



**Monthly E-Newsletter
December 2019
Volume 26, Issue 12**

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Adult Programs

Heart and Home Book Club - December 2

The Heart & Home Book Club is a pick-your-own book discussion group at the Kennebunk Free Library. Participants choose their own fiction or nonfiction book based on a monthly theme. To join us for one or more meetings, simply drop in! On Monday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m., our theme will be *etiquette*. Feel free to call or stop by the library for help finding a book.



Ten Reasons for the Decline of the Evening News - December 2

The Camden Conference presents Peter Imber at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Ten Reasons for the Decline of the Evening News*.



Fifty years ago, at the height of his popularity as "the most trusted man in America," Walter Cronkite and the CBS Evening News averaged nearly 30 million viewers a night. Today, the three major network television evening news broadcasts have a combined audience every night that is half of that.

How this happened will be the focus of Imber's discussion, which will examine the history of TV news, the impact of technology, the influence of corporate control of the networks, the rise of cable news and the growth of social media as a news source.

Peter Imber worked in the ABC News Los Angeles Bureau for 26 years as a producer for ABC News' broadcasts, including World News Tonight with Peter Jennings and Nightline with Ted Koppel.

During his career he covered the Los Angeles riots in the wake of the Rodney King beating, the O.J. Simpson trial, the Columbine school shooting and other major news stories.

His work was nominated for National News Emmys four times, winning once, and he has received a DuPont-Columbia Award and a National Press Club Award.

Imber graduated from Dartmouth College and lived on a kibbutz in Israel for seven years in the 1970s and served in the Israeli army. He retired to Maine in 2010 and is a past president of the Camden Conference.

Meditation Class - December 2

Meditation: Are you a beginner? Looking to deepen your practice? Join us at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. for the first in a series of meditation classes with presenter Cindy Simon. All are welcome!

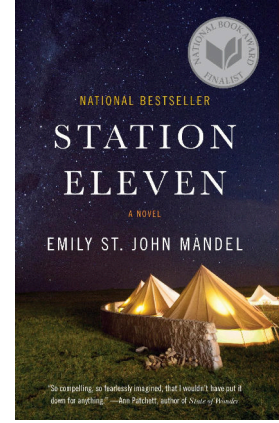


Where does most of your awareness and attention go? Do you live in the moment? Are you aware of your breath? Relax and imagine peaceful scenery, learn deep stillness and quiet, utilize positive affirmations, and rid your mind of negative chatter. Learn to bring meditation into your everyday life and discover deeper relaxation, sleep, patience, and calm.

Adult Book Discussion - December 3

Join us on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Sation Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel.

"Few themes are played-out as that of post-apocalypse, but St. John Mandel (*The Lola Quartet*) finds a unique point of departure from which to examine civilization's wreckage, beginning with a performance of *King Lear* cut short by the onstage death of its lead, Arthur Leander, from an apparent heart attack. On hand are an aspiring paramedic, Jeevan Chaudary, and a young actress, Kirsten Raymonde; Leander's is only the first death they will witness, as a pandemic, the so-called Georgia Flu, quickly wipes out all but a few pockets of civilization. Twenty years later, Kirsten, now a member of a musical theater troupe, travels through a wasteland inhabited by a dangerous prophet and his followers. Guided only by the graphic novel called *Station Eleven* given to her by Leander before his death, she sets off on an arduous journey toward the Museum of Civilization, which is housed in a disused airport terminal. Kirsten is not the only survivor with a curious link to the actor: the story explores Jeevan's past as an entertainment journalist and, in a series of flashbacks, his role in Leander's decline. Also joining the cast are Leander's first wife, Miranda, who is the artist behind *Station Eleven*, and his best friend, 70-year-old Clark Thompson, who tends to the terminal settlement Kirsten is seeking. With its wild fusion of celebrity gossip and grim future, this book shouldn't work nearly so well, but St. John Mandel's examination of the connections between individuals with disparate destinies makes a case for the worth of even a single life." (*Publishers Weekly*, vol 261, issue 25)



Social Isolation Roundtable - December 5

Perhaps more than at any other time in history, people are feeling isolated and lonely. There are many reasons behind this huge, destructive problem.

On Thursday, December 5 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., former social worker Susan Richards will lead a round table workshop to discuss social isolation. We shall explore the causes for it and avenues to come together in community. Join us to share your ideas, experiences and questions about social isolation. Please stay tuned for upcoming dates.



