



December 2023 | Volume 30, Issue 12

LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS



You might notice something new at our public computers when you next visit us. We've added a caregiver-child workstation! This addition allows people to keep their infants and toddlers safely nearby and occupied while freeing their hands to do their work. We hope this station will help make coming in for computer use a little bit easier for our patrons and their littles!

This purchase was partially funded with our Remote Work Through Libraries grant through the Maine State Library.

A big thank you to Huston & Company for custom building this station for us. It fits perfectly and looks great!



Happy Holidays to YOU!

We have some wonderful news to share regarding our 2023 Holiday Giving campaign.

Cole Harrison Insurance and the Kennebunk Free Library's Board of Trustees will each give \$2,500 to our

library once Holiday Giving donations reach \$35,000! We know you are as excited about this opportunity as we are, and want to do your part to unlock this amazing **\$5,000 Challenge Gift**. Your donation in any amount will touch our community members in more ways than you can imagine... [Click here to read the complete letter.](#)

Please join us as we come together to reach our goal of \$35,000 before December 31, 2023! Making a difference during the season of giving feels great and couldn't be easier. Simply send in your check, click on the **Give Now** tab on our website, or scan the QR code below to make your donation today. Thank you so much for your support!

[Donate Now](#)



Opening at 1:00 on Wed., December 13

Please note that the library will be opening half an hour late at 1:00 on Wednesday, December 13 to give staff an opportunity to enjoy a holiday celebration.

Gift Wrap Exchange

Have you been using the same wrapping paper for forever? Looking for something different this year, but are wary of adding another offering to the stacks of unfinished rolls in your closet/garage? Switch things up this holiday season without spending a dime and avoiding extra clutter!



Come join us at Kennebunk Free Library for our Gift Wrap Exchange! Until January 5, there will be a box in the mezzanine labeled "Gift Wrap Exchange". To participate, simply take a roll and leave one in its place. We do ask that you only bring wrapping paper that is unused and still on the roll.

BLOOMIN' 4 GOOD PROGRAM
GIVE THE GIFT OF A
BLOOMIN' 4 GOOD BOUQUET

During the month of December 2023, Kennebunk Free Library will receive \$1 from every specially marked **Bloomin' 4 Good** bouquet sold at:

hannafood.2givelocal.com 65 PORTLAND ROAD SUITE 9
KENNEBUNK, ME

ADULT PROGRAMS

Reader's Choice Book Club
Monday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m.
This month's theme...
Cooking

Reader's Choice Book Club - December 4

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: Cooking.

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 - December 4, 11, 18

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.



In Stitches - December 5, 12, 19, 26

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.

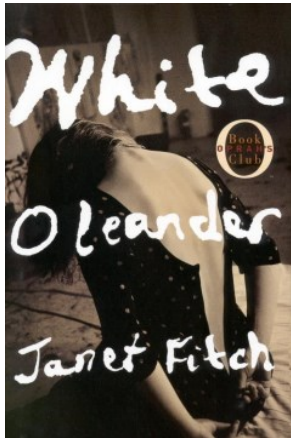
On the first Tuesday of the month, In Stitches will take place on Zoom; see our events calendar for the link to the meeting. The rest of the month, the group will meet in-person in the library. See our events calendar for more information.



Gingerbread House Decorating for Adults - December 9

Join us for a cozy afternoon of Gingerbread House Decorating at KFL! To change things up, we will be using pop-tarts as our base. All supplies will be provided. There will also be Tea, Hot Cocoa, and Eggnog available for refreshment. You are welcome to decorate your house to your liking with the materials provided, but a template will also be available to follow. This program is for adults 18+.

Registration is required as space is very limited: the Saturday, December 2 session is full, but wait list spots are available. There are a couple of spots still available on Saturday, December 9



Adult Book Discussion - December 12

Join us on Tuesday, December 12 at 1:00 to discuss *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch.

