

Monthly E-Newsletter April 2020 Volume 27, Issue 4

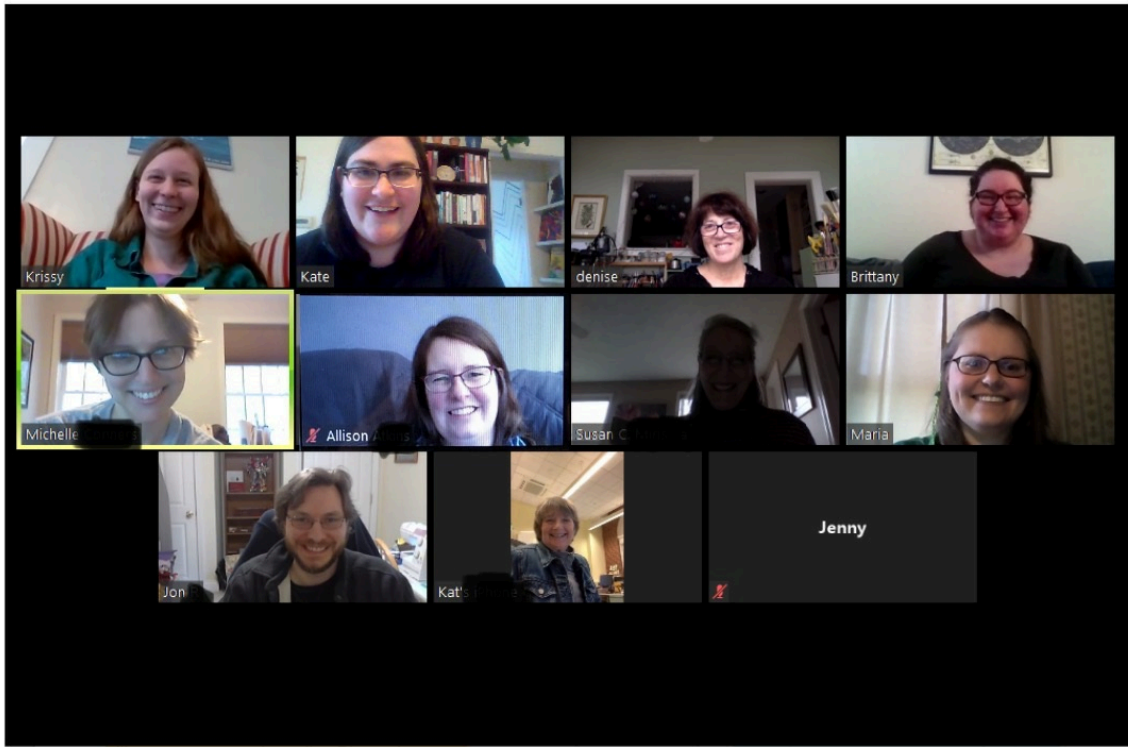
In 2018, we introduced our new mission statement: To inspire and enable our communities to discover, learn, and connect. A big part of fulfilling that mission has been getting books into your hands. (Nothing makes a librarian happier than seeing someone walk out the door with a giant stack of books.) It's also been watching people get to know each other over books, or storytimes, or puzzles, or sitting in front of the fire. It's been helping people learn to use their new laptops or making computers available to those who need them. Sometimes, it's been just being there to talk to somebody who was having a rough day.

Though we cannot physically be in the library right now, we are still here. Staff is working hard every day to find creative ways to continue to fulfill our mission. While we are closed, you can still:

- Talk to us. Staff is working from home and available to answer e-mails. We are also checking the library voicemail daily. You can call us with reference questions or just because you are tired of being trapped in your house and want somebody to talk to. Leave us a message and we will call you back.
- Check out books through OverDrive or CloudLibrary (adults, teens & kids).
- Use our databases. While we are closed, Ancestry Library edition will be available from home, thanks to a deal worked out by the Maine State Library.
- Get a new library card or renew your existing card.
- Use our wi-fi. It is accessible 24-7 on our lawn and in the parking lot. (We encourage you to stay in your car or practice social distancing.)
- Attend library programs, including storytime, trivia, and book groups.

Below, you will find answers to your questions about checked-out items and library cards; information about programs and services that we're offering; ideas for fun things to do at home; and messages from some staff members about their experiences over the last few weeks. We are still working on adding new programs so be sure to keep an eye on our website, social media, and the programming message on our phone. Website updates will be in the "While We're Closed" tab and the rotating display.

We miss you. We miss the library. We know you do too. We are hoping that the proactive steps that the community and the state have taken to slow the spread of the virus mean that we will be able to safely reopen soon. In the meantime, we will keep working. We would love to hear your thoughts about what else we can do to help our community through this.



