



Monthly E-Newsletter May 2020 Volume 27, Issue 5

Happy spring!

While we are working from home our dress code is a bit more casual and our pets are much more likely to make appearances in our staff meetings, but the work that we are doing is not terribly different than the work that we do in the library. We are still ordering books and researching purchases - the books are just online now. We are still planning programming, answering patrons' reference questions, offering tech help, keeping up with state and national library news, taking classes to expand our knowledge, writing press releases, planning a Road Race....

Below, we'll tell you a bit about the programs we have planned for the coming month, share some library news, and tell you about the comfort reading/watching that staff is doing over their quarantine weekends.

Feel free to email or call us anytime with questions, concerns, or just to say hi. We are responding to every email but we have been having some trouble with emails going to spam or, in some cases, disappearing altogether. If you don't hear back from us, don't give up! We want to hear from you. Check your spam folder or leave us a voicemail message and we will call you back.

We miss you all and hope to see you soon!



Adult Programs and Updates

KFL Trivia Night - April 28, May 12, May 26

Join us for a virtual trivia night every other Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Test your knowledge and learn some fun facts to wow at future parties! Play by yourself, with the people in your home, or remotely gather your normal trivia teams to play. Make sure to have something to write with and on, as you'll be keeping track of your answers and scores as we progress through the quizzing. To join this event, visit our website calendar or rotating display for the Zoom link. Step-by-step instructions for downloading Zoom are available here.

Coffee and Conversation - May 4, 11, 18

Grab a cup of your favorite warm beverage and join KFL staff members on Monday mornings at 10:00 for a casual chat to kick off the week! No assigned topics, just a chance to catch up with library friends (or make new friends). Check our website calendar and rotating display or give us a call for login information.

Pocket Lecture Series - May 6, 13, 20, 27

Do you miss joining us for lectures and speakers? Do you want to take your mind off of work for a few minutes to learn something new? KFL has just the thing! Our new Pocket Lecture Series offers mini lunchtime lectures from your library staff. Join your librarians every Wednesday in May at 12:30 for 15 minutes of random knowledge. Take a lunch break and watch mini-presentations on topics covering everything from fossil hunting to how to make chocolate sauce! Keep an eye on our calendar, website, and Facebook page for the Zoom link to attend. Can't make the live Zoom lectures? Not to worry. We will be posting recordings of each Pocket Lecture to our YouTube channel after the event for viewing any time.

Goal Setting 101 - May 14

The library will host a virtual **Goal-Setting 101** workshop on Thursday, May 14 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. If you have a goal you've been meaning to work towards, come along to this workshop and learn a few things to help get you started! In 90 minutes you'll get more clarity on what motivates you towards achieving this goal and why it's important. You'll also identify some actions to remove some of the barriers that might be getting in the way of success. This is a highly interactive session - no webinars here! Space is limited to 10 participants, so <u>registration</u> is required for this workshop that will be held on Zoom.



This program will be led by May Ireland, a qualified executive coach and founder of VirtualPeer, a peer mentoring platform dedicated to bringing people together online around shared professional goals and challenges. May has over 20 years of experience in organizational design, performance and leadership development. Find out more about May on www.virtualpeer.co and www.virtualcoachworks.com.

Meditation Class - May 18

On Monday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m., we will host presenter Cindy Simon for an online meditation class. Are you a beginner? Looking to deepen your practice? All are welcome!

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

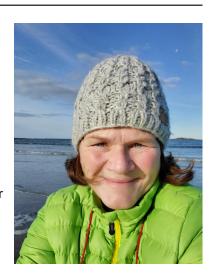
This meeting will be held online via Zoom. Check our website calendar and rotating display or give us a call for the login information.



Stress and Your Health - May 19

Ask anyone to describe the last few months and the word "stress" will likely come up. On Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00, KFL will host Annie Watts for a discussion about the effect of stress on your health and suggestions for alleviating stress.

Annie Watts is a functional medicine coach who lives in Kennebunk. She moved here six years ago from Connecticut, where she contracted Lyme disease. Over the last several years Annie has found a way to heal herself. That led her to her new career as a functional medicine coach.



