



June 2025 | Volume 32, Issue 7

Library News and Events



Summer Reading Fun For All Ages!

Kennebunk Free Library's summer reading program is here!! This year's theme is Level Up At Your Library, and all ages are welcome to participate! Kids and teens can fill out a summer reading bingo card or game board and earn raffle tickets for cool prizes! All ages will be eligible to enter a raffle in their age group. **The summer reading program will run from June 23 through August 16.** Some of the awesome programs we're doing this summer:

For adults:

- Chamber music with VentiCordi
- Adult Summer Camp
- Summer Concert with Bryan Frates

For teens (ages 10 and up):

- Demigod Days
- Dungeons and Dragons
- 39 Clues Amazing Race
- Escape Room
- Mario Kart Tournament

For kids:

- Drop-In Stuffed Animal Adoption
- Glow Party
- Life-Sized Candy Land
- 31st Annual Pet Show
- Video Game Party

For all ages:

- Outdoor Board Game Evening
- Ice Cream Social Finale Party

We have even more program fun planned! Dates and times of all programs will be announced soon. Come play with us this summer!



Summer is here and our 5K is right around the corner!

Registration for the Kennebunk Free Library 28th Edition 5K is now open! **Preregistration closes at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9.** Same day registration begins at 4 p.m. on Race Day: Friday, July 11. **(Same day registration costs are \$45 for adults; \$30 for children.)**

Our scenic, USATF-certified course begins and ends in the library parking lot, winding through peaceful local neighborhoods and the beautiful and perfectly-maintained Hope Cemetery and Woods trails.

Following the race, join us for a party on the library lawn, with live music, food, and a beer tent!

Prizes will go to the top male and female finisher in each of nine age categories.

Though we are not offering a separate virtual race registration, if you are unable to join us in person, we encourage you to run your own course and send us photos. Please email kfl@kennebunklibrary.org or call us at (207) 985-2173 if you have any questions.



5K Online Auction & 50/50 Raffle

Our 5K Auction is back this year and it's bigger and better than ever!

There will be lots of cool, new offerings to bid on, including Dinner for 4 at the [White Barn Inn](#), high end travel gear by [Nemo Equipment](#), a Queen Room plus Breakfast at the [White Sails Inn](#), a private Wine Tasting Party for 8 at [Wine House on Main](#), tickets to the [Portland Symphony Orchestra](#), and SO MUCH MORE! These are in addition to gift cards from your favorites like Shield's Meats & Produce, [La La Luna](#), [Boulangerie](#), and [Pedro's](#); and must-have merchandise from places like [173 Mercantile](#), the [Lobstore](#), [Daytrip Society](#), and [FatFace](#).

The auction goes live on July 1 and wraps up on July 15. Be sure to visit the KFL website to [find out more about the auction](#) and the auction link. For now, keep an eye out for a selection of auction items displayed in the KFL foyer.

Our 50/50 Raffle is underway! Half of the proceeds go to support the Library, the other half goes to you! Get your tickets at the adult circulation desk for your chance to win! 1 for \$5, 4 for \$10, 10 for \$20. The drawing will be held during post-race festivities on Friday, July 11 (winner need not be present to win).

A Message from the Friends

Things are coming together for our next **book sale during the Blueberry Festival on Saturday July 26.** Don't miss this opportunity to purchase books for everyone's interests at bargain prices. **Doors open at 9:00 a.m.** and the **sale ends at 12:30 p.m.**



The Friends of KFL will be participating in the Arundel Heritage Day celebration in September. Details will be developing.

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



Coming soon to the Children's collection: Yoto players and cards!

We're making an exciting addition to the children's audio collection! Yoto players provide a new way to listen to audiobooks. Instead of a disc, the audio recording comes preloaded on a card. To listen, insert the card into the player and you're good to go! KFL is adding 2 Yoto players for checkout. Each player comes with a selection of Yoto cards, a charging cord, and instruction guide. We'll also be

circulating Yoto cards on their own, so if you have your own Yoto player, you can borrow our cards just like you would borrow an audiobook! Don't have a Yoto player? You can download the free Yoto app and use your phone to tap the card. Cards for all reading levels will soon be available for checkout and include titles from the *Narwhal and Jelly* series, titles from the *Wings of Fire* series, the complete tales of Beatrix Potter, and many more. Keep an eye out to see when these items become available! Yoto cards and players are available to KFL patrons only. For more information, visit the desk in the Children's Room.



