



Wiscasset Public Library Newsletter June 2021

To read is to voyage through time. ~ Carl Sagan

Director's Note

The ever-changing rules of COVID have taken yet another turn. The good news is that this is a turn in the right direction. We are almost at Destination Normal! On May 24, WPL opened with fewer restrictions. **You still have to wear a mask and use hand sanitizers** but you can now:

- Come in without waiting for someone to leave. No inside census limits.
- Stay inside for up to one hour.
- Use the bathrooms. They are open to the public.
- Touch the books and put them back on their shelves. No quarantining.
- Get faster local holds and interlibrary loans. No quarantining.
- Did I mention there is no quarantining?

What we hope to see June:

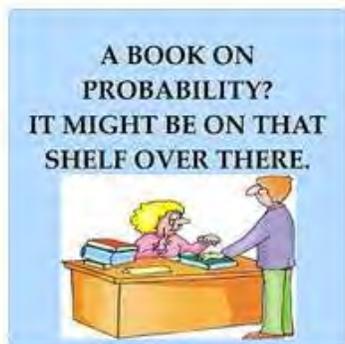
- A decrease in COVID cases reported per day. If not a decrease then, at least, no large jump in numbers.
- With fairly steady numbers and the patience of the public, the library will be able to continue to remove restrictions.
- Hopefully, removal of the mask requirement. Again, this is COVID count dependent.

Thank you again to all our supportive patrons who have ridden this roller coaster with us. We made the plan that allowed us to stay open, but you made it work.

Pam Dunning, Director

Library Humor...

How do books keep warm?
With their jackets!



Do you shop on Amazon? Here's a simple way to help WPL at no cost to you. Go to smile.amazon.com, choose Wiscasset Public Library from the menu on the right, and click **select**. Amazon will remember your selection and whenever you shop at AmazonSmile, every eligible purchase you make results in a donation to the library. **WPL has received over \$933 in donations so far.** Thank you for your support.

COVID-19 Safety Precautions

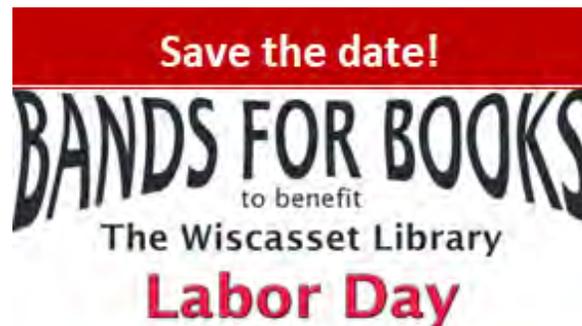
COVID-19 regulations are changing, finally! Every business is in the process of deciding what they can let go and what they must hold onto. What has changed at Wiscasset Public Library? WPL has many small rooms that can present some challenges. We are lucky that the Children's Room is downstairs and can have its own set of rules.

- The only change in the Children's Room is that the items will no longer be quarantined. Patrons will still use hand sanitizer and remain masked to protect children. We will continue to admit one family at a time with entry through the Children's Room door.
- In the rest of the building, **masks and hand sanitizer are still required**. All other regulations have been rescinded.
- We will revisit this policy as conditions warrant.

Many of these decisions are based on not having to take a step backwards by bringing masks back at a later date. The yo-yo effect is very frustrating for everyone. I want all of our changes to be positive ones.

Because all of you have been so supportive, the library is able continue to move forward. We could not have done this without you.

Upcoming Events



Bands for Books Returns!

We finally get to take off our masks and enjoy time with our friends. To celebrate, the Friends of Wiscasset Public Library are planning a fantastic party! Great food, wonderful music, a silent auction featuring intriguing items, and it's all for a good cause. On Labor Day, **September 6**, plan to attend our annual **Bands for Books** fundraiser. The venue is the beautiful **Seafield Farm** and our favorite tunes will be performed by **The Salty Dogs**. This event is always a lot of fun – just ask past attendees. Invite your friends and family and plan to be there. As we get closer to the event, watch the WPL website for news and auction item previews. Ticket sales will be announced soon.

