



January 2022 | Volume 29, Issue 1

Adult Programs

Tech Time is Back! - January 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28



Now more than ever, technology has become a constant in our daily lives. Though advertised as simple and easy, it moves too fast for most of us to keep up. Don't worry, the library is here to help!

Sign-up for one of our Tech Time appointments, Thursdays and Fridays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. to meet one-on-one with a librarian to try and help work through your questions. Whether it be trying to learn

to download one of our eBooks or Apps, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having a second pair of eyes to help troubleshoot a piece of software, our librarians will be your guide.

Appointments are 45 minutes long, so keep in mind there may only be time to discuss a small number of issues. If possible, make sure to bring your device with you with any associated logins that might be needed. Also, when setting up the appointment, help us help you by doing your best to describe the help you are looking for.

Contact us at 207-985-2173 x4 or via [email](#) to setup your appointment.

In Stitches - January 4, 11, 18, 15



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.

On the first Tuesday of the month, In Stitches will take place on Zoom; see our events calendar for the link to the meeting. The rest of the month, the group will meet in-person inside the library; masks are required.

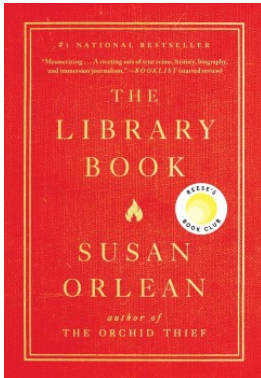
Reader's Choice Book Club - January 10



Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: *A Fresh Start*.

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!

Nonfiction Book Group - January 10



Join us on Monday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. The discussion will be held in person at the library. Masks are required inside the building.

"New Yorker staff writer Orlean (Rin Tin Tin) doubles as an investigative reporter and an institutional historian in this sprawling account of the 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Central Public Library. On April 29, 1986, just before 11 a.m., a fire broke out in the stacks of the main branch and burned for seven hours, destroying 400,000 books and damaging hundreds of thousands more. Harry Peak, the man police believed started the fire, was arrested but never charged. Orlean's investigation into the fire—

Was it arson? Why would Peak, a struggling actor and frequent patron of the library, want to burn it down?—leads her down the library's aisles of history, as she seeks out books on the flawed science of arson forensics along with titles from California serial killer Richard Ramirez's reading list to better understand the minds of psychopaths. Along the way, she introduces readers to California Public Library system staffers, among them Arin Kasparian, on the circulation desk; Kren Malone, director of the main branch; and Glen Creason, a senior librarian whose tenure spans 'the fire the AIDS crisis, which killed 11 librarians.' Midway through, Orlean reveals her own motivation for her return to long-form journalism: her mother's dementia has made her acutely aware of how memories are doomed to be forgotten unless they're recorded. This is a persuasive reminder of the importance of libraries, whose shared spaces house historical treasures built with the common good in mind." (Publishers Weekly, vol 265, issue 28)

Author Steve Hrehovcik - January 12



With persistence, patience and pluck, Kennebunk writer/artist Steve Hrehovcik reveals how he became an expert on survival in his book *Rebel Without A Clue – A Way-Off Broadway Memoir*. Blending a candid confessional with a sense of humor, Hrehovcik describes his turbulent, often farcical, journey in a desperate search for a career in the theater. Hrehovcik makes a presentation about his book at the Kennebunk Free Library on Wednesday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Never giving up, his story also reveals how he managed to carry on with some semblance of dignity and achieve a few surprising triumphs along the way – most important, a marriage of 55 years, three remarkable children and a wonderful grandson. At the end of each chapter Hrehovcik includes a cartoon drawing, adding fun to the theme of his story.

In addition to reading from his book and showing the cartoons, Hrehovcik discusses some of the advantages of self-publishing as part of his presentation.

Improv Class - January 22



Looking for a fun way to weather the post-holiday doldrums? Beginning on Saturday, January 22 from 10:00 to 11:30, KFL will host a ten-week improv group for beginners with presenter Lisa Niedenfuhr. Stop in for one session, or join us for all ten. Class size will be limited. Please [email the library](#) to register.

A note from the presenter:

After a lifetime of east coast living, from Washington DC to Maine, I spent the last seven years living in Southern California. It was there that I joined Ojai Valley Improv. We performed occasionally at the local arts center, but more often we would get together for a couple of hours every Saturday morning to learn new games and practice our craft, such as it was. We were a group of people who enjoyed laughing together and supporting each other as our improv skills grew.

Improv is based on listening and responding to your partner ("Yes and...") and creating a story together from scratch. It is usually funny, but can also be serious. As long as it is unscripted, it's improv. This class will start by using simple games that build the skills needed to create a short scene or story.

