

## INTRODUCING:

**Playaways**—Did you know that 85% of what we learn we learn by listening? And did you know that 70% of kids say they read more after listening to audiobooks? This summer, Lewiston Public Library's Children's Department introduced a collection of Playaways, all-in-one audiobook players. No downloads or internet needed—simply plug in headphones and press play. Children's staff have reported that these have been extremely popular, most units are checked out on any given day. We currently offers 37 titles, with more on the way!

**New Staff**—After a 33-year tenure as the Technical Services Librarian, Karen Jones retired from the Lewiston Public Library in March 2022. Under Karen's stewardship, the Library's collection grew to over 160,000 items, which included the introduction of VHS, DVDs, and Blu-ray, along with CDs and a variety of non-traditional items such as backpacks and American Girl dolls over the years. Karen happily continues at LPL as a part-time employee within the same department. The Collection Services Department, responsible for all cataloging and processing of new items as well as repairing or removing outdated materials, will now continue its work under the management of **Beth Almquist**. Beth, a part-time LPL employee for the past 15 years, brings with her experience and a deep love for the local community.

Adult and Teen Services Department welcomes Library Technician **Caitlin Ramsay**. Caitlin joins LPL from her previous work at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, she brings with her extensive experience planning and presenting informational and educational programming to adults. Look for her to bring exciting and interesting new programs to the Library calendar!

**Ben Heels** was promoted to a full-time position in the Lending Services Department in January after working part-time for the Library since 2019. Ben has experience in all customer service departments of the library, as well as extensive training in our inter-library loan process. Keep an eye out for first floor book displays prepared by Ben, an avid reader!

## COASTAL MAINE BOTANICAL GARDENS PASSES JOINS MAINE STATE PARK PASSES AND OTHERS

Beginning this spring, LPL now offers residents a pass to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. This pass is available for check out to all cardholders. It provides free admission for one group per day from May 1–October 23rd, and the Library plans to renew the pass for the 2023 season. Free admission day passes are also available to any Maine State Park, and discounted passes are available to the Maine Wildlife Park and the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine. Contact the Children's Department at 513-3133 for more information.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You are welcome to join the Friends at our **Annual Meeting**. The annual meeting of the Friends of Lewiston Public Library will take place on Wednesday, November 16th in the Library's Callahan Hall. It will feature Jeri Maurer, Volunteer President of the Board of Directors of Stanton Bird Club. The discussion will look at *Thorncrag—A Celebration of Its 100 Year History*. The Friends business meeting will take place at 5:30 PM; followed by the talk at 6:00 PM. Books about Thorncrag will be available for sale at the event.

When you shop online at Amazon.com for books (or anything!), you can support the Friends of Lewiston Public Library while doing that shopping. Go to **Smile.Amazon.com** and type in 'Lewiston Public Library' as 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! During our last fiscal year LPL's Amazon Smile ordering combined with others who have chosen to support us through Amazon Smile, raised over a \$130.

## HAVE YOU SEEN?

**Teen Space changes**—Have you visited the second floor of the Library recently? If so, you'll have noticed some big changes, especially to the teen spaces on the Park St./Pine St. corner of the building. Our Teen materials have been moved to the smaller space originally termed the Teen Room, and the large corner room has been converted into a Teen Lounge. Our new space also houses teen books, and includes tables, comfortable furniture, teen computers, games, information on local resources for teens, and a television for teen

programming. The Friends of the Library contributed comfortable seating to the space, which now attracts an average of 20 teens each day after school.

Since 2020, the LPL Teen Library has also partnered with Portland Public Teen Library and Print: A Bookstore, to present the *Read Your Mind* virtual series. *Read Your Mind* is a monthly virtual series focusing on teen mental health and wellness, which features young adult authors and community health experts exploring topics as varied as suicide, disordered eating, and the effects of bigotry. Thanks to the support of the Friends, we've been able to provide honoraria to authors, speakers, and teen moderators for each program.

### **CALLAHAN HALL UPGRADES MEAN IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL EVENTS INCLUDING GREAT FALLS FORUM**

2022 brought significant audio-visual upgrades to the Callahan Hall event space. A new projector and screen have been installed, along with new microphone equipment, a Blu-ray player, and by popular demand, the added capability to record and live-stream programs offered in the space. Over the summer, the Library hosted The First Amendment Museum and Maine Community Solar for programs in Callahan Hall; both of these were recorded and are now available for viewing on the Library's YouTube page. In addition, all programs in this our 25th Season of the Great Falls Forum will now take place in person as well as virtually on Zoom and Facebook, which gives the option for Library patrons to watch the Forum on YouTube at their convenience.

### **DID YOU PARTICIPATE?**

#### **Summer 2022 Programming**

Our 2022 Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults, was sponsored largely by the Friends of the Library. The "Oceans of Possibilities" program included weekly aquatic-themed crafts for children, a variety of participation options for teens, and bookmark reading logs for adults.

Children were treated to performances by Phil the Magician and CactusHead Puppets, as well as weekly educational programs about the ocean, animal life, climate change, and sustainable lobstering in Maine. Our Children's Department staff worked with summer camps including Tree Street Youth, 21st Century and Early Promise Education allowing us to reach as many kids as possible. By the end of the summer, the Library had given away over 400 new books to Lewiston's children!

### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE?**

Have you read any of LPL's top circulating books? Check out the list: *Top Circulating Books* (so far!) The adult titles checked out most often by LPL cardholders in 2022:

1. *Wish You Were Here* by Jodi Picoult
2. *Fear No Evil* by James Patterson
3. *The Horsewoman* by James Patterson
4. *The Paris Detective* by James Patterson
5. *Death of the Black Widow* by James Patterson
6. *City of the Dead* by Jonathan Kellerman
7. *Sparring Partners* by John Grisham
8. *The Recovery Agent* by Janet Evanovich
9. *The Judge's List* by John Grisham
10. *Mercy* by David Baldacci
11. *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles
12. *Run, Rose, Run* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson
13. *Dream Town* by David Baldacci
14. *The Dark Hours* by Michael Connelly
15. *The Investigator* by John Sandford

Have you been able to connect with our full time **Library staff**? Say hello when you are in next to:

Administration: Marcela Peres, Rosey Davis  
Lending Services: Katherine Webber, Alex Richey, Ben Heels  
Adult & Teen Services: Steve Bouchard, Harper Chance, Caitlin Ramsay  
Children's Services: Sara Turner, Ian Cunningham  
Collection Services: Beth Almquist, Joshua Gauthier

### **RENEW YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP TODAY—YOUR SUPPORT HELPS PROGRAMS HAPPEN!**

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.

Did you know that you can make a one-time or recurring donation through PayPal on the Library website? Visit <http://lplonline.org/about/support-the-library/friends/> to find out more.

Also, watch for information about how you can help with the renovations of our children's area! The city has included some of the funding for a children's area upgrade in our budget for this year but there is more that needs to be done than the funding provides—how can you help?! Stay tuned for information on the project!