

Monthly E-Newsletter
August 2020
Volume 27, Issue 8

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Read Books/Win Prizes! All Ages

Can you help us reach our community goal of 15,000 reading hours?

Our annual Summer Reading Raffle is still on through August 15, but it's taking a different form this year. KFL is using



Beanstack, an online tool, for you to log the amount of time you spend reading this summer. Options are available for children, teens, and adults. Every three hours that you read and log on Beanstack, you will earn a virtual badge and a ticket to enter in a raffle! At the end of our summer reading program, we will raffle off gift certificates to local businesses, including Duffy's, Raptor Falls Mini Golf, Arundel Ice Cream, ACE Hardware, and more! Sign up for Beanstack today at <https://kennebunklibrary.beanstack.org>. A mobile app is also available for Apple and Android devices and can be found by searching for "Beanstack Tracker." Video tutorials are available on our Facebook page, YouTube account, and the library's website. Happy reading!

Adult Programs

Heart and Home Book Club - August 3

The Heart & Home Book Club is returning - in a virtual format! Heart & Home is a pick-your-own book discussion group. Participants choose their own fiction or nonfiction book based on a monthly theme. On Monday, August 3, at 2:00 p.m., our theme will be *Imagination*. This discussion will take place through a video-free zoom meeting; that is, participants will hear each other's voices (and see each other's names, if entered) but not see each other's images on video. If you prefer not to be on video but would like to connect with other book lovers, this might be the meeting for you! Check our website rotating display and calendar for the link to join the Zoom meeting.



Maine Humanities Council Project: Maine at 200 - August 3 & 24

KFL will be working with the Maine Humanities Council this summer to present *Maine at 200: How should life be?* Our state's bicentennial year is an invitation to take stock, to look back with new eyes at what's already happened, to look around with renewed care at what's happening now, and to grapple with big questions, like who are we? where are we? how did we get here? and where might we be going?



Facilitator Rebecca Dawson Webb will lead a discussion on Zoom about a different Maine-related topic, based on selected readings. On Monday, August 3 at 6:00 we will discuss "Wabanaki Voices." On Monday, August 24, the topic will be "Race & Ethnicity."

Please [register](#) for links to online readings and the Zoom link.

Please note that we have been struggling with our emails going to spam and occasionally disappearing altogether, even when we're replying to an email that you sent. We will respond to all registration requests within one business day. If you don't hear back from us in that time frame, please check your spam folder. If the reply is not there, give us a call.

In Stitches - August 4, 11, 18, 25

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 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. Krissy is happy to offer knitting help as best she can, though she offers no guarantee that it will be helpful over video. Feel free to stop by for a few minutes or stay the whole hour.



In Stitches meets every Tuesday morning at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Visit our website calendar for the link.

Virtual Show and Tell - August 5

Do you have a cool collection that you're proud of? A neat family heirloom you want to show off? Remember show and tell from your elementary school days? Well, we're bringing it back for grown-ups! Join us on Zoom on August 5 at 6:00 p.m. to show off your treasures!



Nonfiction Book Group - August 10

The Nonfiction Book group is back! Join us on Zoom on Monday August 10 at 6:30 to discuss Michelle Obama's *Becoming*.

"The former first lady looks back on an unlikely rise to the top while navigating issues of race and gender in this warmhearted memoir. Obama's narrative is the story of an African-American striver, born to a working-class family in a Chicago ghetto, who got Princeton and Harvard degrees and prominent jobs in law and public relations, attended at every step by the nagging question, 'Am I good enough?' ('Yes I am,' she answers). It's also about her struggle to keep husband Barack's high-powered political career from subsuming her identity and the placid family life she preferred to the electoral frenzy-she disavows any desire for public office herself-while she weathered misgivings over work-life balance and marital strains that required couples' counseling. *Becoming* the first lady ratchets up the pressure as Obama endures the Secret Service security bubble, has every public utterance and outfit attacked by opponents, gets pilloried as a closet radical, and soldiers on with healthy-food initiatives. ... There are no dramatic revelations and not much overt politics here, but fans of the Obamas will find an interesting, inspiring saga of quiet social revolutions." (Publishers Weekly, vol 265, issue 47)



Journaling Meetup - August 12

Do you love to keep a journal, diary, planner, or similar type of notebook? If so, join Kennebunk Free Library on Wednesday, August 12 at 5:30 p.m. for a Journaling Meetup to chat about... all things journaling! This meeting will be held via Zoom, and using the video feature will as always be optional. Check our website rotating display and calendar for the link to join the Zoom meeting.



