

# October

at KFL



**October 2024 | Volume 31, Issue 10**

## LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS



### Harvest Fest Book Sale

The Friends of the Kennebunk Free Library will host their next book sale in conjunction with the Town of Kennebunk's HarvestFest.

On Friday, October 18, from 5-7, there is a Friends only pre-sale. You can join the Friends by making a contribution of any size. Join now and your membership counts for all of 2025. You will also receive two free books at every book sale.

The general sale will take place on Saturday, October 19, from 9:00-12:30 p.m. The sale will be held in Hank's Room and outside (weather permitting), and feature adult hardcovers for \$2 and paperbacks for \$1. Children and young adult books are all 4 for \$1. Puzzles are \$1.

Friends support the library by raising funds that help sponsor library programs and materials including passes to local museums and parks, summer reading programs, Kanopy streaming service, OverDrive e-content, and large print books.

National Friends of the Library Week falls on October 20-26 so be sure to thank the Friends for all of their hard work. This past year, the Friends raised \$8,819 for Kennebunk Free Library.

The next Friends meeting will take place on Monday, November 4, at 5:30

For more information, please call the Library 207-985-2173 or email us: [kfl@kennebunklibrary.org](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org)



## Now Accepting Artist Applications

Calling all artists!! Whether you're just starting out, or are already an established artist, we encourage you to apply for a month-long exhibit in our Speers Gallery in 2025. The application process is open to both individual and group shows.

Applications are due by October 18, and can be picked up at the library or found

here: <https://kennebunklibrary.org/Pages/Index/226352/galleries>

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## Monthly Phone Wallpaper

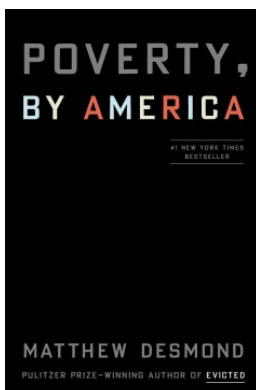
Looking to change up your phone background? Like our Newsletter Banner? [Download our monthly phone wallpaper](#) and match with us! New backgrounds every month! [E-mail Amelia for assistance](#).

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To download to your phone, tap 'Download' as highlighted in the newsletter on your mobile device. Follow the link. Once you arrive at the download page from our calendar, tap and hold on the image, then select 'Save to Photos'. The image will be saved to your 'Photo Gallery' and you can change your wallpaper from there.

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# ADULT PROGRAMS

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## *Poverty, By America* Book Discussion - October 2

One in 18 people in the United States lives in deep poverty, including 6 million children. Why is poverty so persistent after decades of work by federal, state and local groups to eliminate it? Can we dismantle it? Please join KHS history teacher Greg Smith and Select Board member Karen Plattes at Kennebunk Free Library to discuss Matthew Desmond's "Poverty, by America". We'll meet the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 PM starting October 2, 2024 through February 8, 2025. Desmond challenges preconceived notions of poverty. If we better understand the systems upholding poverty, we can begin to take actions to dismantle them.

All are welcome! Sponsored by Many Towns, One Circle: Challenging Racism and Injustice and KFL. [Registration is required](#).

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## Reader's Choice Book Club

Monday,  
October 7  
2:00 - 3:00

This month's theme...  
'A Banned  
Book'



Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Monday October 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: *A Banned Book*.

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!



## NEW WEEKLY PROGRAM French Language Discussion Group - Beginning October 7

Are you looking for an opportunity to converse in French? Join us at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday nights at 6:30 for a French Language Discussion Group. All skill levels are welcome to participate but conversations will typically be at an intermediate to advanced level. We'll get to know each other while discussing the culture and customs, as well as the social, political, and economic environments, of Francophone communities around the world. No registration is required – just drop in!



## Halloween Block Printing for Beginners - October 7

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library for an evening of block printing on Monday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m.! We will learn to carve a small spooky and festive design of your choosing, followed by making prints using your carved block. The library will supply carving tools, small 2" x 3" carving blocks, printing paper, and ink. You are welcome to bring a design idea (simple is best) or choose one from a selection of samples.