FAQ

Hi everyone, it's Brittany, the Circulation Services Manager! We've been hearing a lot from you about when your books are going to be due, how you can renew your library card, or how you can sign up for a library card if you didn't have one before. Here are answers to some of those common questions, but always feel free to reach out to us!

How do I get a library card if I don't already have one?

Just email the library at kflcirc@kennebunk.lib.me.us, and we can get you set up with a temporary card so you can access our digital collections. Once we reopen, you will need to come to the library and provide photo ID and proof of address. We can then give you your physical library card as well.

How do I renew my library card if it's expired?

All library cards that were set to expire in March or April have been extended until June 1st. If your card had expired prior to then, email either the library at kflcirc@kennebunk.lib.me.us, or call us at (207) 985-2173 and we can renew it for you.

What's going to happen with overdue fines?

All due dates on Kennebunk Free Library items have been automatically extended until May 1st.

Due dates for most other libraries were also extended, however please feel free to reach out if you're getting notices about a book coming up due or overdue. We will be waiving all new overdue fines accrued through the end of April. Fees for lost or damaged items will still apply. If the closure goes beyond May 1, due dates and fine amnesty will be extended.

Can I return items in the book drop?

Yes, the book drop will be available, however we would strongly appreciate it if you would consider holding onto anything you have checked out until we reopen. We will be waiving all new overdue fines accrued through the end of April.

What's going to happen to my holds?

Any items that you currently have on the holdshelf at KFL will still be there; we won't be sending anything back for awhile after we reopen, so don't worry about those being cancelled! Any requests that are currently on your account will sit there, and you won't lose your place in any waitlists. We will not be sending or receiving any interlibrary loans during this closure.

Adult Programs and Updates

KFL Trivia Night

Join us for a virtual trivia night on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Test your knowledge and learn some fun facts to wow at future parties! Play by yourself, with the people in your home, or remotely gather your normal trivia teams to play. Make sure to have something to write with and on, as you'll be keeping track of your answers and scores as we progress through the quizzing. To join this event, click on the following Zoom link close to quiz time to get set up: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/870457070> If you're new to Zoom, please log in a few minutes early to get set up. Step-by-step instructions for downloading Zoom are available [here](#).

Thursday Book Talks

Looking for a way to connect with others? KFL will be hosting a weekly call-in book club, Thursdays at 3:00 p.m., as a place to connect and talk about what you have been reading. This is an informal and drop-in event; you do not need to register, and feel free to join us for as many or as few meetings as you would like.

Participants can join us in a variety of ways:

From a computer with a webcam, tablet, smartphone, follow this

link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/674778164>. Step by step instructions for downloading Zoom are available [here](#).

If the above are not options for you, you can also call in from any phone. Simply call 1-(301)-715-8592 on Thursday at 3:00 pm, and when prompted for the Meeting ID enter 674-778-164 followed by the # sign. Please note that this is NOT a toll-free number.

Adult Book Discussion

Times are stressful and uncertain right now, so this month we're going to be reading a childhood favorite. Join us on Tuesday, April 28 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. We're going to be doing things a little differently this month since we're going to be closed... This book group discussion will be held virtually via Zoom!

The Secret Garden is available to read for free via Project Gutenberg at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/113>. If you've already read it and don't feel like rereading it for the discussion, that's fine! Join in anyway!

You can join the conversation from your computer, tablet or smartphone by following this link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/960596273> Step by step instructions for downloading Zoom are available [here](#).

You can also call in to (646)876-9923 and enter 960 596 273 when prompted for the meeting id.

Teen Programs and Updates

Ebooks

We recently expanded our [YA ebook collection](#), available for checkout on our Overdrive app. There are a variety of items available that cover numerous genres! While you're spending time at home take a look and see what is available.

Book talks

Keep an eye on the library's Facebook page as we will shortly be posting Book Talks about newly purchased YA books that might be of interest! Book Talks are short summaries of a book that give you the opportunity to hear the first chapter of new books before they hit the shelves!

Children's Programs and Updates

Hello, our friends! We are taking this new journey together. We miss seeing your smiling faces, but we're still here with you! Here are some ways you can stay in touch with us.

Storytime Live!, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 - Tune in to our Facebook page and watch a live storytime! We'll share stories and songs, just like our storytimes at the library. Be on the lookout for special guests!

Week of the Young Child Virtual Concert by Kindkids - Kindkids is taking their concert to the internet by sharing their music with us virtually! More details about how to watch coming soon.

