



May 2026 | Volume 33, Issue 5

Library News and Events



May Day Book Sale

The Friends of the Kennebunk Free Library will have a book sale on **Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 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 will feature current adult fiction for \$2 and old fiction and non-fiction for 3 for \$1. Young

adult and children's books are all 10 for \$1. Puzzles and games are \$2 each. DVDs and CDs are up to 10 for \$1.00.

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 video streaming, OverDrive e-content, and large print books.

For more information, please call the Library 207-985-2173 or email us: kfl@kennebunklibrary.org

KFL is starting a Seed Library!



We've got our seed cabinet ready to go – now we need to fill it. We would love to get donations of your leftover viable seeds (flower or vegetable). Please drop labeled seeds into the basket on the top of the cabinet, located near the adult circulation desk.



New in our Library of Things - Metal Detector!

Have you wanted to see what riches might be hiding in your backyard? Ever spent a walk on the beach wondering what's buried in the sand? Then KFL's metal detector might be the tool for you! We tried it out on our front lawn, and while we only found a penny, you may be luckier! The metal detector can be checked out for one week at a time. Call or ask at the circulation desk for its availability, and happy treasure hunting!

Book Exchange at Arundel Town Hall

Kennebunk Free Library (KFL) has just introduced a book exchange at Arundel Town Hall. Swing by to take a book home – no return required! There's also information about our programs and services.

As Arundel's Library, KFL provides free library cards to anyone who lives or works in Arundel. Cardholders enjoy access to an extensive collection that includes movies, e-books, e-audiobooks, and video games.

KFL also offers its popular "Library of Things," featuring unique items available for checkout such as a sewing machine, telescope, and birding backpacks. In addition, patrons can take advantage of museum passes that provide free or discounted admission to destinations including Maine State Parks, the Portland Museum of Art, the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine, and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.



Community members interested in supporting the Library are encouraged to visit KFL's website to learn more about becoming a Friend of the Library or applying to serve as a Library Trustee.

KFL also invites the public to attend its upcoming book sale on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Library.



News from the Friends of KFL

Our next big event will be the **May Day Book Sale** which will be on **Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Thank you to everyone that will be helping at the sale. Everyone is invited to join KFL in the May Day Parade on Main Street. Join us as we line up on Water Street at 1 p.m. on May 2. Parade steps off at 1:30 p.m.. Come and show your support of KFL!

NEW! Open House for all Friends and the curious! May 15 from 3 p.m. to 4/4:30 p.m.. Do you want to know more about what goes on in the book room? How do we get from donation to sorting to book sales? We are ready to show you. Join us. Light refreshments and time to socialize to follow.

Save the date: The Blueberry Festival Book Sale will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, and the Seashore Trolley Museum Ice Cream Social on July 29. Watch your email for volunteer sign up.

If you haven't joined for 2026, it isn't too late. Come into the library during regular hours or use this [link](#). **Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 31 at 5:30 p.m.**

We are grateful for your support,

Kat

5K Registration is Open!

Registration is open for the 29th Edition of the KFL 5K, hosted by the Kennebunk Free Library. The community race will take place on **Friday, July 10**, welcoming runners, walkers, and families for an evening event that supports the library.

[Register Here](#)

The scenic, USATF-certified course begins and ends in the library parking lot, winding through neighborhood streets before heading onto the trails at Hope Cemetery & Woods. The route offers



a mix of peaceful local roads and wooded trails.

Preregistration is open now and closes on July 8. Prices increase for same-day registrations. Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers in eight age categories.

Following the race, participants and spectators are invited to celebrate on the library lawn with live music, food, and a beer tent. [Keep up to date at this page.](#)

Next year marks the 30th anniversary of the KFL 5K, and organizers invite past participants to share photos or stories from previous races. For information, email kfl@kennebunklibrary.org or call (207) 985-2173.

Thank you to our Event Sponsor!



Thank you to our Diamond Sponsors!



