



[www.skowheganlib.me.us](http://www.skowheganlib.me.us)

### **Director's Corner by Melissa Gaspar**

April has so many exciting events. April is National Poetry Month. Earth Day comes on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and National Library Week is April 13-19<sup>th</sup>. In celebration of these important days, the library is sponsoring the first ever Community Writing Project. Everyone is invited to submit a poem, prose or short essay 700 words or less with a theme of Nature or the Earth. We will compile all the entries into a book entitled: "Enjoying Nature: sharing our stories" This book will then be available at the library. Some entries will be printed in the local papers. All submissions must be sent to the library by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Applications and more details are at the library. We would love to hear from you!! Have you ever been inspired by the beauty, might or miracle of Nature? Now is the "Write Time" to share your experiences and thoughts. This writing project is also in keeping with our "Entering Nature" book discussion group, which is supported by the Maine Humanities Council. The group met recently to discuss, "Lives of a Cell" by Lewis Thomas. The next book will be "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek" by Annie Dillard and will meet on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in joining the group just call the library at 474-9072.

**Big News!** The library was awarded a \$5,000 grant from Plum Creek to help finance the Roof Project. This grant has come at an excellent time when the work on the roof is about to begin. Steve Dionne has already begun repairing the windows in the tower and the front of the library. The window work should be completed by July. More big news! The crocuses are up in front of the library. A sure sign that spring really is here.

# THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT April 2008

Thank you to the Friends Group for purchasing two new office chairs for the library. The Friends group has been tremendously helpful over the years providing many items for the library that we would not otherwise be able to purchase.

About 50 people attended the ice cream social on March 20<sup>th</sup> which was part of the Maple Syrup Week Celebration. Three flavors of Gifford's Ice Cream were served. A video on maple syrup making was shown and many maple-sugaring songs were played during the event. Many thanks to Sherri Vigue for all the delicious toppings she provided and to the Maple Syrup Princesses who made a royal visit to the library.

One more thing to look forward to sometime late in April--the new Skowhegan Free Public Library Book Bags! They will cost \$10 each and all profits will go to the Library Renovation.

### **The Children's Room By Katherine LeBlanc**

Spring has sprung, but I don't think mother nature got the memo! Even with the snow still littering the ground the Children's Room is forging ahead with many plans to welcome spring to the Library. We are seeing several scout troops, schools and after school programs begin to schedule field trips to the library. This is always an exciting time of year as it brings the children in and gives them the opportunity to find out what the Skowhegan Library can offer their family.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> story hour will be conducted by several community leaders. The Skowhegan Police and Fire Department will be here to read to the children and share some information about what they do in our community. There will also be a spring craft planned and flower planting to round out the festivities. I am also quite busy scheduling

the summer reading program, and I must say it is shaping up nicely. We are looking forward to another wonderful program with lots of fun things for the kids to do. We hope that you will join us!

### **Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library Executive Meeting**

At the March meeting we voted to contribute \$350 for a matching fund grant from the Library Foundation for nonfiction children's books. We also voted to purchase 2 new chairs for the library.

The recent play was a success and earned about \$850. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed refreshments.

At least 30 people attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Friends at the Library on February 14th. The film on the history of the Friends may be shown soon on Channel 11.

The Brown Bag Library Lunch fundraiser will be on April 18th. Orders and money will be collected until April 4th. Order forms are available at the library. Volunteers are needed to solicit orders, make lunches, and deliver lunches. We also need people to bake bars or cookies and put one bar or two cookies in a small baggie and leave the baked items at the library by April 17th.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library will be held on May 14th at 5:00 PM. Officers will be elected that night. The brief business meeting will be followed by a Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Event at the library with music and refreshments. All members of the Friends are encouraged to attend!!

We are looking for a new person to edit and publish the Library Lookout newsletter. Marcia Granville would like to retire from that task.

We will be holding a lawn sale at Corrilla Hastings's house on May 17th as part of the Ten Mile Yard Sale. Anyone may leave donated items at Corilla's barn the week or so before the sale. Please call first. (474-3949)

Volunteers are needed to sort the items, price the items, sell on the 17th, cook and serve hot dogs and clean up after the sale.

## **Coming Events**

**April 13-19 National Library Week** There should be book bags on sale for \$10.00 each, perhaps later in the month..

**April 18 Don't forget! Your Library Lunch**, if you ordered one before the 4th, will be delivered on the 18th.

**April 22 Earth Day** We will publish a book of your writings about the beauty, might or glory of nature. For more details see the front page. Application blanks are available at the library.

**April 23 Firemen and Policemen** will read during the children's story time. There will be a spring craft and flower planting as well.

**May 10 Channel 11 Telethon** 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for a new library roof We have some money for the project but need more. Please call and make a donation.

