

Magazines For The Whole Family

By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director

A few years ago, I submitted a Library Lines column about my love of magazines. After I was done, I realized that I'd forgotten to mention that as a teenager, one of my career goals was to become the editor-in-chief of "Sassy" magazine. "Sassy" was the nerdy feminist teen girl's "Seventeen" with unconventionally beautiful models and thought-provoking articles. I remember clipping a list of "must-read" books for the Summer of 1990 that I took to the library every week. I was certain that if I read the cool books recommended by the Sassy writers, I would become one of them.

Fast forward to 2023 and "Sassy" has gone the way of "Teen People" and "YM" but I'm still a magazine fan. There's nothing like flipping through the glossy colorful pages to look at photos, find a new recipe, or read something compelling. Just between you and me (and all the other "Waterville Times" readers), one of the highlights of my week is reading the latest issue of "People" over breakfast on Saturday mornings.

Even though we have fewer print magazines on the shelves here at the Kirkland Town Library, you can find all you would ever want to read (and more) on Libby. You won't get the same satisfaction of holding the paper in your hands but with a good-sized tablet like an iPad, you can browse to your heart's content. Not only do they have weeklies like "US," "The New Yorker," and "The Week," they also have special editions like "Taste of Home's Holiday Open House" and "The Big Book of Nintendo."

My family has a wide variety of interests and there's something for everyone on Libby. Here are a few that I would recommend to my family or anyone with similar hobbies and interests.

My mom and my mother-in-law both love to try new recipes so I know they would have fun browsing "Cooks Illustrated," "Bon Appetit," or "Food Network." All three now feature fall-favorite recipes like "the apple pie you have to try" and "perfect roast turkey with the savoriest stuffing." If they don't want to bring their iPads to the kitchen, they can print the recipes using the free wireless printer at the library.

My husband, my dad, and my father-in-law love woodworking projects and home improvement and there are lots of magazines that show project ideas and techniques. "Woodworkers Journal" promises low-tech solutions for DIY and woodworking. The latest issue of "Family Handyman" has tips for restoring old houses, which would come in handy for updating the windows, hardwood floors, and wiring in our late 1800s home.

My kids are old enough that they didn't have iPads in the car but if they did, I would load one up with magazines for them to read on a road trip. In Libby, you can check out "Highlights for Children," filled with stories, games, and activities for kids ages 6-12. There are other versions for younger kids ("Hello" for ages 0-2 and "High Five" for 2-6). The long-running "Goofus and Gallant" series is still included so you might want to borrow it yourself and take a walk down memory lane.

Now that they're grown, my son would absolutely love the one-time release of the "Videogames Hardware Handbook." There are two volumes; the first retells the history of video game hardware from 1972 to 1999. My daughter inherited my fascination with pop culture so I have no doubt she'd devour "Hello!," a British celebrity magazine that often features the royals.

Her girlfriend loves to travel and has an impressive sense of adventure so I'm sure she would love the classic "National Geographic."

If you're not sold on magazines yet, perhaps I should have mentioned "Popular Science: Dinosaurs," "Understanding Astrophysics," or "Country Life Dogs." If you need help getting started with Libby, you can stop by the library and we'll show you how easy it is to get started. If you don't see me, it's because I'm at home reading "People's Ultimate 80's Trivia Quiz."