



*October, baptize me with leaves! Swaddle me in corduroy and nurse me with split pea soup.  
October, tuck tiny candy bars in my pockets and carve my smile into a thousand pumpkins.  
O autumn! O teakettle! O grace!*  
~ Rainbow Rowell

### Director's Note

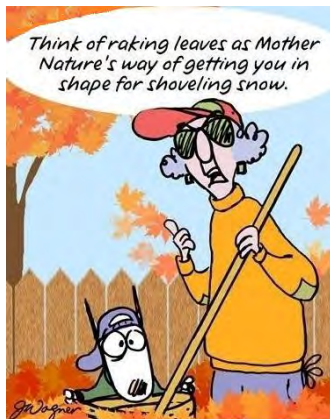
Some of us start feeling blue as summer slowly slides into fall. Days get shorter and darker. The temperatures cool and we start adding layers before we go outside. Instead of looking back, let us look forward.

Leaves change into a delightful display of russet, yellow, and orange. The air feels crisp and carries a hint of pumpkin spice. The aroma awakens our taste buds, and we think about pies and lattes. Halloween is imminent with children parading in costumes for their treats and, maybe, playing a few small tricks. A distinctive joy of the coming holiday season begins to bloom within. We celebrate it all with the fun of decorating, gift purchasing, and spending more time with our loved ones. To quote L.M. Montgomery, "I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

Another reason to celebrate the season: **October is National Book Month!** This is a perfect time to try something new. Select a new title, a new author, a new genre. Try an eBook or audiobook. You can also try something old. An old favorite, a classic you keep meaning to read, something a friend gave you that you haven't read yet. Visit your local library and grab a stack so you have an assortment from which to choose. You could even try writing your own book. Explore all the possibilities.

The Book Month prescription is simple. Set aside some time for yourself. Pick a book, old or new, that you are excited to read. Make a hot cup of your favorite drink. Snuggle down in your cozy seat with a comfy blanket nearby. Read and enjoy!

Pam Dunning, Director



## It was a fantastic Bands for Books 2023!

This year's Bands for Books traveled to a new venue, the Lakehurst Lodge in Damariscotta. While we truly favored keeping our fundraiser in Wiscasset, there was no suitable venue that we could afford. Lakehurst, a former dance hall which hosted big bands and regular Saturday night dances for decades, fortuitously proved to be the perfect location for us.

Our rental was a fraction of the cost of our tent the last two years, and with our very generous sponsors and auction donors, along with record attendance, the earnings from Bands for Books this year set a new record of **over \$8,000!** We thank all the Friends who made delicious food, and everyone who attended and supported our auction.

Our successful fundraising came at a perfect time, as Pam Dunning presented the Friends with a proposal to repair the many sections of WPL which have suffered from wood rot. Maintaining our historic building is critical to the ongoing success of our library. At our September Friends meeting, we were happy to be able to allocate up to \$5,000 from this year's event proceeds to taking care of this immediate need.

Lakehurst Lodge and the Salty Dogs have been engaged for next year's Bands for Books on Labor Day, **September 2**, and we look forward to another fun and successful party.

We are very grateful for the support of our wonderful donors and sponsors:

### Auction Donors

Barnhouse Grill  
Bob Bond Photography  
Cubbyhole Sports Pub  
D-zerts by Daphne  
Virginia Forrest  
The Hergenroeders  
Jodie's Café & Bakery  
Pam Logan Photography

Doug Merrill Builder  
Montsweag Restaurant  
Old and Everlasting  
Portland Sea Dogs  
Rock Paper Scissors  
Barbara Ross  
Seafield Estate  
Margot Stiasni

Sweetz & More  
Water Lily Flowers  
Water Street Kitchen  
Owen Whitney  
Tracey Whitney  
The Wine Lady  
Wiscasset Rec Center  
Wiscasset Veterinary

