



# Library Lookout

December 2003 Tel: 474-9072

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## Library Director's Corner By Blynn Currier

The trustees of the library are seriously evaluating the future look of the Skowhegan Free Public Library, with Sylvanus Doughty, architect and the Maine Historic Commission. A needs assessment has been completed and adjusted so that space, program and handicap accessibility needs can be recognized. (Now the entire board of the Bloomfield Trust needs to meet and discuss the projected changes. Once their decision is made, they will be able to ask the architect for a scale drawing.) Other meetings will be announced in the future.

The Halloween Parade sponsored by the Library was a huge success. 164 plus adults and children in costume paraded from the Federated Church, down Water Street and back to the church. All the children were exceptionally well behaved. We'd also like to thank the downtown businesses for treating the costumers with goodies. They appreciated it!

During the holiday season, the library is going to raise \$1800.00 through donations, in order to receive a matching grant from the Friends of the Library for \$1800.00. A total of \$3600.00 is needed to purchase the software for the on-line catalog. We hope to be ready to input data by February 1, 2004.

The continued support and encouragement from the volunteers of the Friends of the Library as well as others is a great inspiration for us to further develop and improve the library services to our community.

A great deal has happened over the past year and a half. Further changes will be happening over the next six months. Thank you

## Friends of Skowhegan Library Nov.12, 03 Minutes

President Corrilla Hastings welcomed those present at the FOL meeting for November 12th and requested that the secretary and treasurer reports be passed around for approval. Both reports were approved.

She notified us of a new member to the executive board. Pam Arsenault of P J's Party Store has agreed to a place on the board.

The Library lunch in Oct. netted a profit of \$788.00 and the Hastings barn is filling up with books for the sale in May. Donations of books are accepted. Corrilla also let members know that the executive board had agreed that the Friends would match funds of \$1800.00 towards the \$3600.00 the library would attempt to raise for an online catalog program. It is hoped that the program can be set up by February.

Next, was a reminder that the board of trustees meets at the library the first Tues. of every month. The 4:00 meetings are open to the public. Corrilla encouraged members to attend if possible.

Blynn told us that the weeding in the fiction has been completed and the nonfiction is almost done. Painting of the downstairs rooms will take place this winter.

The Empire Quilt being made through the efforts of Somerset Samplers is missing only two signatures-Helen Hunt and Ed Harris. Once the quilt is completed the plan is to auction it on eBay.

The Halloween Parade was a huge success with some 164 participants. Thoughts towards next year include the possibility of a free movie for parade participants. Marcia suggested perhaps a costume contest and giving out apples at the .end of the movie.

The library has plans to participate in the Holiday

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Stroll 'with craft activities, music by Yankee Soul Revue, refreshments, and a downtown scavenger hunt based on the Twelve Days of Christmas. There will also be a float in the parade. Blynn asked if anyone had a suggestion on how to power lights on a float and Lee thought a small generator would do the trick.

A program followed the business part of the meeting, an introduction to Genealogy presented by Ruth Blood. Ruth provided forms and practice on how to fill them out, where to look for ancestral information, and where to get help in the process. All those present very much enjoyed her talk and willingness to share her knowledge. She will be conducting a workshop at the library this winter if anyone is interested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maureen Calder-Secretary

## MEET A VOLUNTEER

By Maureen Calder

As this is the last newsletter for 2003, rather than select one volunteer, I wish to thank all those who give so much of themselves and their time to our town library. The steps climbed this year, towards change and improvement, have been upward because of each of you. From the "beyond the call of duty" efforts of the staff to the faithful daily volunteers, to the Wednesday morning story tellers and the Friends of the Library, to senior citizens and student helpers, to the various displays of support from some of our local businesses, to each of you is extended a heartfelt thank you. It takes numerous dedicated individuals to create the atmosphere that can be discovered at the Skowhegan Free Public Library. Much is yet to be accomplished and I have no doubt that further goals will be achieved.

If you haven't made it in yet, please come and check things out, brows, meet the staff, ask about future plans, and don't hesitate to offer time and talent. With the support of everyone, we can make even greater strides in the coming year.

The newsletter will be back in February and, at that time, will focus on another individual volunteer.

Again, many thanks to each and everyone. See you at the library.

## Library Christmas Wish ONLINE CATALOG SYSTEM

An attractive Christmas tree greets people as they approach the Library desk these days. Colorful mittens hang from the branches priced from \$1. to \$100. A thermometer placed nearby indicates how near we have come to reaching the goal of \$3600 with which to purchase an online catalog system. Please add the Library to your holiday shopping list this year, and purchase a mitten for the Library tree. The Friends of the Library has pledged to match every dollar received, so each dollar you donate will automatically turn into two. THANK YOU!

## LIBRARY HOURS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10-6	10-6	10-6	10-7	10-6	10-2

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## BOOK REVIEW by Cindy Laiho

*Full Circle on the Mountain* by Linda Gardner

Full Circle is the story of a young woman who grows up in rural South Carolina in the fifties, the daughter of a farmer and his bakery shop attendant wife. She was an ordinary girl with ordinary dreams of going to college and pursuing a career in accounting.

