



THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT March 2005

Library News

By Lee Granville, Trustee
Library Director Retiring

Blynn Currier will be resuming his retirement effective March 15, 2005. In 2002, The library Trustees recruited Blynn, who had recently retired as librarian of the Skowhegan Area High School, to head up our library staff and help us plan for the future. Under his direction, the library has become a more active place, serving more patrons with a wider variety of services than ever before. A new genealogy room, all new shelving for the completely redecorated children's section, and computers with children's software upstairs are only a few of the changes.

The Friends have worked closely with Blynn on several projects, including purchase of the new shelving. Blynn has worked closely with the Trustees to formulate long-term plans for the future. I am sure everyone on our board would like to join me in extending him our best wishes.

Friends Restore Historic Clock

For more than one hundred years, a beautiful Victorian wall clock has hung over the mantel in the front lobby of our library. The soft chimes announced the hours and half hours to generations of staff and patrons. Sadly, several years ago, the old timepiece stopped and sidelined until its problems could be diagnosed.

Although no record has been found detailing how it came to be there, I believe the clock was one of the building's original fixtures. In 1885, former Governor Abner Coburn left money in his will to build "a free public library". When the present building opened to the public in 1889, it was considered one of the finest in the state.

Recently, the Friends of the Library volun-

teered to have the old clock evaluated and repaired if possible. Peter Rioux, a respected clock repairman from Winterport, was engaged to do this and he removed the works and took them back to his shop for extensive repairs. He feels that, with routine care, the clock should now be good for another hundred years!

When Peter had a chance to examine the works, he found a patent number stamped with the date 1882. This corroborates the likelihood that the clock is indeed original. I would like to give special thanks to the Friends for their willingness to help keep our library's special features intact for our younger generation to enjoy.

More Library News

By Katherine LeBlanc

I would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time and energy for our second annual Teacher's Reception on February 17th. Dottie LaCasse, Shirley Bastien, Kathy Hughes, Petra Prokop, Thelma Butler, Connie Connell, Maureen Calder, Toni Jo Blaisdell, Bill Laney, Carol Jarvais, Lee and Marcia Granville, David Richards, William Toles, Lisa Keaton and Andrea Smith. Thank you.

Lynn
Plourde and
Destinee
Dhuy are
dressed in
their PJs for
the reading
of Lynn's
new book
Pajama Day



On Feb 19th Lynn Plourde came to the Children's Room to read and sign her new book *Pajama*

Day. What a huge success! With about 75 people dressed in their pajama's, we had juice, cookies and loads of fun! Thank you to Mr. Paperback for allowing us to host this signing and helping us raise \$107.00 toward new books for the children's room.

We are in search of hard "old-fashioned" suitcases for a project that we are working on. Anyone who would like to donate one or more could call us at 474-9072, and someone on staff could pick them up, or feel free to drop them off. This is for a lesson plan in a case project that is being created. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

On March 17th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. the library will be hosting Arctic Explorer Pam Flowers. Pam will be sharing slides and stories about her solo 2500 mile dog-mushing expedition across the arctic from Barrow, Alaska to Repulse Bay, Canada.

In April we will hold "Crafts from Around the World". This event will be held on April 22, 2005, time to be announced. We are looking for easy craft suggestions from Ireland. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

The monthly trustee meeting has now been changed to the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The public is as always welcome.

New Book List

Fiction:

Bradford, Barbara Taylor *Unexpected Blessings*
 Braun, Lilian Jackson *The Cat who Went Bananas*
 Brown, Dan *Deception Point*
 Burke, Jan *Bloodlines*
 Crichton, Thomas *State of Fear*
 Fielding, Joy *Puppet*
 Gardner, Lisa *Alone*
 Gordon, Mary *Pearl: a novel*
 Hosseini, Khalil *Kite Runner*
 Howard, Linda *To die For*
 McBain, Ed *Alice in Jeopardy*
 Patterson, Richard North *Conviction*
 Rimington, Stella *At Risk: a novel*
 Todd, Charles *A Cold Treachery*

Non-fiction:

Rain, Mary Summer *Spirit Song: the introduction of No-Eyes*
 Tartamella, Lisa *Generation of Extra Large: rescuing our children from the epidemic of obesity*

