



Wiscasset Public Library

Newsletter

September 2020

Director's Note

Autumn may be the perfect season in Maine. The roads are a little quieter, as are the beautiful outdoor spaces that make Maine so wonderful. I hope you are able to spend some time in nature this fall. The great outdoors is always a terrific choice for recreation, and being outside helps alleviate the cabin fever we all seem to feel as a result of COVID-19.

The Library has a couple of new purchases that might give you some travel ideas and inspire you to enjoy the outdoors. ***Hiking the Waterfalls of Maine*** is the latest work by Maine author Greg Westrich. Beautiful photography, clear directions to locations, and a full description of what to expect on each hike make this book a real treasure. ***Hiking the Waterfalls in New England: A Guide to the Region's Best Waterfalls*** by Eli Burakian is similar and expands the information to include Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. These Falcon Guides are a treat for hikers and waterfall lovers.

If the beauty of gardens is more to your taste, check out ***The Garden Tourist's New England: A Guide to 140 Outstanding Gardens and Nurseries*** by Jana Milbocker. There is a wide range of gardening styles and types covered in Milbocker's book. You do not need to be a gardener to appreciate all of the imagery within; and, you do not need to be a hiker to visit these wonderful gifts of nature.

Enjoy the fall weather and remember to visit your library to stock up on new reading material. There is nothing like a cup of tea and a great book on those inevitable cool, rainy days.

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!**

Upcoming Events

Book Club (via Zoom):
Thursday, Sep. 17 at 10:15am



The Friends' Book Group met on the Library lawn over the summer. While it was lovely to be outdoors, many members couldn't attend the in-person meetings. We will go back to online meetings this month. Group members will receive an email link to join our Zoom discussion of September's common read, **Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania** by Erik Larson. We hope you can join us.

The Book Group is looking for a **new Coordinator**. Janet is ready to "retire" and we'd love to have a dedicated reader keep the group active as we head into this socially distant autumn and winter. The work involved is minimal. Please consider stepping up.

At our August meeting, we had a wide-ranging discussion covering a number of nonfiction books. One recommendation is ***House of Glass: The Story and Secrets of a Twentieth-Century Jewish Family*** by Hadley Freeman. This historical chronicle is based on family mementos, which led the author to uncover her family's secret history.

An interesting theme of discussion was memoirs based on growing up amidst the struggle for independence in Africa. A recommended book is ***Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood*** by Alexandra Fuller. Another book currently being read is ***The Wife's Tale: a Personal History*** by Aida Edemariam.

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 more

information about the Coordinator role, or to be added to our Book Club list, email The Friends of WPL.



Portland Museum of Art - Museum Pass Program

Using the Library pass to Portland Museum of Art just got easier. Visit PMA's [ticket site](#) and select your preferred day ("other dates") and time ("other times"). At checkout, use the discount code "**Library-WiscassetPL**" to visit as a library patron. Enjoy your visit to the museum.

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. ~ Pablo Picasso

Staff Picks: Essay Collections

The Detective in the Dooryard: Reflections of a Maine Cop by Tim Cotton

If you read the Bangor Police Department's Facebook page, you know that detective Tim Cotton is a talented storyteller. In his first book, Cotton tells us of his experiences with people on the wrong side of the law. He also shares tales about the regular folks he encounters, people who need his help, or those who just want to share a story. His essays will remind you of the reasons that you love Maine, all related with the dry wit of a lifelong Mainer.

I Work at a Public Library: A Collection of Crazy Stories from the Stacks by Gina Sheridan

Sheridan shares many tales of interacting with the public from her experiences at a circulation desk. These wonderful little snippets of oddities and humor are sure to entertain and amuse. From patron questions to overheard conversations and miscommunications, these strange but true vignettes are just fun to read.



Audiobooks for Tweens, Teens and Families

Audiobooks are a one of the many resources available through your library. Why listen to a book? There are so many reasons! Listening to a book allows you to squeeze in a story when you're riding in a car or doing chores. Great narrators help you to enjoy the story in a new way, by bringing the characters to life. You'll learn new vocabulary and improve your listening skills. Audiobooks are also a great substitute for novels that are a challenge to read.