Destiny, however, used those dreams to choose another path for her. She never loses sight of her dream in the midst of myriad pronounced impossibilities in her life, and follows her destiny through a maze of painful circumstances until she is reunited with her soul-mate and father of her illegitimate child some forty years later.

This is a book with spiritual overtones about divine destiny in our lives. It held my interest from the very beginning. The story was exciting and had some intriguing twists and turns right down to the final chapter. I purchased the book for my personal library.



## NOTICES and EVENTS

There will be no **Library Lookout** for January. Publication will resume in February.

The **Library Trustee meeting** will be held at 4 pm on Tuesday, December 2nd. The public is welcome.

The **Holiday Stroll** will start off with a parade on Friday evening, December 5th. A downtown scavenger hunt will take place on Saturday, December 6th, from 11 am until 1 pm. There will be crafts in the Children's Room from noon until 2 pm. Refreshments will be served and live music will be played.

The **Skowhegan History House** will celebrate a **Victorian Christmas** with period foods, decorations and Christmas activities for children from 12:30 to 4:30 on Sunday, December 7th.

There will be no **Story Hour** on Wednesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 31st. They will resume on Wednesday, January 7th.

The **Friends of the Library meeting at 7 pm** on January 14th will feature author, Martha Knight Foster who wrote *I Didn't Wake Up 'Til I Was Forty*. It has been said that the book is a favorite of comedian, Phyllis Diller. Bring a friend with you to meet this fascinating author.

The **Somerset Samplers** have donated \$100 for children's books.

**Daphne Cummings** has donated her pastel, *East Madison Fields*, to the library in memory of Joan C. Frazen.

As of December 1st, we have reached half our goal of \$1800 toward the **on-line catalog**. We still have \$900 to raise before February 1st.

## BECOME A FRIEND OF YOUR LIBRARY

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library, a not for profit group dedicated to supporting and improving the Library for all members of the community, invite you to join us. Dues are \$10 Individuals, \$8 Seniors & Students, and \$15 for families. We normally meet at the Library the second Wednesday of every other month, unless scheduling conflicts require another date. For more information, call Corrilla Hastings. (474-3949)

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Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, 175 James Road, Cornville, Maine 04976

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## FOML NOTES

**Book Sale Talk Topics:** Jodi Crawford, Assistant Director at Augusta Lithgow Library led this workshop. We had an informal chat on where, when and what to sell as well as volunteer help and pricing. Several libraries combine their sales with other events such as the Belgrade Lakes Fourth of July parade and book sale. Hallowell has three sales a year, also tied in with local events: "Cabin Fever" in winter, "Old Hallowell Days" in summer and "Fall Festival Book Sale." Several libraries use storefronts, armories and other large spaces for their sales requiring more volunteer help to transport the books. Volunteers have a chance to buy their favorites on set-up night. Major publicity was emphasized. Slips of paper inserted in books borrowed from the library was one example along with notices on the web, in the paper, e-mail to Friends groups, etc.

**What Works** was another informal discussion that featured outreach as well as fundraising. One library has a school bus drop kids off at the library once a week. Their parents pick them up at the end of the day. Boxes of children's books to give away go to a church for their Tuesday free clothing room. Other ideas include volunteers taking books to nursing homes and shut-ins, and special interest reading groups. Attendance at Friends meetings is encouraged by having Lunchbox Friends bring a sandwich each to a noontime meeting. Desserts and beverages are supplied. A popular Friends Annual Meeting, with trustees and town officials invited, features a jazz music program using jazz from the 40s, New Orleans jazz and Dixieland jazz. Fundraising ideas include a Christmas tree appeal, newsletter wish lists and afghans with a picture of the library on them. Historic photos are mounted and framed to sell. A wine tasting party with a talk by a wine expert is popular in one town. Library Sundae features rides in antique cars as well as ice cream. A \$2.50 ticket will buy either one. Antique appraisals at \$5.00 per item are also popular.

## Recipes Needed!

Do you have a favorite recipe to share? We would love to publish it in the "Library Lover's Cookbook." Please make a clean copy and drop it off at the library desk.



# Calendar of Events

December 2 Library Trustee meeting, 4 pm at the library

December 3 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

December 5 See our float in the Friday evening Christmas Parade

December 6 Holiday Stroll Scavenger Hunt 11 am to 1 pm Crafts from noon to 2 pm

December 7 Victorian Christmas at Skowhegan History House from 12:30 to 4:30

December 10 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

December 17 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

January 6 Library Trustee meeting 4, pm at the library

January 7 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

January 14 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

January 14 FOL meeting at 7 pm The featured speaker will be Martha Knight Foster, author of *I Didn't Wake Up 'Till I Was Forty*.

January 21 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

January 28 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room



**The Library Lookout**  
Friends of the  
Skowhegan Free  
Public Library  
c/o Marcia B. Granville  
P.O. Box 278  
Skowhegan, ME 04976



Your Librarians are:

Library Director Blynn Currier,  
Assistant Librarian Francois La-  
bonte, Children's Librarian Kather-  
ine LeBlanc,

Your Library trustees are: Bill  
Laney, Warren Shay, Lee Gran-  
ville, Toni Jo Blaisdell and Carol  
Jarvais

Friends Officers are:

Corrilla Hastings, Pres.,

( ) V.P.,

Maureen Calder, Sec.