This program is for beginners in need of instruction. Attendees must be aged 18+ as we will be using sharp tools. Space is limited and [registration is required](#). Visit [kennebunklibrary.org](http://kennebunklibrary.org) to register. If you have taken this class before or are comfortable with the process, please consider joining us for a drop-in block printing evening on Tuesday, October 8.

## Drop-In Block Printing - October 8

Have you taken one of our beginner block printing classes? Do you have experience with the craft but don't have the supplies? Come by KFL on Tuesday, October 8 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. for a drop-in evening of block printing! This will be an unstructured evening where we will supply

everything needed to make a print. While there will not be a formal instruction component, we will be available for questions. [Registration for this event is encouraged](#) to give us a sense of the quantities of supplies needed, but it is not required. Attendees should be aged 18+. Please note that if many people are in attendance, some tools will need to be shared.

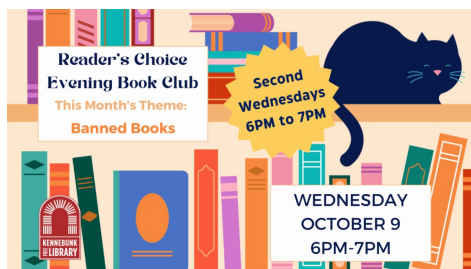
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### **Ukulele Group - October 9**

Join us on the second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 to make some music in the library! Ukulele players of all skill levels are invited to stop in to play along. We will be choosing songs to play each month from *The Daily Ukulele: 365 Songs for Better Living*. Ukuleles and songbooks are available to check out from the library.

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### **Evening Readers Choice Book Club - October 9**

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on Wednesday, October 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Walker Room at the library, and our theme will be: Banned Books.

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!

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### **Writer's Group - October 15**

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!

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### **The Maine 6: How Six Pet Dogs Were Trained to Hunt Invasive Species - October 15**

On Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00 p.m., dog trainer Melissa McCue-McGrath will be at the Kennebunk Free Library to share the story of how six local pets were trained to hunt an invasive species.





In April of 2023, researchers at Texas Tech and Virginia Tech teamed up to run a proof-of-concept study - could pet dogs around the U.S. be trained to find one of the most environmentally damaging invasive species, the spotted lantern fly (SLF)? SLF is presently in 17 states, including New York and Massachusetts, and leaves the environment looking like "scorched earth without the fire." It's predicted to be in Maine by 2026. When the study started in May, Maine was absent from the roster.

Local dog trainer, Melissa McCue-McGrath, received an email in November. The researchers were looking for a second cohort of dogs and trainers to complete the study that winter. Six dogs enrolled in McCue-McGrath's scent work classes at the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk were tapped to represent Vacationland in the study. These pet dogs, already trained to find a variety of oils on a q-tip

for fun, pivoted their focus to save the environment.

They were shipped dead SLF eggs, packed them in a Pokemon lunchbox, and got to work. This presentation describes the six teams' journey helping researchers across the country, how they trained their dogs to find SLF, and the challenges they overcame training in a brutal Maine winter as another environmental threat - climate change - threatened their plans.

Melissa McCue-McGrath grew up in an accidental sled dog family in Midcoast Maine. She spent most of her 20 years training dogs and working challenging behavior cases in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2015 she wrote *Considerations for the City Dog*, a book targeting the urban dogs and families who are left out of conventional training books, and has spoken internationally on the subject. She's given up the conveniences of ride shares to come back home to Maine. Melissa's family resides with two ancient cats, fourteen bougie chickens, and Captain Love, one of the dogs involved in a nationwide study on training pet dogs to detect invasive species.

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### Trivia Night - October 16



The third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 is trivia night at KFL! Bring a team, join one of our friendly teams of regulars, or take on the challenge solo. Light refreshments will be served.