Adult Book Discussion - May 26

We're going to be doing things a little differently while we're closed... We'll be rereading classics - books that you may already have around home or can download for free online. Check our website calendar and rotating display for each month's title and Zoom login information.

Teen Programs and Updates

Earth Day

The library will be participating with this year's Earth Day festivities which will be held virtually this year and split between two zoom demonstrations. Topics will include victory gardens, pollinators, as well a seed bomb demonstration by Mr. Jon! Session one is Tuesday, April 28 at noon. Please register in advance. Session two is Thursday, April 30 at noon. Please register in advance.

Children's Programs and Updates

Stuffed Animal Picnic - May 18

Grab your stuffies, a lunch, and a blanket to sit on -- it's time for a virtual picnic! Miss Maria will read some fun stories while you enjoy your picnic lunch. This event will be held virtually via Zoom on Monday, May 18 at noon. Access the event at the following

link: https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/81092436179 We can't wait to see you and your stuffies there!



May Creativity Challenges

Did you know that May 30 is National Creativity Day? We're extending the celebration by offering creativity challenges every week in May! We will post new challenges on our Facebook page on Mondays. They will ask you to build, draw, or write. Please share a picture of your masterpiece with us via Facebook message or email at ys@kennebunk.lib.me.us with your first name and age. We will post the photos on our Facebook page. Get ready to get creative!



Storytime Live

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15: KFL is taking storytime online with twice weekly virtual storytimes. These 15-20 minute storytimes include stories, songs, and poems. Storytime Live happens on happens on our Facebook page.



Mini Mindful and Yoga Practices for Families

Mini Mindful and Yoga Practices for Families with Miss Susan - Mondays and Fridays: Miss Susan is sharing ways to incorporate mindfulness and yoga into your days. Her videos are designed for families to participate together. New videos are uploaded onto our Facebook page every Monday and Friday, alternating between yoga practices (Mondays) and mindfulness practices (Fridays).



Junior Science

Mr. Jon recently posted a video to the Kennebunk Free Library YouTube page, demonstrating a Junior Science experiment: how to paint using a pendulum! Check it out if you're looking for a fun STEM-based experiment to do. Look forward to our next experiment later this week!



Library News & Events

23rd Edition Road Race

The 23rd 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 still working on many of the details but here is what we

do know: We are having a virtual race. This means that you will get to participate during a specific time period (not just one date and time) and on your own course (though you can still use ours if you'd like). Registering for the race is the same. If you are among the first 200 to register you still get a t-shirt (Bicentennial Blue this year!) and a goodie bag. You will receive these items after the library opens back up (which may be after the originally scheduled race date) at a sponsor recognition party. We will also highlight prize winners at this time. Additional prize categories will be added to add a layer of fun and will include most creative finish line, best selfie, and best coordinated pet costume. We will also have a time frame for in-person Road Race raffle ticket sales and drawings.

What we are still working on:

As far as time submissions we are still deciding if we are going to work on an app-based system or the honor system. We may have additional challenges such as 20 miles in 20 days to celebrate the Bicentennial. We are also up for suggestions!

Town Selectboard member and local runner, Shiloh Schulte, recorded the route for everyone to experience or enjoy on his GoPro. We want everyone to continue to socially distance themselves in this event and respect executive orders and local ordinances.

Annual Appeal

Our 2020 Annual Appeal is underway. Given the current quarantine we are all living under and the countless repercussions it has created I will repeat my ask from the letter that even if you are unable to contribute financially at this time, we would love to hear from you. Send us an email, a letter, or leave a comment for us on Facebook. Let us know how we're doing and let us know how you're doing. We had fun making an infographic this year that highlights what we've done since we closed our doors.

A Message from the Friends

Hello Friends,

I hope this note finds you well and safe. It seems like such a long time since we were at the library enjoying seeing each other, going to programs, exchanging recommendations of books, or just sitting doing a puzzle or reading a newspaper. We hope to get back to doing those activities when it is safe to do so..

For those of you who watched the Children's Concert, I hope you and your children enjoyed it. The executive board of the Friends voted unanimously to cover the cost of the event. This is just one event of the many others that your membership and patronage of our sales assists the library.