Friends Book Group
Thursday, June 17 at 10:15 am



The Book Group is looking forward to its first in-person meeting on the library back lawn this month. The June meeting will be a common read discussion of ***The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary*** by Simon Winchester. *The Professor and the Madman*, masterfully researched and eloquently written, is an extraordinary tale of madness, genius, and the incredible obsessions of two remarkable men that led to the making of the *Oxford English Dictionary* -- and literary history. The compilation of the *OED*, begun in 1857, was one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken. As definitions were collected, the overseeing committee, led by Professor James Murray, discovered that one man, Dr. W. C. Minor, had submitted more than ten thousand. When the committee insisted on honoring him, a shocking truth came to light: Dr. Minor, an American Civil War veteran, was also an inmate at an asylum for the criminally insane. (goodreads.com). This book was made into a movie in 2019 starring Mel Gibson as Professor Murray and Sean Penn as Dr. Minor.

May Recommendations

Prime of Life by P.D. Bekendam

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man by James Walden Johnson

The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver

The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, June 17 at 10:15 am** on the library's back lawn. Please bring your own chair. To be added to our group, please email us at wiscasset.library.friends@gmail.com.

Stephanie

Collection Highlights

Library Pass Program

What are your plans, now that COVID restrictions are lifting? Are you ready to get out and visit someplace new? Or, is it time to return to the places you love and miss? Most cultural venues are now open to the public and summer is the perfect time to explore them. Wiscasset Public Library has passes to several Maine attractions that are free for you to borrow. Passes are limited to one borrower per day, so check availability with the library.

Historic New England – Visit dozens of fascinating historic properties throughout New England, including the Nickels-Sortwell House and Castle Tucker in Wiscasset, and the Bowman House in Dresden.



Portland Museum of Art – Maine's largest and oldest public art institution is currently featuring *Untitled, 2020*, exploring the response of Maine artists to this pivotal time in history.



Farnsworth Museum – Celebrating Maine's role in American art, the Farnsworth has current exhibitions including works by N.C., Andrew, and Jamie Wyeth as well as *Women of Vision*, which highlights thirteen remarkable women who have made lasting contributions to the culture of Maine.

Farnsworth
Art Museum



Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens – The largest botanical garden in New England. This is the perfect place to enjoy Maine's beautiful outdoors. And there are giant trolls!

Audiobooks



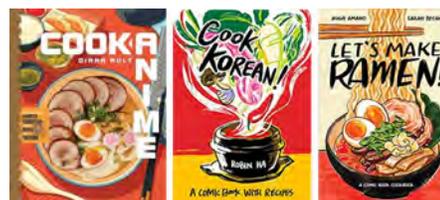
June is Audio Book month. If you've never had the pleasure, this is the time to try a book on CD or an audio download from CloudLibrary. Chores are more enjoyable when you listen to an exciting narrator or try to figure out who-done-it. A good story can take the place of that noisy radio when you go for a scenic drive. Catch up on your "reading" as you walk the dog. Come in to WPL to peruse

our collection of books on CD. You can also download the CloudLibrary app, type in your library barcode number and start listening right away; no trip to the library required. Access CloudLibrary from WPL's homepage, or go to <https://ebook.yourcloudlibrary.com/library/wiscassetpl/featured>.

While you are visiting CloudLibrary, browse the available e-books too. There are thousands of titles ready for checkout.

