



LITHGOW PUBLIC LIBRARY

Inspire Your Imagination, Widen Your World

Lithgow Public Library

45 Winthrop Street, Augusta

A Capital Read 2025 Newsletter

www.lithgowlibrary.org

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday:

9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to Noon

(207)-626-2415

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Special Edition Newsletter

A Capital Read 2025



Lithgow Public Library and
The Friends of Lithgow Library present:

A Capital Read 2025

Featuring author J. Courtney Sullivan,
The New York Times Best-Selling
author of "The Cliffs."

An Evening with J. Courtney Sullivan

Join us for cocktail hour in the Danforth Art
Gallery at UMA's Jewett Hall.

There will also be books for sale and a signing
during that time. Immediately following, Sullivan
will give a talk in the Farber Forum across the hall.

A Capital Read is a "one book" community read project
spearheaded by Lithgow Library that began in 2004.

We offer it to deepen the appreciation for literature
through reading, discussion, activities, and events related
to our chosen title, enhance the feeling of community in
our diverse city, and demonstrate the power of libraries to
bring people together.

Join us for events in October exploring themes of the
book, including a talk by the author herself.

A Capital Read is sponsored by
The Friends of Lithgow Library,
with support from the
Maine State Credit Union.

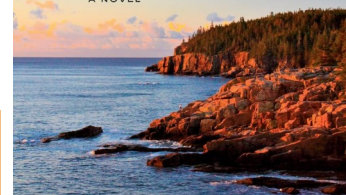
"A stunning achievement, and J. Courtney Sullivan's best book yet. I could not put it down."
—ANN NAPOLITANO, New York Times best-selling author of *Heavenly Bodies*

**J. Courtney
Sullivan**

New York Times best-selling author of MAINE

The Cliffs

A NOVEL

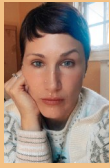


Thursday, October 2nd
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Jewett Hall, UMA

The cost is free, but please RSVP
by September 19th.
You may call the library at 626-2415
or by scanning this QR code.

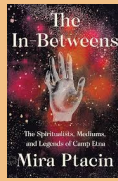


Copies of "The Cliffs" are available at the Library! Check one out today!



Mira Ptacin

Maine Author of *The In-Betweens: The Spiritualists, Mediums, and Legends of Camp Etna*



Wednesday October 1st 6 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public.

Join us for an eerie and illuminating evening with award-winning author Mira Ptacin as she reads from her genre-defying book *The In-Betweens: The Spiritualists, Mediums, and Legends of Camp Etna*. Part history, part memoir, and part metaphysical investigation, *The In-Betweens* uncovers a little-known Maine community of mediums, mystics, and metaphysical misfits, while exploring the liminal space between the seen and unseen. Author J. Courtney Sullivan praised Ptacin's "curious, warm, nonjudgmental tone," adding, "She's funny, too." *The Wall Street Journal* called the book "a powerful testimony to the human need for hope and meaning." Whether you're a skeptic, a believer, or simply intrigued by the unknown, this is a literary séance you won't want to miss. No matter where you stand on the spectrum of belief, prepare for an evening that blurs the line between the living room and the beyond.

After the reading, Mira will host a Q&A with the audience.

About the Author: *Mira Ptacin* is the author of the award-winning memoir *Poor Your Soul* and the feminist exploration of spiritualism *The In-Betweens*. A journalist, activist, and educator, Mira's writing appears in *The New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue*, *Poets & Writers*, *The Atavist* and more. She lives on Peaks Island and is currently the 2025-2026 Writer-in-Residence at Mechanics Hall, Portland, Maine.

All programs on this page of the Special Edition A Capital Read 2025 newsletter will be held in the Library's Community Meeting Room.
We hope to see you!

Family Recipe Potluck



Friday, October 24th from 11:30 to 1:30

Like the old Victorian home depicted in "The Cliffs," family recipes tell a story. They're often connected to people, places, and special memories. You're making family history when you prepare and eat these foods with your family and honoring your ancestors by carrying on the tradition. Join Sarah in the Community Meeting Room for a potluck lunch based on family recipes from Maine and elsewhere. Bring a dish (main, side, or dessert) to share along with the recipe and a picture of your cooking ancestor(s) and any associated stories!

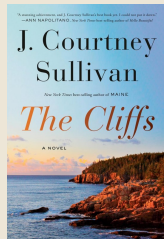
This program is free but registration is required.
Please register through the calendar on our website.

Lithgow Book Club



A monthly book discussion group for adults that is free and open to the public.
Grab your copy today!

**Wednesday, October 8th
6:30 p.m.**



A Capital Read 2025 Bibliography

Chadwick, Rhonda. *Secrets from the stacks: an archivist reveals how to store, digitize, and preserve documents to create a family archive and leave a personal legacy*. Hartford, Connecticut: PYP Academy Press, 2023.

Dowd, Nancy. *Rebuilding relationships in recovery: how to connect with family and close friends after active alcoholism and addiction*. Berkeley, California: North Atlantic Books, 2025.

Lauber, Jeannine. *Chosen faith, chosen land: the untold story of America's 21st-century Shakers*. Camden, Maine: Downeast Books, 2009.

Ptacin, Mira. *The In-betweeners: the spiritualists, mediums, and legends of Camp Etna*. New York, NY: Liveright Publishing Corporation, a division of W. W. Norton & Company, 2019.

Sullivan, J. Courtney. *The Cliffs*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2024.

Vanden Brink, Brian. *Historic Maine homes: 300 years of great houses*. Camden, Maine: Downeast Books, 2009.

The Art and Science of Researching Your Old House

Presented by Dr. Aimée Keithan

Join us for a talk with Dr. Aimée Keithan, architectural historian, buildings archaeologist, and Educational Programs Manager at Greater Portland Landmarks. Drawing on her expertise and passion for uncovering untold stories in worn wooden beams and faded paint, Aimée will guide us through the art and science of researching your old house.

In Maine, where some of the nation's oldest homes still stand, each structure holds echoes of community, social history, and the intimate stories of those who came before us. Through both online archives and in-person resources—many freely accessible—she'll show you how to begin your own exploration, then turn that trail of discovery into rich narratives of the lives that once filled those walls. You'll learn how to transform bricks and mortar into living tales of family, neighborhood, and memory—preserving not just a structure, but the heartbeat of history.



Thursday, October 30th at 6 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public.