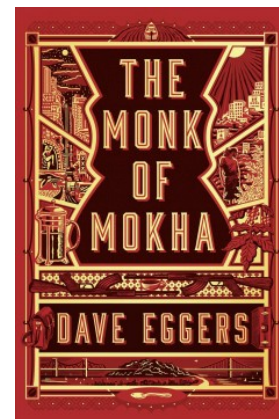
Round table workshops are presented by the Center for Social Isolation Remedies (socialisolation.org) in conjunction with the Kennebunk Free Library.

Susan Richards has a Master's Degree in Social Work and was a therapist for fifteen years in both inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment facilities. She was also a Writing Adjunct for ten years at SUNY Ulster and Marist College. Richards is the *New York Times* best selling author of three memoirs: *Chosen by a Horse*, *Chosen Forever*, and *Saddled*. She was married to renowned Magnum Photographer Dennis Stock who died in 2013. She currently lives in Kennebunkport with two pugs.

Nonfiction Book Group - December 9

Join us on Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *The Monk of Mokha* by Dave Eggers.

"Eggers (*Heroes of the Frontier*) tells the exciting true story of a Yemeni-American man's attempts to promote his ancestral country's heritage, giving both a timely gloss on the traditional American dream and a window into the nightmare of contemporary political instability. The book first finds Mokhtar Alkhanshali as an ambitious but unfocused 25-year-old who has held a series of odd jobs in the Bay Area-including as a car salesman and doorman. He finds unexpected direction in 2013, when he learns that coffee originated 500-years earlier in his family's native country, under the oversight of the titular Sufi holy man. This revelation sends him on an entrepreneurial quest to revitalize the long-



dormant Yemeni coffee industry. Alkhanshali's education in the coffee business provides a fascinating glimpse at how coffee is grown and processed today, but his path takes a startling turn in 2015 when Alkhanshali visits Yemen to make final importing arrangements just as the country collapses into civil war. The narrative turns into an increasingly surreal account of Alkhanshali's efforts to elude imprisonment and even death in order to get the coffee-bean samples he has secured back to America. Eggers's book works as both a heartwarming success story with a winning central character and an account of real-life adventures that read with the vividness of fiction." (Publishers Weekly, vol 264, issue 44)

Regulating the Media: Signposts - December 10

The Camden Conference Presents Sylvia Kraemer at the Kennebunk Free Library on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss "Regulating the Media: Signposts."

Sylvia Kraemer honed her talent for navigating technological change through the shoals of public policy at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). There she served in various policy development capacities during a 20-year career, culminating in representing NASA during the formulation of the Clinton administration's National Space Policy (1996).

She began her career at NASA in 1983 as Chief Historian, following a decade of teaching history at Vassar College, Southern Methodist University, and the University of Maine, Orono. She received her doctorate in history from the Johns Hopkins University. Sylvia is the author of numerous articles and three books on history, technology, and public policy: *The Urban Idea in Colonial America* (1977), *NASA Engineers and the Age of Apollo* (1992), and *Science and Technology Policy in the United States: Open Systems in Action* (2006).



Holiday Block Printing - December 17

Carve a small block print for the holidays! Join us on Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 to make a festive art print or a card to celebrate the season. Beginners are welcome, as are those with some block printing experience. The library will supply carving tools, small 2"x 3" carving blocks, printing paper, and ink. You supply your ideas! Remember that designs will be carved in reverse, so word-free designs or limited/simple lettering is best for this workshop. This program is for adults 18+ as we will be using sharp tools. Space is limited and registration and a waiver are required. Call or stop by to register! This program will be held in Hank's Room.

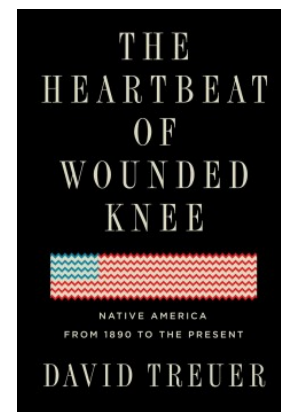


Indigenous Reads - December 17 (at KFL)

The Wells Public Library and the Kennebunk Free Library are partnering to offer a book group featuring books written by authors of Indigenous heritage. The group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with the location alternating between the two libraries.

On December 17, we will discuss *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee* by David Treuer at the Kennebunk Free Library.

