

July at KFL



Monthly E-Newsletter  
July 2020  
Volume 27, Issue 7

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Summer Reading Challenge for All Ages!

Track Time Spent Reading and Earn Prizes!

Our summer reading website is ready to use starting July 1! KFL is using Beanstack, an online tool for you to log the amount of time you spend reading this summer. Challenges are available for children,



teens, and adults. **Can you help us reach our community goal of 15,000 reading hours?**

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. Sign up for Beanstack starting July 1 at <https://kennebunklibrary.beanstack.org>. Happy reading!

Adult Programs

Coffee and Conversation - July 6, 13, 20, 27 (now at 2:00)

Grab a cup of your favorite iced beverage and join KFL staff members on Mondays at 2:00 for a casual chat to kick off the week! No assigned topics, just a chance to catch up with library friends. Feel free to drop in with any questions you have about new procedures as we take the first steps toward reopening. Check our website calendar and rotating display or give us a call for login information.



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## In Stitches - July 7, 14, 21, 28

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 handicrafts group! This is a great opportunity to expand your skills and learn from others, about knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidering, or other handicrafts while enjoying the company of others. Bring a project you are working on, or come learn from the very beginning (please bring your own supplies). Knitting help will be available.

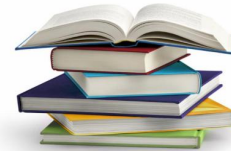


In Stitches meets every Tuesday morning at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Visit our website calendar for the link.

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## How to Browse the Library When You're Not In the Library - July 8

We know how difficult it can be to pick out a book to read when you are not able to walk through the stacks, seeing the covers and reading the blurbs on the back. However, there are a number of tools that you can use to simplify the search for your next read. Join us via Zoom on July 8 at 6:00 to learn some tricks and tips for browsing the library from afar. Check our website calendar for the Zoom link.



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## Maine Humanities Council Project: Maine at 200 - July 13

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?



For three sessions, held every three weeks, facilitator Rebecca Dawson Webb will lead a discussion on Zoom about a different topic. The first session is "Many Maines"; the second, "Wabanaki Voices"; the third, "Race & Ethnicity".

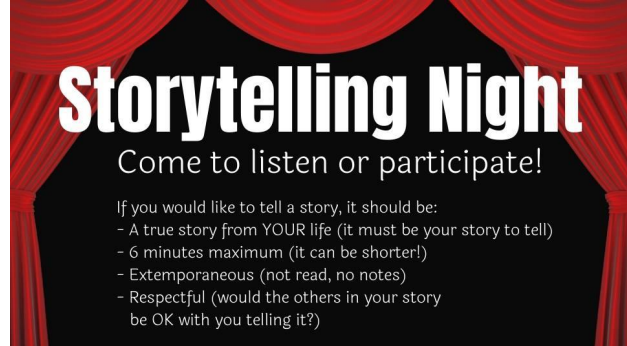
Join us on Monday, July 13 for "Many Maines": 'There are two Maines', people sometimes say ... but which two? why two? Divisions in people's experience of things like economics, education, geography, religion, culture give rise to 'Maines' that feel distinct. How have people and communities thought about their own and other Mainers' experience as characteristic of life in the state - as 'Maine'? And how do versions of 'Maine' interrelate and define or change each other? Where are we, when we are in Maine? Who is we?"

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

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## Storytelling Night - July 20

Do you enjoy telling or listening to stories? On Monday, July 20 at 6:00 p.m., we will be hosting a live storytelling evening, over Zoom. The prompts are "connection" and "competition"; feel free to use either, both, or neither prompt to inspire your choice of story. We welcome and encourage everyone to tell a story, although you are welcome to come simply as a listener as well.



# Storytelling Night

Come to listen or participate!

If you would like to tell a story, it should be:

- A true story from YOUR life (it must be your story to tell)
- 6 minutes maximum (it can be shorter!)
- Extemporaneous (not read, no notes)
- Respectful (would the others in your story be OK with you telling it?)