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 - May 4

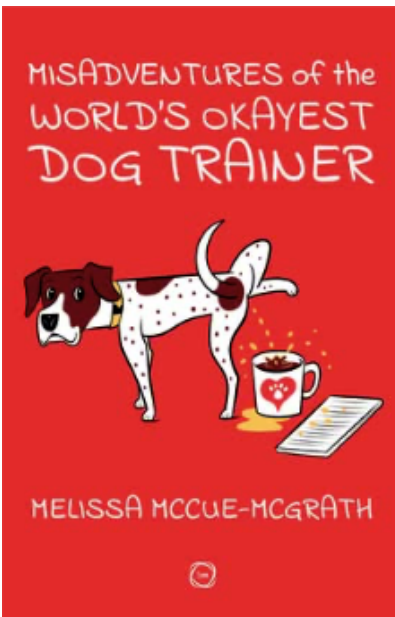
Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Monday, May 4 at 2 p.m.** in the Walker Room at the library, and **our theme will be: Book from your TBR list.**

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!



Open Hearts Open Mic - May 4

Open Hearts Open Mic will be the **first Monday of every month starting Monday, May 4 at 6 p.m.** at Kennebunk Free Library! Hosted by local writer Kacy Fallon, there are 10 slots, and sign-up is first-come, first-served. Writers and artists may share up to five minutes of their work. Admission is always free and open to the public.



Misadventures of the World's Okayest Dog Trainer - May 6

Author Melissa McCue-McGrath will be at Kennebunk Free Library on Wednesday, **May 6 at 6 p.m.** to discuss her new book *Misadventures of the World's Okayest Dog Trainer*.

"...*Misadventures* follows quirky and (eventually) confident McCue-McGrath into people's most intimate spaces, their homes, through a decades long career in dog training and behavior.

This part-memoir, part-career guide is the first of its kind to put readers in a behaviorist's seat ... This book is more than a day in the life of a dog trainer, but a look at the rapid evolution of understanding canine behavior over the last twenty years.

The interplay between the author's often comical, and sometimes heartbreaking, personal journey into a still unregulated industry perfectly mirrors the global shift from outdated, dominance-based training to modern behavioral sciences. The payoff is a hopeful look at what we can do for animals, what these pets already do for humans, and what we humans can do for each other.

Melissa's personal journey through the world of dog training offers great insight to those curious about picking up a leash and entering the industry. Alongside her experiences are practical and technical advice for the behavioral professional including signposted resources and coverage of relevant industry bodies. Through the 147 dogs (and one cat) Melissa demystifies this rewarding

profession. But most importantly, these beloved pets teach us what saved means, what love means, what hubris is, and remind us all that animals truly make us more human.”

Melissa McCue-McGrath is the first American to hold the prestigious ATI designation from the Animal Behaviour and Training Council in the UK. She began in competitive disc dog sports in 2004 and later led training at New England Dog Training Club for over a decade. Now a Behavior Consultant at the Animal Welfare Society in Maine, she teaches innovative classes and has guided hundreds of challenging behavior cases through humane, effective training.



Die Well Death Education - May 11

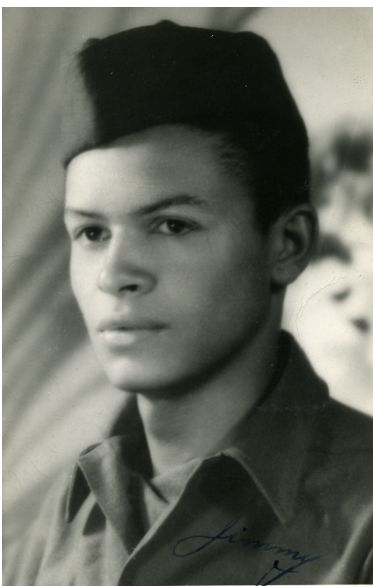
If you missed the first series of the Die Well Death Education Series at KFL, you have another chance to participate. It was so well received, we are offering the entire series again this year.

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on **Monday, May 11 at 1 p.m.** for the *seventh session* in the new year-long 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 Seven: Docuseries: Take Me Out Feet First – Season One Episode One: “Mom and Dad”

Take Me Out Feet First, created and directed by filmmaker Serene Meshel-Dillman, is a poignant documentary series delving into the deeply personal journeys of 25 terminally ill individuals as they navigate their end-of-life decisions and explore their options. Through intimate interviews and candid moments, viewers witness the diverse range of emotions, challenges, and reflections experienced by each individual as they confront their mortality. From exploring palliative care to considering hospice or medical aid in dying, the series sheds light on the complexities surrounding end-of-life choices and the importance of dignity, autonomy, and compassion in these deeply personal moments. Through these narratives, Take Me Out Feet First invites viewers to contemplate the meaning of life, death, and the human experience itself. (2024 - 95 minutes)

*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.



