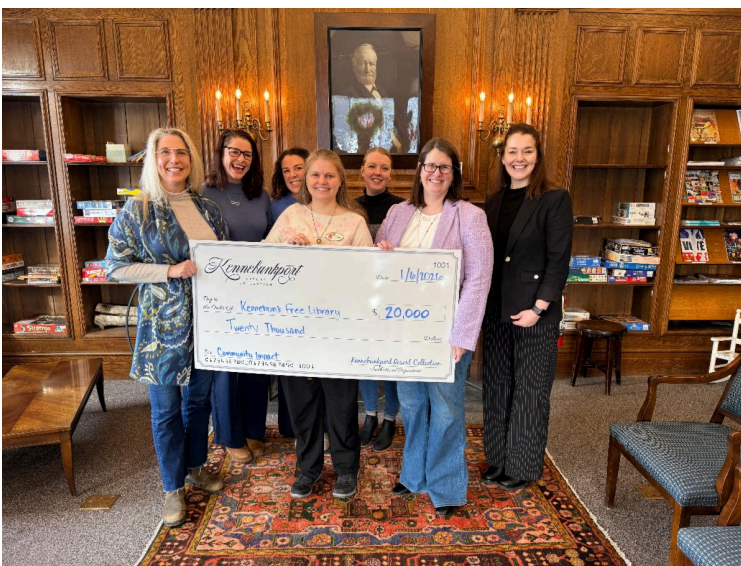


at KFL February



February 2026 | Volume 33, Issue 2

Library News and Events



Great News Incoming!!

We are so grateful to Kennebunkport Resort Collection for their incredibly generous \$20,000 gift through the KRC Community Impact Fund. We were especially delighted to welcome Emily Nelson, KRC Area Manager, along with members of her team, for a tour of KFL - a fun and meaningful visit that truly brought this partnership to life. Kennebunkport Resort Collection is deeply committed to empowering the local community and helping make the Kennebunks a wonderful place for residents and visitors

alike. Through partnerships with local nonprofits, KRC supports affordable housing, wildlife habitat protection, and facilities for the community's youth. We are honored to be among the organizations they champion and are thankful not only for this generous gift, but for KRC's partnership and shared belief in the power of the library to connect, inspire, and serve our community.



AARP Tax Aide Returns to KFL

After a five-year break, AARP Tax Aide is back at Kennebunk Free Library on **Thursdays, February 5 through April 9 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.!**

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide can prepare your 2025 tax return and electronically file it for you.

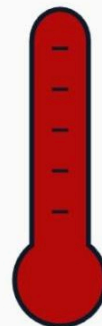
This is a free service provided by IRS-Certified volunteers. The program is open to taxpayers of all ages and AARP membership is not required to use this service.

KFL will begin scheduling Tax Aide appointments on Monday, January 5, 2026. Call 207-985-2173 x4 or stop by the library to reserve your 60-minute slot. Volunteers are only able to work with one return per appointment. If you have more than one tax year or need a tax return for another family member, please make an additional appointment. If you are unable to make it to your appointment, please call the library to cancel so someone else can use the spot. Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of your appointment to fill out a Tax Intake/Interview form.

When you arrive for your appointment, make sure you bring:

- Picture ID (driver's license or similar) for taxpayer and spouse.
- Social Security card (or an official Social Security or government document containing your SSN) for all persons on the tax return along with a government issued photo-id **(Required)**.
- All tax documents for 2025. Examples: SSA-1099, W-2, 1099-R (pensions, annuities, IRAs), 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-B, 1098, 1099-NEC, Brokerage Statements, etc.
- 1095 forms if you have Marketplace (ACA) health insurance.
- Details on rents or property taxes paid in the calendar year 2025.
- Copy of last year's tax return.
- A bank check, if you want direct deposit (strongly recommended).
- Any correspondence you may have received from the IRS
- If you will be taking advantage of the New Vehicle Loan interest deduction, you will need to provide the vehicle VIN.
- If you received a lump sum SSA payment, please bring copies of your tax returns for the years that the lump sum is being paid for.

**We did it -
TOGETHER!**



\$45,000

Goal

\$46,800

Raised

340

Donors

That's a Wrap on Holiday Giving 2025!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news—thanks to your generous support, we not only met our Holiday Giving goal, we exceeded it!

