



December 2022 | Volume 29, Issue 12

Library News and Events



Last year, we announced the completion of a digitization project of three of our historic newspaper collections. We are exceedingly pleased to

announce that we have completed digitizing a fourth set! Our holdings of the *Kennebunk Gazette* are now freely available online for downloading, searching, and reading. The *Kennebunk Gazette* is the second oldest publication in our newspaper collection, spanning 1822 – 1842. The physical papers have been maintained in storage for nearly three decades with limited public access due to concerns with the fragile condition of the paper. With digitization complete, the original issues' content is now perpetually preserved and available for unlimited online access. We are grateful to the Maine Humanities Council who provided KFL with a grant to conduct this project, and to our scanning and hosting partners at the Osher Map Library and the Maine State Library for helping us preserve 200 years of local history.

We invite you to explore these issues where you will find reporting on major national events such as the death and funeral of John Adams, local and state news coverage including the Aroostook Boundary War and reports on a sea-serpent plying the York County coast, social events, ship arrivals, advertisements, poetry and literature, and reports of interest from around the country and the globe. Each issue is keyword searchable for ease of research. Do note that the text on each page is small and dense, thus making the files large. Please exercise patience while these treasures load on your computers. You can find the collection at <https://digitalmaine.com/kennebunk> alongside the Andrew Walker Diaries, the *Kennebunk Enterprise*, the *Seaside Echo*, and the *Wave* newspapers. We hope you enjoy this peek into history as much as we do.



Neighborhood library champion, Cole Harrison Insurance, is urging our community to be

generous during our Holiday Giving campaign. **Cole Harrison will give \$2,500 to Kennebunk Free Library once our donations reach \$10,000!** We know you are as excited about this opportunity as we are, and want to do your part to unlock this amazing \$2,500 Challenge Gift. Your donation makes a real difference in the lives of our community members by providing access to read, listen, watch, create, learn, communicate, and connect through our collections, our programs, our services, and our care.

Please join us as we come together to reach our goal of \$10,000 before December 31, 2022. Making a difference during the season of giving feels great and couldn't be easier. Simply send in your check today or go to <https://kennebunklibrary.org/supportlibrary.asp> to make your secure online gift. Thank you!

Want to see Your Support in action? [Follow this link](#) to read the complete Holiday Giving letter...



Pop-Up Holiday Book Sale - Dec. 5-9

The Friends of KFL will be hosting a pop-up holiday book sale at the library. Books will be on a table in front of the upstairs circulation desk. Stop in to shop anytime the library is open!

Adult Programs

Reader's Choice Book Club - December 5

Reader's Choice Book Club

*Monday,
December 5
at 2:00 p.m.*

*This month's theme...
Home*



Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room. This month's theme will be: Home.

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!

Holiday Block Printing - December 5



Join us at 6:00pm on Monday, December 5 to carve a festive 3" x 5" block print! KFL will provide all supplies and instruction, no experience is necessary to attend. Sample designs will be shown, but you are welcome to bring a design idea that will work in black and white. Participants will leave with a print and their carved block which can be used over and over! This program is intended for adults 18+ and registration is required due to limited space. Call or [email the library](#) to register: 985-2173.

Tech Time - December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28



Are you stuck on a technology question that might need some extra help to be solved? While technology is advertised to be simple and easy, sometimes it can be anything but that. 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 a librarian can be scheduled **Tuesdays and Wednesdays** from 2:00-4:00 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 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.

In Stitches - December 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.

On the first Tuesday of the month, In Stitches will take place on Zoom; see our events calendar for the link to the meeting. The rest of the month, the group will meet in-person inside the library. See our events calendar for more information.

BewilderBeasts podcaster Melissa McCue-McGrath - December 6



Animals intersect with humanity in infinite ways. That's the premise of local dog trainer, Melissa McCue-McGrath's podcast, *BewilderBeasts*. On Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m., Melissa will be at Kennebunk Free Library to introduce us to animals who do unusual jobs for humans, including goats who prevent forest fires in California, bees who are trained to find landmines in Croatia, and dogs who find whale poop to help scientists save orcas! There will also be a discussion about the often misunderstood job descriptions between service dogs, emotional support animals, and therapy dogs. So, if you are curious about

all the animals who work for humans, come and listen to this free presentation of *BewilderBeasts*. This is appropriate for kids and adults of all ages, so bring your curiosity!

Melissa McCue-McGrath, CPDT-KA, grew up in what she considers an "accidental dog sledding family" in Washington, ME, before working with pet dogs in urban centers. She spent 18 years training dogs and working difficult behavior cases in Boston, where she wrote her first book, *Considerations for the City Dog*, the first training book that keeps the challenges of working with pet dogs in busy environments in mind. In 2020, she started the podcast *BewilderBeasts* to help keep kids interested in science and history through an animal lens which is now heard all over the world. Melissa continues training dogs at the Animal Welfare Society, including sports classes, in Kennebunk, and she remains

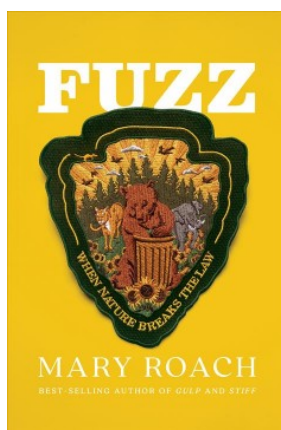
the VP of the New England Dog Training Club in Boston, the oldest AKC affiliated dog obedience club in the country.

Book Page Wreaths - December 7



Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7 to make your very own book page wreath! Using recycled book pages and other supplies, you'll be able to create a festive piece to hang anywhere! Registration is required, as space is limited. Call or [email the library](#) to register.

Nonfiction Book Group - December 12



Join us on Monday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Fuzz* by Mary Roach.

"The expert on quirky science writing doesn't disappoint. In Roach's (*Grunt*; *Gulp*; *Stiff*) newest book, she brings readers on her journey into the realm of human-wildlife conflict. Roach's writing combines research with firsthand experience, plus tips for handling an unplanned encounter with a wild animal. She observes and talks with international laypeople and specialists across many fields, such as animal-attack forensics investigators. Her natural curiosity and wit pair well with her topics, including her harassment by monkeys, and the way emus and albatrosses outsmarted the Australian and U.S. militaries, respectively. She gets elbow-deep in crime scenes

with furry suspects and travels to India to investigate the high rate of deaths by elephant. Roach also explores how politics, climate change, and religion can complicate human-wildlife interactions worldwide. Like Roach's previous best-selling pop science works, this book is unpretentious and honest about what she sees and what she learns along the way. VERDICT A must-read for wildlife enthusiasts, popular science readers, and anyone who has enjoyed Roach's other books. Her occasionally awkward interactions with people and animals make for the engaging narrative style that Roach is famous for." (Library Journal, vol 146, issue 7, p91)

Adult Book Discussion - December 13



Join us on Tuesday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik.

Deciding to collect on the outstanding debts owed her family of moneylenders, a young woman is overheard boasting about being able to turn silver into gold by the creatures who haunt the wood, in a reimagining of the Rumpelstiltskin story.

A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas - December 14

On Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.,



stop by Kennebunk Free Library for *A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas* – songs and stories by performer Jeff Snow. We'll have a cozy fire going with wine and light refreshments served.

Jeff Snow is a talented multi-instrumentalist who shares the music, and the stories behind the music, of Scotland, Ireland and England.

Growing up in a home where old Scottish folk songs were the everyday sounds, Jeff developed an early love for Celtic music. Much of the history of these lands was preserved in song. You will see singing, laughing, lots of smiles and perhaps a few tears as we travel through time. There is no better example of this than the story of John Hunt. In 1855, at the age of 13, John Hunt left his family's home in Kilkelly, Ireland and came to the United States. He never returned to Ireland and never saw his family again. The Ballad of Kilkelly Ireland tells the story of the Hunt family.

Jeff's music has been described as "quiet and relaxing." Much of it is, but every once in a while, he breaks out and the foot stomping begins. Each concert is a wee bit different and adapted to the response and interest of the audience.

In concert Jeff plays the guitar, autoharp and bouzouki. He can also find his way around a drum set and most of the percussion family.

Jeff is a private guitar teacher and the author of the teaching method *Guitar Basics and Beyond*. He was featured in the December 2006 issue of *Acoustic Guitar Magazine* and is a contributing writer for *Acoustic Guitar* and *Autoharp Quarterly Magazines*.

When not singing, playing, or teaching Jeff can often be found taking photographs, on a golf course or a beach.

December Take-and-Make Kit: Birdseed Ornament



Chickadees, cardinals, nuthatches, and finches- what do they have in common? They are just some of birds that stay in Maine through the winter! December's take-and-make offers a little food gift to these feathered friends as the cold weather deepens. Each kit makes two birdseed cone ornaments that can be hung outside as a feeder. Kits will be available starting Tuesday, December 6 on a first come, first served basis.

Teen Programs

The Dragon Hunter and Treasure Seekers Guild - December 5 & 19

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. Because of the holiday break, we will meet on Monday **December 5 & 19** 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, wheelchair accessible, and open to Teens ages 10 and up. New players are encouraged to join in on the adventure. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline downstairs in the children's room, or call at (207) 985-2173.

Chill Gaming - December 8 & 22



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 for our event, Chill Gaming! Basically anything that relaxes you is welcome and encouraged! Because of the holiday break, we will meet on Thursday, **December 8 & 22** from 3:30 - 4:30 P.M. There will be games provided by the library, but players are free to bring

their own games, learn new games at their own pace, or you can just come to hang out and have a good time listening to some lofi beats! This event is free, wheelchair accessible, and open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline in the Children's Room, or call at (207) 985-2173.

Teen Mystery Badge Bundles - Starting December 9



Looking for some new pins to decorate your coats, bookbags, and so much more? Starting **December 9** at 9:30 a.m., mystery badge bundles will be available upstairs in the Teen Room (Walker Room). Filled with pins featuring Pokemon characters, Kermit the Frog, Animals on Computers, and all sorts of other things, these bundles are a great surprise for the holiday season! Available while bundles last, what surprises do you think you will grab? This mystery bundle pick-up event is free, wheelchair accessible, and open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline in the Children's Room, or call at (207) 985-2173.

Children's Programs



December STEAM Kit - December 1

December's STEAM Kit from Kennebunk Free Library has a sweet twist! During the month of December, we will have all the supplies you need to decorate a gingerbread person. Kits will be available starting Thursday, December 1, and will be available while supplies last. Decorating a gingerbread person will encourage spatial visualization and problem solving, not to mention artistic creativity! Each kit will include a gingerbread person, icing, and some candies to decorate with. Be sure to take

a picture of your creation and email it to us at ys@kennebunklibrary.org! We will create a virtual display with the photos. We can't wait to see your gingerbread person!



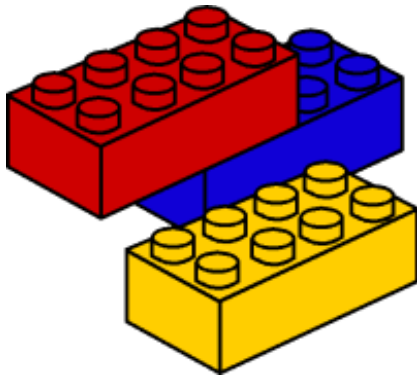
Beadcraft - December 7

It's time for Beadcraft! 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, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. Design suggestions will be offered, but creativity is encouraged! All craft materials will be provided. Registration is recommended but not required.



Kindness Club - December 13

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! The second meeting of Kennebunk Free Library's Kindness Club for kids will be on Tuesday, December 13, 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. Parents are welcome to join in!



Lego Club - December 30

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on Friday, December 30, from 3:45 - 4:45 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.



