



Wiscasset Public Library

Newsletter

October 2021

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
~ L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Director's Note



Summer has rushed by and given way to fall. The leaves are turning and the morning air carries a chill. Another time of change is upon us. Let's spend a few moments saying "good-bye" to the heat and humidity, the sunny beaches, the bright flowers and the wealth harvested from the garden. After we share this moment of farewell, let us look forward to the crisp air and bright leaves; ripe late-harvest apples and squash; the opportunity to share the fruits of canning with neighbors; and everything else that fall brings.

Maine shines bright in all seasons -- perhaps even brighter at this time of year. The colors are not what we planted but what is natural in the changing of the season. The stunning colors and moderate temperatures provide a respite that encourages us to spend more time outside. As the daylight hours get shorter, find time to appreciate this beautiful season. Winter winds, ice and snow will chase us inside before long.

Yes, it is time to enjoy where we are and when we are. Fall will leave us soon enough. Then we will look forward to all that comes next... but right now, I am grateful to live in a place where the changes are all good and the state is so beautiful in every season.

COVID-19 Update: Times are uncertain and we are all struggling to keep up with the latest COVID information. There are so many numbers given in so many ways that it is almost overwhelming at times. We want to keep it simple for you to visit the library. We have posted this update sign at the door:

If you:

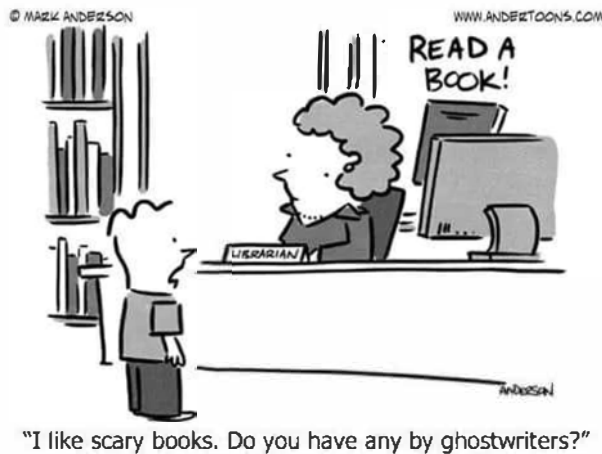
- have cold symptoms and have not tested negative, do not come in.
- are not vaccinated, wear a mask.

Remember to use hand sanitizer and to practice social distancing.

We are all in this together. Follow us on Facebook and check our website for any new information. We will keep you updated if requirements should change. Thank you for helping us stay open.

Pam Dunning, Director

Library Humor



Local "Best Sellers"

Having trouble deciding what to read next? You may want to scan the list of the most requested books on our shelves. It is always interesting to see what everyone else is reading. Remember, if you can't find one of these popular books on the shelf, you can request it. Just click "Request" on the Card Catalog entry, or ask a librarian to place the request. We will notify you when the book is available.

These were the 12 most popular titles in September:

1. *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny
2. *Dead by Dawn* by Paul Doiron
3. *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave
4. *Billy Summers* by Stephen King
5. *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller
6. *A Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins
7. *We Are the Brennans* by Tracey Lange
8. *We Were Never Here* by Andrea Bartz
9. *Beautiful World, Where Are You* by Sally Rooney
10. *Enemy at the Gates* by Kyle Mills and Vince Flynn
11. *Foul Play* by Stuart Woods
12. *The Maine House* by Maura McEvoy

Upcoming Events

WPL Programs

Greg Smith presents

Halloween Horror - What Really Scares You?

Wednesday, October 20, 5:00 to 6:30pm



Retired Army officer, educator, and author Greg Smith joins us just in time for Halloween. Greg offers a lighthearted, interactive presentation about 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, he will explore the dynamics of mood, suspense, and mystery.

Greg's work has appeared in many publications, including *Country Living*, *Career World*, *Military History*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*. He continues to write for several publications. Greg divides his time between Boothbay Harbor and Ashburnham, MA. In his spare time, just for fun, he writes horror stories. His horror novel, *Prayers for Evil*, is available on [Amazon](#). His book will be also available at the discussion.

Learn more by visiting Greg's website at www.paulgregorysmith.com.



**Friends Book Group
October 21 at 10:15 am**

Thank you, Janet Morgan! Janet was a former Book Group chairperson and she has volunteered to serve as our interim leader. However, Janet will only be able to serve for a few months. **Book Group is still looking for a chairperson.** This is a great way to get involved at WPL. Read books, visit the library, talk about books with other readers... It actually sounds like a dream job, doesn't it? If you might be interested, please email the [Friends](#) or join us at our next meeting on October 21 to learn more.

