



December 2021 | Volume 28, Issue 12

Adult Programs

Reader's Choice Book Club - December 6



New Name! The Heart & Home Book Club is now called Reader's Choice Book Club, and we invite you to join our discussions!

Choose your own book to read, based on the monthly theme, and then join us for a casual and fun conversation. Everyone is welcome!

Upcoming meetings:

On Monday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m., our theme will

be: *Colors*

On Monday, January 10, at 2:00 p.m., our theme will be: *A Fresh Start*

Depending on conditions at the time, these meetings will be held in person at the library or virtually on Zoom. Location information will be posted to our website's calendar as soon as it is available.

Alternative Gift Wrapping Ideas - December 6



Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 6 to learn about alternative gift wrapping options to reduce waste, boost recycling, and jazz up your holiday gift giving. We will discuss creative paper wrap options and non-paper approaches. This program will be held in person in the Parsons Reading Room.

December Take and Make - Available December 6

Beginning on Monday, December 6, KFL will have kits available



to make a sea wreath ornament. Stop by the library to pick up a kit and bring an ocean touch to your holiday décor! Kits are available while supplies last.

In Stitches - December 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 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; masks are required.

Brexit at 5: How Is It Going? - December 7



The Camden Conference and the Kennebunk Free Library present Andrea Stanley Hester at the Kennebunk Free Library on Tuesday, December 7 at 6:00 for "Brexit at 5: How Is It Going?"

Five years ago, the people of the United Kingdom voted by a slim majority to leave the European Union, the first time any country had ever done so. This decision, which shocked the world, ushered in a period of intense economic, social, and political upheaval that still reverberates today. Even though PM Boris Johnson promised to "Get Brexit Done," the truth is that in many ways Brexit has only just begun. In this talk, Andrea Hester will discuss what happened in the aftermath of the referendum and examine some of the most pressing issues that remain today, including disputes over fishing rights, Scottish independence, and the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Andrea Stanley Hester is Vice President of the World Affairs Council of Maine, an instructor at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine, and President of the Harvard Club in Maine. In her previous career, she was an editor/writer for the President of Harvard University and administrator of the International Visitors Program in the Office of the University Marshal at Harvard. She has a bachelor's degree in modern European history from Tufts University and a Master's degree in Government from the Harvard University Extension School. Andrea and her husband reside in North Yarmouth with their two daughters.

Virtual Ukulele Holiday Party: December 8

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. for a Virtual Holiday Ukulele Party. Wear your



festive sweaters, bring your favorite holiday beverage, and strum along to your favorite holiday music. If you are not already on the ukulele email list, [email the library](#) for the sheet music and Zoom link.

Night Sky Presentation: December 9

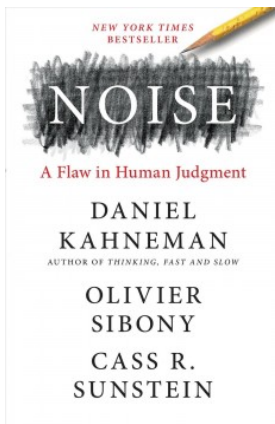


On Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m., the Kennebunk Land Trust and the Kennebunk Free Library will host Edward Herrick-Gleason, Director of the Southworth Planetarium, on Zoom. Herrick-Gleason will be "exploring" a virtual night sky and presenting a short show entitled "Aurora Storm" during this session. He will also be answering your astronomy questions.

Edward Herrick-Gleason is the director of the Southworth Planetarium at the University of Southern Maine. He has worked as Manager of the Southworth Planetarium since 1999 and became Director in 2020. Herrick-Gleason also teaches astronomy classes and writes the blog "The Daily Astronomer."

Please check the calendar on the library website for the Zoom link.

Nonfiction Book Group - December 13



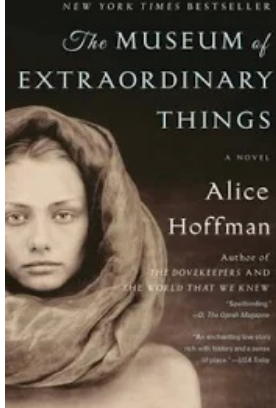
Join us on Monday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Noise* by Philip D'Anieri. The discussion will be held in person at the library. Masks are required inside.