"Ojibwe novelist and nonfiction author Treuer (Prudence) offers a counter-narrative to the same old sad story of the 'dead Indian' in this forceful, full-scale history of the Native American experience. The book's title references Dee Brown's 1970 bestseller,



Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, and its claim that, between 1860 and 1890, "the culture and civilization of the American Indian was destroyed." Aiming to recast how Native Americans see themselves as well as how they're viewed by others, Treuer briskly chronicles the first four centuries of contact between Europeans and American Indians before taking a deep dive into the "untold story of the past 128 years." He documents Native American heroism in WWI; the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, which brought New Deal reforms to tribal communities; the post-WWII urban migration of Native Americans; the 1970s occupations of Alcatraz Island and the Bureau of Indian Affairs by members of the American Indian Movement; and the impact of legalized gambling on reservation life. Interwoven with these accounts are profiles of Treuer's friends and family, and reportage from "Indian homelands" throughout the U.S. His character sketches, of Oglala Lakota chef and cookbook author Sean Sherman, for example, are impactful and finely drawn. This vivid rewriting of the history of Native America should be required reading." (Publishers Weekly, vol 266, issue 44)

In Stitches - December 3, 10, 17, 31

Do you love to knit? Crochet? Sew? Have you always wanted to learn? Do you have an unfinished project hidden on the closet shelf? Then join us for "In Stitches", our handicrafts group! This is a great opportunity to expand your skills and learn from others, about knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidering, or other handicrafts while enjoying the company of others. Bring a project you are working on, or come learn from the very beginning (please bring your own supplies). Knitting help will be available.



In Stitches meets every Tuesday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the Walker Room. No registration is needed, just drop by for as long as you like.

Tech Time - December 6, 13, 20, 27

Join us on **Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for our ongoing service, Tech Time. Attendees will work one-on-one with a librarian to answer your technology questions. [Registration required.](#)

Technology is becoming more complicated so we're here to help. Having difficulty downloading the cloudLibrary app? Got a tablet for your birthday and need help setting it up? Please make an appointment by contacting the library at 207-985-2173. This service has quickly become very popular so your patience in waiting for an accommodation is greatly appreciated.



This service is intended to help educate you about your device or to troubleshoot minor technology issues. Our goal is that you'll leave our session with the confidence and knowledge to troubleshoot your own future technology hurdles.

Teen Programs

Friday Fun

Every Friday at 3:00 p.m. we will be conducting amazing experiments, building creative crafts, or playing great games! These programs are a great opportunity to see your friends and watch something explode! For teens ages 10 and up.

This month, on the 6th we will be making Duct Tape Wallets! On the 13th we will be making our own Photo

Cubes! On the 20th we will be creating amazing Paper Lanterns! On the 27th we will be launching and flying a fleet of Fly Behind Gliders! Join us for fantastic programs and spending time with friends.



Teen Fandom Afternoon - December 11

Are you interested in Anime or Sci-Fi or RPGs or any Fandom? Anything that makes you geek out, we want to hear about! This month we will be constructing holiday ornaments in a variety of styles. Join us on Wednesday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. This program is open to teens ages 10 and up.



MSK Teen Book Group

Join us on December 17th from 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. at the MSK library as we discuss *The Unwants* by Lisa McMann. Snacks will be provided as we discuss the book, spend time with friends, and even play a game or two. This program is open to MSK students of all grades. Kids should be picked up at the school at 3:45 p.m. or be prepared to take the late bus home. This program is put on with collaboration with the Graves Memorial Library in Kennebunkport. Please visit either library to reserve a copy of the book.

At our November 19 meeting, we discussed *York: The Shadow Cipher* by Laura Ruby. The kids had a blast sharing their opinions on the book as well as what experiences they took away from it. Before we ended we played a few rounds of a card game!



Children's Programs

Drop-In Gingerbread House Decorating - December 4

Drop in for some sweet fun at KFL! Join us on Wednesday, December 4 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to build a gingerbread house to take home. All supplies will be provided. This program is a drop-in event. Children of all ages are encouraged to attend, but remember to bring a grown-up to share in the fun.



Junior Science: Earthquake Engineering! - December 9

Science can be wacky, wild, or funny, but it's always an adventure! We will be holding a Junior Science series of programming for young scientists to experiment and observe the

surprising results. Come join us on Monday December 9 at 4:00 p.m. as we test our engineering skills with Earthquake Engineering! The kids will be attempting to construct towers stable enough to survive a destructive earthquake.



November's Junior Science was Bucket Towers. The kids were given a variety of supplies and tasked to create a tower strong enough to lift a weight without collapsing. There was much trial and error but we had several very successful engineers among us who were able to succeed.

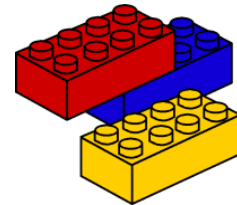
Drop-In Winter Crafts - December 12

Are you ready to get crafty? Come to Kennebunk Free Library on Thursday, December 12 between 2:00 and 4:30 p.m. to make a craft or two! All ages are welcome to attend. No registration required.



