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## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

By Melissa Gaspar

After 8 years of being the friendly welcoming face of the library, Katherine Leblanc is moving on to a new career in journalism. Her infectious laughter and compassionate nature will be missed by hundreds of children who have developed a love of reading under Katherine's guidance. She has enjoyed finding just the right book for even the most reluctant reader and many classrooms have made a trip to the library to enjoy one of her special story hour sessions. Full of creativity and ideas, Katherine has contributed much to the Skowhegan Free Public Library during her time here.

Her very first program was a Curious George birthday party which was an innovative idea to solicit some much-needed children's books. Her Halloween parade became a yearly event that drew hundreds of kids eager to dress up as their favorite characters. Another program she created was a "Give thanks to your library" This was a book drive in partnership with the help of local cub scouts. She has also sponsored such creative programs as The Renaissance Fair, a yearly themed Summer Reading Program and the Fall Festival that drew over 1,000 people to Coburn Park.

She also organized a Teacher's reception to thank and honor local area teachers while highlighting recipes from the Friend's Recipe book that they had just published. She has planned a local author's book signing day, a NASA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in collaboration with the Bloomfield Schools and the Margaret Chase Smith Library that attracted

# **The Library Lookout**

**October 2010**

attention from Channel 2, Bangor.

During her tenure as Children's Librarian, Katherine completely transformed the Children's collection to a modern usable collection by labeling and stamping all of the books and organizing them according to public library standards. A few short years later, Katherine was a tireless worker to barcode and enter all of the Children's collection into an automated database. That yearlong process allowed the library to maintain an online collection that is now accessible from any online computer.

Not content to just plan the programs, Katherine also actively wrote grants and raised money to support the many programs that she developed. She has brought in \$1000's of dollars in funding through such grants as the Maine Nutrition Grant, the Oak Grove School Foundation grant, and the Maine Community Foundation Grant. She has also organized fundraising events for the library such as book sales and the Bloomfield Craft Fair. Under her guidance the Children's Room has flourished, more and more children have attended the programs and the room is always very bright welcoming and friendly.

Katherine has also been willing to be "The Cat in the Hat" to visit classrooms in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday which has become a national literacy event called "Read Across America". In keeping with the spirit of fun, Katherine's farewell event on Tues. Sept 28<sup>th</sup> was called "Oh the Places she will go". Patrons of all ages were able to add their messages of farewell on a giant Dr. Seuss card. We are all cheering Katherine on as she steps out into her new career. Our best wishes go with her for happiness and success.

# CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Katherine LeBlanc

Autumn is upon us at the Skowhegan library, and with the new season comes new changes. As of September 30TH I will step down as the Children's Librarian. Although this decision was the hardest I have ever made, in my heart I know that the time has come for me to have new adventures and for the Library to have new blood.

It has been my pleasure to help recreate the Children's Room. From cleaning to painting and assembling shelves I have savored each and every moment. The trial and error of learning the ropes to the labeling and typing has helped me grow not only in my position as the Children's Librarian but as a person. It was so exciting to come in on the ground level with former Director Blynn Currier. My creative juices were flowing, but more importantly he and the Board took a chance on me. This was so appreciated and was such a fabulous ego boost for this stay at home mom that it is something I will never forget.

In the last eight years I have had the opportunity to meet so many people, young and old alike. I have made life long friends from far and away and met my neighbors. Although this may sound strange, it is the truth. I guess I didn't get out much before working here! I have been blessed with wonderful Directors, fabulous volunteers, and a great coworker. I will never forget Assistant Director Francoise LaBonte teaching me how to cover a book. I think we spent half of our time giggling, but to this day I think about what she has taught me. To those who may not know it, I will take this time to say Francoise is the glue that binds the library. Thank you Francoise, I will take with me all the memories, and lessons that we have shared.

To all the children who I must say good-bye to. It really isn't good-bye. My hope is that when you cross into the Children's Room that you remember that I really loved helping you on each and every visit. I loved hearing about your milestones, your adventures, your family, your dog and yes even how your day went. I have watched many of you grow into fabulous readers even when it began as a struggle. It has been my pleasure to share this triumph with so many children from Skowhegan and the surrounding

communities. Thank you for sharing those wonderful moments with me.

I would be remiss if I did not thank some other special people that have touched my life as well as the libraries. Dr. David Richards from the Margaret Chase Smith Library, it has been my pleasure to collaborate with you, lunch with you, and be your friend. You have inspired me and taught me more than you will ever know. Thanks for always knowing when I need to throw the fish. Library Director Melissa Gaspar, with all the philosophical conversations that we have had and all the high fives we have shared, I will take Pete the Perch with me as a lesson that I will share for the rest of my life. You truly know how to keep it positive and I thank you. And although there are so many other people, I am running out of room. I would lastly like to thank Maureen Calder. You are just plain incredible. You have forever touched my life and I am richer for it.