"Psychology professor Kahneman (*Thinking, Fast and Slow*), business professor Sibony (*You're About to Make a Terrible Mistake!*), and legal scholar Sunstein (*Too Much Information*) team up for this fascinating exploration of the bias and 'noise' that cause errors in human judgment. Noise, they write, is 'variability in judgments that should be identical' that, when combined with one's own biases —conscious or not— can cause human error. The authors offer no shortage of noise-reduction strategies: 'decision hygiene,' for example, involves sequencing information to cut back on the possibility of confirmation bias, a technique used in forensic science analyses, where examiners get 'only the information they need when they need it.' The authors also suggest breaking down complex decisions into 'multiple fact-based assessments'; avoiding group discussions, which increase noise, instead collecting individual opinions beforehand; and appointing a 'decision observer' to identify bias. Though the writing can be jargon-heavy, readers will find plenty of insight and useful exercises. The result is dense and complex, but those who stay the course will be rewarded with an intricate examination of decision-making and sound judgment." (Publishers Weekly, vol 268, issue 11)

Adult Book Discussion - December 14

Join us on Tuesday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* by Alice Hoffman. The discussion will be held in person at the library. Masks are required inside.

"New York, 1911. Coralie Sardie works for her father, the



'professor' and impresario of the Museum of Extraordinary Things, a freak show in Coney Island. She performs as a mermaid in a tank but really lives for her long swims in the cold Hudson River. While Coralie's element is water, Eddie Cohen is tormented by fire. He fled a fiery pogrom in his native Russia and now wants to break away from his miserable life on the Lower East Side and become a photographer. Eddie's hatred of rich factory owners increases when he takes photos of the ghastly fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Greenwich Village. Meanwhile, Professor Sardie grows even more sinister as the crowds desert his 'museum' for the new and lavish amusement palaces of Luna Park and Dreamland. Then Coralie and Eddie get caught up in the chaos as Dreamland burns to the

ground. With a sprinkling of magical realism, Hoffman blends social realism, historical fiction, romance, and mystery in a fast-paced and dramatic novel filled with colorful characters and vivid scenes of life in New York more than a century ago." (Library Journal, vol 139, issue 1, p 98)

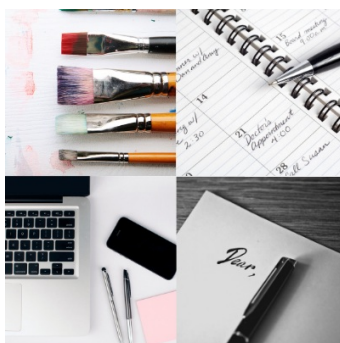
Climate Politics in Contemporary Europe - December 15



The Camden Conference and the Kennebunk Free Library present Dr. Susana Hancock at the Kennebunk Free Library on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00. Dr. Hancock will be discussing *Climate Politics in Contemporary Europe*.

Dr. Susana Hancock is a specialist in Arctic climate geopolitics. With a background ranging from astrophysics to linguistics, she is a recent three-degree graduate of the University of Oxford. Originally from Maine, she has worked and lived in the polar regions for much of her life. Currently, Susana is an Expert Reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is on the Executive Committee of the Association for Polar Early Career Scientists where she works on climate and science diplomacy, and has been an Arctic consultant for the UN's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. She has just returned from COP26 in Glasgow and the UN in Geneva, where she was an invited speaker on Arctic environmental geopolitics and on cognitive linguistics in climate communication. In her other life, she is an elite rower who has competed around the world and qualified for the 2016 Olympic trials and currently coaches at Waynflete School.

Take Note - December 20



Join Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m. for Take Note - a monthly meetup for folks who love journals, planners, digital notebooks, snail mail, stationery, pens, & more! We'll discuss our favorite supplies & current projects in a free form discussion. Come to chat, ask questions, or listen. No experience needed. New participants are always welcome!

Depending on conditions at the time, this meetup will be held in person at the library or virtually on Zoom. Location information will be posted to our website's calendar as soon

as it is available.

Seven to Sample Reading Challenge: Win Two Books of Your Choice

There's still time to register for the Seven to Sample Reading Challenge. Visit [Beanstack](#)

to register for the challenge or stop by the library to pick up a printed version.

With this challenge, you'll be encouraged to read outside of your comfort zone. Explore new formats and authors and learn a bit about what the library has to offer in the process. This reading challenge will last through December 31, 2021.

If you've registered for the challenge on Beanstack, you will automatically be entered into a raffle to win two books of your choice! If you are working on the challenge using the printed version, please visit the circulation desk to register and enter the raffle!

Coming Soon: Beginning Improv!

Looking for a fun way to weather the post-holiday doldrums? Beginning on Saturday, January 22, KFL will host a ten-week improv group for beginners with presenter Lisa Niedenfuhr. Stop in for one session, or join us for all ten. Space will be limited. Please [email the library](#) to register.

Teen Programs

Teen Magic the Gathering



Come and test out your Magic the Gathering deck among friends! Open to new and experienced players alike. We will meet every other week on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. We will meet this month on **December 2, 16 & 30**. Players are free to bring their own deck or use decks provided by the library. If you've never played before, feel free to come and learn at your own pace. Open to teens ages 10 and up!