We are looking toward the future. At our meeting this month, we discussed ideas for various fundraisers in the months ahead. We will be resuming our POP UP book sales as soon as it it safe to do so. In the meantime, take advantage of the online resources of the library.

Until next time, Donna

FAQ Updates

How do I get a library card if I don't already have one?

Just email the library at kflcirc@kennebunk.lib.me.us, and we can get you set up with a temporary card so you can access our digital collections. Once we reopen, you will need to come to the library and provide photo ID and proof of address. We can then give you your physical library card as well.

How do I renew my library card if it's expired?

Either email the library at kflcirc@kennebunk.lib.me.us, or call us at (207) 985-2173 and we can renew it for you.

What's going to happen with overdue fines?

Due dates on Kennebunk Free Library and Minerva items have been automatically extended until June 1st. Please feel free to reach out if you're getting notices about a book coming up due or overdue. We will be waiving all new overdue fines accrued through the end of the closure. Fees for lost or damaged items will still apply.

Can I return items in the book drop?

Not at this point - please hold onto items that you have out until you hear otherwise. Library staff is complying with the stay at home order and not available to empty the bookdrop or check items in.

What's going to happen to my holds?

Any items that you currently have on the holdshelf at KFL will still be there; we won't be sending anything back for awhile after we reopen, so don't worry about those being cancelled! Any requests that are currently on your account will sit there, and you won't lose your place in any waitlists. We will not be sending or receiving any interlibrary loans during this closure.

A Note From the Director

I feel like I've finally fallen into a rhythm of the new norm. I appreciate your continued patience and notes of appreciation as we navigate this difficult time and I continue to be positively overwhelmed by the

hardworking staff at KFL as well.

With the difficulties that have arisen there has been a lot of good as well. Patron Jim Santerre created the sign now posted outside of the library recognizing service workers. All of our patron computers that would otherwise be sitting idle while we are closed are on and running calculations for COVID-19 research through the program Folding at Home. Staff is also hosting a weekly Lunchtime Pocket Lecture Series in May to discuss topics such as fossil hunting and how to make chocolate sauce. These are mini lectures stemming from the personal interests of staff. Please join us!



Michelle Conners Library Director

New eBooks and Audiobooks

Digital Collections

Looking for something to read during our building's closure? Have a computer, smartphone, Kindle Fire or iPad? Great! You can access eBooks and audiobooks through our two digital platforms! All you need is your library card.

CloudLibrary is a platform for eBooks and audiobooks that is administered at the state level and is accessible to all public library patrons in the state of Maine. To meet increased demand, more titles are currently being added to this platform. See https://www.yourcloudlibrary.com/ to get started.

Overdrive/Libby is also a platform for eBooks and audiobooks, but is run by your KFL librarians and is accessible only to Kennebunk Free Library cardholders. While this platform has fewer titles to choose from, wait times for holds are shorter than on CloudLibrary. We are also adding more titles to expand our offerings and selections for you. See https://kennebunklibrary.overdrive.com/ to get started (scroll to bottom for app downloads).

If you need assistance setting up either platform, give the library a call or send an email and a staff member will get back to you.

Book/Movie Recommendations & Messages from Your Librarians

From Maria, Head of Youth Services:

Hello my friends, it's Miss Maria! I have more of an activity to recommend to you, rather than a book or movie. I highly suggest that during your time at home, you make time to celebrate something you love! Recently, I named 4/20/20 Spice Girls Day, and celebrated the music, movie, and style of the Spice Girls. I had an amazing time being silly and enjoying something with my whole heart. Do you want to try this at home? Here's a step-by-step guide:

- Choose a "favorite": book, movie, musician anything you'd like!
- Think of how you can celebrate it: Dress in costume? A special meal? A related craft? All
 of the above? The possibilities are endless!
- Choose a date
- Enjoy your celebration!

I strongly recommend you give this a try - it's a great way to "spice up your life"! If you decide to have an at-home celebration, send us pictures! We'd love to see! Take care, everyone, and know that your library misses you!

