

FEBRUARY



at KFL



February 2024 | Volume 31, Issue 2

LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS



We're getting a fresh coat of paint in February!

This month, the upstairs of the library is getting a much-needed paint job! The work should be completed the weeks of February 19 and 26. The library will remain open, but there will be some disruptions. Parts of the adult collection and library space will be unavailable for a few days at a time. We will need to remove shelves that are attached to the walls and pack up the books while the painters work.

Unfortunately, we can't predict exactly how long each section will be inaccessible. We are moving library programs to downstairs space when we can, but some programs may need to be cancelled if space is not available on the day. Please check our website and social media for updates. There will also be some unavoidable paint fumes. We are happy to provide curbside services if you are uncomfortable with the smell. [Let us know](#) if you have questions or concerns.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility while the work is being completed!

Holiday Giving 2023 is a Wrap!



All of us at KFL are deeply grateful to Cole Harrison Insurance, our Trustees, and to YOU for the success of our recent Holiday Giving campaign. Together, we not only met, but exceeded our fundraising goal to unlock a \$5,000 challenge gift from Cole Harrison Insurance and the KFL's Board of Trustees. The result? A grand total of \$41,406 in donations!

You and all our generous donors provide the stability and resources needed to continue our mission *to inspire and enable our*

communities to discover, learn, and connect. It is thanks to community partners, like Cole Harrison Insurance, and supporters like you, that we are able to expand the diverse range of services and programs that make our library a vibrant hub of exploration and connection. Thank you for your support!

(Pictured L to R – Patrick Foley, Cole Harrison; Michelle Conners, KFL Director; David Fazzino and Blue, Cole Harrison; Linda DeFelice, Linda Miller Cleary, Laura Dauphinais, and Judy Pitchforth, KFL Trustees; and John Kreie, Cole Harrison)

We Need Your Input!

As we embark on a journey to shape the future of our beloved Kennebunk Free Library, your voice is pivotal. The library has long been a cornerstone of our community, providing a haven for knowledge, connection, and cultural enrichment. Now, as we set our sights on the future, we invite each one of you to actively participate in our strategic planning process.

This survey will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete and is at this link <https://forms.gle/nepNTgG7TXsgqsucA> You can also share the link, request a paper version, or click the button below.

Your insights and perspectives will play a crucial role in crafting a vision that not only reflects the needs of our community but also ensures that KFL remains a vibrant hub for generations to come. Together, let's shape the next chapter of our library's legacy. Your input matters, and your involvement is the key to a future that resonates with the aspirations of our entire community. Thank you for being an integral part of this exciting journey.

Focus groups will be held on Tuesday, February 20 from 5:30-7, Friday, February 23 from 2-3:30, and Tuesday, March 5 from 9:30-11:00. All will be held at KFL, and all are open to the public. More details coming soon.

Kennebunk Free Library invites all community members to participate actively in the strategic planning process. Updates and information on how to get involved are available at kennebunklibrary.org and on Facebook and Instagram. You can also call us at 985-2173.

[Take the Survey](https://forms.gle/nepNTgG7TXsgqsucA)



Wine, Chocolate, and Cookie Tasting

Have fun sampling a selection of expertly curated wines and decadent handmade chocolates and support your library at the same time! Kennebunk Free library is sponsoring a Wine and Chocolate Tasting on Wednesday, February 7 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the library's welcoming Parsons Reading Room.

Betsy Ross, sommelier and owner of Kennebunk's Wine House on Main in Kennebunk and Kate Shaffer, chocolatier and founder of Ragged Coast Chocolates in Westbrook, will tell us about the wines and chocolates they have specially selected that are perfect for pairing. We will also be served Raspberry Shortbread Cookies and learn a bit about them from Traci Anello of The Community Gourmet. We will sample the

wines, chocolates, and cookies and there will be time for discussion and questions. Enjoy listening and learning and getting ideas for Valentine's Day and gift giving. Participants in the KFL fundraiser will receive a 10 percent discount on the selected wines at Wine House on Main. The registration fee is \$30. Space is limited; click below to register.

[Purchase Tickets](#)



Interest in a Chess Group for Families?

