city, offering the unfolding drama of a community's reinvention--and illustrating how Maine is directly affected by some of the defining political issues in America today.

Lewiston was a thriving mill town until the mills closed. Jobs disappeared and younger residents moved away. Then, beginning in the early 2000s, the city became home to thousands of African immigrants. It is now one of the most Muslim towns in the U.S.; about 6,000 of Lewiston's 36,000 inhabitants are refugees and asylum seekers, many of them Somali. Anderson does an admirable job presenting the challenges an existing community and its immigrants face as they learn to live together and build a new community. Anderson takes the reader into the lives of both immigrants and lifelong Mainers. You will meet a single Muslim mom, an anti-Islamist activist, a Congolese asylum seeker, a Somali community leader. The story of their lives is chronicled in these pages as anti-immigrant sentiment rises across the US and national realities collide with those in Lewiston.

Home Now is a poignant account of America's evolving relationship with religion and race, and makes a powerful case for embracing change and for the need to be involved in assisting immigrants as they assimilate into their new environment.

Looking for more nonfiction? Here are a few of the new books now available:



Printz Award: Best Teen Book 2020

Looking for a great book to read? The Young Adult Library Service Association's (YALSA) Michael L. Printz Award honors the best book written for teens, based entirely on its literary merit, each year. Additionally, the Printz Committee names up to four honor books, which also represent the best writing in young adult literature. All of these books are available through interlibrary loan or [CloudLibrary](#) download.

2020 Winner

Dig by A. S. King

When their rags-to-riches grandparents decide against bequeathing the family fortune to their descendants, five teens confront difficult secrets and the realities of their disadvantages before uniting in the face of a terrible choice to save the family name.

2020 Honor Books

Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me by Mariko Tamaki
Freddy Riley depends on friends, a local mystic, and a relationship columnist for help in dealing with the on-again, off-again relationship with Laura Dean.

Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean

The best-selling author traces the story of eight boys who participate in an annual bird-hunting expedition on a remote island only to become stranded when nobody arrives to take them home.

Ordinary Hazards : A Memoir by Nikki Grimes

This award-winning author describes her childhood marked by a mentally ill mother, a mostly absent father, abusive caregivers, stints in a succession of foster homes and how, from a very young



age, she discovered the magic and solace of writing in order to deal with the pain and hazards of her life.

The Beast Player by Nahoko Uehashi

When her mother is executed for the mysterious deaths of their kingdom's protective water serpents, a girl with an inherited ability to communicate with magical beasts finds her talent ensnaring her in life-threatening war plots.

The Children's Room

2020 Election

Introduce your children to voting in the United States, our history of the vote, how it has evolved to include all people and how important it is for making our government work.



ATTENTION: ALL READERS IN GRADES 4—8 Maine State Book Award

Books have been ordered and will be on the shelves soon. Stop by, check out the list of titles and see what we have.

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:30 *Scarecrow Story Time**

The library will host an outside Story Time with face mask required of all but the youngest children and social distancing requested.



*If weather is too wet this event will be cancelled.



Need a Reading Buddy?

The Children's Room Stuffedies are looking for homes. They have been cleaned, bagged, and free from COVID for weeks now. We are giving these stuffedies away on a first come, first serve basis. Remember! The Stuffedies were here to be reading buddies. Don't forget to continue to read and cuddle with them!

Children's Room Reminders

We would love to see you! Before you visit, please read the "COVID-19 Safety Precautions" above. Remember, Children's Room visitors must also:

- Enter at Children's Room door (children and parents)
- Limit capacity to one family at a time
- Children wait in designated area while books are retrieved from the shelves by parent/caregiver
- Face covering must be worn by all but the youngest patrons (bring your own please)

Thank you for helping to keep the Children's Room safe for all visitors.

Used Book Room News

The UBR will be closed for the foreseeable future because the Library Staff will be using that area to quarantine and sterilize incoming materials.



For safety reasons, please do not deliver donations to WPL at this time. We'll let you know as soon as we are "back in business" and accepting donations. We hope to see you soon!

Online Resources

Anyone with an active library card can download ebooks and audio books at [CloudLibrary](#). There are books for all ages.



digitalmainelibrary [Digital Maine Library](#) is accessible to everyone in Maine, no library card required. You'll find articles and abstracts from magazines, newspapers, journals and reference materials. It also includes resources for children.

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

Several online retailers offer some products for free. Search for "free":

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

You'll find thousands of older titles on these websites:

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

Overdue Notices

We have heard from many concerned patrons who have returned their items, then received an overdue notice. Please disregard the notice if this happens to you. Remember, we are quarantining all items for 96 hours before checking them in. The automated notices go out while items are in quarantine. We do not charge late fees and we will process your returns as quickly as it is safe to do so. Our quarantine policy is based on guidance from Maine State Library and its purpose is to keep both you and the WPL staff safe. If you still have questions, feel free to call us.

Visit our website

Connect with WPL

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