



## Wiscasset Public Library Newsletter January 2021

*Libraries... show us anything is possible by encouraging a love of learning, discovery, and exploration. ~ Natalie Portman*

### Annual Campaign

This challenging year is finally coming to an end. The Wiscasset Public Library is extremely grateful for the moral and financial support that our community has provided through these trying times.

You may have received an Annual Campaign letter detailing the financial challenges faced by Wiscasset Public Library. Many of our usual revenue sources, such as fundraisers and used book sales, have disappeared. This year, the money raised via our Annual Campaign will be required to cover a significantly larger portion of our operating expenses. If you have already made a contribution, please know that we truly appreciate your support. If you would still like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please send your check to Wiscasset Public Library, 21 High Street, Wiscasset 04578. You can also make an [online donation on our website](#).

Thank you for supporting Wiscasset Public Library. Your generosity is an investment in this community and assures the ongoing access to library services for all.



### Director's Note

Another month of COVID has passed and the Library staff continue our quest to remain open as long as possible.

As we prepare to leave 2020 behind, we can reflect on the discomfort of our masks, the irritating feel and smell of hand sanitizers, and the annoyance of not being able to go where we want when we want, or ...

We can reflect on the generosity of those around us who have gone above and beyond to assist in the daily tasks that are now essential to safety and life. We can spend some moments being thankful for the smiles in the eyes of our friends as we meet and the kind words they share in passing. Let us choose to celebrate our strengthened relationships, our new internal resiliency, and the knowledge that we have fought on together as we near the end of the battle.

I, personally, am so impressed by the caring and support that I have witnessed in others. I can only say that you, the patrons of this Library, have inspired and encouraged me through the last several months. I, and the rest of the staff, are

happy to be here for you as you have been here for us. Thank you.

Pam Dunning, Director

### Library Humor :)

A woman walks into a library and asks "Do you have Great Expectations?" The librarian says "I hope to be the manager by the end of the year."

## 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
- Used Book Room sales are discontinued 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

### Friends of Wiscasset Public Library Annual Meeting (on Zoom), January 11 at 10:00am

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Friends annual meeting will be held on Zoom. All current Friends will receive an email on January 6 with the agenda and the Zoom link. If you are interested in attending but are not a current member of the Friends, email [Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com](mailto:Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com) for the meeting information. We are happy to provide technical assistance if you are new to Zoom.

Although we are not meeting or planning events at this time, we need volunteers to serve as Officers. The Friends provide vital support to Wiscasset Public Library. This is your opportunity to help us plan our future endeavors. Are you a great organizer? A creative marketer? Are you enthusiastic about supporting your community? We could use your help! Please submit your

name and the role that interests you.

The meeting summary and a survey regarding the issues will be sent out on January 12. Any Friends who are unable to attend the meeting will have the opportunity to submit their votes on the issues at that time. Questions and comments can be emailed to the Friends at the address above.

### **A note to the Friends from Pam Dunning, WPL Director:**

This has been one heck of a year! The Friends of Wiscasset Public Library were forced to give up all of their plans and walk away from their work for the year. I know how hard it was on all of you to shut down the Bands for Books fundraiser... So much planning and scheduling already in place to just set it aside. Let us take a moment to recognize the stress of that situation and to be grateful for those individuals who took responsibility and said, "We have to step back this year." That was not an easy decision and you are all to be commended.

Now is the time to move forward and begin to build again. In-person meetings will not be possible for the majority of 2021. Running a meeting is not fun in the easiest of times. Giving of yourself and your time is draining. Yet, I am reaching out to ask you to step up and save the Friends. I know you want this group to continue. You are a vital part of the Library community. Where am I going with this? **The Friends need officers.** Part of your annual meeting is electing your officers to their seats. Without officers, the Friends do not exist. I am reaching out and imploring you to be generous again. The position of Treasurer is still in the capable hands of Lynn Maloney for another year. The positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary are all vacant until you vote them back into place. Please search your hearts and calendars to see if you can save the Friends by agreeing to fill a seat. The Friends and the Library need you!

**Book Group (via Zoom):  
Thursday, Jan. 21 at 10:15am**



Happy New Year! Last month, the Book Group met via Zoom to discuss **News of the World** by Paulette Jiles. The story takes place shortly after the Civil War, mostly in small Texas towns. The main character travels from town to town supporting himself as a professional reader. He charges a small fee to attendees to hear him read the news of the world from various newspapers. At one stop, he is asked to deliver a white girl, who had been captured by an Indian tribe and recently rescued, to family members unaware of her imminent arrival. Cultural clashes ensue between him and the girl and between the girl and her relatives.

Attendees had strong opinions about the story, ranging from "thoroughly enjoyed it" to "not a story I would recommend" and everything in between. Following this discussion, members recommended additional titles for readers' consideration.

