

# The Library Lookout

Official newsletter of the Skowhegan Free Public Library

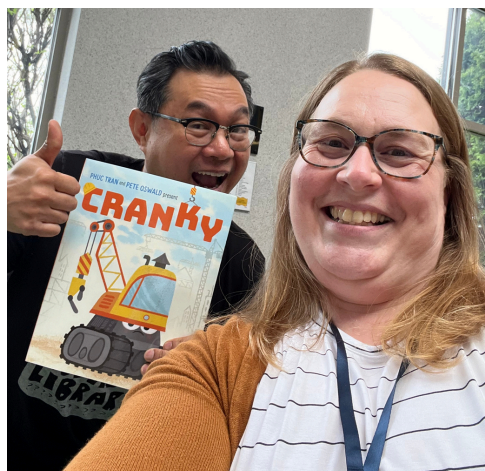


The support our community shows the library means so much to us, and once again, we are asking for your help. The annual Town Meeting will be held on June 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Skowhegan Opera House. This one meeting determines how much funding the library receives from the town and ultimately decides the majority of our yearly budget. We encourage any Skowhegan resident who is able to attend to come out and show support for the library’s funding request. These funds allow us to pay staff salaries, heat and cool the building, purchase computers and technology, offer programs such as storytime, book clubs, and craft workshops, maintain our historic building, and, of course, keep our shelves filled with books. This meeting can make or break the library’s annual budget, and the best way to ensure a positive outcome is to fill the seats with library supporters.

On May 19 and 20, the entire staff had the opportunity to attend the Maine Library Association Conference 2026 at Thomas College. This year’s theme, “Hang In There: Libraries on the Edge of Change,” reflected the challenges and opportunities libraries are facing in a rapidly changing world. From evolving technology and artificial intelligence to shifting community needs and growing demands on public services, libraries are adapting while continuing to serve as trusted, welcoming spaces for connection, learning, and access to information. The theme highlighted both the resilience of library workers and the important role libraries continue to play in supporting their communities through change. A personal highlight for me was hearing from keynote speakers Phuc Tran and Tess Gerritsen.



Director Angie Herrick modeling a T-shirt with a quote from... well Angie!



Keynote Speaker and author Phuc Tran pausing for a selfie!

## Upcoming Events

### Recurring

Every Wednesday - Storytime @ 10:30AM

Every Friday - Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM

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6/1- Cardboard Dinosaurs @ 3PM

6/3- BooOooks in the Basement @ 6:15PM

6/10 - Children’s Advocacy Center Storytime @ 10:30AM

6/15- Summer Reading Signups begin

6/18 - J.E. McCarthy Author Talk @ 6PM

6/22 - First Day of Summer Reading Program!

6/22 -SRP Kickoff: Adopt a Dino

6/22-SRP Kickoff w/ musical guest Fun Run @ 2PM

6/30 - Tea Rex Party @ 11AM

7/1- BooOooks in the Basement @ 6:15PM

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### Closures

**6/19-** All day in observance of Juneteenth

## Library Updates

### Emily Ecker, Children's Librarian

Shoutout to all the kiddos who came to our Cardboard Dino sessions! I cannot believe how quickly you picked up using the ChompSaws. Because of you, it only took two sessions to get all of the pteranodon pieces cut out, and because of you, we'll now also have a t-rex model. I'm eager to get them assembled and displayed ahead of Summer Reading!



Speaking of which, Summer Reading starts June 22nd! Registration for the reading challenge as well as all the programs will begin on June 15th. Check the Facebook event pages for individual program details. I hope you like all the things I have planned!

### News from Bree Bussell-Fitzgerald, Adult Services

This year's MLA Conference had so much knowledge to offer, it's always interesting to see what each session holds for us. I attended a session that was based on the historic clothing Martha Ballard wrote of in her diary. We were able to see handmade replicas of the pieces she would've worn and it was fascinating to see in person after the popularity of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon! I also attended sessions on how libraries serve as catalysts for community resilience, ways that we can mindfully create policies, practices and spaces that enhance the safety and privacy for patrons, and ways to make our libraries feel like spaces of care for everyone who enters. I always look for ways to better serve our patrons and I think I found a few really good ideas to implement moving forward.

### News from Nikki Hathaway, Tech Services Librarian

Conferences always leave me feeling inspired and driven to improve on what we're doing here at the library! This year, I attended conferences around researching local history, digital privacy and Libraries as Centers for Food Security. I took back some great info about how to better serve you this coming year, so stay tuned!