From Krissy, Library Assistant:

This is the best book title I have ever seen. You can infer almost everything you need to know about the book and its appeal when you read the title. Let's go word by word:

- 1) How This sets the tone of the writing. For me it evokes the whimsical not-quite-taking-itself-seriously of Winnie the Pooh, or more generally the tone of someone conversationally telling you a story. If you don't like this sort of dry humor, this probably isn't your book. If you do, you're in for a treat.
- 2) Rory There's going to be an awesome heroine in this book, isn't there? Yes.
- 3) Thorne I didn't get this from the title before I started reading, it's true, but it becomes clear early in the book that this is a "what if" reimagining of the Sleeping Beauty story, and I love how her surname nods to the moat of thorns from that story.
- 4) Destroyed First, Large Events are going to happen. Second, our heroine is not one to sit down meekly because it's the "nice" or "polite" thing to do.
- 5) The Multiverse The make-or-break words for a lot of people. Yep, this book is worldbuilding sci-fi, with fairies thrown in (see #3).

In short, if the title grabs you, you will probably not be disappointed in what it promises. If it doesn't grab your attention, it's probably not the book for you. I should note that this is book 1 of a series, so obviously the story isn't complete yet, but it is a fantastic beginning and I can't wait to see where the series goes.

From Denise, Library Assistant

I am missing our KFL families and friends! I hope you are all doing well and keeping busy. Spring is a wonderful time to get outside and observe the world beginning to come alive after the long Maine winter. I'm always thrilled when I see bees returning to my yard. Bees are one of the most important pollinators. We need them to pollinate flowers or crops will fail to grow. Since we can't be together for Discovery Station this month, I wanted to share a book with you which you can access through the app Tumblebooks. Free access is available for viewing children's e-books by going to their website and entering the username: Tumble735 with password: books. Search for the title *Bumblebee Queen*. Listen to the book video before you venture outside. To add some STEAM activities that complement this book visit the Honeybee Conservancy website (https://thehoneybeeconservancy.org/). Click on the top dropdown button: Resources > For Educators > Lesson Plans. There are activities for all ages. Enjoy your time outside and I hope we'll see you soon!

Books read this month:
Junior Fiction:
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai
A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord
The Benefits of Being An Octopus by Ann Braden
Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed
Pax by Sara Pennypacker
The Other Half of Happy by Rebecca Balcarcel
Count Me In by Varsha Bajaj

I've watched a few movies:

The Hundred Foot Journey (My favorite as it has it all - drama, comedy and love story.)
This Beautiful Fantastic (A somewhat contemporary Secret Garden with a quirky librarian as the lead!)
Knives Out

From Catherine, Library Assistant

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi: This book is an autobiographical account of a man who is about to complete his hard-earned neurosurgical residency at Stanford University and is then diagnosed with stage four metastatic lung cancer. The book carries us through his life and shows us his experiences, ideas, and thoughts so that the reader can see who he was as a person. The book brings a heavy topic to its pages and encompasses humility, love, and courage in them as well.

Me: Elton John: An Autobiography by Elton John: In his autobiography, Elton John paints us a picture that would allow a reader, who is not familiar with him or his music, to really understand who he is as a person. He details his struggles with growing up, coming out, and substance abuse, all the while still producing famous music. This book it interestingly written, and I would recommend it to Elton John fans and everybody else.

From Brittany, Circulation Services Manager

My first recommendation is for a webcomic that's been close to my heart for awhile and has just completed, so it's the perfect time to take a day or two and read! *Check, Please!* by Ngozi Ukazu follows Eric "Bitty" Bittle, a baker and figure skater turned hockey player as he navigates college at fictional Samwell University in Massachusetts. The comic follows his four years of college, going from coming out as gay to fitting in with his team, finding love in an unlikely place, and finding his own place in the world. Ukazu's artwork grows right along with Bitty, and gives us a beautiful story of finding yourself in the best four years of your life. It's a heartwarming story of found family, college, love, and the baking of so many pies. You're in luck, because after 6 years, Ukazu finished the comic earlier this month! There's a few ways you can read it. The whole comic is available for free at checkpleasecomic.com. It's also been published in two print volumes, the first of which, #Hockey, is available to read on CloudLibrary. The second volume, *Sticks and Scones*, was released earlier this month.

