

FEBRUARY 2024

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLOSURES & NOTABLE EVENTS

2/19 – LIBRARY CLOSED for President's Day

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

Every Wednesday - Storytime @ 10:30 - 11:30AM

Every Thursday - Career Center Consultant @ 1 - 4PM

Every Friday - Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM

First & Third Saturdays - Library Yoga @ 10:30AM

Second & Fourth Saturdays - Makers Club @ 10:30 AM

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2/01 - Paul Doiron Author Talk @ 6PM

2/06 - YA Book Club @ 5PM

2/07 & 2/14 - Dragon Book Club @ 4PM

2/13 - Teen Poetry Club @ 4:30 PM

2/15 - Michelle Stores Author Talk @ 6PM

2/20 - Tiny Art- Big Ideas: Paint Party @ 3PM

2/22 - Books & Brews at Unwined @ 6:30PM

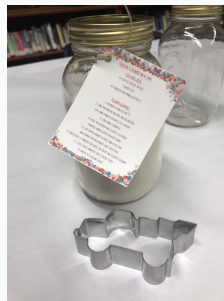
2/28 - LEGO Club @ 3:30PM

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Our first month of 2024 was a great success at the library! We were able to complete our yearly inventory in just one week! During this week, 5 staff members and our wonderful volunteers went through over 27,000 titles. In doing so, we ensure that we have an accurate catalog of what's available in the library and can make room for incoming titles to keep our collection up to date. Our goal is to make sure we support you (our patrons) to the best of our ability. This time away allows us to do just that. Thank you again for being patient with us while we did so.

Before our break, we were able to wrap up our Mason Jar craft series, combining the last two into one! We had fun making Happiness jars and Sugar cookie kits, it was really great to see what everyone came up with. These were a bit messy again, but definitely worth it in the end.

Now that we're back in full swing we're ready to go into February with a bang! The ten darkest weeks are behind us and the days are finally getting longer. Welcoming the light back into our lives is always rejuvenating and gives us renewed energy and our programs this month definitely reflect that! We're starting the month out strong with Paul Doiron (rescheduled due to weather) on Thursday the 1st at 6PM. We know this was a highly anticipated author so we're happy he was able to reschedule and still join us.



NEWS FROM YOUTH SERVICES BY GABRIELLE HUNTER, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

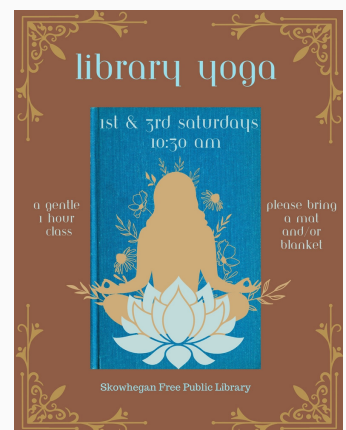
This month in the Children's Tower we have started a new session of our 'Tween the Pages book club, geared towards 4th through 7th graders. This time around it's dragons. The book pic for Dragon Book Club is the first in the Wings of Fire Graphic Novel Series: The Dragonet Prophecy. We are getting very detailed in our creative endeavors for this club. We have started making dragon eggs with foam egg forms, silver thumbtacks, and metallic paints. These are still a work in progress, but when finished will be eye-catching for sure. We have three more weeks of this club and will continue to talk and make all things dragon-related, including what type of dragon each participant is--think personality quiz. We will also make leather bookmarks, stamping and hammering patterns onto the leather and adding glass dragon eyes.



In addition to our tween club, we have our new Makers Club starting on the 2nd Saturday of February: an arts and crafts club that aims at projects for kids ages 6 and above. I have yet to pick the exact project for our first club meeting, but some of the contenders include: Mandala-Dot Rock Painting, Pinecone printing on clay to make jewelry, and finally, Science Painting, which will use things like rubbing alcohol, table salt and bubbles to alter paint textures.

Lego Club also starts back up this February. I have decided to add a theme for the club this month: Favorite Foods. So whether they learn how to turn square blocks into circular donuts or make pizza with black tires as olive slices, we shall see. In addition, Bree and I have collaborated to make a Tiny Art Showcase here at the library. In February we will have times set aside for patrons and community members to work on their art at the library. The community show for the tiny art pieces will be in March.

Lastly, I am excited to say that Library Yoga is a success. We have had two classes so far with positive feedback. It feels satisfying to be teaching yoga again and to help people stay integrated into the wholeness that is their mind/body/spirit.



