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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

In February we think of hearts, love and valentines. This year there is even more to love about your library. Beginning Feb 1st, the Skowhegan Public Library will be offering an audio and ebook service, called The Maine Infonet Download Program. Library members will be able to access it by going to www.download.maineinfonet.org. You must have the new 14 digit library card to log in. All the instructions are on the Maine Infonet website, but the library will have handouts for your convenience. And of course, your librarians will be happy to help you get started. This wonderful download program is sponsored in part by the generosity of Dr. Ross. Thank you so much Dr. Ross! There are over 2000 titles in the audio book selection and you can search by genres such as historical fiction, mystery or romance. You will need your own ereader to download ebooks. The program is compatible with the Nook and Sony ereader, but not the Kindle.

February is also the time we honor Presidents Washington and Lincoln. This year is the 150 anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. The Civil War Trust has launched a national initiative to commemorate the Civil War and give time for reflection on this very important and pivotal time in our nation's history. The Skowhegan Public Library is unique in that it is the home of the town's civil war memorial. The

The Library Lookout

February 2011

icons on the front of our building are civil war corps badges and emblems. The beautiful stain glass window in our Memorial Room depicts a banner which reads, "In memory of our heroes 1861-1865" Over the fireplace is a bronze plaque with the names of all the men who enlisted in the civil war from Skowhegan. To commemorate the rich local heritage in Skowhegan, the library and the History House will be collaborating on a civil war program on Wed. April 13 at the library at 7pm. More details to follow in the future.

In addition, the Skowhegan Public Library is sponsoring a penny drive to raise money for the library renovation. With a slogan, "Reading makes cents" and the inspiration of President Lincoln on each penny, a man who valued education and who led our country through one of its most difficult times during the civil war, the penny drive is a way for everyone to support the library and to remember the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. There will be a large penny jar in the library lobby to collect the Pennies for Project 2012!

And speaking of money, the environmental group called Towns in Transition will be focusing on money, bartering and time banks on Wed Feb. 9th at 7pm. Iver Lofving will facilitate the discussion and all are welcome. Our next Jazz night will be Feb 17th at 7pm. Refreshments will be on sale. This program is sponsored by the Friends. See you there!

CHILDREN'S ROOM

I hope you will all join me in welcoming Angie Herrick as the new Children's Librarian! Angie will begin on Feb 1st and she brings a deep love of books and reading to the library. She has had a lot of experience working with children - in the classroom, as a tutor and as a daycare provider. Angie has been a long time member of the Skowhegan Public Library. She has two children Bella and Cole who have visited the library frequently with their mother Angie and father Jason. Welcome Angie!



I would like to thank Marilyn Renfrew for all the wonderful books she donates to the library. As a teacher, she reviews many books each year. She gets a free copy of all the books she reviews and donates most of them to the library. This year she has donated over 50 books. Thank you so much Marilyn!

Mrs. Welch's first grade class will be visiting the library on Friday Feb. 11th. It is always exciting when classes come to the library. For many students it may be their very first visit to the library. The students in the Millstream School class will also be visiting Dr. Vermette's office and Hannaford's as part of their community field trip.

The students of Somerset Valley Academy visit the library every Monday for research and education. It is also a good time for the students to pick up books for reading just for the fun of it.

VALENTINE CARD CREATION PARTY!

*Roses are red, Violets are blue,
Hope you love me, I sure do love you!*

Fun for all ages, Grandparents to Toddlers

Saturday, February 12

10:30 to noon

Create the Perfect Card for your Valentine!

Packets of creative materials

available for \$3 donation

Free refreshments

Come join the fun!

New and Renewed Members

Bruce Moore

Elinor Clark

Rhonda Daggett

Joe Scozzafava and Dina Jeannotte

Dan and Jody Sherman

George and Elaine Cannell

Jennie Hamilton-Thorne

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

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

BOOK REVIEW

by Debra Burnham

To Thee I Sing

By Barak Obama

This short children's book is President Obama's love letter to his two daughters, Sasha and Malia. He presents a series of thirteen ideals, connecting a famous person to an ideal. Each time a new ideal is added, another child is added to his daughters' family. As you read on you see the girls adding to their family .

