



# The Library Lookout

September 2003 Tel: 474-9072

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## Library Director's Corner

The "2003 Summer Reading Program" ended with a party at Lake George Park. Everyone enjoyed cake, drinks, swimming and fun. 87 kids participated in the summer reading program.

Total attendance at the Wednesday story hours and programs was over 490. Oceanography, Shakespeare, the Magic Show and the Planetarium were favorites.

We would like to give special THANKS to our extraordinary story tellers: Maureen Calder, Tina Burns, Kathy Hughes, Petra Prokop, Jacque Fisher, Pooh's Corner's : Rick, Dorothy and Bonnie Bishop.

We give special thanks to Dave Richards and the Margaret Chase Smith Library for their part in making our Summer Reading Program a huge success.

The library has been able to survive the hot summer weather thanks to Wal-Mart of Skowhegan and the skills of Dominic Rinaldi, Sr. Wal-Mart helped us secure new air conditioners and Mr. Rinaldi installed them for us. It's been really comfortable to use the library as a result.

We welcome Katherine back full-time from surgery and as Mrs. LeBlanc. She's as busy as ever with programs and getting the Children's Room completed. We're hoping for an open house in the Children's Room once all remodeling is completed. The new

Children's Room card catalog will be done by then as well.

On September 10th, Bill Laney, architect Sylvanus Doughty and I will make a presentation about the library's future to the citizens and anyone from the Friends of the Library. We hope everyone has ideas to share.

The library will have another book sale on September 12th From 10:00 am to 5:30 pm These will be books that have not been offered at previous book sales.

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## Coming Events

The library encourages school field trips for stories and reading programs designed around the class studies. Or, Katherine LeBlanc, our Children's Librarian, will visit the classroom with similar programs.

At the end of September, *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo will be the subject of a discussion group. Everyone is welcome.

The annual Friends of Maine Libraries meeting will take place on September 26th in Augusta. It is time to sign up for your workshop choices which are: Setting Up Your 501(c)3 Organization, Latest Book Sale techniques, On-Line Databases, Coping With the Patriot Act, Last Year's Grant Winners and What Works.

**Don't miss the Library's next  
Humongous Book Sale 10:00  
to 5:30, Friday, September 12**



Visit Us on the Web at [www/friendsofmainelibraries.org/organizations/fosfpl](http://www/friendsofmainelibraries.org/organizations/fosfpl)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

"Library Lunches" have proved to be a reliable fund raiser for the Friends during the last three years; on each occasion we have been able to raise approximately \$1000. We are now planning our next "Library Lunch" scheduled for Friday, October 24. As in the past, all lunches will be pre-ordered and prepaid, either at downtown businesses or at the Library.

The need for volunteers will be on October 24 between the hours of 9 AM and 12 noon. We are looking for people to make sandwiches (at the Hastings' house) between 9 and 11, and we also need delivery people between 11 and noon. Do you have one hour or two hours free on that day? If so, please call either Corrilla at 474-3949 or Marcia at 474-7207.

If you are unable to work on the day of the lunch, perhaps you would like to sign up to donate some individually wrapped desserts for the occasion, or order a lunch for yourself from Francoise at the Library.

We will begin distributing menus and order blanks on October 6th. The orders and money will be collected no later than October 17th. We could use volunteers for these jobs as well as for sandwich making.

### SEPTEMBER 10 FOL MEETING

The next FOL meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10 at 7 PM at the library. At this time Staff and Trustees will lead a discussion on future plans for the Skowhegan Free Public Library. Architect, Sylvanus Doughty will also try to attend. All area residents are welcome to attend and to share their suggestions, hopes, and visions for the library in the years ahead.

LIBRARY HOURS					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10-6	10-6	10-6	10-7	10-6	10-2

### MEET A LIBRARY VOLUNTEER

Twelve years ago Ruth Blood discovered the fascinating world of genealogy, and in her own words, this interest soon "became an obsession". How fortunate this has been for the Skowhegan Free Public Library where Ruth has donated countless hours of her time. She has organized the Genealogy Room which is now used by many people who wish to search for their family records. Ruth is "on call" and goes into the library at least once a week to answer queries received from library patrons. She helps to order new books on the subject, and encourages donations of local family histories. Last year she taught a genealogy class to a group of very enthusiastic students.