Meditation Class - August 17

On Monday, August 17 at 6:00 p.m., we will host presenter Cindy Simon for an online meditation class. Are you a beginner? Looking to deepen your practice? All are welcome!

Where does most of your awareness and attention go? Do you live in the moment? Are you aware of your breath? Relax and imagine peaceful scenery, learn deep stillness and quiet, utilize positive affirmations, and rid your mind of negative chatter. Learn to bring meditation into your everyday life and discover deeper relaxation, sleep, patience, and calm.



This meeting will be held online via Zoom. Check our website calendar and rotating display or give us a call for the login information.

ReadME Book Discussion - August 19

This summer, Kennebunk Free Library patrons will have the opportunity to be part of a statewide community read. Each year, the Maine Humanities Council asks a popular Maine author to recommend two books. This year, author Lily King has selected *Roughhouse Friday* by Jaed Coffin and *The Vigilance of Stars* by Patrica O'Donnell.

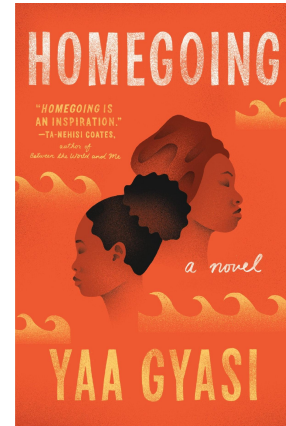
Join very special guest, author Patricia O'Donnell, to discuss *The Vigilance of Stars* on Wednesday, August 19 at 6:00 p.m. Call or [email the library](#) to reserve your copy of the book; we have limited copies available.



The discussion will take place via Zoom. A link to the meeting can be found on our website and our events calendar.

Adult Book Discussion - August 25

On Tuesday, August 25 at 1:00 p.m., the Adult Book Discussion will be discussing *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting can be found on our website or our events calendar. Hope to see you there!



"Gyasi's amazing debut offers an unforgettable, page-turning look at the histories of Ghana and America, as the author traces a single bloodline across seven generations, beginning with Ghanaian half-sisters Effia, who is married off to a British colonizer in the 1760s, and Esi, who is captured into the British slave-trading system around the same time. These women never meet, never know of each other's existence, yet in alternating narratives we see their respective families swell through the eyes of slaves, wanderers, union leaders, teachers, heroin addicts, and more-these often feel like linked short stories, with each descendant receiving his or her own chapter. Esi's descendants find themselves on the other side of the Atlantic, toiling on plantations in the American South before escaping to the North for freedom, while Effia's offspring become intertwined in the Gold Coast slave trade, until her grandson breaks away and disappears to live a simple existence with his true love. In both America and Ghana, prosperity rises and falls from parent to child, love comes and goes, and the characters' trust of white men wavers. These story elements purposely echo like ghosts-as history often repeats itself-yet Gyasi writes each narrative with remarkable freshness and subtlety. A marvelous novel." (Publishers Weekly, vol 263, issue 05)

Ukulele Group - August 26

Join us on Wednesday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m., for virtual ukulele group with group leader Dan Riggall. If you are not already part of the ukulele email list, please [register](#) for this month's music and the Zoom link.



Town Historian Kathy Ostrander Roberts - August 31

Please join us on Monday, August 31 at 6:00 as Town Historian Kathy Ostrander Roberts relates information she has gathered over the past decade about Black history in Kennebunk. Our town's historical records neglect to tell the narrative of the enslaved persons of color who lived in our community in the late 1700's to the early 1830's. In the past, historians have focused mainly on our ship building heritage. Ostrander Roberts invites you to explore our true multi-faceted history. Rev Lara K.J. Campbell will also join the discussion to share what she has uncovered about the freed persons of color who worshipped in what is now the Unitarian Church.