Together, our community raised **\$46,800**, which unlocked the **\$20,000 Holiday Giving Challenge Fund**, bringing the total impact of Holiday Giving 2025 to an incredible **\$66,800**. This remarkable achievement was made possible because of you, along with the leadership support of George and Diantha Harrington, an anonymous donor, and KFL's Board of Trustees.

Because of your generosity, Kennebunk Free Library enters the new year stronger and ready to serve our community with welcoming spaces, meaningful programs, and resources for all. Your gift truly made a difference, and we are deeply grateful for your belief in our library and its mission.

THANK YOU for being such an important part of KFL and for sharing your generosity during the season of giving. We couldn't have done this without you.



A Message from the Friends of KFL

The Friends of KFL Membership drive for 2026 is now underway. We appreciate everyone who has renewed and warmly welcome our new members. To renew or become a member attend the meeting, come to the library during regular hours or use this [link](#). This year offers many opportunities to support KFL - both old and new - so come meet new people and get involved!

Our first meeting of the year will be **on Monday, February 2nd at 5:30 p.m.** We plan to hold it **in person at KFL**, weather permitting. If travel is determined to be unsafe, please click [here](#) to visit the Friends page on our website for the meeting update and Zoom link. The meeting agenda and additional information can also be found there. Everyone is invited to join our quarterly meetings. Interested in learning what KFL Friends do? Come join us on February 2nd or reach out with any questions!



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 2

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Monday, February 2 at 2 p.m.** in the Walker Room at the library, and **our theme will be: Your Favorite Author.**

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!



Die Well Death Education - February 9

If you missed the first series of the Die Well Death Education Series at KFL, you have another chance to participate. It was so well received, we are offering the entire series again this year.

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on **Monday, February 9 at 1 p.m.** for the *third session* in the new year-long Die Well Death Education Series with host Leona Oceania. You are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions. No registration is required.

Session Four: The Importance of Legacy Work: What to Do, and Where to Start - Writing Your Own (or Someone Else's) Obituary

Legacy work is not about dying and death; it is about life and living and creating your own legacy for your family, friends, and loved ones. Only **YOU** can truly tell your story, expound upon your personal wisdom, and express your feelings to and about others. It makes sense to start this sooner rather than later; preferably before you are actively dying. We will discuss different methods of documenting your legacy, including several prompt questions, etc.

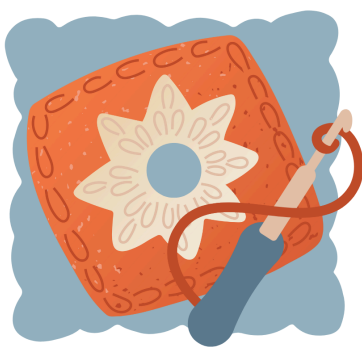
Relying heavily on James R. Hagerty's book, *Yours Truly: An Obituary Writer's Guide to Telling Your Story*, we will discuss tips for telling your own story and preserving your personal history in a meaningful and engaging way in your obituary.

"Whatever your age or health, an inventory of your life so far can help you decide if you're on the path you intended, and if you aren't, lead you to another." – James R. Hagerty.

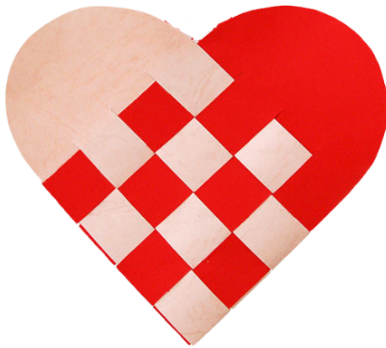
*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.

Beginner Crochet - February 10, 17, 24

Looking for a cozy winter craft to learn? Join us at KFL for a three-week beginner crochet class **on Tuesdays, February 10, 17, and 24 at 5:30 p.m.** You will learn the basic stitches and pattern-reading skills that will allow you to make a granny square phone carrying case. All materials will be provided. Space is limited, please register to reserve your spot. Because you'll need the skills learned each week to complete your project, **please plan on attending all three sessions.**



Take and Make - Woven Paper Heart Baskets



This month, pick up a kit to make a woven paper heart basket, perfect for Valentine's treats! Kits will be **available starting Tuesday, February 10**, while supplies last.