Virtual Faerie House Exhibition - It's time for the faeries to return to Maine! Build a faerie house to welcome them back. Faeries love the outside, so we encourage using natural materials when building your house, like bark, sticks, leaves, and stones. Send us at least three pictures of your faerie house from different angles, and give your house a name! The Seacoast Garden Club will give each house a title, and we will create certificates. We will also post the photos on our website and social media pages for everyone to see! Send your information to ys@kennebunk.lib.me.us between April 1 and April 29! We'll be doing other faerie activities in person at a later date.

Junior Science - Mr. Jon will be sharing some science fun with us online! We'll let you know when to watch!

Little Lit Read-Aloud - Miss Maria will be reading a juvenile fiction book aloud and sharing the videos online. Stay tuned for more information!

Letters from Librarians Pen Pal Program - Would you like a letter from a KFL librarian? We'd love to hear from you! Let us know you're interested by emailing ys@kennebunk.lib.me.us, and we'll get back to you! P.S. - let's have fun!

TumbleBooks - Have you explored TumbleBooks yet? For a limited time, the library has access to ebooks and eaudio for all ages! For login information, see our website.

More to come - Your librarians are going to be sharing more videos and fun activities in the days to come. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page - we'll be posting all information, including upcoming program information, there.

We miss seeing, talking with, and playing with you so much! We can't wait until we can meet in-person again. In the meantime, you can always reach us by emailing ys@kennebunk.lib.me.us, sending a Facebook message, or giving us a call! Keep smiling!

A special note to our parents and teachers: We see you! We are constantly amazed by your strength and bravery as you navigate this strange new world. Thank you for being a source of learning, comfort, and love for your children. We are here to help you! How can we best assist

you? Thank you for playing such an important role in keeping our community strong! We miss you!

Library News & Events

March Madness Extended

March Madness has been put on pause much like everything else lately. It was due to conclude on March 27 but once the Library is up and operating to the public again we will be extending the timeframe of the auction. This will be a great chance for those who were bidding to get back in and do so again and for others to give it their first shot. We have items such as a spa package, Maine Mariners tickets, and a movie night!



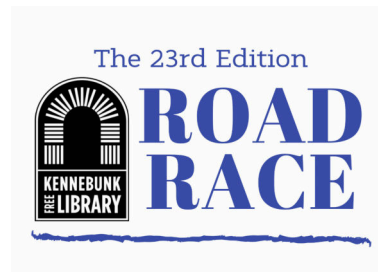
A Message from the Friends

The Friends will hold their meeting on Monday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. You are welcome to join virtually via Zoom at this link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/963225467> You can also access the meeting by calling (646) 876-9923. Enter meeting ID: 963 225 467 when prompted. Please note that this is not a toll-free number.

Unfortunately, and for obvious reasons, May Day has been canceled by the Town and therefore our book sale won't be held. Stay tuned though. As soon as possible we will be staging a sale at a later date!

23rd Edition Road Race

The Road Race is still on! While we still hope to pull off our in-person event we realize the times may not allow for that. For this reason, we are preparing for all possibilities which may mean our first ever virtual Road Race! This could be individuals running a 5k remotely and submitting your times to us. We are still ironing out the details but hope you can still commit to participating. We will still have t-shirts and will work with the sponsors we have to create a goodie bag for the first 200 participants. While we can't promise at this time to have all of the regular components in place if we do have an in-person event, this is still a large-scale fundraiser for KFL and your support is appreciated.



A Note From the Director

March 16 marked my official return from maternity leave. It also was the first date of our closure due to COVID-19. It's been a very bizarre few weeks but the staff has rallied together in the only way we know how, through fun and commitment to our communities. While our distanced interactions have reached many of you, unfortunately those who aren't as connected (for example those without the technology to access this newsletter) are also the ones who can't avail themselves to the services we have been able to offer. If you know of anyone that could use assistance please remind them that we can still be reached by calling the library at 207-985-2173. A machine will pick up but we will get back ASAP.

Michelle Conners
Library Director



Digital Collections

Looking for something to read during our building's closure? Have a computer, smartphone, Kindle Fire or iPad? Great! You can access eBooks and audiobooks through our two digital platforms! All you need is your library card.

CloudLibrary is a platform for eBooks and audiobooks that is administered at the state level and is accessible to all public library patrons in the state of Maine. To meet increased demand, more titles are currently being added to this platform. See <https://www.yourcloudlibrary.com/> to get started.

Overdrive/Libby is also a platform for eBooks and audiobooks, but is run by your KFL librarians and is accessible only to Kennebunk Free Library cardholders. While this platform has fewer titles to choose from, wait times for holds are shorter than on CloudLibrary. We are also adding more titles to expand our offerings and selections for you. See <https://kennebunklibrary.overdrive.com/> to get started (scroll to bottom for app downloads).