President Obama wants to let them know, that he sees many special personal qualities in them, the same special qualities found in inspiring people such as Albert Einstein, Neil Armstrong, and Maya Lin to highlight just a few. Some of the ideals mentioned are: be creative, kind, smart, not giving up, be an explorer, honor the past, and look for the goodness in each other .

The author concludes the book with a short biography and accompanying photo to enhance the understanding of those highlighted. Young readers may identify with some of the ideals or may be inspired to attain more of the ideals in the future.

What a unique way of sharing his deep love and pride for his daughters. Aren't we more alike than different? Are we not a part of a bigger, global family? Take time and enjoy a walk through history with the Obama girls.

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Clancy, Tom/ *Dead or Alive*

Clark, Mary Jane/ *To Have and To Kill*

Cussler, Clive/ *Crescent Dawn*

Hoag, Tami/ *Secrets to the Grave*

Hunter, Stephen/ *Dead Zero*

Lescroart, John/ *Damage*

Michaels, Fern/ *Whisper My Name*

Rice, Anne/ *Of Love and Evil*

Thor, Brad/ *The Athena Project*

Wambaugh, Joseph/ *Hollywood Hills*

Non-Fiction:

Allagash Historical Society/ *Christmas in Allagash*

PROJECT 2012

A new concept plan for our building renovations has been prepared by architect, Nancy Barba and accepted by the Library Trustees. Just ask Melissa for a peek at the plans - we think you'll be pleased!

The Renovations Committee is staying in close contact with Campaign Manager, Pat Dickey even though Pat and Norman are at present enjoying a warmer climate with no snow!

Two more grants have recently been received, one from the Davis Family Foundation for \$10,000 and the other from the Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust for \$7,500. Applications have been sent out to seven additional foundations, and we should expect replies during the next few months.

The Renovation Committee has planned a series of fundraisers that include the Penny Drive described in Melissa's column and a Create a Valentine Card Party in February. (See description on page two of this Lookout)

The on-going Bottle Refund drive has now reached the grand total of **\$871.10** since it began. Bottles and cans may be recycled at either C & M Recycling on St. Mark Street or the Beverage Mart on North Avenue. Just mention that you want the refund to be held for Project 2012. We're looking forward to reaching the thousand-dollar level when you'll hear the cheers echoing throughout the town!

This issue of Library Lookout is sponsored by

**Franklin
Savings Bank**
FranklineBranch.com

The Library Lookout

9 Elm Street

Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your librarians:

Library Director Melissa Gaspar
Children's Librarian Angie Herrick
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte

Your Library Trustees:

Toni Jo Blaisdell,
Lee Granville, Corilla Hastings
Carol Jarvais, Warren Shay
Ex Officio, Darla Pickett

Friends officers:

Darla Pickett, pres.
Peggy Lovejoy, vice pres.,
Pam McDermott, sec. Kathleen Littlefield, treas.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Children's Story and Craft Hour every Wed. at 10am
Tues. Feb 1 6pm Trustees Meeting
Wed. Feb 2 6pm Renovation Committee Meeting
Wed. Feb 9th 7pm Towns in Transition discussion on money and bartering
Sat. Feb 12th Make your own valentine card party, 10:30 to 12.
Sat. Feb 12th Socrates Cafe at the Blueberry Cupboard 11am-1pm.
Mon. Feb 14 10:30 am Toddlertime 6mo-3yr. music and stories
Thurs Feb 17th 7pm Jazz Night @ the library 7pm Free!
Mon. Feb 21st the library is closed for President's Day
Mon. Feb 28th 10:30 am Toddlertime

MARCH

Children's Story and Craft Hour every Wed. at 10am
Tues. Mar 1st 6pm Trustees Meeting
Wed. Mar 2nd 6pm Library Renovation Committee Meeting
Thurs. Mar 3rd 6pm Library Friends Executive Board Meeting
Wed. Mar 9th 7pm Towns in Transition discussion TBA
Sat. Mar 12th Socrates Cafe at the Blueberry Cupboard 11am-1pm.
Mon. Mar 14 10:30 am Toddlertime 6mo-3yr. music and stories
Thurs Mar 17th 7pm Jazz Night @ the library 7pm Free!
Thurs. Mar 24th 5:30-7pm Ice Cream Social part of Maple Sugar Week
Mon. Mar 28th 10:30 am Toddlertime