



THOMAS
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY

NEWS & EVENTS FOR ADULTS

FEBRUARY
2024

FIRST FRIDAY ALL AGES BOARD GAME NIGHT!



Friday, February 2
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Enjoy an after-hours evening of retro gaming at the library! We'll break out our collection of board games, puzzles, and playing cards, but participants are also welcome to bring a favorite. Spread out in the library and play with your friends, or challenge the people next to you! The library will provide drinks and snacks. Game Night is for all ages! (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Please register in advance!

MAINE'S HIDDEN GEMS THE PEARY-MACMILLAN ARCTIC MUSEUM



with Curator Genevieve LeMoin

Thursday, February 8
6:30 - 7:30 pm

in person

Come learn all about the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, at the Center for Arctic Studies at Bowdoin College. The museum's curator will discuss current exhibits and share behind-the-scenes stories that will have you planning your own trip North (to Brunswick, not the Arctic) to see this incredible spot! All are welcome!

CAPE ELIZABETH HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRESENTS

CAPE'S WANDERING SCHOOLHOUSES



Tuesday, February 13
6:30 - 8:00 pm



In 1898, Cape Elizabeth had four one-room schoolhouses; three of the four shuffled around to various sites throughout the town's history. Together these one-room centers of learning educated generations of children. Many residents today can still recall personal schoolhouse experiences or can retell stories passed down over the years from their ancestors. Come hear some of those stories, learn about the schoolhouses, and share some stories of your own as well! All are welcome!

FROM ASHES TO BEAUTY

*The Transformation of
Frederick Ndabaramiye
and the Healing Power of Art*

Thursday, February 22
6:30 - 8:00 pm

in-person

The Rwandan Genocide changed the lives of the Rwandan people in unimaginable ways. **Frederick Ndabaramiye** was only one of many people who experienced tragic trauma and loss during this time, but his story is uniquely his own. The loss of both hands to a machete blade was intended to take his life, but instead led to a life of unimaginable possibilities. Now an accomplished artist, Frederick has shared his artwork around the world--currently in our own Stier Family Art Gallery! Come meet Frederick and hear his incredible story!

BIG CONVERSATIONS IN 10 SHORT MINUTES

Tuesday, February 27
6:30 - 7:30 pm

via Zoom



At virtual gatherings throughout the winter, you have the chance to meet people from other communities across the state for conversations that are as engaging as they are brief. Each event will randomly pair participants with partners for 10-minute (non-political) conversations focused on simple, intriguing prompts. Attendees will get to have three separate conversations with three other strangers from across Maine.

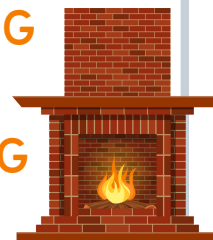
Please register on the library's website.

FIRESIDE READING

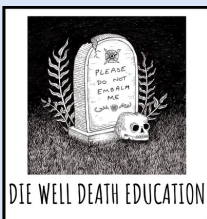
Tuesdays
5:30 - 6:30 pm

FIRESIDE WRITING

Thursdays
5:30 - 6:30 pm



You could sit at home and write, but will you? You could sit at home and read, but there are dishes to wash and the TV on the wall... **Fireside Writing** gives you the space and opportunity to work alongside fellow writers and reach your writing goals. **Fireside Reading** gives you the chance to settle in among other readers and spend some quality time reading. Join us by the fire for tea and quiet time among your fellow humans. No registration necessary!



TALKING ABOUT DEATH

two monthly programs led by
Leona Oceania of
Die Well Death Education

No registration necessary--
visit our website
for more information!

Death Education Series: Session Five

Tuesday, February 6, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This session features the film *Letting Go: A Hospice Journey*. For terminally ill patients and their families, hospice can provide an opportunity to find comfort, companionship, and peace in the weeks, days, hours, and moments before death. (It is not necessary to have attended previous sessions.)

Pond Cove Death Café

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

A monthly group-directed conversation about death with no agenda, objectives, or themes - with cake! (not a grief support or counseling session)

NATIVE SEED SOWING & SEED BOMB MAKING



with **Laura Simonds-Rumpf**
& **Colleen E. Griffin**

Thursday, February 15
2:00 - 3:30 pm

Two local registered horticultural therapists will lead participants through a hands-on therapeutic horticulture activity using materials from the natural landscape. Each participant/family will take home a container of newly sown native seeds that are ready to be placed outside to emerge in the spring. Participants will also be making their own seed bombs to "launch" at home. (There is also a special all ages/family session on Saturday, February 17 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.)