New in Young Adult: Asian Cooking

Check out these new cookbooks in Young Adult nonfiction. Enjoyable for cooks of all ages, this assortment will teach you to cook a long list of authentic Asian recipes, and these books do it with flair. Diana Ault's *Cooking Anime* takes you on a journey to anime food,



instructing the chef how to serve the dish as a work of beautiful, artistic design. Artistry is also prevalent in Robin Ha's *Cook Korean* as well as in Hugh Amano and Sarah Becan's *Let's Make Ramen*. Simple recipes displayed in graphic novel format take you step-by-step to some mouthwatering meals. An overview of the culture of Asian Cooking enhances the reader's experience. Gorgeously illustrated and using flavorful, easy-to-find ingredients make any of these three books a "must try" for cooks everywhere.

Recommended: *Quiet In Her Bones*



Stepping away from her usual science fiction fantasy genre, Nalini Singh has jumped into the world of suspense. *Quiet In Her Bones* is a gripping thriller set in New Zealand. Singh drops the reader into an exclusive cul-de-sac community where twisted minds reside. The secrets of a ten-year-old murder are about to be exposed by the son who heard a chilling scream the night his mother disappeared. Finding the truth is no easy task in this privileged enclave where even the dead aren't allowed to break the rules.

Large Print: *Four Hundred Souls*

Now in the Large Print collection, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* is an anthology of historical essays, poems, personal vignettes, short stories and controversial essays, written by some of today's most brilliant writers. Spanning 400-years, this volume brings to life the stories of resistance, struggle, hope, reinvention and dreams. Editors Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain have assembled an African-American history that takes us from the past, brings us to the present, and hopefully, opens our eyes to the possibilities in the future.



The Children's Room



Strawberry season is here and nothing tastes better than fresh strawberries! You can create your own giant strawberry collage with red bits and pieces. End with a Q-tip and yellow paint to make the seeds. Then, read a fun strawberry-themed book: *The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear* by Don and Audrey Wood.





Father's Day is June 20

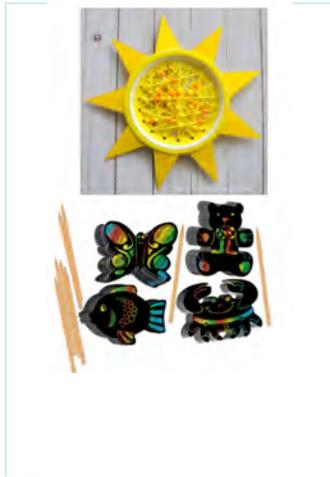
Make dad a banner and a card. Let him know he is your Super Hero!

StoryWalk®

Check out the WPL Children's Room StoryWalk® on Wiscasset Common* featuring a laminated story. Take a stroll and read a book at the same time! StoryWalks® were created and copyrighted by Vermont Librarian, Anne Ferguson.



*Come to WPL, tell Ms. Laurie the title of the book and receive a small prize!



Take & Make Crafts

Stop by the Children's Room to get your June crafts. This month, Ms. Laurie has Sew a Sun and Rainbow Scratch Art animals

Wall of Fame

Bring in your report card and we will put your name up on our **WALL OF FAME!** Take home a free book too! Celebrate your progress this year.



Tails and Tales Summer Reading Club!

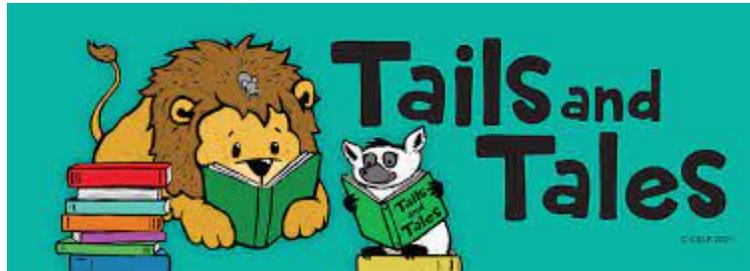
Summer Reading Club sign-up is almost here. On **Tuesday, June 22** we will be ready for you! In-person sign-ups are being held in the WPL Children's Room; or, go to www.wiscasset.lib.me.us and click on **JUST FOR KIDS**.