Are you interested in a monthly chess program that is beginner friendly and geared towards families and youth? Depending on interest, KFL may develop an ongoing event where kids and their families can learn the basics of chess and enjoy playing casual games. If you're interested, please [email the library](#) or give us a call and let us know.



A Message from the Friends

The Friends are having a pop-up paperback book sale February 5 – 10! Now is the time to stock up on great titles for cozy winter reading (or getaway must-haves). And as it is a new year, we thank you for [renewing or joining us for the first time](#) as a Friend of the Kennebunk Free Library. Thank you!

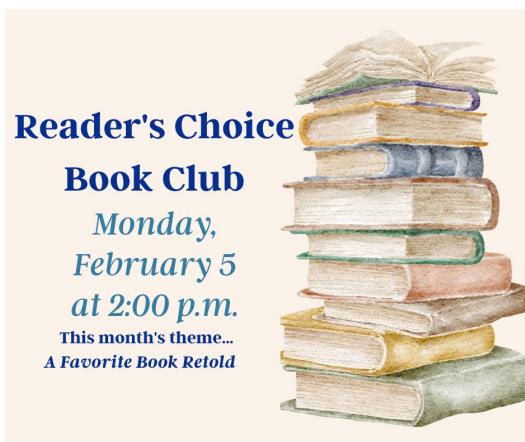
ADULT PROGRAMS



In Stitches - February 6, 13, 20, 27

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.

The February 20 session will be held on Zoom. If you are not already on the In Stitches email list, please [email Brittany](#) for the Zoom link.



Reader's Choice Book Club - February 5

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, February 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: A Favorite Book Retold.

How does this book club work? You choose your own book to read, based on the monthly theme, and then join us for a casual and fun conversation. Everyone is welcome!



Spanish Language Discussion Group - February 5, 12, 26

Stop by the Kennebunk Free Library from 5:30 to 6:30 on Monday evenings for an opportunity to practice conversational Spanish with educator and native Spanish-speaker Eva Hernandez.



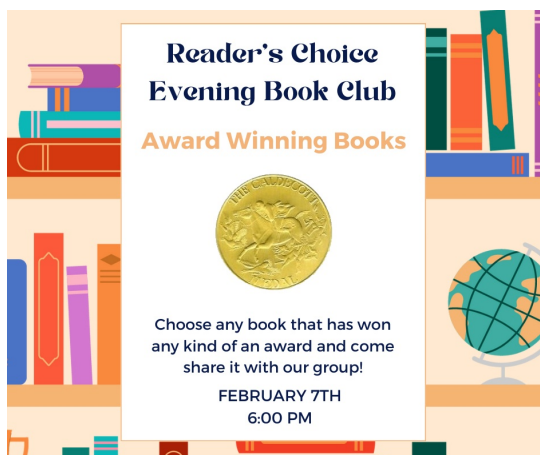
Birds of Prey and Beer with the Center for Wildlife - February 6

On Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m., the Center for Wildlife will be at KFL with some of their non-releasable bird-of-prey ambassadors for an adults-only educational program. Get to know these beautiful birds and the amazing work that the Center for Wildlife does every day, while sipping beer in our cozy Parsons Reading Room. This program is restricted to adults ages 21 and up.

What is the difference between a hawk and a falcon? Do we have vultures in Maine? What is our smallest owl? What is our largest hawk? Where do they live? We will discuss the kinds of birds of prey found in Maine, their habitats, habits, place in the food chain, and why we

need to protect them. This hour-long program will connect the audience with the Center for Wildlife's non-releasable bird ambassadors, as well as provide their natural and personal histories and empower audience members to help steward the environment that we all share.

The Center for Wildlife is a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization in Cape Neddick, ME that cares for over 2,400 injured and orphaned wildlife every year. Thirty years since its inception, the Center for Wildlife is the largest wildlife medical facility in northern New England, serving a 100-mile radius in southern Maine and New Hampshire. "The Center for Wildlife's Vision is to instill a sense of understanding, responsibility, and compassion for our natural world leading to a society connected to nature and empowered to take action, and we do this through conservation medicine, environmental education, community empowerment, and advocacy."