Tuskegee Airmen - May 12

Bob Sheppard, son of Tuskegee Airman James Sheppard, will be at the Kennebunk Free Library on **Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m.** to share his father's story.

“Growing up in NYC, Bob Sheppard and his siblings had no idea their dad served during WWII with a segregated unit of the US Army Air Force. He later had the chance to learn much more about the Tuskegee Airmen first hand, accompanying his father, James Sheppard around the country attending airshows, conventions and other special events with some of the other African-Americans who flew, maintained or provided ground support for fighter aircraft during the war.

James A Sheppard was assigned to the 100th Fighter squadron part of the famed 332nd Fighter Group who were determined to prove that Colored Americans had what it took to face the Axis

powers. He volunteered for the military following his graduation from a specialized high school that prepared male students for aviation careers. After training as a mechanic on the P-40 Warhawk in Alabama and Michigan, he served overseas with the USAAF from 1944-45 maintaining P-39 Air cobras, P-47-Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs which flew missions out of Italy.

Following the war Master Sargent Sheppard served in the USAF Reserves and worked for Lockheed Aviation at a time when there were limited opportunities for People Of Color, before beginning a long career with the Federal Aviation Administration at facilities in NY, NJ, ME and NH. After retiring in 1987, James was sought after for presentations on his Tuskegee experiences speaking to audiences in more than 25 states, and a half dozen foreign countries.

A veteran of the broadcasting, research and corporate governance sectors, Bob Sheppard most recently headed up sales and marketing efforts for a New England firm that designed custom drones for a range of commercial/industrial applications. When his dad was no longer able to share his experiences, Bob, began filling in for his father, who passed away in August 2018 just shy of his 94th birthday. The presentations include a documentary he co-produced about his father, along with additional background material on the men, and women who were part of the Tuskegee experience. In the last twelve months Bob has been asked to speak in front of audiences in a half dozen states at a variety of schools, public libraries, military bases and museums."



Ukulele Group - May 13

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.



Evening Readers Choice Book Club - May 13

Our Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet **Wednesday, May 13 at 6 p.m.** in the Walker Room on the main floor of the library.

March's Theme is "Illustration"

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!

Getting Real with Native Maine Plants and Pollinators - May 19

Native plants are the foundation of a healthy, resilient ecosystem. Join York County Master Gardener Volunteer Allan Amioka on **Tuesday, May 19 at 6 p.m.** for an engaging talk about the vital role native plants play in supporting pollinators, wildlife, and the environment. Often



overlooked or labeled as “weeds,” many of these plants are essential contributors to thriving landscapes and are finally getting the recognition they deserve.

Learn how gardens of any size can make a meaningful difference in creating a beautiful, ecologically friendly space that supports pollinators and strengthens local ecosystems. Allan will also outline the four steps to creating a UMaine/UNH Certified Pollinator Friendly Garden and share practical ways to incorporate native plants into your own yard or garden.

Allan Amioka has been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2010. Growing up in an urban environment sparked an early curiosity about the natural world, even among the trees, plants, and wildlife that thrive in cities. After studying design and photography and later settling in northern New England, Allan raised a family, built a home, and eventually became a Master Gardener Volunteer after retiring. Through his volunteer work, he has reconnected with the community while focusing on native plants and natural gardening, using his background in design and photography to help communicate the beauty and importance of these landscapes.



Cook and Share Cookbook Club - May 20

Welcome to our Cookbook Club! You are invited to join us **every third Wednesday at 3 p.m.** We will gather to celebrate food through various dishes and themes! How does it work? Make any type of 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. This month we will be meeting on **Wednesday, May 20** and our **theme** will be **Afternoon Tea**.

Afternoon Tea is a British culinary tradition, typically served late afternoon, consisting of tea, finger sandwiches, scones, pastries, and much more! Choose something within this theme that you're interested in making and bring it (and the recipe) in to share!

