



Wiscasset Public Library

# Newsletter

August 2021

*August is the border between summer and autumn; it is the most beautiful month I know  
~ Tove Jansson*

## Director's Note

What's going on at WPL? I can answer that with one word: **Programs!**

**Wednesday, August 11, 5:00 to 6:30 pm** – Greg Westrich will be sharing the joy of *Hiking Waterfalls of Maine: A Guide to the State's Best Waterfall Hikes*. Greg has written several books for Falcon Guides. His latest is a real treasure for hikers and walkers, highlighting almost 100 scenic waterfall hikes in the area and providing logistical details along with local history and trivia.

**Wednesday, September 8, 5:00 to 6:30pm** – Diana Coleman will regale you with some of the stories from her book, *Women Going For It! Taking Risks After 50*. Diana has profiled twenty-six "feisty and determined" women, aged between 50 and 80 years, who changed their lives and tried fabulous new things despite their ages.

**Wednesday, October 20, 5:00 to 6:30pm** – Author Greg Smith talks about *Halloween Horror – What Really Scares You?* Greg offers a lighthearted, interactive discussion of how and why horror literature thrills, provokes, and entertains us. Using short readings from the works of Edgar Allan Poe, Stephen King, Anne Rice, and his own work, Greg explores the dynamics of mood, suspense, and mystery.

The speakers will allow time to answer questions at the end of their talks. A light refreshment will be served. We hope you can join us.

Pam Dunning, Director

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## Notary Appointments

Reminder: Notary Public service is available **strictly by appointment**. Please call in advance (207-882-7161) to ensure that the Notary is on duty and can leave the desk to assist you. Notary services are free to the public.

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## Library Humor...

Little known fact: The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

Fun fact: The word hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia means the fear of long words. (This is true!)



## Archive Access Appointments

Notice to all seekers of local history: We know that many of you have been patiently waiting to look for information on your homes and/or families of long ago. The Jane S. Tucker Genealogical and Archival Collection has reopened, **by appointment only**. Please call in advance (882-7161) to ensure staff are available to take you up to the research room. We look forward to making the collection fully accessible again. Thank you for your patience until that time.

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### Have you seen Gnoman?!

Roamin' Gnoman is on the move and he's gone missing! Gnoman loves the library and likes to travel through the building to find quiet areas. The problem is that Gnoman has a very poor sense of direction and often gets lost while wandering. If you spot Gnoman, please help him find his way back to the front desk. The reward for your kindness is one sweet treat. **Hint: Gnoman is never in the Children's Room. He only visits the first floor of the library.**

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## Upcoming Events

It's only a few weeks until the 2021 **Bands for Books!** Join us on Labor Day, September 6, for a rockin' good time – great food, wonderful music and fantastic auction items – all in support of our library. You can purchase tickets at the library or by emailing the Friends. You can also visit our "ticket booth" at the Wiscasset Art Walk on August 26. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20; at the door, \$25.

The Friends of WPL are truly grateful for the support this event has received. Individual donors, loyal merchants who have helped us for years, and new businesses who are just getting established have all contributed to this year's Bands for Books. We encourage you to note and patronize the many businesses represented in our Silent Auction, as well as the sponsors who help defray the costs of putting on this event. Thriving businesses, involved citizens, and a vital library combine to make Wiscasset an exceptional community. Thank you to all our supporters!

### 2021 Sponsors

Susan Blagden  
Tania Hayes  
Cheryl "Shep" Rust  
Ames True Value  
Big Al's Super Values  
Big Barn Coffee  
First National Bank  
Usher's Painting  
Water Lily Flowers & Gifts



## Bands for Books Silent Auction Contributors

Barnhouse Grill & Pub  
Coastal Maine Botanical Garden  
Craft Beer Buffs  
Cubbyhole Sports Pub  
Fogg Art Restoration  
Virginia Forrest, artist  
Pamela Logan, Photographer  
Maine Tasting Center  
Mammy's Bakery  
Jen Moclair Yoga at Lulu's Barn  
Monkey C Monkey Do

Montsweag Restaurant  
Mat O'Donnell, artist  
Old and Everlasting  
Sean Rafter Scenic Flights  
Rock Paper Scissors  
Child's Gift Basket by M. Stiassni  
Water Lily Flowers & Gifts  
Water St. Kitchen & Bar  
The Wine Ladies  
Wiscasset Veterinary Hospital



### Friends Book Group Summer Vacation

The Friends Book Group is taking the summer off. There will not be an August meeting. The next meeting will be on **September 16 at 10:15 am** in the library reading room and will be a book share discussion. Until then, you can see what the Friends are reading in the "Friends' Book Suggestions" article below. We should have much to discuss in September. To be added to our group, email [wiscasset.library.friends@gmail.com](mailto:wiscasset.library.friends@gmail.com).