The Dragon Hunter and Treasure Seekers



Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of D&D. Open to new and experienced players alike. We will meet on **December 6 & 20** from 3:30 – 4:30 P.M. You're welcome to bring your own character or make a new one. All other supplies will be provided. New players are encouraged to come and join the adventure. Open to Teens ages 10 and up!

Children's Programs

Family Photo Day - December 11

Smile for the camera! On Saturday, December 11, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., come to the Kennebunk Free Library for a family photo! We will have a photo area set up inside with a winter



backdrop and props. The photos will be taken by a KFL staff member and will be emailed to you. Photo sessions will be in 15-minute increments, one family at a time. Registration is required for this event. To register for a time slot, please call 985-2173.



December STEAM Kit: Take-Home Gingerbread Person Decorating

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. 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 send it to us! We will create a virtual display with the photos. We can't wait to see your gingerbread person! Kits will be available starting Wednesday, December 1, and will be available while supplies last.



Nighttime Stories with Miss Emmaline

What better way to wind down at the end of the day than with a story or two? Join in virtually for nighttime stories with Miss Emmaline! Every week, you can find a video from Miss Emmaline sharing some relaxing stories for bedtime. The videos will be posted on our Facebook page, which you can access at <https://www.facebook.com/KennebunkFreeLibrary>. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view our page! Settle in and enjoy the stories!



Take and Make Kits

Looking to get crafty? Kennebunk Free Library will be offering take and make craft kits with all the materials to make a craft or two. No registration required, available while supplies last! Kits will be available in the library and curbside by request. This month, we will be offering winter animal crafts! Kits will be available starting Wednesday, December 1. Visit us to grab some supplies that will help you get creative!

Book Stacks for Children

Would you like to borrow a stack of library items handpicked by a librarian? We'd love to choose



some materials for you! We have lots of brand-new books to share with you! A KFL library card is required. If you're interested, fill out the [Google Form](#) and give us some information about your interests and the types of things you like to borrow from the library. If you have any questions, you can reach us [via email](#) or by phone at 985-2173. We're excited to choose library items for you!

Zoom Storytimes

Ready to zoom, zoom, zoom into storytime? Get your zoomy hands ready and let's go! Zoom Storytimes will be held at 10 a.m. most Mondays in December. Join Miss Maria for some stories, songs, and fun! To participate, please complete our [Google Form](#). Miss Maria will send the Zoom link and passcode one hour before Storytime on Monday mornings. Zoom Storytime will be held on the following Mondays:

- December 6
- December 13
- December 20



Would you rather...

The results for this month's Would You Rather question are in! In November, we asked, "Would you rather roar like a lion or sing like a bird?" 35 friends wanted to sing like a bird, while 42 friends would prefer to roar like a lion! 4 friends wanted to do both and placed a sticker right in the middle. 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!



Scavenger Hunt

This month's scavenger hunt is all about gingerbread people! Pick up a clue sheet at the desk in the Children's Room. Find the pictures, check them off on your sheet, and get a small prize! Happy sleuthing!

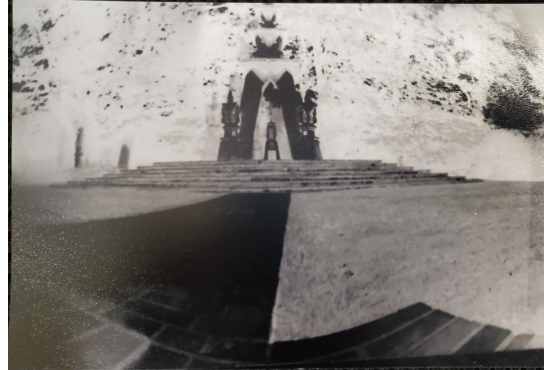
Speers Gallery

December Artist: Cheryl Boucher

The Kennebunk Free Library announces its December 2021 Speers Gallery exhibit "The Art of Primitive Photography" by Cheryl Boucher. The exhibit is a celebration of pinhole

photography.

Cheryl learned the art of pinhole photography in 2017, and enjoys the excitement of not knowing what images she'll get, or not get, until the photo making process. She has taken numerous photography and art classes, beginning in 1985 at the Southern Maine Technical College, and most recently at Engine in Biddeford, where she continues to use the darkroom at Engine to develop her work.



Cheryl is inspired by all forms of photography: pinhole, black and white, hand coloring, digital and print imaging. Nature provides her greatest inspirations. She encourages artist to experiment with something new and different, and is happy to have rediscovered having fun with art again, especially the unique expression she has found through pinhole photography.

Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to display the works of this talented artist.

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.

Hot New Releases on Order for November

December 7

[Sea Hawke – Ted Bell](#)

[Sharpe's Assassin – Bernard Cornwell](#)

[Call Us What We Carry – Amanda Gorman](#)

December 28

[A Man of Honor – Barbara Taylor Bradford](#)

[Criminal Mischief – Stuart Woods](#)

[The Paris Detective – James Patterson](#)

Friends Pop-Up Book Sale

A pop-up book sale will take place during regular library hours from 12/2 through 12/11 featuring holiday and seasonal books, DVDs, and CDs near the Adult Circulation desk. Items are limited and it is possible we'll run out before our scheduled end date so check it out early!