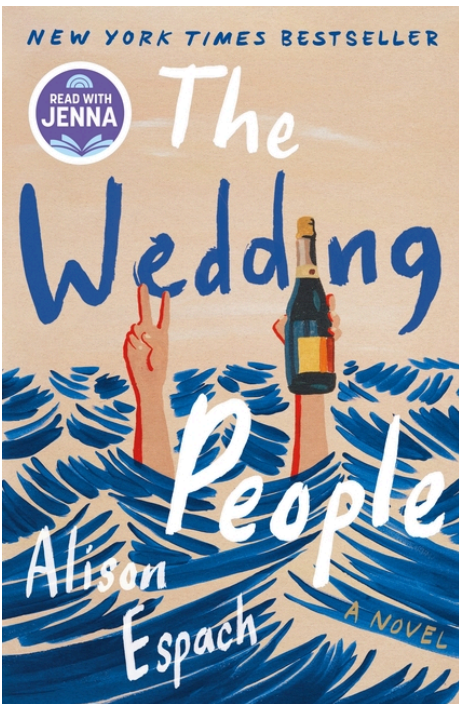
Utensils, plates and napkins will be provided!

This event is free and wheelchair accessible. Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main St., Kennebunk. Please email Becca at rlong@kennebunklibrary.org to let her know you will be attending.



Trivia Night - May 20

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 26

Join us on **Tuesday, May 26 at 1 p.m.** to discuss *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach.

“Espach (*Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance*) offers a sparkling and slightly macabre novel of a 30-something woman finding a new lease on life. After adjunct English professor Phoebe Stone’s husband leaves her for her colleague, she declines an invitation to return the next semester, unable to stomach seeing her husband’s new lover. Unable to find another teaching job, she checks into a luxury hotel in Newport, R.I., where she’s always wanted to stay, and plans to end her life with her cat’s painkillers. She doesn’t count on the hotel teeming with wedding guests, or meeting the 20-something bride, Lila, who, after hearing of Phoebe’s plans, does everything she can to keep Phoebe alive, worried a suicide would mess up her perfect wedding. During an early morning soak in the hotel’s hot tub, Phoebe is drawn to a handsome stranger and buoyed by their connection, even though he lets her know he’s taken after she brazenly hits on him. The next day, Phoebe learns he’s the groom. Over the course of her brief stay, Phoebe, having chosen to stay alive, musters the courage to break her old patterns and stop letting people walk over her, which leads to a triumphant finale. Readers are in for a treat.”
-- Publishers Weekly

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 Talk Line - Tuesday Evenings

Are you stuck on a technology question, but can't visit the library during its regularly scheduled Technology Time Appointments? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services,



making heads or tails of a new device, or just having someone's help to guide your troubleshooting efforts, don't worry, the library is here to help!

To use our **Tech Talk Line**, all you need to do is call downstairs to the Children's Room to speak with our Technology Educator, Emmaline. Our Tech Talk Line will be open every Tuesday night from **5 to 6:30 p.m.** Calls can include, but are not limited to, using smartphones and tablets, navigating websites or emails, or accessing digital library resources. Support will be provided on a **first-come, first-served** basis for issues that can be addressed in **10 minutes or less**. If the line is busy during a call, please leave a voicemail so we can get back to you

accordingly. If during a session we determine that the issue requires more time than 10 minutes, we can schedule a 45-minute Tech Time appointment on Wednesday or Thursday, allowing for in-person, one-on-one assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program, 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.



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 you troubleshoot your next steps, 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 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 from 10:30 to 3 p.m.** to play Mah Jongg. The library has **4** 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. We can also share some resources for learning on your own. Please [email the library](#) with any questions.



Living with Grief (aka Grief Group) - Thursday Afternoons

KFL is now hosting a weekly Grief Group, led by retired RN Carol MacLeod. **Every Thursday morning from 11 to 12:30 p.m.**

Because of the sensitive nature and confidentiality of this group, and for more information, **please**

contact Carol MacLeod (Facilitator) before joining.

Her email is mugbob66@gmail.com and her number is (207)-468-0668.



Drop-In Tech Time - Thursday Afternoons

Looking for some quick Tech Help? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having someone's help to guide your troubleshooting efforts, don't worry, the library is here to help!

