



THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT October 2004

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Blynn Currier

As promised, I am including a summary of what effect the passage of the Tax Cap or the Palesky Referendum, will have on the Skowhegan Free Public Library. This is only my view and it is only an estimate.

As has been stated in the local newspaper many times, the town funding for library services would be eliminated. If that does happen, the library budget would be cut by \$95,000. The library would have to operate on a budget of \$35,000 from endowments, registrations and/or donations.

This change would mean the library would be open 10 hours per week. We would eliminate (1) one staff position and all others would be cut to one-third to three-quarters of the time.

Along with the shortened hours and less staff, we also could not purchase books, tapes, magazines, newspapers or supplies. Computer print-outs, photocopying, and (ILL) interlibrary loan would be eliminated as well. We wouldn't have funds for paper or postage.

When you go to the voting booth, ask yourself this question. Is this what I want my library to be?

PALESKY TAX CAP

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library are sponsoring an informational meeting on the Palesky tax cap and its adverse effects on many forms of public service, particularly, the library. Representatives from the Maine Peoples' Alliance, Police Chief Butch Asselin, and our Library Director, Blynn Currier will all be on hand to explain what prob-

lems could be created if it passes and to answer questions. This forum will take place on October 20th at 7:00 pm at the Skowhegan Free Public Library.

If you have any questions call Blynn or Katherine at the library, 474-9072 or Maureen /Calder at 858-0448.

Please make every effort to come and bring a friend with you.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Instead of a single book review this month, we thought you might be interested to hear what other people are reading. The following readers were among those who attended the Cookbook Review & Tasting Party at the Library on September 15.

Cindy Laiho - *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

David Richards - *Moneyball* by Michael Lewis

Shirley Bastien - *A Walk on the Beach* by Joan Anderson

Elinor Clark - *The Last Jihad* by Joel Rosenberg

Lynn Plourde - *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke

Lyn Govoni - *The Rule of Four* by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason and *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* by Mary Pipher

Phil Russakoff - *Obliviously On He Sails: The Bush Administration in Rhyme* by Calvin Trillin

Virginia Jordan - *Peony* by Pearl S. Buck

Claudia Whittle - *The Middle-aged Man on the Flying Trapeze* by John Thurber

Corrilla Hastings - *Monkey Dancing* by Daniel Glick

READERS' RECIPES PARTY

Those of us who attended the cook book party on September 15 were rewarded with a table full of delicious and elegant culinary treats. Organized by Dottie LaCasse and Shirley Bastien, the collection included samples of a large number of the recipes found in Readers' Recipes. After filling our plates, we were entertained by the six authors who contributed stories to the book. Lynn Plourde delighted us with her reading of "Tired of Leftovers", bringing back memories of those questionable hot lunches from the past. Not surprising, actress Mary Stuart adopted a truly "magnifique" French accent when she read "Crème Brulee". Instead of reading his story, Dave Richards gave a very entertaining demonstration of the creation of "Exploding Jell-o". We could almost feel the warmth and good smells in "Grammy's Kitchen" when Marcia Granville shared her story. Maureen Calder and Corrilla Hastings each read tempting first paragraphs of their longer stories which we looked forward to finishing on our own and sharing with young readers. Many thanks to all those people who contributed to making the evening such a success and so much fun!

COOKBOOK ON SALE NOW

Reader's Recipes is now available at six locations in Skowhegan. You will find them at the Library, P.J.'s Party Store, The Blueberry Cupboard, Variety Drug, Alice and Co. and at the Skowhegan Town Office. The cover picture is Milton Christianson's beautiful painting of our Library. Prints and postcards bearing the same picture are also available at the Library.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Lisa and Jim Veilleux
George and Elaine Cannell
The Govoni Family
Virginia E. Jordan

Thank You!

Editor's Note

Last month, we printed only a part of Maureen's interview with Tina. Here is the complete text.

MEET A VOLUNTEER

By Maureen Calder

So often, people talk about things they'd like to be involved with, places they might be able to lend a hand. Some don't just talk about it, some actually get involved. One such person is Tina Burns.

Tina has been actively involved with the Skowhegan Free Public Library for the last two years. She started volunteering in whatever capacity was needed and now concentrates primarily as a "Story Hour Lady" in the Children's Room. She has a wonderful talent for craft ideas and comes up with a variety of activities for the children who attend on Wednesdays. Tina loves spending time providing this service because it gives her the opportunity to use her teaching skills and, as an added plus, it's a chance for her 3yr.old daughter, Katelyn, to enjoy the company of other children and further share her own love of books with her Mom.

Arriving in the Skowhegan area several years ago from Ohio, Tina graduated from Skowhegan Area High School and earned her degree in Elem. Education. She now lives in Norridgewock with her husband and daughter and will welcome an addition to the family in February. She comes from a family of educators and business people so it is quite natural for her to employ skills in both of these areas. She volunteers a good deal of time to the Methodist Church where she serves as a Supt. responsible for the Sunday School education of the children. She manages the programs, registration, curriculum, and acts as a support for the teachers. Tina works occasionally as a substitute teacher in the Madison District and has volunteered as a sign language instructor at Norridgewock Elementary School. Although she is involved

with public education, she intends to use her expertise by home schooling her own children. One of her greatest joys is being a "stay at home" Mom.

Tina sees the library as a "top of the list" in any community. "It's a strong resource, an asset that provides a function for anyone willing to take advantage. It's a starting place for many, a place of activity, a place to get kids, not just reading, but moving, and it's a safe place for accomplishing all of that."

She believes the library is one place a variety of people can help in many capacities but sometimes, she says, people tend to think they can't help. It would be a benefit to them and to the library to realize that there is much to gain from coming. Don't think that just because you may not read well that you can't help. Sometimes people tend to "excuse (themselves) right out of life". There is plenty to do here such as shelving, fundraising, craft ideas, activities for kids, literacy volunteering, etc. It's important to "spread the word" however one can; word of mouth, notices at various meetings, newsletters through churches and other organizations, schools, etc.

Tina has a philosophy that "the best teacher is a student—always learning." She is someone who loves to do just that—teach and always learn. With that belief and the active role she takes as a Mom, a teacher, and an involved community member, Tina is a definite asset to our library. Thanks for everything, Tina!

LIBRARY LUNCHES

HELP! Thanks to those of you who have already contacted us, but we still need some more willing volunteers to work on the October 29 "Library Lunches". Please call Marcia (474-7207 or Corrilla 474-3949) if you can help. We need:

1. Homemade desserts, individually wrapped and delivered to the library before 6 PM on Thursday, October 28.
2. Sandwich makers on October 29 at 8 AM at Corrilla's house.
3. Delivery drivers at approximately 10:30 AM on October 29.

Volunteering is fun and it benefits your Library!

FOML CONFERENCE

Dina Jeannotte, Marcia Granville, Francoise Labonte and Corrilla Hastings attended the Friends of Maine Libraries annual conference in Augusta on September 24.. Speakers and workshops were included in the day-long program, along with the opportunity to talk with other Friends members from around the state. As a result, the Skowhegan group brought back useful information and ideas to share with our local organization.

The forum on Grant Writing was especially valuable. The specific points to be aware of when writing a grant are: Guidelines: Be sure to follow them. Research: Get all the information requested. Answers: Answer all questions. Need: What purpose does the grant serve? Timeline. Send the grant in on time.

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 _____
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E-Mail Address _____

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