Evening Readers Choice Book Club - February 7

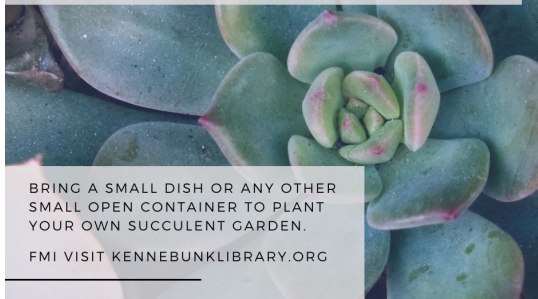
We are reading award winning books in the Reader's Choice Evening Book Club in February. Any book that has won any kind of literary award is fair game! Don't feel obligated to stick to the Pulitzers or National Book Award winners- We love variety in this group!

We'll meet on February 7 at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Succulent Dish Garden - February 14

SUCCULENT DISH GARDEN WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH @ 6:00 PM



BRING A SMALL DISH OR ANY OTHER SMALL OPEN CONTAINER TO PLANT YOUR OWN SUCCULENT GARDEN.

FMI VISIT KENNEBUNKLIBRARY.ORG

Come escape the winter at the Kennebunk Free Library on February 14 at 6:00 p.m. to do some mini gardening and create your own small succulent dish garden! A dish garden is a type of container garden made from open containers or dishes. Soil and two succulent plants will be provided to each attendee, along with small stones and shells to help decorate each garden. Each attendee will be asked to bring along a small dish or container, as well as any other decorations they would like to include in their garden.

Space is limited to 12 participants and [registration is required](#).



Ukulele Group - February 14 and 28

The Ukulele Group is back! We'll continue to meet twice a month: the 2nd Wednesday at 3:30 and the 4th Wednesday at 5:30. We will be playing the same music at both sessions. You can join us for both or either. Whatever works for you!

The 2nd Wednesday Group will meet in person at the library. That session will focus on the songs for the month in greater detail. It will provide an opportunity to answer any questions you may have from your practice and learn from each other. The 4th Wednesday Group will meet via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. Here we'll just strum and pluck and yuck it up in the privacy of home — where no one else can hear you making ukulele fun and no one cares about bloop & errors! Less talk and more play. If you are not already on the music mailing list, please [email Allison](#) to register.



Writer's Group - February 20

Whether you are looking for feedback on your writing or encouragement to keep writing, join us on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. for a meeting of the new KFL Writers' Group! Bring a 500 - 1,000 word piece of work to share with the group. We hope to see you there!

Trivia Night - February 21

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.



Fiction Book Discussion - February 27

Join us on Tuesday, February 27 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Cutting Season* by Attica Locke.

Caren Gray faces down the ugly history of slavery daily—she manages the Belle Vie plantation for its owners, the Clancy family. For generations, her family worked for the Clancys, and she and her nine-year-old daughter found refuge here after Hurricane Katrina. Caren's routine of coordinating school tours, weddings, and banquets is interrupted by the grisly discovery of a migrant worker's body on the property. The police zero in on a suspect, but Caren is unconvinced they have their man. Her investigation unearths more than she bargained for—and she realizes how widespread the repercussions of slavery still ripple. VERDICT Locke's second novel (after 2009's *Black Water Rising*) is a layered, nuanced mystery with a social conscience. Weaving legal, social, historical, and economic elements into the story of a changing family, it's a good choice for readers who enjoy multifaceted mysteries with a strong female protagonist and that blur genre distinctions. [See Prepub Alert, 4/23/12; author Dennis Lehane picked this title as his first selection for his eponymous imprint at HarperCollins.—Ed.]—Amy Brozio-Andrews, Albany P.L., NY --Amy Brozio-Andrews (Reviewed August 1, 2012) (Library Journal, vol 137, issue 13, p85)



Big Conversations in 10 Short Minutes - February 27

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 Tuesday, February 27 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 a couple of conversation prompts. One is simple. One leans more toward the philosophical. You'll be paired with someone to have a short, 10-minute conversation about the prompt of your choice. When you're done, you'll be paired with someone else for a new conversation with new prompts. We like to think of it as a little pocket of meaning at the end of a long day.

