



**January 2026 | Volume 33, Issue 1**

## Library News and Events



### **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.

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## A Message from the Friends of KFL

This has been a wonderful and event-filled year for KFL and the Friends! Our recent Christmas Pop Up sale raised \$222.50! Special thanks to Donna Gomez and her team.

Looking forward, 2026 promises many opportunities for our Friends community to enjoy while helping KFL to thrive. To learn more please plan to join us at the **next Friends meeting on Monday Feb. 2, 2026, Groundhog Day, at 5:30 p.m.**, by Zoom or in person depending on weather. If you haven't renewed your membership or want to join, it isn't too early! [Here is the link.](#)

We are grateful to the Friends for all they do for KFL and wish members and patrons a wonderful holiday season.

Cheers,

The KFL Friends Leadership Team

If you would like to join the Friends of KFL you will be welcomed! [Here is the link for more information.](#)

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## KFL Gift Wrap Exchange - Last Day: January 5

Last Chance! Our annual gift wrap exchange will be wrapping up on January 5.

Have you been using the same wrapping paper for forever? Looking for something different this year, but are wary of adding another offering to the stacks of unfinished rolls in your closet/ garage? Switch things up this holiday season without spending a dime and avoiding extra clutter!

There will be a box in the mezzanine labeled "Gift Wrap Exchange". For this last week: **See something you like?**

**Take it! No swaps necessary!**

- Unused wrapping paper that is still on the roll
- Unused or gently used gift bags (no rips or tears, handles intact)
- Unused ribbon still on the roll
- Unused bows, tags/stickers

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# Holiday Giving 2025



**We still need to raise \$11,000 by December 31st. Can you help?**

**Happy Holidays to you!** We have some wonderful news to share regarding our 2025 Holiday Giving campaign.

**George C. and Diantha C. Harrington, an anonymous donor, and KFL's Board of Trustees have come together to create the \$20,000 Holiday Giving Challenge Fund!** When Holiday Giving donations reach **\$45,000**, the Challenge Fund will be unlocked and KFL will receive this incredible **\$20,000 Challenge Gift**—instantly amplifying the power of every contribution. [Click here to read the complete Holiday Giving letter.](#)

**Please join us as we come together to reach our goal of \$45,000 before December 31, 2025!** Making a difference during the season of giving feels great and couldn't be easier. Simply send in your check, click on the [Give Now](#) ❤️ tab on our website, or the button below to make your donation today. Thank you for sharing your ❤️ with KFL during this season of giving.

[Give Now](#) ❤️

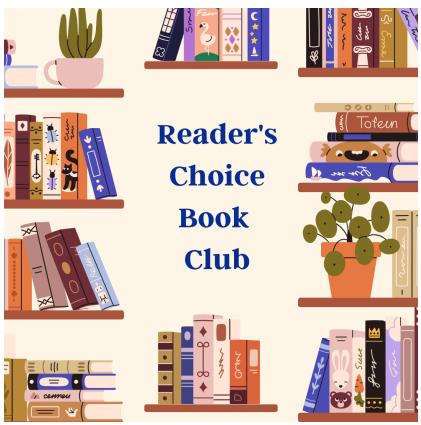


## Monthly Phone Wallpaper

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 - January 5

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Monday, January 5 at 2 p.m.** in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: **A Picture Book or Book with Pictures.**

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!



## Marine Debris Art: Turning Trash into Treasure - January 7

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on **Wednesday, January 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** for a hands-on, creative program that blends art, science, and environmental stewardship! This 1.5-hour session, presented by the Blue Ocean Society, begins with a short, engaging presentation on Marine Debris in the Gulf of Maine, exploring how human activity and local ecosystems are connected. Participants will learn about the sources and impacts of marine debris, as well as the actions individuals and communities can take to reduce it.