These title suggestions are from the [Association for Library Service to Children \(ALSC\)](#). These middle school favorites will appeal to older teens and families as well. All are available through [CloudLibrary](#).

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
by Sherman Alexie, read by the author, 5 hours.

***Bloody Jack: Being An Account of the Curious Adventures
of Mary Jacky Faber, Ship's Boy***
by L.A. Meyer, read by Katherine Kellgren, 8 hours.

The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials)
by Phillip Pullman, read by the author and a full cast, 10 ¾ hours.

The Giver
by Lois Lowry, read by Ron Rifkin, 4 ¾ hours.

The Graveyard Book
by Neil Gaiman, read by Neil Gaiman, 8 ½ hours.

Hatchet
by Gary Paulsen, read by Peter Coyote, 3 ¾ hours.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
by J.K. Rowling, read by Jim Dale, 8 ¼ hours.

Princess Academy
by Shannon Hale, read by Laura Credidio, 7 ¼ hours.

Skulduggery Pleasant
by Derek Landy read by Rupert Degas, 7 ½ hours.

Touching Spirit Bear
by Ben Mikaelson, read by Lee Tergeesen, 6 hours.

Treasure Island
by Robert Louis Stevenson, read by Alfred Molina, 7 hours.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963
by Christopher Paul Curtis, read by LeVar Burton, 5 hours.



The Children's Room

PUBLIC
CHURCH
POD

**HOWEVER YOU GO BACK TO SCHOOL
THE LIBRARY IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!**

HOMESCHOOL
PRIVATE



September is Library Card Sign-Up Month and now, more than ever, your library card is an invaluable resource. Whether you're going to school or learning at home, you can use your WPL card to access books, DVDs, music, ebooks, and audiobooks. We have STEM kits, puzzles, and Take & Make

crafts. Parents and caregivers just need proof of residency (for example, a driver's license or utility bill) in Wiscasset, Alna, Edgecomb or Westport Island to get a library card. For more information, call 882-7161.

September Take & Makes

- Library-produced Activity Book with #2 sharpened pencil included
- Shrinky-Dink charms for bracelets, keychains, backpack clips or necklace



For parents and caregivers, we have a **Maine Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar**, to help prepare children for reading and Kindergarten. You fill in the dates, so you can start now or in 2021. Inside, you'll find book suggestions, activities, craft ideas and fun facts about Maine. This beautiful full-size wall calendar is provided by the Maine State Library, and features Maine authors and illustrators. Available while supplies last.

Digital Maine Library has resources for teachers and students of all ages. Whether you are in a classroom or learning at home, this collection has the information you need to complement your studies. You will find thousands of magazines, newspapers, and reference materials in this expansive online resource. **Niche Academy's** full video tutorial library is also included. Teachers will find the educator tools very useful, while students will get easy access to factual information from age-specific databases like World Book Student and National Geographic Kids.

Homeschooling links vetted by Maine State Library

1. Homeschoolers of Maine: <https://www.homeschoolersofmaine.org>
2. Homeschool Legal Defense Association: <https://hsllda.org>
3. Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org>
4. cK-12: <https://www.ck12.org>
5. History for Kids: www.historyforkids.net
6. Typing Club: www.typingclub.com
7. Fun Brains: <https://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks>
8. English Worksheets Land: <https://englishworksheetsland.com>
9. NeoK12: <https://www.neok12.com>

Congratulations, Summer Readers!

Despite the pandemic, our Summer Reading Club was a huge success. *Imagine Your Maine Story* was our theme, in honor of our bicentennial. The 71 participants read a combined total of hundreds of books. They engaged in themed activities, earned incentives and collected raffle tickets for the grand prize baskets featuring Maine products. Congratulations to our raffle winners: Jace McArdle, Christopher Gillespie, Leah Gillespie and Ruby McCormick. All of our readers did a great job!



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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