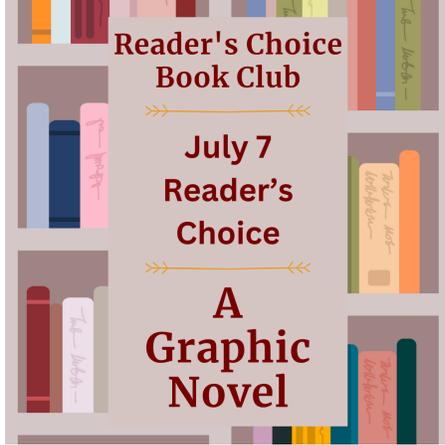
Monthly Phone Wallpaper

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 Group - July 7



Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Monday, July 7 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Walker Room at the library, and **our theme will be: A Graphic Novel.**

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!



KFL Puzzle Competition - July 8

Join us on **Tuesday, July 8 at 6 p.m.** in the Reading Room at the library. Teams of up to four players. All teams will compete with the same 500-piece puzzle.

Registration is required and can be accessed online through our website calendar or by calling the library at (207) 985-2173.

This event is free and wheelchair accessible. Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main St., Kennebunk. For more information, please visit the website www.KennebunkLibrary.org.



Evening Readers Choice Book Club - July 9

Our Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, July 9, at 6 p.m.** in the Reading Room at the library, and **our theme will be: What Brings You Joy**

For this month's theme we're looking for books that make you happy, laugh, or just bring you joy!

The Reader's Choice format allows readers to select any book that fits the 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!

The Just History Project: Uncovering Forgotten Local History - July 9

Did you know that the purchase of the first enslaved person in Arundel (today's Kennebunkport) was paid for by the Town?



Did you know that Lucy Nicolar, a Penobscot, who spent her summers in her youth at the “Indian Encampment” along the Kennebunk River, became a nationally known singer and recording artist, and was instrumental in gaining suffrage for the Wabanaki people of Maine?

Did you know that Shepard Bourn of Kennebunk, the son of the formerly enslaved man Salem Bourne, was impressed by the British Navy at the onset of the War of 1812 and sent to a prison ship at the Rock of Gibraltar?

On Wednesday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m., the Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to host an introduction to the new Just History Project that uncovers and highlights the largely forgotten history of Black, Wabanaki, and People of Color who once lived in what are now the towns of Wells, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel. It also highlights the history of the local white settlers who were connected to them as enslavers or in other capacities.

Over the last five years, Bill Grabin has identified and researched over 300 individuals, and created an online database that details what is known about these individuals, incorporating as many primary source documents as possible. The Just History **Database** can be found on the Brick Store Museum’s website at www.brickstoremuseum.org/justhistory. The database is filled with fascinating tales, and this program will highlight a number of them. The website is designed to be an educational resource for students, researchers, and community members alike. The program will demonstrate how the database can be easily navigated.

Bill Grabin has lived in Kennebunk with his wife Monica since 1985, and for many years has been a member of a number of conservation and historical organizations. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, and co-founded Renaissance Greeting Cards. He served as President of the Kennebunk Land Trust, and continues to serve as President of York County Audubon. He has long been fascinated by history and genealogical research.



From Sputnik to Space X, A History of Space Exploration - July 14

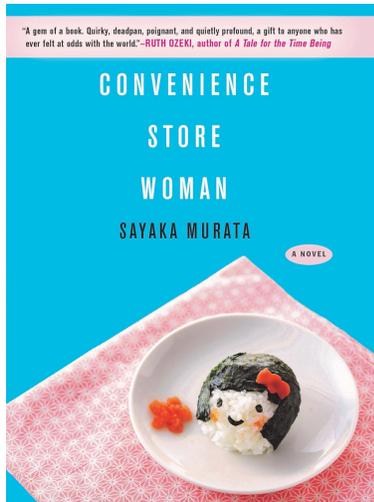
On **Monday, July 14 at 6 p.m.**, join us at Kennebunk Free Library to learn about the history of space exploration from Sputnik to Space X. Presenter Yuri Freeman will take us through the first Russian Space missions, including Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, and the launch of Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space. He will then cover the American Space missions that culminated with Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin becoming the first humans to walk on the moon; the American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts meeting in space during the Apollo-Soyuz missions; and modern Space X breakthroughs, including reusable rockets, and Starlink global internet. Freeman will also discuss his career in space electronics.