Ukulele Group - February 11

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 11

Our Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet **Wednesday, February 11 at 6 p.m.** in the Walker Room on the main floor of the library.

February's Theme is "Poetry"

The Reader's Choice format allows readers to select any book that fits this month's theme. Readers can select from fiction or non-fiction, adult books, young adult, or children's, and everything in between. We hope you'll join us!



Cook and Share Cookbook Club - February 18

Welcome to our Cookbook Club! You are invited to join us **every third Wednesday at 3 p.m.!** We will gather to celebrate food through various dishes and themes! How does it work? Make any type of 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. This month we will be meeting on **Wednesday, February 18** and our **theme** will be **Chocolate!**

With Valentines around the corner, chocolate seemed like an ideal choice for the month (plus it never hurts to indulge your sweet tooth on occasion)! So, choose a dish that incorporates chocolate, be it sweet OR savory, and bring it (and the recipe) in to share!

Utensils, plates and napkins will be provided!

Please email Becca at rlong@kennebunklibrary.org to let her know you will be attending.



Trivia Night - February 18

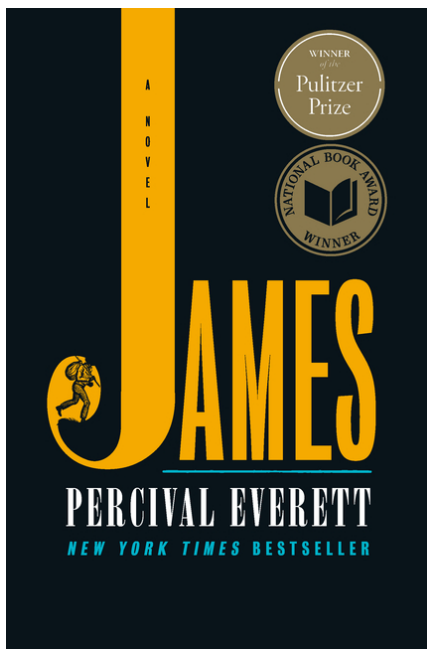
The third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. is trivia night at KFL! Bring a team, join one of our friendly teams of regulars, or take on the challenge solo. Light refreshments will be served.



Sing Along - Monday Evenings Starting February 23

The weather has been cold and gray, the holiday fun is way behind us, and we all need a break from the drudgery of winter. What better way to tackle those midwinter blues than with music? **Monday evenings at 6 p.m., beginning on February 23**, stop by the library for a just-for-fun singalong. We will start with old, familiar songs and then give participants the chance to introduce us to their favorite music. Don't worry about your skill level. We're just here to have some fun, eat some cookies, and

get to know others in the community who enjoy singing together. This program is free and wheelchair accessible. The Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main Street in Kennebunk, Maine. For more information please call 207-985-2173 or email us at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org.



Fiction Book Discussion - February 24

Join us on **Tuesday, February 24 at 1 p.m.** to discuss *James* by Percival Everett.

/ Starred Review */* As in his classic novel *Erasure*, Everett portrays in this ingenious retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* a Black man who's mastered the art of minstrelsy to get what he needs from gullible white people. Many of the same things happen as they do in Twain's original: Jim escapes from enslavement on a Missouri farm and joins up with Huck, a white boy who's faked his own death. Huck is fleeing from his abusive father, while Jim is hoping to find a way to free his wife and daughter. The main difference is in the telling. Jim narrates, not Huck, and in so doing he reveals how he employs "slave" talk ("correct incorrect grammar") when white people can hear, to make them feel safe and superior. Everett also pares down the prose and adds humor in place of sentimentality. When Huck and Jim come upon a band of slave hunters, Huck claims Jim, who's covered by a tarp, is a white man infected with smallpox ("We keep thinkin' he gone die, then he just don't"). Clever additions to the narrative include a tense episode in which Jim is fraudulently sold by a slaver to "Dixie" composer Daniel Decatur Emmett, who has Jim perform in blackface with his singing troupe. Jim's wrenching odyssey concludes with remarkable revelations, violent showdowns, and insightful meditations on literature and philosophy. Everett has outdone himself. —Publishers Weekly



Human Trafficking Discussion at KFL - Wednesday, February 25

Sexual exploitation and human trafficking are often misunderstood and can feel distant—but they happen in our own communities. **On Wednesday, February 25 at 6 p.m.**, KFL will host an educational talk with Thrive New England that will explore what sexual exploitation and trafficking are, how they impact individuals and families locally, and why awareness matters.

