



Wiscasset Public Library Newsletter March 2021

Director's Note

Welcome, March! Daylight Savings Time begins on March 14. The clock springs ahead to brighten our days. March is notorious for the slushy mess that it can leave on the roads, but it also brings the start of Spring on March 20. Gardeners have already started their seedlings, days are getting longer and temperatures are slowly rising. Spring is the season of new beginnings and renewed hope. We can all use some of that.

We have learned to reset our personal boundaries and change our social habits in order to keep everyone safe. Our new practices have made it easier for us to safely spend time together and for visitors to come into WPL to fill their educational and entertainment needs. More of you are taking advantage of the collection and using library resources. As the vaccinations increase and immunity begins to grow, let us be patient. Continue the practices that will allow us to win the hard-fought battle we began a year ago. The end is in sight but it is not yet here. We all hope to see the end of the pandemic soon. Your continued patience through this journey will makes us all winners in the end.

Pam Dunning, Director

Resource Highlight



Check out the **Digital Maine Library** at <https://library.digitalmaine.org> or use the link on the WPL website. You'll find helpful tools for every subject. Ongoing staying-at-home and social distancing have provided more time for learning something new. Digital Maine Library has resources for teachers and learners of every age. Teachers will find the educator tools invaluable, while students will get easy access to factual information from age-specific databases like *World Book Student* and *National Geographic Kids*. Dedicated readers will love *NovelList Plus* with its information on series orders, read-alikes, and more. Research your family tree using Ancestry.com. Plant a tree with help from the Gardening, Landscape and Horticulture Collection. Or, save a tree and read today's Wall Street Journal online.

Library Humor...



COVID-19 Safety Precautions

We are continually monitoring the COVID-19 news. Our top priority at this time is to provide library services to the public in the safest manner. Our current policies are:

- 10 patrons allowed in building at a time
- A **face mask** is required to be worn in the building (bring your own). A face shield is not an approved mask alternative at this time.
- Curbside delivery is available for those who can't wear a face mask
- Use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the building, even if you are wearing gloves
- Patrons must be symptom free of any illness for the last two weeks
- 30-minute time limit
- Place items that you touched and aren't checking out on one of the tables, so they can be added to the quarantine cart. **Do not return items to shelves.**
- No public bathrooms
- No meetings
- Used Book Room sales are discontinued until further notice
- Patrons who are non-compliant will be asked to leave the building

The Library is committed to keeping everyone healthy and to maintaining a safe environment that will allow us to stay open. **We can do this together!**

Upcoming Events



Blusterers, Bunglers, and Blockheads

On **Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 pm**, join Maine author and historian Jim Nelson for his presentation "Blusterers, Bunglers and Blockheads." This online program will relate the story of three significant naval events which occurred in Maine during the American Revolution: the naval fight at Machias, the burning of Falmouth, and the Penobscot Expedition to Castine. These naval actions were all the result of "stupid miscalculations on one side or the other, and each resulted in various degrees of disaster." Nelson will discuss the events and the unfortunate consequences that followed. The program is free and open to the public.

Jim Nelson was born and raised in Maine, and for six years worked on board traditional sailing ships before launching a writing career in 1994. The author of more than 25 works of maritime fiction and history, he is the winner of the American Library Association William Young Boyd Award and the Naval Order's Samuel Eliot Morison Award. Nelson has lectured throughout the country and appeared on the Discovery Channel, History Channel, National Geographic, and BookTV. He currently lives in Harpswell with his former shipmate, now wife, Lisa. To register for this Zoom event, contact Wendy Roberts at wrobertsmaine63@gmail.com or 207-691-0833.

Book Group (via Zoom):
Thursday, Mar. 18 at 10:15 am



Our February discussion started with a "Thank you!" to Pam Dunning and the staff of WPL. The group commented on the excellent selection of new titles that have been available at the library. We truly appreciate the endless supply of great reading material. This month's book share summaries and the ensuing conversation were very interesting. It is always a pleasure to discuss books with other bibliophiles.