Yuri Freeman has a Ph.D. in solid state physics, the foundation of modern electronics and 62 U.S. and international patents. In his career as a scientist and engineer, Freeman developed the most advanced Tantalum capacitors, the key parts of life-saving cardio implants and space systems. For this work, Freeman received the Ekeberg Prize, the highest award in this field of applied science and engineering. Freeman participated in the Russian space program and then was invited to the United States by Sprague Electric in Sanford, Maine, where he got involved in the U.S. space program.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night - July 16

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 - July 22

Join us on **Tuesday, July 22 at 1 p.m.** to discuss *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata.

“Murata’s slim and stunning Akutagawa Prize–winning novel follows 36-year-old Keiko Furukura, who has been working at the same convenience store for the last 18 years, outlasting eight managers and countless customers and coworkers. Keiko, who has a history of strange impulses—wanting to grill and eat a dead bird, pulling down a hysterical teacher’s pants to get her to be quiet—applied to work at the Hiromachi Station Smile Mart on a whim. Where someone else might find the expected behavior for convenience store workers arbitrary and strict, Keiko thrives under such clear direction, finally finding a way to be normal. In fact, she thinks of herself as two Keikos: her real self, who has existed

since she was born, and “convenience-store-worker-me.” But normalcy is not static, as Keiko discovers. The older she gets, and the further she drifts from milestones like having a “real” job, marrying, and having children, the more her friends and family push her towards change. She strikes a sham marriage deal with a lazy and shifty ex-coworker, which, though it finally makes her “normal” in the eyes of others, throws her entire life and psyche into turmoil. Murata’s smart and sly novel, her English-language debut, is a critique of the expectations and restrictions placed on single women in their 30s. This is a moving, funny, and unsettling story about how to be a “functioning adult” in today’s world.”-Publishers Weekly



Summer Concert with Bryan Frates - July 22

Join us under the trees in the library amphitheater while we enjoy the music of Bryan Frates! **On Tuesday, July 22 at 6 p.m.**, Bryan and his bandmates Derek and Peter will be playing an acoustic set of diverse cover songs from several genres including, folk, Americana, and pop. Bring a lawn chair or a picnic blanket and be ready to clap along.

Should the weather not be favorable for an outdoor performance, we will hold the concert in the Reading Room.



Ukulele Group - July 9

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.

*The Saturday Ukulele Group will be taking a break for the summer. We'll see you again in the fall!



Life Size Candy Land (Adult) - July 23



Have you ever imagined YOU were the one walking through Candy Land? Come take a journey through a sweet wonderland on **Wednesday, July 23**. Kennebunk Free Library will be transformed into the board game you know and love – come follow the path through the Licorice Lagoon, the Gumdrop Pass, and the Ice Cream Sea, among other stops. Whether you're a Candy Kid now or looking to live out your childhood dreams, we have an opportunity for you! From 1:30-4:30 p.m., Candy Land is reserved for families to take a sweet stroll along our game path. **From 6-7, grown-ups aged 21+ are invited for an adults-only Candy Land adventure featuring special treats.** Candy Land playtime is on a **first-come, first-**

served basis. Entry onto the course will be staggered in short intervals and each group will receive a number upon arrival to hold your spot in line. Players can come at any time during the session, but may have to wait to play.

Life Size Candy Land is part of Level Up At Your Library, our Summer Reading Program. To learn more about the fun programs we're offering this summer, visit the library or our website for more information! This event is free and wheelchair accessible. Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main St., Kennebunk. For more information, please call 985-2173.



Die Well Death Education - July 28

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on **Monday, July 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** for the twelfth session in the Die Well Death Education Series with host Leona Oceania. You are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions - no registration is required.