A Message from the Library Director



We had our Wine Tasting with Lani Dietz, owner of [Maine and Vine](#) on November 16, and the pickup for our holiday wreath sales on November 20. Both were successful and fun fundraisers and I want to thank you for contributing toward them. Hopefully you got to enjoy a sip of wine or the smell of pine along the way. You can also stop by December 2-12 for the Friends holiday pop-up sale featuring a limited selection of books and media.

Speaking of fundraisers, I am very happy to welcome to the KFL staff, Anita Randall. Anita is filling the newly created position of Development Director. To learn more about Anita please check out the [press release at this link](#).

While we gained Anita, sadly, we had to say goodbye to our Technology and Youth Services Librarian, Jon Roy. We wish Jon the best on his new adventures and we wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Holiday Giving



Amos enjoying his Book Stack from the Kennebunk Free Library.

As we hurtle into the holiday season (ready or not?!?), all of us at the Kennebunk Free Library are **giving thanks for YOU**, our generous and loyal donors! As an independent nonprofit, your support is vital to making our mission “to inspire and enable our communities to discover, learn, and connect”, come to life and for that we are truly grateful.

Jodie, a very appreciative mom, sent this lovely email to Maria, Head of Child Services:

“I just wanted to send you a little email & say a BIG thank you to you for thoughtfully putting together the little package for Wyatt Ralph. We picked up the books & crafts today & he has already read & reread all the books you chose for him! He found your little note in one of the books & was so surprised! What a sweet note :) He’s also told me we are going to have a ‘craft day’ tomorrow. He’s steadily starting to feel better & your library package certainly helped - it was wonderful to see such a beautiful smile return to his little face ♥♥ “

[YOUR gift today](#) will keep Amos and Wyatt Ralph smiling and help the over 75,000 individuals who visit KFL every year fulfill their dreams.

With Great Thanks,

Michelle Conners, Director

Meet the New Development Director



Hi, I'm Anita! I'm the new Development Director at Kennebunk Free Library and am having a ball exploring the beautiful community of Kennebunk and surrounding towns.

I was born and raised in Western Maine and earned degrees at Bowdoin and UNH. My background is in education and non-profits, including founding and leading a large, regional food pantry in Rhode Island.

In 2016 I had the good sense to move back to Maine to help my family run our timber and woodland business. My connection to family runs deep and a love for the forest and wild places is in my blood. I will continue to be part of the family business, even as I begin the next chapter of my life by the ocean in Southern Maine.

Nonprofits are near and dear to my heart and I am so excited to be working alongside the delightfully talented staff and volunteers of the Kennebunk Free Library! I am continually impressed by their creativity, knowledge and exceptional level of service. KFL is an invaluable resource in our community and I am truly grateful to be part of it!

Reading is a passion of mine and my TBR piles are always growing. I welcome book recommendations from other book lovers - especially for literary fiction and magical realism. And please stop by the library soon to say "Hello". I look forward to meeting you!

Staff Picks & Messages

Kat, Library Assistant

The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman

KFL's Adult Book Group will be discussing this book December 14 at 1 p.m. This work of historical fiction is set on Coney Island in 1911. The same year as the Triangle Shirt factory fire and the workforce unrest surrounding it. It is a story of love, romance, misunderstandings, kindness, cruelty and the abuse of power. Strong characters, well fleshed out make you feel that you know them. Even the animals become your friends. I loved this book and when I finished listening to it, I started it all over again.

A Christmas Tale a film by Arnaud Desplechin (French with English Subtitles)

Take a Holiday ride with Catherine Deneuve as Junon, the matriarch of the troubled

Vuillard family, who gather at Christmas after she learns she needs a bone marrow donor. This thoroughly messed up reunion will feel like a roller coaster ride. Roger Ebert says "A Christmas Tale" skates on thin ice across a crowded lake, arrives safely on the far shore, and shares a cup of hot cocoa and marshmallows with death". Very quirky and completely held my attention from the start.

Chasing Monarchs – Migrating with the Butterflies of Passage by Robert Michael Pyle

This summer I had a small patch of milkweed with a bumper crop of Monarchs! I had a wonderful time from tiny larva, to all fattened up ready for pupa stage and busting out as a fresh, perfect butterfly. This book goes monarch big scale, by traveling and tracking them down as they migrate from Canada to Mexico. The author is one of America's exceptional naturalists and he includes tidbits about all kinds of flora and fauna, as well as the effects of climate change on various environments in this travel adventure.

Denise, Library Assistant



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