After the presentation, participants will get creative by making mosaic art pieces using real beach trash collected from local shorelines. With guidance and inspiration, each person will transform discarded plastic materials into unique, meaningful works of art that highlight both the problem of pollution and the beauty of renewal. This program promotes environmental awareness, teamwork, and artistic expression, demonstrating that even the smallest actions and pieces of "trash" can make a significant difference.



## Die Well Death Education - January 12

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, January 12 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 Three: Film: Barbara Karnes's 'This is How People Die

- Part Two: Labor of Dying'

*This is How People Die* addresses the normal dying process, from months before death through the actual moment of death. This film provides the knowledge and tools for working with the end of

life, presented with non-medical terminology. It is a practical guide for working with anyone facing end-of-life issues. Part Two will cover: labor of dying: pain, fear, unfinished business, religion, family dynamics, social masks, one to three weeks before death, days to hours before death, hours to minutes before death, what to say, near death experiences, etc. (2017 - 56 minutes) Open discussion to follow as time allows.

\*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.



## Carb Confusion Cleared Up - January 12

Join Hannaford Registered Dietitian Julia Williams at Kennebunk Free Library on **Monday, January 12 at 6 p.m.** for an interactive workshop on one of the most talked-about nutrients: carbohydrates. We'll explore why carbs are essential for energy, how your body digests them, the difference between simple and complex carbs, and how to choose nutrient-rich options. You'll leave with practical tips for building balanced, satisfying meals—without the carb confusion.



## Reading Between the Lines: The Importance of Privacy Literacy - January 13

Looking to build confidence in your online life? Privacy literacy is an essential ability when navigating the digital world. As an extension of digital literacy skills, this program is designed to help you better understand your personal data and its role in today's digital world. Whether it's making heads or tails of end-to-end encryption, setting up stronger passwords, using VPNs or ad blockers for online browsing, or adjusting your privacy settings on your accounts and devices.

The Kennebunk Free Library's Technology Educator, Emmaline, is offering this virtual Zoom webinar program along with other Maine libraries through MECollab (shared library programming). The event will be offered **via Zoom on Tuesday, January 13th at 2 to 3 p.m.. Registration is required.**

## Keep Your Candle Burning: The Art of Resilience in Tough Times - January 13

What does it take to sustain hope in the face of crisis? Drawing on two decades of humanitarian experience, local author Sarah Petrin offers practical insights on personal resilience and burnout prevention. Through stories from *Bring Rain: Helping Humanity in Crisis*, Petrin shares how to stay



grounded while serving the needs of people at home and abroad. This talk offers practical strategies for emotional well-being, fostering renewal, and keeping faith in humanity. Join us at the Kennebunk Free Library on **Tuesday, January 13 at 6 p.m.** for stories of hope and renewal!

Sarah Petrin is a humanitarian expert, educator, and author with over twenty years of experience in international crisis response and peacebuilding. She has advised the United Nations, NATO, and the U.S. Army on protecting civilians in conflict, and has worked in over 20 countries. She is the President and Board Chair of the World Affairs Council of Maine. Her mission is to help

people live with purpose, compassion, and courage — wherever they are.



### **Ukulele Group - January 14**

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 - January 14**

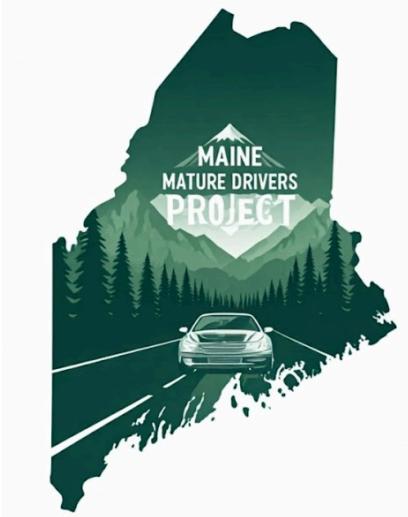
Our Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet **Wednesday, January 14 at 6 p.m.** in the Walker Room on the main floor of the library.

#### **January's Theme is "Non-Fiction"**

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!