In Session Twelve, we will discuss the film: 'Flight from Death: The Quest for Immortality'

Narrated by Gabriel Byrne, this seven-time Best Documentary award winning film is the most comprehensive and mind-blowing investigation of humankind's relationship with death ever captured on film. *Flight from Death* uncovers death anxiety as a possible root cause of many of our behaviors on a psychological, spiritual, and cultural level. Following the work of the late

cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker and his Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Denial of Death*, this documentary explores the ongoing research of a group of social psychologists that may forever change the way we look at ourselves and the world. Over the last twenty-five years, this team of researchers has conducted over 300 laboratory studies, which substantiate Becker's claim that death anxiety is a primary motivator of human behavior, specifically aggression and violence. (86 minutes)

*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.



Craft & Sip: Beads and Beyond - July 29

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on **Tuesday, July 29 from 6 to 7 p.m.** for some creative fun crafting a few pieces of jewelry. Adults will create their own jewelry pieces using metals and beading supplies. All materials will be provided for this program. Enjoy a glass of wine while working on your pieces. ***This program is for ages 21+. Registration is required.**

This event is free and wheelchair accessible.

Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main St., Kennebunk.

For more information, please visit the website www.KennebunkLibrary.org or call the library (207) 985-2173.

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.

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 to 4 p.m.**, and **Thursdays from 10 a.m. 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 (previously Monday), from 12:30 to 3 p.m.** to play Mah Jongg. The library has 3 sets available for use or you are welcome to bring your own. Don't know how to play? You're welcome to watch and learn. Want lessons? Future newsletters will announce a springtime class signup. We can also share some resources for learning on your own. Please [email the library](#) with any questions.



Cribbage - Thursdays (NEW WEEKLY GROUP)

KFL will be hosting a weekly Cribbage meet up on **Thursday mornings at 10 a.m.**. Just stop in to play!

See you in the fall!

The following programs are taking a break for the summer and will resume in the fall:

- Fourth Saturday Ukulele Group
- Improv



- Cook & Share Cook book Club
- Creative Collective

We look forward to seeing you again after the summer!

Teen Programs



Bookish Activities in the Teen Room!

Usually, we are *buzzing* with bookish activities in our library's teen room, but for summer reading, we are Leveling Up with Our Library, and it's the place to be for all things game-ish 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:

Interactive Bulletin: Giant Sudoku

Available all month, dive into the world of puzzles with our interactive Giant Sudoku Bulletin! Sudoku is a popular puzzle game that is like a number-based crossword, where you fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each column, row, and 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9. It's all about logic and problem-solving, and it will test your skills and boost your brainpower as you solve the puzzle independently, or with friends. Join now and become a Sudoku superstar!

July 5th: Minecraft Rubik's Cubes

As children, we always yearned for the mines, and if you did too, you can start working by creating your very own, custom, Minecraft Rubik Cube block! To start off summer reading, we will have all of the supplies you will need to begin crafting in the Teen Space on **Saturday, July 5**. Supplies are first come first served for the first two weeks of the month, and you can either complete your craft at the library, or take it home to do later. Happy crafting!

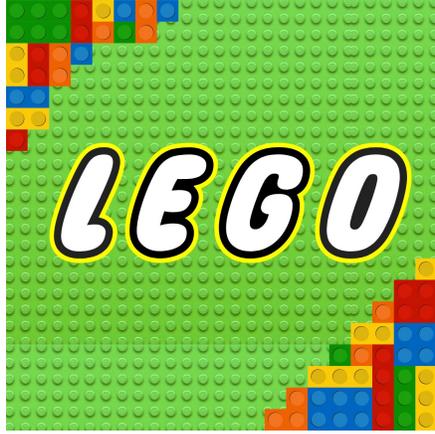
July 19th: Pokemon Origami Bookmarks

Origami bookmark, I choose you! **Beginning July 19**, we will have all of the supplies you will need to make an origami Pokemon bookmark. Whether it's Pikachu, Snorlax, Mewtwo, or Vulpix, you'll have a choice of which character you'd like to help mark your spot. Supplies are first come first served for the second two weeks of the month, and you can either complete your craft at the library, or take it home to do later. Gotta craft them, gotta craft them all!

