

MAY 2023

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLOSURES

5/22-5/23 – MLA Conference
5/29 – Memorial Day
6/19 – Juneteenth

PROGRAMMING

Every Wednesday – Storytime @ 10:30 - 11:30AM
Every Wednesday – Patient Navigator for Substance Use Disorders @ 10AM-12PM
Every Thursday – Career Center Consultant @ 1-4PM
Every Friday – Sit & Knit @ 1-3PM

05/02 – Tween the Pages @ 4:00-5:30PM
05/09 – Kids' Comic Club @ 3:45-4:15PM
05/10 – Self Care Kits & Conversations Workshop @ 6PM
05/11 – Basic Cake Decor. (Rescheduled, FULL) @ 10AM
05/11 – Special Cake Decor. (Rescheduled, FULL) @ 1PM
05/16 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
05/17 – Coding Club (Group 2, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
05/18 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
05/18 – Books & Brews @ 6:30-7:30PM
05/25 – LEGO Club @ 3:30-4:30PM
05/25 – Author Talk w/Amy Calder @ 6PM
05/30 – Windchimes Workshop (FULL) @ 12-2PM

~ ~ ~

6/12 – Summer Reading Program registration begins
6/13 – Kid's Comic Club @ 3:45-4:15PM
6/15 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
6/20 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
6/21 – Coding Club (Group 2, FULL) @ 3:30-5PM
6/21 – Tim Caverly - So You Think You Know Maine @ 6PM
6/27 – Mudpies & Fireflies Slime Workshop (@ Margaret Chase Smith Library) @ 1-2:30PM
6/29 – LEGO Club @ 3:30-4:30PM

WELCOMING A NEW FACE

With summer quickly approaching, and the myriad of fun summer reading programs we've got planned, we're excited to announce that - after quite a few years - we now have a dedicated youth services librarian once again. Check out page 3 for a short interview with Miss Gabrielle to help you get to know her a bit better, until you can come in and meet her in person!



APRIL'S PROGRAMS

We had some fantastic STEM programming over April vacation, as well as a super engaging puppet show - put on by the incredible Mr. Sean - that we had a great turnout for. And we got to see so many faces, old and new, at this year's Skowpendous! It's just making us even more excited for all of the programs we have planned in the coming months.

We also had another successful round of iPhone Basics classes in April, and while we have don't currently have any more technology classes scheduled, we are open to hosting just about any of the NDEC classes available here: <https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/> if you want to take a peek through the catalog and then send Josie an email at skowtech@skowhegan.lib.me.us with any you'd like more info about. We only need two people interested in order to host any of those classes here at the library, so don't hesitate to ask about any of them!

And other than our rescheduled-for-May cake decorating classes, we wrapped up our craft series held in conjunction with the Skowhegan Women's Club in April with a creative workshop on making fairy houses. We hope to bring some more adult crafting programs back soon!



CONFERENCES & STAFF TRAINING

It is conference season here in the library world, and you may have noticed that the library was closed on the 25th and 26th of April - this was because staff was attending the annual Reading Roundup conference in Augusta and participating in some staff training on Narcan use / overdose reversal and prevention.

Our full-time staff are all now trained in Narcan use if necessary and while this is something we hope not to need to put to the test anytime soon, it is also something that we all felt was important to have some background in, just in case the need ever arises.



Our staff with Maine children's author and illustrator, Chris Van Dusen

The Reading Roundup conference, a youth services focused event, was an opportunity for our librarians and volunteers to recharge with their colleagues from across the state, network with new people, get inspired by some amazing speakers, and gain insight into some of the challenges facing libraries, as well as bring home some new ideas for programming. While we are not all youth services librarians, we all work with children in some capacity - whether it be through family programs, STEM programs, etc. - and so this event is always incredibly valuable to the whole staff. We have one more conference next month that we will all be attending - the annual Maine Library Association conference - that is beneficial in much the same way. Please make sure to check our calendar for the month to see which days we'll be closed for that.

UPCOMING MAY PROGRAMMING

This month's Books & Brews read is *The House Across the Lake* by Riley Sager. Copies are available at the library now if you haven't read it yet. We also have some great new upcoming programs this month, including a Self Care Kits &

Conversations workshop with RFGH and a second author talk with Amy Calder, as our last event with her had such a great turnout! Check our calendar on the first page for dates and times.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Our Summer Reading program is almost upon us (this year's theme is Pinecones & Pages), and we could still use donations of incentives for the kids who reach their reading goals every week! Check out the list to the left for ideas of items that are always a hit each year.

We've got our programming all lined up this for summer as well - everything from nature walks in the park to Mr. Drew and His Animals Too. Ask for a copy of our SRP brochure to see everything else we have planned over the summer months - registration for SRP begins June 12th.

And what about those folks who think they're too old for summer reading programs? Fear not, we have a program for you too! Just like last summer, we've got a summer reading bingo board for you to mark off your reading goals and win prizes throughout the summer as well. Keep an eye out for details coming soon!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Matchbox Cars	Puzzles
Costume Jewlery	Frizbees
Slime	Jump Ropes
Small Art Kits	Glow Sticks
Beach Toys	Earbuds
Chalk	Pool Toys
Bubbles	Coloring Books
Kites	Diaries/Journals
Balls	Fingernail Polish
Lego Minifigures	Yo-yos
Water Bottles	Card games
Fidget Toys	Tattoos
Silly Putty	Games

BASICALLY ANYTHING NEW AND NON-EDIBLE THAT YOU THINK KIDS WOULD BE EXCITED FOR!