Participants will learn to recognize common myths and realities, understand risk factors and warning signs, and hear how these issues affect teens and adults in our region. The session will also highlight practical ways individuals can take action—through prevention, community awareness, and support for survivors.

This program is designed to inform, empower, and encourage meaningful conversation, offering attendees tools to be part of the solution in creating safer, more informed communities.

Thrive New England is a local anti-trafficking organization that works to prevent teen dating abuse and sexual exploitation, while walking alongside survivors of trafficking as they rebuild their lives. Our programs are survivor-designed and focus on mentorship, advocacy, and hands-on case management that meets people where they are.

Even after leaving an abusive situation, survivors often face real challenges—finding safe housing, securing employment, navigating legal systems, and rebuilding a support network. Thrive provides personalized, wraparound support to help survivors overcome these barriers and move forward with confidence.

Brynn Bowyer is the Programming Director at Thrive New England, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing human trafficking and providing comprehensive, trauma-informed care to youth and adult survivors. A survivor of human trafficking herself, she brings both lived experience and years of professional training to her work, offering compassionate, survivor-centered support that prioritizes healing, dignity, and long-term restoration. Her work is driven by a deeply personal desire to create a safer future for her children and teens throughout New England. Through education, prevention, and community engagement, Brynn strives to ensure that no one has to endure the trauma she once faced alone.

Jen Holt is the Marketing and Development Director at Thrive New England. A Southern Maine resident and mom of three, she has seen firsthand how unprepared many young people are to navigate today's digital world safely. This perspective drives her passion for educating local communities about the importance of incorporating Thrive's Prevention Education Program into schools and youth-serving organizations.

The program equips young people with the tools to recognize grooming and risky behaviors—both online and in person—understand what to do if something feels wrong, and know how and where to report concerns.

When she's not raising awareness, Jen enjoys reading, walking Gooches Beach, and growing her new pottery skills.

This program is free and wheelchair accessible. The Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main Street in Kennebunk, Maine. For more information please call 207-985-2173 or email us at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org.

Weekly Programs



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 a.m.** 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.



Drop-in Craft and Chat - Tuesday Evenings

Join us and express your creativity in our weekly evening group, Craft and Chat. This drop-in group will take place weekly in the library **on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m.** Join us 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.

This program is free and wheelchair accessible. The Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main Street in Kennebunk, Maine. For more information please call 207-985-2173 or email us at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org.



Tech Talk Line - Tuesday Evenings

Are you stuck on a technology question, but can't visit the library during its regularly scheduled Technology Time Appointments? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having someone's help to guide your troubleshooting efforts, don't worry, the library is here to help!

To use our **Tech Talk Line**, all you need to do is call downstairs to the Children's Room to speak with our Technology Educator, Emmaline. Our Tech Talk Line will be open every Tuesday night from **5 to 6:30 p.m.** Calls can include, but are not limited to, using smartphones and tablets, navigating websites or emails, or accessing digital library resources. Support will be provided on a **first-come, first-served** basis for issues that can be addressed in **10 minutes or less**. If the line is busy during a call, please leave a voicemail so we can get back to you accordingly. If during a session we determine that the issue requires more time than 10 minutes, we can schedule a 45-minute Tech Time appointment on Wednesday or Thursday, allowing for in-person, one-on-one assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program, 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.



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 you troubleshoot your next steps, 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 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 to 12 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.



Mah Jongg - Wednesdays and Fridays

Everyone is invited to drop in on **Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** or **Fridays from 12:30 to 3 p.m.** to play Mah Jongg. The library has **4** 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. We can also share some resources for learning on your own. Please [email the library](#) with any questions.



Living with Grief (aka Grief Group) - Thursday Afternoons

KFL is now hosting a weekly Grief Group, led by retired RN Carol MacLeod. **Every Thursday morning from 11 to 12:30 p.m.**

Because of the sensitive nature and confidentiality of this group, and for more information, **please**

contact Carol MacLeod (Facilitator) before joining.

Her email is mugbob66@gmail.com and her number is (207)-468-0668.

Drop-In Tech Time - Thursday Afternoons

Looking for some quick Tech Help? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having someone's help to guide your troubleshooting efforts, don't worry, the library is here to help!