After a summer break, Book Club resumed in September. Only a few members attended but we are hoping to see more of you in October. We will be continuing to do book shares (read what you like then share a summary at our meeting) until the group decides to choose a single book to read. If you have any questions, please contact Janet at janetcmorgan@gmail.com.

These are the titles we discussed at the September meeting:

Fitzgerald, F. Scott, *The Great Gatsby*
McBride, James, *Deacon King Kong*
Ogilvie, Elizabeth, *Jennie About to Be*
Penny, Louise, *A Madness of Crowds*

The next book discussion will be on Thursday, October 21. Are you interested in joining the Book Group? We meet at the library on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:15 am. You are invited to come to a meeting or, if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, email Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com.

Recommended: *Troublesome Young Men*



History buffs will appreciate this treasure from the non-fiction stacks. Lynn Olson's *Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England* takes the reader through the riveting history of the daring politicians who challenged the British government's disastrous policies on the eve of World War II.

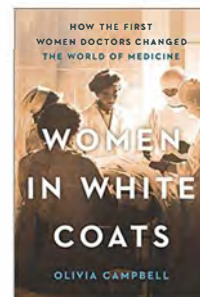
Perhaps the most crucial debate in British parliamentary history began on May 7, 1940 in the House of Commons. On its outcome hung the future of PM Neville Chamberlain's government and also of Britain—indeed, perhaps, the world. Olson's fascinating account relates how a small group of rebellious Tory MPs defied the Chamberlain government's defeatist policies that aimed to appease Europe's tyrants and eventually forced the prime minister's resignation.

Some historians dismiss the "phony war" that drove this turning point — from September 1939, when Britain and France declared war on Germany, to May 1940, when Winston Churchill became prime minister—as a time of waiting and inaction. Olson describes in dramatic detail the public unrest that spread through Britain then, as people realized how poorly prepared the nation was to confront Hitler, how their basic civil liberties were being jeopardized, and also that there *were* intrepid politicians willing to risk political suicide to spearhead the opposition to Chamberlain — ~~Harold Macmillan, Robert Boothby, Leo Amery, Ronald Cartland, and Lord Robert Cranborne~~ among them. The political and personal dramas that played out in Parliament and in the nation as Britain faced the threat of fascism virtually on its own are extraordinary—and, in Olson's hands, downright inspiring. (Amazon.com)

Large Print: *Women In White Coats*

Rigorous research and deft storytelling combine to bring this history of the first female doctors to life.

In the early 1800s, women were dying in large numbers from treatable diseases because they avoided receiving medical care. Examinations performed by male doctors were often demeaning and even painful. In addition, women faced stigma from illness — a diagnosis could greatly limit their ability to find husbands, jobs, or be received in polite society.



Olivia Campbell's *Women in White Coats: How the First Women Doctors Changed the World of Medicine* educates the reader on how the personal loss

and frustration over inadequate medical care motivated many women to fight for a woman's place in the male-dominated medical arena. Forging a path for others to follow, Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Sophia Jex-Blake overcame obstacles and earned medical degrees in order to bring shame-free health care to women.

New in YA: *We'll Soon Be Home Again*



Jessica Bab Bonde's *We'll Soon Be Home Again* is an important book. Peter Bergting's touching artwork makes the book accessible, despite its difficult subject. This Holocaust history, based on the testimonies of six survivors, is presented in graphic form and aimed at teenage readers. However, the visual presentation of these stories can add impact and a deeper understanding of the text for readers of all ages.

Using first-person point of view allows the stories to resonate as survivors describe the persecution experienced in the Ghetto, the de-humanization and the starvation in the concentration camps, and the industrial-scale mass murder taking place in the extermination camps.

Some of them were children then, and are still alive to tell what happened to them and their families: how they survived, what they lost, and how you keep on living despite it all. When right-wing extremism and antisemitism are being evoked once again, this book is a reminder for us never to forget the horrors of the Holocaust.

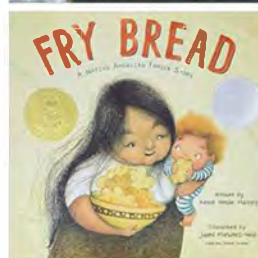
The Children's Room

Indigenous People's Day

October 11, 2021, is Maine's second Indigenous People's Day. Gov. Mills reminds us to pay tribute to the first stewards of this land we call Maine, celebrate their many contributions to our great state, and recommit ourselves to fostering a relationship anchored in mutual trust and respect.

Look for books in our library written by indigenous authors and featuring indigenous characters — my favorite is *Thanks to the Animals* by Allen Sockabasin. Try *Encounter* or *Go Show the World* for older children. Many more titles are on display, so stop by and check out your options.

