



**March 2025 | Volume 32, Issue 3**

## LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS



### A Message From the Friends

In appreciation for our members, a "Mad Hatter" Book Sale for **Friends Only** is planned for Wednesday March 12 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Wearing a fun hat is optional but encouraged. [New members are always welcome](#), and it isn't too late to renew for 2025!

Our next Friends meeting will be held at KFL on Monday April 7 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. [Here is the link](#) for more information.

Mark your calendars for the **May Day Book Sale Saturday May 3** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m!

### Library Tidbits: Hold Pickup Emails/Website Changes

You'll be seeing a couple of fun changes coming in mid-March.

We have been selected to be part of a pilot program for the state to change the way we send hold pickup notices. If it works out, other notices might be changing as well. On your end, the notices will look much neater. Because we'll be able to customize the content rather than relying on system-generated notices, it will be tailored specifically to our patrons and should sound a little friendlier. One of our favorite parts - if



it works as expected, you should see an image of the book cover in the notice.

The second change is to our website. The web host that we have been working with is taking a well-deserved retirement so we have had to switch companies, which is going to mean a few changes to the site. The basic structure is going to be the same but there will be a few tweaks and a couple of nice new features. If you are used to e will be available to help if you have any trouble navigating the changes.

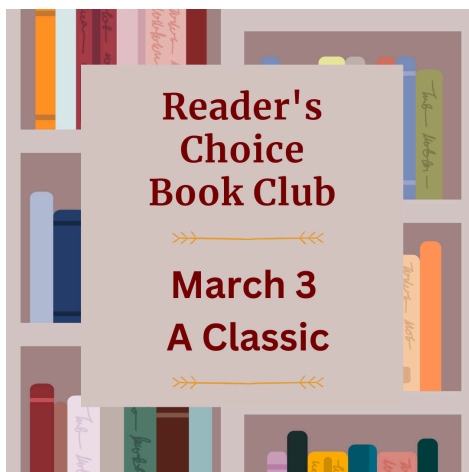


### Monthly Phone Wallpaper

Looking to change up your phone background? Like our Newsletter Banner? [Download our monthly phone wallpaper](#) and match with us! New backgrounds every month! [E-mail Amelia for assistance](#).

To download to your phone, tap 'Download' as highlighted in the newsletter on your mobile device. Follow the link. Once you arrive at the download page from our calendar, tap and hold on the image, then select 'Save to Photos'. The image will be saved to your 'Photo Gallery' and you can change your wallpaper from there.

## ADULT PROGRAMS



### Reader's Choice Book Club - March 3

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, March 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: *A Classic*.

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!

### Big Conversations in 10 Short Minutes - March 6

People need people. Let's connect in an easy 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 Zoom on Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.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 conversation prompts. You'll be paired with someone to have a short, 10-minute conversation about the prompt. 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.

Register through [Curtis Memorial Library](#).

*This program is part of MECollab, a collaborative programming partnership between libraries throughout the state of Maine.*

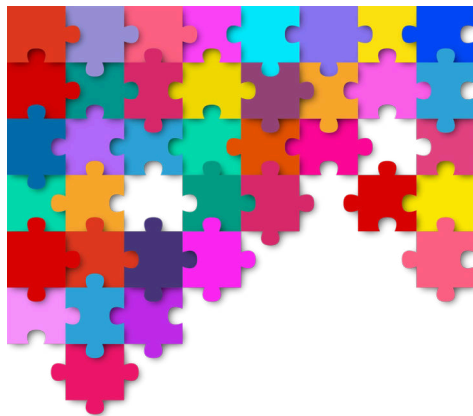


### **Cook and Share Cookbook Club - March 6**

Welcome to our Cookbook Club! You are invited to join us on Thursday March 6 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. when we will gather to celebrate food through various dishes and themes!

How does it work? Make a dish from a favorite cookbook or a new one that you have been wanting to try, then bring it in to share! Every month we will have a different theme. Our theme this month is "Death by Chocolate".

Please [email Becca](#) to let her know you will be attending



### **Puzzle Tournament - March 11**

The Kennebunk Free Library will be hosting a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition on Tuesday, March 11 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. [Registration is required](#). Please register your team of up to four players by Monday, March 10. (There will be no additional time allowances if the group is less than 4). All teams will complete with the same 300-piece puzzle. Library staff will monitor the time and record of placement. The fastest team will receive a prize. Registration can be accessed online through our website calendar

### **Ukulele Group - March 12**

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.

Reader's Choice  
Evening Book Club

March's Theme  
*Survival Story*

Choose a Survival Story,  
(fiction or non-fiction) to  
read, and then join us to  
share and discuss!

**March 12th**  
**6-7pm**



## Evening Readers Choice Book Club - March 12

Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Wednesday, March 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Reading Room at the library, and our theme will be: Survival Story.

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!



## Silent Reading Circle - March 13

Want to join a book group, but also read whatever book you want without having to discuss it? Well then does KFL have the book group for you! Join us on Thursday, March 13 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for Silent Reading Circle. Spend a couple of hours reading by the fireplace in our Reading Room. No pressure to chat, just dedicated reading time! Snacks and cozy drinks will be provided!



## Seed and Houseplant Swap - March 15

Are you planning your gardens for this year? Ready to start some seeds indoors? Are you awash in houseplants or overrun with saved seeds? Join us on Saturday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m. for an informal seed and houseplant swap! Bring seeds stored for 3 years or less, healthy houseplants, cuttings, or seedlings, and your favorite green thumb tips and tricks to share. Attendees should aim to take about as much as they bring, or more if offerings allow.

## Creative Collective - March 18



Join us and express your creativity in our monthly evening group the Creative Collective. This group will take place in the library on the third Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Join us on Tuesday, March 18 in a relaxed atmosphere with other creative people of all skill levels. Explore your creativity with whatever your passion is: handicrafts, journaling, sketching or doodling, coloring, crocheting, embroidery or knitting - all are welcomed! Please bring in any portable project you are working on along with your own supplies. You are free to stop by for a few minutes or stay the whole hour.



### **Trivia Night - March 19**

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 24**

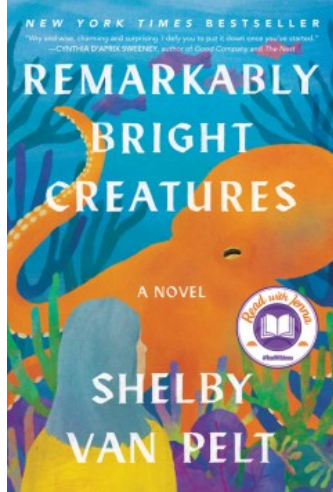
Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, March 24 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. for the eighth session in the Die Well Death Education Series with host Leona Oceania. You are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions - no registration is required.

Everyone has the right to care for their own dead. In this session, we will go over the basics of a home funeral; from getting your loved one home if they have died elsewhere, to how to wash, care for, and maintain the body, as well as ideas for a meaningful home vigil for your loved one. If time and space allow, we will hold a "mock" home funeral. (80 minutes)

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

### **Fiction Book Discussion - March 25**

Join us on Tuesday, March 25 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.



In the sleepy town of Sowell Bay, Washington, Tova Sullivan stands on the precipice of a new life. There's nothing left for her in her childhood home. Her husband is dead, and her son Erik drowned many years ago. With her grief threatening to consume her, Tova considers how she's going to move on while finding comfort in her job at the local aquarium. She's made friends with an intelligent octopus, Marcellus, who also provides his perspective on the matter. Especially adept at crawling out of his tank, Marcellus is searching for meaning as he comes to terms with the end of his own short life. Additionally, readers meet Cameron Cassmore, a Californian in Sowell Bay looking for his lost father, and Ethan Mack, a grocery-store owner who fancies Tova. As her involvement with both men deepens, Tova questions her intention to leave. Tova's gentle relationship with Marcellus is the heart of Van Pelt's debut. The octopus' point of view, though unusual, brings a magical haze to the novel, even as Tova and Marcellus realize their story is coming to an end. A unique and luminous book for

fans of Eleanor Ray's *The Missing Treasures* of Amy Ashton (2021). -- Cari Dubiel (Reviewed 3/15/2022) (Booklist, vol 118, number 14, p44)



### **Cribbage and Carbs - Thursdays Beginning March 27** (NEW WEEKLY GROUP)

KFL will be hosting a weekly Cribbage meet up on Thursday mornings at 10:00, beginning on March 27. The first meeting we'll do an orientation, going over the rules of the game. After that, just stop in to play! Light refreshments will be served.



### **March Take-and-Make - Sea Glass Suncatchers**

This month, pick up a kit to make a whimsical suncatcher with sea glass, wooden beads and salt dough (sea glass, beads, twine and salt dough RECIPE provided). Kits will be available beginning March 6, while supplies last.

## **WEEKLY PROGRAMS**

### **Mah Jongg - Wednesdays and Fridays**

Everyone is invited to drop in on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. or Fridays (previously Monday) from 12:30 - 3:00 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.

## Spanish Language

### Conversation Group

#### Spanish Conversation Group - Mondays

Stop by the library on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for an opportunity to practice conversational Spanish. Whether you are fluent in the language or just learning, all are welcome!



#### French Language Discussion Group - Mondays

Are you looking for an opportunity to converse in French? Join us at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday nights at 6:30 for a French Language Discussion Group. All skill levels are welcome to participate. No registration is required – just drop in!

#### 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 11:00 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.



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



### Improv - Saturdays

Join us on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a fun and relaxed morning of improv!

## TEEN PROGRAMS





## Bookish Activities in the Teen Room!

The teen space in the library is *buzzing* with bookish activities for you to do beginning March 1st, and it's the place to be for all things literary right now! Whether you're flying solo or hanging out with friends, you can do these activities at your own pace, so no rush, and no pressure. Here's a sneak peek at the activities we have planned for you this month:

### March Madness Book Competition

Get ready for a *slam dunk* of reading this March! In our March Madness Book Competition, teens will battle it out in a bracket-style showdown, where your favorite books go head-to-head. Vote for the ultimate champion—whether it's a thrilling adventure, a heart-pounding mystery, or an unforgettable fantasy! The competition will heat up each

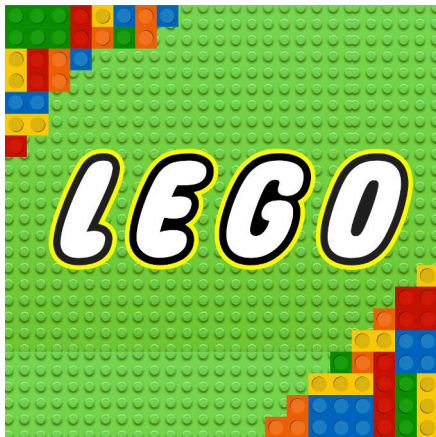
week as the books fight for the win!

### Golden Reads

Whether it's a *pot of gold* read or a classic you've *found your four-leaf clover* in, these notes are the perfect way to show off your top picks. Join us for a fun way to bookmark the books that are golden to you! Place a lucky golden coin sticky note on the spine of a book (or books!) that holds a special place in your heart. Please feel free to write what stands out about it, or give a brief (spoiler-free) plot description on the note. Think of it as a love letter, but for the books that mean the most to you. You can sign your name, or leave it as an anonymous lucky letter to literature. Happy reading!

If you have any questions about these programs, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Teen Lego Build Displays - March 1

Starting **March 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 April. If you have any

questions, just reach out to Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia in the children's room, or give us a call at (207) 985-2173. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

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## Mitten Loom Kits - March 1

Get crafty this winter and embrace your creativity with this month's Teen Craft Kit! In this hands-on program, you'll learn how to weave your very own cozy mittens using a loom kit made of recycled materials. On **Saturday, March 1**, stop by the library to take supplies home with you to craft



independently. You can find these kits in the Teen Room, waiting just for you! 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!



### **Dungeons and Dragons - March 10, 17, 31**

Welcome young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. After escaping the Beastlands and Bullywug Caverns, we are headed to the plane of existence, Carceri. We will be meeting on Mondays: **March 10, March 17, and March 31** from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The library will provide all supplies, just bring your imagination! This program is dedicated to players who are familiar with the world and mechanics of Dungeons

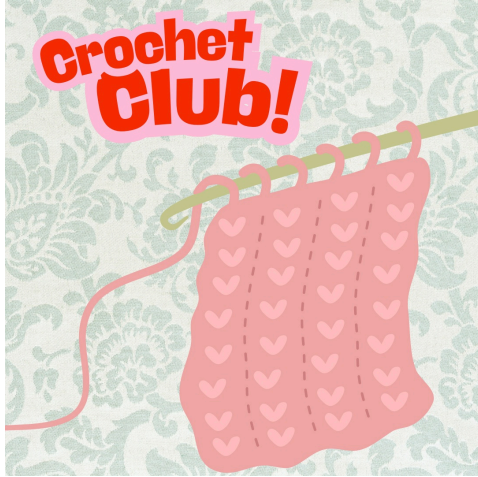
and Dragons. If you are a new player, we will have beginner sessions held on the 2nd Thursday of the month for you to make characters and learn about basic gameplay. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



### **Beginner Dungeons and Dragons - March 13**

Welcome young adventurers! Are you ready to dive into a world of magic, monsters, and epic quests? Dedicated to new players, join us for Dungeons and Dragons, a tabletop RPG where YOU control the fate of your character! Whether you're a brave warrior, a clever wizard, or a talented bard, your journey awaits. We will meet on March 13 from 3:30-4:30 P.M. to create characters, answer questions about gameplay, and discuss the world of our Monday programming so you can join us in our campaign. You're welcome to bring in a character from a previous game, to make a new one, or to bring any gaming gear with you. The library will provide all the supplies, 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 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!



Join our Crochet Club and let's stitch, chat, and create! Whether you're a crochet pro or a total beginner, this club is the perfect place to learn new skills, share your creations, and make some new friends. Please bring your own supplies, and feel free to drop in or stay for an hour to work on projects with some company and hot cocoa! We will meet on **March 20** from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you have questions about the program, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!

## CHILDRENS PROGRAMS



### Beadcraft - March 5

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 5, at 1 p.m. What a great way to spend an early-release afternoon! Design suggestions will be offered, but creativity is encouraged! All craft materials will be provided. [Registration](#) is recommended but not required.

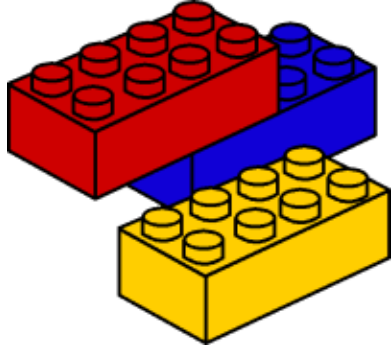


### Kindness Crew - March 11

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on Tuesday, March 11, at 3:45 p.m. Come hear a story about kindness and make a craft! This program is open to ages 6 and up; registration is appreciated but not required! Kindness has no age requirement – if a friend younger than 6 would like to join in, please reach out to Miss Maria at [mrichardson@kennebunklibrary.org](mailto:mrichardson@kennebunklibrary.org), or 985-2173 x 105. Caregivers are encouraged to join in! When your little sees you talking about and practicing kindness, they will want to join in even more!

### Lego Club - March 27

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 27, 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 recommended but not required.

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### **Mad Hatter's Tea Party - March 18**

We're all mad here, but here's a secret – all the best people are! On Tuesday, March 18, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., join us for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Kennebunk Free Library! We'll be fancy and silly, too! First, Miss Maria will share a story, and we can share a song or two together. Afterwards, we'll enjoy tea party snacks and tasty drinks. We'll also have some wonderful Wonderland crafts to make. Come dressed in your tea party finery or Alice in Wonderland fashions! This program is for ages 4 and up. No registration is required.

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### **Storytime - Mondays**

Hello, friends! 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 Mondays in March at 10:00 a.m., Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at the Kennebunk Free Library. We can't wait for you to join us! Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- March 3
  - March 10
  - March 17
  - March 24
  - March 31
- 



### **Family Fun Play - Thursdays**

Have a morning of play at the library! On Thursday mornings in March, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out some special 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 approximately 11:15 am; however, friends are welcome to come and go as they please. Thursday Family Fun Play is for children ages 0-5

and their grown-ups. No registration is required.  
Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27

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## SPEERS GALLERY

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### March Artist: Brian Cohen

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents “A Career in Prints” by Brian D. Cohen. The exhibit runs March 1-31, with an opening reception on Saturday, March 1 from 3-5 pm. All are welcome.