Storytimes - December

It's time for Storytime! On Mondays at 10:00 a.m., join Miss Maria inside the library for songs, stories, rhymes, and fun! Storytimes are designed for ages 2-5, but everyone is welcome! These events are free and wheelchair accessible. Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main St., Kennebunk. For more information, please call 985-2173. Upcoming storytime dates include:

- December 5
- December 12
- December 19

The results for this month's Would You Rather question are in! In November, we asked, "Would you rather bake a cake or cook spaghetti?" For the first time ever, we had to add a second sheet to the Would You Rather voting poster! 28 friends wanted to cook spaghetti, while too many friends to count would prefer to bake a cake. 16 friends just couldn't decide and placed a sticker right on the center line. It's a tough question! Which would you choose? Keep an eye out for our next Would You Rather question in the Children's Room!



Speers Gallery

December Artist: "Student Images"

The Kennebunk Free Library announces its next Speers Gallery exhibit, "Student Images" featuring photographs by students around the world facilitated by Picture Pals, an organization co-founded by Kennebunkport residents Lorraine and Paul Star and their lifelong friend Joe Highland who "has dedicated his life to helping others to have a better future."

After retiring from teaching, Paul and Lorraine, who are avid photographers and travelers, decided it was time to give back. Through Picture Plans, they offer photography workshops for youth in low resource and underserved communities throughout the world.



The exhibit will showcase Picture Plans student work produced during workshops in Mexico, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Cambodia, Liberia, and the Cherokee Nation.

The students who took the photographs are between ages 15-18 and, previous to Picture Pals, had no formal training in photography. According to Paul, the students "embraced the camera and the photography courses. They prepared themselves to give the world a glimpse into their soul."

The exhibit runs from December 1-31, and the public is invited to a reception on Wednesday, December 14 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to offer this unique exhibit of photography.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from December 1-31, 2022 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, and 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.

December 6

[A Dangerous Business – Jane Smiley](#)

[Night Shift – Robin Cook](#)

[Waste of a Life - Simon Brett](#)

[Stella Maris - Cormac McCarthy](#)

December 13

[Devil's Delight – M.C. Beaton](#)

December 27

[Blue Moon Haven – Janet Dailey](#)

A Message from the Library Director



Wednesday, November 28, will mark the retirement for Carol Whitten. Carol started working at KFL in 1978 and while she is stepping down from a regular position, she will remain on our substitute list so you'll still see her! You will also see a few new faces in the library as well. Cynthia is our new Library Page and you'll find Ian working in the children's room. Please welcome them.

I also ask that you please consider contributing toward our [Holiday Giving campaign](#). Cole Harrison will generously give \$2,500 to KFL once our donations reach \$10,000. Donations can be made [online](#) or in-person. Thank you so much for your support of KFL and my very best wishes to you all this holiday season.

Pictured: One evening while I was reading my daughter her bedtime stories, she drew this picture of me reading to her while she sat on her bed drawing.

Staff Picks & Messages

Kat, Library Assistant

Simple Pasta - Pasta Made Easy. Life Made Better. by Odette Williams

I owned a pasta machine for years and never once used it. This book gives me the information and makes me think I can do this! Fortunately, my daughter still has it and will return it to me. Instructions on using a machine and by hand methods are included. Not just pasta, but gnocchi, sauces, and desserts. At the beginning of the book there are basic recipes and step by step instructions. The rest of the book includes recipes arranged by seasons. Pasta making could be a great New Year's resolution!

Elvis - Director: Baz Luhrmann, starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks

Wow, so much sound and motion carry you through the story on a giant wave. We meet young Elvis, his family, and his hometown. His early emersion in gospel music and blues touches him to the core and the movements that made him famous and infamous just came naturally. After recording one song, he is contracted by Sun Records and quickly becomes a sensation. Austin Butler captured the energy and passion of Elvis. Tom Hanks makes a great, scheming Colonel Tom Parker who sucks the life out of his "partner". Olivia DeJonge plays Priscilla Presley and wins my sympathy as she tries to get her husband back from all his addictions. "We're caught in a trap and I can't walk out...."

Denise, Library Assistant



Kennebunk Free Library | kennebunklibrary.org