February Recommendations

Mr. Malcolm's List by Suzanne Allain

Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

The Guest List by Lucy Foley

The Negro Motorist Green Book Compendium

by Victor H. Green (nonfiction)

The Searcher by Tana French

Moonflower Murders by Anthony Horowitz

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

Borges and Me: An Encounter by Jay Parini

The Bridge of Years by May Sarton

Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights by Gretchen Sorin (nonfiction)

Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America by Candacy Taylor (nonfiction)

Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard-Luck Jay by Julie Zickefoose

We will meet on Thursday, March 18 at 10:15 am via Zoom for another book share. What are you currently reading and why do you recommend it? Email wiscasset.library.friends@gmail.com for instructions on how to Zoom if you haven't attended a meeting this way before. If you would like to be added to our group also email us at the above address.

Until next month, I leave you with a poem mentioned by member Wendy Thompson during the discussion of the Maine author May Sarton. It is from her ***Letters from Maine*** anthology.

A Farewell

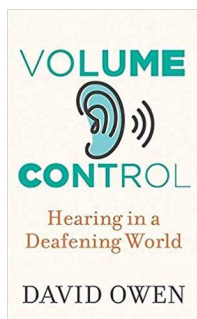
For a while I shall still be leaving.
Looking back at you as you slip away
Into the magic islands of the mind.
But for a while now all alive, believing
That in a single poignant hour
We did say all that we could ever say
In a great flowing out of radiant power.
It was like seeing and then going blind.

.
After a while we shall be cut in two
Between real islands where you live
And a far shore where I'll no longer keep
The haunting image of your eyes, and you.
As pupils widen, widen to deep black
And I able neither to love or grieve
Between fulfillment and heartbreak.
The time will come when I can go to sleep.

.
But for a while still, centered at last.
Contemplate a brief amazing union.
Then watch you leave and then let you go.
I must not go back to the murderous past
Nor force a passage through to some safe landing.
But float upon this moment of communion
Entranced, astonished by pure understanding—
Passionate love dissolved like summer snow.

Stephanie

Large Print Book Review



Volume Control: Hearing in a Deafening World by David Owen

Our sense of hearing makes it easy to connect with the world and the people around us. The human system for processing sound is a biological marvel, an intricate assembly of delicate membranes, bones, receptor cells, and neurons. Yet many people take their ears for granted, abusing them with loud restaurants, rock concerts, and Q-tips. Then, eventually, many start to go deaf.

Faced with the cost and stigma of hearing aids, people often do nothing and hope the problem will resolve itself. In *Volume Control*, Owen clearly explains how inaction has a huge social cost. He explains the science of hearing and encourages those with hearing loss to take action to protect the hearing they still have. Treatments, such as hearing aids, have progressed greatly in recent years. High-tech efficient aids and substitutes to boost hearing have decreased in cost.

It is hoped that physicians will be able to reverse hearing loss one day. Until that time, it is up to the hearer to explore possibilities and talk with

professionals for help. Owen uses wit and clarity to deliver the facts in a way that is easily understood.

Collection Highlight: The Lord Ramage Series

Dudley Pope was one of the greatest authors of nautical fiction. His Lord Ramage series will appeal to readers who enjoyed the works of Patrick O'Brien. The Ramage series novels are brilliantly woven and feature a cast of wonderful characters.

In ***Ramage***, the first book in the series, Lieutenant Lord Nicholas Ramage must sail his tiny cutter close to the Italian shore and rescue a party of stranded aristocrats from Napoleon's fast-advancing army. This is a breath-taking, daring foray under the very nose of the French Mediterranean fleet. The story opens up with a sea battle and our ship sinking. The action continues on from there. Pope provides a vivid description of how 19th-century naval battles were fought and what it took for a naval ship to survive the dangerous waters.



The Children's Room

Welcome to a new month full of Children's Room fun!

On Tuesday, **March 2**, many of us will be joining the "Read Across America Day." Stop by the Children's Room and pick up a diversity bookmark kit along with a book.

