



The Library Lookout

January 2020

<http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us>
skowlib@skowhegan.lib.me.us, (207) 474-9072
Library Hours: Mon.–Thurs.10-6, Friday 10-3

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY DESK

By Bree Bussell, Adult Circulation Librarian

December was such a wonderful month for us here at the library. We've received so many thoughtful donations for the duration of our Fall Book Drive that some months we've been able to purchase more books than a typical month! We'd like to thank everyone who made it possible for us to continue providing new books, and so much more, to our community.

As we enter the new year we'd like to challenge our patrons to a little New Year's Resolution; read an author or a genre that you'd ordinarily never choose. Try something different and you may surprise yourself. If you typically read fiction, try a non-fiction. If you'd like suggestions ask any of the librarians, we'd all help you find something you'll be pleasantly surprised by.

The first **Books & Brew's meeting** for 2020 is on **January 13th at 6:30pm**. We will discuss *The Guest Book* by Sarah Blake. This historical fiction, predominantly set in Maine, should give us a lot to talk about. "An unforgettable love story, a novel about past mistakes and betrayals that ripple throughout generations, *The Guest Book* examines not just a privileged American family, but a privileged America. It is a literary triumph." Join us at Bigelow Brewing Co. for a brew or two and let's talk!

Circulation Desk Project

The addition of the new and larger Circulation Desk along with the finish work on the two adjoining support columns may soon be a reality! Purchases of Basket Raffle tickets by generous patrons and library friends amounted to a total of \$1,810! Winners were: Jonathan Flanagan, Gail Gibson, Karen Lacasse and Alban Bouchard.



A young library patron draws a winning ticket during the Library Bazaar.

We were also very pleased to receive two grants designated for the ADA-compliant Circulation Desk Project. The Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust awarded the library \$5,000 and the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust contributed \$3,000. Both of these trusts have helped the library in the past during the Library Renovation. We are honored and grateful that they continue to endorse our projects.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Angie Herrick, Youth Services Librarian

December was a month bursting with activities, programs, people, and holiday cheer. It is always so cathartic for me to take down all the holiday decorations, and clean and declutter for a new year. Many people use the start of a new year to try to start new, healthy habits and resolutions. Four years ago, my New Year's resolution was to read a book a week. I'm glad to report that not only did I meet the resolution 4 years ago, but I have every year since. This year, I was able to finish 62 books in 52 weeks – so that is pretty exciting for me. If you want to help your children to add more reading to the new year, I would urge you to visit the library. Daily reading is an easy way to bolster growth in vocabulary, fluency, literacy, and overall gains in their education. Library cards are free to all MSAD 54 children (even if they aren't in school yet.) Get them a card, bring them in, help choose some great books, and build habits that will help set them up for success. "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his needs, is good for him." —Maya Angelo

This month the children's library will be hosting a weekly playgroup for little ones not in school and their caregivers. We know that socialization and play is so important to preschoolers but winter makes it hard to get outside to meet up with friends. We will be opening our library for weekly open-house style playgroup every Friday from 8:30 – 10:00. This will be a completely unstructured play time. There will be no planned activities or stories, just a warm space, with lots of toys and tots. We will be running this playgroup every Friday through the winter months (from Jan 3rd until March 27th).

All this talk about snow, cold, and winter, makes me itch for the summer sun already—but since I can't bask in the heat quite yet, I will have to settle for thinking about the summer reading program instead. I have already started planning out how the summer will go and I think the kids will be in for a real treat! It is hard to think about summer reading since it is so far away, but one of the biggest things for me is making sure I have LOTS and

LOTS of summer reading prizes for all the busy readers. NOW is the time to start shopping and finding deals on stocking stuffers or in a few months Easter basket items. If you are out and about and want to help me stock up on the reading incentives, I would be so grateful. Some of the most sought-after items are match box cars, silly putty, slime, little art kits, Lego mini figures, Pokemon cards, beach toys, nail polish, puzzles, kites, bouncy balls, chalk, bubbles, glow sticks, and playdough. We only ask that items purchased are new and not food.



Phoebe loves showing off her Rudolph hat made during Storytime

BECOME A FRIEND OF YOUR LIBRARY TODAY!

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library is a not-for-profit organization that helps promote and improve the Library's resources and facilities. Your membership in the Friends provides critical support to our Library. Suggested dues are \$24 for individuals and \$36 for families. Many give even more. Please consider the role that our Library plays in our community, and choose a level of support that's right for you. Whatever you decide, you can be sure that any amount is gratefully received and much needed.

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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

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The Friends of the Library has recently concluded a successful Christmas Bazaar thanks to the support of library patrons. Bundles of cookies, bars, pies, bark, sweet bread in both large and small sizes, arrived wrapped and ready for a hungry public. More than one customer remarked that she was drawn in by the aroma wafting about the room. Our craft tables, too, were filled to the brim. One could find hats and mittens, (even for American Girls), knitted 20'+ garlands, ornaments, table and mantle decorations, wreaths, and items large and small worth having oneself or giving for a gift.

