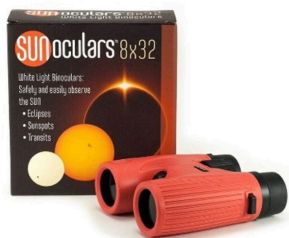


JANUARY at KFL



January 2024 | Volume 31, Issue 1

LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS



New to Our Library of Things!

You've always heard to not look directly at the sun- until now! KFL has recently added a pair of Sunoculars to the collection! This device looks and works just like a pair of binoculars but contains dense white light filters on the lenses that allow users to safely look at the sun to explore sunspots, planetary transits, and eclipses*. The Sunoculars will circulate to KFL cardholders for a week at a time. Expand your stargazing into daytime and take a look at our Sun!

*The Sunoculars will be unavailable to lend during the April 2024 solar eclipse for use at the library during this event.



A Message from the Friends

Happy New Year! Pictured below is the storybook tree decorated annually by the Friends.

Please consider joining or renewing your Friends membership in January and be a part of our 2024 team. Last year we raised almost \$9,000 to support KFL. We could not have done it without our wonderful library community. You can find more information [here](#).

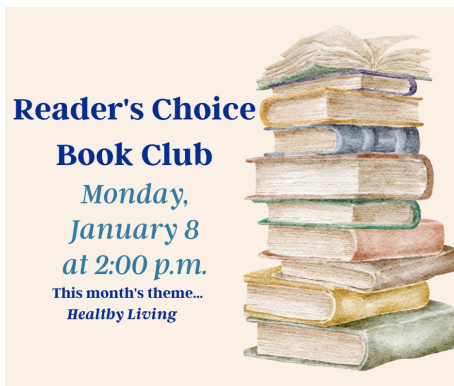
And please join us on Zoom for our January 8, 2024, Friends meeting at 5:30pm. Details are on the [Friends page](#) of the library website.





In Stitches - January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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.



Reader's Choice Book Club - January 8

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, January 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: Healthy Living.

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!





Spanish Language Discussion Group - January 8, 22, 29

Stop by the Kennebunk Free Library from 5:30 to 6:30 on Monday evenings for an opportunity to practice conversational Spanish with educator and native Spanish-speaker Eva Hernandez.

Evening Readers Choice Book Club - January 10

The Reader's Choice Evening Book group is

Reader's Choice Evening
Book Group
January's Theme:
Historical Fiction



Wednesday, January 10th
6:00 PM

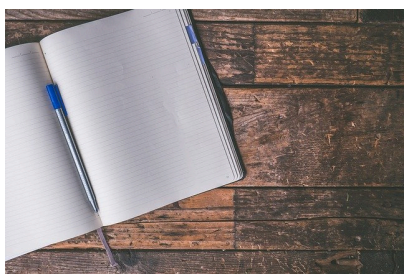
meeting again in 2024 and starting the year off with Historical Fiction. All are invited to read a historical novel and join us for a discussion on January 10 at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!



Ukulele Group - January 10 and 31

The Ukulele Group is back! We'll continue to meet twice a month: the 2nd Wednesday at 3:30 and the 4th Wednesday at 5:30. We will be playing the same music at both sessions.

You can join us for both or either. Whatever works for you! The 2nd Wednesday Group will meet in person at the library. That session will focus on the songs for the month in greater detail. It will provide an opportunity to answer any questions you may have from your practice and learn from each other. The 4th Wednesday Group will meet via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. Here we'll just strum and pluck and yuck it up in the privacy of home — where no one else can hear you making ukulele fun and no one cares about bloop & errors! Less talk and more play. If you are not already on the music mailing list, please [email Allison](#) to register.



Writer's Group - January 16

Whether you are looking for feedback on your writing or encouragement to keep writing, join us on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. for a meeting of the new KFL Writers' Group! Bring a 500 - 1,000 word piece of work to share with the group. We hope to see you there!

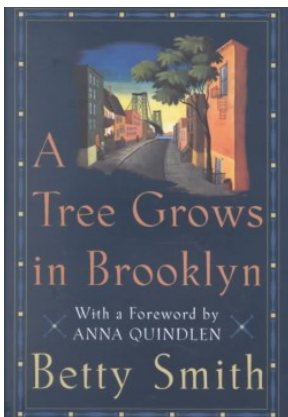
Trivia Night - January 16

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



Drop-In Block Printing - January 22

Have you taken one of our beginner block printing classes? Do you have experience with the craft but don't have the supplies? Come by KFL on Monday, January 22 between 5:30-7:30 p.m. for a drop-in evening of block printing! This will be an unstructured evening where we will supply everything needed to make a print. While there will not be an instruction component, we will be available for questions. [Registration](#) for this event is encouraged to give us a sense of the quantities of supplies needed, but it is not required. Attendees should be aged 18+. Please note that if many people are in attendance, some tools will need to be shared. In the event of an inclement weather closure this event will be held on Monday, January 29 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.