### Event Sponsors



Donald & Susan Blagden

Tania Hayes

Bradley Scott Maloney & Family

John & Pid Rafter

Wendy Ross & Thomas Eichler

Cheryl Rust



Big Barn Coffee





## Upcoming Events

**Career assistance  
at the library**

Maine.gov

**CareerCenter**

**Every other Thursday  
starting October 5<sup>th</sup>**

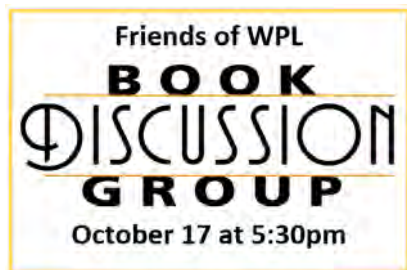


**The Friends of WPL**

**Used Book Sale**



**Saturday, October 14  
10:30am to 1:00pm**



**NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**



**Thursday, October 5, after 10am: Career Center at WPL.** Whether you're looking for your first job, trying to find another job, or striving for a better job, Maine Career Centers provide a variety of employment and training services at no charge to help you in your search. Career Center will now be at WPL every other Thursday. Get assistance with your job search, résumé, interviewing, apprenticeships, training and education, federal bonding information, and veteran's services. For more info, contact [logan.gould@maine.gov](mailto:logan.gould@maine.gov) or call 207-816-1713.

**October 1–13: Costume Exchange Drop-Off.** WPL is excited to partner with [Pirates of Federal St](#), [Wiscasset Elementary School Partners in Education](#), and [Wiscasset Parks and Rec](#) as a drop-off site for your used costumes! Bring last year's costume to our drop-off box, then pick up this year's at the WES Fall Festival on Friday, October 13, or at the Scarecrow Festival on Saturday, October 14.

**Saturday, October 14, 10:30am–1:00pm: Friends Used Book Sale.** This is the perfect time to add to your book collection. Second Hand Prose, the WPL Used Book Room, has a wonderful selection of almost-new books for all ages. To celebrate this special season, we are running a special sale. Bring your own bag to the library Used Book Room and fill it to the brim for only \$5.00!

**Tuesday, October 17, 5:30pm: Friends Book Discussion.** All are welcome. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss a book selected by the group members. For the meeting location or other information, contact Group Chair Christopher Hart at [christopher.hart@vcfa.edu](mailto:christopher.hart@vcfa.edu).

**Tuesday, November 7: Election Day.** On the [Secretary of State's Election Information website](#), you will find helpful info about upcoming elections. You can find a voter registration

The Friends of WPL  
**COFFEE SOCIAL**

Wed., Nov. 8 at 9:30am



form, ballot questions, voter and candidate information, the “[Citizen’s Guide to the Referendum Election](#),” and more.

**Wednesday, November 8, 9:30am: Coffee Social and Friends meeting.** Join us for our coffee social in the library Fiction Room. New members are always welcome. Come meet the Friends and learn how we support the library. The business meeting will follow at 10:00am. To learn more, email the Friends: [Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com](mailto:Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com).

## Maine Libraries: The "Bestsellers" Lists

Not sure what to read next? These are currently the most popular books with Maine library patrons. If a title you want isn't on our shelves, it is available through interlibrary loan. Never requested an interlibrary loan? Come in and we will show you how it is done. You can also call us, and we will submit the request for you.

The most requested **fiction** books:

- *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
- *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
- *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- *Holly* by Stephen King
- *Somebody's Fool* by Richard Russo
- *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros
- *None of This Is True* by Lisa Jewell
- *The Breakaway* by Jennifer Weiner
- *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger
- *The Fraud* by Zadie Smith

The most requested **non-fiction** books:

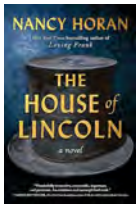
- *Kasher in the Rye* by Moshe Kasher
- *Trail of the Lost* by Andrea Lankford
- *Necessary Trouble* by Drew Gilpin Faust
- *How to Be an Adult in Relationships* by David Richo
- *Flirting with Danger* by Janet Wallach
- *No Ordinary Assignment* by Jane Ferguson
- *The Comfort* by Michael Easter
- *Scattered Minds* by Gabor Mate, M.D.
- *Moondoggle* by Mark C. Borton
- *The Dress Diary* by Kate Strasdin



The most requested **large print** books:

- *Dead Man's Wake* by Paul Doiron
- *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
- *23 ½ Lies* by James Patterson
- *Somebody's Fool* by Richard Russo
- *Lion & Lamb* by James Patterson
- *After That Night* by Karin Slaughter
- *Happiness* by Danielle Steel
- *The Paris Assignment* by Rhys Bowen
- *The Quiet Tenant* by Clemence Michallon
- *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty

## New Adult Fiction: *The House of Lincoln*



Nancy Horan's *The House of Lincoln* "is a compelling reminder that events of the past are indelibly connected to attitudes that persist today." (*Booklist*)

Fourteen-year-old Ana Ferreira is offered a job in the Lincoln household assisting Mary Lincoln with their boys and with the hosting duties borne by the wife of a rising political star. Ana bears witness to the evolution of Lincoln's views on equality and the Union and observes in full complexity his bold, polarizing wife, Mary. Ana confronts the racial prejudice she encounters daily as she watches the inner workings of the Underground Railroad, and directly experiences how slavery contradicts the promise of freedom in her adopted country.

## New Nonfiction: *No Ordinary Assignment*

*No Ordinary Assignment: A Memoir* by award-winning journalist Jane Ferguson is an unflinching narrative of ambition and war—from The Troubles of Northern Ireland to the fall of Kabul.



Jane Ferguson has covered nearly every war front and humanitarian crisis of our time. Sectarian violence was not new to Ferguson. Growing up in Northern Ireland in the 1980s and '90s, The Troubles meant bomb threats and military checkpoints were common. Determined to become a journalist, without family wealth or connections, she began as a scrappy one-woman reporting team, a borrowed camera often her only equipment. Networks told her she was wrong for the job. Still, Ferguson threw herself into harm's way time and again, determined to give voice to civilian experiences of war.

Ferguson's debut chronicles her unlikely journey from inquisitive child to intrepid war correspondent. With a humanity rarely seen in conflict stories, *No Ordinary Assignment* shows what it means to build an authentic career against the odds.

## The Children's Room

I am often asked, "Why do teachers and libraries promote graphic novels? Do they count as 'real' reading?" I answer a resounding yes! "A graphic novel uses images—often in a comic strip style—to tell a story. With pictures or illustrations and a lot less text, graphic novels help kids practice reading." ([www.understood.org](http://www.understood.org); 09/29/2023) Children also learn the structure of a story and follow clues for what is coming next; in other words, reading comprehension. Children enjoy their successes, which reinforces more reading for pleasure. More reading, or practice, leads to mastery. We have several new graphic novels—stop in to see all the titles. Here are a few:





## When you pick up your books, remember your Crafts to Go!

Welcome Fall Sign



Scratch Art



Pom-pom Pumpkin



Halloween Crafts



How many pumpkins  
in the jar?

Closest answer  
wins a trip to the  
treasure chest!



Congratulations to Bradyn,  
the **winner** of the  
Library Scavenger Hunt.  
Great job!

## OCTOBER STORY TIME

When: Fridays, 10:30–11:00am

Where: The Children's Room

Who: Children (birth to 5 years) and caregiver



Autumn is here! In the month of October, we will be reading about autumn leaves, pumpkins, and Halloween fun. Be on the lookout for the leaves changing colors, pumpkins at the market, and Halloween decorations at neighborhood houses. I am looking forward to a wonderful month ahead!

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.)

10/6



10/13



10/20



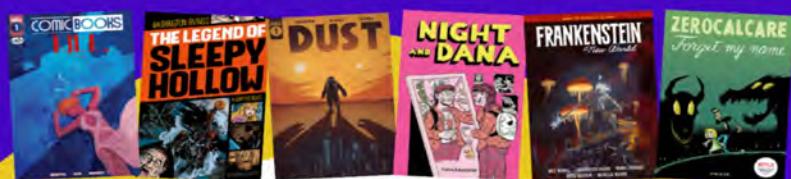
10/27



## Teen News

NEW BOOKS FOR  
TEENS EVERY MONTH

Stop by or check out the  
"New" feature on our  
website.