Brian’s exhibit features a series of etchings spanning his 40-year career as a printmaker. He says “I began to make prints because I had to; a printmaking course was part of the curriculum of an art program where I was hired to teach...To learn more, I began to make my own etchings

and soon fell in love with the medium. I learned from books and from gaps in my knowledge that showed up in my early etchings and in my own teaching. The craft, history, and look of etching grew on me...Now I look at my work and reflect with some satisfaction that I continued to make art throughout my entire life, and I continue to make art now. I would like my work to be seen.”

Brian D. Cohen is an educator, printmaker and painter. He founded Bridge Press in 1989 to further the association and integration of visual image, original text, and book structure. Artist’s books and prints by Brian D. Cohen have been shown in over forty individual exhibitions, including a retrospective at the Fresno Art Museum, and in over 200 group shows. Cohen’s books and etchings are held by major private and public collections throughout the country. He lives in Kennebunk and is an avid collector of books and prints, rides motorcycles, and plays classical viola.

Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to showcase the work of this unique artist.

*The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library’s Speers Gallery from March 1-31 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](http://www.kennebunklibrary.org).*

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## 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 Releases for February

### March 4

[Far from Home](#) – Danielle Steel

[Blood Moon](#) – Sandra Brown

### March 11

[The Jackal's Mistress](#) – Chris Bohjalian

[Silent As the Grave](#) – Rhys Bowen

[Galaphile](#) – Terry Brooks

### March 17

[The Writer](#) – James Patterson

### March 18

[The Summer Guests](#) – Tess Gerritsen

### March 25

[Lethal Prey](#) – John Sandford

[Nobody's Fool](#) – Harlan Coben

[Fight or Flight](#) – Fern Michaels

[Elphie](#) – Gregory Maguire

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Maine Policy Review's* recently released issue focuses on libraries. It is available digitally and print copies are available by request at their website. The topics covered include shared collections, remote work services, and my own submission about digital literacy.

[Check it out at this link.](#)

Sincerely,  
Michelle

*Pictured: From right, Michelle Connors and Dan Riggall join WGME anchors Katie Sampson and Jeff Peterson.*

## STAFF PICKS

### Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

*How minds change: the surprising science of belief, opinion, and persuasion.* by David McRaney  
In exploring how people retain their strongly held opinions even when the evidence is overwhelmingly proving them wrong, I came upon this book. It is heavy on research and the use of

acronyms which lead me to believe I would not finish reading it. I was wrong and changed my mind! I did skim over some sections, but its use of research was fascinating and more than once, I surprised myself when I realized I would have made unreasonable choices if I had participated in the control groups. The book culminates in proving that the best way to get people to reevaluate their opinions is not by arguing but by engaging them to share personal experiences about their beliefs. I have oversimplified the book premise but if this topic interests you, this is a very useful book. (Available as a book from Minerva)

*Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White as read by Meryl Streep and a full cast

Whether you loved this book as a child or never read it at all, our stressful times or because you just read a book heavy on research and acronyms call for a book like this. This delightful performance of this story of kindness and care for one another is a ray of sunshine. (This version is available from Libby as audio, older versions print, audio cd and movie are available from KFL Children's Collection)

*The Serviceberry Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer Author of Braiding Sweetgrass

This tiny book makes the point that we can learn a lot from indigenous cultures that have a core belief that scarcity is not part of the natural world, and all flourishing is mutual. Economics, as the USA commonly experiences it, is based on scarcity in the markets. Many of us are caught up in never having enough and dissatisfaction with what we have. Kimmerer points out Public Libraries as an example of reciprocity and public sharing success. This is a wonderful meditation on how we can enjoy and share abundance in our own lives. (Available from KFL in print, Libby as audio, Minerva print, audio cd and large print)

[Visit our Website](#)



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

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