Offered in partnership with these Maine public libraries: Curtis Memorial Library, Falmouth Memorial Library, Merrill Memorial Library, Prince Memorial Library, Scarborough Public Library, Thomas Memorial Library, Walker Memorial Library, Windham Public Library

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



Tech Time - Wednesdays & Thursdays

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

To sign-up for one of our Tech Time appointments, please visit the front desk to be placed on our scheduling sheet.

Appointments to meet one-on-one with our Technology Educator can be scheduled **Wednesdays** from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., and **Thursdays** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Appointments are 45 minutes long, but there is always an opportunity to schedule a follow-up appointment if we run over our time limit. When setting up the appointment, help us to better assist you by describing the issue you want to discuss. If possible, also make sure to bring your charged device with you along with any needed usernames and passwords. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to visit us at the desk, call (207) 985-2173, or email our technology educator at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org so we can help you further.



Seed Swap Reminder! - March 9

As seed catalogs start arriving in your mailboxes and you start planning your gardens, we wanted to remind you that KFL will hold a Seed and Plant swap on March 9 at 1:00 p.m. Vegetable and flower seeds, seedlings, and house plants are all welcome. We hope to see you there!

**February Take and Make: Tin Can
Luminaries**



Turn a plain old tin can into a cozy luminary to light your winter evenings! Kits will be available on a first come, first served basis and while supplies last starting on Tuesday, February 6. Please note that this craft requires handling both sharp tools and many sharp edges. It is intended for adults only.

TEEN PROGRAMS



Chill Gaming - February 8

Ready to chill, eat snacks, and play some games? Come hang out with friends, test out your gaming card decks, play on our Nintendo Switch, try out new RPG board games, or anything else in between! Anything that relaxes you is welcome and encouraged! We will meet on the second Thursday of the month, **February 8**, from 3:30 -4:30 P.M. The

library will provide games, but players are free to bring their own games, learn new games at their own pace, or you can just come to hang out, eat snacks, and have a good time listening to some Lo-fi beats! This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Dungeons and Dragons - February 12 and 26

Welcome young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. Open to new and experienced players alike, we will meet on the following Mondays: **February 12 & February 26** from 3:30-4:30 P.M. You're welcome to bring in a character from a previous game, to make a new one, or to use one of the pre-made characters

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



Thursday Afternoon Magic - February 15

Looking to test out your new Magic the Gathering deck with friends? Join us to play on the third Thursday of the month, **February 15**, downstairs in Hank's Room from 3:30-4:30 p.m.! There will be cards available to make a deck, but if you have your own, we encourage you to bring them! This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS



Furry Tales - February 2

What's better than sharing stories? Sharing stories with a furry friend! Come to Kennebunk Free Library on Friday, February 2, at 11:30 a.m. for our monthly Furry Tales Storytime with Animal Welfare Society. Miss Amanda from AWS will share songs, stories, and fun with us. She'll even bring an animal friend for us to meet! Who will visit us this month? Join us and find out! All ages are welcome to attend. No registration required.



Take Your Child to the Library Day - February 3

Take Your Child to the Library Day is Saturday, February 3! Stop by and visit us from 1:00 - 4:30 for a drop-in craft and the library fun you love all day!

Science Saturday - February 3

Want to add a little science to your Saturday morning? Join us on Saturday, February 3, from 10-11 for a special



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science program hosted by Mousam River STEM Academy! Come be a scientist and learn about magnets and magnetism, and make a DIY magnet maze! This program is for PreK – 5th grade, no registration required.



Junior Science - February 5

How do the lungs work? How does the heart pump blood? This month, come learn all about the human body at Junior Science on February 5 at 3:45 p.m.! Come find out the answers to these questions and more! For ages 5+, [registration required](#).



