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The Library Lookout

May 2011

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by your Director, Dale Jandreau

They say that "April showers bring May flowers," and are we ready for May! The forecast for the library this month is Busy, busy, busy! It's also how I'd describe my first month here. Learning the ropes at a new job is always challenging. Fortunately, the library has some quality folks to turn to. Both staff and volunteers were more than willing to assist me with any request. What a great bunch!

This past month I've had the pleasure of meeting many of our regular patrons, along with the Friends of the Library, Skowhegan History House folks, reporters, business people and genealogists; all of them very interested in the comings and goings of the library.

Our Civil War program was attended by over 50 people. What amazed me was what an important part the folks of Skowhegan played in the Civil War. So much sacrifice from such a small community. Really, this town has much to be proud of.

I appreciate all the hard work that went into the Friends Annual Library Lunch. I thoroughly enjoyed mine, and so did all of the staff and volunteers. No skimping here, a great lunch at a reasonable price. Hats off to the friends!

The last Jazz Night will be held in May. The group is taking the summer off from the library. Their plan is to resume Jazz Nights in September. I've been told that this

program has been well attended, and folks have come out in all weather. Definitely a keeper!

Good news for e-book users. A recent Amazon press release has Amazon agreeing to allow their "Kindle", to be used to download e-books through the state's downloadable audio book project. Currently, only readers using the "Nook" or other supported devices were able to download e-books. With this new development, the myriad of Kindle users will now have access to free e-books on the Maine Info-net Download Library (I just heard a large cheer go up from the Kindlites).

More good news – Our library has been chosen to receive video conferencing equipment. Only 11 libraries in the state were selected. This equipment will be used for businesses or other organizations to video conference with entities in state, national or worldwide, at no cost to the library. This equipment will eventually be installed in the new cellar meeting room.

On a final note; please be in contact with everyone you know, concerning this year's library budget approval at town meeting. We need a show of force this year at the meeting. As the old T.V. commercials for ATT used to tell us "reach out and touch someone". We need to reach out to a whole lot of "someones" this year. I know I'm preaching to the choir here; but the person we don't talk to about this, could cast the tie-breaking vote this year.

Until next month; Dale

CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Angie Herrick

We have always been told that April showers bring May flowers. Well, another nice thing that April showers bring is a great opportunity to snuggle up with a good book. Soon the summer hustle and bustle will be upon us. We all tend to get busy with fun summer activities; so, now, may be a perfect time to check out some of those books you have been dying to read.

"Art and Earth Week" was a huge success! Over 65 children who visited the library during April school vacation celebrated Earth Day with a craft! Each day the kids got to make a different project out of recycled materials. We made wind chimes, trash-art, bird feeders, and plant pals. We made a lot of messes and some great memories too!

Our Jellybeans have finally been counted! Believe it or not, there were 634 jellybeans in that jar! Our two winners, Hailey Carter and Gabriel Howes both guessed 600 and both got two movie tickets to the Strand Movie Theater. Congratulations, Hailey and Gabriel! But to me, even more shocking than the number of jelly beans was the number of guesses we had. Ninety-eight kids took a guess!

Another new and exciting thing this month is that the library is back on Facebook! If you want to follow us, please "like" the Skowhegan Free Public Library! This is an easy way to always be informed about what is going on!

FRIENDS' ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Library executive committee will sponsor an annual meeting at 5 p.m. May 5 at the Skowhegan Free Public Library to show its appreciation for the work of the members, trustees, renovation committee members and library staff. Cheese, crackers, punch and wine will be served and the new Library Director Dale Jandreau will be on hand for introductions.

The network of volunteers and staff devoted to the library are encouraged to come out for the gathering and help us all to get to know one another better. The Friends organization of about 100 volunteers raises funds to support some of the smaller projects at the library that are not covered by tax dollars. The executive committee leads that effort. In its 12th year of incorporation, the Friends wrote the first-ever grant for the library and, over the years, has supported such projects as interior window restoration, asbestos removal, and computer purchases — such as a recent \$2,200 donation in matching funds for a new computer, monitor and five new flat screens that are safer for the public. This past year it also supported and served refreshments for monthly jazz concerts, raised money to support publication of the *Library Lookout*, provided money toward the summer reading program, helped with the Christmas Stroll, and sponsored a fiber display at the library.

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 for Individuals, \$8 for Seniors and Students, and \$15 for Families.

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Please complete this form and mail to:
Skowhegan Free Public Library, 9 Elm Street,
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Tel. # _____
E-Mail Address _____

Please check the activities you are willing to help with.

