

JANUARY 2024

# THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CLOSURES & NOTABLE EVENTS

1/15 – LIBRARY CLOSED for Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
1/22-1/28 –LIBRARY CLOSED for Inventory

### WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

**Every Wednesday** – Storytime @ 10:30 - 11:30AM  
– Dragon Book Club @ 4PM  
**Every Thursday** – Career Center Consultant @ 1 - 4PM  
**Every Friday** – Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM  
**First and Third Saturdays** – Library Yoga @ 10:30AM

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1/02 – YA Book Club @ 5PM  
1/03 – Mason Jar Craft @ 4:30PM  
1/10 – Scam Protection @4:30PM  
1/11 – Ron Joseph Author Talk @ 6PM  
1/16 – Paul Doiron Author Talk @ 6PM  
1/18 – Books & Brews at Unwined @ 6:30PM

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## HELLO 2024!

December has come and gone and with it the remainder of 2023. We are back from our winter break refreshed and ready to see what the new year holds. We want to thank you all for your patience during the closure. We know it can be inconvenient to not have access to the library for a stretch of time. Doing so allows us to be with our families and recharge so we can be even better for all of you. December was a little slower with programs due to the holidays and the weather closures but we have some great things in store for this month! We have two Author talks and a few new children’s programs that we’re excited for!

## ADULT PROGRAMMING

December saw the beginning of a Mason Jar craft series, it was meant to be a three part series but was interrupted by the flooding we experienced the week before winter break. We made a little bit of a mess working with the modge podge but we some great results! We’ll be finishing the series this month but possibly revisiting with new projects in the future!



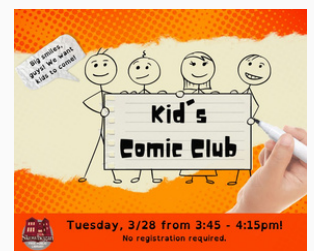
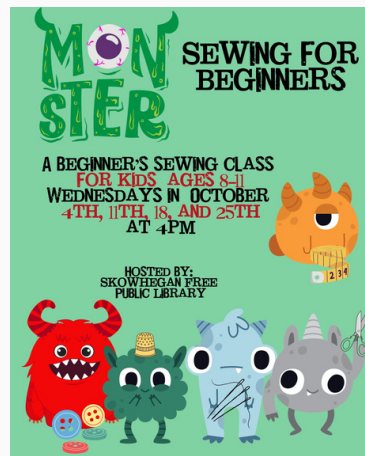
## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING



This month we had a special guest for story time... Santa! Our special guest read a story and his elf helped him pass out a book to everyone on the nice list (which was everyone). For their craft, everyone got to decorate a paper gingerbread house to take home. It was so nice of Santa to take a break from his busy schedule at the North Pole to stop by and visit. Hopefully we'll see him again next year!



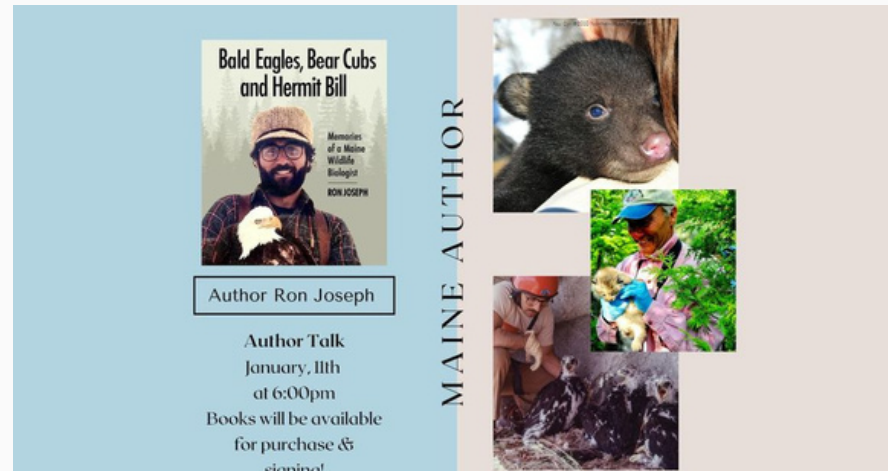
Our children's librarian has so many fun things planned for our community next month, so stay tuned for new programs to come! What's been your favorite program so far?