The rules for stories are simple: 6 minutes maximum, and it must be a true story from your life. No notes, please - this is extemporaneous storytelling, not reading! It is highly recommended (though not required) that you have your video on while telling a story; please plan accordingly.

This event will NOT be recorded. Your stories will be shared only with those who attend live.

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## Trivia Night: Disney Edition - July 21

Join us Tuesday, July 21 at 6:00 p.m. to test your knowledge of all things Disney! We'll be covering the movies, music, parks, and more from the Wonderful World of Disney. Get those Mickey-ear thinking caps on and keep an eye on our calendar and website for the Zoom link to attend.



This is a family-friendly, all-ages event but some questions will be geared to adult players.

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## Ukulele Group - July 22

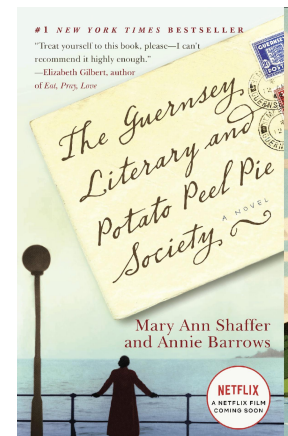
Join us on Wednesday, July 22 at 5:30 p.m., for virtual ukulele group with group leader Dan Riggall. If you are not already part of the ukulele email list, please [register](#) for this month's music and the Zoom link.



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## Adult Book Discussion - July 28

On Tuesday, July 28 at 1:00 p.m., the Adult Book Discussion will be discussing *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows via Zoom. The library has limited physical copies available; please contact us by phone or by email at [kflcirc@kennebunk.lib.me.us](mailto:kflcirc@kennebunk.lib.me.us) if you'd like us to set aside a copy for you that you can pick up during our curbside pickup hours. A link to the Zoom meeting can be found on our website or our events calendar. Hope to see you there!



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## Read ME Book Discussion - July 29

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 KFL staff to discuss *Roughhouse Friday* on Wednesday, July 29 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.



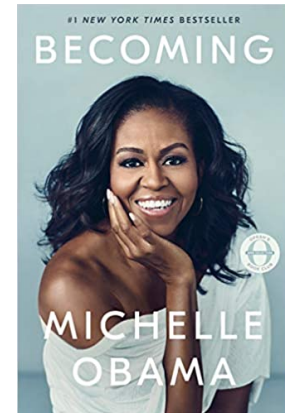
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## A Note to the Nonfiction and Heart & Home Book Groups

### Heart & Home

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 Zoom link.



### Nonfiction

The Nonfiction Book group is back, though not in quite the same format. We'll be meeting via Zoom on Monday August 10 at 6:00. This month, we will be reading Michelle Obama's *Becoming*. KFL has a few copies currently available - both in print and ebook formats. We are expecting that interlibrary loan will resume in mid-July, so you should also be able to order through Minerva in the next couple of weeks. Check our website rotating display and calendar for the Zoom link.

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## Teen Programs

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### Teen Gaming

If you're looking for something fun to do with friends on Friday afternoons, join us at 3:00 p.m. as we play JackBox! It's a fun multiplayer game that you can play from a distance. All you need is a device with internet access. Before the game begins you will be given a code to log in and play along. We will meet via zoom at 3:00 p.m. to go over the rules and pass out the code. Here is the Zoom link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/88980582413> It is also posted on our website calendar. Open to all teens ages 10 and up.

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### 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! For the month of July we will begin with Knitted Snakes, then create a Dice Bag, Paracord Baby Yoda, Chalk Negatives, and 90s Shrinky Dinks! Every Monday beginning July 6, 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>

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## Children's Programs

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### Virtual Show and Tell - July 6; July 20

Kennebunk Free Library is starting a new program called Virtual Show and Tell. Using Zoom, we will meet 3 times over the summer to share something special! All sessions will start at 10:00 a.m.. Each Show and Tell will have a theme.

- Monday, July 6: My favorite toy
- Monday, July 20: Something I made
- Monday, August 3: My favorite book

To make sure everyone gets a chance to share, Virtual Show and Tell will require registration. To register, please [email us](#) or leave a message on the library's voicemail at 985-2173. After registering, we will send you the Zoom link to attend. Come share with us!