Beadcraft - February 7

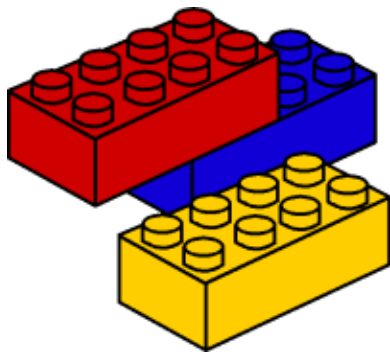
In the mood to get creative? Perler Beads - tiny plastic beads that can melt - were first introduced as a craft in Sweden in the 1950's, and we still love them! Children ages 6 and up, or age 5 with a caregiver, are invited to join us for an afternoon of beading fun on Wednesday, February 7, at 1 p.m. 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 Club - February 13

Join us for an extra special Kindness Crew on February 13 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.! Local author Janine P. Salvesky will be joining us for a story and craft. Janine will be sharing her books *A Princess Heart* and *A Princess Heart Reflects the Beauty of the Human Spirit*. Janine's books are illustrated by her daughter, Natalia. Natalia celebrated kindness in her life; Janine will help us learn about Natalia and her life and heart. After the stories, Janine will help us



to create fairy lights using mason jars. To help us plan for this program, **registration is required**. Please register [online](#) or call Kennebunk Free Library at 985-2173. This program is open to ages 4 and up.



Lego Club - February 29

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on Thursday, February 29, from 3:45-4:30 p.m. Come and build new and imaginative creations or ask the librarian for a challenge to complete. All Lego blocks will be supplied; please leave yours at home. [Registration](#) is appreciated.



Thursday Family Fun Play - Weekly

Have a morning of play at the library! On Thursday mornings in February, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out the toys for a library play date. These toys are best enjoyed when the whole family plays together! Come play and make new friends at the library! All programs will run from 10 am to 11 am. Thursday Family Fun Play is for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. No registration is required. Upcoming

Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- February 1
- February 8
- February 15
- February 22
- February 29

Storytime - Mondays



It's time for Storytime! Come to the library for some stories and songs with Miss Maria! On most Mondays in February at 10:00 a.m., Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at Kennebunk Free Library. Because of the holiday this month, we will be having Storytime on **Tuesday, February 20**. We can't wait for you to join us! Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- February 5
- February 12
- **Tuesday, February 20**
- February 26
- January 29

SPEERS GALLERY



February Artist: Maryfrances Smith

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents the exhibit "Barn Quilts: An Interior View" by local artist Maryfrances S. Smith. The exhibit runs February 2-29.

Maryfrances S. Smith is a designer, painter, and quilter. Smith has been creating with a needle for over 60 years with embroidery, costuming and quilts. Painting has been a parallel passion for many years starting with floorcloths in 2000. Using traditional quilting motifs along with original abstract designs, Smith weaves memories of both her

Pennsylvanian roots and Maine lifestyle with a deep passion for color and geometric design. Smith's paintings use geometric patterns to suggest movement and flow. They are feelings and instincts evoked by a memory or a visual scene but rendered in the abstract.

Barn Quilts: An Interior View takes a different approach from the use of exterior barn quilts often found on rural barns in most states of our country including Maine's Aroostook County. Smith's approach is to use barn quilts (in a smaller size!) inside your home to bring to life the spirit of all those unrecognized artists who created in any spare moments they may have had after working at "day jobs"; to those people who created from what they had available on hand be it using natural dyes to stain walls with designs or reconfiguring old clothing into bed coverings. For Smith, painting quilt designs and creating fabric quilts from the motifs in her paintings, meshes her skills and talents with all the many women – and men! – who came before her in her family, and whose perseverance feeds her spirit.

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

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from February 2-29 at 112 Main St., Kennebunk, Maine during regular library hours when the gallery is not in use for library

NEW BOOKS, AUDIO BOOKS & DVDS

Please note that the new items lists below are updated regularly, but through a quirk of the system, the newest items go to the end of the list. If you want to see the newest arrivals, start on the last page and work your way backward.

[Click here](#) for a look at books that arrived in the last month.

[Click here](#) for audio/video that arrived in the last month.

[Click here](#) for new children's items that arrived in the last month

[Click here](#) for new teen items that arrived in the last month

Want to know if we have this week's New York Times bestsellers available in our various collections (print, large print, audio, ebook, eaudio)?

[Click here](#) to see the fiction and nonfiction best seller list.