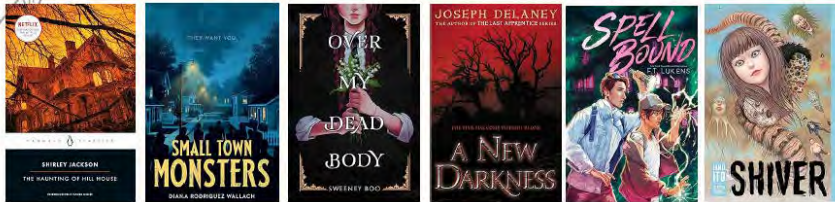


COMICSPLUS

Free to use with your library card!

## Books that go bump in the night.

Whether you like psychological thrillers, murder mysteries, spooky classics, or horror manga, the library has got you covered!



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!

## National Book Month

*Seven Ways to Celebrate*

*Read a new book.*

*Reread an old favorite.*

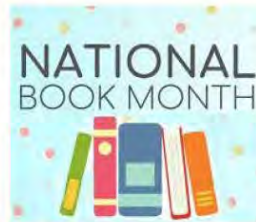
*Pay a visit to your local library.*

*Try something different like an audio or eBook.*

*Follow authors on social media.*

*Give the gift of books.*

*Write your own book.*



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

## News from the Friends of WPL

### Second Hand Prose Used Book Room

Open Tuesday through Saturday when the library is open

**Book Sale!** The evenings are drawing in all over Maine and autumn in New England is the perfect time to cozy up with a warm beverage in front of the fireplace and read that book you have been wanting to read all summer.

This is the perfect time to add to your book collection. Second Hand Prose has a wonderful selection of almost-new books for all ages. To celebrate this special season, we are running a special sale.

**Bring your own bag and fill it to the brim for only \$5.00!**

**Saturday, October 14, 10:30am–1:00pm at the Used Book Room**

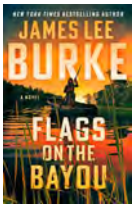




## Friends Book Club

The Friends of WPL Book Club met in mid-September to discuss *Yellowface*, a novel by R.F. Kuang that had garnered many favorable reviews upon its publication earlier this year. To borrow from one reviewer's synopsis: "Yellowface is about a young white author who steals the manuscript of her dead Asian friend, finishes it, and publishes it as her own." Any discussion of this book had to consider the irony that the author, who was born in Guangzhou, wrote this novel from the first-person perspective of a white woman. Unsurprisingly, the terms "co-opting," "attribution," and "cultural appropriation" were sprinkled liberally throughout the conversation. The book also considered the role of major publishers as gatekeepers and arbiters of which "ethnic" voices are heard and also the role of social media in creating (or crushing) star authors.

Regardless of the multi-layered irony and the sometimes-illuminating glimpse into the world of best-seller publishing, the novel itself fell flat for almost all of the WPL Book Club readers. The writing and pacing were appraised as competent, but its fatal flaw for most: the lack of a single likeable character. The protagonist (or was she her own antagonist?) was a loathsome—and largely self-loathing—young woman for whom readers found no empathy. Although one reader did express interest in "what might happen next," most members of the book club were glad to be done with this character and this book. On the plus side, the group enjoyed several Asian and Asian-inspired snacks brought by participants.



Friends of WPL Book Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday evening of each month, so the next date is **October 17**. The group will th discuss *Flags on the Bayou* by James Lee Burke. Described as an "engaging, action-packed narrative," the novel is set during the American Civil War. However, one reviewer writes, "This book isn't about the war. It's about life in America's South during that time period and the turmoil of war on ordinary people on both sides."

Those interested in joining—or even sampling—this book club are invited to contact Christopher Hart ([christopher.hart@vcfa.edu](mailto:christopher.hart@vcfa.edu)) for the meeting location and additional information.

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## Treasurer's Report

It's not too late to send in your dues for the 2023 year. Please address your checks to the Friends of the Wiscasset Public Library to avoid confusion. Mail your check (payable to Friends of the Wiscasset Library) to the library at 21 High Street, Wiscasset 04578. Thank you for your continued support.

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Wiscasset Public Library | 207-882-7161 | [wpl@wiscassetlibrary.org](mailto:wpl@wiscassetlibrary.org)

### 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  
David Cherry, Assistant Librarian  
Annaliese Hart Incháurregui, Library Clerk