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### Zoom Storytime: Celebrating Black Authors and Illustrators - July 15

From Ashley Bryan to Christian Robinson, some of our favorite books were written and illustrated by Black creators. Join us for a virtual storytime to share several amazing stories. You may discover a new favorite author! The celebration will stream on Zoom on Wednesday, July 15, at 6:00 p.m. The link to join us is:

<https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/85121530263>. This

storytime will feature recent acquisitions to

Kennebunk Free Library made possible by a grant

from Diverse BookFinder. Come hear some of the new titles we've purchased - we're so excited about these books!



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### Virtual Pet Show - July 27

Every year, Kennebunk Free Library has a pet show. It's one of our favorite nights of the year! The pet show looks a little different this year, but we'll still be honoring our furry best friends! Throughout the month of July, we will be accepting photos to feature in a video of our pets. We will have a

Facebook Premiere of the video on Monday, July 27, at 6:00 pm. We can watch the video together, and you will be able to comment in real time. Can't make the premiere? No problem! It will be saved to our [Facebook page](#).



Do you have a picture to add to the video? We can't wait to see it! Please [email it to us](#). Also, please include your pet's name, age, and your family's name. To make sure we have time to put the video together, please send your photo by July 22 at 5 pm. Hooray for our pets!

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### Picture Book of the Week - Wednesdays

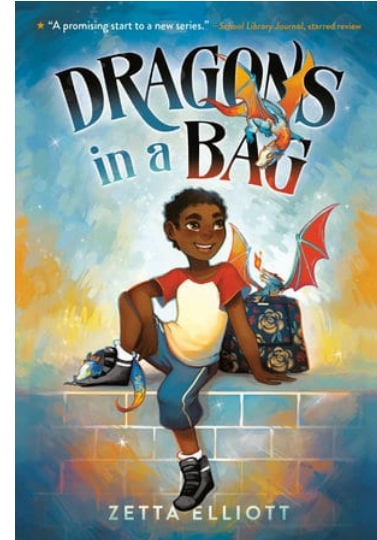
So many books, so little time! KFL has ordered many fantastic picture books lately, and we want to share them! Every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m., Miss Maria will read a favorite picture book. She'll highlight KFL's newer books, but she may sneak in a classic here and there too! Upcoming dates are:

- July 1
- July 8
- July 22
- July 29

We'll take a break on July 15 for our Zoom Storytime: Celebrating Black Authors and Illustrators at 6:00 p.m. These books will be shared using [YouTube Live](#). We'll add a link on our Facebook page, so you can get access the broadcast from there. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we do!

## Middle Grade Magic: *Dragons in a Bag* - Daily

The two rules about dragons: don't let them out of the bag, and don't let them eat anything sweet. Sounds simple, right? Jaxon is about to learn it's a lot harder than it sounds. *Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliott is about Jaxon, a 9-year-old who just found out that the woman he believed was his grandmother is not -- but she is a witch. Starting July 6, we'll read one chapter of *Dragons in a Bag* every day at 1:00 p.m. The book will be read on YouTube. In accordance with publisher guidelines, these videos will be published as unlisted. To access them, you will need to click a link. We'll share the link on our Facebook page. This book is recommended for grades 2-5. Join us and listen to this spellbinding book!



## Grant Received to Purchase Diverse Picture Books

Kennebunk Free Library is delighted to share that we are the recipients of a new grant. The funds received will go toward purchasing diverse picture books for KFL's children's collection. The grant is sponsored by Diverse BookFinder, Bates College, Maine Humanities Council, and the Brooks Foundation. Diverse BookFinder is a resource that provides information on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) representation in picture books by offering a database that identifies diverse picture books. They also use a Collection Analysis Tool that allows libraries to upload the titles in their picture



book collection and provides data regarding not just who is represented but how. KFL has utilized this tool several times and has used the information to guide collection development.