Books on order for February

February 1

[The Bad Weather Friend](#) – Dean Koontz

[Last Night](#) – Luanna Rice

February 6

[The Women](#) – Kristin Hannah

[The Ghost Orchid](#) – Jonathan Kellerman

[Fourteen Days](#) – Margaret Eleanor Atwood

February 12

[Crosshairs](#) – James Patterson

February 13

[Death of a Spy](#) – M. C. Beaton

[The Lantern's Dance](#) – Laurie R. King

February 20

[The Atlas Maneuver](#) – Steve Berry

February 27

[After Annie](#) – Anna Quindlen



As librarians, we are all about resources as well as learning about our communities. This past fall, ALICE in Maine was released. Taken directly from the [study's press release](#): *A Study of Financial Hardship places a spotlight on a large population of hardworking residents who work at low-paying jobs, have little or no savings, and are one emergency away from falling into poverty. **ALICE** stands*

*for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. The Report is the most comprehensive depiction of financial need in the state to date, using the latest data from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Census. The Report unveils new measures, based on 2021 income levels and expenses, that quantify how many in Maine's workforce are struggling financially, and why.*

You can find the data dashboard at the [United for ALICE website at this link](#). I encourage you to check it out.

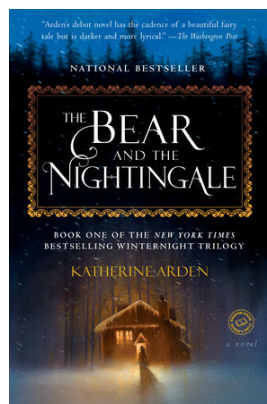
Pictured: Sophia is reading *Pete the Cat Saves Up* by Kimberly and James Dean upside down.

STAFF PICKS

Ian, Library Assistant

The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden

Katherine Arden's novel takes place in a medieval Russia where demons and spirits from Russian folklore exist alongside the villagers of a Northern Russian settlement, though few can see them. It's a great mix of Russian history and folklore and is a good intro book for anyone interested in starting to read fantasy novels.



Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

Outlive - The Science & Art of Longevity by Peter Attia, MD with Bill Gifford

The author's thoughts on the development of medicine, diet, exercise and gaining mental health are presented in a way that makes options attainable and attractive. Even small improvements can make a big difference in not only how long you live but the quality of your life. The presentation of new cancer treatments, diabetes causes and prevention, dealing with obesity and addictions are understandable and valuable to the layperson. I listened to it and then got the book to look at the charts and graphs. (Available from KFL and Minerva as a book and Libby as audio.)

A Tree Grows In Brooklyn by Betty Smith

This classic has been on my "to read" list for years and its selection for the January Book Discussion group made it happen. So many people love this book and now I am one of them. Mary Frances Nolon lives in Brooklyn at the turn of the last century. Surrounded by recent immigrants from many countries, her childhood is full of diverse foods, customs, and religious practice. Her family is American, not Irish! Her second-generation parents were born in Brooklyn she insists when her class is asked where her family comes from. Life is surrounded by beauty but difficult, as her family struggles to put food on the table. When Francie learns to read, her world expands, only limited by her library. A great work of historical fiction and coming of age story. (Available from KFL as a book and through Minerva as audio cd, MP3, book and large print.)

National Geographic – January 2024 Issue

The Monarch Butterfly cover caught my eye and the article about saving them was very informative, well worth borrowing the issue for this alone. I equally enjoyed *In Search of Still Lifes*, an article about Canadian photographer Julya Majnoczky still shots of portraits of ecosystems. *We Need Play, Seriously* by Sadie Dingfelder makes the case for the necessity of play in adult life. *A Gift, When Is Mattered Most* by Dave Yoder explains the backstory of how he got his amazing photo of Pope Francis gazing at the ceiling of the empty Sistine Chapel on Christmas Day. Hawaiian Nobles, Extending Fertility, Amazonian Tribe, Endangered Species, Alone On An Island and more, explained with photographs, maps, graphs and just enough text to quench your interest in the subject. It has been too long since I picked up an issue. I won't let that happen again! (Available from KFL and through Minerva.)

[Visit our Website](#)



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