To use our **Drop-in Tech Help Service**, all you need to do is visit the library on **Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** Our Technology Educator, Emmaline, will have a reference desk available for you to find local resources, and help you with your quick technology questions. Visits can include, but are not limited to, using smartphones, laptops, or tablets, navigating websites or emails, or accessing digital library resources. Support will be provided on a **first-come, first-served** basis for issues that can be addressed in **10 minutes or less**. If during a session we



determine that the issue requires more time than 10 minutes, we can schedule a 45-minute Tech Time appointment on Wednesday or Thursday, allowing for in-person, one-on-one assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program, 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

Improv - Sessions will be held **every Saturday from 10:30 to 12 p.m.**

Teen Programs



Book-ish Activities in the Teen Room!

The teen space in the library is full of bookish activities for you to do **beginning February 2**, 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:

Reading is a Window into a New World

Test your bookish knowledge with this literary guessing game! In the Teen Room we'll have a display of windows leading into different bookish worlds; it's your job to guess

which book the scene is from. You can then flip up the window to see if you are correct! If you don't recognize the scene but find it intriguing, feel free to check out or order that book!

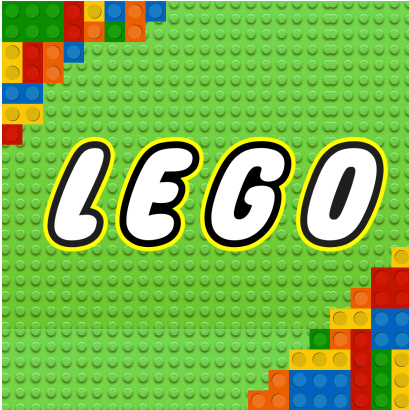
Book Nook Snow Globes

Embrace the cozy vibes of this winter season by designing a book nook snowglobe! Grab one of our precut plates and draw out either your favorite spot to read or your dream spot to read. Then, add some sequins or punched out snow to the globe and cover it with a layer of provided mesh and secure. You'll be able to shake it and make it snow like an actual snow globe!

Valentine's Day Bunting

Help us decorate the Teen Room this February with some Valentine's Day bunting! We'll have book pages, scrapbook paper, buttons, and more available in the Teen Room throughout the month. Once you've designed your flag for our collaborative craft, feel free to add it to our banner along the windows!

If you have any questions about these or any other teen programs, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Teen Lego Displays

Starting February 2, 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, but we will have a binder with a gallery of your builds for others to enjoy. We can't wait to see what you come up with!



Teen Take and Make: Fridge Magnet Bouquets

Create the gift of everlasting flowers this Valentine's season with our mini bouquet fridge magnets! Whether they're for yourself or someone else, these adorable magnets are the perfect functional decoration to brighten up a space. These kits will be available **starting on Monday, February 2** in the Teen Room. They will contain pipe cleaners, a magnet, paper, twine, and instructions. Supplies are first come, first served. We look forward to seeing you here!

Teen/Tween Saturday Program: Drop-In DIY Jewelry Making - February 7

Embrace your crafty side this month by designing your very own jewelry! We'll have all of the supplies for you, whether you're looking to add a special pair of earrings to your own collection or gift a meaningful bracelet to a loved one this Valentine's day. Stop by the Teen Room **on Saturday, February 7, anytime from 12 to 2 p.m.** to craft your own unique piece. We'll have a variety of supplies available, from beads to yarn to wire to embroidery floss and much more! You can let your creativity go wild and create your own, one-of-a-kind gift, or, if you're stuck on ideas, we'll have a few examples and instructions for you to choose from. Feel free to make multiple creations. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. We look forward to seeing you here!



Dungeons and Dragons - February 9 & 23

Welcome, young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. In the midst of our Infinite School Year Campaign, we are getting closer than ever to discovering the Time Loop Mystery, and potentially putting a halt to its destruction. We last left off with our heroes in the City of Aetria, which has just been breached by the Death Knight's aspirant, Soul Shadow. With the Tower of

Aetria smashed to smithereens, and a city on fire, what will we do next in this battle for time and humanity? It's up to our heroes to decide! This month, we will be meeting on Mondays: **February 9 & 23 from 3:30 to 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 host a Session 0 on the first meeting of the month, **February 9 at 3 p.m., 30 minutes before our first gaming session.** This session is *required for new players* to create their character and to participate in the campaign. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. We look forward to seeing you there!