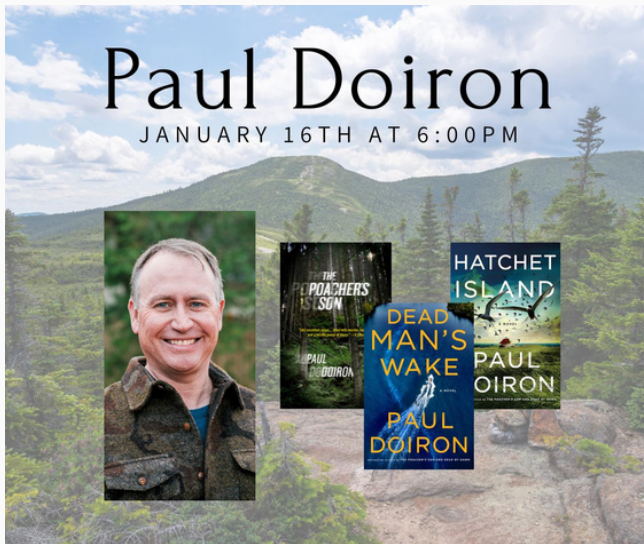
## AUTHOR TALKS

In January, we have two author talks that we're excited to share with you. Read on to learn more and make room on your calendars!

On January 11th, we'll be hosting Ron Joseph, author of *Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs, and Hermit Bill*, *Memories of a Maine Wildlife Biologist*. Ron was born in Waterville and shares stories in his book of his times as a Maine State and Federal Wildlife Biologist.



A promotional poster for an author talk with a light blue background. On the left, the book cover for "Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill" is shown, featuring a man with a beard and a hat holding a bald eagle. Below the cover, the text reads: "Author Ron Joseph", "Author Talk", "January, 11th", "at 6:00pm", and "Books will be available for purchase & signing!". On the right, there is a vertical text "MAINE AUTHOR" and a collage of three photos: a black bear cub, a man in a hat holding a baby animal, and a man in a hat working with birds.



A promotional poster for an author talk with a scenic background of mountains and a forest. At the top, the text reads "Paul Doiron" and "JANUARY 16TH AT 6:00PM". Below this, there is a portrait of Paul Doiron and three book covers: "The Poacher's Son", "Dead Man's Wake", and "Hatchet Island".

Paul Doiron joins us on January 16th! Paul is the award winning author of 'The Poacher's Son' and many other best sellers. A staple in our library, the Mike Bowditch series is so popular that we have 3 copies of each book just to keep up with the requests! Speaking of, books will be available for purchase and signing. We think this makes for a perfect Thursday evening activity. Come listen to this Maine gem here at the Skowhegan Library!

Stay tuned for what's to come in February!

# 2023

## In Review

2023 was quite the year!! We had a lot of new items added to the collection that were popular along WITH some old favorites. There were a few that stood out from the rest. Here's your reading year in review.

### TOP GENRE

### MYSTERY

### TOP AUTHOR

Paul Doiron



### TOP TITLE: CHILDREN

The Bad Guys  
by Aaron Blabey



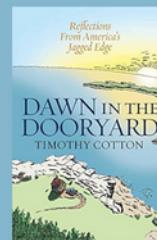
### TOP TITLE: ADULT

Dead Man's Wake  
by Paul Doiron



### TOP NON- FICTION:

Dawn in the Dooryard :  
Reflections from the Jagged  
Edge of America  
by Timothy Cotton



## WINTER STORM

The library was fortunate to avoid any damage due to the flooding caused by the severe winter storm we saw at the end of December. We know it effected so many of our patrons, loved ones and staff and was an incredibly challenging time for the state. We are so thankful for the first responders, linemen and linewomen who spent endless hours making sure we were safe and working to restore power to as many people as they could as quickly as possible.



Arial view of Skowhegan in the after effects of the storm

## Staff Picks of the Month

*Angie - Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

*Bree - Where You End* by Abbott Kahler

*Gabrielle - The Wicked Bargain* By Gabe Cole Nova

*Lydia - The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*Nikki- How to Sell a Haunted House* by Grady Hendrix

**THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT**  
**9 ELM STREET**  
**SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976**

### **LIBRARY STAFF**

Director: Angie Herrick  
Adult Circ: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald  
Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter  
Technology Librarian: Nikki Hathaway  
Library Aide: Lydia Dore  
Volunteers: Lyn Demchak & Sam Galbraith

### **LIBRARY FRIENDS**

Chair: Karen Lewia  
Treasurer: Kirk Karkos  
Secretary: Lynda Quinn  
Matt Dubois  
Gretchen Washburn

### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE TRUSTEES**

Devin MacMichael  
Patrick Dore  
Debra Sterling  
Lynn Perry  
Lynda Quinn