These programs are free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and they are open to Teens ages 10 and up. 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!

Teen Lego Build Displays - July 1

Starting July 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 July, but we will have a binder with a gallery of your builds for others to enjoy.

This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, just reach out to Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia in the children’s room downstairs, or give us a call at (207) 985-2173. We can’t wait to see what you come up with!



Demigod Days: Camper Orientation - July 1

Join us for a fun summer of Demigod Days, a series of weekly teen programming inspired by the Gods and Goddesses from the Percy Jackson series! Sessions will run every Tuesday night of Summer Reading from 4:00 - 6:00 pm and have both craft and activity components. During our first session, Camper Orientation, we’ll envision our own Camp Half Blood by constructing gingerbread cabins, painting beaded necklaces, and cooperatively engineering a catapult to launch into action. Join us on **Tuesday, July 1 from 4 to 6 p.m.** in Hank’s Room for our first session. All sessions will be rain or shine events. **Registration is required** to attend this event. Please register ahead of time with the link, or through

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, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children’s room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you here!



Demigod Days: Sun and Moon - July 8

Join us for the second session of our weekly Demigod Days: Sun and Moon Day! This week we’ll focus on the celestial twins Apollo and Artemis. Compete in an archery competition with magnetic darts, make a customized sun catcher from old CDs, and craft and race your very own chariot out of recycled materials. Join us on **Tuesday, July 8th, from 4 to 6 p.m.** in Hank’s Room for this second session. All sessions will be rain or shine events. **Registration is required** to attend this event, but you do not need to register for every event to attend one of the programs in this series. Please register ahead of time with the link, or through 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, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children’s room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you here!



Teen Board Game Day - July 12

Join us for a fun morning of playing all of your favorite board games! Stop by the Teen Room (Walker Room) on **Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** to try out our various card and board games. Snacks will be provided, so be sure to bring your friends and family along to play!

This program is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. 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 there!



Dungeons and Dragons - July 7, 14, & 28

Welcome young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. We continue our search for Lynx, a Drider known for his knowledge in potions and poisons, as we get closer to understanding more about our villain, the Death Knight, and his creation of the Orb of Xeno, which has placed a time loop curse in its wake. We will be meeting on **Mondays: July 7, July 14, and July 28 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** The library will provide

all supplies, just bring your imagination! This program is for beginners and seasoned players who are familiar with the world and mechanics of Dungeons and Dragons.

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!



Demigod Days: War and Wisdom - July 15

Join us for the third session of our weekly Demigod Days: War and Wisdom Day! Ares and Athena, the respective gods of war and wisdom, will be this week's focus. We'll work together to code a labyrinth, then navigate that labyrinth by solving riddles from a sphynx. Our journey through the labyrinth will also be supported by the magical warrior props that we design, such as cardboard swords or gear. Join us on **Tuesday, July 15th, from 4 to 6 p.m.** in Hank's Room for this third session. All sessions will be rain or shine events.

Registration is required to attend this event, but you do not need to register for every event to attend one of the programs in this series. Please register ahead of time with the link, or

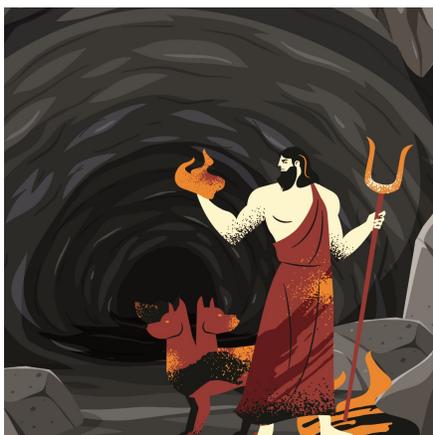
through our website calendar. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you here!



39 Clues Amazing Race - July 17

Have you always wanted to be a contestant on your favorite reality competition show? Or take part in a worldwide adventure like your favorite fictional characters? Join us for a fun afternoon of traveling to different continents, racing against the clock and against competitors, just like Dan and Amy Cahill from the popular 39 Clues book series! Join us on **Thursday, July 17th from 2 to 4 p.m.** in Hanks Room to test your general trivia skills and overcome detours and roadblocks as a team in this 39 Clues inspired Amazing Race! This will include solving puzzles, completing crafts, and more! [Registration is required](#). Please register ahead of time with the link or through 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 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!