The Friends took in \$750+. It will be used to purchase items to supplement present supplies, addressing a need or extending on-going activities. The Friends were pleased to provide funding for the purchase last month of a computer and items for the coding club.

We would not be able to do what we did at the Christmas Bazaar without the volunteers who set up the displays, priced the goods, and sold the crafts and sweets that were generously brought in. Thank you!



Our Regression Session teens pose wearing their Christmas crowns.

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Brown, Karma/ *Recipe for a Perfect Wife*
Carr, Robyn/ *The Country Guesthouse*
DeMille, Nelson/ *The Deserter*
Goldberg, Lee/ *Lost Hills*
Hawker, Olivia/ *One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow*
Johansen, Iris/ *Hindsight*
King, Stephen/ *Gwendy's Magic Feather*
Klassen, Julie/ *The Bridge to Belle Island*
Krentz, Jayne Ann/ *The Vanishing*
Parry, Ambrose/ *The Art of Dying*
Patterson, James/ *The River Murders*
Peterson, Tracie/ *Forever Hidden*
Raisin, Rebecca/ *The Little Bookshop on the Seine*
Steel, Danielle/ *Moral Compass*
Woods, Stuart/ *Treason*

NON FICTION

Gray, Annie/ *Downton Abbey Cookbook*
Waggoner, Linda M./ *Staring Red Wing!*

COMMUNITY DISPLAYS at your Library

Now that the holiday decorations have been packed away, the library will once again provide space in the main entrance room for exhibits by local nonprofit organizations to showcase what they do and what they offer to area residents. The aim is to spread the word about the many wonderful opportunities and facilities offered by these community organizations.

The exhibit for January is presented by **Somerset Public Health**. Be sure to take time to learn about the resources made available to our area by this organization.

The Library Lookout
9 Elm Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Library Staff

Head Librarian and
Youth Services: Angie Herrick
Technology Librarian: Josie Pease
Adult Circulation: Breanna Bussell
Interlibrary Loan Librarian: Francoise LaBonte,

Your Library Trustees:

Patrick Dore, Karen Lewia,
Hannah Luce, Lynn Perry,
Lynda Quinn, Warren Shay
Ex Officio: FOL President

Friends officers:

Pres. Bonnie Chamberlain
Vice Pres. Maureen Davis
Tracey Brown, sec.
Jeanne Shay, treas.

Calendar of Events

Story Time: Every Wednesday, 10:15 AM **Sit & Knit: Every Friday, 1:00 – 3:00**

Jan. 1 Library closed for New Year's Day
Jan. 2 Game On! (Open to all ages, but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Jan. 3 Preschool Playgroup, 8:30 – 10:00
Jan. 7 Library Trustee Meeting, 6:00
Jan. 8 FOL Executive Board meeting, 4:00 PM
Jan. 8 Smart Cookies Book club, 4:00 – 5:00
Jan. 9 Game On! (Open to all ages, but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Jan. 10 Preschool Playgroup, 8:30 – 10:00
Jan. 10 GFWC Women's Craft Workshop: Wire Wrapping, 10:00 – 12:00 (Preregistration required)
Jan. 13 Books and Brews Book Club at Bigelow Brewing Company, 6:30 – 7:30
Jan. 14 Lego Club (Open to kids in K-6th grade), 3:30 – 4:30
Jan. 16 Game On! (Open to all ages, but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Jan. 17 Preschool Playgroup, 8:30 – 10:00
Jan. 20 Library closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 23 Game On! (Open to all ages but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Jan. 24 Preschool Playgroup, 8:30 – 10:00
Jan. 24 GFWC Women's Craft Workshop: Watercolors, 10:00 – 12:00 (Preregistration required)
Jan. 30 Game On! (Open to all ages but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Feb. 4 Library Trustee Meeting, 6:00
Feb. 5 Tween the Pages Book Club, 4:00 – 5:30
Feb. 6 Game On! (Open to all ages, but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Feb. 7 Preschool Playgroup, 8:30 – 10:00
Feb. 10 Book & Brews Book Club at Bigelow Brewing Company, 6:30 – 7:30
Feb. 11 Lego Club, 3:30 – 4:30
Feb. 12 Smart Cookies Book Club, 4:00 – 5:00
Feb. 13 Game On! (Open to all ages, but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Feb. 14 Preschool Playgroup, 8:30 – 10:00
Feb. 17 Library closed for Presidents Day
Feb. 18 Lab Coat Afternoon, 2:00 – 4:00 (Preregistration required)
Feb. 20 Bingo for Books, 3:00
Feb. 21 High School Regression Session, 6:00 – 8:30 (Preregistration required)
Feb. 25 Kathryn Swegart, Maine Author Talk, 6:00
Feb. 27 Game On! (Open to all ages, but children under the age of 10 need adult supervision), 3:00 – 5:00
Feb. 28 Preschool Playgroup, 8:30 – 10:00