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### Craft and Sip: Book Pumpkins - October 16



Join us on Wednesday October 16 at 5:30 p.m. for a night of crafting and sipping! Get into the autumn spirit while upcycling a paperback book into a piece of cute pumpkin décor! All materials will be provided. This is a 21+ only event. [Registration required.](#)



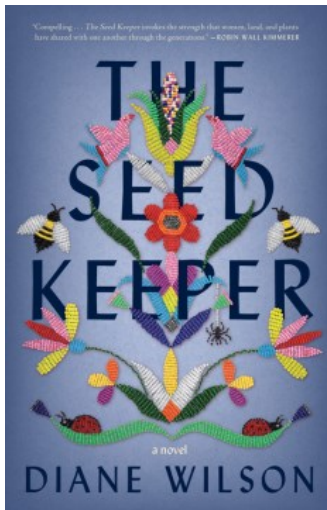
## Voting and Other Acts of Civil Engagement in Maine's Immigrant Community - October 21

The Camden Conference and KFL present Georges Budagu Makoko at the Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Makoko will discuss recommendations on how we all can support the immigrant community to become more civically engaged citizens and will highlight the benefits that come from this process. He will share his experiences of growing up in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa, which includes the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda; and will compare the forms

of governance in this region of Africa to our democratic processes in the United States.

Makoko is the founder of Ladder to the Moon Network and co-founder of Amjambo Africa. He was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and moved to Rwanda in 1994 due to political unrest. He is the author of *Ladder to the Moon: Journey from the Congo to America*, a book about his life. He is currently the Director of Residential Services at Serenity Residential Care. He serves as a motivational speaker and professional interpreter, and speaks more than six languages, including English, French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Lingala and Kinyamulenge.



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## Fiction Book Discussion - October 22

Join us on Tuesday, October 22 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

"Wilson's deeply moving debut novel (after the nonfiction narrative *Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life*) unfurls the complex story of Rosalie Iron Wing and her search for connection to her family, her people, and the land. The novel opens with the voice of the Dakota people's seeds, passed down through generations ("We hold time in this space, we hold a thread to infinity that reaches all the way to the stars"). Rosalie's sole friend as a teen, Gaby Makepeace, is a strong young woman whose auntie teaches Rosalie about the bonds shared by Dakota women. At 18, pregnant and married to John, a white man, Rosalie tries to make a life for herself on John's farm, whose family founded it on land stolen from her ancestors, and whose inorganic

farming practices alienate Rosalie from anti-GMO activist Gaby. Decades later, after John dies from cancer, Rosalie returns to her father's cabin where she grew up. While struggling to survive through a brutal winter, Rosalie delves into stories of her family's painful past, often shaped by dehumanizing interventions from the U.S. government. Wilson offers finely wrought descriptions of the natural world, as the voice of the seeds provides connective threads to the stories of her people. This powerful work achieves a deep resonance often lacking from activist novels, and makes a powerful statement along the way." -- Publishers Weekly





Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on Monday, October 28 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. for the sixth session in the Die Well Death Education Series with host Leona Oceania. You are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions - no registration is required.

In Session Six, we will discuss MAID: Medical Aid in Dying; focusing primarily on Maine's Death with Dignity Act. This is the process by which competent and terminally ill state residents who are within 6 (six) months of death may legally obtain oral prescription medication for which they may voluntarily take without assistance to peacefully end their life.

\*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.



### **Obstacles to Democracy in Central Africa - October 30**

The Camden Conference and KFL present Luc Kuanzambi at the Kennebunk Free Library on Wednesday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Luc immigrated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has lived in the United States since 2017. He is the founder and Managing Director of Xenos Communications Consulting, LLC, a Strategic Communications Company based in Portland, Maine that caters to the needs for Immigrant-related Public Affairs and Culture Brokering.

Luc is the Producer and Host of \*Luc's 2 Cents Podcast\* – a thought-provoking intellectual platform that amplifies immigrants' intellectual opinions on sociopolitical issues and specializes in immigrant narratives in America's media landscape. He is also a sought-after public speaker with riveting views on immigrant communities, historical underpinnings of the influx of immigrants in Maine, DEI, and cross-cultural exchanges.

Luc has under his belt a decade in international diplomacy as a former senior foreign staffer of the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation. As a member of the political office of the South African Embassy in the Congo, Luc has had inextricable exposure to African Heads-of-State, senior diplomats, defense attachés, captains of industries, and faith leaders.

