



February 2025 | Volume 32, Issue 2

LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS



A Message From the Friends

KFL Friends started 2025 with a well-attended meeting where we welcomed new members. 2024 ended with a Holiday pop-up book sale with \$118 in profits and another year displaying storybook ornaments for the public to enjoy. Thanks to all participants.

In appreciation for our members, a "Mad Hatter" Book Sale for Friends Only is planned for Wednesday March 12 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Wearing a fun hat is optional but encouraged. New members are always welcome, and it isn't too late to renew for 2025!

Our next Friends meeting will be held at KFL on Monday April 7 from 5:30 to 6:30. [Here is the link for more information.](#)

Accessing Free News Through Digital Maine Library

Paying too much for your news? Learn how to access full text articles for free from all 5 of Maine's major daily newspapers, plus the *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and more through ProQuest US Newsstream in the Digital Maine Library, a service of the Maine State Library! KFL patrons



can access [Digital Maine Library](#) from a button on the home page of our website.

Join B.J. Jamieson of the Maine State Library staff to learn how to access daily news for free. The Readfield Community Library and Baxter Memorial Library (Gorham) are offering this virtual Zoom webinar program along with other Maine libraries through MECollab (shared library programming). Event will be offered via Zoom on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30-7:30 p.m.

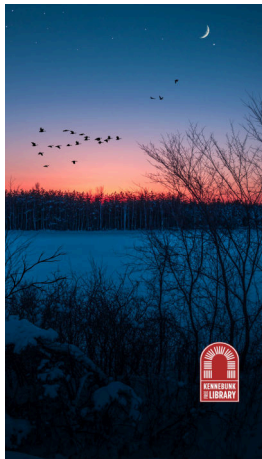
[Registration is required.](#)



Library Tidbits: Why it's important to cancel registrations if you can't attend.

As many of you have experienced, our small programming spaces sometimes make it necessary to ask people to register to attend library programs. We also ask for registrations when we are doing hands-on workshops and need to ensure that there are enough materials to go around. Sometimes more people want to attend than we can accommodate. When that happens, we keep a wait list. If a registered patron lets us know that they can't attend a program, we can give the space to someone else who wants to come. More frequently lately, we have been seeing a

handful of no-shows to programs with full registrations. That leaves seats empty that could have been used by somebody on the waitlist. Things come up - you have unexpected appointments, you have a flat tire, you just don't want to get out of your jammies.... We completely understand that. Please just take a second to let us know. You can give us a call, send us an email (kfcirc@kennebunklibrary.org), or cancel online. It gives someone else the opportunity to join in the library fun!



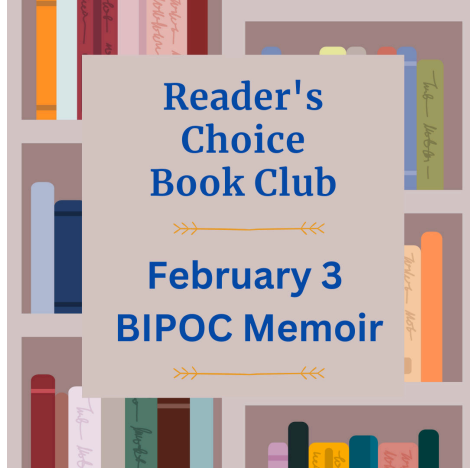
Monthly Phone Wallpaper

Looking to change up your phone background? Like our Newsletter Banner? [Download our monthly phone wallpaper](#) and match with us! New backgrounds every month! [E-mail Amelia for assistance.](#)

To download to your phone, tap 'Download' as highlighted in the newsletter on your mobile device. Follow the link. Once you arrive at the download page from our calendar, tap and hold on the image, then select 'Save to Photos'. The image will be saved to your 'Photo Gallery' and you can change your wallpaper from there.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Reader's Choice Book Club - February 3



Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: *A BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Memoir*.

How does this book club work? You choose your own book to read, based on the monthly theme, and then join us for a casual and fun conversation. Everyone is welcome!