LEGO Club - December 18

Come join us on Wednesday December 18 at 4:00 p.m. for Lego Club! Please note the earlier than usual time. This month come join us for a building challenge that will push your building abilities to the limit. If you are feeling more creative come build a Lego creation of your own imagination. [Registration](#) is not required but recommended, for kids ages 4 and up.



Storytimes

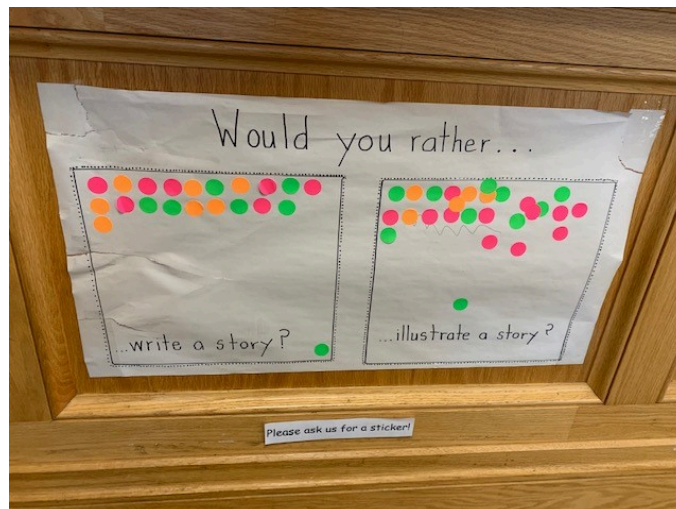
Mondays @ 10:15: Peek-a-Book Babies (ages 0-2)
Tuesdays @ 10:15: Family Storytime (ages 0-5)

We will be taking a Storytime break from Monday, December 16 - Tuesday, December 31. Storytimes will restart on Monday, January 6.



Children's Room Announcements

- This month's Would You Rather results are in! 21 people would choose to write a story, and 27 would choose to illustrate a story. Check the desk downstairs for this month's question!



Speers Gallery

December Artist: Gerald and Linda Stone

The Kennebunk Free Library announces its exhibit for December 2019, **A Time Remembered: Pictures and Drawings of the Past** the works of Gerald and Linda Stone. The public is invited to view the exhibit December 3 to 30 during regular library hours when the gallery is not in use for library programs.

Gerald was born in Dover, NH. Thanks to his father, Gerald's art education started with discipline: work on art before going outside to play ball. You have to keep at it to improve. Through High School he loved drawing sports figures. UNH mechanical drawing classes led to working as a draftsman for architectural and engineering firms. Later in life, Gerald owned The Stone Sign Shop, designing and building signs, hand lettering vehicles and working in gold leaf. Many of the signs are still in use. This work was enjoyable but he has returned to the freedom of pastel, watercolor and pen and ink. "Living in Portsmouth, NH where you are surrounded by history, planes, ships, submarines, beautiful beaches and ocean give me so many subjects to draw and paint."

Linda's art education started with her father too. He was a carpenter who became blind but continued working with wood. Linda helped him by cutting wood with a bandsaw. "That began my love for wood and creating. In 1990 I began designing primitive art. I didn't start painting until retirement in 2012. I love the beauty and lines of automobiles. I also love antiques. It was an easy choice to paint these old cars and trucks abandoned in the fields and beside old barns. After visiting the automobile museum in Boothbay Harbor, I decided to add antique auto accessories like oil cans, gas pumps and garage signs to my art objects."

Together Linda and Gerald inspire each other to put in the time and improve. Whatever they paint, they find peace in comfort in it, encouraging each other to "dare to share" their work with others.

The public is invited to an artist's reception on Friday, December 6th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to display the works of these talented artists.



Library News & Events

What's the Commotion at KFL?

In the last few weeks, you may have noticed a lot going on at KFL. Maybe you drove by and saw the giant blue tarp draped over the building. Maybe you were looking for your favorite holiday movie and stumbled into the scaffolding that covered the shelf where the DVDs used to be. So what's been going on?

Our first big project this month was replacing the roof. It was last shingled during the 1994 expansion so it was at the very end of its expected life span. A couple of significant windstorms in the last year ripped off shingles, causing leaks and making it clear that roof replacement could not wait. Happily, the project was completed quickly and well. We are looking forward to staying warm and dry this winter!