Luc also worked in the private sector. He held the junior executive portfolio for Stakeholder Relations and Reputation Management at Vodacom Congo, a TelCo company subsidiary of the British multinational TelCo giant Vodafone. In Maine, Luc has successively been Lead Navigator for the Congolese Community Association of Maine; Community and Cultural Ambassador for Hannaford Supermarket; Emergency Rental Assistance Certifier for ProsperityME; Children Behavioral Health Care Coordinator/Cultural Broker for Spurwink.

Luc and his wife, Paulette, pastor a Sunday school church program in Westbrook Maine, including their two sons and one daughter. A dropout from Northeastern University where he was studying Data Analytics, Luc has a BA in Divinity from the Centre Universitaire de Missiologie in the Congo.



## Starting November 7 - Cookbook Club

On Thursday November 7 at 3:00, you are invited to a new kind of book group - a Cookbook Club. Each month, we will choose a different theme or a cookbook. Participants will each make a dish from the selected cookbook and bring it in for all to share!

For our first meeting in November, the theme will be "Comfort Food." Make a comforting dish from a favorite cookbook or a new one that you have been wanting to try - whether that's cookies, bread, pasta or soup! - and bring the cookbook and the dish to share with others. We will feast and share cookbook recommendations. Please [email Becca](#) to let her know you will be attending.

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## October Take and Make: Witch Wreaths

October is time for all things ghosts and goblins and witches! Embrace the season by making a festive witchy paper wreath for Halloween. Kits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last starting on Wednesday October 2.

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# WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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**Spanish  
Language**

**Conversation  
Group**

## Spanish Conversation Group - Mondays

Stop by the library on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 for an opportunity to practice conversational Spanish. Whether you are fluent in the language or just learning, all are welcome!





## Mah Jongg - Mondays and Wednesdays

Everyone is invited to drop in on Mondays from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. or Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. to play Mah Jongg. The library has 3 sets available for use or you are welcome to bring your own. Don't know how to play? Members of our friendly group were all beginners themselves just a couple of months ago. You're welcome to watch and learn. We can also share some resources for learning on your own. Please [email the library](#) with any questions.



## In Stitches - Tuesdays

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.



## 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](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org) so we can help you further.



## Improv - Saturdays

Improv is back this fall! Beginning September 14, sessions will be held every Saturday from 10:30-12:00.

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## TEEN PROGRAMS

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### Dungeons and Dragons - October 7, 21, 28

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 on the following Mondays: **October 7, October 21, and October 28** 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 - October 10

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, **October 10**, 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!

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### Anime Club - October 17





Join us for Anime Club on the third Thursday of the month, **October 17**, downstairs in Hank's Room from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to talk about our favorite manga and graphic novels, eat snacks, play games, and catch up on some reading with friends! This program is designed for dedicated and new fans interested in learning more about the fandom. 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!

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### Teen Magic the Gathering - October 29



Looking to test out your new Magic the Gathering deck with friends? Join us to play on **October 29** from 3:00-4:00 p.m.! There will be cards available to make a deck, but if you have your own, we encourage you to bring them! 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!

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## CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

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### Beadcraft - October 2

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, October 2, at 1:00 p.m. What a great way to spend an afternoon! Design suggestions will be offered, but creativity is encouraged! All craft materials will be provided. [Registration](#) is recommended but not required.

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### Kindness Crew - October 8

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on Tuesday, October 8, at 3:45 p.m. Come hear a story about kindness and make a craft! In October, we'll be sharing *The Scarecrow* written by Beth Ferry and illustrated by The Fan Brothers. 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](mailto: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!