Fiction Book Discussion - January 23

Join us on Tuesday, January 23 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.

"From the moment she entered the world, Francie Nolan needed to be made of stern stuff, for growing up in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn, New York demanded fortitude, precocity, and strength of spirit. Often scorned by neighbors for her family's erratic and eccentric behavior—such as her father Johnny's taste for alcohol

and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce—no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama. By turns overwhelming, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the Nolans' daily experiences are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness. Betty Smith has, in the pages of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, captured the joys of humble Williamsburg life—from "junk day" on Saturdays, when the children traded their weekly take for

pennies, to the special excitement of holidays, bringing cause for celebration and revelry. Smith has created a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as deeply resonant moments of universal experience. Here is an American classic that 'cuts right to the heart of life,' hails the *New York Times*. 'If you miss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, you will deny yourself a rich experience.'" - Amazon Review



Archaeological Drawing with Elizabeth Kelley - January 23

Join us at KFL on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00 for an evening with Elizabeth Kelley, Senior Artist for the Cape Porpoise Archaeological Alliance. Archaeological drawing is

an important component of maintaining accurate records of artifacts and features that cannot always be documented by photography alone. In her presentation, Elizabeth will discuss her work with CPAA to include the techniques used to record and interpret the many aspects of archaeological research. Her drawings range from field sketches to rendered drawings of artifacts and interpretations of Precontact landscapes. Elizabeth will also discuss her life-long passion for the Cape Porpoise Archipelago and how it relates to her work.

Elizabeth Kelley is a painter whose passion lies in nature, culture and observational abstraction. Her recent works include drawings and paintings that interpret the geologic formations, trees and landforms of the Cape Porpoise archipelago and surrounding area. In 2019, Elizabeth was invited by the Cape Porpoise Archaeological Alliance (CPAA) to visually document the excavation and conservation of a 700-year-old dugout canoe. She now serves as CPAA's Senior Artist. With drawings published in the *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*, the *Maine Archaeological Society Bulletin* and educational websites, she has played an important role in documenting the cultural landscape, features and artifacts of peoples who have occupied Cape Porpoise for 8,000 years. As a fine artist, Elizabeth has shown her work on the east and west coasts, taught painting and drawing and participated as a juried member of the Los Angeles Art Association and the Ogunquit Art Association. Her works are part of the permanent collection at the Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk and numerous private collections throughout the United States. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Massachusetts College of Art, a Master's of Fine Arts from the University of New Hampshire, a Masters in Social Work from the University of New England and is an expressive arts facilitator.

The Fashion of Jane Austen - January 27

Celebrate Jane Austen as we



wander through the wardrobes of some of Miss Austen's most famous characters. Explore the silhouettes of the clothing worn by the ladies and gentlemen of the day, while learning about the accessories they would have used and the reasons behind their usage. Together, we will travel through time to a long-ago era of opulence, social graces, and a gentler way of life. Join us at KFL on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at

2:00.

Karen (Ren) Antonowicz received her Master's Degree in Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design, with a concentration in Historic Costume & Textiles from the University of RI. She then taught History of Fashion and other courses full time at the college level for 13 years, and taught Fashion History part time in the CE Program at the RI School of Design. In the meantime, Ren and her husband, Mike, opened Nostalgia Antiques & Collectibles, a 3-floor co-op located on historic Wickenden St. in Providence, RI and ran the business for five years. Ren continues to follow her passion for historic costume by conducting fashion era presentations at libraries, senior centers, schools, historical societies, and historic homes. Spirits of Fashion was developed by Ren as a vehicle for conducting these various lectures and workshops on all eras of Fashion History. Ren and Mike moved to VT in May 2019 and moved into their forever home in Chester, VT in October 2022.



Tech Time - Wednesdays & Thursdays

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

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

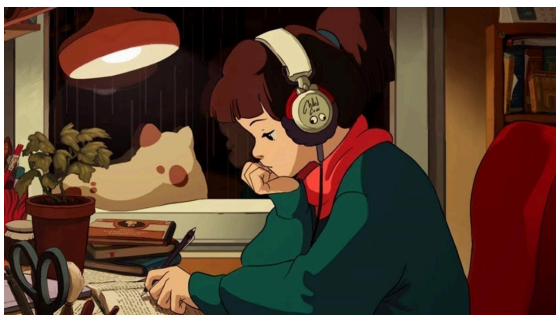
and **Thursdays** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Appointments are 45 minutes long, but there is always an opportunity to schedule a follow-up appointment if we run over our time limit. When setting up the appointment, help us to better assist you by describing the issue you want to discuss. If possible,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



January Take and Make: Tiny Hat Garland

Looking for a relaxing and fun activity after the busy holidays? Snuggle in with a movie, a hot drink, and this kit to bring a little extra color into your home and a smile to your face! Speaking from experience, you can't help but smile when you see these little hats! Each kit includes materials and instructions to create a garland of different colored tiny hats. Hang it on your tree if it's still up, or brighten up a doorway (or any other spot in your home), with this unbelievably adorable decoration! Kits will be available starting Monday, January 8, while supplies last.