The scaffolding that is currently dominating the landscape in the adult services area is the result of another major project - repairing a damaged portion of the 1907 decorative plaster ceiling. More than a century of extreme temperatures and intermittent water damage took their toll. A small piece of the ceiling fell over the summer. We hired an experienced plasterer to repair the damage to good-as-new condition and ensure that the ceiling is safe. The plaster work takes about a week to complete. However, the scaffolding will remain up for about three more weeks. The plaster goes on very wet and takes a long time to dry. When it has set, the plasterer will come back and paint the restored area to match the rest of the ceiling.

We hope that with the right care, the library will be just as beautiful in another hundred years as it is now. We appreciate your patience with the work that goes into making that happen.



A Message From the Friends

The Friends of the Kennebunk Free Library will be holding a Holiday Book Sale from December 13 - 20. In addition to a selection of Christmas titles, we will have a variety of gently used and like-new books available - perfect for holiday gifting!

At the November meeting, the Friends of the Kennebunk Free Library voted for their officers. Donna Gomez was elected President and Sue Patterson will serve as Vice President for a second term.

Each year, the Friends take on the cheerful task of decorating the KFL Christmas tree. If you are interested in being part of this year's Christmas crew on December 6, please [e-mail Donna Gomez](#).

New Books, Audio Books, & DVDs

[Click here](#) for a look at books that arrived in the last month.

[Click here](#) for audio/video that arrived in the last month.

[Click here](#) for new children's items that arrived in the last month

[Click here](#) for new teen items that arrived in the last month

Hot New Releases on order for December:

(Click on the title to go to the item record in the catalog & place a hold.)

December 3

[Beating About the Bush](#) - M.C. Beaton

[Genesis](#) - Robin Cook

[How the Dead Speak](#) - Val McDermid

[Dead Astronauts](#) - Jeff Vandermeer

December 10

[The Book of Science and Antiquities](#) - Thomas Keneally

[Wicked Redhead](#) - Beatriz Williams

December 31

[Such a Fun Age](#) - Kiley Reid

A Message from the Library Director

This month I'd like to highlight the fantastic new service that the Town of Kennebunk is offering in conjunction with York County Community Action Corporation - Kennebunk In-Town Transportation (KITTT). Beginning December 3, this service will provide transportation on Tuesdays in town via a flex route, picking people up at centralized stops and dropping off at locations in Kennebunk, such as Hannaford, Shopper's Village, Downtown and **Kennebunk Free Library!**

The bus schedule will soon be published to the [Town's website](#). A full press release with additional information can also be [found at this link](#).

KFL is very excited to be participating in this new program and would love to hear your feedback. Please don't hesitate to [contact me directly](#).

Thank you,
Michelle K. Conners, Director



December Calendar of Events

- Dec 2: Peek-a-Book Babies, 10:15 a.m.
- Dec 2: Heart & Home, 2:00 p.m.
- Dec 2: Ten Reasons for the Decline of the Evening News, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 2: Meditation, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 3: Family Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
- Dec 3: In Stitches, 11:00 a.m.
- Dec 3: Adult Book Discussion, 1:00 p.m.
- Dec 4: Gingerbread Houses, 1:00 p.m.
- Dec 4: Crafting Friends, 5:30 p.m.
- Dec 5: Social Isolation Round Table, 2:00 p.m.
- Dec 6: Tech Time, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Dec 6: Artists Reception and Art Trail, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Dec 6: Friday Fun, 3:00 p.m.
- Dec 9: Peek-a-Book Babies, 10:15 a.m.
- Dec 9: Junior Science, 4:00 p.m.

Dec 9: Nonfiction Book Group, 6:30 p.m.
Dec 10: Family Storytime, 10:15 a.m.
Dec 10: In Stitches, 11:00 a.m.
Dec 10: Regulating the Media: Guideposts, 6:30 p.m.
Dec 11: Teen Fandom Afternoon, 4:00 p.m.
Dec 13: Tech Time, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dec 13: Friday Fun, 3:00 p.m.
Dec 17: In Stitches, 11:00 p.m.
Dec 17: MSK Book Group, 2:00 p.m.
Dec 17: Holiday Block Printing, 5:30 p.m.
Dec 17: Indigenous Reads Book Group, 6:00 p.m.
Dec 18: Lego Club, 4:00 p.m.
Dec 20: Tech Time, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dec 20: Friday Fun, 3:00 p.m.
Dec 24: Library Closed
Dec 25: Library Closed
Dec 27: Tech Time, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dec 27: Friday Fun, 3:00 p.m.
Dec 31: In Stitches, 11:00 a.m.
Dec 31: Library Closes at 5:00 p.m.

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