Please register on the library's website.



PAINTING WITH POSCAS

Saturday, February 24
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Posca acrylic paint pens are a great low mess way to create permanent bold paintings on almost any surface. Artist Marie Ahearn will demonstrate and share tips for painting with Poscas, one of her preferred mediums. All materials will be provided. No experience or "artistic talent" necessary, just a desire to experiment and have fun!

Please register on the library's website.

RECURRING EVENTS

*Find details about
our regularly occurring events
on the other side of this page.*

DO YOU WANT TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS?

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR RECURRING GROUPS!

Fika (Coffee Break)

Wednesday - Saturday, 10:00 - 11:00 am (via Zoom)

When physical distancing was necessary during the global pandemic, we began this virtual group to help people make essential social connections, and we have kept it up ever since! Come take a daily virtual coffee break with folks near and far to share thoughts and ideas, stories and laughter, and gain different perspectives. Join us anytime Wednesday through Saturday at 10:00 am or coffee, tea, and engaging conversation – no agenda, just connecting with other kind, curious and friendly human beings. Please register on the library's website and we'll send you a Zoom link to join!

Guerilla Poetry Whoop

2nd Thursday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm (via Zoom)

Guerrilla poetry involves publishing poetry in unexpected and unconventional ways in unexpected and unconventional places.

A group of gorillas is called a band or a troop (less common is a "whoop" of gorillas.) **So what is a Guerilla Poetry Whoop, you ask?** An unconventional group of poets and poetry enthusiasts here at Thomas Memorial Library who gather regularly to share our favorite poems and poets with one another in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. In addition to reading and discussing poetry, we also brainstorm and collaborate on creative ways to put poetry out into the wider world for everyone to enjoy. Would you like to join our whoop? We meet every second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please register on the library's website so that we can send you the Zoom link to join. And please bring 2-3 favorite poems that you'd like to share with the group.

Eldering Conversation Group

Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:00 pm (in-person & via Zoom)

While aging is familiar to us, the concept of "Eldering" may be new. Our Eldering group is a place to talk, to share, or to just listen to what neighbors, friends, and members of our community have to say about their experiences as we grow older. Please visit our website to register and join this lively group for our weekly discussion.

Songwriting Workshop, with Jud Caswell

1st Tuesday, 6:30-8:00 pm (in-person)

Whether you are a new writer, experienced writer, or want-to-be-a-writer writer, we hope you'll join us to bring in your work and get expert advice from award-winning songwriter, Jud Caswell. Participants in this workshop rave about Jud and about how much his advice is helping shape and improve their writing. Jud starts each session with a short discussion of a specific element of songwriting craft, then moves to sharing songs. Jud's feedback is focused on questions or concerns raised by the songwriter, with group discussion focused on issues of craft and technique. The goal of the workshop is to provide a safe place for songwriters to share and learn. Songwriters of all levels and abilities are welcome! Please register in advance on the library's website.

Afternoon Book Group

3rd Thursday, 3:00 - 4:00 pm (in-person & via Zoom)

Our adult book group is lead by Access Services Librarian **Kevin Goody**. Book selections are chosen by the group each month for the following meeting, and alternate between fiction and nonfiction titles.

Pod Complex: A Podcast Listening Club

1st Thursday, 5:00 - 7:00 pm (via Zoom)

Love the idea of a book club, but don't have the time for all that reading? Addicted to podcasts, but wish you had someone to discuss your favorite episodes with? Join us for Pod Complex, TML's Podcast Listening Club! Each month we'll feature a different podcast to listen to and dissect together. We'll explore a wide variety of podcasts on all different topics, in all different styles and then turn a critical eye on them as we discuss each month's fresh selection. Listen on your own time at home, or join us for the first hour as we listen together, with a lively discussion to follow in the second hour.

Big Little Lit: Children's Books for Grownups

3rd Wednesday of the month, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (in person AND via Zoom)

Library Director Rachel Davis was TML's Children's Librarian for 27 years. Join her at this monthly book group for adults, featuring outstanding literature for children. The same qualities that make an excellent book for adults are also present in books written for children-- complex, beautifully written stories that speak to the universality of human experience. The only difference is that children's literature is firmly grounded in the immediacy of the experience of childhood. We were all children once--come explore childhood again as Rachel leads a monthly discussion on some of her favorite books.