To use our **Drop-in Tech Help Service**, all you need to do is visit the library on **Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** Our Technology Educator, Emmaline, will have a reference desk available for you to find local resources, and help you with your quick technology questions. Visits can include, but are not limited to, using smartphones, laptops, or tablets, navigating websites or emails, or accessing digital library resources. Support will be provided on a **first-come, first-served** basis for issues that can be addressed in **10 minutes or less**. If during a session we determine that the issue requires more time than 10 minutes, we can schedule a 45-minute Tech Time appointment on Wednesday or Thursday, allowing for in-person, one-on-one assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program, 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

Improv - Sessions will be held **every Saturday from 10:30 to 12 p.m.**

There will be **NO Improv on Saturday, May 2.**

Teen Programs



Book-ish Activities in the Teen Room!

The teen space in the library is full of 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:

April Showers Bring May Flowers

We stepped into style (and some puddles) during April, but now it's time to smell the flowers and enjoy the spring. Help us

decorate the Teen Space into a whimsical garden this month. Once colored and in bloom, place your flowers in our windows for us all to see!

Toadstool Village

Whimsy is visiting the Teen Space for May Day festival, and we need your help to add a touch of magic to a collective art display! Help us house fairies, gnomes, and other mystical travellers by designing your own toadstool home out of recycled materials to add to our Toadstool Village. Our village needs homes, taverns, shops, and so much more for spring!

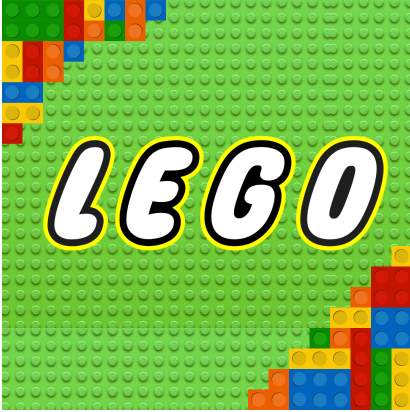
The Library Cat Heist

We're piecing together the evidence, and we may have just uncovered the culprit of the greatest caper ever: The Library Cat Heist. We know at some point, someone (or some cat), staged a break-in to disorganize the shelves of the library. For what purpose? We're unsure. But, there's some compelling evidence that's been left behind, and we need great minds to help us piece together this puzzle, and catch the villain "read"-handed. Help us piece together this crime by connecting evidence to the board. There will be various magazines and scraps that you can cut out and connect to help us solve this crime. The stranger the theories, the closer we are to the answer. So, get to connecting the dots, and help us figure out who is responsible for this dastardly plan.

Defeat Darth Vader

To keep the dark and light side in balance, we need your help to defeat Darth Vader this month. For every book you read during May, you can stick a sticker to Darth Vader when you visit the Teen Space. If we can cover him in stickers, we can defeat him together. May the 4th be with you!

Teen/tween programming is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens and Tweens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions about these programs, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Aspen downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Teen Lego Displays

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 Aspen 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, 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. We can't wait to see what you come up with!



Teen Take and Make: DIY Button Bracelets!

Looking for an activity filled with whimsy, and a new piece of jewelry to add to your collection? With leather cord, buttons, and other beads, you'll be able to make a whimsical button bracelet that only needs to make sense to you (not Tamara!). These kits will be available starting on **Friday, May 1**, in the Teen Room. Supplies are first come, first served.

Teen/Tween Saturday Program: Drop-In DIY Junk Journals - May 2

Are you interested in hopping in on the analog trend? If you said yes, we have the perfect activity for you! We'll have journals, inspiration for Spring Dopamine Menus, and other scraps for you to start your own junk journal. Just stop by the Teen Room on **Saturday, May 2, anytime from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** to get crafting!



Dungeons and Dragons - May 4, 11, 18

Welcome, young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. We are currently in the Orcish Encampment of Arrgghh planning our journey to King Graklak's treasury to stock up on supplies to take on the Death Knight and his remaining 3 aspirants. Balazar has been named the heir apparent to the Rotten Horde, the Mountains of Chaos are bubbling, and just when we thought our

heroes were catching a break, a giant purple worm has appeared to destroy the Encampment. Where will our adventure take us next, as time is running out? It's up to our heroes to decide! This month, we will be meeting on **Mondays: May 4, 11, 18 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. **If you are a new player, we will host a Session 0 on the first meeting of the month, May 4 at 3 p.m., 30 minutes before our first gaming session.** *This session is required* for new players to create their character and to participate in the campaign. We look forward to you joining the adventure!

