



# The Library Lookout

February 2010

<http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us>

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

There is a lot to love at your library! February may be a short month but it is packed with exciting events. First of all, on Thurs. Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, there will be an informational meeting at the library on our library renovation. The library is applying for a USDA rural development grant. Any one who is interested may attend this public meeting.

There will be a special dinner theater event presented on **Friday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and Sat. Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at noon**—"A Pony Club Tragedy" written by Marcia Granville and performed by members of the community. The play will be performed at the Methodist Church Hall, located on the Dr. Mann Road. Tickets are on sale at the library and cost \$10. This includes the dinner and theater production and of course dessert! All proceeds will go to support the Library Renovation.

**Valentine's Day is Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.** Celebrate by attending the **Mama Mia! Sing-along** version of the movie at the Strand Theater in Skowhegan on Sunday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The first people to arrive will be given boas or you may bring your own. Wedding cake will be given out after the movie. Wear your dancing shoes and sing and dance along with the movie. Bring your valentine and all of your friends. All profits will go to benefit the Library Renovation Fund. This event is sponsored by the 3 women's groups in town: Semper Fidelis, The Dove Society and the Women's Club. Tickets are on sale at the library \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door.

Aloha. **Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup> is**

**Library Luau Day.** If you didn't book a tropical vacation this year, visiting the library on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> is the next best thing. Tropical books will be available to "take you away" as well as some tropical treats and décor. You might even hear a bit of Hawaiian music in the air. **The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Discussion Group will meet at 3:15pm** upstairs and talk about island adventure stories. This group is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. No registration necessary.

And on **Sunday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup> from 5pm-6:30pm the Skowhegan Madison Elks will be serving a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Library Renovation.** Tickets are on sale at the library for \$6 and all profits will go to benefit the library. Many thanks to the many volunteers who are so dedicated to helping us raise money for the Renovation. We have raised more than \$115,000 to date and it has been a community effort. Thank you for your support. ~Melissa Gaspar

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## REMEMBER!

Hope to see you at the Methodist Church on February 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> – 6 PM on Friday or noon on Saturday. Cast of "A Pony Club Tragedy" written by Marcia Granville will include: Ariana Bacon, Dave Calder, Lyn Govoni, Iver Lofving, Emily Moore, Anastasia Paradis, Lynda Quinn, Shelby Watson, Ellen Withee, and Nathan Withee.

Menu for dinner both days consists of lasagna, Caesar salad, rolls, dessert and beverage.

Get your tickets today!

## BOOK REVIEW

By Linda Eaton  
Mr. Paperback, Skowhegan

*An Allagash Haunting* by Tim Caverly

Although the book, *An Allagash Haunting*, measures only four inches by six inches physically, it tells a BIG story. The author, Tim Caverly, cleverly introduces the reader to the world of ghosts when describing "ghostly" happenings at a small hunting cabin located in the deep Maine woods. Things are mysteriously moved around and a pair of binoculars disappears from the woodpile when no one else is around. Moving on to the main ghost in the book, Emile Camile, Caverly sets the story up through a future canoe trip down the Allagash Wilderness Waterway by his daughter, Jacquelyn, her husband, Kevin and their daughter, Olivia. Caverly gives details about the lives of the lumberjacks who lived in the North Woods and harvested the trees that were floated down the rivers to reach their destination at the paper mills below. One such worker was a Frenchman named Emile Camile. Though short in stature, Emile had tremendous power in his particular job. He released the water at Churchill Dam so the logs could be sent down the river. This location is also where Jacquelyn called home for sixteen years. The area held many sweet memories for Jacquelyn, but when Olivia asked questions about a huge building where the lumberjacks slept and ate, her mother just told her, "When the time is right, I will tell you."

Olivia was excited to reach the Churchill Dam area and help set up the tent and ready the campsite for their stay, especially since a dark storm was moving in fast. Night fell, the storm cleared and Olivia felt safe and secure in the tent with her parents close by. Not surprisingly, after they were sleeping, there was a noise outside at the picnic table. This led to her meeting the ghost of Emile Camile. This led Olivia on a great adventure, and ultimately brought her closer to her mother.