With these funds, KFL has focused on adding new and classic picture books by Black authors and illustrators. For example, we have ordered "Antiracist Baby" by Ibram X. Kendi and "I Am Enough" by Grace Byers. We were also given the opportunity to expand upon our collection of works by and about Indigenous peoples and did so by purchasing titles written by Joseph Bruchac and Tim Tingle, among others. The books will arrive throughout the coming months. We will be using these titles in upcoming programming, including a Zoom storytime celebrating stories by Black creators on July 15. We are thrilled to expand the voices in our picture book collection, and welcome these new stories.

## Thank You, Miss Susan!

After 25 years, our beloved Miss Susan is moving on from KFL. She has been a source of positivity and light in the Children's Room and the library as a whole. For many patrons, seeing

Miss Susan was the highlight of their library visits. She has close relationships with many of our patrons and families. Through our collection and programming, Miss Susan's presence has always been deeply felt, and her impact will continue. Peek-A-Book Babies, our storytime for ages 0-2, was designed and built from the ground up by Miss Susan. The love she poured into it and all that she does was evident by all those who came into contact with her. We will miss you so much, Miss Susan! Would you like to write a letter or draw a picture for Miss Susan? Send it to the library, and we'll make sure that she gets it. Stay tuned for a video from Miss Susan which will be posted on our Facebook page. We love you, Miss Susan!

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## Postcards From Ami

Our storytime friend Ami the bunny is on vacation for the summer! Would you like to receive a postcard from Ami's travels? She'd love to write to you! [Send us an email](#) and let us know you'd like some mail by telling us your name, age, and address!



## Library News and Events

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### A message from Susan

Today, I have the difficult task of sharing with you that as of July 1st, my resignation from my position as KFL Library Assistant, which post I have dutifully and happily upheld for 25 years, will be effective. It saddens me deeply to say good-bye to the most incredible staff ever, and to you, my Friends, some of whom I have been in service to and in community with for many, many years.

Leaving the familiarity of this vital, vibrant community of patrons who have been the heart of my work and the pulse of connection feeding my very being will be life-changing. I have worked here for all the years, save one, that I have lived in Kennebunk, raising my children through the carousel of Library years.



I want you to know the privilege and the pleasure it has been for me to have looked through a small window into your lives, and how grateful I am to you for having shared your most wonderful children with me. They have given me so much love and laughter through their years of growing up in the Children's Room as we shared books and music together. They have been the very fuel moving me through each and every day at a job that has been such great fun, yet not without its learning curves, its challenges. It is the children who will be most sorely missed. I have learned so much about so much during my tenure at KFL, and you have been part of that process. Thank you!

And speaking of challenges, our world has changed since mid-March when COVID-19 appeared here in our little town, and that includes my Library world, rocking the foundational ideas of what Librarianship means to me. Working with books and the human connection to community are the kernels of joy in Library service, and with unavoidable changes wrought by COVID, my experience has changed. But I will remember the time before all that; I will remember your smiling faces as you walked into the Children's Room, all your stories, your kindnesses, and the good energy you brought to the Children's Room, filling it with life. I wish you wellness on every level, joy in books and film and continued warm, meaningful connection with your whip-smart Library staff whose sole mission and desire is to serve you.

My invitation to you is to continue to learn, to grow, to educate yourselves in order to work for a just and peaceful world for all sentient beings. Your Library is here to help you. As Gandhi said,

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." It takes courage, my Friends.

With big gratitude I say, "Namaste", (I see and appreciate you.)

-Susan C. Mirisola, Library Assistant

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## Road Race

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### 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition Road Race now July 10 - July 31

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition Road Race will look a lot different this year but in the end our goals remain the same: to have fun, promote local businesses, and raise money for KFL. The largest change is that we are not holding an in-person event.



We are having a virtual race. This means that you will get to participate, upload your times, and submit photos anytime from July 10 to July 31 and on any 5k distance of your choosing (though you can still use ours if you'd like). [Registering for the race is the same](#) except you have through July 31 to do so and the prices will remain the same (no day-of price increases!).