Teen Programs

Teen Gaming

If you're looking for something fun to do with friends on Friday afternoons, join every Friday for Teen Gaming as we play co op games like *Jackbox* and *Keep Talking and No One Explodes*! They are fun multiplayer games that you can play from a distance. We will meet via Zoom at 3:00 p.m.. to go over the rules, chat and play. Join here <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/88980582413> or check our calendar for the Zoom link! Open to all teens ages 10 and up.

Teen Take-Home Kits

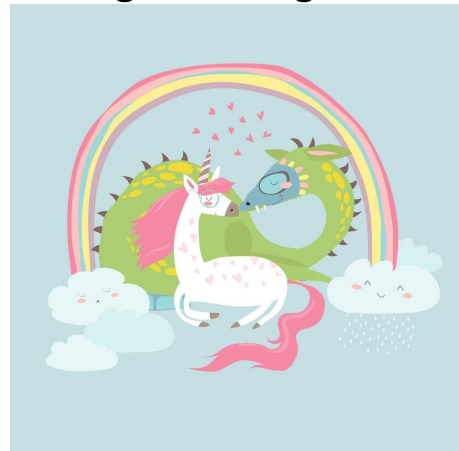
Every week this month, we will have teen take-home kits available to be picked up along with your curbside order. Each kit will include the supplies and instructions necessary to complete a weekly project, either a craft or a fun science experiment! Every Monday beginning August 3, we will meet via Zoom to chat and complete the previous week's project. Join us here Mondays at 3:00 p.m.: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/86356573384> All Teens ages 10 and up are welcome!

Children's Programs

Magical Zoom Storytime: Unicorns and Dragons - August 6

Do you believe in magic? You can always find magic in stories! On Thursday, August 6, at 10:15 a.m., join us for a Zoom Storytime all about unicorns and dragons! Miss Maria will share several magical tales and songs. Join us using the following link:

<https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/83154544601> Bring along a magical stuffie friend or come dressed as your favorite magical creature! We'll have more fun than a unicorn in a glitter factory!



Take, Make and Read - August 13 & 27

How can you make a great story even better? Crafts and activities that relate to the story help us understand more and experience it deeper! In August, we will be offering craft kits curbside while supplies last that correspond to particular stories. Miss Maria will read the story that the crafts are based on using Facebook Live. Kits can be picked up starting August 3.

Facebook Live reading dates are:

August 13, 10:30 a.m.: *Little Red Gliding Hood* by Tara Lazar and illustrated by Troy Cummings

August 27, 10:30 a.m.: *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade



The stories we are featuring are #OwnVoices books and/or books purchased with our recent grant from Diverse BookFinder. Pick up a kit curbside starting August 3 and join us for some great stories!

Virtual Storytimes - Tuesdays

It's time for storytime! Kennebunk Free Library will be continuing storytimes on Facebook Live. Storytimes will be at 10:15 on Tuesday mornings. Join Miss Maria for fun songs and stories! It's a different way of getting together, but we'll still spend time sharing. We will be taking a storytime break on 8/18 and 8/25. Miss Maria can't wait to say hello and sing with you!



A Note From the Friends

The Board of the Friends hope that you are all well and safe. We haven't been into our library for a few months now and we miss it terribly. I have every confidence in our staff that when the library does open it will be a safe place to be. I want to take this time to thank Michelle and the staff for all that they have accomplished thus far and hope you are taking advantage of the on line programs and curbside service.

I would also like to thank each Friend for keeping up your membership as well as new Friends for your support. The dues helped to purchase a Maine Bicentennial Flag which will fly proudly over the library in addition to previous purchases of books and other materials for your use. On behalf of Sue, Deb, Risa and myself stay well and safe. Happy Reading.

Donna Gomez, President

A Note From the Director

If you can remember way back to March, we were in the middle of our [March Madness](#) auction fundraiser when we had to close down. We made the decision to offer the auction baskets to the highest bidders at the time of our closure and we also drew a winner for the Dahlov Ipcar bag. We did this just a few weeks ago and everyone that bid remained committed. Thank you for your support.