On Sunday, **March 14**, don't forget to "spring ahead" and set clocks 1 hour forward.

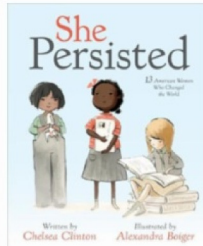
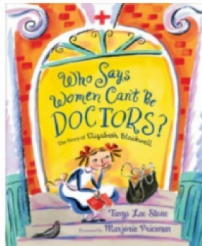
Get your Irish on and join the leprechauns to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, **March 17**. There are two Take and Make Crafts: a beaded charm bracelet and a rainbow windsock.

March brings us Spring, officially Saturday, **March 20**. Here in Maine, Spring means sugaring season when maple syrup is made from new sap. Be sure to find some

to eat. It is so good! Get out your galoshes because it is also Mud Season. We have a fun craft honoring our rubber boots.

March is also Women's History Month. I have had many requests for information about Florence Nightingale but do you know who Elizabeth Blackwell was? Or Clara Barton? One of Maine's most famous politicians was Margaret Chase Smith but do you know who Frances Perkins was? Jessica Meir is a woman astronaut that has lived in space and is from Maine! What other famous women do you know that have worked at NASA? Did you know Jennifer Holm, author of the new book *The Lion of Mars*, was inspired by her wish to be an astronaut exploring space? Come to the library and SPRING into a great book!

Read across America



Ms. Laurie's Recommendations

I'm currently reading ***Bears on Hemlock Mountain*** by Alice Dalgliesh, a wonderful book for family and group read-alouds. It is a dramatic story of great suspense. I just finished ***Marven of the Great North Woods*** by Kathryn Lasky. This is a longer picture book about two timely subjects: the Spanish flu pandemic and diversity. The young Marven is sent to work at a logging camp in the winter of 1918. Read this book to discover the wonder of friendship and hope. I have also started ***The Lion of Mars*** by Jessica Holm, author of *Sunny Side Up*, *Baby Mouse*, and *Comic Squad*. This story is about a mysterious virus outbreak in the U.S. settlement on Mars. Bell and his friends must work together to save not just their home, but all the other international settlements on the planet. My adult book is ***Good Dogs Don't Make It to the South Pole*** by Hans-Olav Thyvold. Growing old is not easy for people or dogs but some do it with more grace and curiosity than others. Read this book for its original point of view and because it is fun!

Children's Room Reminders

We would love to see you! Before you visit, please read the "COVID-19 Safety Precautions" above. Remember, Children's Room visitors must also:

- Enter the Children's room via the Used Book Room
- Limit capacity to one family at a time
- Children wait in designated area while books are retrieved from the shelves by parent/caregiver
- Face covering must be worn by all but the youngest patrons (bring your own please)

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

Used Book Room News

Speaking with friends from different parts of our country, one thought I hear repeatedly is the desire to get back to "normal." How do you define normal? I think back to a year ago, being in the Used Book Room helping visitors. That became my normal very quickly. It was such a joy to match someone with the perfect book. Finding book donations was another special treat. I was looking forward to the spring sun and flowers in our courtyard. How I miss the simple joy of time spent in the UBR.



While you are still spending time at home, please consider going through the books you have accumulated and setting some aside for the Used Book Room. As we move toward summer and some semblance of normalcy, we hope to have a big used book sale to kick off our fundraising for 2021. The main library continues to quarantine returned books in the UBR, so we are unable to take your donations at this time. No one knows when the restrictions will be lifted, and we can reopen the Used Book Room. Once we get the go-ahead, the Friends have allocated funds for thorough cleaning of the room. It is our desire to provide our patrons and volunteers with a clean, safe environment.

I look forward to the day when I can announce our reopening. I am hoping that many of you will be willing to volunteer a few hours each month to work in our UBR. Remember, you get first look at the new donations! Reopening day will be joyous and, hopefully, soon. Until then, take care and stay safe.