News from the Library Desk

by Bree Bussell-Fitzgerald Adult Services Librarian

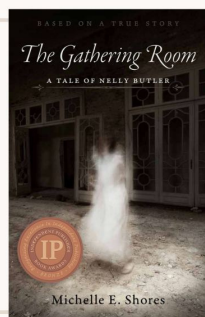


You can't read a book while you drive, or while you do the dishes or especially while you're trying out a new recipe that involves basically 57 different pots and pans while you're trying to julienne an onion for the first time. But you know what you can do while you're in the middle of any of those scenarios? You can listen to an audiobook! Come check out the 15+ new audiobooks we just added to the collection! There's something for everyone, no matter what mess you've gotten yourself into.

We had an absolute blast with Maine Author Ron Joseph as he recounted some of his interesting tales from his time working in the Maine woods, surrounded by our state's flora and fauna. Make sure to check out his book "Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill: Memories of a Maine Wildlife Biologist" the next time you're in!



MAINE AUTHOR
MICHELLE E. SHORES



Author Talk
February 15th
at 6:00pm

Books will be
available for
purchase & signing

Don't forget about Books & Brews, our adult Book Club that meets at Unwined typically on the second to last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. This month, our book club book is "The Gathering Room" written by Michelle Stores. She's also going to be visiting the library on February 15th for an Author talk with copies of her book for sale and to sign! New members are always welcome to join! We have the best discussions, drinks and snacks. Can't wait to see you at the next meeting!



February is Black History Month, a month in which we celebrate the culture, stories and experiences of our black community members and their families. The theme for this year's black history month is African Americans and the Arts. This is a great time to explore the library's collection to learn more about the contributions that have been made by Black artists and to elevate Black voices.

We'll be highlighting different authors throughout the month and sharing what titles are available in the library to inspire your reading this month. We have many to choose from on each of our floors, from Children's books to fiction and Poetry/ nonfiction.

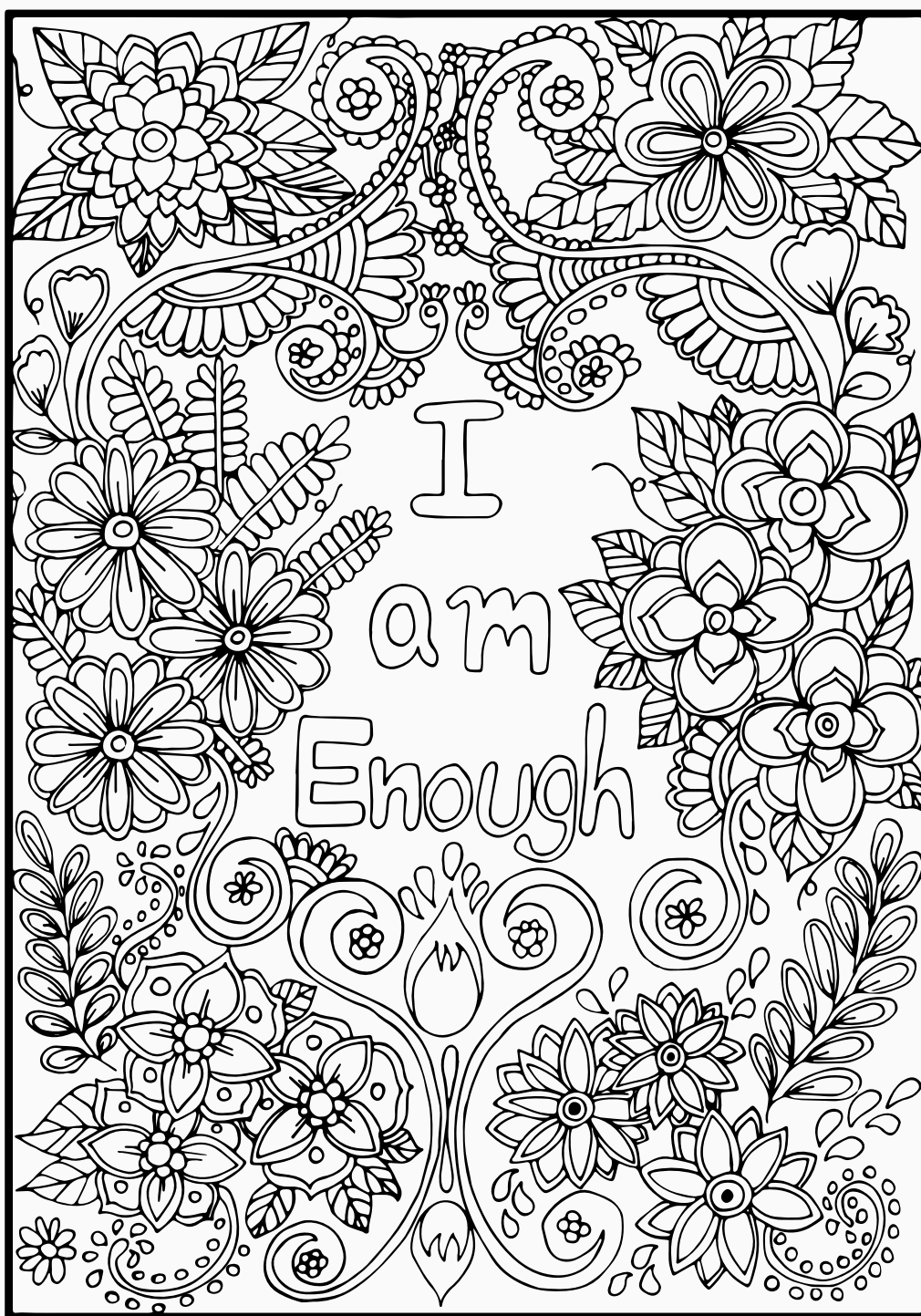
To prepare for Black History Month, I did some research into Maine's history of Black artists, and found a wonderful article titled: Speak Out: "A State of Art: Maine's Influence on African-American Artists" written by: Leigh Donaldson and published in 2013 by the Art Times Journal. This article discusses visual art in Maine and influential artists. It highlights the struggles of these artists and their experience in Maine. Something I learned from this publication is that Skowhegan is the home of an art school that had a profound impact on African American artists. The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, as mentioned in the article "since 1946, has sustained summer residency programs where race posed no barrier to learning and creativity and African Americans have played a prominent role in its history and development."