### **Safe Driving Program - January 16**

How do aging-related changes in health and function impact driving safety? How does Maine address medical concerns in driver licensing? How can older adults remain safely mobile behind the wheel? On **Friday, January 16 at 1 p.m.**, older adults, family of older adults, and professionals who serve them are invited to Kennebunk Free Library for a Maine Mature Drivers presentation with Dr. Tom Meuser, sponsored by No Place Like Home and KFL. [Please visit the event calendar at kennebunklibrary.org to register.](http://kennebunklibrary.org)



Tom Meuser is a clinical psychologist, applied gerontologist, and social scientist based in Portland, Maine. He moved here in 2018 from Missouri to serve as the Founding Director for the University of New England Center for Excellence in Aging & Health. He retired from this role in 2024 and is now self-employed as a geriatric neuropsychologist (<https://geropsychmaine.com/>) and a researcher-educator for both the Maine Bureaus of Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety. Tom led the team which developed Missouri's approach to the medical evaluation of at-risk drivers in 2009. He was also the program evaluator for the AMA's Older Drivers Project (which continues now through AGS). His 2025 speaking tour in Maine focuses on informing and empowering older adults, as well as the clinical providers who serve them, to make reasoned decisions on driving mobility. Maine's regulations are an important focus too. He can be reached at [tom.meuser@maine.gov](mailto:tom.meuser@maine.gov).

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## MECollab Scrap Craft: Paper from Paper - January 20

Join us, **Tuesday, January 20 from 2 to 3 p.m.** for our MECollab Scrap Craft: Paper From Paper! Learn how to make 'artisanal' paper from junk mail, an old book or other paper products bound for the recycling bin. Use it for letters, ornaments, garland, whatever sparks your creativity! For those attending in person here at KFL, spots are limited and **registration is required**. You may also attend via Zoom. Please email [Amelia](mailto:Amelia) for the link.

For those attending from home via zoom, items to gather are as follows:

- Paper products such as junk mail, an old book, old newspaper, printer paper, coupon books (avoid glossy finishes i.e. magazines) etc.
- Scissors
- A plastic or glass bottle, mason jar, jam jar etc. or something similar **WITH** a secure screw on lid, preferably with a wider mouth that you can fit your hand into.
- Water
- A bowl
- A work surface that can get wet/ is water proof (plastic tables or table covers, or if you don't have any, an old bath towel or a baking tray, something similar, can help contain the water. This is a rather wet craft).

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## Cook and Share Cookbook Club - January 21

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, January 21** and our **theme** will be **Soup!**

# Cook & Share Cookbook Club



By January, most of us could stand to thaw some, and nothing warms you up better than a delicious bowl of hot soup! So, pick a a favorite soup, or a new one you've been wanting to try, and bring it in to share (along with the recipe)!

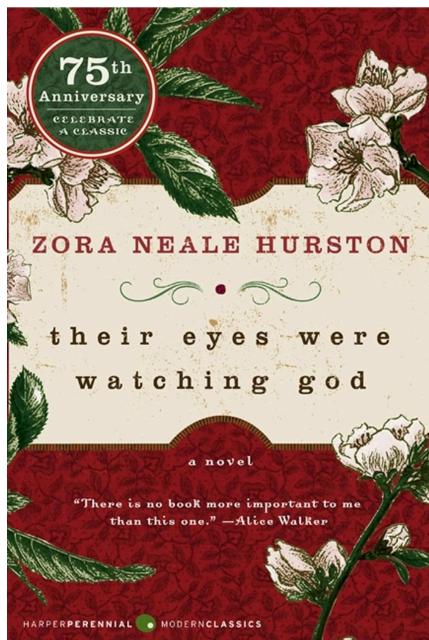
Utensils, plates and napkins will be provided!

Please email Becca at [rlong@kennebunklibrary.org](mailto:rlong@kennebunklibrary.org) to let her know you will be attending.