Craft and Sip: Pressed Flower Stickers - February 4

Join us on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:00 p.m. to make some pressed flower stickers! Attendees will use pressed flowers and other printed materials to make DIY stickers with packing tape and parchment paper. Use them to decorate your valentines this year, or your home, or share with friends and family. Adult beverages will be available to enjoy during your crafting. Attendees must be aged 21+, space is limited, and [registration is required](#).

Big Conversations in 10 Short Minutes - February 4



People need people. Let's connect in an easy way, with other people who would also like to connect. No pressure to impress. No political agenda. Even better, it can be done at home, with a blanket on your lap, because this is a virtual conversation.

Join us on Zoom on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. for Big Conversations in 10 Short Minutes, a library collaborative virtual meetup with people in Maine.

Here's how it works: We'll give you conversation prompts. You'll be paired with someone to have a short, 10-minute conversation about the prompt. When you're done, you'll

be paired with someone else for a new conversation with new prompts. We like to think of it as a little pocket of meaning at the end of a long day.

[Register through the Scarborough Public Library.](#)

This program is part of MECollab, a collaborative programming partnership between libraries throughout the state of Maine.



Cook and Share Cookbook Club - February 6

Welcome to our Cookbook Club! You are invited to join us on Thursday February 6 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. when we will gather to celebrate food through various dishes and themes!

How does it work? Make a dish from a favorite cookbook or a new one that you have been wanting to try, then bring it in to share! Every month we will have a different theme. Our theme this month is 'Appetizers'!

Please [email Becca](#) to let her know you will be attending

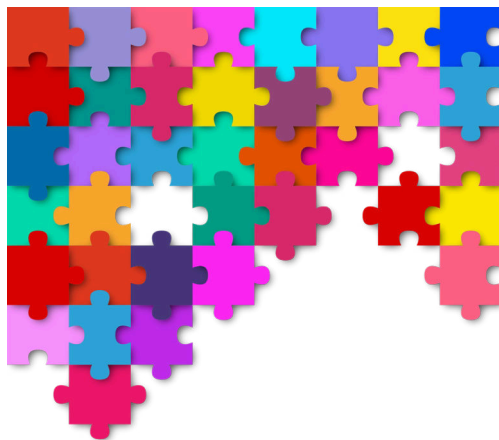


Author Roger McCord - February 10

Author Roger McCord will be at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, February 10 to discuss photography, parenting, publishing, writing, and all things Phoebe while sharing his book *Flight of the Phobes*. Roger will also show a 10-minute film adaptation of his book. A preview is available at <https://youtu.be/CpsGIUg47D0>

Flight of the Phobes – Roger’s first children’s book – has a narrative arc that “all young birds leave the nest, and so do our curious children.” The protagonist is Maya, a curious young girl, as she and her dad talk about life – and growing up – as they watch the birds progress from hatchlings to flight.

Roger McCord is a career journalist with multiple New England Emmy and Maine Press Association awards as a content producer of “Chasing Maine” for themainemonitor.org. But he says his best work was as a stay-at-home dad for 10 years. He and his wife, Dr. Su Sepples, live in Cumberland. Their two grown children have flown off to Boston and NYC.



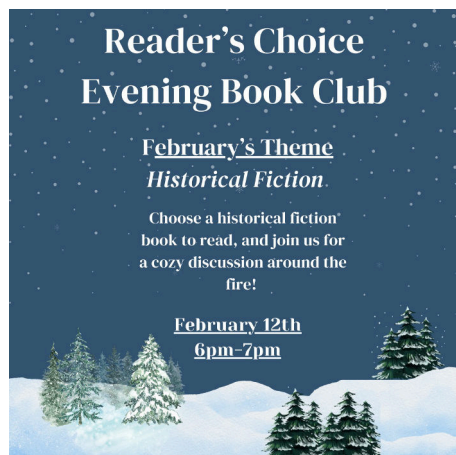
Puzzle Swap - February 11

On Tuesday, February 11, stop by KFL from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. to swap a stack of puzzles you’ve completed for new-to-you puzzles. Puzzles of all sizes are welcome! We do ask that puzzles brought for the swap be in good condition, have all of their pieces, and come from a smoke-free home. It’s helpful if the pieces are contained in a large Ziploc bag so none get lost during the exchange.



