

FALL 2023

## NEW DIRECTOR

**Welcome to Lewiston, Joey Houston**—new director of the Lewiston Public Library! The Lewiston *Sun Journal* interview with Houston quotes Joey Houston as finding Lewiston to be a place to settle and make a difference while exploring our beautiful state. A colleague, now Executive Director at the library in Portland, suggested our position to him. Joey started looking at library work while a student at Ohio State University and an employee of the Knowlton School of Architecture Library. This exposure led to graduate school for library and information science at Kent State. Houston arrives in Lewiston from Zionsville Indiana where he has been Director of Public Services and department head for Teen and Adult Services.



## HAVE YOU HEARD?

**LPL is working on a fundraising campaign.** We are partnering with Wright Collective to begin a campaign in 2024 which will support the renovation of the Children's Department. The renovation will include – new furniture, paint, and technology. It will reconfigure and redesign the space to maximize the impact of services offered and create an inspiring atmosphere for new generations of Lewiston residents for years to come. It will improve workflows for staff while allowing for new types of programs to be offered. Be on the lookout for additional information as we launch our campaign. The Friends were critical to the success of the last major fundraising campaign when the library spaces were expanded in 2003 and we are ready to DO IT AGAIN!!

**New Windows.** If you have been to the Library this fall, you have probably noticed cranes and sidewalk closures outside the Library! This is because many of the large windows on the Lisbon Street and Pine Street sides of the Library building have been replaced. The new windows have been sorely needed for air circulation, heat retention,

and general maintenance. The replacement windows include nearly all of the windows in Callahan Hall. The window crews did great work and hopefully the new windows will serve the Library well for many more years.

**Friends Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the Friends of LPL will take place

5:30pm on Wednesday, December 6th in the Library's Callahan Hall. At 6pm, David Chittim and Penny Jessop will discuss *The Androscoggin Historical Society: Past, Present, and Future*.

Learn about their recent move from the Androscoggin Courthouse Building in Auburn to 93 Lisbon Street, Lewiston. President David Chittim and Vice President Penny Jessop will talk about the Society's plans for the future and the extensive collection in their care (including a challenge for us to identify the use of some mystery items).

## 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.

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.

### THE MOST

Have you ever wondered which books get checked out of the Library most? Here is this year's current list:

1. 2023 Maine State Parks Vehicle Pass
2. *A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penny
3. *Mad Honey: a novel* by Jodi Picoult
4. *The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham
5. *More than Meets the Eye* by Iris Johansen
6. *The Christian Science Monitor Weekly*
7. *Worthy Opponents: a novel* by Danielle Steel
8. *I Will Find You* by Harlan Coben
9. *Dark Angel* by John Sandford
10. *Identity* by Nora Roberts
11. *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover
12. *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover
13. *Simply Lies* by David Baldacci
14. *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
15. *Blowback* by James Patterson

### SUMMER READING PROGRAM

LPL launched a new summer reading program logo, *Read Make Explore*, to continue each year. Participants were not only encouraged to read or listen to books but also to make a new craft or recipe, or explore a favorite place in our beautiful city or a new landmark in our wondrous state. All ages participating used a bookmark to track reading and activities to earn free books and prizes. Children and Teens were also able to choose a free book to keep for every reading bookmark completed. Total children's program attendance



was 1,159 and 178 bookmarks were turned in during the program. Summer programming included the ArtVan, magician Phil Smith, The Honey Exchange, Spark's Ark, Mr Drew and His Animals Too, and a collage workshop. A good time was had by all!

### WELCOME OUR OTHER NEW STAFF

**Kyle Breton** was hired this summer as full-time Library Technician for teen collections and services. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from University of Southern Maine and comes to LPL from Lewiston High School, where he worked as a BHP/Ed Tech III. Kyle is now in the process of scheduling a full slate of teen programs while learning how the Library manages its collections and social media communications

November 2022 found **Sarah Hartje** promoted from part-time BookReach coordinator to full-time Children's Technician. She did such a fantastic job as BookReach coordinator while also being a Library Assistant in the Children's department that it was a natural fit for her to become part of the Children's Department. Sarah works so well with staff and is very dedicated to the Library. Sarah's work is spectacular and she provides excellent customer service to families.

### WHO'S WHO AT LPL:

Administration: **Joey Houston** and **Rosey Davis**

Lending Services: **Katherine Webber**, **Alex Richey**, and **Ben Heels**

Adult & Teen Services: **Steve Bouchard**, **Kyle Breton**, and **Caitlin Ramsay**

Children's Services: **Sara Turner**, **Ian Cunningham**, and **Sarah Hartje**

Collection Services: **Beth Almquist** and **Joshua Gauthier**

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