

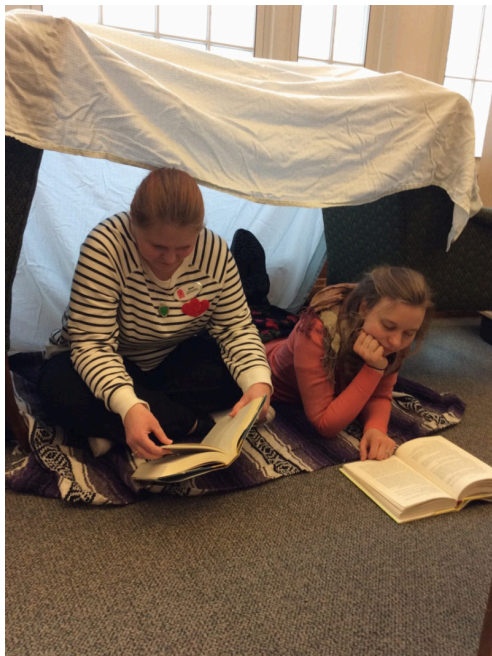
March

at KFL



March 2024 | Volume 31, Issue 3

LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS



Family Fort Night

Time to get cozy! On Thursday, March 7, from 5:00 to 7:00, throw on your comfy clothes and grab your blankets for Family Fort Night. After the library closes, stake out a spot and build your very own blanket fort. Spend some time in your family fort – reading, coloring, or playing games. We'll have fun crafts on hand, plus some yummy snacks, including smores. This is a families-only event. Adults must be accompanied by a child. Please call or visit the library website to [register](#).

Peep Diorama Contest



This time of year, almost everyone has a spare box of Peeps kicking around the house (maybe even some that were put away with last year's decorations?). KFL invites you to use your unwanted Peeps to create a diorama of your favorite literary scene. Maybe create Peep the Cat: I Love My White Shoes? Pride and Prejudice and Peeps? As long as Peeps are included, you can use any other materials or formats that you want to create the scene.

Bring your dioramas into the library between Monday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 20 to be put on display upstairs. Stop by between the 21st and 27th to vote for your favorite diorama in each of 4 age categories: 7 and under; 8-13; 14-18; and adult. Winners in each category will receive a KFL tote bag.

Need some inspiration or supplies? Drop by the Reading Room in the library between 4:00 and 6:00 on Tuesday, March 12 for a diorama-making workshop.



Save the Date!

It's that time of year again - registration for our 27th Edition 5K opens on Monday, March 4 at noon! This year's race is Friday, July 12 at 6:00. Keep an eye on the [5K page on our website](#) for the registration link and further details.

We Need Your Input!

Kennebunk Free Library would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in a focus group as part of our strategic planning process.

Your input will play a crucial role in shaping the future direction of the library. The focus group will provide a platform for open discussions about the strengths, opportunities, and challenges we face, as well as your vision for the Kennebunk Free Library.

[Registration is required.](#) Visit our website or call to reserve a spot.

- [Tuesday, March 5, 9:30-11:00 - KFL, Hank's Room](#)
- [Monday, March 11, 1:00-2:30 - Arundel Town Hall](#)

Your participation will contribute significantly to the development of a comprehensive and community-driven strategic plan. We genuinely value your input and look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can enhance our services and better meet the needs of our community.

AT THE CREATIVE SOUL



POTTERY PAINT NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

\$45 PER PERSON

Price includes one pottery piece of your choosing & all the supplies.

Light snacks and door prizes. BYOB.

**WHEN: Tuesday, March 26th
6PM-8PM**

WHERE: The Creative Soul
2 Christensen Lane
Kennebunk (lower village)

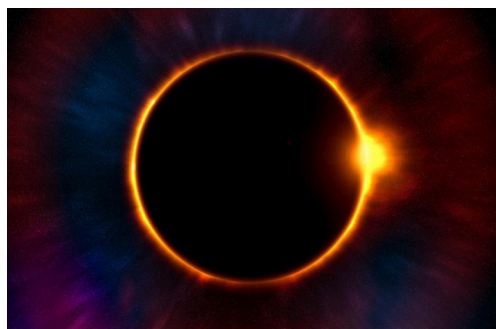
thecreativesoulme.com



All Together Now

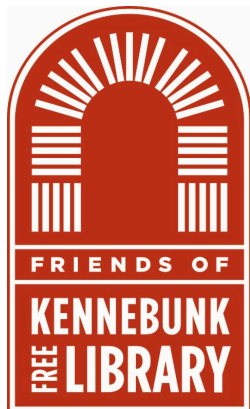


TICKETS MUST BE
PURCHASED IN ADVANCE.



Eclipse Glasses

KFL staff is very excited about the solar eclipse coming up on April 8. We have an astronomer coming on March 11 to discuss the eclipse. Everyone who attends will get a free pair of eclipse glasses. On March 12, we'll begin handing them out to the general public. Because of high demand, there will be a 2-glasses-per-family limit.



A Message from the Friends

We had a great turnout for our paperback and CD/DVD February pop-up sale, bringing in \$135. Thank you!

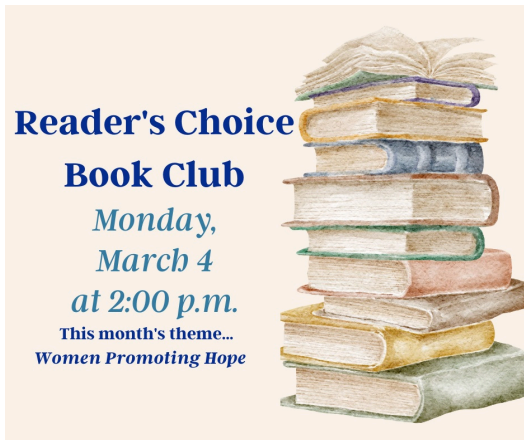
Did you Know?

Funds from Friends book sales go directly to providing additional services for KFL patrons. The museum passes that the library loans; e-books and Kanopy streaming services; much of the large print collection; and some programming for children, teens, and adults are paid for with Friends funds.

Looking ahead, March is a great time to join or renew a Friends membership, and please mark

your calendars for our next meeting, April 8 at 5:30 PM. (Location TBD). We hope to see you there.

ADULT PROGRAMS



Reader's Choice Book Club - March 4

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: Women Promoting Hope.

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 - March 4, 11, 18, 25

NEW TIME!!

Stop by the Kennebunk Free Library from 5:00 to 6:00 on Monday evenings for an opportunity to practice conversational Spanish with educator and native Spanish-speaker Eva Hernandez.



In Stitches - March 5, 12, 19, 26

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.



Body Positivity in Hiking - March 5

As we come out of the dark winter days and turn our thoughts to more time being spent outside, it's good to remember that the outdoors is for everybody and every body! KFL is pleased to host Paige Emerson of Chubby Hiker Reviews for Body Positivity in Hiking on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Paige Emerson started a social media page in 2020 called Chubby Hiker Reviews where she reviews trails from the lens of someone who is not your typical hiker. She posts body positive content and encourages people of all shapes and sizes to get outdoors. Over the past 4 years she has had the chance to review over 70 trails in Maine. She is also a social worker and a registered Maine Guide. Paige will share her story of how she got started and of her experiences in the great outdoors.



Seed and Plant Swap - March 9

For the second year in a row, KFL will be holding a seed and plant swap to kick off the 2024 gardening season! Get a start on your vegetable and flower garden and swap seeds with other area gardeners on Saturday, March 9 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. We are welcoming attendees to bring along seeds that are clearly labeled, healthy, and that have been stored for 3 years or less. Houseplants and plant cuttings are also welcome!



Astronomer Carl Gurtman on the Solar Eclipse - March 11

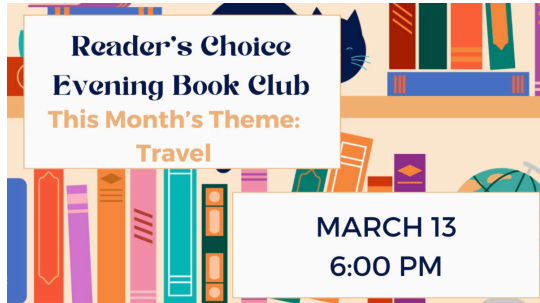
The upcoming solar eclipse has us all thinking about the sky. Join us at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. for a discussion of astronomy. Carl Gurtman, assisted by several Members of the Astronomical Society of Northern New England (ASNNE), will give an overview of astronomy including what we can see in the sky and the many things that we can only see with the aid of instruments.

This all-ages presentation will highlight a special section about the upcoming total solar eclipse of April 8, an event that, weather permitting, will be visible from wide swaths of Maine. Carl will

emphasize the rarity of total solar eclipses, and how, whenever possible, people should try to view it.

Carl Gurtman has been interested in astronomy from a very early age and is currently the Secretary of ASNNE. He is a retired nuclear engineer who worked at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He and his wife Linda have three adult children and four grandsons.

A free pair of eclipse glasses will be available to everyone attending the program.



Evening Readers Choice Book Club - March 13

Our Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Walker Room on the main floor of the library.

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!

March's Theme is "Travel"



Ukulele Group - March 13 and 27

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.

Big Conversations in 10 Short Minutes - March 16

People need people. Let's connect in an easy

BIG CONVERSATIONS

in 10 Short Minutes



way, with other people who would also like to connect. No pressure to impress. No political agenda. Even better, it can be done at home, with a blanket on your lap, because this is a virtual conversation.

Join us on Saturday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m. for Big Conversations in 10 Short Minutes, a library collaborative virtual meetup with people in Maine.

Here's how it works: We'll give you a couple of conversation prompts. One is simple. One leans more toward the philosophical. You'll be paired with someone to have a short, 10-minute conversation about the prompt of your choice. When you're done, you'll be paired with someone else for a new conversation with new prompts. We like to think of it as a little pocket of meaning at the end of a long day.

Offered in partnership with these Maine public libraries: Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library, Camden Public Library, Curtis Memorial Library, Falmouth Memorial Library, Lubec Memorial Library, Merrill Memorial Library, Prince Memorial Library, Scarborough Public Library, Thomas Memorial Library, Walker Memorial Library, Windham Public Library, and York Public Library.

[Register here](#) for the Zoom link.



Writer's Group - March 19

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 - March 20

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.



Die Well Death Education - March 25

Join us on Monday, March 25 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. for the first 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.

Session one is: Why Talk About Death? In this session we will discuss why talking about death is important, and the benefits it can and does provide. We will also review creating an End-of-Life Plan, the importance of legacy work, hospice & palliative care, as well as funeral and body disposition options. (There are more than you think!)

Die Well Death Education is the passion project of Leona Oceania. Always fascinated with death and baffled by the fact that we don't talk about the one thing that is going to happen to all of us, she decided to do what she could to encourage that conversation. She has trained to become an End-of-Life Doula, a Home Funeral Guide, a Life Legacy Facilitator, and a Death Educator. She also serves on the board of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine, is the facilitator of a number of Death Cafés in Southern Maine, and is a volunteer with a local hospice organization. She has built a bookcase coffin with the prodigious Chuck Lakin, which is currently in use as a bookcase in her living room until it is needed as a coffin.



Fiction Book Discussion - March 26

Join us on Tuesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Flying Solo* by Linda Holmes.

"As a child, Laurie Sassalyn would escape to her Aunt Dot's to get away from the chaos and hubbub of her own home. Years later, Laurie returns to Calcasset, Maine, to help clear out Aunt Dot's house. Much of what Laurie finds is the usual mementos of a life well lived, but hidden inside one of Aunt Dot's chests is an unexpected treasure: a beautifully painted duck decoy. Why did Aunt Dot hide it away? Laurie enlists Matt, the handsome "bereavement declutterer" who is helping sort through Aunt Dot's belongings, but when Laurie discovers that Matt has nefarious intentions, she, her childhood best friend, June, and her high-school boyfriend, Nick, band together to solve the mystery. There's still a spark between Laurie and Nick, and Laurie has to figure out a path forward that satisfies both her need for solitude and independence and her desire for a relationship. Holmes (*Evvie Drake Starts Over*, 2019) blends humor, emotional depth, and small-town charm in this delightful story about the bonds of family and friendship, showing how even the most independent people need someone to lean on. Readers will love spending time with Laurie and her friends; suggest to fans of Katherine Center and Abbi Waxman." (Booklist, vol 118, number 18, p14)

Tech Time - Wednesdays & Thursdays

Are you stuck on a technology question that might need some



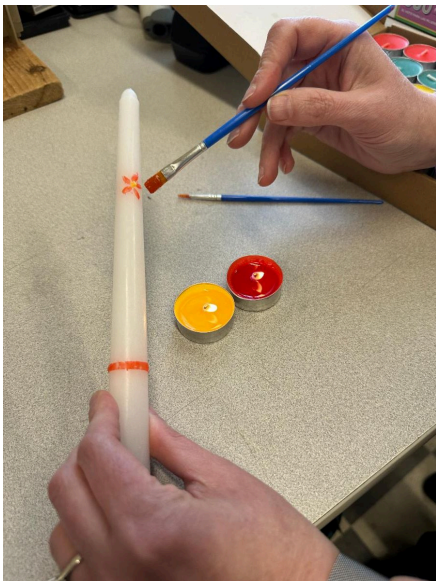
extra help to be solved? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having a second pair of eyes help troubleshoot a piece of software, don't worry, the library is here to help!

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.



Paint and Sip: Candle Painting - March 27

Join us on March 27 at 6:00 p.m. for a different kind of paint and sip: candle painting! You will use melted wax to create your own designs on white taper candles. Ideas and templates will be available to spark your creativity. Enjoy a glass of wine and light refreshments while working on your creations. This program is for ages 21+.



March Take and Make: Woven Bookmark

Create your own woven bookmark with March's Take and Make craft. You'll be provided materials and instructions for creating your own small bookmark made out of woven yarn. Kits will be available on March 15 and will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis.



Dungeons and Dragons - March 11, 18 and 25

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: **March 11, March 18, & March 25** from 3:30-4:30 p.m. You're welcome to bring in a character from a previous game,

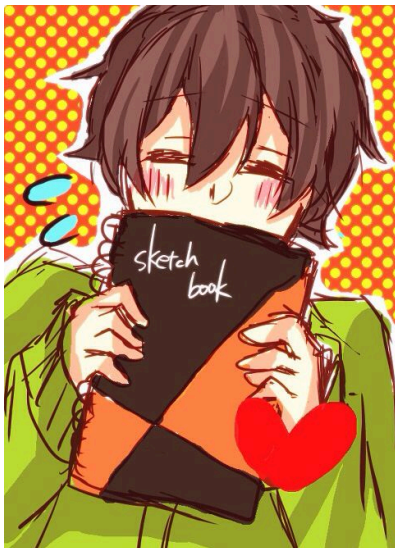
to make a new one, or to use one of the pre-made characters provided in the starter set. All other supplies will be provided, just bring your imagination! This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline downstairs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



Chill Gaming - March 14

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, **March 14**, 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!



Anime Club - March 21

Join us for Anime Club on the third Thursday of the month, **March 21**, downstairs in Hank's Room from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to draw, snack, listen to music, and spend time with friends! Paper and supplies to make a new sketchbook will be available, but feel free to bring your well-loved sketchbooks with you to work on too! This program is designed for dedicated and new fans interested in learning more about the fandom. 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



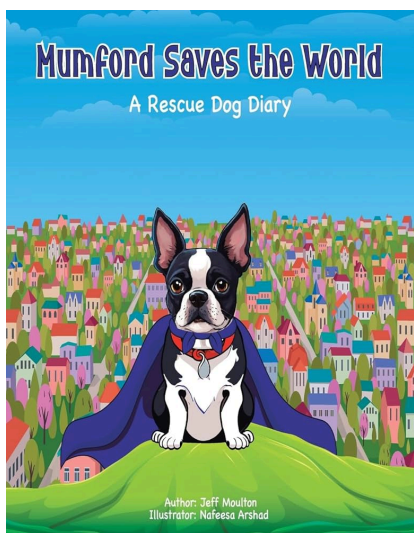
Junior Science - March 4

2024 is the 112th anniversary of the Titanic disaster. This month, come learn all about Titanic at Junior Science on March 4 at 3:45 p.m.! Learn about how Titanic sank, the people who were on the ship, and how we found the Titanic underwater! For ages 5+, [registration required](#).



Beadcraft - March 6

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, March 6, 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.



Furry Tales - March 8

What's better than sharing stories? Sharing stories with a furry friend! Come to Kennebunk Free Library on Friday, March 8, at 11:30 a.m. for our monthly Furry Tales Storytime with Animal Welfare Society. This month is extra special – we'll be joined by local author and dog lover Jeff Moulton! Jeff will read his book *Mumford Saves the World*, and copies will be available for purchase. Miss Amanda from AWS will bring Bowie, a doodle puppy! She'll also share songs and fun with us. Join us for this super special Furry Tales! All ages are welcome to attend. No registration required.

Kindness Club - March 12



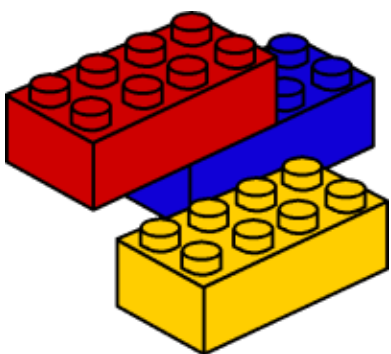
In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on Monday, March 12, at 3:45 p.m.. Come hear a story about kindness and make a craft! This month, we will read stories about neighbors and make a sign to welcome others to the library in honor of Won't You Be My Neighbor Day (March 20). 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!



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Science Saturday - March 16

Want to add a little science to your Saturday morning? Join us on Saturday, March 16, from 10-11 a.m. for a special science program hosted by Mousam River STEM Academy! Come be a scientist and try the sticky water challenge! Perform an experiment to learn about surface tension, use a data sheet to quantify and analyze results, and make a coffee filter flower! This program is for PreK – 5th grade, no registration required.



Lego Club - March 28

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on Thursday, March 28, 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 February, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out the toys for a library play date. These toys are best enjoyed when the whole family plays



together! Before we say goodbye until next time, Miss Maria will read a story. 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:

- March 7
 - March 14
 - March 21
-
- March 28



Storytime - Mondays

It's time for Storytime! Come to the library for stories, songs, and fun with Miss Maria! We'll even get to say hello to our puppet friend, Ami the bunny. On most Mondays in February at 10:00 a.m., Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at Kennebunk Free Library. We can't wait for you to join us! Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- March 4
- March 11
- March 18
- March 25

SPEERS GALLERY



March Artist: Alexandra Jean

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents the exhibit "Healing Through Nature & Photography" by Alexandra Jean of Kennebunk. The exhibit runs March 4-29, and the public is invited to a reception on Saturday, March 9 from 2-4 pm.

Alexandra Jean's passion for photography emerged as a refuge during a tumultuous period marked by the tragic losses of loved ones. Overwhelmed by grief, a turning point came with the gift of a Canon T2 camera from a friend, urging her into the embrace of the outdoors. She discovered a profound connection to nature in the marshes and trails, capturing the ethereal beauty of birds and wildlife. Nature's sanctuary not only fostered her creativity but played a crucial role in her healing and mental well-being. She hasn't put the camera down since.

After decades as a civil engineer designer, Aleksandra is now blessed with the freedom to explore her passion completely. She finds solace and purpose in the world of wildlife photography in Maine and beyond, often traveling to national parks and wildlife refuges that offer encounters with species not found in Maine.

Besides photography, Aleksandra enjoys paddle boarding, kayaking, and hiking. At home here in Kennebunk, surrounded by her two feline companions, she also finds joy in the art of pie baking, a passion that bloomed during her time owning a pie shop in the Pacific Northwest.

Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to show the photographs of this this talented local artist.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from March 4-29 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.

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 March

March 5

[Never Too Late](#) – Danielle Steel

[The Hunter](#) – Tana French

[Galway Confidential](#) – Ken Bruen

March 12

[Still See You Everywhere](#) – Lisa Gardner

[In Sunshine or in Shadow](#) – Rhys Bowen

March 18

[The #1 Lawyer](#) – James Patterson

March 19

[The Princess of Las Vegas](#) – Christ Bohjalian

March 26

[The Truth About the Devlins](#) – Lisa Scottoline

[The Wild Side](#) – Fern Michaels

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I appreciate all the feedback we received through our Strategic Plan survey. There have been several comments about improvements that I can happily address now:

Elevator – We have an elevator. Once you walk through the vestibule, turn to your left. No stairs needed!

Book Drop – We have a drive-up book drop but we also have a book drop at our entrance. When you are standing outside the exterior doors, it is to your immediate left.

Curbside – You can still request materials to be picked up curbside.

Printed Calendars of Activities – We have these in a few locations inside the library.

Door Openers – Both sets of wooden doors have an automatic door opener. Each set has a separate button.

Home Delivery – We bring books straight to your door upon request.

Please ask us about these services or contact us if you have further suggestions.

Pictured: Max got *Hello Dinosaurs!* By Holub and Dickason for his birthday.

STAFF PICKS

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

Astor: the rise and fall of an American fortune by Anderson Cooper & Katherine Howe

Just as I was finishing *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* by Betty Smith which described the immigrant

experience of New York City tenement apartments in the early 1900s, I started listening to the author narrating this latest book about the Astor branch of his ancestry. The income from tenement buildings in NYC helped to build the Astor fortune. The rise and fall of this family of “the gilded age” is fascinating. Cooper covered the life of Cornelius Vanderbilt in his earlier book, and I hope he covers the grandson George Washington Vanderbilt of the Biltmore Estate in Ashland, NC in the future. (Available from KFL on Libby as as a book and audio; from Minerva as a book, audio cd and large print.)

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

Are you looking for a respite from conflict and drama? This may be your next read. Lara and her three young adult daughters come together to pick cherries on the family farm during the pandemic. With much prompting, Lara tells them the story of her young life acting the part of Emily in the play *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder in high school, college, and summer stock at Tom Lake. Lara has a summer love affair with a fellow actor. This is my favorite quote from the book: “Good marriages are never as interesting as bad affairs. The stories that are familiar will always be our favorites”. Still not decided? I step aside for a professional reviewer from the New York Times, Alexandra Jacobs. Oh, and one more thing, the audio version narrator is Meryl Streep. Nailed it. (Available from KFL as a book and audio cd, Libby as a book and audio, and through Minerva in large print.)

[Visit our Website](#)



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