Ukulele Group - February 12

Join us on the second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. to make some music in the library! Ukulele players of all skill levels are invited to stop in to play along. We will be choosing songs to play each month from *The Daily Ukulele: 365 Songs for Better Living*. Ukuleles and songbooks are available to check out from the library.



Evening Readers Choice Book Club - February 12

Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Reading Room at the library, and our theme will be: Historical Fiction

How does this book club work? You choose your own book to read, based on the monthly theme, and then join us for a casual and fun conversation. Everyone is welcome!



Silent Reading Circle - February 13

Want to join a book group, but also read whatever book you want without having to discuss it? Well then does KFL have the book group for you! Join us on Thursday, February 13 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for Silent Reading Circle. Spend a couple of hours reading by the fireplace in our Reading Room. No pressure to chat, just dedicated reading time! Snacks and cozy drinks will be provided!



Creative Collective - February 18

Join us and express your creativity in our monthly evening group the Creative Collective. This group will take place in the library on the third Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Join us on Tuesday, February 18 in a relaxed atmosphere with other creative people of all skill levels. Explore your creativity with whatever your passion is: handicrafts, journaling, sketching or doodling, coloring, crocheting, embroidery or knitting - all are welcomed! Please bring in any portable project you are working on along with your own supplies. You are free to stop by for a few minutes or stay the whole hour.



Trivia Night - February 19

The third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 is trivia night at KFL! Bring a team, join one of our friendly teams of regulars, or take on the challenge solo. Light refreshments will be served.

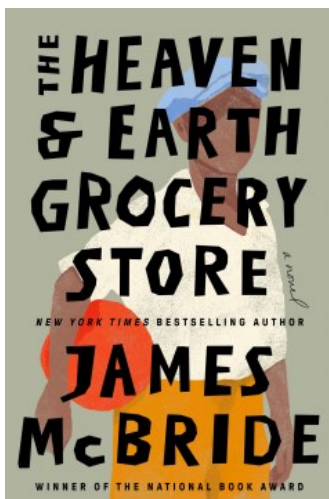


Die Well Death Education - February 24

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, February 24 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. for the eighth session in the Die Well Death Education Series with host Leona Oceania. You are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions - no registration is required.

Rejecting the mainstream tradition of hiring funeral professionals to care for the deceased, families in search of a more personal and fulfilling way to say goodbye are taking an active role in caring for relatives who have died. *In the Parlor* shares an intimate story of three individuals who, with the support and guidance of their families and communities were cared for after their deaths, at home. Julie, Ron, and Jarrad, all unique individuals with very different circumstances are portrayed in a thoughtful, quiet manner to give the viewer an idea of what “family directed death care” might look like. Both a critical look at the American relationship with death and in inquiry into the home death care movement, *In the Parlor* takes viewers on a journey where very few have gone, and challenges us to reflect on this uncomfortable subject, which so often is hidden away and ignored

*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.



Fiction Book Discussion - February 25

Join us on Tuesday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.

“National Book Award winner McBride (Deacon King Kong) tells a vibrant tale of Chicken Hill, a working-class neighborhood of Jewish, Black, and European immigrant families in Pottstown, Pa., where the 1972 discovery of a human skeleton unearths events that took place several decades earlier. In 1925, Moshe Ludlow owns the town’s first integrated dance hall and theater with his wife, Chona, a beautiful woman who’s undeterred by her polio-related disability and driven by her deep Jewish faith. Chona also runs the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store, where she extends kindness and indefinite credit

