



Wiscasset Public Library Newsletter December 2020

There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

~ Edith Wharton

Director's Note

Library staff are almost overwhelmed with the outpouring of gratitude from patrons. You tell us how safe you feel coming into the building. You tell us how wonderful the collection is and how it has supported you in your time at home. You tell us how needed we are in your life.



What we want to tell you: We missed you all while we were in shut-down. It is so terrific to come to work and see you all visiting. It is very gratifying for us to hear from you that we are “doing it right.”

The purpose of the Library and its staff is to serve the public’s informational needs. Whether it is finding the book you want to read, helping to narrow an online search or handling the photocopies you need, we are here for you. Thank you for everything you do and say to support the Library.

Library Humor :) A plumber was called in to fix a leaky pipe in the library toilet. As he worked, he made too much noise, and so the librarian asked him to pipe down.

Do you have a funny Library story? Share it with us and we will share it on FaceBook.

We wish you holidays merry and bright!
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
- 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

**Book Group (via Zoom):
Thursday, Dec. 17 at 10:15am**



The Friends Book Group will be finishing off the year with a common read. At the November meeting the group selected ***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 he and the girl and between the girl and her relatives.

Please join us via Zoom on Thursday, December 17, at 10:15 for a discussion of this title. As mentioned in the last newsletter Zoom seems to be working out well so I encourage you to give it a try. If you are new to Zoom please email 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.

Many interesting-sounding books were discussed at the November book share meeting. This generated the following list of recommendations:

What Rose Forgot by Nevada Barr

The Body by Bill Bryson (other recommended books by Bryson: **A Walk in the Woods, In A Sunburned Country, A Short History of Nearly Everything**)

Chaos by Patricia Cornwell

The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis

Lake of Dreams by Kim Edwards

The Hunting Party by Lucy Foley

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

The Ivy Tree by Mary Stewart

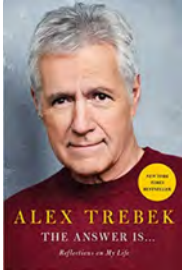
The Queen's Gambit by Walter Tevis
Summer of My Amazing Luck by Miriam Toews

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season. Since staying home is our best option these days, I leave you with this thought:

Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home. —Anna Quindlen

Stephanie

Book Review



The Answer Is . . . : Reflections on My Life by Alex Trebek

Longtime *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek reveals his generous personality and his true love of learning while he reflects on his life and career with brief examples of his philosophy of life.

Since 1984, Alex Trebek has been part of the American home by presenting entertainment and education on television five nights a week. After he made the stunning announcement that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, his viewing community exploded with an incredible outpouring of love and kindness.

Trebek had resisted countless appeals to write a book about his life. Moved by all the goodwill, he felt compelled to share his story. "I want people to know a little more about the person they have been cheering on for the past year," he writes in *The Answer Is...: Reflections on My Life*. The book combines illuminating personal anecdotes with Trebek's thoughts on a range of topics, including marriage, parenthood, education, success, spirituality, and philanthropy. This charming and inspiring book illustrates why Trebek has long been considered one of the most beloved and respected figures in entertainment.

The answer is... Alex Trebek was a caring, compassionate individual who shared his good life with others.

Staff Picks: NY Times® Bestseller Fiction

Do you enjoy reading the current bestselling novels? Have you been waiting for the new release from your favorite author? Is your book club discussing the latest "hot" book of the season? We have the books that you want!

WPL adds new books to the collection every month, including the bestsellers according to a number of sources, such as the NY Times® Book Review. Come by to see what's on our New Books shelf, or give us a call if you're looking for a specific title. Our website is regularly updated with our new titles. You can scroll through the "New Books" book covers at the bottom of our home page. You can also search our online card catalog and request the book from

there. What could be better than a winter evening enjoying a great book? You just need to provide the comfy chair and a warm drink!



The Children's Room

Ms. Laurie's Holiday Books

Seasonal titles are now on display. We have many of the classics such as *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *Frosty the Snowman*. We have wonderful new additions too. Our books about snow, winter, and animals in the cold are plentiful and they're a wonderful way to brighten your holidays!



WPL Children's Room is your community resource—kept clean & safe with your help! We have many services to offer, including curbside pick-up. Contact me, Laurie Ridgway at 882-7161 or lrldgway@wiscasset.lib.me.us. I will gladly pull books by title, by age, or by interest. We have toddlers and kindergarteners who need 15 new books at a time. We have 7th graders who need an interlibrary loan to get the latest book in a series. You can be confident in our safety measures. We practice washing and sanitizing hands several times daily. Facemasks are worn at all times when books are being handled. Books are quarantined for the required 72 hours—and if you are still concerned, you can keep books in quarantine at your residence. The point is, **borrow books**. It's free, it's safe and it's good for your kids to be *reading!*



During the next few months, **access to the Children's Room** will be through the Used Book Store entry.

(Below: Hunter & Finn on their way to the Children's Room.)

Follow the red brick path to the Children's Room entrance. The pathway will be cleared of snow and ice. Suggested parking for families is alongside Wiscasset Common. Any questions may be directed to staff.



Take & Make Crafts

December is the time to roll out the crafts and we have several for you to take home to do with your youngsters. There are 5 ornaments for the tree. There is a large foam wreath, a simple pillow to sew and a reindeer mobile. Pick up one or pick up one of each. They are easy, fun, and always free!



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:

- Use the winter entrance to 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

On behalf of the volunteers who staff the Used Book Room, I send our best wishes for happy holidays to you and your families. We miss seeing you in the UBR. Hopefully, the new year will bring a solution to the virus and we will be able to reconnect with you.



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, care for each other and happy holidays!

Lynn Maloney

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

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

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