Teen Science Cafe: Simple Electronic Pianos - May 8



Looking for an opportunity to earn your volunteer hours, build your resume, and also grab a snack? KFL is excited to announce that we've joined the Teen Science Café Cohort, and we're inviting you to help us lead and design STEM events with your peers here at the library. Designed by teens for teens, Teen Science Cafes bring together local scientists and students, grades 6-12 to explore new research and discuss what inspires and influences people to pursue careers in STEM with interactive lessons and activities. For our next meeting, this event will be held on **May 8 between**

3:30 and 4:45 p.m. During this meeting, we will expand on our simple circuitry knowledge from our previous TSC, and build on our skills by designing more complex circuits to create miniature pianos. Oh, and did we also mention that there's also going to be snacks?



Summer Reading Bookmark Design Competition - May 1 - 29

It's almost that time: Summer Reading time! **Starting May 1**, KFL is inviting community members of **all ages** to showcase their creativity in a new Bookmark Design Contest, celebrating this year's Summer Reading theme, "Plant a Seed, Read." For the competition, artists are encouraged to create original designs that capture what reading means to them. Designs should be suitable for all audiences, and they should align with the contest theme. We will have forms for artists to submit in the children's room, the teen room, and at the front circulation desk. You can

work on your designs from home, or in the library with supplies that we will have available all month long. **Final submissions are due by May 29**. Once submitted, entries will be added to this year's summer reading logs. It will be up to you to cast your vote to decide who wins the competition. When you return in your logs at the end of the summer, we will tally all of the points to declare a winner! One winning design will be selected to be printed as limited edition bookmarks and distributed at the library in September. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Children's Programs



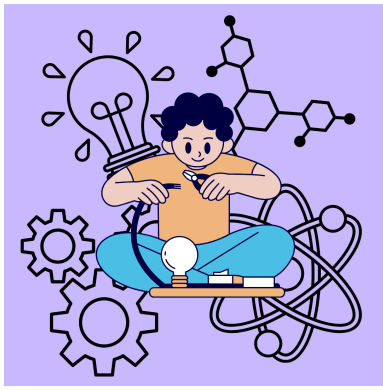
Faerie Festival - May 2

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 2, 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 Tuesday, April 28? See a library staff member during Faerie Festival for your certificate! Wear your faerie finery!



Beadcraft - May 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, May 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.



STEM Saturday with Mousam River STEM Academy - May 9

Want to add some STEM to your Saturday morning? Join us on Saturday, **May 9 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** for a fun STEM activity hosted by Mousam River STEM Academy! This program is for PreK – 5th grade, no registration required.



Kindness Crew - May 12

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on **Tuesday, May 12, at 3:45 p.m.** 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!



We Love To Play - May 14

There are so many ways to play! Join us on **Thursday, May 14, at 10 a.m.** for a morning of sensory play celebrating bugs! Explore fun, sometimes messy activity stations and play spots themed on ladybugs, spiders, and more. Note: there will be no live insects at this program. Come play with us, and wear clothes that can get messy just in case! No registration is required. This program is designed with ages 1-4 in mind, but everyone is welcome.



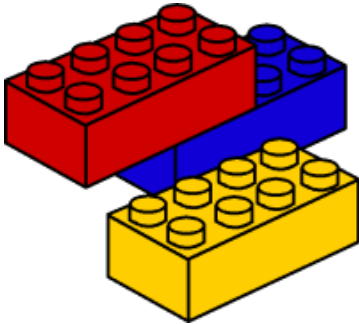
Super Science - May 19

Join us, **Tuesday, May 19 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.** for some earth friendly science and crafts! Make a watering station for bees, create your own seed bombs and much more! **Registration** is required, ages 5+.



Vernal Pool Storytime - May 27

Do you know about the secret wild places that pop up in Spring? Vernal pools are vital for many forest creatures, whether they lay their eggs or feed there. Come to the library on **May 27 from 3 to 4 p.m.** to learn about vernal pools with a story, craft, and activities. Suzanne Kahn from Wells Reserve at Laudholm will join us to talk about vernal pools and the reserve. Come learn about these special places and how to spot them in the wild!



Lego Club - May 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, May 28, 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 appreciated but not required.