I saw the error of my ways and returned to Maine this fall. When I'm not doing improv, I am a pediatric occupational therapist working with preschoolers. Let me tell you, improv is the name of the game when encouraging hesitant children to engage in adult directed activities...so I guess you could say that I am almost always doing improv!

I am looking for a group of people here in the Kennebunk area who would like to learn and/or expand their improv skills in an accepting and supportive environment. You don't have to be funny to do improv, but you do need to like having fun! Beginners and experienced improvisers are welcome and encouraged. Let's have some fun together this winter! - Lisa Niedenfuhr

Take Note - January 24



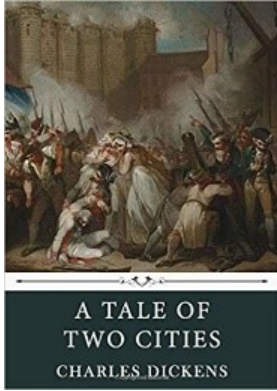
Take Note will meet on Monday, January 24 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library.

What is Take Note? It's a monthly meetup for folks who love journals, planners, digital notebooks, snail mail, stationery, pens, & more! Our discussion is free form, and no experience is needed. All are welcome!

Adult Book Discussion - January 25

Join us on Tuesday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. The discussion will be held in person at the library. Masks are required inside.

"When the starving French masses rise to overthrow a corrupt and decadent government, both the guilty and innocent become victims of their frenzied anger." - NoveList

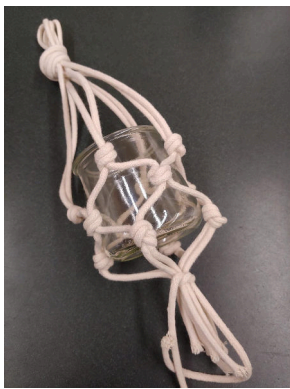


Ukulele Group - January 26



Join us Zoom on Wednesday, January 26 at 5:30 p.m., for ukulele group with leader Dan Riggall. If you are not already part of the ukulele email list, please [register](#) for this month's music and the Zoom link.

Take-and-Make: Macrame Jar Hanger



Using just macrame cord and a small jar, make a cute hanger for an electric tea light, small plant, or anything else you can think of! All it takes is a few simple knots; all supplies and instructions are included. Kits will be available starting January 18, while supplies last.

Teen Programs

Teen Magic the Gathering



Come and test out your Magic the Gathering deck among friends! Open to new and experienced players alike. We will meet every other week on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. We will meet this month on **January 13 & 27**. Players are free to bring their own deck or use decks provided by the library. If you've never played before, feel free to come and learn at your own pace. Open to teens ages 10 and up!

The Dragon Hunter and Treasure Seekers

Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of D&D. Open to new and experienced players alike. We will meet on **January 10 & 24** from 3:30 – 4:30 P.M. You're



welcome to bring your own character or make a new one. All other supplies will be provided. New players are encouraged to come and join the adventure. Open to Teens ages 10 and up!

Children's Programs



Zoom Storytimes - January 4, 11, 18, 25

Ready to zoom, zoom, zoom into storytime? Get your zoomy hands ready and let's go! Zoom Storytimes will be held at 10 a.m. on **Tuesdays** in January. To participate, please complete our [Google Form](#) each week. Miss Maria will send the Zoom link and passcode one hour before Storytime on Tuesday mornings. Zoom Storytime will be held on the following Tuesdays:

- January 4
- January 11
- January 18
- January 25

All storytimes will begin at 10:00 a.m. Join Miss Maria for some stories, songs, and fun!



Take and Make Kits

Looking to get crafty? Kennebunk Free Library will be offering take and make craft kits with all the materials to make a craft or two. No registration required, available while supplies last! Kits will be available in the library and curbside by request. This month, we will be offering snow and winter themed crafts! Kits will be available starting Monday, January 3. Visit us to grab some supplies that will help you get creative!

January STEAM Kit: Insta-Snow

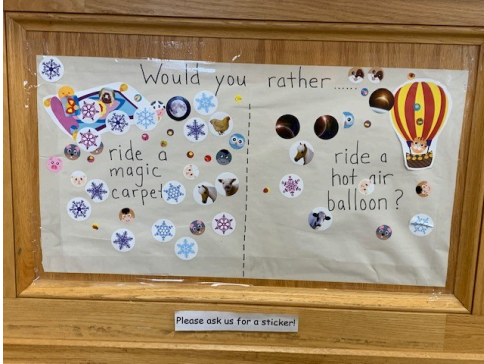


Looking for an activity with a side of STEAM? Kennebunk Free Library will be offering STEAM To Go kits for grades K and up with all the supplies for a fun experiment or activity. No registration required, available while supplies last! Kits will be available in the library and curbside by request. This month, we will be offering Insta-Snow powder that will be sure to amaze! Kits will be available starting Monday, January 3. Visit us to grab everything you need for a STEAM-tastic good time!



Book Stacks for Children

Would you like to borrow a stack of library items handpicked by a librarian? We'd love to choose some materials for you! We have lots of brand-new books to share with you! A KFL library card is required. If you're interested, fill out the [Google Form](#) and give us some information about your interests and the types of things you like to borrow from the library. If you have any questions, you can reach us [via email](#) or by phone at 985-2173. We're excited to choose library items for you!



Would you rather...

The results for this month's Would You Rather question are in! In December, we asked, "Would you rather ride a magic carpet or ride a hot air balloon?" 40 friends wanted to ride a magic carpet, while 20 friends would prefer to ride a hot air balloon. It's a tough question! Which would you choose? Keep an eye out for our next Would You Rather question in the Children's Room!



Scavenger Hunt

A new year means a new scavenger hunt! Pick up a clue sheet at the desk in the Children's Room. Find the pictures, check them off on your sheet, and get a small prize! Happy sleuthing!



Middle Grade Book Club: TBA

Coming soon: information about the Middle Grade Book Club! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more information!

Speers Gallery

December Artist: John Forssen

The Kennebunk Free Library announces its January 2022 Speers Gallery exhibit “Through the Mind’s Eye” by John Forssen. The exhibit features oil paintings of land and seascapes, many featuring a variety of birds.

John is a Kennebunk artist and frame-maker who has been engaged in some form of art for over 70 years. Following his retirement from teaching in 2008, he began drawing seriously and eventually painting with oils.



His work is inspired by what he sees in the natural world around him —but only after it has rolled around in his imagination for a while. While he admires “plein air” painting, he begins in his studio, rummaging through his memory for possibilities and then bringing them to life on canvas, layer by layer. He likes to begin his work days at 4:30 am because, as he says, “that’s when the muse is waiting for me.”

John’s drawings have brought several best-in-category awards in Art Guild-of-the-Kennebunk shows, and he has exhibited at the Kennebunk Free Library, the former Whitney Gallery, River Tree arts, The Brick Store Museum, Artists-by-the-Sea in Biddeford Pool and the Gallery at York Hospital. He prices his paintings, along with his custom frames, to remain accessible to a wide audience.

Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to welcome back and display the works of this talented artist once again.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library’s Speers Gallery from January 4 – 31, 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.

Library News and Events



Please join the Friends for their meeting on Monday, January 10 at 5:30 on Zoom. The Friends are currently seeking nominations for President. If interested, please contact [us](#). The Zoom link, meeting minutes, and meeting agenda can be found [on the Friends page](#). It is also time to renew your membership for 2022! [Please find the application at this link](#). You can also pick up a copy in the library.

New Books, Audio Books, and 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.

Hot New Releases on Order for January

January 4

[A Narrow Door – Joanne Harris](#)

January 11

[Something to Hide – Elizabeth George](#)

[The Final Case – David Guterson](#)

January 18

[One Step Too Far – Lisa Gardner](#)

[Robert B. Parker's Bye Bye Baby – Ace Atkins](#)

[Targeted – Stephen Hunter](#)

[The Good Son – Jacquelyn Mitchard](#)

[Lightning in a Mirror – Jane Ann Krentz](#)

[Disappearance of a Scribe – Dana Stabenow](#)

January 25

[Thank You, Mr. Nixon – Gish Jen](#)

[Mermaid Confidential – Tim Dorsey](#)

[Quicksilver – Dean Koontz](#)

[Violeta – Isabel Allende](#)

A Message from the Library Director



We start the new year with welcoming our new Technology Educator, Ben Phinney. We are very happy to have Ben on board and he is fitting right in with our fun, proactive, and community-oriented staff. Unfortunately, we will also have to say goodbye to our Cataloger, Kate Jacobs, at the end of the month. We are very happy for her though as she's moving to the Maine State Library to serve as a Library Section Supervisor for Special Collections. In this role, she will oversee cataloging for the Maine State Library, work to bring order to several areas of special collections, and manage programs like the Maine newspaper digitization grant project. The entire state will now get to benefit from Kate's great work.

With all of these changes and the current rise of cases in Covid-19, the KFL staff is still delivering high-quality services though we are feeling the impact. As such, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate this road ahead of us. Your feedback along the way is welcome as always. Please reach out to me at mconners@kennebunklibrary.org

I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.

Meet Our New Technology Educator



This month we welcomed Ben Phinney, our new Technology Educator to the staff. Ben will be bringing Tech Time back, with newly expanded hours, and will soon be offering group technology classes.

Here is an introduction from Ben:

Some of my oldest memories are of taking sometimes daily trips to the library where my mother was an extremely active volunteer. I didn't realize librarianship was in my blood too until after college when I began working in a bookstore. There I learned I had a knack for customer service and passion for books, music, movies, and helping people find information. As a librarian I have tended to gravitate towards roles that have a technology focus and teaching element to them. Becoming the Technology Educator at Kennebunk seemed like a perfect fit. As the Technology Educator I look forward to finding ways to innovate our current services and help improve our collective understanding of how to best to adapt to the ever-changing technology in our daily lives. When I'm not being a librarian, I'm usually anxiously waiting for a new movie to premier, experimenting in the kitchen with more gusto than I should, drinking coffee, or geeking out over another piece of electric guitar gear.

Development Update



THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our first ever Holiday Giving Campaign! Your generosity and partnership brings the highest quality resources, programs and services to our community.

Did you know that your donation helps make WiFi, hot spots, computers, and tech support available to our community completely free of charge?

A patron who used our Wi-Fi to work on his laptop came to the circulation desk as he was leaving to say, **"Just so you know, you saved my day!"** He explained that the internet was down at his house and he really needed the Wi-Fi connection to complete important, time-sensitive work.

Did you know that your donation helps keep kids of all ages reading and learning, even during this challenging era of COVID?

An appreciative parent posted this message on Facebook: **"Grateful for Ms. Maria and**

everyone at KFL for keeping us sane and reading during [and after] Covid! From the book bags that were so thoughtfully chosen based on my kids' interest, to your summer reading program that motivates our kids to read! We feel lucky to live in a town with such a wonderful library."

All of us at KFL feel very lucky to have YOUR partnership and support! THANK YOU for making a difference our community.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2022!

Staff Picks & Messages

Kat, Library Assistant

[In The Heights](#) Music by: Lin-Manuel Miranda; Alex Lacamoire; Bill Sherman; screenplay by Quiara Alegria Hudes; huge cast of amazing singers and dancers.

Great story line, music, lyrics and scenes. The beauty shop scene! The pool scene when someone in the barrio won a \$96,000 lottery. Fun! There are thought provoking scenes as well. The golden girl comes back from her first semester at Stanford University and doesn't want to go back. Her Dad's reaction....not good. The grandmother of the neighborhood overworks and overheats during a black out. Unrequited love, romance, gossip, dreams and dancing!

[Filled with Fire and Light: Portraits and Legends from the Bible, Talmud, and Hasidic World](#) by Elie Wiesel

What? A new book by Elie Wiesel! The late teacher shares his wisdom and understanding of humanity and Judaism for both the knowledgeable and the unscholarly. This collection of essays is taken from his lectures about prophets, kings and rabbis.

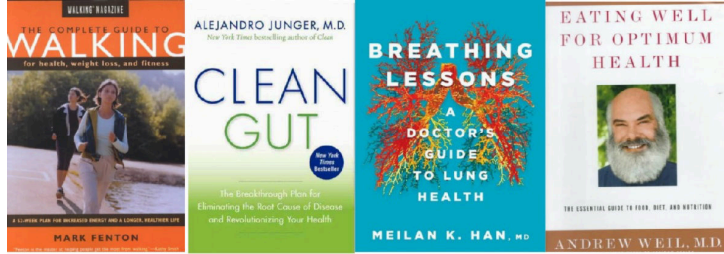
[Block printing kits](#); [Block Print Magic](#) by Emily L Howard and [Block Print](#) by Andrea Lauren

Bring home one of KFL's block printing kits and you will have everything you need to create your own prints. Except the ideas. Check out one or both of these books and you will get a creative jumpstart.

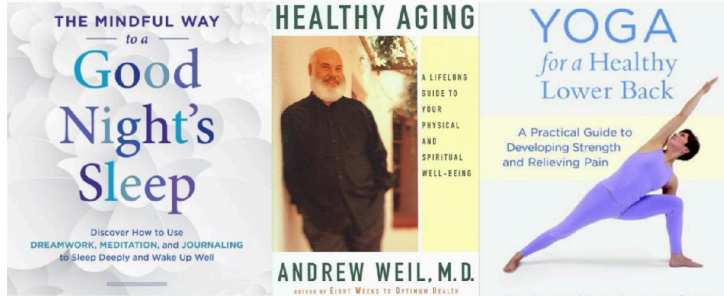
Here is my first try:



Denise, Library Assistant



Happy 2022! Be Well!



Books on Healthy Living



Kennebunk Free Library | kennebunklibrary.org