Thank you to TMLF for helping to make our programs and events possible! Scan the code below to learn more about them, or visit their website at ThomasMemorialFoundation.org





THOMAS
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NEWS & EVENTS FOR TWEENS & TEENS

FEBRUARY
2024

FIRST FRIDAY ALL AGES BOARD GAME NIGHT!



Friday, February 2
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Enjoy an after-hours evening of retro gaming at the library! We'll break out our collection of board games, puzzles, and playing cards, but participants are also welcome to bring a favorite. Spread out in the library and play with your friends, or challenge the people next to you! The library will provide drinks and snacks. Game Night is for all ages! (Children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult.)

Please register in advance!

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

Are you a young writer looking for a way to practice your craft? Our new groups will focus on exploring the imagination through fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Visit our website for more information!



Ages 10 - 12

First **Thursday** of each month
3:30 - 4:30 pm

This month: **February 1**
Next month: **March 7**



Ages 13+

Second **Saturday** of each month
2:00 - 3:00 pm

This month: **February 10**
Next month: **March 9**

THOMASMEMORIALLIBRARY.ORG



VALENCRIMES AFTER HOURS PARTY

Thursday, February 15
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Ages 13 - 18. Cosplay, murder, mayhem – it's all waiting for you and your friends. Teens registered for this event will receive a character assignment via email. You can bring your character to life with a costume and some basic acting skills. All characters will go through a script trying to solve the mystery.

There will be prizes for whoever guesses the identity of the murderer AND pizza will be served.

Register on our website!



TEEN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Last Friday of Each Month,
2:45-3:45 pm
This month: **February 23**

The Teen Leadership Council (TLC) is a group of young people who want to take a more active role in our library community. TLC makes book and informational displays, provides feedback on the direction of the Teen Space within the library, and even gets the chance to design and lead special programs.

Monthly meetings include snacks, social time, and fun. If you're interested in joining, email Megan Smith, msmith@thomas.lib.me.us, or stop by the downstairs desk and ask for an application!



COMMON VIBES

Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Community, conversation, creativity. If you're a teen looking for any of the above, join us at Common Vibes, a new weekly meeting at TML just for people like you!

Whether you're in it for the crafts, the snacks, the experiences, or simply the chance to vent about whatever's on your mind, Common Vibes is a place and time where you can be yourself.

Drop in on Thursdays from 3:00 - 4:00 pm upstairs in the teen section to see what you can do at your local library!

2/1: **Craft:** Mason Jar luminaries with Kyle
2/8: **Experience:** Teen paint night with Sasha
2/15: **Craft:** DIY Art Mugs with Sierra
2/22: **Experience:** Learn about tarot and oracle decks
2/29: **Craft:** Design your own Tarot deck



#LIBRARYSQUAD

Ages 11 - 13

First Friday of each month
February 2: 2:45 - 3:45 pm

Library Squad is a community of library-loving middle schoolers that meets monthly, and whose opinions, ideas, and help form the foundation of our programming. Library Squad meets after school on the first Friday of each month from 2:45 - 3:45 at the library.

AMULET #9 RELEASE PARTY!

Friday, February 9
3:30 - 4:30 pm

Celebrate the release of Kazu Kibuishi's **Waverider**, the long-awaited finale to the popular series. Create your own wire wrapped or beaded amulet and enjoy themed snacks in celebration of this beloved book series.

Register on our website.



SILENT BOOK CLUB (TEENS ONLY!)

Last Saturday of each month

Saturday, February 24
3:00 - 4:00 pm

Come meet new people and then ignore them. Welcome to the Silent Book Club, a cozy place where all you need is a book to read. Any book, any format, any chapter. No discussions, no suffering "that" book, no worries about not having enough copies for everyone. With this book club there's no pressure to finish an assigned book or have intellectual conversation. Bring your own book or find one while you're here. We will have a few minutes of low-key social time, and then silent reading time accompanied by coloring and light snacks. Past participation is not required--all teens are welcome!

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THOMAS
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY

NEWS & EVENTS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

FEBRUARY
2024



IT'S FEBRU-BEAR-Y!

This month we're celebrating the two best bears we know: Winnie the Pooh and our very own Belinda the Bear. We'll have fun activities throughout the month like our popular scavenger hunt, and you can try your hand at drawing your favorite bear and sharing it with the TML librarians for display!

