



*February, bending from Heaven, in azure mirth, it kissed the forehead of the Earth, and smiled upon the silent sea, and bade the frozen streams be free, and waked to music all their fountains, and breathed upon the frozen mountains.*

~ Percy Bysshe Shelley

### Director's Note

February, the shortest month of the year. The last full month of winter. Yet, it can get so cold that it can seem like the longest. The days are lengthening but are still so dark. One might become discouraged if they failed to recognize that this is a great time of contrasts. It might be freezing air temperature but the warmth of the sun is beating down, melting the snow crystals and brightening the day. Is there anything more encouraging than that single brilliant orb in the sky? Lift your face, close your eyes and feel the splendor of February while it lasts. It is here for such a brief time.

Pam Dunning, Director

### Library Humor



## Upcoming Events



**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

The Friends of WPL  
**COFFEE SOCIAL**  
Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

**February Hot Chocolate Fundraiser.** February is the perfect time for a nice cup of hot chocolate. For the entire month, the Friends of WPL are running a **\$5 Hot Chocolate Fundraiser**. You'll find an array of cups on display at the Library Circulation Desk. Each cup is beautifully wrapped and contains hot chocolate packets along with recipe ideas. Treat yourself or purchase a few cups as gifts for friends or valentines. Happiness is hot chocolate... Support your library and have a very happy day!

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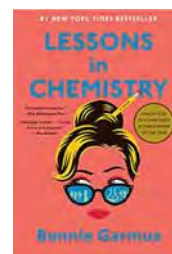
**Reciprocal Borrowing is back!** With a valid Wiscasset Public Library card, you can visit any of the 55 participating Reciprocal Borrowing libraries and check out materials in person. The list of libraries includes public libraries throughout Maine, academic libraries, the Maine State Library, and the Maine State Law Library. To learn more about the program, visit Maine State Library's Reciprocal Borrowing website.

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**Wednesday, March 8th at 9:30am - Friends of WPL meeting.** Join us for our bi-monthly coffee social in the library Fiction Room. New members and curious onlookers are always welcome. Come meet the Friends and learn how we support the library. The business meeting will follow at 10:00, in-person or via Zoom. Contact [Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com](mailto:Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com) if you'd like more information.

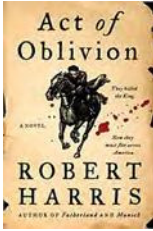
## Friends Recommend... *Lessons in Chemistry*

The Friends of Wiscasset Public Library are avid readers. We asked them for ideas about what books to add to our reading list. This month's suggestion comes from Elaine Pew. Set in the 1960s, ***Lessons in Chemistry*** by Bonnie Garmus tells the story of a frustrated chemist who finds herself at the helm of a cooking show that sparks a revolution. Elaine says it is "a very thought provoking read that touches on many issues, especially for women." This witty, observant, and original novel was listed as a "best book of the year" by multiple reviewers.



What good books have you read lately? Do you have book suggestions to share? Send them to us at [Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com](mailto:Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com).

## New Adult Fiction: *Act of Oblivion*

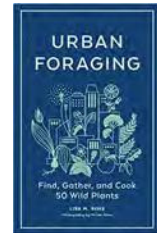


This spellbinding historical novel by Robert Harris, author of *Fatherland*, brilliantly imagines one of the greatest manhunts in history. ***Act of Oblivion*** is an epic journey into the wilds of seventeenth-century New England. Harris leads you on a chase like no other, following two Englishmen involved in the killing of King Charles I and the implacable foe who is trailing them.

Set predominantly in America, *Act of Oblivion* is a novel with an urgent narrative, remarkable characters, and an amazing story of religion, vengeance, and power—and the costs to those who wield it.

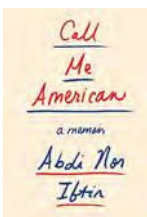
## New Adult Non-Fiction: *Urban Foraging*

The going back to nature movement is still strong. Our world is full of wild food. You just need to know how and where to find it and how to harvest it. ***Urban Foraging*** is your how-to manual.



Expert harvester Lisa M. Rose shares her clear photos for identification, tips on harvesting responsibly, and culinary uses for everything you have gathered. Simple recipes and nutritional information help you to find and use fresh, healthy, locally sourced, free food wherever you are. This guide to wildcrafting is a must read for those who are interested in beginning a foraging practice.

## New in LP: *Call Me American*



Abdi Nor Iftin is a proud resident of Maine, on the path to citizenship. In ***Call Me American***, he tells of when he first fell in love with America from afar. He learned English as a child by listening to American pop artists like Michael Jackson and watching films starring action heroes like Arnold Schwarzenegger. Abdi cheered the arrival of real Americans when U.S. Marines landed in Mogadishu to take on the warlords.

Using his language skills, he made a living posting dispatches on NPR and the internet. As life in Somalia grew more dangerous, Abdi fled to Kenya. Fortunately, he won a visa lottery that allowed him entrance to America. This dramatic memoir is a vivid look at life in other parts of the world and a reminder of why Western democracies are seen as the only safe destinations.



## Teen News

### Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and we've pulled together a selection of books to commemorate and celebrate Black voices and stories. Stop by the Teen/YA Room to browse graphic novels, biographies, history books, and fictional stories written by Black authors.