Next up is a little unconventional, but in the past month it's provided me with so much enjoyment this past month. Bon Appetit's Youtube channel (found at https://www.youtube.com/user/BonAppetitDotCom), especially their Test Kitchen videos, are hilarious but yet teach you something at the same time. I've been watching a lot of Gourmet Makes with Claire Saffitz as she tries to recreate versions of things such as instant ramen, Girl Scout cookies, and Bagel Bites. All the chefs have such great rapport, and I love seeing them work together. Check it out if you're a fan of Food Network!

From Kate, Cataloger

TV:

Arrested Development (available on Netflix). I just can't get enough of this show. I am currently on my fourth re-watch of the original series (there are two later seasons that Netflix put out years after the series concluded, but the original three seasons are really all you need). Every time I watch it, I pick up on new jokes and connections the writers have made. The show follows a dysfunctional, formerly wealthy family as they navigate the changes in their lives after the patriarch and head of the family business is imprisoned for corruption. Each episode is crammed with bizarre characters, jokes running the gamut from wordplay to slapstick to long form, both overt and subtle, and the story lines are serpentine and connected in unexpected ways. This one just keeps getting better and better with every viewing.

Books:

Song of Achilles and Circe, both by Madeline Miller. If you are getting tired of seeing the walls of your own home, pick up one of Madeline Miller's books. She will whisk you right away to ancient Greece. Both novels focus on characters from Greek mythology, but Miller has expanded their stories and retold them from new perspectives. Song of Achilles follows the story of Achilles and his companion Patroclus from their time as children through their works and battles in the Trojan War. Circe gives a full story to a minor character in the Odyssey. The story follows Circe's life beginning as an outcast among gods, her banishment to a deserted island where she masters the art of witchcraft, and her many interactions with figures like Odysseus, Daedalus, Icarus, and the Minotaur. Given Miller's lush descriptions and absorbing narrative, you may likely look up after finishing your reading and find you are surprised that you are not actually on the beaches of Troy or on the shore of Circe's island. Madeline Miller is a great choice for a bit of escapism.

Hello, Library Friends,

I miss you now as much as ever and hope you have established a comfortable rhythm to your days and are reconnecting in deeper, more meaningful ways to your loved ones near and far. During these days of working alone in my home, I realize how being in the Library in the presence of your vital energy is what makes my job so meaningful.

In the evenings, not unlike you, I am looking for relief from the stress created by the COVID Crisis. I am reading and watching movies to give my mind a welcome rest. Here is what has been giving my mind and spirit a staycation these past many weeks.

BOOKS:

I am presently reading two books: *In the Skin of the Lion* by Michael Ondaatje and *The Lowlands* by Jhumpa Lahiri. If you enjoy rich, lyrical writing, almost poetic in nature, and a complicated plot line, the Ondaatje book fills the bill. Though a slim volume, it seems longer with its convoluted twists and turns, the change from past to present as well as to different parts of the globe, and the interweaving of same characters in different stories.

In Lahiri's book, the writing is simpler, unadorned, and the t rojectory of plot is more linear. If you enjoy books about other cultures, or India in particular, this is a good choice.

IN THE WINGS: Three JFIC books: Each Tiny Spark by Pablo Cartaya, The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore and A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park, all highly recommended to me by Miss Maria, Youth Services Librarian, and by my daughter, a fourth grade teacher in Portland.

MOVIES:

I have been re-watching old favorites for comfort and ease. Recently, these have included "Julie and Julia" (a must-see if you love food and/or to cook), "Forrest Gump" (though I cried during the Vietnam footage), "Slumdog Millionaire" (not always easy to watch in certain places) and the Harry Potter Series, which I began last night.

IN THE WINGS: "Dirty Dancing"

MUSIC: During breakfast, new-Age, or classical, calming music. When I am cooking, I blast from the past these faves: Bob Dylan, Eric Andersen, K.T. Oslin, Jerry Jeff Walker, Eva Cassidy, Emmylou Harris, Jennifer Warnes, Leonard Cohen. (I know I am dating myself.) But also, contradance music: Bare Necessities "Take a Dance", and Kennebunk's own Don Wessels "On Orkney". Thank you, Don!