- Registration is on-going through the end of July
- Reporting on books starts on July 6th and will run into August

DON'T MISS THE FUN THIS YEAR! Weekly contests, crafts to go, books to read and books to win, raffles to enter, prizes to pick up & more!



Sample prizes: animal squishies, wooden snakes, bendable llamas, Lego-type lions, reading lights, Dairy Queen treats—need I say more!



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:

- Enter the Children's room via the Children's Room door
- Limit capacity to one family at a time
- 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.

News from the Friends of WPL

Summer Book List

Summer is a wonderful time to get outside, pull up a chair, and dive into a book. The Friends have a few summer reading suggestions for you. Books (or videos) that can be found at WPL are starred(*); all suggestions are available through MILS or CloudLibrary.

***When We Were the Kennedys** by Monica Wood. It's a wonderful memoir about growing up in a Maine mill town in the 1960s. - Tracy Joyce

My recommendation is **People We Meet on Vacation** by Emily Henry. Similar to her ironically titled last book, ***Beach Read**. People's characters are more complex and nuanced than what one would expect in a rom-com. Henry has been called our generation's answer to Nora Ephron. - Wendy Thompson

***News of the World** by Paulette Jiles was the book the whole group read and most of us enjoyed it. I read it twice and found it only got better. It's an easy read with an historical setting and describes a cultural curiosity – a paid reader of the news – which was new to all of us. Colorful characters and lots of drama.

For anyone who enjoyed watching the PBS series **The Durrells in Corfu*, this series (trilogy of books) by Gerald Durrell... is wonderful, with colorful characters, a beautiful setting, and better-than-fiction escapades: ***My Family and Other Animals; Birds, Beasts and Relatives;*** and, ***The Garden of the Gods.***

For something a bit soap opera-y but charming, these books by Adriana Trigiani are an enjoyable read: ***The Shoemaker's Wife; *Very Valentine; *Brava, Valentine.*** - Lucia Droby

Right now I am reading ***The Last Bookshop in London*** by Madeleine Martin. It is historical fiction (about) London at the beginning of WWII, but also about the power of good books to bring us together. It's also an easy read for summer beach days! - Kitty Lipp

***The Searcher** by Tana French is set in Ireland. An ex-cop from Chicago has moved to a small village in his retirement. He finds that life is not as idyllic or simple as he first thought as he becomes entangled in a village secret. This is a complex mystery that challenges beliefs of right and wrong. - Lili Pugh



Second Hand Prose Used Book Room

We have received the go-ahead to reopen the Used Book Room! The UBR will be professionally cleaned for the health and safety of staff, volunteers and patrons. Then there will be additional work to prepare for our grand reopening. UBR volunteers will receive an email when we can get in and set up.



We are planning a special sale to celebrate the reopening but plans are currently incomplete. Please do not bring your books for donation to the library yet. Our space is limited. We will let you know when the time is right!

On behalf of the volunteers who faithfully staff our UBR, we look forward to seeing you and helping you find the perfect book for your summer reading, gardening, or hobbies.

Lynn Maloney, UBR Chair

A Note from the Treasurer

I want to express my appreciation to the members who have paid their dues. It has been a different and difficult year. I am grateful you did not forget the Friends. During this past year we were not been able to hold fundraisers to support our library. Your dues are an integral part of our financial support of WPL. Thank you, Friends!

Be a FRIEND!

Would you like to support your community and have some fun? Come to a Friends meeting to learn about the many ways we assist WPL. We meet at 9:30 am on the 2nd Monday every other month. We start with a coffee social followed by the business meeting at 10:00am. Our next meeting will be held on **July 12**. You can find more information about the Friends on the [WPL website](#). Contact the Friends at Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com to be added to our email list.

Library Information

Hours

Tuesday 10:00am-5:00pm
Wednesday 10:00am-7:00pm
Thursday 10:00am-5:00pm
Friday 10:00am-5:00pm
Saturday 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



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