



# THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT April 2005

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

I would like to thank the patrons of the Skowhegan Free Public Library for the very warm and friendly reception I have received since I began my position as Library Director. My first day was March 21st and Spring is a great time of year to make a new beginning. Many exciting things are happening at the library and I will report them to you in the Director's Corner. If you haven't been by the library lately, please drop by and introduce yourself. I would like to meet you.

Sincerely, Melissa M. Gaspar

## MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

By Maureen Calder

We are taking this opportunity to introduce Melissa Gaspar to the Skowhegan Friends of the Library and the Skowhegan Community.

Melissa comes to us from the library in Seabrook, New Hampshire where she was responsible for children's services at that library. Happily married for twenty-seven years and the mother of two grown sons, Daniel and Benjamin, Melissa and her husband became familiar with Skowhegan back in the 80s when they were spending time at their camp on North Pond. Falling in love with the area, they started looking for a spot to call home one day. That's when they discovered a piece of land on Hilton Hill and purchased it. They have returned here regularly during summers and some weekends even planting a garden on their plot of land.

Melissa, who majored in Botany at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, enjoys plants, herbs, planting flowers, especially gladiolas, and growing her own vegetables. She believes that healthy foods add to a quality of life one can en-

Come  
meet our  
new

Library  
Director

Melissa  
Gaspar



joy. She and her husband also love animals so the spot they chose was with the idea of a small, sustainable farm where they could settle and enjoy such a quality of living. Of course, she also enjoys reading either for pleasure or in order to review books to be included in a library collection. Some of her favorites are books by scientific thriller writer, Michael Crichton, mystery author Nevada Barr, and books for young people by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor or Andrew Clements. An all time favorite, which she has enjoyed reading more than once, is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin.

Melissa followed a degree in botany with a degree in Psychology and Counseling. With this educational experience in hand, she worked for about ten years with children who have experienced trauma, emotional disturbances, expectant teens, and their babies.

So, at this point, she has worked in two areas she loves, plants and helping others. There was yet another passion for her to pursue. Having grown up spending time in the library as a Children's Story Hour assistant (this at the age of ten), working in the

library while a student at Amherst and with a mother who served as a Library Director, Melissa went on to earn her degree in Library Science at Simmons College. She did so while serving as an Assistant Children's Librarian at the Amesbury Public Library. Following graduation in 2003, an opportunity to work as a Children's Librarian opened up in Seabrook. Keeping in mind and still having her heart set on a position in Maine, specifically Skowhegan, Melissa applied thinking it was at least a bit closer to her dream. During her time in Seabrook, she developed, among other things, a baby time program, story hour, and a Library Club for Kids. Visiting the Skowhegan Library website on a regular basis, stopping in and picking up the Library Lookout, continuing to visit a place she had fallen in love with, she was about to realize that dream. As soon as the position was advertised her application and resume were in the mail.

Some of what drew Melissa to our library is its history, the feeling that "it is loved by its community", that there is a great rapport, and the Friends of Skowhegan Library is an active group. Having been a member of the Friends in her hometown of Newbury when her sons were younger, and actually serving as president for two years, she realizes the importance of such a group to the success of any library. She also loves the fact that our library has given more than a hundred years of reading enjoyment to the people here.

Melissa comes to her position fully accepting and looking forward to the work and any challenges that lie ahead. While she is spending time observing, and getting a sense of what people hope for, she says one of her first goals is to get the new website up and running, to bring the library up to date technologically (a "with-it" library but at the same time "sustaining its beauty and its feel of community.")

As director she realizes she may not always make "the popular decision". She will listen to people and get a consensus of what is wanted but it is also her responsibility to "give direction, not get bogged down in controversy or indecisions." She will "make those decisions thoughtfully, while working towards the highest good of the library and community." She also feels it is beneficial to keep the library in the public eye through

the media whenever possible.

Melissa Gaspar, Skowhegan Free Public Library's newest arrival, says it's going to be a matter of walking a balance. "It's a balancing act and I'm up to the challenge. This is a dream and I'm excited to be here."

Melissa, we are happy to have you with us. WELCOME!

## MORE LIBRARY NEWS

By Katherine LaBlanc

The painting and spring cleaning is underway! Thank you in advance for your patience while we spruce up the library. Thank you to Dan Coyle for painting the library, what a great job he is doing! Also thanks go out to Aubuchon Hardware for the donation of 7 gallons of paint, the Skowhegan Community Center for allowing us to borrow a ladder, and the DOVE Society for a generous donation of \$100.00 for painting supplies.

United Nations crafts from around the world will be held Friday April 22, 2005 from 11-2. Bring in your children and grandchildren for a fun filled afternoon of crafts.