Homeschool Meet-Up - May 29

Are you a homeschooling family? Kennebunk Free Library is a host site for a monthly meet-up for homeschoolers and their families. **May's meeting is Friday, May 29, at 10 a.m.** Miss Maria will briefly go over some library skills at the start of the meeting followed by a parent-led portion. The program is free and open to all homeschool students. Registration is not required, and families are encouraged to contact the library for more information.



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 May at 10 a.m.**, Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at the Kennebunk Free Library. Maybe it will be warm enough for Storytime in the amphitheater! We can't wait for you to join us!

Due to the holiday closure, there will be NO Storytime the week of May 25.

Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- May 4
- May 11
- May 18



Family Fun Play - Thursdays

Have a morning of play at the library! On **Thursday mornings in May**, 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. **Playtime starts at 10 a.m. and Miss Maria will read a story at 11 a.m.**, but feel free to drop in anytime! We usually leave the special toys out until around 11:30. 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.

This month, on **May 14**, we'll take a break from our regular play group to have a special Sensory Play Day! Join us for sensory activities all about bugs! Make sure to wear clothes that can get messy! Come play and make new friends at the library!

Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- May 7
- **May 14 - We Love to Play! Sensory Play Day**
- May 21
- May 28

Speers Gallery

May Artist:



The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents **“Painting Your Memories”** by Kathleen McNally. The exhibit will run **May 1 through 30**, with a **reception on Saturday, May 9 from 3 to 5 p.m.** All are welcome.

Kathleen paints custom house portraits, and her artwork is known for its striking detail with rich color combinations and wonderful use of sunlight and shadow. Kathleen says “Collaborating to tell your story in art is my passion. Watercolor House Portraits, including your favorite season and perhaps kids and pets, is a very popular commission. Over my four-decade career I’ve made thousands of connections and created custom paintings

from Maine to Hawaii, Australia to Scotland. As my working studio is on Main Street in Kennebunk, it would be fun to work locally-Perhaps with you!”.

Kennebunk Free Library is excited to showcase the works of this local artist.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library’s Speers Gallery from May 1 through 30 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

Books on order for May

May 4

[26 Beauties](#) – James Patterson

May 5

[The Things We Never Say](#) – Elizabeth Strout

[The Daisey Chain Flower Shop](#) – Laurie Gilmore

[Enormous Wings](#) – Laurie Frankel

[The Girl with a Thousand Faces](#) – Sunyi Dean

[Homebound](#) – Portia Elan

[Our Perfect Storm](#) – Carley Fortune

[Backtalker](#) – Kimberle Crenshaw

[The Calamity Club](#) – Kathryn Stockett
Mother Tongue – Sara Novic
Glorious Country – Victoria Johnson
Death's Daughter – S. A. Barnes
This Dark Night – Deborah Lutz
The Undergrads – Julie Murphy
Wellwater – Karen Solie
Young King – Lerone Martin

May 12

[The Last Mandarin](#) – Louise Penny
[The Foursome](#) – Christina Baker Kline
[Seek the Traitor's Son](#) – Veronica Roth
[American Rambler](#) – Isaac Fitzgerald
Take Me to Your Leader – Neil DeGrasse Tyson
The Kindness of Strangers – Emma Garman
Migrant Heart – Reyna Grande

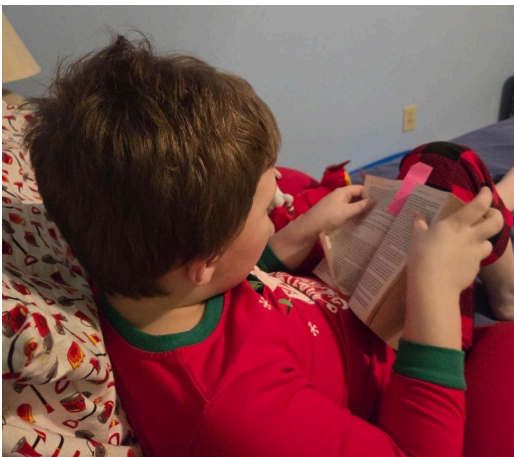
May 19

[Tom Clancy Rules of Engagement](#) – Ward Larsen
[Ironwood](#) – Michael Connelly
[The Shippers](#) – Katherine Center
[On Witness and Repair](#) – Jesmyn Ward
[The One Day You Were My Husband](#) – Rosie Walsh
[Take Me With You](#) – Steven Rowley
[Big Fan](#) – Michael Schur
Tarantula – Eduardo Halfon
All Them Dogs – Djamel White