Lynn Maloney, UBR Chair

Notes from the Annual Meetings

The Friends of Wiscasset Public Library

On Monday, January 18, the Friends of Wiscasset Public Library held their annual meeting on Zoom with a follow-up ballot sent out via email. Thank you to the Friends for their ongoing support despite this challenging year. The Friends voted to allocate more than \$3,000 to the library for 2021 programs and materials.

Linda Winterberg, Fundraising Chair, will discuss the plans for the 2021 Bands for Books event at the Friends May meeting. **Bands for Books is scheduled**

for September 6, 2021, and is traditionally the Friends biggest fundraiser. It's also a very fun event, so add it to your calendar and let's hope that coronavirus is under control by then.

The Friends are very grateful to the following women, who have stepped up to fill the Executive Committee positions. All were unanimously voted into office.

Co-Presidents Stephanie Hergenroeder and Lili Pugh
Vice President Virginia Forrest
Secretary Sally Gemmill
Treasurer Lynn Maloney

The next Friends meeting will be held **Monday, May 10 at 10:00 am**. If meeting restrictions are still in place, the meeting will be held via Zoom. To be added to the Friends mailing list, or to learn more about the Friends, email Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com.

A Note from the Friends Treasurer:

Thank you to the Friends who have paid their 2021 dues. Friends dues are \$10 per year. If you have not already done so, please send your check (payable to the *Friends of WPL*) to Friends of WPL, 21 High St., Wiscasset 04578. Remember, your dues are used to fund library materials, programs, and services. We appreciate your support!

The Corporators of Wiscasset Public Library

On Sunday, January 24, the Corporators of Wiscasset Public Library held their annual meeting on Zoom. The Corporators received an email package prior to the meeting with the annual reports and financial statements from the President of the Trustees, the WPL Director, the Children's Librarian, and the Friends. The Corporators elected the following people to serve the library as noted below. Thank you to all of the Corporators for your ongoing support of Wiscasset Public Library.

New to the Board of Corporators

Phil Di Vece
Ann Light
Steve Whitfield

New to the Board of Trustees

Phil Di Vece (3 year term)
Steve Whitfield (3 year term)
Terri Wells (2 year term)
Ann Light (1 year term)

2021 Board of Trustees Officers

President – Richard Litz
Vice-President – Linda Belmont
Treasurer – Tom Boudin
Secretary – Tracy Joyce

Online Resources

Anyone with an active library card can download ebooks and audio books at [CloudLibrary](#). There are books for all ages.



digitalmainelibrary [Digital Maine Library](#) is accessible to everyone in Maine, no library card required. You'll find articles and abstracts from magazines, newspapers, journals and reference materials. It also includes resources for children.

If you have young children, visit [StoryLine Online](#), an award-winning children's literacy website features dozens of Story Time videos. There are some great free children's podcasts that are short and sweet. Try [Little Stories for Tiny People](#) (young children) or [Stories Podcast](#) (older children).



Free E-books and Audiobooks

Several online retailers offer some products for free. Search for "free":

- [Amazon Kindle store](#)
- [Barnes & Noble Nook store](#)
- [Google Play Books](#)
- [Audible.com](#)

You'll find thousands of older titles on these websites:

- [Project Gutenberg](#)
- [Open Library](#)
- [ManyBooks](#)
- [LibriVox](#) (audiobooks)

Overdue Notices

If you receive an Overdue Notice after returning your items, please disregard the email. We continue to quarantine all items for 96 hours before checking them in. The automated notices go out while items are in quarantine. We do not charge late fees and we will process your returns as quickly as it is safe to do so. Our quarantine policy is based on guidance from Maine State Library and its purpose is to keep both you and the WPL staff safe. If you still have questions, feel free to call us.

Library Information

Hours

Tue. 10:00am-5:00pm
Wed. 10:00am-7:00pm
Thu. 10:00am-5:00pm
Fri. 10:00am-5:00pm
Sat. 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

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