I'd like to take a moment to highlight one of the many wonderful services that staff has been providing while we've been so digitally engaged. Every week staff curates a list, sometimes themed, called [Resource Roundup](#). The full list is posted to Facebook with a selection added to the "While We're Closed" tab on the website. Topics have included Caring for Our Maine Community and Summer in Maine. I highly recommend it. They provide online links for all age groups.

Don't Like Fines? Neither Do We.

We dislike fines as much as you do but they account for \$10,000 of our annual revenue, or the same amount as our *entire* adult book collection for the year. We have removed fines since the start of the pandemic and will continue to do so for as long as feasible but we

would like to make this a permanent change. If we can show that, through donations, we can raise this amount then we'll never have to nickel and dime you at the counter again! A donation box will be made available at the curbside pickup table for your convenience. Please note that even though we are not collecting fines, replacement fees for lost or damaged items will still be collected.

Michelle Conners



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 which of the fiction bestsellers we have.

[Click here](#) for nonfiction.

Hot New Releases on order for August:

August 4

[Last Mrs. Summers - Rhys Bowen](#)

[Sucker Punch - Laurell Hamilton](#)

[Ghost Ups Her Game - Carolyn Hart](#)

[Silent Wife - Karin Slaughter](#)

[Caste - Isabel Wilkerson](#)

August 11

[A Private Cathedral - James Lee Burke](#)

[The Midwife Murders - James Patterson](#)

[No Offense - Meg Cabot](#)

[Choppy Water - Stuart Woods](#)

August 18

[Royal - Danielle Steele](#)

August 25

[Whirlwind - Janet Dailey](#)

[The Exiles - Christina Baker Kline](#)

[Squeeze Me - Carl Hiaasen](#)

[Thick as Thieves - Sandra Brown](#)

[Bitter Pill - Fern Michaels](#)

Recommendations and Messages From Your Librarians

Krissy, Library Assistant

Binti by Nnedi Okorafor

Over the past year I have come to really appreciate novellas, of taking only as much time as you need to tell a story rather than bloating it out to fill the size of a book. *Binti* is not a long read - I read it in a day - but there is a distilled power in those few pages.

Binti tells the story of a young woman, the first to leave her remote homeland to attend an off-planet university. It chronicles her trip to the university, which does not go as expected, but the plot was secondary to the vivid, complex character that leaps off the page. Things Happen in the plot, but I care about them *as they happen to Binti*. This is a beautiful book about heritage and history, otherness and similarity, and the power and consequences of communication or lack thereof.

Kate, Cataloger

Lifting as We Climb by Evette Dionne

August 18, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. It is surely an event to be celebrated! One way to mark the occasion is to learn about the road to suffrage, a history that goes far beyond Seneca Falls and Susan B. Anthony. Evette Dionne's new book *Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box* provides several of those "I didn't learn that in school!" moments illustrating the work and struggle of numerous Black women toward the fight for voting rights. Dionne shines light on the early merging of the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements, their later divergence and the subsequent exclusion of Black women from bills that would allow only white women to vote, and the work to break the Jim Crow laws designed to keep Black people from the polls. *Lifting as We Climb* is an eye opening read that helps build context and broader historical accuracy around the story of the 19th Amendment and voting rights. It is geared toward upper middle school and high school readers, but is engaging and informative for adult audiences as well. Written with a lively narrative and dotted with biographical sketches and photographs of the women who helped pave the way to August 1920 and those that continue the work to decrease barriers to the polls today, Dionne's work is timely and needed. And what better time to learn about these often overlooked suffragists than the amendment's centennial this summer?

Denise, Library Assistant

August Booklist:

The Book of Lost Names by Kristen Harmel

Bob by Wendy Mass

Another Brooklyn by Jacqueline Woodson

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds



Allison, Assistant Director

The Big Flower Fight on Netflix

This show, in which florists from around the world create giant sculptures out of plants, is pure eye candy. It has a lot of the elements that make *The Great British Bake Off* so charming - quirky participants with interesting back stories who seem to genuinely like and support each other. Each episode is full of amazing designs, often pulled together just in the nick of time. If you want to give your brain and eyes a break from the barrage of bad news we've been getting lately, this is the way to do it!

STAY CONNECTED:



Kennebunk Free Library | 207-985-2173 | kfl@kennebunk.lib.me.us | kennebunklibrary.org