New Audio Tapes

Baldacci, David *The Simple Truth*
 Cisneros, Sandra *The House on Mango Street*
 Clancy, Tom *The Cardinal of the Kremlin*
 " *Clear and Present Danger*
 " *The Hunt for Red October*
 " *Patriot Games*
 Clark, Mary Higgins *We'll Meet Again*
 Cornwell, Patricia *Southern Cross*
 Dailey, Janet *Calder Pride*
 Delinsky, Barbara *The Vineyard: a novel*
 Deveraux, Jude *A Knight in Shining Armor*
 Fitch, Janet *White Oleander*
 Gaffney, Patricia *The Saving Grace's: a novel*
 Graham, Janice *Firebird*
 Griffin, W.E.B. *Honor Bound*
 Grisham, John *Bleachers*
 " *The Brethren*
 " *The Chamber*
 " *The Client*
 " *Street Lawyer*
 Guterson, David *East of the Mountains*
 Kelley, Kitty *The Royals*
 King, Stephen *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*
 Koontz, Dean *Lightning*
 Lindsey, Johanna *Say You Love me*
 McMurty, Larry *Pretty Boy Floyd*
 Ripley, Alexandra *Scarlett: the sequel to Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind*
 O'Dell, Tawni *Back Roads: a novel*
 Rice, Luanne *Cloud Nine*
 Roberts, Nora *Carnal Innocence*
 " *The Reef*
 Sheldon, Sidney *The Stars Shine Down*
 Sparks, Nicholas *Message in a Bottle*
 Steel, Danielle *The Klone and I*
 Turow, Scott *The Burdon of Proof*
 Woods, Stuart *Swimming to Catalina*

Teacher's Reception
 Françoise LaBonte, Corrilla Hastings and Maureen Calder chat with



one of the teachers while others view exhibits.

BOOK REVIEW

Faithful by Stewart O’Nan and Stephen King
Reviewed by Bob Landry

Probably 80% or more of all the homes in New England, where Red Sox fans reside, witnessed a copy of this book being unwrapped on Christmas morning.

A startling cover (the famous “glove in your face” from Varitek to A-Rod during a regular season game), Stephen King as one author (and probably the most published author in the world during the past twenty years), and fans clamoring to relive the past long and glorious season---the cash registers must have been humming!

This book is a diary, pure and simple. It is a dialog between two friends who recount daily what happened in almost every Red Sox game in 2004. Most of the reporting contains factual information, with many scattered opinions between the two authors. (I’m sorry that I don’t know Stewart O’Nan and I have never read any of his published books.) There are many fun anecdotes but not as many as I had hoped there would be. I did enjoy remembering many of the chair-gripping, exciting moments - I had watched about all of them.

I mused, however, that it must have been nice to have had the time and the thousands of dollars available with which to attend all of these games. The authors admitted that a huge number of their tickets had been bought on the street from scalpers - for huge prices.

I tired of the “cuteness” in the book - little in-jokes to each other about teams and players. Many of the remarks seemed snide and mean, like little kids poking fun at heroes. (“Derek Jeeter had lost many of his skills and A-Rod should have been the Yankees shortstop”) surfaced numerous times. Listening to King (especially) and O’Nan curse and foul-mouth just about everything throughout the book became wearisome and unnecessary.

Twelve or thirteen years ago Stephen King published a book of his short stories called *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*. The book contained familiar King fiction but ended with an article of about 100 pages about little league baseball in Maine. This contained some of King’s best writings - ever - and I have recommended it to people for years. The article is often included in modern anthologies on baseball.

I hoped that *Faithful* would be on a par with that article of the previous paragraph. Although I enjoyed *Faithful*, I was disappointed at the book’s end - I had expected more.

MAY LAWN SALE

Remember the Annual Spring Lawn Sale to benefit the Library. The date is Saturday, May 21; the place, Hastings’ barn on Malbons Mills Road. Donated items will be welcomed any time after the snow melts. Please call first: 474-3949.

TOWN MEETING

Don’t forget to attend the Town Meeting. Town officials are elected on Saturday, March 5th. The town Meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 7th. Please attend. Several important items on the warrant need your votes.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Somerset Primary Care

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.

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E-Mail Address _____

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Calendar of Events

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

MARCH

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

March 1 Library Trustees Meeting, 6 pm at the Library The public is welcome to attend.

March 5 Election of Town Officials at the Municipal Building

March 6⁷ Town Meeting 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building

March 17 Arctic Explorer Pam Flowers will show slides and speak about her trip, by dog sled, from Barrow Alaska to Repulse Bay, Canada ~~6:00 to 7:30~~ at the Library

7:00 - 8:30

APRIL

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

April 8 Library Trustees Meeting, 6 pm at the Library The public is welcome to attend.

April 22 Crafts from Around the World Time to be announced.

The Library Lookout

Friends of the Skowhegan

Free Public Library



Your Librarians are:

Library Director Blynn Currier,
Assistant Librarian Françoise LaBonte,
Children's Librarian Katherine LeBlanc

Your Library Trustees are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,
Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell
and Carol Jarvais

Friends officers are:

Dina Jeannotte, Pres.,
Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,
Maureen Calder, Sec.
Pam Arsenault, Treas

Editor, Marcia B. Granville