



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

# The Library Lookout

**MAY 2009**

## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

By Melissa Gaspar

The Friends of the Skowhegan Public Library would like to invite the community to a **"Celebration of Art" Open House at the library on Wed. May 13, 2009 from 5-7pm.** A short annual meeting will be followed by the much anticipated unveiling of the giant athletic shoe in the library lobby at 5:30pm by Barry Norling. The unveiling will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. Other artists who will be presenting their artistic talents are John Alsop, Milton Christianson and Lorraine Herschkorn. As an added bonus, people are invited to get in touch with their own creative potential by participating in an interactive art project. This project will inspire, clarify, then take a first step towards making your most cherished dreams become real. The interactive art project will be upstairs. You are invited to be inspired.

Hopefully, many of you were able to view the video on Channel 2 news about the giant shoe. Here are the facts. The library received a \$3000 grant from the Maine Community Foundation to sponsor a community art program that would be both artistic and historically meaningful. The shoe is therefore a lasting piece of outdoor art and a tribute to the men and women who dedicated their lives to the shoe industry, past and present. In addition the shoe is "in motion" to support the "Move More Kids" initiative sponsored by the New Balance Foundation to help prevent childhood obesity. Furthermore, The shoe will also bring attention to the self-guided historic tour created by the

Heritage Council and the History House. People will be walking around their downtown, shopping and learning about their town, or hiking the many nature trails in Skowhegan. The shoe will be a lovely tourist attraction and a focal point of our Somerset Bicentennial Celebration on August 15th. There will be more about that event later this year.

The Socrates Café will meet on Sat May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am to 1 pm. Come join a friendly group of philosophers. May's topic for discussion is wisdom. Beginning in June, the group will meet at the Blueberry Cupboard on the second Sat of the month from 11-1pm.

The library will be closed on Saturdays beginning with Sat May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be open M-F 10am-6pm.

Good news! Two new computers have arrived at the library thanks to the Friends group who donated the matching funds needed for this technology grant. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation provided the other portion. We will be receiving a total of 3 computers this year and 2 computers next year.

**Save the date: June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm is the annual town meeting.** We hope that people will attend and show their support for the library. Thank you very much!

## CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Katherine LeBlanc

I had the opportunity to go to my fifth Reading Round Up this month. This conference, held at the Augusta Civic Center, is especially geared for Children's Librarians to beef up on the latest titles and share stories with fellow librarians from around the state. I was able to meet many other librarians who also are headed for renovations or have just completed them. Although this was very interesting, the highlight of the day was the key note speaker, Lois Lowry, author of such books as *Numbering the Stars* and *The Giver* just to name a few. It was a wonderful experience with great information. I was truly able to see how an author can use her imagination to create her characters, and what influences helped to mold her style. On that same day I rushed back to participate in the Healthy Kid Pack after school program at North Elementary. There were eighty children eagerly ready to talk about the library and hear a story. Their enthusiasm was awesome.

During April school vacation we held our annual Community Read in the Children's Room. Officer Ron Blodgett from the Skowhegan Police Department and Firefighter Rick Caldwell came to speak to the children about safety and what they do in our community. Everyone in attendance learned so much from their visit, and the children asked some excellent questions. Thank you to both the Skowhegan Police and Fire Department for supporting the library.

May is already starting to become a busy month for us. With the nicer weather comes field trips and end of the school assemblies. I look forward to having the children come in and explore with their classrooms and acquaint themselves with all the services we have to offer.

## LIBRARY LUNCHES

What a team! With the help of many Friends, the annual Library Lunch was a successful effort that resulted in a total of \$1589 after expenses. Thank you to all the people who donated delicious homemade desserts and to the hardworking crew that sold, created and delivered the lunch bags; Maureen, Mary, Lin, Melissa, Kathy, Anna, Pam, Dave, Sherri, Katherine, Darla, Marcia, Christine, Julie, Connie, Jim and Corrilla all joined forces to make it happen! A special thank you should also go to the North Star Orchard in Madison that donated the apples to go in every one of the 285 bags.

## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Kathy Hughes  
Marilyn and Roger Renfrew

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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

## BOOK REVIEW

By Bonnie Chamberlain

Lavinia by Ursula K. LeGuin

Ursula K LeGuin, a prolific and honored author of novels, poetry, and essays, is well-known primarily for her writing of fantasy and science fiction. Sometimes the setting is the future, sometimes the past, often with an historical or mythological slant. In this novel, LeGuin favors both history and myth centering her novel in the time of Aeneas' landing on Italian soil. He is welcomed by Latinus, the King of the region, who offers his daughter, Lavinia, to Aeneas in marriage. She is a willing bride, having rejected all other suitors, even the one chosen by her mother, Turnus leader of the Rutulians. Of course, war comes to the region when Turnus will not be placated and attacks Aeneas. This is as it was in the last six books of the Aeneid by Virgil. LeGuin goes beyond giving the story over to Lavinia. Her first person narrative recounts these events adding another dimension to Virgil's. She is a fine protagonist, knowing from prophecies of spirits and sacred trees, that she is to marry a stranger, start a war, and begin the line that will eventually found Rome. She is both aristocratic and of the people, strong, assertive, and independent yet troubled with doubts, guided by good common sense and loyalty

LeGuin, in her seventies, sought to read Virgil in the original and used her self taught Latin skills to translate the Aeneid; sometimes just a few lines a day. I heard her explain this in an interview on NPR and was intrigued with the book that she wrote. She explains that the Latin is really untranslatable, but that she hoped that she did justice to his story with her own prose. The original, says LeGuin, "was a tremendous joy. And Lavinia's voice and her story came to me out of that joy. . . I felt that it was time she got to tell her view of things."

## NEW BOOKS

(coming soon)

### FICTION

Mary Balogh / *Seducing an Angel*  
Michael Connelly / *The Scarecrow*  
Lee Child / *Gone Tomorrow*  
Paul Coelho / *The Winner Stands Alone*  
David Ignatius / *The Increment*  
Raymond Khouri / *The Sign*  
Elmore Leonard / *Road Dogs*  
Elinor Lipman / *The Family Man*  
Robert Littell / *Stalin Epigram*  
Debbie Macomber / *Summer on Blossom Street*  
Robert B. Parker / *Brimstone*  
Douglas Preston / *Cemetery Dance*  
Nora Roberts / *Vision in White*  
John Sandford / *Wicked Prey*  
Lisa Scottoline / *Look Again*  
Lisa See / *Shanghai Girls*  
Wilbur Smith / *Assegai*

### NONFICTION

Shawn Levy / *Paul Newman : a life*  
Suze Orman / *2009 Action Plan*  
Kamal Saleem / *The Blood of Lambs*  
Joe Torre / *The Yankee Years*

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### LAWN SALE

Is it "spring cleaning time" at your house? Time to reduce the "clutter"? Please remember the Library Lawn Sale to be held at Hastings' barn on the Malbons Mills Road on Saturday, May 16. Anything in saleable condition is welcome including toys, furniture, tools, clothes, household items, books, games, puzzles, sports equipment, baby furniture, potted perennials, etc. Call 474-3949 to arrange a time to bring your contribution to the barn. Thank you!

The Library Lookout is Sponsored by:



**Skowhegan  
Savings**

# Calendar of Events

## MAY

Every Wednesday: Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM

May 2 Socrates Café, 11 AM – 1 PM

May 5 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

May 6 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

May 11 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

May 13 Celebration of Art/Friends' Annual meeting. 5 – 7 PM

May 16 Friends of the Library Lawn Sale at Hastings' barn

May 16 Beginning of summer hours; Library will be closed on Saturdays,  
Open Monday – Friday, 10 - 6

May 25 Library closed in observance of Memorial Day.

## JUNE

Every Wednesday: Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM

June 2 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

June 3 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

June 8 & 22 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

June 8 Town meeting at the Municipal Building, 7 PM

June 13 Socrates Café at the Blueberry Cupboard, 11 AM

June 18 Pampered Chef Cooking tips, coffee and desserts, 6 PM

### **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.