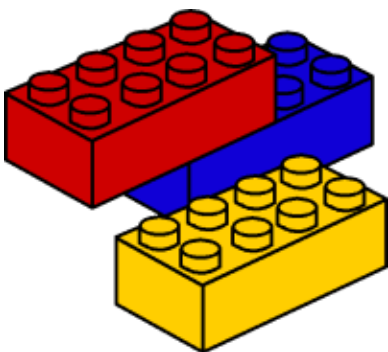
### Meet and Greet with Pete the Cat - October 17

Everything is groovy! Pete the Cat, everyone's favorite feline, is coming to visit Kennebunk Free Library on Thursday, October 17, at 4 pm! Come hear some of our favorite Pete the Cat stories, make a Pete craft, and meet the big cat himself! Be ready to take some pictures! This event is for all ages. No registration is required. This event is planned to be held outside. In inclement weather, we will be inside the library.



### Junior Science - October 22

Join us on Tuesday, October 22 at 3:45 p.m. for an extra-special spooky Junior Science! Make a candy corn catapult, mix magic potions, and more! This program is for ages 5+. Registration is required.



### Lego Club - October 24

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on Thursday, October 24, 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.





## 5th Annual Not-So-Spooky KenneBOOnk Halloween - October 29

Boo to you! Join us on Tuesday, October 29, at 4:30 p.m. for a bewitchingly good time! Enjoy a story or two, make a craft, and wear your costume for all to see! This event is designed for all ages – please keep your super spooky things for Halloween night!

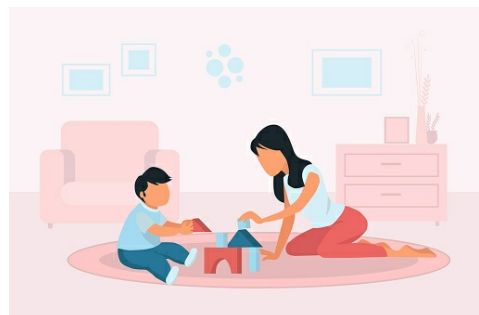
This event will be located in the amphitheater outside the Children's Room. In the event of rain or inclement weather, we will be inside the library. For updates on event location, please visit our website or Facebook page.



## Storytime - Mondays

It's time for Storytime! Come to the library for stories, songs, and fun with Miss Maria! We'll even get to say hello to our puppet friend, Ami the bunny. On most Mondays in October at 10:00 a.m., Storytimes will be held in the amphitheater outside the Children's Room at Kennebunk Free Library. Because of the holiday closure, we will be having Storytime on **Tuesday, October 15**. We'll have Storytime outside for as long as the weather cooperates with us! Be sure to bring a blanket and bundle up on those chilly Fall mornings! In case of inclement weather, we will be in Hank's Room inside the library. We can't wait for you to join us! Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- October 7
- **Tuesday, October 15**
- October 21
- October 28



## Family Fun Play - Thursdays

Have a morning of play at the library! On Thursday mornings in October, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out the toys for a library play date. These toys are best enjoyed when the whole family plays together! Before we say goodbye until next time, Miss Maria will read a story. Come play and make new friends at the library! All programs will run from 10 am to approximately 11:30 am; however, friends are welcome to come and go as they please. Thursday Family Fun Play is for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. No registration is required. Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- October 3

- October 10
- October 17
- October 24
- October 31

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## SPEERS GALLERY

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### October Artist: Kid Creations

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents the exhibit “Kid Creations”, featuring art made by children during the library’s Messy Art program. The exhibit will be shown during the months of September and October.

The Messy Art program invited kids to get dirty while creating art! Over 30 pieces were created by children ages 3-11 over the course of an afternoon in July, including stomp art done with bubble wrapped feet dipped in paint, watercolor with spray bottles, and

painting with everyday items such as sponges, spoons and spatulas.

The children experimented with process art, with the goal being the experience itself instead of the result. Kennebunk Free Library is excited to showcase the colorful, fun creations of these young artists!

*The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library’s Speers Gallery from September 1 - October 31 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](http://www.kennebunklibrary.org).*

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## 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.