## Trivia Night - January 21

**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.



## Fiction Book Discussion - January 27

Join us on **Tuesday, January 27 at 1 p.m.** to discuss *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston.

"One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published—perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature."

## Kathy Ostrander Roberts Book Signing - January 28

Town Historian Kathleen Ostrander Roberts will be at Kennebunk Free Library on **Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 6 p.m.** for a book signing and discussion of her newly published book *Unmarked Graves and Forgotten Lives: The Enslaved Persons of Color in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Arundel and Wells, Maine*.



In the book, Roberts shares her research on the individuals of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells and Arundel, Maine, who were enslaved prior to 1800. This research included deeds, written histories and local diaries as well as archaeological evidence uncovered at the site where several previously enslaved people, who were finally emancipated, came to live on the outskirts of Kennebunk between 1790 and 1831. Roberts shares probate records, church records and other primary sources which give important information about the names of many of these individuals and those who enslaved them. Images of some of the artifacts found at the site help give insight into how they lived as they transitioned from slavery to freedom. Robert's goal is to inform and further shed light on New England's complicity in the slave trade in Colonial York County, Maine which was, at that time, part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

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### Take and Make - Snowflake Decoration

Winter is here! Come pick up our January Adult Take and Make: Snowflake Decoration! Limited supplies, **available starting January 10** (while supplies last).

## Weekly Programs

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org).

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### 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](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org) so we can help you further.

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### Tech Time - Wednesdays & Thursdays

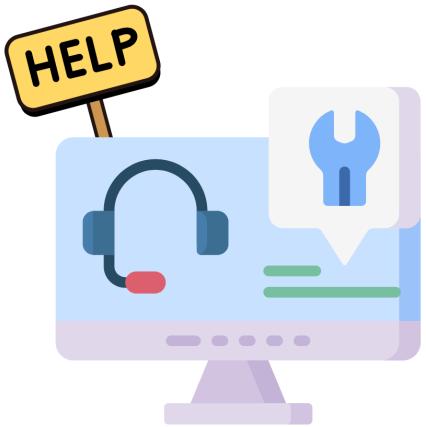
Are you stuck on a technology question that might need some extra help to be solved? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having a second pair of eyes help you troubleshoot your next steps, don't worry, the library is here to 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](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org) so we can help you further.

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## Drop-In Tech Time - Thursday Afternoons

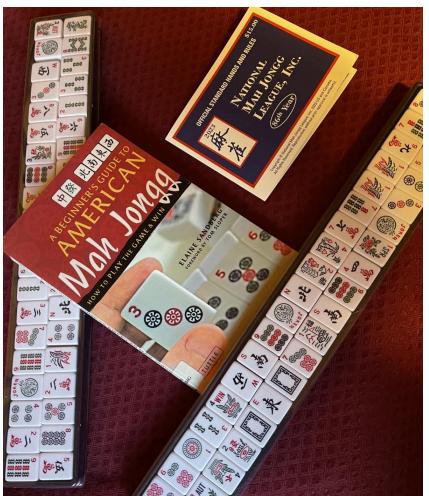
Looking for some quick Tech Help? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having someone's help to guide your troubleshooting efforts, don't worry, the library is here to help!

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](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org) so we can help you further.

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## 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](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org) with any questions.

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## 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..**



**Due to the Holiday Closure, Grief Group is canceled January 1.**

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](mailto:mugbob66@gmail.com) and her number is (207)-468-0668.



### Improv - Saturdays

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

**Improv is canceled January 3.**

We'll see you after the holidays!

## 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 January 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:

#### A Toast to the New Year

Help us ring in the New Year by adding to our bulletin! Write down something you're looking forward to this year on one of the paper pieces of toast and add it to the

whiteboard. Feel free to check out what toasts other patrons have, and your own plans might just inspire someone else!

#### New Year, New Hobby

Start out the New Year by trying something new! We've compiled a variety of YA Non-Fiction books with all of the instructions and details on how to start a new hobby, whether that's an introduction to crochet or learning how to cook. With each book, we've paired a take home kit to help you get started on your hobby—these kits are yours to keep! Finally, this bundle will also have a YA fiction book related to that hobby to inspire you to keep going with it.