Teen Pokemon Club - February 10, 17, 24

Welcome to the Kennebunk Free Library Pokémon Gym! We will be meeting **on Tuesdays: February 10, 17, 24 from 3:15 to 4 p.m.** to hang out with friends, eat some snacks, and catch 'em all. On **February 10**, we will also design our own battle boards made with recycled materials, stickers, and other crafting supplies! This program is primarily dedicated to Pokémon card battles, but all Pokémon formats can be played during our meeting times. The library will have cards for you to use, but you are encouraged to bring your own decks for battles and trading. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up.



Teen Magic the Gathering Night - February 12

Looking to test out your new Magic the Gathering deck with friends? Join us to play **on February 12 from 3:15 to 4 p.m.!** There will be cards available to make a deck, but if you have your own, we encourage you to bring them! This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. We look forward to seeing you there!



Teen Science Café: The Redwood Forest and Coastal Ecosystems - February 13

Looking for an opportunity to earn your volunteer hours, build your resume, and also grab a snack? KFL is excited to announce that we've joined the Teen Science Café Cohort, and we're inviting you to help us lead and design STEM events with your peers here at the library. Designed by teens for teens, Teen Science Cafes bring together local scientists and students, grades 6-12 to explore new research and discuss what inspires and influences people to pursue careers in STEM with interactive lessons and activities. Our next meeting will be held on **February 13 between 3:30 to 4:45 p.m..** We will virtually join a

presentation hosted by a State Park Interpreter to hear about the Redwoods and California's Coastal Ecosystem, and also what it is like to work as a park ranger on the West Coast. For our activity, we will conduct research on topsoil erosion. Oh, and did we also mention that there's also going to be snacks? This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. We look forward to seeing you there!

Children's Programs



Beadcraft - February 4

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 4, at 1 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 10

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on **Tuesday, February 10, at 3:45 p.m.** We'll be sharing a story called *Heartfelt* by Elaine Vickers and making a related craft. This program is open to ages 6 and up; **registration** is appreciated but not required! 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!



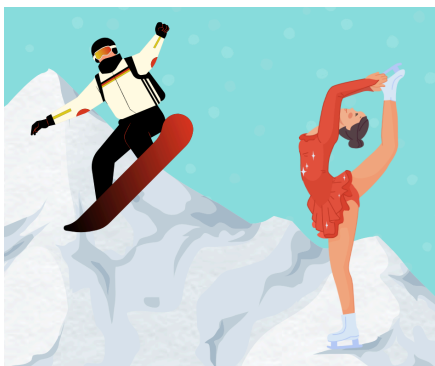
We Love To Play - February 12

There are so many ways to play! Join us **on Thursday, February 12 at 10 a.m.** for a morning of sensory play celebrating Valentine's Day! Explore fun, sometimes messy activity stations and play spots themed on hearts, flowers, and more. Come play with us, and wear clothes that can get messy just in case! No registration is required. This program is designed with ages 1-4 in mind, but everyone is welcome.



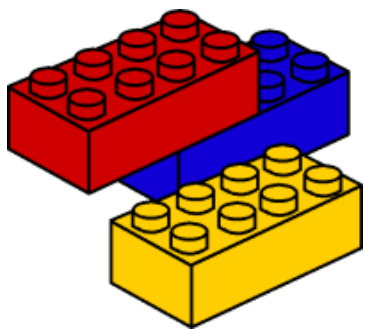
Super Science - February 17

Join us for some science on **Tuesday, February 17 at 3:30 p.m.**! This month we will be exploring different kinds of slime. Space is limited and registration is required. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to kids ages 5 and up. For more information or to register, please call (207) 985-2173. You can also [register online](#).



Library Olympics - February 18

Join us **on Wednesday, February 18 from 1 to 3 p.m.** for our very first library Olympics! Come decorate a flag to wave during our opening ceremony, test your skills in a variety of challenges, skate around in Hank's room and even make some crafts!



Lego Club - February 19

Lego Club is special on **Thursday, February 19! We'll be having an extended session from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.**! Lego Club is intended for children ages 4 and older. At this extended event, we'll have Duplos and other blocks available for younger children. 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 appreciated but not required.