May 26

[The Midnight Train](#) – Matt Haig
[The Land and Its People](#) – David Sedaris
[The Final Target](#) – Nora Roberts
[Ghalen](#) – Walter Mosley
[The Boleyn Secret](#) – Alison Weir
[The Brothers McKay](#) – Craig Johnson
Phoebe Berman's Gonna Lose It – Brooke Averick

A Message from the Director



Due to a very busy schedule, most of my personal reading comes in the form of audiobooks on my ride to work and then back home. I also get a lot of time reading to my son at bedtime. Many of the books my son likes are entertaining but after we've spent about thirty minutes on graphic novels, and picture and first chapter books, I switch to reading my books as he falls asleep. In the past year I've been reading to him in 15-minute bursts, books such as *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, and books by Bryson, Follett, and Grann among others. I recognize that my son's response to these books is boredom, hence the rapid transition to sleep after I begin, but still, I enjoy these moments.

Michelle

*Pictured: My son paging through *Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett*

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

My Friends by Fredrik Backman

From the start, I was interested in the characters, situations and topics. An important topic that is at the core of this story is art. Louisa will be free of the foster care system tomorrow, her 18 th birthday. One of her few possessions, all contained in her backpack, is a postcard of a treasured artwork, “The One of the Sea”. The painting is being offered at auction, and she sets out to see it and “leave her mark”. Calamity follows and through a wonderfully unbelievable series of events, she runs into the artist who determines “she is one of us” and the adventure proceeds from there. I loved it. If you have read any of Backman's earlier books and want more, this one won't disappoint you. (Available book from KFL, large print and audio cds from Minerva, Libby as audio)

About Schmidt co-written and directed by Alexander Payne

2002 American comedy drama film starring Jack Nicholson in the title role and Kathy Bates in a smaller but great role. Warren Schmidt retires from his long and successful career as an actuary at a life insurance company in Omaha, Nebraska. The adjustment to retirement is not what he and his wife planned, the film is about Warren's muddling through one day at a time. After seeing a television ad for a charity that offers fostering African children, he sponsors a child. His letters to his sponsored child reflect on his life and what he is going through. Kathy Bates' bohemian character is wonderful. I remembered my enjoyment of this movie when it first came out and as a retiree, it's better. (Available from KFL)

Illustrissimi : Letters from Pope John Paul I by Albino Luciani

As often happens, one book pointed to another book I had never heard of. Fr. Martin mentioned this one in his memoir. Pope John Paul I was the first pope that I witnessed the conclave. In late summer of 1978, he was pope for 33 days before his death and many of us remember him only as “the smiling pope”. While he was Patriarch of Venice, he wrote a monthly column of imaginary letters to authors, fictional characters and historical figures through the ages. The letters reflect on each recipient's impact when viewed through Christian ideals. For example, Charles Dickens' effect on Victorian England's lack of care for the poor. I am hooked but it is going to take time to digest these brilliant explorations of the world. I bought a copy from a used book site. (Available from Minerva)

Denise, Library Assistant

Nobody's Girl by Virginia Roberts Giuffre

Some books are hard to read, but important to understand. *Nobody's Girl* is one of them. In this memoir, Virginia Roberts Giuffre shares her experience of being groomed and trafficked as a teenager within the network of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell. She was only sixteen when she was drawn into a world of wealth and access that concealed ongoing abuse. What stands out is how clearly she explains the process. She writes about how trust is built, how manipulation takes hold, and how hard it can be to recognize what is happening while you are in it. Her account adds depth to a story many people have only encountered through news coverage. There is also a strong thread of determination throughout the book. Giuffre writes about choosing to speak publicly and the effort it took to do so. Her work to support other survivors, including the creation of Speak Out, Act, Reclaim, became an important part of her life. Published in October 2025, following her death earlier that year, *Nobody's Girl* has reached a wide audience and continues to contribute to important conversations about accountability, awareness, and support for survivors. This is not an easy read, but it is a meaningful one for readers who want a deeper understanding of these experiences.

Content note: This book contains descriptions of abuse that may be difficult for some readers.

(Available from KFL)



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

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