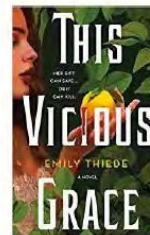


### Celebrate Valentine's Day with a YA Romance

Some recent YA Romance arrivals include My Mechanical Romance by Alexene Farol Follmuth and This Vicious Grace by Emily Thiede.



Sparks fly in this STEM romance - literally. Follow along as Bel discovers her love for Robotics engineering and her fondness for arguing with the overachieving Robotics Club captain, Teo.



A lush setting and ancient prophecy set the tone for this Italian-inspired fantasy tale. Follow Alessa as she tries to harness her powers (and save the world!) with help from her secretive bodyguard, Dante.

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NEW BOOKS FOR TEENS EVERY MONTH  
Stop by or check out the "New" feature on our [website](#).



Do you have a favorite book or author? Let us know so we can share with others. You could help someone find their next great read!



Stop by to browse and pick up your library card - free for all Wiscasset students and educators.

## The Children's Room



February may be the shortest month but there are so many holidays! How many books about February do we have in the Children's Room? A lot! These are just a few of the days we celebrate this month:



February is Black History Month  
 February 2 - Groundhog Day  
 February 9 - National Pizza Day (yum!)  
 February 12 - Super Bowl Sunday  
 February 14 - Valentine's Day  
 February 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day  
 February 20 - Presidents Day

What is your favorite holiday?



## FEBRUARY STORY TIME

**When:** Fridays, 10:30-11:00 am **NEW TIME!**

**Where:** The Children's Room

**Who:** Children (birth to 5 years) and caregiver

**What:** Stories, songs, rhymes, and movement



This month at Story Time we will be reading stories about Valentine's Day, family, and friendship. There will be new Valentine's Day songs as well.

After speaking to a few of the families at Story Time, I have decided to move our time from 11:00 back to 10:30 from now on. I hope this change will help make Story Time more convenient for everyone and I look forward to spending Friday mornings together!

-Mrs. Whitney

When you come to Story Time, remember there are activities to go!

(A different activity will be available each week after Story Time.)

2/3:



2/10:



2/17:



2/24:



Vacation week is coming! Be sure to get extra books to read over break. Have you seen these new books?





The more that you read, the more things you will know  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go..  
~ Dr. Seuss

Just can't find that special book? Ask a librarian! We can help you locate it. If we don't have it here in the Children's Room, we can:

- 1) order it
- 2) request it from another library
- 3) download an eBook or audiobook

***Libraries connect readers with books!***



**When you come to pick up your books, remember to get your  
Crafts to Go!**

## **News from the Friends of WPL**

### **Annual Meeting Highlights**

The Friends had a productive annual meeting on January 11. We'd like to thank the departing Executive Committee members for their hard work over the last two years: Co-Presidents Stephanie Hergenroeder and Lili Pugh, and Secretary Sally Gemmill. Welcome to the new and returning members:

Tracey Whitney, President  
Virginia Forrest, Vice President  
Lynn Maloney, Treasurer  
Blanche Johnson, Secretary

- A new Communications chair was established, and Christopher Hart was elected to the position.
- The Friends hosted two successful social gatherings in 2022 and are considering adding more in 2023.
- The Bands for Books and Children's Holiday Sale were both extremely successful.
- Treasurer Lynn Maloney reported that we ended the year in a strong financial position. This allows us to continue funding a number of very popular services such as Summer Reading, all-ages programs, and interlibrary loans.
- The Friends will also be funding the refurbishment of the Library Circulation desk area.

President Tracey Whitney will provide more news about the Friends' 2023 plans in the March newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report

Annual member dues (\$10) for the Friends of WPL are now due. Please send your check, payable to "Friends of Wiscasset Public Library," to: Friends of WPL, 21 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578. Thank you!

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### Second Hand Prose Used Book Room

Open Tuesday through Saturday when the library is open

January saw a return to quiet time in our Used Book Room. Maine weather does not stop our loyal volunteers who are always ready to welcome our new and returning visitors to Second Hand Prose. It is wonderful to welcome so many people. This is one of the highlights of volunteering. Plus, you get first opportunity to purchase books!



In 2022, we hosted several 'special events' in the Used Book Room. We sold many of the 'golden oldies' that have been languishing on the shelves. The events cleared the shelves, and we are accepting books. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to cull your books, please consider donating them. We have a special need for children's books. Many of our visitors are families with children or grandparents who are looking for these treasures.

Following the success of last year, we will be continuing these events in the months to come. Check the local papers and Facebook for announcements. Our greatest pleasure is getting books in the hands of our friends. If you have any suggestions, or would like to volunteer, I would love to hear from you. I can be reached at [lynnmaloney5@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnmaloney5@yahoo.com).

As always, a sincere thank you to the faithful volunteers who staff our Used Book Room. Your diligence is appreciated. If you have not had an opportunity to volunteer, consider making volunteering a New Year's resolution.

-Lynn Maloney, UBR Chair

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## 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  
Laurie Ridgway, Children's Librarian  
Courtney Sonia, Librarian  
David Cherry, Assistant Librarian  
Annaliese Hart Incháurregui, Library Clerk

### Connect with WPL

(207) 882-7161

[wpl@wiscassetlibrary.org](mailto:wpl@wiscassetlibrary.org)