This is not goodbye, but thank you. Being the Children's Librarian has enriched my life in more ways than you will ever know

## New and Renewed Members:

Bonnie and Dick Chamberlain  
Jeanne Shay

## 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.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the generous donations by countless individuals and businesses, hours of hard work by many library volunteers, mouth-watering refreshments provided by the "Granville Girls" (Robin, Karen and Ellen), the skill and wit of Auctioneer Chuck Robbins and MC Warren Shay, and the enthusiastic support of those who attended, the Library Benefit Auction provided \$5,912.96 for Project 2012.

THANKS TO ALL!

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New program at the library: Towns in Transition. Join Iver Lofving at the library to view a short video presentation and then discuss ways to live more "greenly" in your community. Towns in Transition will meet the second Wed. of the month at 7pm at the library. Oct 13<sup>th</sup> "Who Stopped the Electric Car", Nov 10<sup>th</sup> "Farmer John" Dec 8<sup>th</sup> "The End of Suburbia". These programs are free. FMI call Melissa at 474-9072. Popcorn will be served.

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Library Clean-up Day was held on Sept. 25. Prudential Insurance sponsored the event and donated \$1000 to Project 2012. After receiving Prudential T-shirts and tote bags, the 23 volunteers washed windows and cleaned the future genealogy room in the basement. THANK YOU Prudential and volunteer workers!

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About two years ago, volunteer Mel Burnham initiated "Recycling for the Library". People were urged to donate their bottle and can refunds to Project 2012. What a successful idea it has been, resulting in over \$500 to date! Keep up the good work and let your redemption center know that your refund money should be put aside for the library. THANK YOU!

## NEW BOOKS

### FICTION

Barr, Nevada/ *Burn*  
Beck, Glenn/ *The Overton Window*  
Brown, Sandra/ *Tough Customer*  
Cook, Robin/ *Cure*  
Cussler, Clive/ *Lost Empire*  
Deveraux, Jude/ *Scarlet Nights*  
Doudera, Vicki/ *A House to Die For*  
Forsyth, Frederick/ *The Cobra*  
Gregory, Philippa/ *The Red Queen*  
Hiaasen, Carl/ *Star Island*  
Howard, Linda/ *Veil of Night*  
Kellerman, Faye/ *Hangman*  
Lippman, Laura/ *I'd Know You Anywhere*  
Macomber, Debbie/ *1022 Evergreen Place*  
Patterson, James/ *The Postcard Killers*  
Patterson, Richard North/ *In the Name of Honor*  
Pearson, Ridley/ *In Harm's Way*  
Reichs, Kathy/ *Spider Bones*  
Smith, Martin Cruz/ *Three Stations*  
White, Stephen/ *The Last Lie*

### NON-FICTION

Hunter, James Davidson/ *To Change the World*  
Rose, Sarah/ *For All the Tea in China*  
Vietze, Andrew/ *Becoming Teddy Roosevelt*

## BOOK REVIEW

The best books I've read in September were by C.J. Box. I picked one up by chance and was hooked by his writing so I read all of his books. I should have read them in order, but I didn't. I still really enjoyed them all.

The absolutely best book I read in September was *61 Hours* by Lee Child—at his best. A must read for Jack Reacher fans. First page to last will hold you spellbound and will leave you hanging.

Best in Reading by Alan Foxwell

*This issue of Library Lookout is sponsored by*



## **The Library Lookout**

**9 Elm Street**

**Skowhegan, ME 04976**

### **Your librarians:**

Library Director Melissa Gaspar  
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte

### **Your Library Trustees:**

Toni Jo Blaisdell,  
Lee Granville, Corilla Hastings  
Carol Jarvais, Warren Shay  
Ex Officio, Darla Pickett

### **Friends officers:**

Darla Pickett, pres.  
Peggy Lovejoy, vice pres.,  
Pam McDermott, sec. Kathleen Littlefield, treas.

# Calendar of Events

Every Wednesday, Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM

## **OCTOBER**

- Oct. 5 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM
- Oct. 6 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM
- Oct. 6, 13 and 20 Genealogy Class, 3 to 5 PM
- Oct. 9 Socrates Café at the Blueberry Cupboard, 11 AM to 1 PM
- Oct. 11 Library closed for Columbus Day
- Oct. 13 Towns in Transition, 7 PM.
- Oct. 17-22 Teen Read Week, scary stories and good reads for sale, 10-6.
- Oct. 25 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

## **NOVEMBER**

- Nov. 2 Library Trustees meeting, 6PM.
- Nov. 3 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM
- Nov. 4 Friends of the Library Executive Board meeting, 6 PM.
- Nov. 8 & 22 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM.
- Nov. 10 Towns in Transition, 7PM.
- Nov. 13 Socrates Café at the Blueberry Cupboard, 11 AM to 1 PM.
- Nov. 25 & 26 Library closed for Thanksgiving break.