



Wiscasset Public Library Newsletter February 2022

It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it. ~ Oscar Wilde

Director's Note



BRRRR!!! Winter is here and it means business. Still, I have to admit, I love the frost-coated branches with the light dusting of snow beneath the trees. It is a beautiful sight from the window of my toasty warm home. There is something comforting in being able to sit inside while enjoying the wonders of winter from a place of safety. It is one of the things that defines "home" for me. Winter can bring a slowing down and quietude with it. There is a stillness to nature, a pause. I suggest grabbing a good book, a warm drink, and settling into a deep chair. Let your eyes drift to the scene outside from time to time. Enjoy this while you can. Believe it or not, spring is on the way.

Pam Dunning, Director

Library Humor

Working in a mirror factory is something I can totally see myself doing.

Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they will never meet.

Someone stole all of our lamps. We couldn't be more delighted.

Some clown opened the door for me this morning. That was a nice jester.



COVID-19 Update

We have reinstated the mask requirement for the winter. For the safety of all patrons and employees, these are our current protocols:

- Masks are required for all.

- Use of hand sanitizer is required for everyone who enters the building.
- Maintain six feet of personal space from others.
- Visit time for the Children's Room remains at 30 minutes per family, with one family allowed to browse at a time.
- Visit time for the rest of the building remains at one hour.

I am reaching out to all of our wonderful patrons: Please help us stay COVID-free so we can be here for you. Following these few simple rules will help us all to stay safe. **Thank you for making it happen!**

Upcoming Events

Friends Meeting: Mon., March 14
9:30 Coffee Social - 10:00 Meeting

The Friends of Wiscasset Public Library held their annual meeting on January 10, 2022. The 2021 end-of-year committee reports highlighted a very successful year in difficult circumstances. Membership has increased, Bands for Books raised over \$5000.00, and the Used Book Room opened again in July. During 2021, the Friends helped fund the children's summer reading program; children's and adult programs; and publicity. At this meeting, the Friends approved funding for the 2022 children's programs including the very popular Children's Summer Reading program. The Bands for Books fundraiser is in the works for September 2022. Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 14 at 10:00am**. For information on how to join the Friends, email Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com.



Lili Pugh and Stephanie Hergenroeder, Co-Presidents



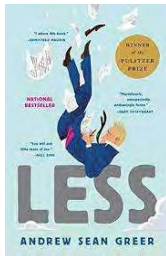
Friends Book Group
ON HIATUS

Bad weather, slippery roads, and the ongoing spread of COVID-19 have severely impacted attendance at Book Group meetings. For safety's sake, we have decided to discontinue meetings for now. When it is appropriate to resume our gatherings, I will email Book Group members. Updates will also be posted online and in the newsletter.

Members are encouraged to email (Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com) their book suggestions and reviews. I will share your recommendations with others here in the newsletter. We can compare notes when we get the chance to meet in person.

Less by Andrew Sean Greer (submitted by Tracy):

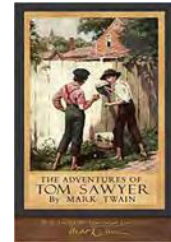
"I started to read this book because it was listed as a "satirical comedy," and I thought it would be entertaining. It really was not



what I expected. This is the story of a writer dealing with his impending 50th birthday and the loss of the man he loves. In an attempt to escape his situation, Arthur Less embarks on a literary world tour. There are definitely laugh-out-loud passages, but the book was also poignant. Updike referred to an earlier Greer novel as "resplendently poetic and loftily sorrowing." I agree with this assessment though *Less* definitely recognizes the irony and humor to be found in life's difficulties. *Less* won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction."

***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**

(submitted by Janet): "Many people consider *Tom Sawyer* better reading material for adults than children, partly because of its language. At times the story seems juvenile, as when Tom persuades other boys that it is an honor to pay Tom to paint his aunt's fence. When Tom and Huck Finn witness grave robbing and the murder of a local doctor, one wonders if it should be considered children's literature. While I enjoyed reading it once again, I would consider it only suitable for teens and older."



[Contact us](#) if you would you like to be added to the Book Group email list. We normally meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the library Fiction Room. All are welcome.

Janet Morgan, Interim Book Group Chair

WPL "Bestsellers"

The following books were the most requested at WPL in January. We have all of these titles although a few have waiting lists. Let us know if you'd like to reserve a copy.