--Ms. Laurie



October Take & Make Crafts



The ghosts and bats are out—go on a nature walk to pick up some leaves to **paint**. Fangs, eyes and mouths are added last. Lay the finished product on your table to spook away the candy snatchers.

**Help! I am as white as a ghost.
I need some orange on me.**
(Pumpkin and paint provided.)

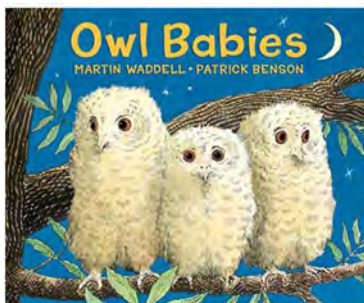


Dress this little ghost up like a dreamcatcher.

- * beads
- * needles
- * yarn
- * glue

Yikes! What a craft!

Celebrate Wiscasset's Scarecrow Fest with a mini-scarecrow of your own.



For our youngest patrons:

Make a collage inspired by Martin Waddell's *Owl Babies*. We provide the paint, paper, sponge and directions. You will need a little glue and some scissors. Look on YouTube for the story—or better yet, borrow the book from the Children's Room. Read it aloud to complement the craft.

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 should:

- 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.

News from the Friends of WPL

BANDS FOR BOOKS 2021

Thank you for your support!

Just after 5 p.m. Labor Day, the skies opened and it poured for about 15 minutes. The Friends of WPL's annual fundraiser, Bands for Books, had just begun, but nothing could dampen the spirits of the attendees. The 4,000 sq ft tent provided shelter and plenty of room for widely spaced tables and lots of fresh air. Within a few minutes, the sun came out and the beautiful Seafield Farm setting just sparkled. Outdoor tables were quickly set up and the Salty Dogs soon had people dancing. Guests browsed the beautifully displayed silent auction items and enjoyed the delicious snacks and sweets prepared by the Friends.

This year's event raised more than \$5,000 in support of Wiscasset Public Library. In past years, the Friends have completely renovated the Used Book Room, including installation of a heat pump which benefits the entire lower floor of the library. The Friends have provided much of the new energy efficient lighting throughout the library; replaced the carpeting in the Children's Room; and, financed a new front door and surround. This year's funds will be used to install a much-needed new Circulation Desk counter and repaint the entire entry area. Additionally, the Friends continue to provide funding for the Children's Summer Reading Program, Adult Programs, library materials and services.

The Friends sincerely thank the generous contributors and sponsors who supported this event, which is both a fundraiser and a community gathering. We also want to thank the amazing volunteers who worked so hard to make this another event to remember. After the cancellation of last year's Bands for Books, it was a wonderful chance for neighbors and friends to safely socialize and celebrate once more.

Second Hand Prose Used Book Room

After many months of hibernation, Second Hand Prose experienced a very successful reopening. We are looking forward to thriving business as we move into autumn. To help bolster sales, we are pleased to announce that the Used Book Room volunteers are holding a book sale during Wiscasset's annual scare-

crow Fest. We will be open on Saturday, October 9th and Saturday, October 16th from 10:30am to 1:30pm.



Bring your own bag and fill it for \$5!

This is the perfect time to add to your book collection. Stock up for winter reading. Perhaps you are looking for a cookbook with a special recipe for the upcoming holidays or maybe you want to learn a new craft. The Used Book Room has a wonderful selection of almost new books for all ages. Mark your calendars and stop by to see all that we have to offer.

As always, a sincere "Thank you!" to the faithful volunteers who staff the UBR.

Lynn Maloney, UBR Chair

Be a FRIEND!

Would you like to get involved, 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 10:00 am. Our next meeting will be held on **November 8**. You can find more Friends information on the [WPL website](#). Contact the [Friends](#) if you'd like to be added to our email list.

Library Pass Program

Maine is a wonderful place to live or visit, but the arrival of autumn means our seasonal venues will be closing soon. Take advantage of the WPL Pass Program while these facilities are still open. These 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 many wonderful exhibits, including Richard Estes' Urban Landscapes and Walker Evans' American Photographs.



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. (Closes on October 31)

Farnsworth
Art Museum



Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens – The largest botanical garden in New England. This is the perfect place to enjoy Maine’s amazing outdoors, especially on these beautiful autumn days. (Closes on October 17)

Library Information

Wiscasset Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization*. Your donations help WPL bring information, the joy of reading, and life-long learning to the communities of Alna, Edgecomb, Westport Island, and Wiscasset. To contribute, 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



*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.

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