Storytime - Mondays

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 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 17.** We can't wait for you to join us!

Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- February 2
- February 9
- **Tuesday, February 17**
- February 23



Family Fun Play - Thursdays

Have a morning of play at the library! On **Thursday mornings in February**, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out the 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. **Playtime starts at 10 a.m. and Miss Maria will read a story at 11 a.m., but feel free to drop in anytime! We usually leave the special toys out until around 11:30.** 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. Come play and make new friends at the library!

This month, **on February 12**, we'll take a break from our regular play group to have a special **Sensory Play Day!** Join us for sensory activities for Valentine's Day. We'll do a sensory play day once per month! Come play and make new friends at the library!

Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- February 5
- **February 12 - Sensory Play Day!**
- February 19
- February 26

Speers Gallery



February Artist:

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents "**Search for Light**" by **Kennebunk resident Karen Nash**. The exhibit will run **from February 1 through 28, with a reception on Saturday, February 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.** All are welcome.

Karen Nash has always had a passion for the arts and did lots of crafting and doodling as a child, along with taking private art lessons. While serving in the Army for seven years, she lost some of her fine motor skills but can still wield a paintbrush. She finds painting to be

therapeutic and is considering pursuing a degree in Art Therapy. She's particularly interested in sharing the healing aspects of art with her fellow veteran community.

Karen is also a busy mom of three and wants to show her children never to give up on their passions. Her exhibit features acrylic paintings on canvas as well as photography, focusing on the light and beauty of nature.

Kennebunk Free Library is excited to show the works of this passionate local artist.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from February 1 through 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

Popular New Reads**

**You may have noticed that we haven't had as many recent bestsellers and high-demand items in our collection lately. There has been a bit of drama in library world in the last couple of months that affected our ability to order books. Our book supplier, one of the largest suppliers for public libraries in the U.S., had reached a deal to be acquired by another organization. When the sale fell through, they just stopped fulfilling orders without any notice to customers. Other booksellers have been busy trying to fill the void left behind. We have established an account with a new vendor and are expecting orders to start coming in again in the next couple of weeks. We have already been getting some books in, so hopefully this will be resolved by next month! Thank you so much for your patience as we adjust to a new process.

A Message from the Director

I only recently found out that February is National Library Lover's Month. With that, I feel like it's the perfect time to highlight one spectacular library lover. This January four year old Evelyn braved the cold and created a hot cocoa stand to raise money for Kennebunk Free Library! We thank her so much for her efforts and her passion.

Sincerely,
Michelle

Pictured: Evelyn's note.

I did a hot cocoa
stand to raise money
for the library
because I love the
library and want
kids to do crafts
and enjoy the library.
Thank you!



Staff Picks

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant (and KFL Friends)

Unmarked Graves and Forgotten Lives by Kathleen Ostrander Roberts

The author has earned her reputation as a respected historian of the Kennebunks. She has held many positions on many boards in the area and gained knowledge by working as an archivist, researcher and committee member. This book documents her historical research and adventures in hands on archaeology at a local dig. Very little had been known about enslaved people in York County until she began researching the topic. I enjoyed the opportunity to “visit” our town in its early years and learn how enslavement of people took place here.

(Available book from KFL)

The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence

Pope Leo XIV has written the preface to a new Vatican edition of the book “The Practice of the Presence of God,” a spiritual work he says is “one of the texts that has most shaped my spiritual life.” This little book was written in the 17th century by Brother Lawrence, a French monk that worked as a cook in the monastery. His simple method of staying in the presence of God at work as well as prayer. Brother Lawrence writes about his prospective of repentance and healing. His trust and absolute dependence on the grace and mercy of God is inspiring and refreshing.

(Available from Minerva)

Kennebunk Free Library

Ok, so I know that if you have gotten this far that you are interested in what KFL offers our local community. Last month was the start of my sixth year doing these monthly lists. I recommend greater involvement in KFL and would not be exaggerating if I told you that I believe I am one of the most participatory patrons...ever. My recommendation to you for 2026 is if you haven't attended a program, tried new media, volunteered, visited the gallery, played a game, worked on a puzzle, visited a cat, or sat by the fire, pick one, your life will be better for it.

(Available to everyone that comes through the door.)

Visit our Website





Kennebunk Free Library | 112 Main Street | Kennebunk, ME 04043 US

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