



The Library Lookout

February 2002 Tel: 474-9072

LATEST NEWS

Compiled by Jim Foster

VALENTINE CRAFT PARTY



For the last several years, the Friends have sponsored an annual Valentine craft party where children, parents and grandparents have had great fun making Valentine cards and decorations. Come and join us this year on Friday, February 8 from 3 to 4 PM upstairs in the Children's Room. We'll have lots of fascinating material available in our craft treasure box - and some cookies to munch on while you work! Don't be shy - everyone can be an artist and create a masterpiece for their sweetheart.

DIRECTOR SEARCH

The Trustees' search for a Library Director is continuing under the direction of a committee chaired by Carol Jarvais.

COMPUTER NEWS

Verizon has installed our new T-1 line to the Internet, the necessary equipment (router) has arrived, and the changeover should take place by the time this newsletter is published. This much higher bandwidth connection will hopefully eliminate the slowdown which often occurs when all the computers are online at the same time.



Two members of the Friends, Jim Foster and Lee Granville, spent the 28th and 29th of January at the Maine State Library's computer lab receiving advanced training from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the uses of the Gates computers, and came back with a number of new ideas for improving our service to the local community.

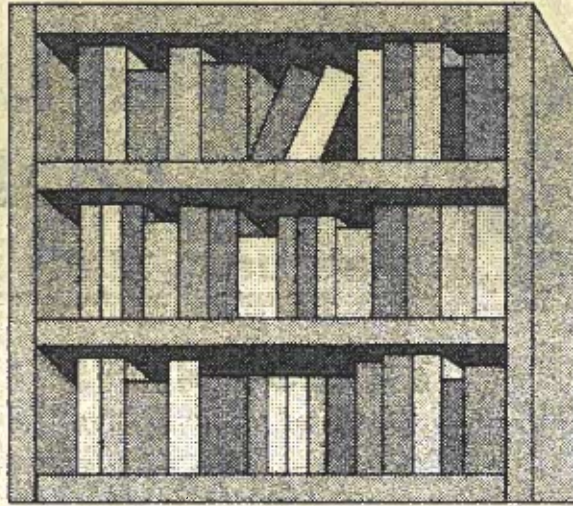
Jim is working on a new series of hands-on computer classes, with specific reference to the Library's machines, to begin in early spring.

FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

The next regular meeting of the Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library will be held on Wednesday, March 13 at 7 PM at the Library. There will be a program, to be announced later.

Volunteers from the Friends will be visiting

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Book Reviews

by Marcia Granville

Diane Chamberlain, *The Courage Tree*

(Found in the grocery store book section)

It would be hard to classify this book as belonging to any specific genre. There is suspense, romance and medical theory all rolled into one spellbinding book. Eight-year-old Sophie Donahue went on a weekend camping trip with her Brownie troop. The trouble is, she didn't come back. She has a rare disease that is as much a threat to her as almost anything she might find in the woods. Hostile in-laws, untraditional medical treatment and a next door neighbor all contribute to Ms. Chamberlain's story. I am going to read just as many of her books as I can find.

Annie Proulx, *The Shipping News*

(A Christmas Gift)

If this title seems familiar, it is because *The Shipping News* was made into a movie. This story isn't the page turner that *The Courage Tree* is, but it has hidden depths. At first, I had difficulty in getting interested in Proulx. He seems to be a marginally intelligent character that bumbles through life with hard luck at every turn. By the end of the book, however, he has proved to be a good deal smarter than he looks. How else could he become a newspaper editor? *The Shipping News* turned out to be a very interesting and thought-provoking book.

Tom Clancy *The Bear and the Dragon*

(My husband's)

Any Tom Clancy fans who would be offended by a negative review should stop reading right now. I found *The Bear and the Dragon* incredibly difficult to get through. The story is buried so deep in unnecessary detail that it is hard to find. Mr. Clancy would do much better to cut about half, if not more, of his manuscript. The reader does not really have to know the history of photography, or many other details which I have since been happy to forget. They do not advance the story, do not clarify the action and make the book eminently put-downable. The only reason for all this padding that I can see is to expand his check - if he is being paid by the word or by the number of pages in his manuscript.



Visit the Friends' web site:
[www.friendsofmainelibraries.org/
organizations/fosfpl](http://www.friendsofmainelibraries.org/organizations/fosfpl)

Latest News – from page 1

schools to read to children in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS TUTOR TRAINING

Literacy Volunteers tutor training sessions will be held at the Skowhegan Area High School on six Thursday afternoons from 5 to 8 PM, starting March 7. For more information or to register, call 474-7553 or 1-800-322-5455. This course trains volunteers to tutor individuals in basic reading. \$15 is charged for materials.

ANNUAL SPRING LAWN SALE



The annual Spring Lawn Sale to benefit the Library

will be held as part of the 7 Mile Lawn Sale on Saturday, May 18. The location will again be at Jim and Corrilla Hastings' barn.

Judging from the number of articles on hand, many Skowhegan residents have already been doing spring cleaning! We welcome any kind of usable items - household items, clothing, toys, furniture, tools, books - but please, no broken appliances, television sets or tires which have to be trucked to the dump at a fee. You may arrange to bring your donations to the barn now by calling 474- 3949.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the day of this event, the day before to price, or the day after to sort and clean up, please call Kathy Hughes, volunteer coordinator, at 474-8969.

This event has been a major fundraiser for the Library over the past three years.

This newsletter is
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WINTER LIBRARY HOURS

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

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).

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

- February 5** Library Trustees Meeting, Open to the Public, 4 pm.
February 6 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
February 8 Valentine Craft Party – 3-4 pm, Children's Room
February 13 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
February 20 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
February 27 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
March 5 Library Trustees Meeting, Open to the Public, 4 pm.
March 6 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
March 13 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
Friends regular meeting, 7pm. Program to be announced
March 20 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
March 27 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
April 2 Library Trustees Meeting, Open to the Public, 4 pm.
April 3 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room



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

Your Librarians Are:

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.