Thanksgiving Reads

While many think pilgrims and turkeys or even football when they think about Thanksgiving, the holiday might not exist at all if it weren’t for Abraham Lincoln. By 1863, when the country was deep in the midst of the Civil War, the tradition of Thanksgiving’s day had nearly been forgotten. It was at the urging of magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, that Lincoln revived the holiday. He hoped that it would help “heal the wounds” of a divided nation. In the spirit of this hope and in honor of the people whose stories have become the American story, we’ve selected the following list of books. Grab one to read this Thanksgiving, and share your family’s story with someone else.

- Finding Mañana: A Memoir of Cuban Exodus by Mirta Ojito [973.0468 O39f]
- Bread Givers by Anzia Yezierska [813.54 Y49b]
- American Crescent by Imam Hassan Qazwini [297.82 Q25a]
- The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes edited by Arnold Rampersad & David Roessel [811.52 H894c]
- Turning Leaves: Photograph Collections of Two Japanese American Families by Richard Chalfen [305.8956 C436t]
- The Chosen Shore: Stories of Immigrants by Ellen Alexander Conley [304.873 C752c]
- Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick [973.22 P545m]
- Voices from Wah’kon-tah edited by Robert K. Dodge and Joseph B. McCullough
- Paper Daughter by M. Elaine Mar [973.04951 M298 bM]
- ’Tis by Frank McCourt [973.0491 M131t]
- I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosín [CUR A275i]
- The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco [CUR P763k]

Above quote taken from Lincoln’s October 3, 1863, Thanksgiving Proclamation
Our Mission Statement
“The Robert H. Parker Library at Wesley College supports the academic and research success of our students, faculty, and staff, in the liberal arts tradition.”

Spotlight on the Staff

Jessica Olin, Library Director
What is your favorite thing about the Parker Library?
Our patrons, especially our students. It gets too quiet here when classes aren’t in session, so it’s always great when students come back to campus.

What’s your favorite book (or books)?
If you ask me this question next month, I’ll probably have a different answer but... Johnathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach, Fool by Christopher Moore, and Start Where You Are by Pema Chodron.

Are you binge-watching anything right now?
Been rewatching Malcolm in the Middle lately.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?
Cross stitch, hiking, and learning to play the guitar.

What’s your favorite word? What’s your least favorite word?
Favorite: “mellifluous,” since it’s an example of its meaning. Least favorite: any derogatory word that refers to a group of people.

Tell us two truths and a lie.
A couple of years ago, I went to four different zoos in the space of six days. I sold more Girl Scout cookies than anyone else in my town for five years running when I was a kid. I once submitted a proposal to a conference purely because of who they got to be the keynote speaker.

Anything else you want to share?
I’ve been a librarian for almost 14 years now, at three different colleges, and the students at Wesley College are my favorite. No lie. Y’all are friendlier and more welcoming than any other students I’ve ever met.

Did You Know?
The small tower located at the first floor entrance to the library is chockfull of useful handouts, including information on how to use all of our databases and how to access our electronic resources when you’re home for Thanksgiving!

People in the Library
“I can always count on a computer being available, and the speed of the internet has always been consistent for me.”
- Katelyn Harding

“I feel like I become more intelligent from being in the library. It’s the only quiet place on campus that I can come to learn.”
- Seadric Corbitt

Questions or Comments about Our Newsletter?
Please contact:
Lindsay Townsend, Library Associate — lindsay.townsend@wesley.edu
Tyler Antoine, Library Associate — tyler.antoine@wesley.edu
Jessica Olin, Library Director — jessica.olin@wesley.edu

We want to hear from you!