- Refreshments for library activities.
- Making phone calls.
- Helping with fundraising activities

BOOK REVIEW

By Corrilla Hastings

Just enough room to mention the library's collection of novels by Anita Shreve, author of *The Weight of Water* and *The Pilot's Wife*. I recently finished her 1989 publication of *Eden Close* and enjoyed it. Check out her more recent books, or inquire about similar authors.

LIBRARY FUNDRAISERS

On April 15, the Friends made and delivered 269 bag lunches to businesses in the area. This effort resulted in almost \$1,500 to be used for materials and equipment for library patrons to enjoy. Here are the names of the many volunteers who made this event possible: Marcia Granville, Darla Pickett, Jeanne Shay, Margo Reid, Sherri Vigue, Kathy Littlefield, Mary Hill, Sylvia Richardson, Jan Powers, Cindy Manuel, Christine Smith, Mary Stuart, Maureen Calder, Judie McCarthy, Bob Landry, Peg Lovejoy, Jim Hastings, and the many people who baked the delicious homemade desserts that were put into every bag. THANK YOU!

Two generous area businesses contributed to the Renovation Fund recently by pledging a percentage of a day's sale at their restaurants. For the March 27 donation, we thank Al's Pizza, and for the April 21 donation, our thanks go to the Golden Eagle.

The Recycling Drive continues with many library supporters designating their refunds for the library when dropping off their bottles and cans at C & M Recycling or the Beverage Mart. It is amazing how these nickels add up - we're well over the \$1,000 mark now! And the Penny Drive is bringing in additional coins too. Both of these efforts add funds to the Renovation Project 2012.

The next fundraiser will be the annual Library Lawn Sale on Saturday, May 21 at the Hastings' barn on the Malbons Mills Road. Contributions of any saleable items are now being collected. Toys, games, tools, household items, furniture, etc. are all welcome. Bring your donations to the barn (please call ahead: 474 3949). All money from this event will also go to Project 2012.

NEW BOOKS


FICTION

Auel, Jean/ *The Land of the Painted Caves*
Binchy, Maeve/ *Minding Frankie*
Brunstetter, Wanda/ *The Journey*
Clark, Carol Higgins/ *Mobbed*
Clark, Mary Higgins/ *I'll Walk Alone*
Connelly, Michaels/ *The Fifth Witness*
Coonts, Stephen/ *Deep Black Death Wave*
Davidson, Diane Mott/ *Crunch Time*
Evans, Richard Paul/ *Miles To Go*
Graham, Heather/ *Phantom Evil*
Grippando, James/ *Afraid of the Dark*
Jackson, Lisa/ *Devious*
Kellerman, Jonathan/ *Mystery*
Kingsbury, Karen/ *Leaving*
Lewis, Beverly/ *The Judgment*
Rice, Luanne/ *The Silver Boat*
Ross, Ann B./ *Miss Julia Rocks the Cradle*
Roberts, Nora/ *Chasing Fire*
Scottoline, Lisa/ *Save Me*
Spencer-Fleming, Julia/ *One Was a Soldier*
Steel, Danielle/ *44 Charles Street*
Trollope, Joanna/ *Daughters-in-law*
Wiggs, Susan/ *The Goodbye Quilt*
Woods, Sherry/ *Driftwood Cottage*

NEW & RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Thomas and Margo Carmines
Cindy and Chet Manuel
Lynn Perry
Alan and Mary Burgess
Mickey and Jan Powers
Dave and Pam McDermott

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This issue of Library Lookout is sponsored by

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The Library Lookout

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Your Library Trustees:

Toni Jo Blaisdell,
Lee Granville, Corilla Hastings
Carol Jarvais,
Lynn Perry, Warren Shay
Ex Officio, Darla Pickett

Friends officers:

Darla Pickett, pres.
Peggy Lovejoy, vice pres.,
Pam McDermott, sec. Kathleen Littlefield, treas.

Calendar of Events

Children's Story and Craft Hour every Wed. at 10 AM

May 2 Library Trustees Meeting, 6 PM

May 4 Library Renovation Committee Meeting, 6 PM

May 5, 12, 19 & 26 Genealogy Class, 1 to 3 PM

May 5 Friends of the Library Executive Board Meeting, 4:30 PM

May 5 Friends of the Library Annual Meeting for all members, 5 PM.

May 9 & 23 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

May 11 Genealogy Reunion, 1 to 3 PM

May 17 Family Story Hour, 4:30 to 5:30

May 19 Jazz Concert, 7 PM

May 21 Annual Friends Lawn Sale at Hastings' barn

June 1 Library Renovation Committee Meeting, 6 PM

June 7 Library Trustees Meeting, 6 PM

June 13 & 27 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM