

May 2025 | Volume 32, Issue 5

Library News and Events



Spring 2025 Annual Appeal

Hello Spring! The longer days of sunshine and warmer temperatures mean that summer is on its way to Maine and that it's time to fundraise for all the creative programs and activities that are on the KFL calendar. Our dedicated volunteers and staff members prepared the Spring Appeal mailing that hopefully made its way to you. As an independent nonprofit, your support is vital to making our mission "to inspire and enable our communities to discover, learn, and connect", come to life and for that we are truly grateful.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Kennebunk Free Library. Your support fuels our passion, drives our mission, and transforms our community—one story at a time. Please find more detailed information here:

[Spring Appeal letter 2025](#)

[Spring Appeal infographic 2025](#)

If you have already donated – Thank you! If not, please take a moment to send in your check or [donate online TODAY](#).

Your support is deeply appreciated!



May Day Book Sale!

The Friends of the Kennebunk Free Library will have a book sale on Saturday, **May 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in conjunction with the Town of Kennebunk's May Day Festival.

The sale will be held in Hank's Room and outside (weather permitting), and feature current adult hardcover fiction for \$2, nonfiction and miscellaneous 5 for \$1, and paperbacks 10 for \$1. Children and young adult books are all 10 for \$1. Media items such as DVDs, CDs and Audiobooks are 10 for \$1. Games and Puzzles are \$1.

Friends support the library by raising funds that help sponsor library programs and materials including passes to local museums and parks, summer reading programs, Kanopy streaming service, OverDrive e-content, and large print books.



A Message from the Friends

The Friends met for their quarterly meeting, in person, on Monday, April 7. Twenty-three people were in attendance and there was much excitement about planning for our May Day celebration.

Thanks to the generous donations from our community and the hard work of Peg and the weekly sorting group, we are ready for the **May 3 book sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The community will find a beautiful selection of all genres of books for adults, teens and children at bargain prices.

At 12:30 p.m. a team will assemble on Water St. to participate in the town's May Day Parade. Join us at 1:15 p.m. to show your support for KFL and the greater library community.

It is never too late to become a friend! Future book sales are scheduled July 26 for the Blueberry Festival and the October Fest date will be set by the town. [Here is the link](#) for more information.



Goodie Bags are Going Fast!

[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.



Kennebunk Free Library is officially a Family Place Library™!

We were so excited to receive our Family Place banner last month!

"Family Place Libraries transforms libraries into community centers for early literacy, parent education, and family support." We do this through our 1-2-3, Play With Me, Storytime, and Thursday Family Fun Play programs, as well as our fun play areas in the library. We love being a destination for learning, growing, and playing for our littlest library friends and their families!

A library patron said it best: "It makes our day to see other families, practice sharing, laugh, and play with other children we don't see elsewhere. KFL is awesome, so kid-friendly, a true asset to our community. Thank you!"

Thank you to the Family Place Libraries group and to all of our library friends!



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.

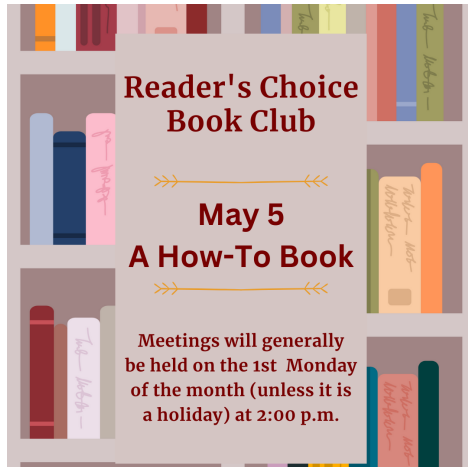
Adult Programs



Cook and Share Cookbook Club - May 1

Welcome to our Cookbook Club! Join us on the first Thursday of every month, where we will gather to celebrate food through various dishes and themes! This month we meet on **Thursday, May 1 from 3 to 4 p.m.**

The theme this month will be anything *Latin American*! Which includes the regions: Mexico, The Caribbean, and Central and South America. Choose any dish that incorporates this theme. Along with the dish, bring the cookbook/recipe you used as well, so we can discuss it and go over all things food!



Reader's Choice Book Group - May 5

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Monday, May 5 at 2 p.m.** in the Walker Room at the library, and **our theme will be: A 'How-To' Book.**

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 - May 5

Want to join a book group, but also read whatever book you want without having to discuss it? Well then KFL has the book group for you! Join us on **Monday, May 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** for Silent Reading Circle. Spend a couple of hours in our Reading Room with no pressure to chat, just dedicated reading time! Snacks will be provided.



Ukulele Group - May 14 and 24* (*NEW MONTHLY GROUP)

Join us on **the second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m.**, and now **the fourth Saturday of every month at 2 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.

Evening Readers Choice Book Club - May 14

Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, May 14, at 6 p.m.** in the Reading Room at the library, and our theme will be: Reader's Choice



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!



Creative Collective - May 20

Join us and express your creativity in our monthly evening group, the Creative Collective. This group will take place in the library on **Tuesday, May 20 from 6 to 7 p.m.** Join us 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.

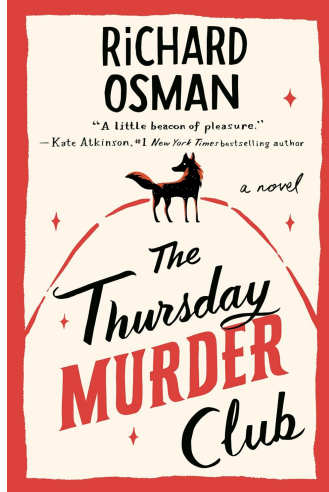


Trivia Night - May 21

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 - May 27

Join us on **Tuesday, May 27 at 1 p.m.** to discuss *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.



"British TV celebrity Osman mixes mirth and murder in his exceptional debut, a series launch featuring the four members of the Thursday Murder Club, residents of the Coopers Chase Retirement Village in Kent. Despite their different backgrounds, Elizabeth, Ibrahim, Joyce, and Ron share an interest in solving mysteries. When 26-year-old Donna De Freitas, a police constable who dreams of pursuing serial killers, visits the home to talk to the pensioners about "Practical Tips for Home Security," the club members arrange for Donna to be assigned to a homicide case they have a connection to by manipulating her boss, so that they can get access to the investigation through a grateful Donna. That way they can take a crack at solving the bludgeoning murder of drug dealer Tony Curran, who operated a building business as a front, and whose killer left a photo of three men, one of whom is Ron's son, near Curran's corpse. They use their individual talents, including Joyce's gift for gathering information unobtrusively, and Ibrahim's medical knowledge, which enables him

to narrow the timing of a second, related killing. Osman's witty prose (labor activist Ron's "picture was rarely in the papers without the caption 'Talks between the two sides collapsed late last night'") is a highlight. Fans of Lynne Truss's Constable Twitten mysteries will be tickled." - Publishers Weekly



Die Well Death Education - June 23

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on **Monday, June 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** for the eleventh 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.

Most people think there are two basic body disposition options: burial and cremation. Not true! There are many more than that, several of which are far more affordable than the "standard offerings" from a funeral home.

This month we will discuss the Body Disposition Options available in Maine and review and discuss the "The Funeral Rule," a law implemented and enforced by the Federal Trade Commission in 1984 (amended in 1994), to protect consumers when purchasing funeral goods and services. In short, protecting consumers from unscrupulous selling practices in the funeral industry.

*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.

Due to the holiday closure, there will be no program in May. See you in June!



May Take and Make - Lavender Sachets

Spruce up your drawers and add some spring to your closet with this month's adult take and make kit, which includes supplies to sew two lavender sachets. **Kits will be available starting Tuesday May 13, while supplies last.**

Weekly Programs



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!



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.



Beginner Mah Jongg Classes - Coming in June

As our weekly Mah Jongg groups have continued to grow, we will be hosting a third round of beginner Mah Jongg classes, four weeks starting in June. **Registration is required**, so here is your opportunity, please pre register.

Come join us to enjoy this game of mental exercise, meet new people and just have some fun.

Please [email the library](#) with any questions.



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.



Improv - Saturdays

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

Notice: Improv has been Canceled the following Saturdays in May:

- May 3
- May 24

Teen Programs



Bookish Activities in the Teen Room!

The teen space in the library is *buzzing* with bookish activities for you to do **beginning May 1**, 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:

Guess the Character

Who is the mystery character hiding behind door number one? Let's find out! For each week of May, we will have a character hiding behind clues we have created for you to decode. It could be one of your favorite characters, one of

your least favorite characters, or maybe it will be someone new. You may even find a connection, leading you to a new book or series for you to begin. Best of luck, and happy guessing!

Teen Self-Care Bingo

Check in with yourself this May by completing our Teen Self-Care Bingo Sheet! In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, slow down and enjoy these relaxing and reflective prompts and activities. With a variety of options such as reading, going on a walk, adding a song to our community playlist, and writing positive affirmations, find the self-care that works best for you! You can take a sheet at any point throughout the month; just make sure you get it back to us by **May 31** for the chance to win a \$10 Barnes and Noble gift card.