Stephanie

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## The Hortense and Henry Ferne Art Library

Art appreciation can be defined as the practice of viewing art pieces with an aim to derive intellectual, emotional, or spiritual enlightenment. Quora.com states, "Art appreciation is an exploration of the nature of art, the different techniques, materials and ideas that go into making art, and the development of comfort in approaching art that is unfamiliar. Art appreciation can center on the ability to view art throughout history, focusing on the cultures and the people, and how art developed in the specific periods. It is difficult to understand art without understanding the culture, their use of materials, and a sense of beauty. Art is conveyed by the simple act of creating art for art's sake."



Where can one learn more on this subject? Come into WPL and visit the Hortense and Henry Ferne Art Library. Henry Ferne endowed this collection in honor of his artist mother, Hortense. Here you will find a wonderfully diverse collection of art works and books. Housed in this collection are books on art history, antiques, architecture and landscape architecture. Instructional materials on how to draw, sketch, etch, crochet, knit, weave, and paint line the shelves. There are biographies of the masters. The works

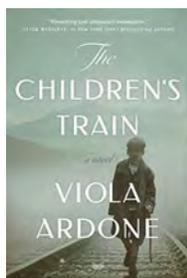
of Sargent, the Wyeths, Constable, Chagall, Degas, Matisse, Manet, Renoir, and many more are covered and can be studied in-house or taken out for longer contemplation. The room has to be experienced in person to fully appreciate the contents. Come in, spend some time becoming familiar with this space and continue your journey into the world of art appreciation.

Several original works by Hortense Ferne are on view. Some works of Bernard (Blackie) Langley are displayed, thanks to a generous loan from the Kohler Foundation. As you travel through the Library, look for additional works by John Folinsbee, Carrell Thayer Berry, George M. Haushalter and more.



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## Recommended: *The Children's Train*



Viola Ardone's *The Children's Train* is based on true events. This English version of one of Italy's best new talents is a heart-breaking story of love, family, hope, and survival set in post-World War II Italy.

Naples, 1946. Mussolini and the fascists have been defeated, but the war has devastated Italy, especially in the south. Seven-year-old Amerigo lives with his mother in Naples, surviving on jobs and his wits like the rest of the poor in his neighborhood. One day, Amerigo learns that a train will take him away from the rubble-strewn streets of the city to spend the winter with a family in the north, where he will be safe, with warm clothes and food to eat.

Together with thousands of other southern children, Amerigo will cross the entire peninsula to a new life. Through his curious, innocent eyes, we see a nation rising from the ashes of war, reborn. As he comes to enjoy his new surroundings and the possibilities for a better future, Amerigo will make the heartbreaking choice to leave his mother and become a member of his adoptive family.

Amerigo's journey is a moving story of memory, indelible bonds, artistry, self-exploration, and a soaring examination of what family can truly mean. Ultimately Amerigo comes to understand that sometimes we must give up everything, even a mother's love, to find our destiny. *Translated from the Italian by Clarissa Botsford*

## Large Print: *Four Hundred Souls*

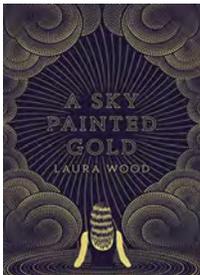
Now in large print. Finalist for the 2021 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Nonfiction. *NYT Book Review* says, "Talusán sails past the conventions of trans and immigrant memoirs."