## New Book List

### Large Print Books:

#### Fiction

Baldacci, David *Split Second*

Brown, Sandra *Demon Rum*

Grafton, Sue "*P*" is for *Peril*

Grisham, John *The Last Juror*

Michaels, Fern *Picture Perfect*

Patterson, James *Honeymoon*

Robards, Karen *Beachcomber*

#### Non-fiction:

Zimmer, Marc, Ph.D. *Glowing Genes*

#### Fiction:

Beaton, M.C. *Death of a Bore*

Buffett, Jimmy *Salty Piece of Land*

Cornwell, Bernard *Last Kingdom*

Crais, Robert *Forgotten Man*

Goodkind, Terry *Chainfire*

Haddon, Mark *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

Haig, Brian *The President's Assassin*

Iles, Greg *Blood Memory*  
 La Haye, Tim *Come Spring*  
 McCrumb, Sharyn *St. Dale*  
 Michael, Judith *The Real Mother*  
 Mortman, Doris *Shades of Red*  
 Parker, Robert J. *Cold Service*  
 Patterson, James *Honeymoon*  
 Robinson, Peter *Strange Affair*  
 Russell, Mary Doria *A Thread of Grace*  
 Nonfiction:  
 Browne, Syla *Secrets and Mysteries of the World*  
 De Bellaige, Christopher *In the Rose Garden of the Martyrs*  
 Mowat, Farley *No Man's River*  
 Northrup, Christine *Mother-Daughter Wisdom*

**MAY LAWN SALE**

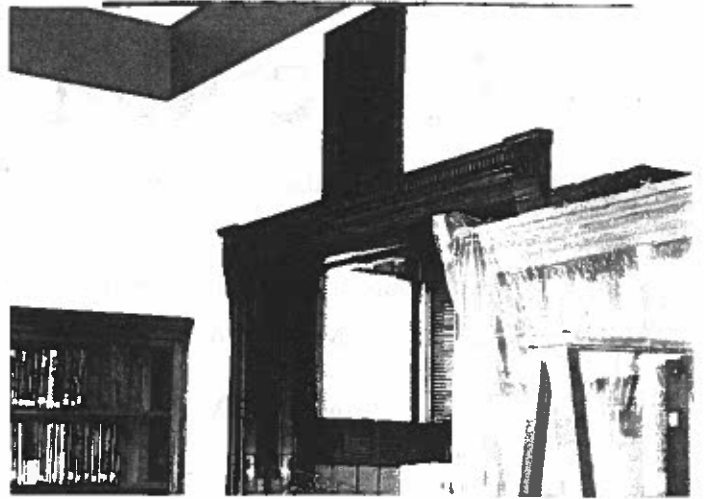
It's time to start your spring cleaning! Collect those unwanted items which are just taking up space, and bring them to Hastings' barn on the Malbons Mills Road for the May 21st Library Lawn Sale. Please call 474-3949.

**BOOK REVIEW** by Corrilla Hastings  
*No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series* by Alexander McCall Smith

(Other titles include: *Tears of the Giraffe, The Kalahari Typing School for Men and Morality for Beautiful Girls*) If you'd like to spend a relaxing evening with a thoroughly delightful character in her native Botswana, I recommend that you check these books out of the library.

Precious Ramotswe, a "traditionally built" woman, is the capable female detective who, with the same charm and wisdom of Miss Marple, helps her clients solve their problems. Fortified with many cups of "bush tea", Precious calmly takes on the variety of challenges which arrive at her office door, while her fiancé and mechanic, Mr. J.L. Matekoni, ensures that her "tiny white van" is always ready for her jaunts around the countryside. Everyone in my family has enjoyed these books. They're just pure fun and you'll hate to see them end. Fortunately, McCall Smith seems to be quite a prolific writer. Check at the library for other titles.

**NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS**  
 Helen Ellis  
 Rhonda Daggett



The cracks are filled, the books are protected and the ladder is in place. Everything is ready for the fresh paint in the Reading Room. Preparations for new paint are also being made in the lobby.

**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.

.....  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

The Library Lookout is sponsored by



# Calendar of Events

**STORM POLICY:** When there is no school due to the weather, the Library will be closed.

## APRIL

**Every Wednesday** Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

April 5 Library Trustees Meeting, 6 pm at the Library The public is welcome to attend.

April 22 Crafts from Around the World 11 am to 2 pm in the Children's Room

## MAY

**Every Wednesday** Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

May 3 Library Trustees Meeting, 6 pm at the Library The public is welcome to attend.

May 21 Library Lawn Sale at Hastings's barn on the Malbons Mills Road

## The Library Lookout

Friends of the Skowhegan

Free Public Library

c/o Marcia B. Granville

P.O. Box 278

Skowhegan, Maine 04976



### Your Librarians are:

Library Director, Melissa Gaspar,

Assistant Librarian

Françoise LaBonte,

Children's Librarian,

Katherine LeBlanc

### Your Library Trustees are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,

Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,

Carol Jarvis and Corilla Hastings

### Friends officers are:

Dina Jeannotte, Pres.,

Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,

Maureen Calder, Sec.

Pam Arsenault, Treas

Marcia Granville, Editor