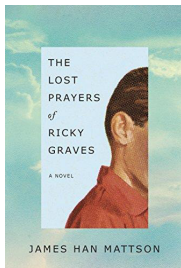
December Recommendations  
**Greenwood** by Michael Christie

***The Magus*** by John Fowles  
***Burial Rites*** by Hannah Kent  
***The Bridge of Years*** by May Sarton

Our next meeting will be a book share discussion on Thursday, January 21 at 10:15am. Share what you are currently reading and why you would recommend it. This will be a Zoom meeting. If you are new to Zoom please email [Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com](mailto:Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com) for instructions. If you would like to be added to our Book Group list, also email us at the above address.

Stephanie

## Book Review: The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves



The faces we show to the world and our true selves can be at odds with each other. Ceding our self-deception to harsh reality can be devastating. First-time novelist James Han Mattson examines the relationships between our real lives and our social media feeds in ***The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves***, a moving look at the intersections of rural queerness, the internet, and forgiveness.

In these narratives, interspersed with e-mails, gay chat-room exchanges, and other fragments of a youth laid bare in the age of social media, is the mystery of a life in all its glory: despair and regret, humor and wonder, courage and connection. A heartbroken and humiliated Ricky Graves took the life of a classmate and himself. Five months later, the sleepy community is still in shock and mourning. Ricky's sister, Alyssa, returns to confront her shattered, withdrawn mother and her guilt over the brother she left adrift. Mark McVitry, the lone survivor of the deadly outburst sparked by his own cruelty, is tormented by visions of Ricky's vengeful spirit. Ricky's surrogate older brother, Corky Meeks, grapples with doubts about the fragile boy he tried to protect but may have doomed instead. And Jeremy Little, who inadvertently became Ricky's long-distance Internet crush despite never having met, seeks to atone for failing to hear his friend's cries for help.

Shock and grief have given way to soul searching for those closest to the tormented killer, as they're forced to confront their broken dreams, buried desires, and missed opportunities. Seeking meaning and redemption, Ricky's loved ones find a common purpose: learning to trust their feelings, fighting for real intimacy in a world grown selfish and insincere, and fearlessly embracing all that matters most, before it's gone from their lives.

## What's In Your Wallet?

Your Wiscasset Public Library card may be the best card in your wallet. Have you ever considered the value you get from your local library? You are saving \$200 each year just by borrowing one best-seller each month. The latest books are always popular with our patrons and we are happy to recommend titles and authors. Of course, we have much more to offer than just the latest best-sellers. You can borrow a classic novel, a movie, a puzzle, a telescope, or a



museum pass. A library card is the best deal in town.

Here is a suggestion list for starting your "savings plan." The editors of The New York Times Book Review recently named their top ten books of 2020. The retail value of these ten titles is \$200 for the hardcover books. They are all available through WPL, in a variety of formats (hardcover, audiobook, e-book). Enjoy your new-found savings!

#### Nonfiction

- ***Hidden Valley Road*** by Robert Kolker
- ***A Promised Land*** by Barack Obama
- ***Shakespeare in a Divided America*** by James Shapiro
- ***Uncanny Valley*** by Anna Wiener
- ***War*** by Margaret MacMillan

#### Fiction

- ***The Children's Bible*** by Lydia Millet
- ***Deacon King Kong*** by James McBride
- ***Hamnet*** by Maggie O'Farrell
- ***Homeland Elegies*** by Ayad Akhtar
- ***The Vanishing Half*** by Brit Bennett



## The Children's Room

### Reading the Classics

Do you have a New Year's Resolution? We'd like to suggest you resolve to read more books! Avid readers are more successful in life by many measures. Reading improves brain function and allows you to gather new information. It's relaxing but it also stimulates your mind. It builds your vocabulary, strengthens your analytical skills, and improves your concentration. The benefits of reading are undeniable, so set a reading goal and make 2021 your "Year of Reading."

To get you started, these are a few beloved children's classics. You may have read them before but will certainly enjoy them whether you are reading them for the first time or the tenth. Most of these authors have written several wonderful books. Let us know if you'd like additional suggestions.

***Casey at the Bat*** by Ernest Thayer

***Frog and Toad*** by Arnold Lobel

**Elmer** by David McKee

**Is Your Mama a Llama?** by Deborah Guarino

**The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats

**Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey

**Katy and the Big Snow** by Virginia Lee Burton

**The Little Engine That Could** by Watty Piper

**Corduroy** by Don Freeman

**Oh, the Places You'll Go** by Dr. Seuss

**Pete's a Pizza** by Willienn Steig

**Goodnight Moon** by Margaret Wise Brown

**The Little Train** by Lois Lenski

**We're Going on a Bear Hunt** by Michael Rosen

**The Runaway Bunny** by Margaret Wise Brown

**May I Bring a Friend?** by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault



## 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 the Children's room via the Used Book Room
- 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

Due to COVID-19, the UBR will not be selling any items for the foreseeable future. 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. Until then, stay safe!



## Online Resources

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



**digitalmainelibrary** [Digital Maine Library](https://digitalmainelibrary.org/) 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](https://www.storylineonline.net/), 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

If you receive an Overdue Notice after returning your items, please disregard the email. We continue to quarantine 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.

## 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  
Closed Sunday and Monday

### Staff

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

Visit our website

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



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