Caverly has told this tall tale, borrowing the actual ghost story from his good friend, Gil Gilpatrick, a Master Maine Guide and an outdoor columnist since 1979. Caverly wrote this book with students in mind. He highlights several words throughout the book to help build their vocabulary. The reader gets to know the Allagash region through Caverly's detailed pictures he paints with his words. The canoe trip weaves it's way through many rivers and gives the reader an idea of the beauty of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The illustrations throughout the book are by Frank Manzo, Jr. and add a lot to help the reader further visualize this entertaining story. This book would be best read by Caverly around a warm campfire in the dark of night, preferably at Churchill Dam. If lucky, the group around the campfire could see the lights coming from the old bunkhouse and hear Emile's fiddle music floating through the air.

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### NEW BOOKS

Berry, Steve/ *The Paris Vendetta*  
Deveraux, Jude/ *Days of Gold*  
Garwood, Julie/ *Sizzle*  
Grafton, Sue/ *U is for Undertow*  
Graves, Sarah/ *CrawlSpace*  
Hunter, Steve / *I, Sniper*  
Jance, J.A./ *Trial by Fire*  
Krentz, Jayne Ann/ *Fired Up*  
McCall Smith, Alexander/ *La's Orchestra Saves the World*  
Michaels, Fern/ *Deadly Deals*  
Rollins, James/ *Altar of Eden*

The Library Lookout is sponsored by



# Skowhegan Savings

# CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Katherine LeBlanc

An exciting thing happened during the snow in January in the Children's Room. The ceiling in the front room was seriously cracked and damaged. Thank goodness for Steve Dionne who came in after hours and repaired the damage. It looks fabulous! If you have a moment to come up and gaze at the ceiling we would love to show it off! Many thanks again to Steve for always going above and beyond for the library! You are so appreciated!

Although winter usually means a slow down at the library you wouldn't know it in Skowhegan! The Children's Room has been busy weeding the collection, moving books, and completing the inventory to get us up and running with the new on-line system. We have had numerous donations from many different patrons and we have been so lucky. Once the inventory is done in these areas we will be adding these books in. I always feel so blessed when I receive an email from people thinking of us and asking to make donations.

Remember we continue to have Story and Craft hour on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. Geared toward the pre-K group of children, story hour is designed to teach the basics of sitting and listening, positive interaction with children, and following directions. Although, of course, it is the most fun they can have all week! But truly, it is a wonderful place for kids to learn, share, grow and have fun!

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## NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS

- Cindy and Al Laiho
- Cindy and Chet Manuel
- Shirley Bastien
- Rhonda Daggett
- Elaine and George Cannell
- David Richards
- Jody and Dan Sherman

## FOL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Friends Executive Board met on January 7. Melissa spoke of the new cataloging system, "Destiny", that was paid for by the Friends. She said she was spending a lot of time in the basement, where the system's server is located, updating the files.

Since some of the board members are retiring as of the Annual Meeting in May, a discussion was held on inviting new people to take their places on the board. Further action will be taken at the next meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, any library patron or Friend who is interested in joining this enthusiastic group is urged to contact any one of the officers.

The purpose of the Friends organization is to support the library and its services in any way that is needed. Raising funds and raising friends are both of great importance. Events scheduled for this spring include "Library Lunches" on April 16, and the Lawn Sale in May.

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## 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

## **The Library Lookout**

**9 Elm Street**

**Skowhegan, ME 04976**

### **Your librarians:**

Library Director Melissa Gaspar  
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte  
Children's Librarian Katherine LeBlanc

### **Your Library Trustees:**

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,  
Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,  
Carol Jarvais, Corrilla Hastings  
Ex Officio, Mary Hill

### **Friends officers:**

Mary Hill, pres.  
Darla Pickett, vice pres.,  
Kathy Littlefield, sec. Sherri Vigue, treas.

# **Calendar of Events**

## **FEBRUARY**

Every Wednesday, Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM  
February 2 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.  
February 3 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.  
February 4 Meeting on USDA Rural Development grant at the library, 6 PM  
February 5 Dinner Theater at Methodist Church, 6 PM.  
February 6 Dinner Theater at Methodist Church, 12 noon.  
February 8 & 22 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM  
February 13 Socrates Café, 11 AM – 1 PM.  
February 14 Mama Mia! Sing-along at the Strand Theater, 2 PM  
February 17 Library Luau Day  
February 17 Book Discussion Group for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 3:15 PM  
February 21 Spaghetti Dinner at the Elks Cub, 5 to 6:30 PM

## **MARCH**

Every Wednesday, Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM  
March 2 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.  
March 3 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.  
March 4 Friends of the library Executive Board meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.  
March 8 & 22 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM  
March 13 Socrates Café, 11 AM – 1 PM.