If you need assistance setting up either platform, give the library a call or send an email and a staff member will get back to you.

Click [here](#) for a list of recently-added adult eBooks.

[Here](#) for adult audio.

[Here](#) for teen items.

[Here](#) for children's items.

Fun Things to Do At Home/Messages from Your Librarians

Earth Day Activities with Miss Denise

Hi Everyone - I miss seeing all of you for Discovery Station and in the Children's Room! Hang in there and we will be together again soon. Earth Day is this month on Wednesday, April 22. This would be a great opportunity to talk to your children about how your family can be more environmentally friendly. It is also the perfect time for some fun activities the whole family might enjoy. Go for a hike near the shore, in woodland areas, or near a local pond in search of wildlife. Download a copy of the [nature scavenger hunt](#) below and see how many objects you can find along the way. This is a great way to find objects to use in building your faerie house! Enjoy your time together and Happy Earth Day!



Jenny's Journaling Pages

With all of the changes over the last couple of weeks, I'm finding it more helpful than ever to put my thoughts down on paper. I love journaling!

My offerings to you today are some journaling pages that I've created for you to print at home, or use as templates to create your own. You'll find the following pages for download on our While We're Closed Page.

- If your routines have been upended like mine have, you might enjoy using a *daily checklist* page to create and track some new routines to care for yourself and others.
- Would you like to feel more connected to nature? Observing the plants, birds, weather, etc. in your own backyard and neighborhood and then writing about your experience in a journal can help! You might like to try *nature notes* pages to get you started.

- Looking for a way to record what books, audiobooks, movies and music you've been enjoying? Try out our *What I'm ... reading watching, or listening to* pages.
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A Message from Miss Susan

Hello, Kennebunk Free Library Friends. I miss seeing your kind faces and the delightful faces of your children who bring such life and joy into the Children's Room as well as into my own days. My work as a Librarian is not as fulfilling without our interactions.

Since working from home, I have been concentrating on learning the technology to make this new form of Librarianship available to me, who has not grown up, as many of you have, with the knowledge and ease that come from years of experience since childhood.

Some skills have been learned, such as installing Zoom on my computer which allows me to attend KFL staff meetings and Maine State Library meetings. I have learned how to install Discord, which allows Library staff to communicate with each other in a Library-wide, on-going chat. And this afternoon, I will receive my 2nd tutorial in using Canva, which is an app for creating Library publicity. I have been looking through Tumblebooks on our website and plan to read many of the featured picture books online. And perhaps listen to some JFIC chapter books. That will be fun!

Additionally, I have been researching Webinars for on-going education. I have taken "Reducing Workplace Stress With Mindfulness", and have three others lined up that I am looking forward to.

I am working with Maria to learn the skills necessary to offer you some things that may be helpful and fun. If I am successful, you will find out what these are soon enough.

Wishing you all safety and well-being, as we navigate our way through this time in history together. Please let us know what you need and how we can support you. And please not hesitate to reach out to me at scmirisola@kennebunk.lib.me.us

-Susan Mirisola, Library Assistant

Citizen Science Month

April is Citizen Science Month, a celebration to highlight all the ways you (yes YOU!) can get involved in citizen science. According to CitizenScience.org, "Science needs more eyes, ears and perspectives than any scientist possesses. Enter citizen science: a collaboration between scientists and those of us who are just curious or concerned and motivated to make a difference."

So what does this mean? You can help scientists collect vital data, right from your home. All ages can participate, though children under 13 should do so with an adult. There are hundreds of projects, from [tracking the flu](#) to [gathering data on light pollution](#) and many more, so you can definitely find something that fits your interests and schedule.

For more information, as well as a searchable list of hundreds of projects, [click here](#).

For a list of options specially picked to be helpful and easy to do while social distancing, [start here](#).

At-Home Scavenger Hunt with Miss Jenny

Who's ready for a scavenger hunt at home? We've created two printable pages for you to enjoy reading clues and searching for spring leaves! Grown-ups: the [scavenger hunt clues](#) page can be trimmed to match the number of leaves you plan to hide. The fill-in-the-blank clues allow you to personalize the hunt to your home. The [scavenger hunt leaves](#) page can be cut up along the dotted lines. Leaves can be decorated and/or adorned with a name, to designate whose leaf is whose, and just to be creative. We hope you have fun!

STAY CONNECTED:



Kennebunk Free Library | 207-985-2173 | kfl@kennebunk.lib.me.us | kennebunklibrary.org
Hours: Mon, Tue 9:30-8:00; Wed 12:30-8:00; Thur, Fri, Sat 9:30-5:00