**May 14 Wine and Cheese Open House** from 5:30 to 7:00 at the library

**May 16 Desert/solitaire by Edward Abbey** 6:30 at the library.

**May 17 Library Lawn Sale** will be held at the farm of Jim and Corrilla Hastings. The barn is open now for donations.

## **NEW BOOKS**

### **Fiction:**

David Baldacci / *Stone Cold*  
Clive Barker / *Mister B. Gone*  
Barbara Taylor Bradford / *The Heir*  
Clive Cussler / *The Chase*  
Anne Enright / *The Gathering*  
Richard Paul Evans / *Finding Noel*  
Richard Paul Evans / *The Gift*  
Elizabeth George / *What Came Before He Shot Her*  
  
Terry Goodkind / *The Confessor*  
Greg Iles / *Third Degree*  
Dean Koontz / *The Darkest Evening of the Year*  
Julia London / *Guiding Light: Jonathan's Story*  
Alexander McCall Smith / *Love Over Scotland*

Colleen McCullough / *Anthony and Cleopatra*  
 Patrick O'Brian / *The Reverse of the Metal*  
 Ann Patchett / *Run*  
 James Patterson / *Double Cross*  
 Ian Rankin / *Watchman*  
 J.D. Robb / *Creation in Death*  
 Nora Roberts / *Blood Brothers*  
 James Rollins / *Black Order*  
 James Rollins / *The Judas Strain*  
 James Rollins / *Map of Bones*  
 Alice Sebold / *The Almost Moon*  
 Margaret Truman / *Murder on K Street*

**Non-Fiction:**

Tom Brokaw / *Boom!*  
 Sylvia Browne / *Prophecy*  
 Eric Clapton / *Clapton : an autobiography*  
 Victoria Doudera / *Moving to Maine*  
 Nelson Madore / *Voyages : a Maine Franco-American reader*  
 Steve Martin / *Born Standing Up*  
 Ed Sikov / *Dark Victory : the Life of Bette Davis*

Studs Terkel / *Touch and Go*  
 AUDIO BOOKS

**Books on CD**

Jon Clinch / *Finn*  
 Richard Paul Evans / *The Gift*  
 Richard Russo / *Bridge of Sighs*

**Books on Cassette tape**

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*  
 VIDEOS

**VHS TAPES:**

*Alias Smith and Jones*

**DVDS:**

*An Inconvenient Truth*  
*Because I Said So*  
*Elizabethtown*  
*Everyone's Hero*  
*Firehouse Dog*  
*Freedom Writers*  
*Happy feet*  
*Hollywoodland*  
*On Golden Pond*  
*Martian Child*  
*Music and Lyrics*

**Author Review**

By Marcia Granville

When *The Firm* took the book world by storm, I promptly bought it and *tried* to read it—twice. I couldn't do it—and I've been known to read cereal

boxes! I still don't know, or care, how it came out.

There are any number of reasons for liking or disliking a particular author. In order to like an author, I have to be able to identify with the main character. I can't do that if I don't like him or her. In *The Firm*, I just couldn't believe in the protagonist. I didn't see how such a bright young lawyer, graduating at the top of his class, could be so stupid. He irritated me so much that I couldn't finish the book.

For years since then, I've avoided Grisham's books. Last week, I decided to try again and I picked up the audio version of the *Rainmaker*. I was instantly enthralled, couldn't wait to hear what happened next. The book is well written and fast paced enough for anyone. In my view, *The Rainmaker* is far superior to *The Firm*, but Rudy Baylor, the protagonist, has a character flaw that ruined the end of the book for me. It left a bad taste in my mouth.

It will be a while before I read or listen to another John Grisham book.



Library Outlook is Sponsored by

**Skowhegan Savings**

**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.

# Calendar of Events

## APRIL

- Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room  
April 1 Library Trustee meeting 6 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome.  
April 2 Library Renovation Committee meeting 6 p.m. at the library.  
April 13 through 19 National Library Week  
April 14 & 28 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room  
April 18 Library Lunch  
April 21 Patriot's Day. The library is closed. 5:30 to 7:00 at the library  
April 23 Story Hour conducted by firemen and policemen. Flower planting, also. 10 at the library  
April 24 "Let's Talk About It" *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Anne Dillard

## MAY

- Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room  
May 1 Friends of the Library Executive Board meeting 6 p.m. at the library.  
May 6 Library Trustee meeting 6 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome.  
May 7 Library Renovation Committee meeting 6 p.m. at the library.  
May 10 Channel 11 Telethon toward our new roof 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please call and donate.  
May 12 & 26 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room  
May 14 Wine and cheese open house 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the library  
May 16 Desert /Solitaire by Edward Abbey 6:30 at the library.  
May 17 Library Lawn Sale at home of Jim and Corriila Hastings It's more than books.

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



**Your Librarians are:**  
Library Director, Melissa Gaspar,  
Assistant Librarian  
Françoise LaBonte,  
Children's Librarian,  
Katherine LeBlanc  
**Your Library Trustees are:**  
Bill Lancy, Warren Shay,  
Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,  
Carol Jarvais and Corriila Hastings  
Ex Officio, Maureen Calder  
**Friends officers are:**  
Maureen Calder, Pres.,  
Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,  
Marilyn Renfrew, Sec.  
Sherry Vigue, Treas  
Marcia Granville, Editor