A Skowhegan resident since 1960, Ruth taught in the English department at SAHS for twenty-five years. Her special interests there were writing labs and the remedial program.

Ruth hopes to continue to build up the genealogy collection at the library, and to encourage more people to become involved in this fascinating subject. Her enthusiastic (and contagious) interest is greatly appreciated!

### CALLING ALL COOKS!



Would you like to see your name in print? Just allow your favorite recipe to be included in the Library Lover's Cookbook. Drop a neatly written recipe off at the library.

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**VIDEO REVIEW** by Bob Farnsworth

Arthur Miller's short play "The Ryan Interview" is a rare treat for those who prefer the arts that find expression in the understated and subtle. Ryan (Eddie Bracken in the video) is visited on his 100th birthday by a smart, relatively young, condescending woman reporter for the local paper. For most of history, the words that have become flesh so that people may understand are captured in the bodies of outsized heroes or villains. Arthur Miller's great talent is in embedding such ideas in ordinary people whose numbers make up for their lack of size.

In this play, Ryan is perhaps a triumph of attitude over the adversities of experience and perhaps the young lady learns to respect him at least enough to find him a man outside his time.

Finally I mention that Arthur Miller lets the dark of a thunderstorm mean something other than exploding human passions. Joan and I have the video and would be glad to expand this discussion or start others right here on the Back Road of life #489.

**BOOK REVIEW** by Jack McMurrer

I've lived rather long but only recently and happily did I discover novelist Edith Wharton (1862-1937). Her *The Age of Innocence* is considered by R.W. B. Lewis in his Introduction to be one of the few first-class works of fiction ever to win the Pulitzer Prize, (which it did in 1921). I would have enjoyed this novel if only for its presentation of New York City's high society circa 1880 whose members "dreaded scandal more than disease, who placed decency above courage, and who considered that nothing was more ill-bred than 'scenes', except the behavior of those people who gave rise to them". The satire in *The Age of Innocence* was worth my reading of the book but the work's marrow is in the portrayal of the ill starred love between soon-married Newland Archer, a rebellious product of that NYC high society,

and the totally nonconformist Ellen Olenska, NYC-born and estranged wife of a European Count. At the posh farewell dinner for Ellen who sails next day for Europe, Newland, who tells himself he will soon follow her to Paris and cast his fate at her feet, "felt like a prisoner in the center of an armed camp. He looked about the table, and guessed at the inexorableness of his captors from the tone in which, over the asparagus from Florida, they were dealing with Beaufort and his wife. 'It's to show me,' he thought, 'what would happen to me-' and a deathly sense of the superiority of implications and analogy over direct action, and of silence over rash words, closed in on him like the doors of a family vault."

If I fail in whetting interest for Wharton, her novella *Ethan Frome* might; it and a collection of her short stories, including *The Old Maid*, are what led me to *The Age of Innocence*.

**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 Corrilla Hastings. (474-3949)

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Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, 175 James Road, Cornville, Maine 04976

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

# Calendar of Events

- September 3 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
September 10 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
September 10 Friends of the Library meeting at 7:00 pm at the Library  
September 12 Book Sale 10 am to 5:30 pm at the library  
September 17 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
September 24 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
September 24 FOML meeting in Augusta  
Date TBA Book discussion group, subject, *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo
- October 1 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
October 8 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
October 15 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
October 22 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
October 24 Library Brown Bag Lunches  
October 29 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room  
October 30 Window Painting downtown  
October 31 4:00 pm Halloween Costume parade
- November 12 FOL Meeting



**The Library Lookout**  
Friends of the Skowhegan  
Free Public Library  
c/o Marcia B. Granville  
P.O. Box 278  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your Librarians are:  
Library Director Blynn Currier,  
Assistant Librarian Francois Labonte,  
Children's Librarian Katherine LeBlanc,  
Your Library trustees are: Bill Laney,  
Warren Shay, Lee Granville,  
Toni Jo Blaisdell and Carol Jarvais  
Friends Officers are:  
Corrilla Hastings, Pres.,  
( ) V.P.,  
Maureen Calder, Sec.  
( ) Treas.

James & Corrilla Hastings  
538 Malbon Mills Road  
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