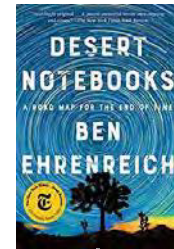
1. *These Precious Days: Essays* (Patchett)
2. *There Is Nothing For You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century* (Hill)
3. *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* (Brown)
4. *Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals* (Burkeman)
5. *The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health* (Kennedy Jr.)
6. *Both / And: A Life in Many Worlds* (Abedin)

7. *Woke Racism: How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America* (McWhorter)
8. *How to Change: The Science of Getting From Where You Are to Where You Want to Be* (Milkman)
9. *The Indomitable Florence Finch: The Untold Story of a War Widow Turned Resistance Fighter and Savior of American POWs* (Mrazek)
10. *Looking for the Good War: American Amnesia and the Violent Pursuit of Happiness* (Samet)



New Nonfiction: *Desert Notebooks*

Desert Notebooks: A Roadmap for the End of Time is an Amazon Editor's Pick for best non-fiction. "Layering climate science, mythologies, nature writing, and personal experiences, this *New York Times* Notable Book presents a stunning reckoning with our current moment and with the literal and figurative end of time."



Author Ben Ehrenreich examines how the unprecedented pace of destruction to our environment and an increasingly unstable geopolitical landscape have led us to the brink of a calamity greater than any humankind has confronted before. What might some of our own histories tell us about how to confront apocalypse? And how might the geologies and ecologies of desert spaces inform how we see and act toward time—the pasts we have erased and paved over, this anxious present, the future we have no choice but to build? Ehrenreich draws on the stark grandeur of the desert to ask how we might reckon with the uncertainty that surrounds us and fight off the crises that have already begun.

Patron Recommended: *Blue Skinned Gods*



Blue Skinned Gods by award-winning S.J. Sindu is "a brilliantly written, globe-spanning novel about identity, faith, family, and sexuality." (Amazon)

In India, a boy is born with blue skin. His father, believing the child to be the tenth human incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, sets up an ashram, and the family makes a living off of the pilgrims who seek the child's blessings and miracles. In Kalki's tenth year, he is confronted with three trials that will test his power and prove his divine status and, his father tells him, spread his fame worldwide. While he seems to pass them, Kalki begins to question his divinity. Over time, his family unravels, and his family relationships

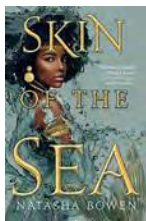
—father, mother, aunt, uncle, cousin—start falling apart. This is a coming-of-age story that explores how we learn what to believe about ourselves.

Now in Large Print: *Voices from the Pandemic*

Pulitzer Prize winner Eli Saslow has compiled an incredible set of stories from across America. *Voices from the Pandemic: Americans Tell Their Stories of Crisis, Courage and Resilience* is indeed the voices of America. People sharing how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed their lives. Many have managed to rise above their own problems to help others. Many have lost family and businesses. Saslow masterfully paints a picture of the best and worst of us while making it clear that no one is unaffected.



New in YA: *Skin of the Sea*



First-time author Natasha Bowen has written an engrossing novel inspired by her passion for mermaids and African history. In *Skin of the Sea*, the mermaid, Simi, who collects the souls of those lost at sea does the unforgivable. She saves a drowning boy. Now she must answer to the gods. Simi takes a treacherous journey to the Supreme Creator. Threatened by vengeful gods, and legendary creatures, she risks not only the fate of all mermaids, but also the world as she knows it. Bowen has blended mythology with the dark history of the slave trade to create a unique and riveting new fantasy world.

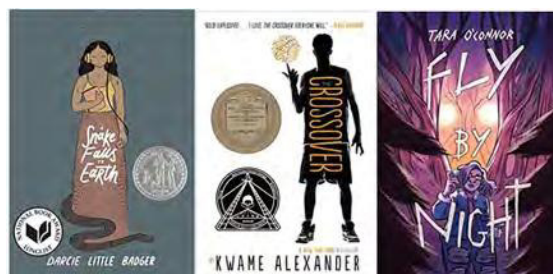
Hello! I'm Leigh Anne, the new Teen Services Librarian here at the library. I've been a teacher and reading/writing tutor for many years. I enjoy working with young people of all ages. We have a ton of titles, new and old, that we'd love for teens to check out. We also want your input! What authors, titles, or subjects would you like to see in the Young Adult room? Stop by and take some time to explore our shelves; or, let me know if you need ideas for what to read next. Let's talk books!



New book I'm reading: *A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcie Little Badger

Old book I'm reading: *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Graphic novel I'm reading: *Fly By Night* by Tara O'Connor



The Children's Room

It's a very busy month! In February, we celebrate Presidents' Day, when we remember George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays; Black History Month, when we celebrate the role of African Americans in U.S. history; and Valentine's Day, when we honor people we love with chocolate candy and roses.