*Fairest* is a memoir about a precocious boy with albinism, a "sun child" from a rural Philippine village, who would grow up to become a woman in America. Coping with the strain of parental neglect and the elusive promise of U.S. citizenship, Talusan

found childhood comfort from her devoted grandmother, a grounding force as she was treated by others with special preference or public curiosity. As an immigrant to the United States, Talusan came to be perceived as white. An academic scholarship to Harvard provided access to elite circles of privilege but required Talusan to navigate through the complex spheres of race, class, sexuality, and her place within the gay community. She emerged as an artist and an activist questioning the boundaries of gender. Talusan realized she did not want to be confined to a prescribed role as a man, and transitioned to become a woman, despite the risk of losing a man she deeply loved. Throughout her journey, Talusan shares poignant and powerful episodes of desirability and love that will remind readers of works such as *Call Me By Your Name* and *Giovanni's Room*. Her evocative reflections will shift our own perceptions of love, identity, gender, and the fairness of life.

## New in YA: *A Sky Painted Gold*



Laura Wood's young adult novel, *A Sky Painted Gold*, has been hailed as a "gorgeously dreamy coming-of-age romance perfect for fans of *A Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue*."

It is the summer of 1929. Lou Trevelyan is a small-town girl with big dreams of becoming a writer. Then she meets the Cardew siblings: the bubbly Caitlin and her handsome, enigmatic brother, Robert. Lou is swept into their glittering whirlwind of moonlit parties, unrivaled glamour, and whispered secrets. As she falls deeper into the world of high society, Lou must find a way to stay true to herself . . . and her heart.

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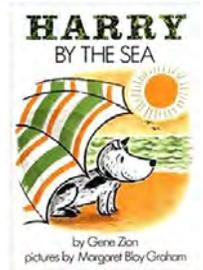
## The Children's Room

### What to read next...

Fifth graders and up—*The Blackthorn Key* by Kevin Sands is a fast-paced exciting series set in the 1600's. Despite the difficulties of the 17th century, our hero Christopher lives a happy, if hardworking, life in London until danger and crime interfere. Christopher uses his quick intelligence and knowledge of codes and medicines to keep himself safe and alive! You will be on the edge of your seat with this page turner. Volumes 1-5 available.



A beach read for the younger set, *Harry by the Sea* by Gene Zion is the book to read when a good laugh is needed. Harry is disguised by a pile of green seaweed and ensuing mistaken identity can't help but make one giggle.



### It's time to vote! What is your favorite kind of pet? CAT, DOG, or OTHER (write-in)



Wiscasset Public Library staff love their animals— between us we have more cats (4) than dogs (2) but does that really mean cats are our favorite? And what about the patrons—I know of a well-loved rat, November, and the cutest duck, Quackers. Tell Ms. Laurie about your pets and then vote for which will be our favorite kind of pet.

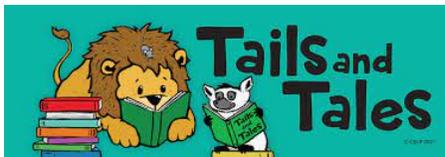
Voting is in-house at the Children's Room Desk. Entries will be counted and publicized after August 31. Look for results in the September Newsletter. Be sure to stop in and vote once or several times but only a single vote allowed each visit.

### Take & Make Crafts

1. Beaded pendant
2. Book bag
3. Tall ship model
4. Captain's wheel
5. Fish bowl
6. Paper shark



### Tails and Tales Summer Reading Club Update



**Members: keep reading, keep reporting—reviews accepted until August 21. We still have lots of incentives to give away!**

Our kids are reading this summer—how do we know? We have over 65 children in our reading club. Several have finished the goal of reading and reviewing the requested eight books. And kids don't stop there because every book past eight earns a raffle ticket for one of 12 prizes. The favorite this year is a dinosaur Lego set with a dinosaur guide book.

I have also been reading to the Mainly Camp campers over at the Wiscasset Rec Center on Tuesday mornings with the help of the counselors. The director of the camp, Kristi Lincoln, divided the campers by age into three groups. Altogether, there are over 50 children! The best part is they enjoy listening to the stories I read.