to her Jewish and Black customers alike. When Nate and Addie Tamblin, friends and employees of the Ludlows who are Black, approach the couple for help keeping their nephew, Dodo, from becoming a ward of the state, Chona doesn't hesitate to open her home to hide the boy from the authorities. As the racist white "good Christians" from down the hill begin to interfere, claiming to be worried about Dodo's welfare, a two-fold tragedy occurs that brings the community together to exact justice, which leads to the dead body discovered years later. McBride's pages burst with life, whether in descriptions of Moshe's dance hall, where folks get down to Chick Webb's "gorgeous, stomping, low-down, rip-roaring, heart-racing jazz," or a fortune teller who dances and cries out to God before registering her premonitions on a typewriter. This endlessly rich saga highlights the different ways in which people look out for one another." – Publishers Weekly



Finding Wonder: Nature Journaling and Field Sketching - February 26

Join Maine author/illustrator and naturalist, Rebekah Lowell on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 in a nature journaling workshop to cultivate your curiosity. We'll learn what nature journaling is, how it benefits us (and our world), then we'll get started in our nature journaling practice. We'll learn how to draw textures and explore some nature journaling prompts. Bring your favorite sketching supplies or use supplies provided by the library. Space is limited so [registration is required](#).

Rebekah Lowell is an award-winning author/illustrator and designer with a curiosity for the natural world. A survivor of domestic abuse, she is passionate about resilience, freedom, and hope. She creates books for kids, designs fabric, runs an online shop, and paints at weddings. Her middle grade novel in verse, *THE ROAD TO AFTER* (Nancy Paulsen/Penguin), was a Junior Library Guild selection. Her picture book illustration for, *CATCHING FLIGHT* (Doubleday/Random House), was longlisted for the World Illustration Awards. She earned her BFA from The Rhode Island School of Design, and her MFA from Hollins University. She earned her Nature Journal Educator certificate through the Wild Wonder Foundation and is earning her certificate in Natural Science Illustration through RISD. She is also part of the 2025 Maine Master Naturalist Program. She serves on the Board for York County Audubon, transports birds for Avian Haven, and rescues monarchs from local hayfields. She teaches Graphic Design and Nature Journaling at the University of New England and homeschools her daughters. Learn more about Rebekah and her work at www.rebekahlowell.com





Interested in a Cribbage Meet Up?

Are there any cribbage fans out there? Anyone who would like to learn? We are considering hosting a Thursday morning cribbage meet up. If you would be interested, [email us](#) to let us know.



February Take-and-Make - Valentine's Bunting

This month, pick up a kit to make a valentines themed felt bow bunting! Kits will be available beginning February 4th, while supplies last.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS



Mah Jongg - Wednesdays and Fridays **NEW DAYS, BEGINNING 2/7**

Everyone is invited to drop in on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. or Fridays (previously Monday) from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. to play Mah Jongg. The library has 3 sets available for use or you are welcome to bring your own. Don't know how to play? You're welcome to watch and learn. Want lessons? Future newsletters will announce a springtime class signup. We can also share some resources for learning on your own. Please email the library with any questions.

Spanish Conversation Group - Mondays

Spanish
Language

Conversation
Group

Stop by the library on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for an opportunity to practice conversational Spanish. Whether you are fluent in the language or just learning, all are welcome!



French Language Discussion Group - Mondays

Are you looking for an opportunity to converse in French? Join us at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday nights at 6:30 for a French Language Discussion Group. All skill levels are welcome to participate. No registration is required – just drop in!



In Stitches - Tuesdays

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 every Tuesday at 11:00 for "In Stitches", our weekly handicrafts group! Grab that half-finished project and enjoy the company of others while you work; all skill levels are welcome. Feel free to stop by for a few minutes or stay the whole hour.



Tech Time - Wednesdays & Thursdays

Are you stuck on a technology question that might need some extra help to be solved? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having a second pair of eyes help troubleshoot a piece of software, don't worry, the library is here to help!