TEEN PROGRAMS



Chill Gaming - January 11

Ready to chill, eat snacks, and play some games? Come hang out with friends, test out your gaming card decks, play on our Nintendo Switch, try out new RPG board games, or anything else in between! Anything that relaxes you is welcome and

encouraged! We will meet on the second Thursday of the month, **January 11**, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. The library will provide games, but players are free to bring their own games, learn new games at their own pace, or you can just come to hang out, eat snacks, and have a good time listening to some Lo-fi beats! 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!



January 22 and 29

Welcome young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. Open to new and experienced players alike, we will meet on the following Mondays: **January 22 & 29** from 3:30-4:30 p.m. You're welcome

to bring in a character from a previous game, to make a new one, or to use one of the pre-made characters provided in the starter set. All other supplies will be provided, just bring your imagination! This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Anime Club - January 18

Join us for Anime Club on the third Thursday of the month, **January 18**, downstairs in Hank's Room from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to imagine, design and create a mascot! The phenomenon of mascots in Japan is called "Yuru-Kyara." There are mascots ranging from figures like Vaporeon, who was just festively appointed to draw interest in water conservation, and Kumamon, who represents the Kumamoto Prefecture (a county in Japan). At our

meeting, you will get to workshop your very own mascot to represent something that is important to you, and we will have multi-media supplies for you to bring your mascot to life! This program is designed for dedicated and new fans interested in learning more about the fandom. Registration is suggested, but optional. 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!

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

Beadcraft - January 3

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

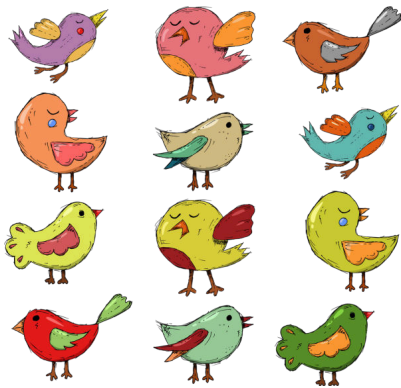


love them! Children ages 6 and up, or age 5 with a caregiver, are invited to join us for an afternoon of beading fun on Wednesday, January 3, at 1:00 p.m. What a great way to spend an early release afternoon! Design suggestions will be offered, but creativity is encouraged! All craft materials will be provided. [Registration](#) is recommended but not required.



Furry Tales - January 5

What's better than sharing stories? Sharing stories with a furry friend! Come to Kennebunk Free Library on Friday, January 5, at 11:30 a.m. for our monthly Furry Tales Storytime with Animal Welfare Society. Miss Amanda from AWS will share songs, stories, and fun with us. She'll even bring an animal friend for us to meet! Who will visit us this month? Join us and find out! All ages are welcome to attend. No registration required.



Junior Science - January 8

Tweet tweet! This month, Junior Science is for the birds! Join us on January 8 at 3:45 p.m. to learn all about birds! Come find out more about beaks, feathers, and nests. You'll even get to make your own birdfeeder! For ages 5+, [registration required](#).

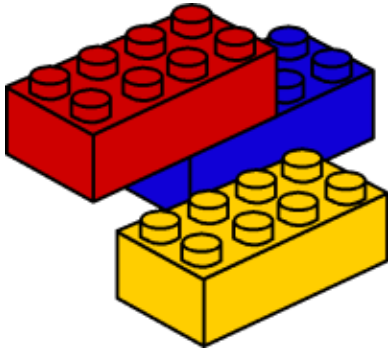
Kindness Club - January 9



Kindness Club is getting a little change in the new year – we're now Kindness Crew! Join us for our first event of 2024 on Tuesday, January 9, at 3:45. Come hear stories about cookies and assemble a yummy cookie snack mix! We'll have enough for you to make some for yourself and some for a friend. 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!



Lego Club - January 25

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 25, from 3:45-4:30 p.m. Come and build new and imaginative creations or ask the librarian for a challenge to complete. All Lego blocks will be supplied; please leave yours at home. [Registration](#) is appreciated.



Thursday Family Fun Play - Weekly

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! Come play and make new friends at the library! All programs will run from 10 am to 11 am.