## Teen Calendar

Pick up a January 2026 Teen Calendar the next time you pop into the library! All of our teen events (with dates and descriptions) will be on there, as well as book recommendations, a highlighted YA author of the month, and more! Each month a new calendar will be available.

### Book Page Penguins

Add some cheer to the Teen Room this January with book page penguins! Using old book pages, construction paper, and googly eyes, create your very own unique bird to add to the windows or walls.

If you have any questions about these 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!

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### Teen Lego Displays

**Starting January 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 February, but we will have a binder with a gallery of your builds for others to enjoy. 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!

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### Teen Take and Make: Mirrorballs

Some of you might be thinking . . . "there'd better be a mirrorball" in our craft kits this month . . . well, you're in luck! Make a glittering decoration for your room with paper plates, ribbons, tinfoil, and shiny paper. This mirrorball will be "shining just for you!" These kits will be **available starting on Friday, January 2, in the Teen Room.** Supplies are first come, first served. 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!

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### Teen Pokemon Club - January 6, 20, 27

Welcome to the Kennebunk Free Library Pokémon Gym! We will be meeting on **Tuesdays: January 6, 20, 27 from 3:15 to 4 p.m.** to hang out with friends, eat some snacks, and catch 'em all. 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. 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!



### Teen Magic the Gathering Night - January 8

Looking to test out your new Magic the Gathering deck with friends? Join us to play on **January 8 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. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Teen/Tween Saturday Program: Pickle Science - January 10

Calling all savory lovers! If you're pickle fanatics like us, we invite you to explore the science behind pickling in this hands-on program focused on fermentation and food chemistry. Our program will be held on **January 10, 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.** During the program, we will investigate how salt, temperature, and time influence microbial activity, acidity, and texture; and how beneficial bacteria preserve food and create flavor. Plus, you'll get to take home your very own batch of cold pickles, turning this scientific activity into a delicious experiment when we finish! **Registration is required** for this program, and can be done via our website calendar.

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!

### Dungeons and Dragons - January 12 & 26



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 on their way back to the City of Aetria to join the Rotten Horde. As we wandered through the deserts of Carceri, we stopped in Keshari, a small town outside of the city, built into the skeleton of a Titan. We traded, we met travelers from far and wide, and we continued on.

Where will we go next, knowing that the Death Knight is running rogue? It's up to our heroes to decide! This month, we will be meeting on Mondays: **January 12 and 26 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, **January 12 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. 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!

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## TEEN SCIENCE CAFE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION



### Teen Science Cafe: Simple Circuits - January 16

Looking for an opportunity to earn your volunteer hours, build your resume, and also grab a free slice of pizza? 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. For our next meeting, this event will be held on **January 16 between 3:15 and 4:30 p.m.** For our activity, we will learn about simple circuit

science. We will also plan for our next program in February, and we need your help deciding who to host our program, creating flyers, and promoting the event. Oh, and did we also mention that there's also going to be pizza? 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!

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## Children's Programs



## Super Science - January 5

Join us for some science on Monday, January 5th at 3:30pm! This month we will be exploring what happens when you combine baking soda and vinegar. Let's test how many different ways we can make bubbles! [Registration is required.](#)



## Beadcraft - January 7

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, January 7, 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 - January 13

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on **Tuesday, January 13, at 3:45 p.m.** This month is all about cookies! We'll be sharing a story and making cookie trail mix. 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](mailto: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!