Demigod Days: Visit to the Underworld - July 22

Join us for the fourth session of our weekly Demigod Days: A Visit to the Underworld! If you dare to venture into the Underworld, you'll be sure to have fun with all things monsters this week. We'll play multiple games and complete challenges based on the various creatures of Tartarus. These include eating donuts on a string, playing Museum freeze tag with a flashlight, and more! Then, we'll create our very own monsters out of recycled materials, and make mythomagic playing cards with their stats and features as a nod to our favorite son of Hades's favorite game. Join us on **Tuesday, July 22nd, from 4 to 6 p.m.** in Hank's Room for this fourth session. All sessions will be rain or shine events.

[Registration is required](#) to attend this event, but you do not need to register for every event to attend one of the programs in this series. Please register ahead of time with the link, or through 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, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you here!



Fantasy Map Making - July 24

Have you ever wanted to create a fantasy map like those on your favorite book covers? Now's your chance! Join us on **July 24, 2 to 3 p.m.** for a hands-on experience in fantasy cartography and bringing your own world to life. During this event, you will learn to craft maps with intricate details with a variety of experimental techniques. We will plot our maps with everyday items to form mystical shapes—such as tossing stones to create the shapes of continents, or rolling dice to decide on the biomes of your realm.

This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have questions, see

Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Demigod Days: Forging Day - July 29

Join us for the fifth session of our weekly Demigod Days: Forging Day! This day will be all about Hephaestus with a focus on forging and arts and crafts. We'll work with metal by creating individualized pins and decorating our own pizza pan shields. Then, we'll spend the rest of the evening forming custom armor and sculpting terracotta air-dry pots. Join us on **Tuesday, July 29th, from 4 to 6 p.m.** in Hanks Room for this fifth session. All sessions will be rain or shine events. **Registration is required** to attend this event. Please register ahead of time with the link, or through our website calendar. You may attend this event without having attended the rest in the series. This event is free, the space is wheelchair

accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. 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!



From Rookie to Rogue: Choose Your Own Adventure Escape Room - July 30 & 31

Join us for an engaging "choose your own adventure" escape room that promises an extraordinary journey, inspired by the mechanics of tabletop roleplaying games, like Dungeons and Dragons, with cherished characters from Young Adult literature for you to play as during your session.

Following our Portcon debut, we will be reprising our adventure for the Kennebunk Free Library to enjoy for our summer reading programming on **July 30 & July 31**. With a group of up to four participants, we will gather in the town of

Rengfell for a thrilling escape room experience as we delve into the mystery of the missing Librarian's Tome to see if you can escape the sunken Dutchman's Calamity before time runs out. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to ages 8 and up.

Registration is required, and we will host timed sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Please call the children's desk to reserve your time. 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!

Children's Programs

Beadcraft - July 2

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, July 2, at 1 p.m.** Design suggestions will be offered, but creativity is encouraged! All craft materials will be provided. [Registration](#) is recommended but not required.



Sensory Play Day: Candy Land - July 3

Play time sure is a treat! Join us on **Thursday, July 3, at 10 a.m.** for a Candy Land inspired morning of Sensory Play! Explore fun, sometimes messy activity stations and play spots that will remind you of Queen Frostine's Ice Palace, the Chocolate Swamp, Gumdrops Lake, and more. Come play with us, and wear clothes that can get messy! No registration is required. This program is designed with ages 1-4 in mind, but everyone is welcome.



Children's Music by Andrea Szirbik Groff - July 7

Let's sing and dance! Join us on **Monday, July 7, at 10 a.m.** for a concert by Andrea Szirbik Groff! A mom and public school teacher, Andrea is a singer-songwriter based in Berwick, Maine. Her children's performances are joyful and high-energy, with plenty of dancing, movement, and audience participation. Her children's folk-based music offers positive messages and lessons specifically for kids: tell the truth, keep trying (growth mindset), compromise, and more. Her performances are welcoming to all ages and backgrounds. The concert will be in place of our regularly scheduled Storytime and will be outside in the amphitheater. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be inside the library. Learn more about Andrea and listen to her music at [her website](#).

Junior Science: Bottle Rockets - July 7

Time to blast off! Join us on Monday, **July 7 at 3:45 p.m.** for a bottle rocket bonanza! Bring your own plastic bottle or use one that will be provided. Decorate it and watch it fly! For ages 5+. [Registration required](#).



Kindness Crew - July 8

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on **Tuesday, July 8, at 3:45 p.m.** Come hear a story about kindness and make a craft! This month, we'll talk about being kind to the ocean! 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!



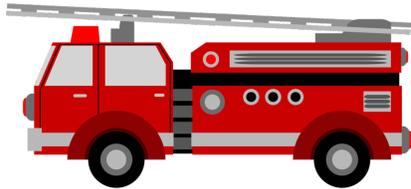
Bubble Party! - July 14

Life is the bubbles! Join us for some soapy fun outside Kennebunk Free Library on **July 14 at 10 a.m.** Come make bubbles of all sizes, and of course, make them POP! This program will be in place of our regularly scheduled outdoor storytime. In the event of inclement weather, we will have our Bubble Party on Monday, July 28, at 10 a.m.

Outdoor Messy Art - July 16

What's more fun than making a mess? Join us on **Wednesday, July 16, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.**, and get your hands dirty while creating art! Try painting with spray bottles, bubble wrap, and more. **Wear clothes that can get messy!**

This program will be outside the library. In the event of inclement weather, we have scheduled a rain date of Thursday, July 17, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.



Firetruck Storytime - July 21

A Visit From Kennebunk Fire & Rescue

Come to the Kennebunk Free Library on **Monday, July 21, at 10 a.m. (rain or shine)**, to meet our local firefighters and learn about firefighting! Kennebunk Fire and Rescue will visit us at the library to teach us about what it takes to become a firefighter and how to keep ourselves safe. An emergency vehicle will be available to see up close! All ages are welcome.



Junior Science: Make Your Own Ice Cream - July 21

We all scream for ice cream! Join us for a fun science experiment making Ice Cream in a Bag! For ages 5+; **Registration required.**

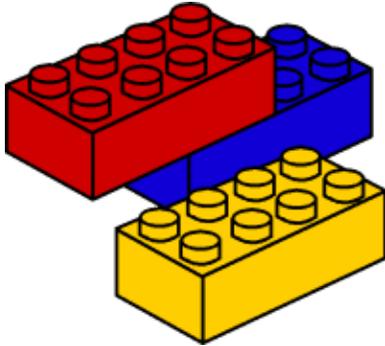
Life Size Candy Land (Families) - July 23

Have you ever imagined YOU were the one walking through Candy Land? Come take a journey through a sweet wonderland on **Wednesday, July 23**. Kennebunk Free Library will be transformed into the board game you know and love – come follow the path through the Licorice Lagoon, the Gumdrop Pass, and the Ice Cream Sea, among other stops. Whether you're a Candy Kid now or looking to live out your childhood dreams, we

LIFE SIZE CANDYLAND



have an opportunity for you! **From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**, Candy Land is reserved for families to take a sweet stroll along our game path. Candy Land playtime is on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Entry onto the course will be staggered in short intervals and each group will receive a number upon arrival to hold your spot in line. Players can come at any time during the session, but may have to wait to play.



Lego Club - July 24

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on **Thursday, July 24, from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.** Come and build new and imaginative creations or ask the librarian for a challenge to complete. All Lego blocks will be supplied; please leave yours at home. [Registration](#) is recommended but not required.



Ami the Bunny's Birthday Celebration and Storytime - July 28

Happy birthday, dear Ami! Come celebrate our favorite bunny puppet friend with a birthday Storytime. We'll share birthday stories and songs, sing "hoppy birthday" to Ami, and of course, enjoy some cupcakes. Ami's birthday celebration is scheduled for July 28, which is the rain date for our Bubble Party. If the Bubble Party is moved to July 28, Ami's birthday celebration will be July 14.



