

UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR



In my post for the Spring newsletter, I wrote excitedly about the Library's reopening in late February - after many months of closings for construction. Who knew that 21 days later we would be closing once again, this time due to a pandemic!

After several months, we reopened the library doors in late June. Following recommended Covid-19 protocols, we implemented a number of health and safety practices, including quarantining all returned materials, requiring masks, and social distancing. We have reduced room

capacities, and have adopted a new, vigorous cleaning regimen. We have gradually added services to include limited public use of the Ayers, O'Rourke and Cynthia Beaver Meeting Rooms and have opened up our Thayer Memorial Genealogy & Local History Room for research. Our in-person book discussions have begun again, accommodating a limited number of participants.

While the construction project is essentially complete, improvements to the building and grounds continue with major landscaping improvements and tree planting, installation of artwork, and technology upgrades. Thanks to the staff, trustees, volunteers, and loyal patrons, we have weathered a turbulent 2020 well. I look forward to next year as we continue to bring back services and programming and introduce our new dynamic website.

There have been many changes in 2020, not the least of which is Barbara Widmer's retirement from the Library. We will all miss her, particularly her wonderful sense of humor and friendly warmth toward all. I know you join me in wishing her many adventures and much happiness in retirement.

--Cindy Scott

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Leaves are falling and temperatures are dropping **BUT** membership in the Friends is increasing at a time when it is most needed. This past June, the annual Book & Author luncheon, our major fundraiser, was cancelled due to the pandemic so we are reminding those of you who supported the Friends in the past that **NOW** is the time to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Fill out the membership form available on the library website and return it to the library along with a \$10 membership contribution. Additional contributions are always appreciated.

THANK YOU to those who have already renewed since our membership year began June 1; your membership and additional contributions this fiscal year are providing funds for the newly renovated library, money that is much needed to support library programs and projects.



BARBARA WIDMER, LONG TIME CHILDREN'S ROOM LIBRARIAN, RETIRES



If you have been into the Wolfeboro Library, you have probably met Barbara Widmer, the Children's Librarian since 1998. Barbara started as a library assistant in 1994 and has recently announced her retirement at the end of October after 26 years.

Two of Barbara's favorite children's books are Peter Pan and Miss Rumphius. These two books have greatly influenced her work with children over the years. The new children's wing welcomes youngsters with the words, "Take the second star to the right," encouraging kids to forever be imaginative and creative like the hero Peter Pan. Miss Rumphius travels far and wide, but her life is not complete until she "makes the world beautiful" by becoming the Lupine Lady spreading blue, purple and rose-colored flowers everywhere. Much like the main characters in these two books, Barbara has instilled imagination and shared her form of beauty by spreading the love of reading and books to thousands of children's hearts. Her programs have included Toddler Time, Lego Club, Wednesday Night Bedtime Story and numerous book discussions and roundtables as well as many outreach programs at the The Boat Museum, Children's Center, Inclusive Child, All Saints Nursery School, Cooperative Nursery School and the weekly summer Farmer's Market. She has touched many children, one of her

past Children's Room visitors, inspired by Mrs. Widmer, has become a librarian herself.

When asked about her fondest memories, Barbara first excitedly shared "all the awesome families and children I have had the opportunity to know." She then went on to tell "One day I had a program planned during school vacation week. I had a room with about 40 children and parents and the performer was no-show. I called him to see if he was on his way, but he had entirely blanked on it. I was sooooo panicked, but much to my relief, one of the moms came to the rescue by playing the piano. We go away with singing familiar songs which in turn lead to silly dancing. She saved me from being lynched by a gang of irate toddlers! I also was able to feed a baby tiger out of a bottle during one of the wildlife programs the library sponsored. I have so many memories, so many amazing children that will be forever in my heart. I had a good run and it truly is the best job in town."

It has been a fabulous run for all of us as well who have been lucky enough to work with, learn alongside or be inspired by Barbara. We wish her well as she goes into semi-retirement as a part-time librarian at Tufonboro Library, her home town, where she will be working alongside another one of her children from 20+ years ago. -PegMongiello

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON RESCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4, 2021

Plans are underway for the 37th annual Friends Book and Author Luncheon set for Friday, June 4, 2021 at Bald Peak Colony Club. Authors will be announced and reservations will be accepted in the early spring. The event offers attendees not only the opportunity to see and hear from top-notch authors, but a chance to support the library, too. So, mark your calendar for June 4, 2021, and be sure to renew your Friends of the Library membership to receive advance notice of ticket sales.

HOW TO USE ONLINE RESOURCES

The library has some great online resources such as Libby and Hoopla, but it can be intimidating to try them out if you are not completely comfortable with technology. Dave Baker, the Information Technology Coordinator, is here to help. Dave can handle all your questions and show you how to take advantage of all the great resources available through the library's website. He can spend time with you one-on-one either socially distanced at the library, by phone, Zoom or Facetime. Call the library and ask for Dave today.

NEED BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WINTER READING?

Here are a few titles the members of the Friends' Board of Directors have enjoyed lately.

The Last Flight by Julie Clark

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict
Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich

All the Devils are Here by Louise Penny

Sandhamn Murder Series by Vivica Sten

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker

The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Bartender's Tale by Ivan Doig

Circe by Madeline Miller

Gracefully Insane by Alex Beam

The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Conclave by Robert Harris

Look to the Mountain by LeGrand Cannon Jr.

FALL FUNDRAISER

Looking for holiday gifts? Keep an eye out for Raffle Baskets and a Christmas Book Sale. Dates will be announced soon in the library column of the Granite State News.



THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteerism is alive and well and living in Wolfeboro. That was certainly evident during the many phases of the library's expansion project. From early conception and planning, to the "Get Out the Vote" days, to the hands-on effort of moving books and furniture back and forth, the expanded library is the result of our supportive community pitching in to get the job done. There are too many volunteers to name who gave their time and resources in big and small ways. Library Director, Cindy Scott, stated that the response to her appeal for help was overwhelming. "There were so many offers to help, in fact, that we couldn't use them all." As COVID restrictions lift and library programs get back to normal, there will be more opportunities to volunteer. Stay tuned!

BOOK DISCUSSIONS ARE BACK

The Book Discussion Groups have been missed by many WPL patrons. Two groups will begin meeting once again on a limited basis in the Bradley Meeting Room with safety protocols in place. Stop by to pick up a copy of the book and make a reservation.

Tuesday, October 27, 3 pm

[An American Marriage](#) by Tayari Jones

Tuesday, November 17, 1 pm

[This is Happiness](#) by Niall Williams

Wolfeboro Public Library
259 South Main Street
Wolfeboro, NH 03894
603-569-2428

wolfeborolibrary.org



NEW WINTER HOURS:

Effective November 2, 2020



Monday	9 am - 7 pm
Tuesday	9 am - 7 pm
Wednesday	9 am - 7 pm
Thursday	9 am - 7 pm
Friday	9 am - 5 pm
Saturday	9 am - 4 pm

Don't forget your mask! Please return all books to the outside drop box for quarantine.