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 Craft Kits: Lightsaber Bookmarks - May 1

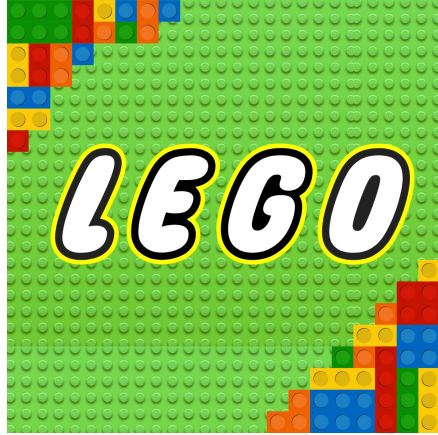
May the Fourth be with you with this month's Teen Craft Kit! Embrace your inner Jedi by designing your very own lightsaber bookmark, using a combination of sequins, popsicle sticks, markers, and more! On **Thursday May 1**, stop by the library to take supplies home with you to craft independently. You can find these kits in the Teen Room, waiting just for you!

This program is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is 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 - May 1

Starting **May 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 June, 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!

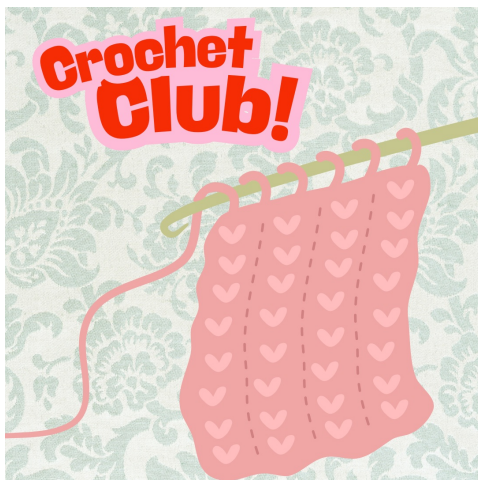


Dungeons and Dragons - May 5 and 12

Welcome young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. As we begin to learn more about our villain, the Death Knight, we will explore further into Carceri to solve the time loop mystery, and to learn more about the loot guarded within the magically sealed spire within the city of Aetria. We will be meeting on Mondays: **May 5 and May 12 from 3:30 to 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.

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!



Teen Crochet Club - May 15

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. You can bring your own supplies or borrow hooks and yarn from our Library of Things! Feel free to drop in or stay for an hour to work on projects with some company! We will meet on **May 15 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

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



In Person Bracelet Making - May 17

Join us for a relaxing afternoon of braiding, beading, and tying your own bracelets! Whether you're crafting for yourself or a loved one, stop by the Teen Room (Walker Room) on **Saturday, May 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** to craft in person or grab supplies to bring home. You can either follow a pattern to create a fun floral design or embrace your creativity and design whatever you'd like. Materials include embroidery floss, string, and a mix of letter, number, and colorful beads.

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!

Children's Programs



Faerie Festival - May 3

The days are getting longer and warmer, which can only mean one thing – it's time to welcome the faeries back to Kennebunk Free Library! Join us on **Saturday, May 3, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** for faerie crafts and fun! Be sure to take a look at the faerie houses on display in the Children's Room! Did you submit a faerie house to the library by Wednesday, April 30? See a library staff member during Faerie Festival for your certificate! Wear your faerie finery!

This event is free and wheelchair accessible. Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main St., Kennebunk. For more information, please call (207)985-2173 or visit our website www.KennebunkLibrary.org.



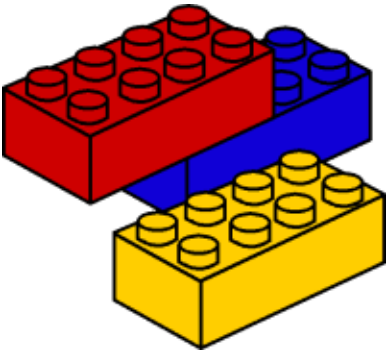
Beadcraft - May 7

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, May 7, 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 - May 13

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on **Tuesday, May 13, 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, 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 - May 22

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on **Thursday, May 22, 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.



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 at 10 a.m.**, Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at the Kennebunk Free Library. **Because of the holiday closure, we will be having Storytime on Tuesday, May 27.** We can't wait for you to join us!

Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- May 5
 - May 12
 - May 19
 - **Tuesday, May 27**
-

Family Fun Play - Thursdays

Have a morning of play at the library! On **Thursday mornings** in May, 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 a.m. to approximately 11:15 a.m.**; 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:

- May 1
- May 8
- May 15
- May 22
- May 29

Speers Gallery



May Artist: J. Hutchinson Fay

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents "Quintessential New England Landscapes and Architecture: This is New England" by J. Hutchinson Fay. **The exhibition runs May 1 through 31, with an opening reception on Saturday, May 10 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m..** All are welcome.

J. Hutchinson Fay began oil painting at the age of 11 and honed his craft at the Acorn Gallery School of Art in Marblehead, MA. His paintings reflect the warm, real and imperfect buildings and homes of our New England coasts to rural inlands. From the perspective of the blue-collar worker, his work embodies the essence of familiar places and landscapes that are ever changing and often lost to time.

Hutchinson Fay feels that everyone should be able to afford to create and has opened his Biddeford studio, Art Factory Studio, to the public three days a week where he teaches the foundations of printing making and oil painting. He is also a member of the Marblehead Arts Association, the Lyme Art Association and the North Shore Arts Association.

Kennebunk Free Library is excited to welcome this talented artist for his first exhibit in our Speers Gallery.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from May 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 Releases for May

May 6

[My Friends](#) – Fredrik Backman

[South of Nowhere](#) – Jeffery Deaver

[My Name Is Emilia Del Valle](#) – Isabel Allende

[The Children of Eve](#) – John Connolly

May 13

[Fever Beach](#) – Carl Hiaasen

[Mark Twain](#) – Ron Chernow

[Anima Rising](#) – Christopher Moore

[Skin and Bones](#) – Paul Doiron

May 20

[Nightshade](#) – Michael Connelly

[Going Home in the Dark](#) – Dean Koontz

[Whistle](#) – Linwood Barclay

May 27

[Hidden Nature](#) – Nora Roberts

[Never Flinch](#) – Stephen King

[Return to Sender](#) – Craig Johnson

A Message from the Director

On Wednesday, April 9, a public hearing was held for LD 1404, a bill to create a Working Group on the Status of School and Public Libraries in Maine.

Representative Kelly Murphy spearheaded this legislation and [you can learn more about it at this link](#). I attended Library Legislative Day that same afternoon at the State House where Representative Amy Kuhn read a Joint Resolution recognizing National Library Week. [You can find the resolution at this link](#).

Sincerely,
Michelle

Pictured: Senator Joe Rafferty (Senate District 34), Sharon Kelly (Berwick Public Library,



Director), Michelle Conners (Kennebunk Free Library, Director)

Staff Picks

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty

This collection of twelve stories gives a view into the contemporary life of Panawahpskek (Penobscot) Nation through the voice of the narrator, David. Hauntingly real experiences have led to drug addiction and a desperate desire to get out of their circumstances. Some reviews mention this has elements of horror; I didn't see it like that. The generational effects are felt decades after trauma is over. Our indigenous community members are generously letting us in on what is going on with them. This is the October selection for the Adult Book Discussion at KFL. (Available as a book from KFL, large print from Minerva, audio from Libby)

Be Ready When the Luck Happens by Ina Garten

In her memoir, Ina Garten lets us in on the good and the difficult of her childhood, the early years with her husband filled with travel and adventure, her successful career in Washington, DC as a financial analyst, and the difficulties of being a woman in the man's world of the 1960s that almost led to the end of her marriage. Ina makes some very high-risk choices in her business and personal life, when coupled with very hard work has brought her to the amazing place in the world she holds. Often, I did find myself observing that she has accomplished all this from a place of great privilege. Regardless, she is an interesting woman who knows how to tell a great story.

(Available as a book from KFL, large print and audio cds from Minerva, audio from Libby)

Revenge of the Tipping Point overstories, superspreaders, and the rise of social engineering by Malcolm Gladwell (audio read by the author)

I waited a long time for the audio version to become available from Libby. It has been 25 years since the original Tipping Point was published. The author has been criticized over the years for drawing his conclusions from other people's data and reviewers seem to see some extra care in that area. I love his drilling down on topics of social contagion such as a simple prescription law that seems to have protected states from the opioid addiction crisis, college admissions and sports, why Miami is the center of Medicare fraud, and which TV show changed the US's

collective minds on gay marriage, among others. If you like getting into the nitty gritty of things, you will enjoy this book. (Available from KFL in print, Libby as audio)

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