



STATE OF THE LIBRARY: STATS UPDATE

Library staff keep internal monthly statistics to help us notice any trends or changes in the use of the Library by card holders. Some interesting highlights of 2018 as of August are:

✧ *Lewiston loves attending programs!* Program attendance at LPL is up 7% library-wide over last year, with the largest increase in our adult program attendance (up 48%).

✧ *New book checkouts are up 10% over 2017.*

✧ *Children's nonfiction checkouts are up 7%, and middle grade fiction is up 6%.*

✧ *Ebook checkouts stayed steady, a modest 2% increase, whereas digital audiobooks increased 21%.*

What have we learned from these statistics? 21st century libraries, both in Maine and nationwide, are becoming centers for community learning of all kinds. It's clear in our community that learning in person, through talks, workshops and gatherings or classes with neighbors has much appeal. To sign up for our Events newsletters, visit lplonline.org/events-programs/event-mailing-list/.

Our current fiscal year (began July 1) saw an increase in funds allocated to the Library for purchasing materials. This will certainly have a positive impact in the number of items being checked out, but would not have affected the current January to June numbers.

This is great news: Lewiston readers are picking up the latest and greatest fiction and nonfiction in increasing numbers, and we have every reason to expect this trend to continue. We hope to see similar increases across the collection and will continue to work toward building a community of readers of all ages!

"BECOMING AMERICAN" SERIES

Museum L-A was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a series of programs called "Becoming American."

The Library, and many community partners in both Lewiston and Auburn, will collaborate on this series

which will feature films, community dialogues and a variety of events to encourage conversation, celebration, and understanding around the topic of immigration and the history of immigration.

On September 29th, the Library hosted *Welcome to Shelbyville*, the second of six film screenings across the twin cities. This was followed by a dialogue moderated by University of Southern Maine scholar Reza Jalali. Other programming efforts include an information session on the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project's portrait project, *The Changing Face of Maine*, in partnership with photographer Molly Haley. A *Let's Talk About It* book series, sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council, also called *Becoming American*, will begin October 17 and will alternate between being hosted by the Auburn Public Library and Lewiston Public Library through January.

NEW DIGITAL MAINE LIBRARY LAUNCHED

Late this summer, the Maine State Library unveiled the new Digital Maine Library. This is an upgrade that will replace the *MARVEL!* suite of resources which had been available statewide to all Maine residents. This new website was developed based on input from users and librarians, and employs a variety of new technologies, new opportunities and a unique approach to accessing digital content—whether it is a database, online learning tool or other web-based resources. The Digital Maine Library utilizes new geo-location/authentication technologies to help make access easier from home. Janet McKenney, MSL's Director of Library Development, shares that with these changes, "No matter where you are in Maine, you're at the library."

Digital Maine Library can be accessed at <https://library.digitalmaine.org/>.

If you would like help navigating the new site you can schedule a one-on-one tutorial with Library staff *or* contact our Adult & Teen Services Department at 513-3135 *or* contact LPLReference@gmail.com.

YOUR LIBRARY WEBSITE
www.lplonline.org



US POET LAUREATE TRACY K. SMITH COMES TO LPL

November 1st at 7 pm, the Library will host United States Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith for a stop on her national tour titled *American Conversations: Celebrating Poems in Rural Communities*. This program is being held in partnership with the Maine Humanities Council's Maine Center for the Book, the Library of Congress, and various area organizations.

Tracy will discuss her new poetry anthology which features the works of 50 living American poets. The Library of Congress writes: "*American Journal: Fifty Poems for Our Time* contemplates what it feels like to live, work, strive, raise a family, and survive in this vast and varied nation." All of Tracy's previous poetry collections and edited anthologies are available for purchase that night.

Register for this free public event at mainehumanities.org to reserve a space. A limited number of paper tickets will also be available at the first floor Lending Desk at LPL.

"NAME THAT L/A-NDMARK" AND SUPPORT THE FRIENDS

Mark your calendars! Friday, Dec. 7th will be an evening of guessing fun at the Library! Ben Lounsbury will lead teams of participants through a series of video clips taken of Lewiston/Auburn sites, each starting with the camera very close so that the site cannot be identified, and then backing the camera away so that more and more details come into view. The first team to correctly identify the site earns points. At the end of the night, teams will take home door prizes. Interested participants should start pulling together teams of 6-8, as admission will be priced per table. All funds raised will support the Friends of the Library. Stay tuned for registration information!

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING: JOIN US WEDNESDAY NOV. 14

The annual meeting of the Friends of LPL will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 14, featuring Maine author Scott Douglas discussing his latest book, *Running Is My Therapy*. Scott is a contributing editor for *Runner's World* and has authored or co-authored several books. He has run more than 110,000 miles since 1979. Scott currently lives in South Portland with his wife. The Friends business meeting will take place at 5:30 pm and Douglas' talk will begin at 6:00 pm. Books will be available for sale and signing.

SECOND ANNUAL "SHAKESPEARE IN THE PLAZA" A HIT

LPL partnered with local theater group Gypsy Lew Theater Company to present several days of Shakespeare-related programming for the community. Adults were treated to a talk by Bates College Associate Professor of

English Sanford Freedman on the beauty and immediacy of Shakespeare's language. LPL Kids made whimsical fairy houses in the spirit of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The highlight, of course, were four performances of this year's featured play, *Much Ado About Nothing*, held outdoors at Lewiston's Dufresne Plaza. One of LPL's Library Technicians, Mary Randall, starred as Beatrice in the production, which played out in the setting of post-WWII Hawaii. The entire week of events was supported with funds from the Friends of the Library, over 300 people of all ages were able to participate.

RENEW YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Included in this Friends Focus mailing is our annual membership appeal. Please consider joining or renewing today. Your donation really makes a difference and goes directly towards expanding Library programs and resources for the entire community.

We are also looking to expand the Friends Board; please consider volunteering. The Board meets quarterly to approve expenditures to support the Library and to assist the Director with program planning. For more information, talk to a current Board member (Gillian Bavis, Karen Choate, Mike Courchene, Eileen Fair, Bruce Hall, Anne Kemper, Helene Perry, David Sysko, Art Turley) or email us at FriendsofLPL@gmail.com.

SMILE IT'S AMAZON—AND IT CAN HELP US AT LPL

Say thanks and help us continue our support of our library programs through Amazon Smile. If you shop online at Amazon.com for books (or anything!), you can support the Friends of LPL while doing that shopping. Just go to Smile.Amazon.com and type in 'Lewiston Public Library' for an organization to support. By doing so, a small donation from each sale comes to the Friends without adding one penny to the price of your purchase! Everyone wins with a few key strokes—won't you join us?

LIBRARY FULL TIME STAFF

Administration:	Marcela Peres and Rosey Davis
Lending Services:	Katherine Webber and Alex Klutzke
Adult & Teen Services:	Ruby Jones, Danielle Fortin, and Wendy West
Children's Services:	David Moorhead, Mary Randall, and Ian Cunningham
Collection Services:	Karen Jones and Deborah Tomaras

LPL HOURS:

Monday through Thursday,
10 am–7 pm

Friday, Saturday,
10 am–5 pm

24 hours a day
365 days a year!

LIBRARYLA.ORG