"A first-rate debut about a teenaged girl's arduous six-year journey of self-discovery. Astrid is 12 when her beloved mother, the poet Ingrid Magnussen, murders a former lover and is sent to jail. Her father long gone, Astrid ends up in foster care, moving through dysfunctional households across southern California. Only Claire Richards, actress wife of a wealthy TV producer, seems to offer a real family life as she nurtures Astrid's academic and artistic abilities. But the Richards home has deep emotional fissures, skillfully exploited by Ingrid, who keeps jealous watch over her daughter by letter. Weak, neurotic Claire succumbs, and Astrid's last foster home is a chaotic crash-pad overseen by a Russian immigrant engaged in various semi-legal hustles. Meanwhile, Ingrid has become a feminist cause celebre with naive young disciples and a media-savvy lawyer working to get her a new trial. The embittered Astrid wants no part of this effort, and in jailhouse confrontation challenges Ingrid to prove that she regrets her destructive role and will try to make amends for the hard times she's caused her daughter. Despite melodramatic plot twists, the foster homes provide a nicely eclectic panorama of late 20th-century American life and a revealing stage for Astrid's growth and personal struggles. She's an appealing protagonist, smart and vulnerable, though her formidable mother is even more intriguing, and the author brilliantly delineates the woman's complexity through her letters, which are masterpieces of epistolary voice and character development. Fitch displays remarkable artistic and psychological maturity throughout, skillfully making use of metaphors (like the beautifully poisonous oleander, Ingrid's signature flower) to illuminate her central theme: the longing for order and connection in a world where even the most intimate bonds can be broken in an instant. The author allows her protagonist to achieve adulthood, love, an artistic vocation, and some semblance of inner peace without scanting the scars she will always carry. Vigorous, polished prose, strong storytelling, satisfyingly complex characters, and thoughtfully nuanced perceptions: an impressive debut indeed." (Kirkus Reviews, February 15, 1999)



Ukulele Group - December 13

This month ukulele will be meeting only once on Wednesday, December 13 at 3:30. We'll be having a little in-person holiday gathering, with refreshments and plenty of strumming and singing! If you are not already on the

music mailing list, please [email Allison](#) to register.



Evening Readers Choice Book Club - December 13

Our Evening Reader's Choice Book Group meets again this month on December 13 at 6:00 p.m. This month you are invited to select any book that has been made into a movie or a television series. Selections from past adaptations or ones that are being made in the future are welcome. And as always, using your imagination and creativity is encouraged! If you have any trouble finding a book, feel free to [reach out to Ian](#).



Writer's Group - December 19

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!



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



Interest in Beginner Mah Jongg?

In the last newsletter we asked if there was interest in playing Mah Jongg? The overwhelming response was "YES!". KFL is purchasing materials and making plans to provide the information needed to begin. If you signed up last month, we'll be emailing you with additional information. If you're interested but haven't been in touch yet, please [email Allison](#).



December Take and Make: Seashell Ornaments

Give your tree a little beachy flair! Each kit includes materials and instructions to create a seashell-adorned ornament fit for any tree! Kits will be available starting Monday December 11, while supplies last.

TEEN PROGRAMS



D&D - December 4 & 18

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 every Monday on **December 4 & 18** 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!



Chill Gaming - December 14

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, **December 14**, 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!

Anime Club - December 21



Join us for Anime Club on the third Thursday of the month, **December 21**, downstairs in Hank's Room from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. to design and create your very own Pokemon and Pokemon card! A trading card template will be provided with room to draw and add your creature's special moves. Once you're finished, we will then use the laminator to make your collector card official! This program

is designed for dedicated and new fans interested in learning more about the fandom. Registration is suggested, but optional. 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

December STEAM Kit - Available Starting 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 Friday, 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. Kits will be available downstairs in the Children's Room. Be sure to take a picture of your creation and email it to us at ys@kennebunklibrary.org! We will share the photos on our social media pages. We can't wait to see your gingerbread person!



Furry Tales - December 1

What's better than sharing stories? Sharing stories with a furry friend! Come to Kennebunk Free Library on Friday, December 1, 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.



Beadcraft - December 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, December 6, at 1:00 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.

**Thursday Family Fun Play -
Beginning December 7**

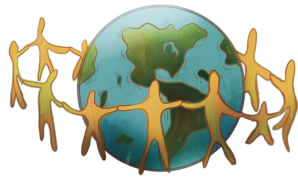


Have a morning of play at the library! On Thursday mornings in December, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out the toys for a library play date. These toys are best enjoyed when the whole family plays together! Come play and make new friends at the library! All programs will run from 10 am to 11 am.

