



# The Library Lookout

September 2020

<http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us>  
skowlib@skowhegan.lib.me.us, 207 474 9072

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY DESK

By Bree Bussell, Adult Circulation Librarian

It's been wonderful to be able to check out books and work behind the **new desk**! The new counter top and all the space we have has been a huge help to the way we are able to provide for our patrons. We truly hope everyone loves it as much as we do. I think it's safe to say this desk will be a **focal point** in the library for the next **hundred years**.

If you haven't checked out either of the **Adult Summer Reading Program** books we absolutely urge you to! All you have to do is read "Roughhouse Friday" by Jaed Coffin and "The Vigilance of Stars" by Patricia O'Donnell **before** the end of September. We have two prizes this year! The first is a **\$20 gift certificate to The Bankery & Skowhegan Fleuriste** and the second is a **\$20 gift certificate to Hannaford**. Who knows, you may find your new favorite author.

If you come into the Library in the next few days and hear some construction going on, don't be alarmed! Steve Dionne will be working on the **new set of stairs** entering from the elevator entrance to the main floor. This will be so beneficial to staff and patrons alike; you won't have to wait a few minutes for staff to ride the elevator door to unlock the elevator entrance and if you are parked out back and don't particularly like elevators you won't be forced to take it!

The **Annual Basket Raffle** baskets are now on display at the library and tickets are available for purchase at the front desk. Tickets are \$5 and will be drawn December 5<sup>th</sup>. December is right around the corner! Each basket is filled with some lovely products and you can take a look next time you're at the library!

## COVID Update

*On Tuesday, September 8, the library will be entering stage four of our five stage re-opening plan. Here is what this new stage will look like:*

### STAGE FOUR

September 8 - "New Normal"

- \* Return to full hours of operations, staffing, and volunteer levels
- \* Masks are required to enter the building
- \* Doors will remain locked with doorbells located at front and elevator entrances (This is to ensure staff has a count of the number of people in the building and to make sure everyone is wearing a mask)
- \* Maintain curbside for patrons at high-risk or who wish to not enter the building
- \* No services that promote lingering or gathering – all library users are encouraged to keep their visit to a max of 30 minutes.
  - + No onsite programming
  - + No toys in the children's room
  - + No conference room access
  - + Prohibit usage of tables/chairs/couches
  - + Removal of magazines and newspapers to the public
- \* Hand sanitizer available at front door and throughout the building
- \* Request all people who have traveled outside the state to wait the 14-day period before visiting
- \* Hourly cleaning of high touch areas
- \* Thorough cleaning between each computer user
- \* Three computers available for access with a limited time of 30 minutes per session
- \* Maintain social distancing of 6 ft. between patrons
- \* The genealogy room will reopen for research/study with a maximum of 3 individuals at a time.
- \* Reinstate interlibrary loans
- \* All circulation will be done through the main desk only
- \* Continue to quarantine books for 72 hours between check-outs

## News from Angie Herrick Head Librarian & Youth Services

COVID has taught me that just when you think you have things figured out – you don't. I have planned and run the library summer reading program for over ten years, and this year was by far the most challenging. We had to come up with a way to engage kids to read and do activities all while discouraging kids to actually come to the library. The Skowhegan Public Library was not the only library in this boat, however; literally all libraries across the state needed to reevaluate the summer reading program. The Maine State Library jumped in to help and purchased any library interested a two year subscription to a reading log app called Beanstack. Participants would be able to use a smart phone or computer to sign up for our reading program and then remotely track and log all their reading. This alone didn't seem like enough, so I decided to take it a little bit further. The Friends of the Skowhegan Library gave us money to purchase materials to make 360 storytime take-home kits. We created six themed kits and packed 60 bags of each one. Kids got to make sandcastles, grow magic bean plants, decorate aprons, make wolf puppets, create fire-breathing dragons, and make unicorn crowns. We gave out every last kit. The kits were given out once a week and went along with a story that we recorded and posted on our library Facebook page. This was not ideal, but in the end, it seemed like kids were still having fun participating. We had 74 kids sign up for the reading challenge and 66 kids sign up for the activity challenge (which was doing all the take-home storytime kits). In total, the kids read 20,731 minutes!

After the six weeks of reading and doing the activities was over, we then held prize week at the library. Kids were able to come in and pick a prize for each week they met their reading goal, and they got a certificate for a free cookie at the Bankery if they did all six storytime activity kits. We handed out 36 cookie certificates and 156 prizes! It was a great week watching kids be rewarded for reading! I would like to thank the Friends of the Library for helping me to restock the prizes along with The Bankery. It truly takes a village.

We also got our annual visit from Kristine Rinaldi last month. Every July she travels from Texas to Maine and brings with her hundreds of book donations. This year was no different! Over the next few weeks we will be adding some to our collection. (Others are saved for the

Holiday Stroll and Skowpendous.) This year there were so many amazing picture books – I can't wait for you all to see them. Thank you to Kristine and her daughters Zoeymarie and Cassiopeia for continuing with their mission of donating books to our library even in the midst of a pandemic. Our young readers will truly appreciate it!



All of Kristine Rinaldi's book donations

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## New Books for Adults

### FICTION

Brooks, Max/ Devolution  
Brown, Sandra/ Thick As Thieves  
Burke, James Lee/ A Private Cathedral  
Cussler, Clive/ Journey of the Pharaohs  
Donoghue, Emma/ The Pull of the Stars  
Giordano, Mario/ Auntie Poldi and the Handsome Antonio  
Henderson, Alexis/ The Year of the Witching  
Jenner, Natalie/ The Jane Austen Society  
Jones, Stephen Graham/ The Only Good Indians  
Price, Neil/ Children of Ash and Elm  
Robards, Karen/ The Black Swan of Paris  
Rollins, James/ The Last Odyssey  
Serritella, Francesca/ The Ghosts of Harvard  
Slaughter, Karin/ The Silent Wife  
Steel, Danielle/ Royal  
Tremblay, Paul/ Survivor Song  
Ware, Ruth/ One By One  
Williams, Beatriz/ Her Last Flight

### NONFICTION

Trebek, Alex/ The Answer Is...

