



The Library Lookout

July 2000

Tel: 474-9072

Wish List

The New Century Grant that we received will provide one new printer for the Photo scanning process, but we also need one for the second pc. We are gratefully accepting donations for that printer. Thanks to George Hawes for his generous donation. Won't you follow his lead?



Popular Selections

Chosen by Librarian Helen Shaw

Children:

Creech *The Wanderer*
Kipling *The Cat Who Walked By Himself*
Myers *At Her Majesty's Request*
Tamar *The Midnight Train Home*

Adults:

Fiction

Hunter *Hot Springs*
Muller *Listen to the Silence*
Plain *After the Fire*
Steel *House on Hope Street*
Trollope *Marrying the mistress*

Non-fiction

Kayson *Girl Interrupted*
Shriver *Ten Things I Wish I Had Known*
Roker *Don't Make Me Stop This Car*
Stewart *Driving Over Lemons*

LATEST NEWS

Compiled by Jim Foster

(Note: Editor Mary Davies is out of town this month due to illness.)

Your Friends of the Library Executive Board met on June 28 and welcomed new members Dottie LaCasse, Bev Fitzsimmons and Mary Stuart. Committee chairs for the following year were appointed: Newsletter publication, Jim Foster and Mary Davies; Newsletter Distribution, Marcia Granville and Jim Hastings; Programs, Maxine Russakoff for adult programs, Kathy Hughes and Corrilla Hastings for children's programs; Computers and computer classes, Jim Foster; Fund raising, Marcia Granville; Library displays, Jim Foster and Kathy Hughes; and FOL Membership renewals, Mary Stuart and Marcia Granville. Mary Stuart also volunteered to be in charge of hanging an outside lobby bulletin board which will be available to promote community events.

As in the past, regular FOL meetings with programs of local interest will be scheduled for the second Wednesday of every other month. The dates include September 13, November 8, January 10, March 14 and May 9. Every member of the community is warmly invited to attend these events.

Murder at Tranquility Falls was the title of the play we produced last October. Thanks to your enthusiastic response there will be another play this year. We won't give away the plot, but do mark your calendars so you won't miss out on the fun. On Friday evening of October 27th, be prepared to visit the good citizens of Tranquility Falls once more.

The Wednesday afternoon children's programs began July 5 with an excellent program on seashells and their inhabitants, "Treasures from the Sea", by Kristina Rinaldi. There were over twenty children in attendance and everyone had a fun and educational experience, with each child bringing home a collection of shells and a book on ocean life. The rest of the programs are listed in the calendar on the back page of this newsletter.

Photographs of the May Annual Meeting have been added to the Photo Album on our web site, <http://mainetoday.koz.com/maine/friends>. Be sure to check this out as it is changed at least once a month. Currently, I am revising the online version of my classes prior to resuming them (see page 3) and adding more links to other web sites. Any news or material you may have for this newsletter or for the web site, please send to Jim Foster at jfoster@somtel.com or Rt. 3, Box 6880, Skowhegan.

Book Reviews

Bill Bryson, *In A Sunburned Country*

by Mary Davies

For a pain-free and very witty lesson on Australia, I recommend *In A Sunburned Country*, another winner by Bill Bryson. This time he takes us along on his journey Down Under.

In his charming and loquacious manner, he reports on the past, present, geography, and personality of this large, sparsely settled, sports and party-loving, rough and tumble nation, in a way that makes you want to call your travel agency to see for yourself.

In this book, he sounds a bit British which works well. In a previous book, he explained how that could happen. There are many anecdotes; he has a wonderful way with words and he seems sometimes a scholar and sometimes a "reg'lar mate".

Whether you're dreaming of a trip to Australia or you're a seasoned arm-chair traveler, this book will tell you where to go, what to see, where to stay, what to expect and what can kill you (quite a few things).

Here's a sample anecdote:

A fellow noticed, just before a premier Cricket match, that the seat next to him was empty. He inquired about it to the gentleman on the other side of the seat and the man replied "It was for my wife but she died" "Oh, I'm so sorry", the first man said, "Couldn't you give the ticket to a friend or a relative?" "Oh No, They're all at the funeral".

Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha*

by Marcia Granville

For an insight into Japan and her people, *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden is invaluable. A novel written after a great deal of research by the author, it accurately portrays the life of a geisha in the 30s and 40s. The book shows how the intense jealousies between geishas and geishas in training can make life miserable. It also shows how the patronage of a favorite one of these entertainers can smooth a young girl's path.

The story is written from the viewpoint of Chiyo, a little girl who is sold along with her sister, with promises to

her family that she will have a better life. She had thought they was going to be adopted by a wealthy business man. Imagine her dismay when she and Satsu are taken to a far away city and separated nearly at the moment of their arrival.

What happened next? Why were the girls separated? Do Chiyo and Satsu ever see one another again? You will have to read *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden to find out.

Lawrence Block

by Marcia Granville

Lawrence Block is the prolific author of mysteries as well as a former writer for the *Writer's Digest*. The titles of his books for aspiring writers show his imaginative turn of phrase. *Writing the Novel from Plot to Print*, *Telling Lies for Fun & Profit*, *Write for Your Life*, and *Spider Spin Me a Web* are well worth reading for anyone who wishes to write. The light-hearted Bernie Rhodenbarr mysteries detail the adventures of a dedicated break-in artist and thief who manages to stumble upon a corpse in nearly every book. Witty word play and droll digressions, make this series great fun to read. *The Burgler in the Rye* is the latest in this series.

The Matthew Scudder series tell stories from the opposite point of view. Matt is an alcoholic retired policeman who does investigations for a fee. This series is written in a darker vein than the Burgler series. These mysteries are for the reader who requires a healthy dose of "reality" mixed into his entertainment. *A Stab in the Dark* and *Everybody Dies* are two examples of this series.

Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading Program for children age 4 and up will be from June 26 to August 4. Children are required to read and give oral or written reports on 12 books during the six week period. Books should be at the child's own reading level. Those completing the program will be treated to cake, ice cream and miniature golf. Summer Wednesday afternoon programs for children of all ages. All programs will be at 2 PM at the library:

Computers and Classes

By the time that you read this, hopefully our two new computers, printers and scanners will have arrived! This equipment was purchased from Madison Computer with the assistance of a New Century Grant from the State of Maine. One computer will replace one of the current networked machines for internet access and word-processing, the other will be a stand-alone machine in the Civil War Memorial Room (near the copy machine) and will be devoted to inputting text and images for archival purposes. Both computers are fast, with 500 Mhz Pentium III processors and 256 MB of RAM. Both will have 12 GB hard drives and come with the new Windows 2000 operating system, which will allow us to keep unauthorized persons from changing settings (this problem, and the small size of the hard drives, have been responsible for the old computers being down so often.) Both computers will have seventeen inch diagonal monitors, a real improvement for those who have difficulty seeing small print. Each will come with a fast, heavy-duty color inkjet printer; the one attached to the non-Internet computer will be capable of printing on large (tabloid/ledger size) paper, and of two-sided printing. The archiving computer will also have a heavy-duty flatbed scanner attached, and will include a CD-burner for writing data and images to CD's, which will be available at a small cost from the Library staff.

The often-postponed Basic Computer Classes series co-sponsored by the Friends and the Kennebec Valley Computer Society will begin on July 18 (whether or not the new computers have arrived) and will be held each Tuesday night from 7:00 to 8:30 until the series of six classes is completed. The classes will be Computer Basics (July 18, covering the parts of a computer and a little bit about how they work), The Windows Operating System (July 25, covering the essentials of Windows 95/98 and Windows 2000), Using Your Computer (August 1, on how to install and run programs, focusing on word processing, and how to do basic maintenance on your computer), The Internet (August 8) and Resources Available Online (August 15), and File Formats & the Programs that Love Them (August 22.) More advanced classes and day classes may be added later. For more information, call Jim Foster at 474-2589 or e-mail jfoster@somtel.com.

This newsletter is
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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. individuals, \$8. Seniors & Students, and \$15. for families. We normally meet at the Library the second Wednesday of every other month, unless scheduling conflicts require another date. For more information, call Corilla Hastings (474-3949) or Mary Davies (474-7446).

Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, RR1, Box 2760, Skowhegan, Me 04976. Welcome.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Tel. # _____
 E-Mail Address _____

LIBRARY HOURS

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ADULTS	1-8:30	10-6	10-6	1-8:30	1-7:30	10-2
CHILDREN	3-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	3-5:30	3-5:30	10-2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



July 12

Amazing Feathered Friends by Somerset Cooperative Extension (2 pm, children)



July 18

Computer Class, Computer Basics (7pm, adults)



July 19

Discovering Pond Life by Warren Balgooyen (2 pm, children)



July 25

Computer Class, Windows Operating System (7 pm, adults)



July 26

A Magic Show by Joe Scozzafava (2 pm, children)



August 1

Computer Class, Using Your Computer (7 pm, adults)

August 2

Who's Afraid of the Wolf? Not Us! by Jodi Renshaw, Maine
Wolf Coalition (2 pm, children)



August 8

Computer Class, The Internet (7 pm, adults)



August 9

Tour of History House followed by games and refreshments from
the 1840's (2 pm, children)



The Library Lookout

Friends of the Skowhegan
Free Public Library
c/o Skowhegan Free Public Library
Elm Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your Librarians Are:

Helen Shaw,
Francoise Labonte,
Lois Moody
and Thelma Butler

Your Library Trustees Are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,
Mary Davies, Betsey Hall,
Kathy Dorko,
Toni Jo Blaisdell and
Rick Anzels

Friends Officers Are:

Corilla Hastings, Pres.;
Jim Foster, V.P.,
Marcia Granville, Sec.
and Kathy Hughes, Treas.