If you are among the first 200 to register you still get a t-shirt (Bicentennial Blue this year!) and a goodie bag including a bib number. Goodie bags and bibs will be available for curbside pick up (dates and times TBA). For a listing of race prize categories and other details [please visit our Road Race page](#). Additionally, instead of our typical raffle format we will be holding an online auction. More on this to come as well.

[Of course, a wonderful shout out to all of our amazing sponsors.](#)

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## A Note From the Director

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We are now a few weeks into our curbside services and I want to give a big thank you for all of your support and appreciation. Staff has worked incredibly hard to make this an easy and safe experience for you and you have returned the favor with your patience and understanding. The system is not without its flaws but every day we're learning something new and adjusting as needed. We understand curbside pickup is not ideal for many as much of the fun is in the exploration of the stacks.

We also are making steps toward accommodating our regular computer users with the purchase of tablets and Chromebooks with data packages or WiFi hot spots. Once obtained, these items will also be available to check out. A service available currently is curbside printing. If you have a document you need printed please email it to [kfl@kennebunk.lib.me.us](mailto:kfl@kennebunk.lib.me.us) and we'll call you with a pick-up time.

The Board of Trustees has approved two new policies to help us better adapt to the pandemic. The Epidemic/Pandemic Patron Code of Conduct Addendum can be viewed [here](#). The Emergency Policy is available [here](#).

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize our Children's Library Assistant, Susan Mirisola. Susan is leaving KFL after 25 years, by far the employee with the most seniority. Over the course of this time Susan developed wonderful connections with the community and has been a guide and a welcoming smile at the bottom of the stairs for many, myself included.

Right up until the end Susan was adapting to the changing functions of the library offering Mini Mindful and Yoga Practices for Families over



Facebook. Susan held the first storytime that my daughter attended, Peek-A-Book Babies, as she has done for countless children.

It is our hope to hold a recognition event for Susan once we are again able to open our doors. In the meantime, I ask that you participate in the above request of sending well wishes to Susan via email, mail, or social media.

Thank you so very much, Susan.

Michelle Conners



## New Books, Audio Books, & DVDs

[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

### Hot New Releases on order for July:

*These are some of the new books to look out for in July. Because of the changes to the requesting features of the catalog, you will not be able to put advance holds on items. Just keep an eye on the catalog - these will all be entered on or soon after their release date.*

#### July 7

The Color of Air - Gail Tsukiyama  
Outsider - Linda Castillo

#### July 14

Blacktop Wasteland - Shawn A. Cosby  
Cajun Justice - James Patterson  
Mother Land - Leah Franqui  
The Order - Daniel Silva  
Peace Talks - Jim Butcher  
The Revelators - Ace Atkins  
Utopia Avenue - David Mitchell  
A Walk Along the Beach - Debbie Macomber

#### July 21

The Answer Is... - Alex Trebek  
Deadly Touch - Heather Graham  
Dragonfire - Ted Bell  
Half Moon Bay - Jonathan Kellerman  
Near Dark - Brad Thor  
The Nemesis Manifesto - Eric Lustbader

#### July 27

1<sup>st</sup> Case - James Patterson

#### July 28

Deadlock - Catherine Coulter  
The Geometry of Holding Hands - Alexander McCall Smith  
Memorial Drive - Natasha Trethewey

## Susan, Library Assistant

Hello, Library Dear Friends,  
It has been too long since I have seen you, and since that time, we have rounded the corner into blissful summer, though, in fact, since the Solstice on the 20th, we have already seen our longest day this season. But wait a minute, let's back up and talk books and movies, which are the best part of summer.



I recently finished a JFIC called *Forever or a Long, Long Time* by Caela Carter about strong, intelligent, loving characters moving through a tough story of adoption, finding security and trust in a new family, and discovering one's past to learn who you are. Beautifully-rendered!

Concurrently I am reading three books: a YFIC called *Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gaby Rivera. A college-age Puerto Rican woman comes out to her family and leaves the Bronx for a summer internship with a well-known feminist author in Portland, OR.