SEWING ADVENTURES

SEW YOUR OWN STUFFIE



Saturday, February 10

1:00 - 2:30 pm

For ages 8-14



Show your love for stuffies or make a stuffie for someone you love! This workshop combines illustration and sewing. Sewists will draw a favorite animal, character or creature with colorful fabric markers on cotton muslin, then sew a backing with fabric, felt or fleece and fill it with stuffing. Sewists can choose hand sewing or machine sewing.

Registration required!

BEEP, BOOP... ROBOT!

*A family discovery time
for all things robotic*

Saturday, February 10

1:00 - 2:30 pm

For ages 4-12. We are celebrating all things robotic with our friends from South Portland Library! Beep Boop! Enjoy creating and experimenting with activities for everyone! We'll have a short story time and dance party as well and even some robot snacks!



TEA PARTY STORY TIME

with Belinda the Bear

Friday, February 23

10:30 - 11:00 am

Celebrate Belinda, our Story Time Mascot, at this special tea party story time for stuffies! You can register them for our stuffie sleepover and leave them for a very fun adventure at the library (see more details on the back of this page, and on our website).



SATURDAY FAMILY STORY TIME

Saturdays, 10:30 am (Ages 3+)

Join us for a special weekend edition of Story Time! It will feature all our favorites: songs and stories, bubbles, and Belinda the Bear! Geared toward ages 3-5 or anyone who enjoys listening to a solid two stories.



Please stay home if anyone in your household is feeling sick!

Join us when everyone is healthy again.

Spectacular Stuffie Sleepover 2024

*See reverse for details
and more programs!!!*

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

MESSY MINIS

Mondays, 10:30 am (Ages 2 - 5)

Let your imagination run wild and join us for Messy Minis time in the Community Room. Let's paint, color, cut, and paste together to make magic!

DRESS UP AND DANCE

Tuesdays, 10:30 am (Ages 2 - 5)

Join us for 30 minutes of moving and grooving to our favorite playlist, special dress-up costumes, and everybody's favorite bubble song.

PLAY DATE @ THE LIBRARY

Wednesdays 10:30 - noon (Ages 0 - 5)

Drop-in play session for children and their caregivers. The Community Room is open for exploration during this time, with special toys and stations while you visit with friends!

READY FOR READING CLUB

Wednesdays, 1:30 pm (Ages 4+)

A special storytime program for children ages 4 and up. Join Miss Martha to enjoy longer stories, fun with music, and a variety of simple early learning games and activities.

TINY TUNES:

JUST THE MUSIC, PLEASE!

Thursdays, 10:30 am (Ages 1-3)

Join us for a movement-based program that's a gentle introduction to the routines, songs, and props we use for story times, but without the books! Great for curious, wandering wigglers & their caregivers.

TRADITIONAL STORY TIME

Fridays, 10:30 am (Ages 3+)

Join us in the Community Room for songs and stories, bubbles, and Belinda the Bear! Geared toward ages 3-5 or anyone who enjoys listening to a solid two stories.



Children in grades K – 6, especially struggling or less-than-confident readers, are invited to sign up for 15-minute time slots to read with a certified therapy dog.

Check out the sign-up sheet in the children's room for appointment availability and to "meet" our dogs, or call the children's room for more information.

Currently, Pumba the Pug is here some Tuesdays, and Lark is here every Wednesday afternoon!

LEGO CLUB

for ages 5 - 12

*Children 10 and under
must have an adult present*



Usually meets first Tuesday of each month. This month:

Tuesday, January 3

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Come free build or pick up a challenge card to try something new. Masterpieces will be put on display until the next Lego Club meeting! No registration necessary.



Thank you to TMLF for helping to make our programs and events possible! Scan the code below to learn more about them, or visit their website at

[ThomasMemorialFoundation.org](https://thomasmemorialfoundation.org)





THOMAS
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NEWS & EVENTS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

See reverse for More!

FEBRUARY
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NATIVE SEED SOWING & SEED BOMB MAKING



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& Colleen E. Griffin



Special All Ages/Family Session
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Please register on the library's website.

Spectacular Stuffie Sleepover 2024

Friday, February 23 -
Saturday, February 24



*Do you have a stuffie that you think
needs to make some new friends?*

Do you just know it would love the library?



Good news! Our children's room mascot, Belinda, is hosting a Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the library on **Friday, February 23rd!** **Register your stuffie on our website**, and drop them off anytime on Friday before 5:00, and you'll pick them up on Saturday morning!

We'll make sure to take lots of photos of all the fun Belinda and the stuffed animals have overnight, and we'll have a slideshow to share with you so you can relive all of their adventures!