February 1 is the Chinese New Year, celebrating the Year of the Tiger in 2022. On February 2, the groundhog comes out to "predict" the end of winter. February 4 is Rosa Parks Day. February 17 is International Random Acts of Kindness Day. So much to celebrate! National Carrot Cake Day, Banana Bread Day, and Eat Pizza Day all fall in February, too.



Enter to win a giant kiss!

How many red jelly hearts in the jar?



Best answer wins a very big Hershey's chocolate kiss!



We won't be handing out carrot cake or Chinese firecrackers! But we have a fun contest, great **Crafts to Go...** and lots of awesome books on display. Stop by the Children's Room and show your library some of that Valentine Love!

February Crafts to Go

Celebrate this short but busy month!



Be Kind Hearts

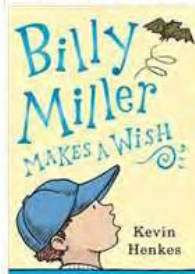
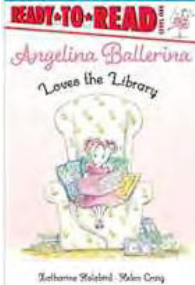
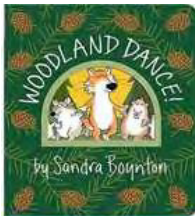
Make a heart for your friend, for a random person and for yourself! Showing kindness is good for you and the world. And it is catching. It's easy once you start. Get your kit today!

Chinese Papercut Tiger - Chinese New Year 2022

What does "Year of the Tiger" symbolize? People born in a year of the Tiger are predicted to be brave, competitive, unpredictable, confident and display great levels of willpower. The tiger is known to be king of all beasts in China and comes third in the Chinese zodiac. Many Chinese children wear hats or shoes with a tiger image of for good luck.



BOOK LOVE by Ms. Laurie



New books!

Board book:

Woodland Dance by Sandra Boynton

Picture book:

Millions of Maxes by Meg Wolitzer

Early Reader:

Angelina Loves the Library by K. Holabird

INT FICTION:

Billy Miller Makes a Wish by Kevin Henkes

J FICTION:

Pax, Journey Home by Sara Pennypacker

Nonfiction:

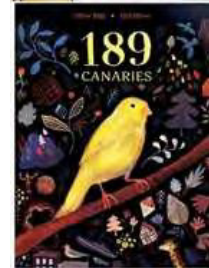
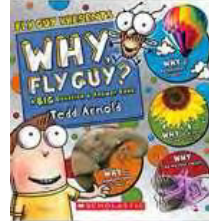
Why, Fly Guy?:

Answers to Kids' BIG Questions
by Tedd Arnold

and *189 Canaries* by Dieter Böge

Graphic Novel:

Just Roll with It by Lee Durfey-Lavoie



News from the Friends of WPL

Second Hand Prose Used Book Room

January saw a return to a slower pace in our Used Book Room but Maine weather doesn't stop our loyal volunteers. Second Hand Prose is open, and we are always ready to greet new friends and returning visitors. It is a joy to welcome so many people to our book shop and help them find just the right book.



Watch the local papers and Facebook for our upcoming special events. If you have any suggestions, I would love to hear from you. I can be reached at lynnmaloney5@yahoo.com.

These cold, dark days of February are the perfect time to clear out old books that are taking up space in your home. Please consider donating your gently

used books to the library. The Friends resell donations at very reasonable prices and use the revenue to support the library. Right now, 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.

As always, a sincere thank you to the wonderful UBR volunteers. Your diligence is appreciated. If you have not had an opportunity to volunteer, email me for more information.

Lynn Maloney, UBR Chair

Treasurer's Report

It's that time of the year when our annual Friends dues (\$10) are payable. If you haven't had an opportunity to do so, please mail your check (payable to *Friends of the Wiscasset Public Library*) to the Friends of WPL, 21 High Street, Wiscasset 04578.

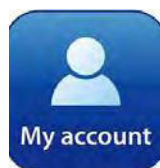
Thank you for your continued support.

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 10:00 am. Our next meeting will be held on **March 14**. You can find more Friends information on the [WPL website](#). If you'd like to receive updates from the Friends, email us at Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com.

Library Information

Digital Resources



[My Library Account](#)



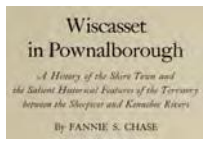
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[Online Learning Tools](#)



[Card Catalog](#)



[Wiscasset History](#)



[Graphic novels, Manga & more](#)

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
Leigh Anne Keichline, Librarian
Laurie Ridgway, Children’s 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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