BooOOooks in the Basement will be reading 'Play Nice' by Rachel Harrison for our 7/1 meeting.

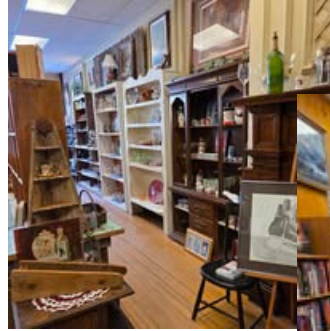
# Fundraising Updates

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Bake Sale and Plant Swap fundraiser last month! It was a great success thanks to you. We had bakers and buyers alike (both equally important) who came together to help raise money for the library. We think it's awfully 'sweet' of you to continue to show up for the library in this way.

Speaking of sweet, the Friends of the Library Shop is now operating under their summer hours! Now you can stop by Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10AM-4PM. They accept donations on Wednesdays and Thursdays only. Be sure to follow on Facebook, they periodically offer Saturday hours, and they're always announced there.

Shopping at the Friends of the Library Shop not only helps the library, but you're shopping sustainably by purchasing gently used items instead of buying new. This helps keep additional packaging out of landfills, saves these items from being discarded, and reduces waste caused by producing new goods. If you needed even more reasons to shop there, you'll also be getting a great deal on specially curated items! They have everything from books, to household items, to dvd's and Blu-Rays.

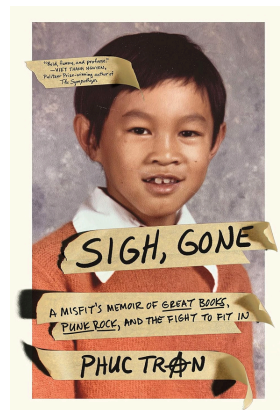
Stay tuned next month for upcoming fundraising opportunities!



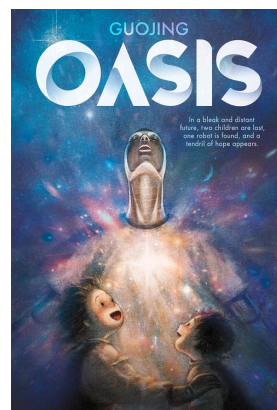
## Staff Book Picks for June



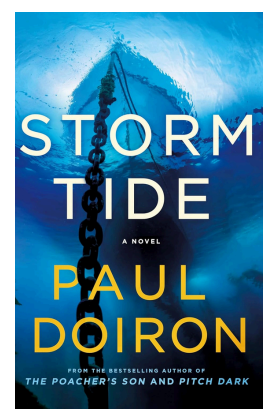
Nikki -  
Mundane Magic  
by Molly Donlan



Angie -  
Sigh, Gone  
by Phuc Tran



Emily -  
Oasis  
by Guojing



Bree -  
Storm Tide  
by Paul Doiron

The Library Lookout  
9 Elm Street  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

LIBRARY STAFF

Director: Angie Herrick  
Adult Circ: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald  
Youth Services: Emily Ecker  
Technology Librarian: Nikki Hathaway  
Volunteer: Janet Mayhew

BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY TRUSTEES

President: Lynda Quinn    Maureen Provencal  
Devin MacMichael        Noella DesPres  
Debra Sterling             Robert Washburn  
Lynn Perry                  Kristina Canon  
Patricia Horine

## Our Mission

At the Skowhegan Free Public Library, our mission is to foster a community where the freedom to read and access information is paramount. We are dedicated to providing a well-rounded and diverse collection of resources that cater to the educational, recreational, and cultural needs of all our patrons. Our library serves as a welcoming space for every community member, promoting inclusivity and accessibility. We are committed to sustainable practices, ensuring that our operations and services contribute positively to the environment and the well-being of future generations. Together, we empower minds, inspire lifelong learning, and build a brighter, more informed world.



Supporting the library year-round is essential to maintaining the programs, resources, and services our community relies on. Please consider making a donation today to help ensure we can continue offering these valuable resources all year long.

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Join our Monthly Newsletter  Send via Email  Send via Mail  No Thank You

Checks should be made payable to the Skowhegan Free Public Library

Send completed form to: The Skowhegan Free Public Library

9 Elm Street, Skowhegan, ME 04976

Gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.

You can also donate online using Paypal by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera.

(You will be directed to the TRUSTEES OF BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

- this is correct and gifts will go to the Skowhegan Public Library.)