## Children's Room Reminders

We would love to see you! To protect our youngest patrons, some COVID-19 Safety Precautions are still in place. Children's Room visitors must:

- Enter the Children's room via the Children's Room door
- Limit capacity to one family at a time
- Masks must be worn by all but the youngest patrons (bring your own)
- Please use the hand sanitizer at the entrance

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

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## News from the Friends of WPL

### Friends' Book Suggestions

It is never too late to grab a book, find a quiet space and relax into a good read. These suggestions from the Friends span multiple genres. Do you have favorite books to add to future lists? Please send your book suggestions to Lili Pugh at [anneliesemepugh@gmail.com](mailto:anneliesemepugh@gmail.com).

***I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You*** by Courtney Maum is a reverse love story set in Paris and London. It's about a failed monogamist's attempts to answer the question: Is it really possible to fall back in love? Despite the success of his first solo show in Paris and the support of his French wife, British artist Richard Haddon is too busy mourning the loss of his American mistress to appreciate his fortune. (Richard) resolves to reinvest in his family life... just in time for his wife to learn the extent of his affair. Rudderless and remorseful, Richard embarks on a series of misguided attempts to win Anne back while focusing his creative energy on a provocative art piece to prove that he's still the man she once loved. -*Wendy Thompson*

**The Mystery of Mrs. Christie** by Marie Benedict. This novelized version of... Agatha Christie's puzzling 11-day disappearance in 1936 finally gives fans a marvelous solution to the never-answered enigma. -*Janet Morgan*

Any of Patrick Leigh Fermor's books, especially *A Time of Gifts*. It's a travel story of a young man, traveling by foot across Europe, who knows so much about the world, expressing his feelings and interactions with people so well. Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*... is worth another look, telling the story from a dog's point of view. Very poignant. -*Elaine Pew*

**Sisters in Arms**, the debut novel by Kaia Anderson. Based on the true story of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all black female U.S. battalion to be deployed overseas during WWII. I recommend it! -*Kitty Lipp*

I waited about 6 weeks to get this book online and it has not disappointed me.... This **Tender Land** by William Kent Krueger. [Four orphans travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression.] I haven't finished it yet, so perhaps I should hold my recommendation but somehow I think the second half of the book will be as engaging as the first! -*Kathi Lincoln*

Like Kathi, I have not finished my book. *The Brilliant Abyss*, by Helen Scales, starts out with such vivid descriptions I know it will bring me along into the deep ocean the whole read. It is an exploration of the part of the ocean that is mostly unknown, but definitely full of life, and potentially under threat with climate change, fishing pressures, and natural resource extraction. Really an eye opener to a place that few understand. - *Lili Pugh*



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## Second Hand Prose Used Book Room

After months of waiting and a thorough cleaning, we were finally able to open the Used Book Room. I am most grateful to the Wiscasset News and the Lincoln County News for their wonderful articles showcasing the reopening of the UBR on July 1.



It was wonderful to see familiar and new faces during the first days of operation. I personally met some very interesting people whose stories inspired my day and reinforced the importance of this service to our community.

Starting in September, I am hoping we will be able to accept donations of used books, videos, and music. Watch this newsletter for updates. We appreciate your support, but please don't overwhelm us with your first donation! When we can take donations, we would be very appreciative if you could bring them in a few at a time, as we all have many items to donate after the last year and we have limited shelf space in the UBR.

On behalf of the volunteers who faithfully staff our Used Book Room, we are looking forward to seeing you and helping you find the perfect book for your reading pleasure.

Lynn Maloney, UBR Chair

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## 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 **September 13**. Contact [Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com](mailto:Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com) to be added to our email list. You can find more Friends information on the WPL website.

# Library Pass Program

Summer is the perfect time to borrow a library pass and visit one of your favorite local attractions. Wiscasset Public Library has passes to several Maine sites. The passes are free for patrons 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 several exhibits, including photography by Victor Jorgensen.



**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!



## Library Information

Wiscasset Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization\*. Your support helps WPL bring information, the joy of reading, and life-long learning to the communities of Alna, Edgecomb, Westport Island, and Wiscasset. To donate, visit our [website](#). Thank you for your support!

### 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](mailto:wpl@wiscasset.lib.me.us)



\*WPL is governed by Corporators and a Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet each month on the 3rd Thursday at 4:30pm. If you would be interested in serving on the library Board, or if you would like to learn more, email [Wiscasset.Library.Trustees@gmail.com](mailto:Wiscasset.Library.Trustees@gmail.com).