To sign-up for one of our Tech Time appointments, please visit the front desk to be placed on our scheduling sheet. Appointments to meet one-on-one with our Technology Educator can be scheduled **Wednesdays** from 2:00 - 4:00

p.m., and **Thursdays** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Appointments are 45 minutes long, but there is always an opportunity to schedule a follow-up appointment if we run over our time limit. When setting up the appointment, help us to better assist you by describing the issue you want to discuss. If possible, also make sure to bring your charged device with you along with any needed usernames and passwords. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to visit us at the desk, call (207) 985-2173, or email our technology educator at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org so we can help you further.



Improv - Saturdays

Join us on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a fun and relaxed morning of improv!

TEEN PROGRAMS



Bookish Activities in the Teen Room!

The teen space in the library is *buzzing* with bookish activities for you to do beginning February 1, and it's the place to be for all things literary right now! Whether you're flying solo or hanging out with friends, you can do these activities at your own pace, so no rush, and no pressure. Here's a sneak peek at the activities we have planned for you this month:

Blind Date with a Book

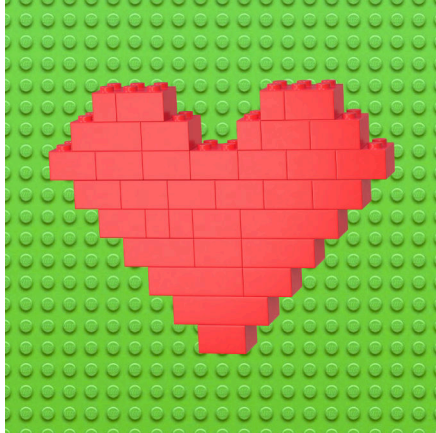
Get ready for the chance to fall in love on your blind date with a book! Books will be on display, wrapped in plain paper, with only a few clues describing what lies inside.

Will you fall for a heart-racing mystery, a swoon-worthy romance, or an epic adventure? There's only one way to find out! Once you unwrap your "date," dive in, and then share your thoughts. Did you find a match? Or was this date a missed opportunity? Let us know with a rate your date bookmark, which we will take once you return your book! If you visit either Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia with your bookmark, we will have a prize waiting for you to pick up!

Book Valentines

Roses are red, violets are blue...want others to fall in love with the same books as you? It's time to spread the book love with custom Book Valentines! Place a heart-shaped sticky note on the spine of a book (or books!) that holds a special place in your heart. Please feel free to write what stands out about it—whether it's a swoon-worthy or badass main character, hilarious dialogue, gorgeous world-building, or that certain "it" factor you can't quite name—or give a brief (spoiler-free) plot description on the note. Think of it as a love letter, but for the books that mean the most

to you. You can sign your name, or leave it as an anonymous love letter to literature. Happy reading!



Teen Lego Build Displays - February 1

Starting **February 1**, come on over to the library to build with Legos! With building bricks provided by the library, you can place your amazing creations in the “Drop-Off” box for Miss Emmaline and Miss Claudia to find at the end of the day to display. Just remember to include a title, date, and your name. Miss Emmaline and Miss Claudia are super excited to showcase your work in the Teen Room for the whole month! Feel free to create as many designs as you like, but please make sure to leave enough Legos for everyone else to have fun too. At the end of the month, there will be ribbons awarded for your designs. Your creations will then be taken apart so you can build something new in March. If you have

any questions, just reach out to Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia in the children’s room, or give us a call at (207) 985-2173. We can’t wait to see what you come up with!



Dungeons and Dragons - February 10 & 24

Welcome young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. Returning to our quest in the Beastlands, we will be meeting on Mondays: **February 10 and February 24** from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The library will provide all supplies, just bring your imagination! This program is dedicated to players who are familiar with the world and mechanics of Dungeons and Dragons. If you are a new player, we will have beginner sessions

held on the 2nd Thursday of the month for you to participate. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children’s room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Collage Kits - February 8

New year, new dreams! Take some time to slow down, re-evaluate your goals for the year, and embrace your creativity with this month’s Teen Craft Kit. Make yourself a 2025 vision board - or just a cool collage - with magazine cutouts, newspaper clippings, stickers, and more! On **Saturday, February 8**, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., stop by the Teen Room (Walker Room) to create your collage, or take supplies home with you to craft independently. If you can’t make it to the library on Saturday, we will have mystery grab bags for you to take home while supplies last! You can also find these kits in the Teen Room, waiting just for you! If you have any questions, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in

the children’s room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you here!