Glow Party - July 29

Ready, set, GLOW! Join us on **Tuesday, July 29, at 3 p.m.** for a Glow Party at Kennebunk Free Library! We'll switch on the black lights to create a neon wonderland inside the library. Make a neon beaded bracelet, grab some glowing accessories, and dance the afternoon away! Be sure to wear neon clothes so that you'll glow in the black light! No registration is required.

Speers Gallery



July Artist:

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents **“Plumbing the Vapor” by Erik Howell**. The exhibition runs **July 1-31** and features **abstract oil, ink and charcoal works on paper**.

Erik is a self-taught artist who has shown his work at numerous venues in the greater Portland area such as Blue, the CIA Café, and the Maine Art Hill Gallery. He will show a diverse collection of his best work over the last decade, coinciding with him having achieved

sobriety. While his ongoing journey in recovery in part informs his work, it is not the primary theme. Erik said the theme can best be expressed as “attempting to explore the hidden and unknowable of our reality while being constantly reminded of the limits of our means to do so.”

Immersing

himself in his work sustains and enriches him and he savors opportunities to discuss art with those interested!

Kennebunk Free Library is excited to welcome this local artist to our Speers Gallery.

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

Popular New Reads for July

July 1

[Edge of Honor](#) – Brad Thor

[The Red Queen](#) – Martha Grimes

[Dogged Pursuit](#) – David Rosenfelt

[An Enemy in the Village](#) – Martin Walker

July 8

[The Woman in Suite 11](#) – Ruth Ware

[Rage](#) – Linda Castillo

[The View from Lake Como](#) – Adriana Trigiani

[Hotel Ukraine](#) – Martin Cruz Smith

July 15

[The Unraveling of Julia](#) – Lisa Scottoline

[An Inside Job](#) – Daniel Silva

July 21

[The Hamptons Lawyer](#) – James Patterson

July 22

[The List](#) – Steve Berry

July 29

[The Winds from Further West](#) – Alexander McCall Smith

A Message from the Director



Kennebunk Free Library offers Museum Passes which are provided by the Friends of Kennebunk Free Library. These passes offer free or discounted admission to places such as Maine State Parks, the Portland Museum of Art, Southworth Planetarium, and more! My husband and I recently used a pass to take our kids on their first visit to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. It's a great way for us to explore without committing a lot of money other than some gas for the car and usually some ice cream. [Check out all our options at this link.](#)

Sincerely,
Michelle

*Pictured: Sophia and Max meet Birk the troll
(Maine Botanical Gardens)*

Staff Picks

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

Orbital by Samantha Harvey

This novel won the 2024 Booker Prize. Reviews refer to it as science fiction, literary fiction and philosophical drama and it is all of these. I listened to it is a meditation on space travel that this earth-bound reader will never experience. It is beautiful, reverent and peaceful. It is also practical. In space when you wake up you check on your arms and legs because gravity is not telling you where they are. In space when you drop something you have to overcome looking down because it could be anywhere... probably not down. A gem of a book, short and sweet and very different.
(Available in print from KFL, audio from Libby)

The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

This is a well-researched, historical fiction story about Johanna Bonger, wife of Theo van Gogh, who famously exchanged letters with his brother, Vincent. After both men's tragic deaths, the widow works untiringly to let the world of 19th century Amsterdam, Paris and New York, NY know of van Gogh's artistic genius. There is a modern simultaneous story of Emsley Wilson, part owner of an auction houses in New York City and the west coast. This part of the book was fluff and romance and I really enjoyed the two stories as they unfolded. There are many strong female characters, and the story lines kept me engaged. This could be your beach read in July!
(Available in print from KFL)

American Flannel – How a Band of Entrepreneurs are Bringing the Art and Business of Making Clothes Back Home by Steven Kurutz

A patron recommended this book for everyone as he returned it and right there at the top of the cover Steven King told me it was his favorite book in 2024, so I checked it out. Cheaply made fast fashion is a pet peeve of mine. How did quality USA clothing manufacturing come to an end in just a decade? What is needed to reduce disposable imports from clogging the world's landfills? Is it possible to bring back well-loved, long-lasting sweatshirts, flannels and other quality garments at a price working people can afford? Can clothing manufacturers pay a living wage to skilled workers? I too recommend this book as a must-read.
(Available from KFL in print)

[Visit our Website](#)



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

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