## Popular New Releases for October

### October 1

[Triangle](#) – Danielle Steel

[The Mighty Red](#) – Louise Erdrich

[Revenge of the Tipping Point](#) – Malcolm Gladwell

### October 8

[Murder Island](#) – James Patterson

[Identity Unknown](#) – Patricia Cornwell

[What Does It Feel Like?](#) – Sophie Kinsella

[Killing Time](#) – M. C. Beaton

[Shock Induction](#) – Chuck Palahniuk

### October 15

[The Waiting](#) – Michael Connelly

[A Christmas Duet](#) – Debbie Macomber

[The Great Hippopotamus Hotel](#) – Alexander McCall Smith

[The More the Terrier](#) – David Rosenfelt

[Midnight and Blue](#) – Ian Rankin

[Dogs and Monsters](#) – Mark Haddon

### October 22

[In Too Deep](#) – Lee Child

[Demon's Bluff](#) – Kim Harrison

### October 29

[The Grey Wolf](#) – Louise Penny

[The Blue Hour](#) – Paula Hawkins

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



It's that special time of year again—National Friends of the Library Week! From October 20-26 we are honoring the dedicated volunteers and supporters who make our library a vibrant and essential community hub.

During this week, we highlight the incredible contributions of the Friends of Kennebunk Free Library, who tirelessly advocate for our library, organize events, and raise funds. Their enthusiasm and commitment help us offer a wide range of programs, expand our collections, and create a welcoming space for everyone. This past year, the Friends raised \$8,819, which was used to purchase museum passes, large

print books, e-materials, Kanopy streaming, and more!

Conveniently, the Friends host their HarvestFest book sale on Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19, so please make sure to stop by and express your gratitude for all that they do. The Friends pre-sale on Friday evening is open only to Friends, but you can join the Friends by [filling out this form](#) and making a contribution of any size. Join now and your membership counts for all of 2025.

The next Friends meeting will take place on Monday, November 4, at 5:30

Thank you!

Pictured: My husband, Justin, reading [The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors](#) by Daywalt and Rex to the kids. This is among my favorite picture books of all time.

# STAFF PICKS

## Kat, Substitute Library Assistant

*How to Read a Book: A Novel* by Monica Wood

Another finely crafted story by this Maine author brings unlikely people together in a tale of forgiveness. A young woman from rural Maine who is recently released from prison is dropped off at a furnished apartment in Portland. The rent is paid for one year and she is told the family wants nothing more to do with her. While in prison, she met a retired English teacher that volunteered to lead an inmate book group, and they run into each other at a bookstore. To complete the "it's a small world" series of events, the bookstore handyman recognizes the ex-inmate from the trial for the killer of his wife. I loved these three characters and the sweet story of redemption for each of them. (Available from KFL as a book, from Libby as an eBook and audio, Minerva as a book, audio cd and mp3.)

*Mills on the Mousam: a history of the Mousam River in Alfred, Sanford, Shapleigh, Springvale and Wells/Kennebunk* by Joseph W. Hardy

I guess I always took the Mousam River for granted. My cousins and I would walk to the river behind my grandmother's house in West Kennebunk and have adventures. As an adult, I have enjoyed canoeing and kayaking on the river. Roger's Pond is a local treasure, and I am often drawn to visit the river year-round. I can't cross over the Main St. bridge or climb the stairs at Lafayette Center without gazing out on this beautiful river. It wasn't until I wanted to look up whether Bunganut Pond really means "place of many rocks" and it does, that I learned of the history of this river. The author takes us from what the river provided Native Americans through the Colonial Period, from 1600 to 1770; the time of the Small Mill, from 1750 to 1850; and the Manufacturing Era, from 1850 to 1930. The author did meticulous research and provided plenty of photos and maps. This is a wonderful book to learn about our town's history. (Available as a book from KFL and Minerva.)

*National Geographic Kids, Joan of Arc, The Teenager Who Saved Her Nation* by Philip Wilkinson

This is another title from KFL's Children's Department. Though I have read several biographies about St. Joan, including my favorite by Mark Twain, I can appreciate the brevity, illustrations, timeline and factual presentation of her story. This is one in a series and KFL has issues about rocks, myths, space travel, bugs, robotics, road trip atlas, sharks, etc. Just a reminder that if you want to learn about something fast with lots of pictures...think juvenile. (Available as a book from KFL and Minerva has more titles.)

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