Thursday Family Fun Play is for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. No registration is required. Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

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



Storytime - Mondays

It's time for Storytime! Come to the library for some stories and songs with Miss Maria! On most Mondays in January at 10:00 a.m., Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at Kennebunk Free Library. Because of the

holidays this month, we will be having Storytime on **Tuesday, January 2** and **Tuesday, January 16**. We can't wait for you to join us! Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- **Tuesday, January 2**
- January 8
- **Tuesday, January 16**
- January 22
- January 29

SPEERS GALLERY



January Artist: Kathie Mahoney

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents the exhibit "Coming Full Circle" by Kathie Mahoney. The exhibit runs January 3-31, and the public is invited to an opening reception on Saturday, January 13 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Kathie Mahoney was the elementary school teacher who wanted to be the art teacher but couldn't fully pursue her creative passion until her fifth decade. Taking a watercolor class set her on a new path and led to years of studying and mentoring with various artists across the country, and she continues to learn and take classes now that she is retired. She has exhibited locally as well as in Pennsylvania.

According to Kathie, "Coming Full Circle" is a compilation of watercolor and mixed media paintings celebrating the artist's journey toward finally fulfilling an inner childhood desire and quelling the nagging statement "I want to be an artist." The collection of works reflects her love of the natural environment and its creatures, rendered in vivid colors to convey joy and an appreciation of nature's simple beauty.

Kathie has returned to Maine after years of living elsewhere and feels that "Coming Full Circle" is also symbolic of her journey back home.

Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to show this talented artist's work.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from January 3-31 at 112 Main St., Kennebunk, Maine during regular library hours when the gallery is not in use for library programs. Please check the library website for current hours and gallery access, www.kennebunklibrary.org.

NEW BOOKS, AUDIO BOOKS & DVDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Books on order for January

January 2

[Upside Down](#) – Danielle Steel

January 8

[Holmes, Marple & Poe](#) – James Patterson

January 9

[The Night Island](#) – Jayne Ann Krentz

[Goodbye Girl](#) – James Grippando

January 23

[Random in Death](#) – J.D. Robb

[The Friendship Club](#) – Robyn Carr

[Habor Lights](#) – James Lee Burke

[One in a Million](#) – Janet Dailey

[Front Sight](#) – Stephen Hunter

January 30

[Missing Persons](#) – James Patterson

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we officially hit winter, I want to remind everyone that KFL is a great place to escape to whether you're looking to take part in a small group activity, program, or just spend some you time in front of the fireplace. As



always, we are always able to deliver materials as well. If you or a friend or loved one is homebound and looking for some entertainment, please let us know and we can help out!

Pictured: Max is reading a book from the Little People, Big Dreams series with his partner, Pua.

STAFF PICKS

Ian, Library Assistant

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

It took me a long time to finally read this book after having it suggested to me so many times, though not wanting to read about a flu pandemic while living through a coronavirus pandemic shouldn't be counted against me. The book's description doesn't do it justice because while it is about a pandemic and a post-apocalyptic world it has so much more to say about things like the necessity of art, the need to do more than just survive, and who people can become after the world changes and everything is taken from them.

The Rabbit Hutch by Tess Gunty

Tess Gunty's book covers a lot of ground -the anonymity of social media, the collapse of industrial cities- but what I was most drawn to in *The Rabbit Hutch* was the way she illustrates the impact people have on one another in our everyday interactions.

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder

This nonfiction account of Healthcare for the Homeless Program in Boston, MA is a real eye and heart opener. Following the decades long career of Harvard educated Dr. Jim O'Connell. It all started with a one-year commitment and continued well past retirement age. You are taken down the road of treating unhoused people, no matter how they got that way with empathy and humanity, while dealing with bureaucracy. Dr. Jim's indoctrination began with a nurse that became his mentor, Barbara McInnes, when she taught him how to begin relationships by washing the feet of people that came to the clinic. (Available from KFL as a book and Libby as audio.)

Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan

This had NOT been on my “to read” list until I heard it had a Mah Jongg scene. The game, being my newest passion, got me started but then it took on a life of its own. The book follows the various members of Singapore’s top 1%, the multibillionaires. The protagonist, Rachel Wu an economy professor in New York City, is invited to a family wedding by her boyfriend, also a NY professor. He is the favorite son of one of those super rich Singapore families but has never even hinted about this fact to Rachel. Surprise! I was also surprised because the book doesn’t have a Mah Jongg scene, but the movie does! (Available from KFL as a book and through Minerva as as audio.)

Crazy Rich Asians - Jon M. Chu, director

Treat yourself to a great romantic comedy with the story line of the book but with a powerful Mah Jongg scene between rivals. Loved the modern “grapevine” gossip line, shots of the culture of Singapore, dramatic family dynamics and a great love story. (Available from KFL.)

[Visit our Website](#)



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