Also reading a Juvenile Non-Fiction book called *This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action & Do the Work* by Tiffany Jewel. With respect to the BLM movement and the unrest/activism in our country today, this is an excellent resource for adults, too, for educating oneself on racism in order to make changes in your own thinking and actions.

Finally, the adult FIC novel I have going is Andre Dubus III's newest called *Gone So Long*. Author of the compelling, breathtaking *House of Sand and Fog*, and the memoir *Townie*, among others, Dubus's writing never disappoints in complexity of character and plot, and the beauty of the weave between them.

In the film realm, maybe, like me, you are missing the series "Victoria." This may help- a two-part documentary called "Queen Victoria's Letters". Were you aware that since she was a child, Queen Victoria was a prolific journalist and correspondent, producing millions and millions of words which comprise countless bound journals and published books? If you like letter-writing and journaling yourself, this series may be of particular interest to you.

Other documentaries include "The Devil Next Door", a mini-series on John Demjanjuk who was accused of being "Ivan the Terrible", the WW II concentration camp guard who was responsible for the torture and deaths of a million Jews. This series follows Demjanjuk's abduction in Cleveland, OH and exportation to first Israel and then Germany where he was brought to trial. Be forewarned of the painfully wrenching images of concentration camps along with the courtroom accusations of former prisoners who are making claims against Demjanjuk.

"Aida's Secrets" is about a woman who gives birth to two sons in a displaced persons' camp at the end of WW II. The children are separated, but we don't know why, and Aida finds new life in Canada. It is the story of a family broken apart, finding its way back together.

The final documentary I enjoyed was "The Rainman Twins" about identical female twins who both are on the autistic spectrum but exhibit highly unusual savant characteristics of never forgetting any detail of their lives: people, names, clothes they wore, activities, music, dates, movies, what they ate, the weather on any particular date. The twins are both engaging and outgoing, unlike many who function within the autistic spectrum. They develop an touching, very real attachment to Dick Clark, an added point of interest in the story.

The mini-series "Little Fires Everywhere" based on Celeste Ng's novel will give you lots to think about, and better, if you know someone else who is watching or has watched, lots to discuss regarding matters of racial stereotypes, prejudice, social inequity, class privilege and the structures/systems that perpetuate them. So appropriate given current events. Though I had not enjoyed the book that much, I could not stop thinking and talking about the series. Top-notch acting from Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington whose performances are riveting.

Last night I finished a mini-series called "Looking for Alaska" based on the YFIC novel of John Green's who was involved in the production of the series, lending the series authenticity. This story, too, has themes worth thinking about on racial stereotypes and class privilege.

And for the sheer fun of it, "Sister Act 1" and "Sister Act 2" are head candy, without the calories, allowing your system a nice rest after the days's trials and tribulations. This concludes my "Read or Watched Recommendations List", the last I will pen as a Kennebunk Free Library employee.

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### **Lisa, Library Page**

I thought I would recommend these two books for reading and enlightenment. It has been many years since I read them and much has been forgotten, but I still recall the feelings they evoked.

*There Are No Children Here* by Alex Kotlowitz. (This book was also made into a movie starring Oprah Winfrey and Maya Angelou.) Non-fiction. A biography about two young brothers living in the Henry Horner Housing Project in Chicago, Illinois. Winner of the following awards: The Carl Sandburg Award, The Christopher Award, and The Helen Bernstein Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Mostly what I remember about this book is how Kotlowitz described the living conditions in the Henry Horner housing project in Chicago and the struggles of a single mother trying to keep her family fed, safe, educated, and out of harms way. It gave me insight into a world far removed from my own life in America. The feelings of unfairness, cruelty, and sham I felt towards the realities of our unjust society in this country still resonate today.

*Let the Trumpet Sound: A Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Stephen B. Oates. Non-fiction. Winner of the following awards: The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book Award, The Christopher Award, New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year.