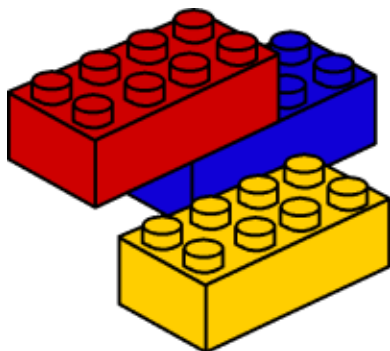
Thursday Family Fun Play is for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- December 7
- December 14
- December 21
- December 28

Kindness Club - December 12



In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Club on Tuesday, December 12, at 3:45 p.m. Come hear a story about kindness and make a craft! This program is open to ages 6 and up; registration is appreciated but not required! Kindness has no age requirement – if a friend younger than 6 would like to join in, please reach out to Miss Maria at mrichardson@kennebunklibrary.org, or 985-2173 x 105. Caregivers are encouraged to join in! When your little sees you talking about and practicing kindness, they will want to join in even more!



Lego Club - December 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, December 28, 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. .



Storytime - Mondays

It's time for Storytime! Come to the library for some stories and songs with Miss Maria! On Mondays in December at 10:00 a.m., Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at Kennebunk Free Library. We can't wait for you to join us!

Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- December 4
- December 11
- December 18

SPEERS GALLERY



December Artist: Rhonda Miller

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents the exhibit "Hearing Nature's Song" by Rhonda Miller. The exhibit runs December 2-28, and the public is invited to an opening reception on Tuesday, December 5 from 5-7 pm.

Rhonda Miller creates with mixed media and has developed and collaborated on numerous exhibits, as well as shown solo, around New England over the past 20+ years and continuing. According to Rhonda "we live in a gorgeous natural landscape. There are wonders everywhere we look".

Her work is an homage to the environment around us. The fauna and flora of our region is a constant source of inspiration for her. Rhonda's inspired by the elements that sing together, rocks, trees, and water. Her pieces are created using various media - the palette and techniques are expansive and encourage her to PLAY. Both the subjects and Rhonda's way of working embody movement and growth. The landscapes are a place where she can marry the media with the scene, and the results are always a bit surprising. Experimenting keeps Rhonda interested and encourages her to stay focused on the process.

When not out hiking and observing, you can find Rhonda in her studio in her house in South Berwick. Her husband and dog Lucy quietly encourage the process of sinking into the work. On hikes her husband often points out mushrooms or plants he knows she will appreciate. Lucy lays next to her in the studio, reminding her to take it slow and steady.

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

December 2-28 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

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 December

December 5

[The Wonder of It All – Barbara Taylor Bradford](#)
[Manner of Death – Robin Cook](#)

December 26

[Lone Oaks Crossing – Janet Dailey](#)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



KFL received a Remote Work Through Libraries grant in the amount of \$91,661 and we have recently started spending those funds. This grant came to us through the Maine State Library by way of the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan. Additions and upgrades so far include a caregiver-child computer workstation, wi-fi extenders,

outlets in the Walker Room and Parson's Reading Room, and a new microfilm machine. We will keep you updated as we continue to make improvements to KFL!

Pictured: I am reading "Boop" by Bea Birdsong and Linzie Hunter to my kiddos in the children's room at KFL. I am pretty sure this marks the first occasion when they both sat down at the same time to listen to me read a book to them at the library.

STAFF PICKS

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

The Invisible Hour by Alice Hoffman

When this new novel by one of my favorite authors came out, I got on the hold list right away. The story weaves three unlikely New England times into an intriguing tale that held my attention in a fanciful way. With strong feminist points that ties three people from their own centuries together. I found this a satisfying read. Mia Jacob is a modern, young women enticed into a cult. Nathaniel Hawthorne, the novelist from the early 1800s writes Hester Prynne's story in his classic work set in the mid-1600s. The author is known for her brilliant use of magical realism and hit the target for me with this book. (Available from KFL as a book and large print, on Libby as a book and audio, and through Minerva as audio on cd.)

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

This has been on my "to read" list for a while. Obviously, this was the time to do it. Hawthorne's (rather wordy and dry) introduction to his story reveals much of the thought process that inspired Alice Hoffman's *The Invisible Hour*. Hester is an amazing heroine. I loved this exposé of Puritan thought and the bravery of a woman standing in her truth. Reading these two novels one after the other was incredible. (Available from KFL as a book and audio on cd, through Minerva as large print, and Libby as audio and book.)

Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo

Ellen and William Craft planned and prepared for years to emancipate themselves by traveling 1000 miles from enslavement to freedom. The first part of the book details just how they did it and kept me on the edge of my seat. I wondered where the author would go after telling this exciting story and was not disappointed to learn of the rest of the couple's life. The view into life in the years after the Civil War was very eye opening. (Available from KFL as a book and audio on cd, and Libby as audio.)

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