MEET GABRIELLE - OUR NEW YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN!

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book? That question is too difficult. My favorite book, from what period in my life? I can say that there are certain books that I reread every few years, and that I have read since junior high or high school. I am a big sci-fi and fantasy reader, nerd, lover and so my stack of favorites is going to lean precariously in that direction. I remember getting to read Madeleine L'Engle's Time Quartet in junior high, as in *A Wrinkle in Time*. The fact that these kids were out there being super smart and having adventures in different dimensions and on alien planets intrigued me. I have read that series probably 4 or 5 times since then. Also *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was one of my favorites in High School. And again, how many times have I read that? I have bought and destroyed 2 copies. I also have a copy of *Slaughterhouse 5* from the 60's that I bought used as a teenager. I have taped and retaped so many times that the exterior of the book is more tape than paper. Lastly, I have to mention *Jane Eyre*: not science fiction or fantasy, but there is such an element of the connection of higher spirit between Jane and Mr. Rochester, as to be metaphysical and magical. And Jane is a great hero and still feels modern and stands in her independence and power. I have read *Jane Eyre* at least 6 times...



What do you like to do in your free time?

I read. I sometimes have to NOT read, so that I get other tasks done. I am a momma too and like to have adventures with my kiddo. We love nature and the outdoors: hiking and walking. And I tend to bring the wilderness home in the form of disturbed patches of moss or the odd pretty pine cone, or some fresh needles from a balsam fir tree that may have fallen in a recent storm, because balsam fir smells like if a pine tree could be ice cream or bubble gum. And when I cannot be outside, I take care of too many houseplants. If I didn't work at the library, I was going to open a greenhouse. I practice Yoga. I write stories. I also paint. I have made art since I was a kid and tend to paint what people call "weird", but can also be called surreal or visionary themes. I like to paint faces and animals and flowers, but not in a traditional way; they come out looking more like strange dreams. Painting or drawing is what I do to feel better. It is medicine and joy and getting back to having a conversation with myself, at the heart of myself...or at least the best that I can be in the moment.

What drew you to working in a library? Was there ever a time when you had a particularly great library experience (here or elsewhere) that left a positive impression? AND/OR what does a library/library services mean to you?

I am combining these two questions, simply because they mash-up like a laser light show in my head. Beams of energy flying around all tied up and blending together. So I can say with some wonder and nostalgia, that my first job EVER was at a library at the age of 8. I was a library assistant for my elementary school as part of The Reach Program and I got to leave class once or twice a week and go to the school's library and shelve recently returned books. I have very specific memories of the school's copies of *Charlie and the Glass Elevator*, and a series on Greek Mythology that I think I ended up checking out intermittently after that throughout grade school. Now, if I think about libraries in general, I get excited! No, really! The artist in me loves libraries, especially with centuries old architecture and history wrapped around their collections of books. Just like this library in Skowhegan that I am sitting in right now. I mean, have you seen the Gargoyles on the fireplace downstairs?!? I also think about public spaces like this one that GIVE. Books give, libraries give, librarians give. A library gives people a place where it is safe to go. A library gives people a place where they can learn almost anything. A library can give anyone a place where it is possible to shift the thinnest sheet of paper and that delicate act transports you/me/us to a different solar system or to a point in time long forgotten, or gives information on how the human body works, or where in the world Ball Pythons are from. So a library, as it holds books, also holds so much potential and does so without judgement. And it is a place where one idea (from an author or illustrator) will open up and birth ideas into another person's mind and maybe, eventually onto another page somewhere that will turn into a new book. And the cycle continues...So what I am trying to say is that every library experience for me has been memorable, or at least has contributed to the very large and grande memorial that I have to libraries in my head and heart. Skowhegan Library stands there now, and has for some years, as the most recent library-love and as the actual visual of what the word library conjures up in my memory. This place is where my child and I have discovered books together, where we have shared in Storytimes, where I have discovered new authors and ideas and where I have taught yoga to a bunch of wiggly tots in the past. Now that I get to be here in my capacity as children's librarian, I feel privileged, excited and even a wee bit trepidatious to get to carry on traditions like Storytime and the Summer Reading Program, to order new books for our collection and to meet all of you, as you too make memories with the books that you read. After all it only takes 1 book, one really good, special, amazing book to make someone love to read.



HVAC FUNDRAISING

Our April bake sale was a huge hit, and thanks to so many donations of absolutely delicious baked goods, we were able to almost completely sell out and raise over \$650! That puts our total at \$18,302 so far for a much needed, new HVAC system. We've still got a ways to go, but thanks to the generosity of our community we're getting there!

GOAL: \$230,000



Staff Picks of the Month

Angie - *Insomnia* by Sarah Pinborough

Bree - *The Last Word* by Taylor Adams

Josie - *Wool* by Hugh Howey

Gabrielle - *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

Lydia - *The Battle of the Labyrinth (Percy Jackson)* by Rick Riordan

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT
9 ELM STREET
SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976

LIBRARY STAFF

Director: Angie Herrick
Adult Circulation: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald
Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter
Technology Librarian: Josie Pease
Library Aide: Lydia Dore
Volunteer: Lyn Demchak

LIBRARY COMMITTEE TRUSTEES

Karen Lewia
Patrick Dore
Debra Sterling
Devin MacMichael
Lynn Perry

LIBRARY FRIENDS

Chair: Debra Sterling
Vice Chair: Karen Lewia
Treasurer: Kirk Karkos
Secretary: Lynda Quinn