If one wants to learn about Martin Luther King, Jr., then this is the book to read! (It is on my read again list for the summer.) A well written biography that pulls you into the struggles and dreams of a magnificent and magnanimous man who will never be forgotten in his quest for equal justice for all. Follow MLK through the Civil Rights Movement from the deep south to the Lincoln Memorial. Deeply moving and thought provoking, Stephen Oates brings us one of the most awe-inspiring individuals in our nation's history.

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### **Krissy, Library Assistant**

***Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*** by Gretchen McCulloch.  
Review by Krissy

As someone who is mostly ambivalent to Internet Culture, I really did not expect to care about this book. Against all of my expectations, though, I kind of loved it. I found almost every chapter insightful and profound, both from a linguistics and broader sociological perspective. McCulloch goes through the history of the internet, explaining not only the jargon but the underlying causes of how various groups of people interact online and how that shaped how they wrote. She bases it in a solid understanding of linguistics, explaining in broader terms the reasoning behind why certain functions make sense (Why are the most common emoji of faces and hands? WHY DO CAPITALS "SOUND" LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING? Why do ellipsis seem passive aggressive to some people but like perfectly normal pauses to others?)

*Because Internet* is not preachy, and crucially, is it not judgmental. It does not dismiss wholesale the stylistic choices of various groups of people, but instead seeks to understand and explain why those stylistic choices get made. It celebrates the role of the internet in shaping informal writing, while reminding us that it did not invent informal writing. I found myself wishing that everyone would read this book; I found it profoundly helpful in understanding *everyone* on the internet - not just one generation, but everyone.

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### **Kat, Administrative Assistant**

*The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The author is well known for his essays and opinions about African American history. This is his first work of fiction. It is the story of Hiram, a slave during the Antebellum Era in the American South. Hiram's father is the master and his mother is

sold when he is a young boy. As Hiram matures he begins to discover his power to mentally transport himself to other locations. This gift is very useful later on to the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman makes several appearances. The horrors of slavery are explored not so much with graphic details but in the effects on the minds and thoughts of the enslaved or "tasked folks". Though there are elements of fantasy, this is a work of literary fiction.

Podcast: Shut the Door Have a Seat - Layla & Junior: This all began as a Reddit conversation about all the details of each episode of the series Mad Men. Layla (from Australia) and Junior (from southern Maine) enjoy discussion of the script, characters, fashion, set and the time period. Makes me want to watch it again!

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### **Jenny, Library Assistant**

Here are two audiobooks I've enjoyed in the last month:

*All There Is: love stories from StoryCorps* by David Isay is a collection of real life, interview-style conversations about love. At less than an hour in length, this cloudLibrary e-audiobook features real voices, and powerful stories.

*All You Can Ever Know: a memoir* by Nicole Chung provides an intimate look at adoption, racism, cultural identity, family, and what happens when the author questions the story within which she's been raised.

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### **Denise, Library Assistant**

It's hard to believe we're going on four months with 'Staying Safer at Home'. At least the weather has been beautiful! I hope you have access to outdoor spaces to breathe in some fresh air and safely explore the beauty of Maine. This past month I have been playing in the dirt in my backyard and have planted a small vegetable garden as well as added to my flower beds. This week I am excited to be cutting the first fruits of my labor! With the stress of the pandemic, I have found the need to rearrange my furniture (not an unusual thing in my house) to create an at-home sanctuary. I have been enjoying this space for working from home as well as for reading or just watching and listening to the many species of birds that inhabit my backyard. I am sharing the space with my cat, Paix, although he would probably tell you he was there first. Here are some books, movies, and podcasts on my list for July.

#### Books:

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson  
Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed  
Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina  
The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander  
Red At The Bone by Jacqueline Woodson  
Dancing After Hours Stories by Andre Dubus  
Good Harbor by Anita Diamant  
The Mason Jar Cocktail Companion by Shane Carley  
50 Hikes in Coastal and Inland Maine by John Gibson

#### Movies to watch this month:

Selma  
The Hate U Give  
If Beale Street Could Talk  
Loving  
Do the Right Thing

#### Podcasts this month:

NPR: A variety of Podcasts from Code Switch: Conversations about race hosted by black journalists and journalists of color

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STAY CONNECTED:



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