Beginner Dungeons and Dragons - February 13

Welcome young adventurers! Are you ready to dive into a world of magic, monsters, and epic quests? Dedicated to new players, join us for Dungeons and Dragons, a tabletop RPG where YOU control the fate of your character! Whether you're a brave warrior, a clever wizard, or a talented bard, your journey awaits. For our first meeting on **February 13**, we will meet from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. to create characters, answer questions about gameplay, and discuss the world of our upcoming adventure. You're welcome to bring in a character from a previous game, to make a new one, or to bring any gaming gear with you. The library will provide all supplies, just bring your imagination! This event is free, the space is

wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have questions, see Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Spa Day Science - February 20

Feeling drained by the cold winter months? Treat *yourself* this February at KFL with a spa day! Not only will we be focused on pampering, but we will also take this opportunity to explore the science behind relaxation. We will meet on **February 20**, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., and we will delve into the science of formulation technology, design and process engineering, and scaling and conversion skills. Registration is required to attend this event. Please register ahead of time with the link below, or through our website calendar. If you have questions about the program or potential allergens, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward

to seeing you there!

During this event, we will be creating:

- Lip balms with coconut oil, beeswax, and koolaid packets
- Sugar scrubs with coconut oil, sugar, brown sugar, and cocoa powder
- Face masks with oatmeal, honey, and coconut oil
- Nail art with nail polish
- Packaging and labels to store your creations

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

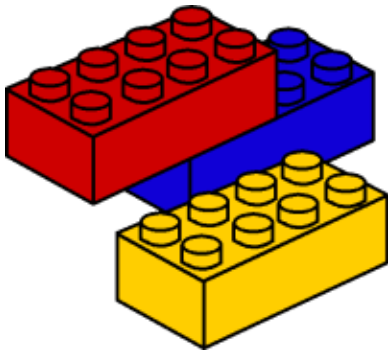


In the mood to get creative? Perler Beads - tiny plastic beads that can melt - were first introduced as a craft in Sweden in the 1950's, and we still love them! Children ages 6 and up, or age 5 with a caregiver, are invited to join us for an afternoon of beading fun on Wednesday, February 5, at 1:00 p.m. What a great way to spend an early-release afternoon! Design suggestions will be offered, but creativity is encouraged! All craft materials will be provided. [Registration](#) is recommended but not required.



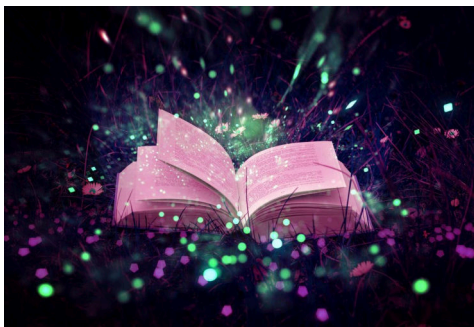
Kindness Crew - February 11

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on Tuesday, February 11, at 3:45. Come hear a story about kindness and make a craft! This program is open to ages 6 and up; registration is appreciated but not required! This month, we will be talking about love and hearts. Kindness has no age requirement – if a friend younger than 6 would like to join in, please reach out to Miss Maria at mrichardson@kennebunklibrary.org, or 985-2173 x 105. Caregivers are encouraged to join in! When your little sees you talking about and practicing kindness, they will want to join in even more!



Lego Club - February 27

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on Thursday, February 27, from 3:45-4:30 p.m. Come and build new and imaginative creations or ask the librarian for a challenge to complete. All Lego blocks will be supplied; please leave yours at home. Registration is recommended but not required.



Fairy Tale Fun - February 22

Once upon a time, Kennebunk Free Library celebrated Take Your Child To the Library Day and National Tell a Fairy Tale Day at the same time! On Saturday, February 22, visit the library for some fairy tale fun! At 10:30 .am., Miss Maria will lead us in a fairy tale Storytime filled with songs, stories, and fun. After Storytime, create some magical fairy tale-themed crafts. Crafts will be available until 4:00 p.m. Come dressed in your finest royal garb!



Storytime - Mondays

Hello, friends! It's time for Storytime! Come to the library for stories, songs, and fun with Miss Maria! We'll even get to say hello to our puppet friend, Ami the bunny. On most Mondays in February at 10:00 a.m., Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at the Kennebunk Free Library. Because of the holiday, we will be having Storytime on **Tuesday, February 18**. We can't wait for you to join us! Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- February 3
- February 10
- **Tuesday, February 18**
- February 24



Family Fun Play - Thursdays

Have a morning of play at the library! On Thursday mornings in February, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out some special toys for a library play date. These toys are best enjoyed when the whole family plays together! Before we say goodbye until next time, Miss Maria will read a story. Come play and make new friends at the library! All programs will run from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 11:15 a.m.; however, friends are welcome to come and go as they please. Thursday Family Fun Play is for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. No registration is required. Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

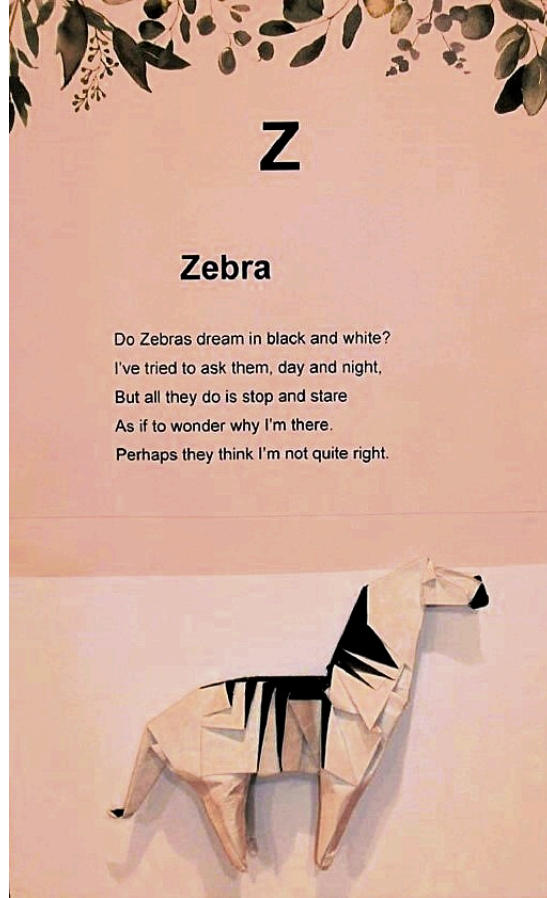
- February 6
- February 13
- February 20
- February 27

SPEERS GALLERY

February Artist: Joe Mulqueen

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library welcomes Kennebunk artist Joe Mulqueen. The exhibit runs February 1-28, and the public is invited to an artist reception on Wednesday, February 19 at 2 pm where Joe will present his talk "1000 Cranes: Origami Past and Present." All are welcome, especially children!

Joe's exhibit features a panel for each letter of the alphabet with a poem about the animal and an



origami model for that animal. He says “Ever since childhood I have had many interests. Two that are in this exhibit are poetry and origami, which I had been doing as separate activities for a number of years. The first time I combined them was when my friends started to have children, and I did a book for each child. Over time, I thought of using a central idea, such as the alphabet, to create different collections.”

While Joe has written some longer poems, he is especially drawn to limericks and shorter poems that involve a play on words and childlike questions. He feels that simple things that relax and amuse us may be as beneficial as more serious content, and his goal is to share the enjoyment he has in creating these pieces. Here’s a limerick Joe created just for KFL!