The school's founder, Willard Cummings, mandated reaching out to black students to invite them to enroll in the school's art programs, offering scholarships to many. Among those who attended, as students or as guest artists, were: Romare Beardon, Elizabeth Catlett, Gregory Coates, David Driskell, Mel Edwards, David Hammons, bell hooks, Jacob Lawrence, Glen Ligon, Whitfield Lovell, Lorraine O'Grady, Howardena Pindell, Adrian Piper, Martin Puryear, Alison Saar, Betye Saar, Nari Ward, Carrie Mae Weems, and Fred Wilson.

I look forward to continuing to learn more about Black History during the month of February and beyond, I hope you'll join me! If you'd like to read the article as well, it can be found at:
https://www.arttimesjournal.com/speakout/Spring_13_Donaldson/Maines_Influence_on_African_American_Artists.html

by Nicole Hathaway

Enjoy a few pages of activities to get your mind off of things and encourage a break! This one's a little reminder of something we often forget too easily. Color in this image however you'd like!



Next, enjoy working on this Sudoku puzzle! Image and answers can be found at <https://www.puzzles-to-print.com/printable-sudokus/PDFs/easy-sudoku-01.pdf>.

	8	9			5	1	4	
3			8	1	7			6
7	1		6		4	3	8	
	4	3	9					
9	7						1	4
					8	7	3	
	9	6	4		2		7	1
4			1	5	9			2
	2	1	7			4	9	



We will be closed on President's Day 2/19 but will be open the remainder of the week of February vacation for RSU 54. That mean we're here to help you fill that vacation boredom! While we have an array of books to choose from, remember we also have board games, puzzles, and DVD's to keep you busy.



After being closed for the month of January for a much needed break for the volunteers, the Friends of the Library Shop has reopened as of 01/31! During the time away, they have refreshed their inventory and the store. That means plenty of new items and great deals to shop! As an added bonus, by supporting the Friends of the Library Shop, you're also helping the Skowhegan Free Public Library at the same time.

Staff Picks of the Month

Angie - *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson

Bree - *No One Can Know* by Kate Alice Marshall

Gabrielle - *The Wicked Bargain* By Gabe Cole Novoa

Lydia - *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo

Nikki - *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT
9 ELM STREET
SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976

LIBRARY STAFF

Director: Angie Herrick
Adult Circ: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald
Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter
Technology Librarian: Nikki Hathaway
Library Aide: Lydia Dore
Volunteers: Lyn Demchak & Sam Galbraith

LIBRARY FRIENDS

Chair: Karen Lewia
Treasurer: Kirk Karkos
Secretary: Lynda Quinn
Matt Dubois
Gretchen Washburn

LIBRARY COMMITTEE TRUSTEES

Devin MacMichael
Patrick Dore
Debra Sterling
Lynn Perry
Lynda Quinn