## Sci-Fi Celebration - January 22

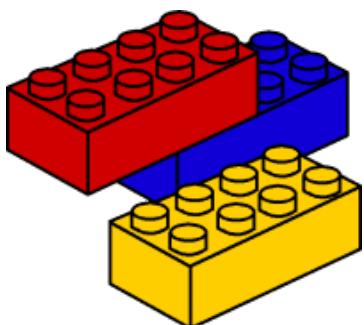
Beep boop – January 2nd is National Science Fiction Day! On Thursday, January 22, from 3:30 - 4:30 pm, join us for a celebration of all things sci-fi! Come make some spacy crafts and take a pretend sci-fi adventure. Be sure to bring your imagination and your library card! We can't wait to see you there! All ages are welcome to attend. No registration required.

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## Kids Painting Party - January 28

Join us for some colorful painting fun on **Wednesday, January 28 at 3:30 p.m.**! We provide the paint and paper, just come with your imagination! [Registration is required.](#)



## Lego Club - January 29

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on **Thursday, January 29, 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. No registration is required.

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## 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 January 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, January 20.** We can't wait for you to join us!

Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- January 5
- January 12
- **Tuesday, January 20**



## Family Fun Play - Thursdays

Have a morning of play at the library! On **Thursday mornings in January**, 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!

Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- January 8
- January 15
- January 22
- January 29

## Speers Gallery



### January Artist:

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents a **mixed media exhibit by YES Art Works** from January 3-29, with a reception on **Saturday, January 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.** All are welcome.

YES Art Works is a nonprofit organization that supports individuals with disabilities throughout southern and central Maine. YES Art Coordinator Ashley Winn says "YES Art Works encompasses all the arts at Creative Works. We provide an array of artistic experiences and opportunities to individuals with disabilities, promoting personal growth through the development of self-esteem, self-confidence, and independence. YES Art Works supports participants in their quest to become working artists and promote their work as an important contribution to the contemporary art world."

self-confidence, and independence. YES Art Works supports participants in their quest to become working artists and promote their work as an important contribution to the contemporary art world."

Kennebunk Free Library is excited to show the works of this talented group of local artists.

*The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from January 3 through 29 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](http://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



All of us, either as individuals or organizations, are facing significant cost increases. I thought this month I'd provide an example of how increasing costs are impacting Kennebunk Free Library. A service that many of us love and rely on is Interlibrary Loan (ILL). In 2024 the annual cost for our ILL delivery was \$5,610. Our bill for 2025 was \$6,851. This is a 22% increase. This cost includes subsidies from Minerva, our statewide consortium, and the Maine State Library. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, this single example is a great way to emphasize how much of an impact your support provides. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Michelle

*Pictured: Sophia is reading Max a bedtime story.*

## Staff Picks

## Kat, Substitute Library Assistant (and KFL Friends)

*Change the Recipe – Because You Can't Build a Better World Without Breaking Some Eggs* by José Andrés

World Central Kitchen has been feeding people experiencing war and natural disaster since 2010 starting with the response to the earthquake in Haiti. Chef Andrés takes us from his childhood education in cooking in Spain to his time in restaurants as he learns the art of food preparation. While his story is very enjoyable it leads to his earthshaking methods of providing aid to starving people, fast, efficiently, with familiar foods and without devastating the local economy by bringing in food and other assistance from outside the effected country. His view of charity as enabling the victims to unite and solve the problem at hand is eye opening. This book is under 150 small pages and offers valuable insights with a very small investment of time.

(Available book from KFL)

*The Old Farmer's 2026 Almanac established in 1792* by Robert B. Thomas

Say it isn't so! This is the last print edition for Maine. If you are an old friend of the Almanac or have never seen the weather and planting forecasts, informational articles or pithy quips it is famous for, be sure to pick up this final edition of a valuable annual publication. Sigh.

(Available from KFL)

*The Hygge Game*

Looking to have conversation at a gathering that draws people together? Had enough of division and "hill to die on" monologues? How about adding some hygge (hoo-ga), the art of cozy contentment and well-being. These cards have points of interest that anyone can relate to. "What is the nicest thing someone in this room has done for you?" "Which one of your friends would do the best on Jeopardy?" "What do you think will be the biggest change in your life five years from now?"

(Available from KFL)

[Visit our Website](#)



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

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