*KFL has lots of great books and more
For anyone willing to open their door.
You may borrow and learn,
Keep the knowledge you earn,
And know there is always more to explore!*

The Kennebunk Free Library is excited to show the whimsical work of this local artist!

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library’s Speers Gallery from February 1-28 at 112 Main St., Kennebunk, Maine during regular library hours when the gallery is not in use for library programs. Please check the library website for current hours and gallery access, www.kennebunklibrary.org.

NEW BOOKS, AUDIO BOOKS & DVDS

Please note that the new items lists below are updated regularly, but through a quirk of the system, the newest items go to the end of the list. If you want to see the newest arrivals, start on the last page and work your way backward.

[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

Want to know if we have this week's New York Times bestsellers available in our various collections (print, large print, audio, ebook, eaudio)?

[Click here](#) to see the fiction and nonfiction best seller list.

Popular New Releases for February

February 4

[Bonded in Death](#) – J. D. Robb

[Open Season](#) – Jonathan Kellerman

February 10

Paranoia – James Patterson

February 11

Three Days in June – Anne Tyler

We All Live Here – Jojo Moyes

Blood Ties – Jo Nesbo

The Medici Return – Steve Berry

February 18

Death of a Smuggler – M. C. Beaton

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



In early January, I visited the WGME studio in Portland with former trustee and ukulele instructor, Dan Riggall, to do a live segment. During the seven minutes, we were able to highlight not only the ukulele program but also other programs and services, and our Library of Things. Dan and I thought we did an especially great job since we were given less than 24-hour notice. I also still struggle with public speaking at times, but I can never turn down an opportunity to highlight KFL! [You can see the full segment at this link.](#)

We also had a visit on December 31 from WMTW Channel 8 during our Noon Years Eve Pajama Party. This visit was unannounced, but they certainly had a lot of material to work with as the program brought out over 100 attendees! The segment aired that evening though unfortunately, we don't have a link.

We continue to appreciate all of the coverage that we receive through local publications, news coverage, and social media.

Sincerely,
Michelle

Pictured: From right, Michelle Conners and Dan Riggall join WGME anchors Katie Sampson and Jeff Peterson.

STAFF PICKS

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

This title was the January Adult Book Discussion topic. I was glad to finally read this famous author's work. It takes place in Paris in the 1950s. A young American man travels and hopes to leave behind a haunting homosexual encounter in his past. He is engaged to a woman that is traveling in Spain. He meets an Italian bartender in a gay bar and their lamentable story unfolds. People have long discussed this controversial novel. Baldwin shows the tragedy of lives lived under the pressure of who you love being unacceptable to society. When will we ever learn? (Available as a book from Minerva)

The Bomber Mafia – A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War

by Malcolm Blackwell

While I waited with so many others for my hold to become available for this author's latest book, I found this short work of nonfiction. It focuses on the early years of the US Air Force and the belief of some in the military that in war we should be able to use precision bombing in the hopes of reducing civilian deaths. There are harrowing accounts of the pilots flying over enemy territory. It is enlightening regarding the US mindset that led to the nuclear bombing of Japan and the conflicting opinions in carrying out the missions. I enjoyed learning about this history but struggled with the harsh realities of war and our invention of napalm. When will we ever learn? (Available from Minerva as a book and Large Print and Libby as audio)

The Boys in the Boat directed by George Clooney; written by Mark L. Smith ; produced by Grant Heslov and George Clooney.

Based on the book by the same name by Daniel James Brown from 2013. The book is great, and I think the movie did a good job of preserving the heart of the story. It takes place during the Great Depression at the University of Washington. A group of hard-working young men jump at the chance to join the rowing team to get the free room and board offered to rowers. The grueling training leads to the JV team competing better than the Varsity team. We get to know the hard luck background of several of the young men and can't help but root for them as they progress through competitions and end up going to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. This would be an inspiring movie if it were fiction, but the reality of the events makes it incredibly compelling. (Available from KFL as a Blu-ray dvd)

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