Now you have a bird's eye view of how media enriches my life and keeps me company from day-to-day. Until next time, happy reading, watching and listening.

From Kat, Administrative Assistant

I listened to 2 books available on overdrive:

John Adams Under Fire by Dan Abrams & David Fisher

A chronological account of the events leading up to the Boston Massacre, right after and through the trial. Very interesting view of the American legal system in its infancy and the man John Quincy Adams was before the Revolutionary War and fame.

The Falcon Thief by Joshua Hammer

A deep dive into the world of wild bird smugglers and the lengths they will go through in the wild and getting past airport security. Describes the motivation of buyers and the addiction of the sellers.

A feel-better tip: Rig up a clothesline in your yard and hang your sheets out! Really gave a lift to my day and I can't wait to get into bed tonight.

From Lisa, Library Page

Joy School by Elizabeth Berg is about Katie, a twelve-year old girl who has just moved to Missouri with her father, a stern military man. Dealing with the many changes that come with moving to a new place as well as the grief she carries from the loss of her mother, trying to fit in

at her new school is not easy for Katie. Friendships seem unlikely until she is befriended by two very different girls. One is shy and reserved with a controlling mother and a hilarious Italian grandmother. The other is an adventurous, popular, and part-time model who leads Katie into some challenging predicaments.

The greatest adjustment to her life in Missouri comes when a skating mishap finds her in love for the first time. The following excerpt stirred up adolescent emotions long forgotten. It is one of the reasons why I think Berg is a brilliant writer: "I go into my room, change into pajamas. I'm done with clothes for today. I put Jimmy's uniform under my pillow. Later I will touch it to help me take out the memory of all that happened today. You need time for that kind of thing. The kind of time where you know you are not going to be interrupted, so that the shy thoughts will say, Oh well fine, I guess it's all right to come out now."

Funny (I laughed out loud repeatedly.), touching, and sweet, Joy School is a joy to read.

The Pull of the Moon by Elizabeth Berg is another coming of age story only this is about a runaway fifty year old named Nan whose mid-life, change of life, crisis takes her on a road trip far away from her Boston home and her rigid and somewhat controlling husband, Martin. Written as part journal and part letters to Martin, Nan's narrative keeps the readers guessing and intrigued.

Maybe I am wrong, but I think every woman at some point in her marriage decides she would like to just leave her frustrations behind and hit the road. I know I did. Well, I didn't hit the road, but I sure wanted to. Nan is a confident enough woman with financial resources to do just that! I sometimes envied her, and other times thought she was a little too impulsive and risky. She meets many different personalities along her journey whose walks of life enrich her own. I must confess, I didn't want her journey to end but ... well, let's just say Martin is in for a change.

From Jon, Youth Services and Technology Librarian

Strictly Dumpling - https://www.youtube.com/user/strictlydumpling/featured
A fantastic traveling food blogger who samples some of the most amazing looking food. If you're feeling cooped up check out any of his videos to enjoy traveling without leaving your home. I especially recommend any of his 7-Eleven videos showing how different stores can be around the world.

From Jenny, Library Assistant

Heart & Home Book Group: If you're missing our Heart & Home Book Club meetings, or if you're thinking about attending a meeting for the first time, I invite you to read books on any theme related to hearts and homes. Perhaps you'd like to jot down some notes, too. When library programming kicks off again, we'll have a special meeting to discuss all those books we read. If you'd prefer to discuss your book picks right away, you might like to join a Book Talk Thursday zoom meeting that three of my coworkers are hosting. I also welcome you to email me for help finding digital books, or to chat about what you're reading!

Journaling: If you were looking forward to our May Journaling Meetup as much as I was, or if you were thinking of attending one for the first time, please know that I am very happily planning a meetup for whenever we can gather together again. We'll have so much to share. However, if you'd like to chat about your journaling right now, ask for help getting started, or have something fun to share, I welcome you to email me!

STAY CONNECTED:





