



<http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us>  
[skowlib@skowhegan.lib.me.us](mailto:skowlib@skowhegan.lib.me.us)  
207 474 9072

Library Hours: Mon.–Fri., 10–6; Sat. 10-2

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By your Director, Dale Jandreau

We've had quite a few different and varying programs this month. We started off the first weekend with the Socrates Cafe discussion group. Each month there is a new topic of discussion. Stop by if you find yourself craving more intellectual stimulation. Next, we were involved in a joint program with 5 other libraries. Portland Public Library invited author and film maker T.R. Reid to speak concerning his book *The Healing of America*. We watched it live here at the library using our new video conferencing equipment. It was the first such partnership with sister libraries utilizing this new technology. Following that was National Gaming Day. Again, this is a partnership with other libraries,; hundreds were involved. The American Library Association hosts the program once a year. Libraries from all over the world throw open their doors to gamers that day. Board games, computer games, online games, etc are all played. Turn-out here was light, but the folks participating did have a good time. Next up, was our author talk with Lynn Plourde, Donn Fendler and illustrator Ben Bishop. These three folks have brought Donn Fendler's great story *Lost on a Mountain In Maine* back into the literary limelight. This version of the book tells Donn's tale as a graphic novel.(a graphic novel is drawn in picture form like a comic book, only much thicker in size and with a complex storyline). Once again a partnership was formed, this time with Mr. Paperback, and the Margaret Chase Smith Library. The event was held at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Over 150 people attended the event. Our thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this special event such a success.

Our Christmas Bazaar kicks off on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-2 We'll have lots of items for sale, and

# The Library Lookout

December 2011

the Memorial Room will be decorated for the holidays. As you're holiday strolling this year, please stop by the library on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our "Cookie Walk" fundraiser. For only \$5, you can fill a small bag and bring home delicious holiday cookies. This is being held from 10-2. Also during this time, Jeffrey Quinn will be playing holiday music for your listening enjoyment. Stop by and fill your ears as well as your belly! Also this month, the group "Transition Skowhegan" will meet again on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. The topic of this month's discussion will be "What skills do we need to foster resilience in our communities?" Please stop by and join the group.

The library will be closed on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> for the Christmas and New Year holidays. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours.

Until next month,

Dale



*Provençal Plumbers: Three generations at work on the library Renovation Project 2012.*

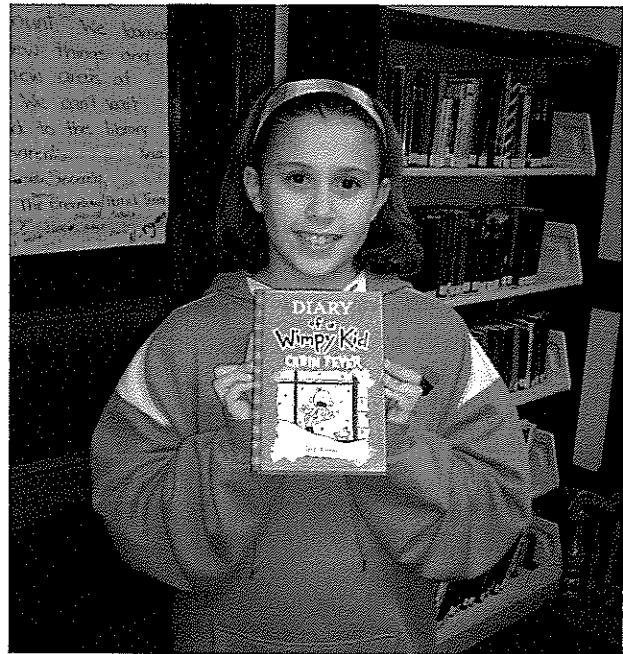
## CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Angie Herrick

The talk in the Children's Library this month has definitely been about "Diary of A Wimpy Kid," both the new release Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney and the Comic Contest done here at the library. If you have gone upstairs at all this month, you have seen the comics hanging in the stairway. There were twenty-eight entries in all and all of the kids did a super job! Our Grand Prize winner was Libby Crosby, who won the complete Diary of A Wimpy Kid series; and our runners-up were Gabby Bushey and Gabe Fortin, who both won a copy of the newest Diary of A Wimpy Kid release, Cabin Fever. Congratulations to all of the winners, as well as the other kids who participated—they were all amazing! Also, we would like to thank Ms. Kristine Rinaldi for donating the books for our winners!

Other news this month is our longtime story-time reader, library volunteer, and friend, Mrs. Kathy Hughes has decided to retire from reading here at the library. Kathy is a retired school librarian and since her "retirement" has faithfully put in countless hours of reading and crafting with the kids from the community at the Skowhegan Public Library. For the past ten years you could count on her to be upstairs on the third Wednesday morning of the month with a stack of books, a pile of kids around her and a smile on her face. Kathy also contributed in other ways. At one time she was a member of the Executive Board of the Friends of the Library, and continues to be a member of that group. She has helped with fundraising and book sales, and made homemade paint-smocks for the children to use at craft times. Kathy's last story-time with us will be December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00. We will greatly miss having her here.

In the spirit of Christmas, the Children's Library will have a small wish tree located upstairs. Anybody who is interested in taking a "wish" off the tree and helping to "grant the wish" to the library would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for small donations like new picture books, new toys, games, or puzzles for the kids to play with at the library, craft materials, Summer Reading Program prizes, etc. Please come check it out and help us out if you can!



*Libby Crosby, the Grand Prize Winner of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid Comic Contest!*

### 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

## MEET A FRIEND

By Marcia B. Granville

Kathy Littlefield has fond memories of going to Nevins Library in Methuen, Massachusetts as a child. He dad took her to the building every other Monday so she could take out books. Being able to borrow books from Nevins and from her school library at the age of ten or eleven made her feel very grown-up. Her favorite reading material was the biographies of famous people such as Helen Keller or Abraham Lincoln. When she was asked to be on the executive board of the Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library, those fond memories made Kathy's decision easy. After finishing a term as the secretary of the Friends, she took on the duties of the treasurer.

The Skowhegan Free Public Library is small compared to the one in Methuen, but is similar in style. It has the beautiful woodwork and architectural details that make the public buildings of the late 1800s so distinctive. Kathy says, "The library is really great for the community. It's small but has a really good selection of books. It's an asset to the community." She is happy to see the needed renovations being made. She is looking forward to the day when the library is fully accessible and the physically handicapped will be able to take advantage of everything the library has to offer.

Kathy says she was a nurse in a 'former life', but now she is a substitute teacher in the middle school and high school of SAD #54. She is also involved in the After School Program at the Skowhegan Area High School. This is a federally funded program for low-performance students. The focus is on academics, community service and fun. The program features study halls, assistance with homework, and a once a week meal with emphasis on good nutrition. The students are also encouraged to take part in physical activities such as skiing, climbing a rock wall, taking the ropes course and mountain biking. In the summer, Kathy works as a pastry chef at Alden Camps in Oakland.

Spare time activities include knitting, counted cross-stitch, driving to Portland for family visits and or course, reading.

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## NOTICE

In order to save on the cost of stamps, many of you will be receiving this "Lookout" via email. If you prefer to have us continue to send your newsletter via regular mail, please contact Corilla at [jascor@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jascor@myfairpoint.net).

## BOOK REVIEW

By Peggy Lovejoy

*In the Garden of Beasts*, by Erik Larson, is a fascinating look into Hitler's pre-war Germany. The full name of this narrative non-fiction work is *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*. What an apt title! Larson depicts the experience of William Dodd as ambassador to Germany in 1933 and that of his lively 24 year old daughter. Dodd was a history professor at the University of Chicago when he accepted Franklin Roosevelt's appointment, taking his wife and two grown children with him to Berlin. He hoped that an ambassadorship would give him the time he needed to fulfill his life long dream of writing a history of the old south. Instead he encountered the turbulence and horror of the beginnings of Hitler's rise to power.

William Dodd was not a career diplomat. I found his understanding of what was happening in Germany, at a time where others just didn't want to know, enlightening. Eric Larson's style lets the reader experience the unsettling events in a way that seems real and horrific. Although the subject matter is intense, the book is easy to read. I highly recommend it!

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## NEW BOOKS

### FICTION

Baldacci, David/ *Zero Day*  
Chiaverini, Jennifer/ *Wedding Quilt*  
Connelly, Michael/ *Drop*  
Coulter, Catherine/ *Prince of Ravenscar*  
Crichton, Michael/ *Micro*  
Cusler, Clive/ *Devil's Gate*  
Doiron, Paul/ *Trespasser*  
Duenas, Maria/ *The Time In Between*  
Evanovich, Janet/ *Explosive Eighteen*  
Grafton, Sue/ *V is for Vengeance*  
Hunter, Stephen/ *Soft Target*  
King, Stephen/ *11/22/63*  
Murakami, Haruki/ *1Q84*  
Paterson, James/ *Kill Alex Cross*  
Roberts, Nora/ *The Next Always*

### NON FICTION

Kennedy, Jacqueline/ *Historic Conversations on Life with John Kennedy*  
Naifeh, Steven/ *Van Gogh: The Life*

## **The Library Lookout**

**9 Elm Street**

**Skowhegan, ME 04976**

### **Your librarians:**

Library Director Dale Jandreau  
Children's Librarian Angie Herrick  
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte

### **Your Library Trustees:**

Toni Jo Blaisdell,  
Lee Granville, Corrilla Hastings  
Carol Jarvais,  
Lynn Perry, Warren Shay  
Ex Officio, Darla Pickett

### **Friends officers:**

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

## **Calendar of Events**

Children's Story and Craft Hour every Wed. at 10 AM

### **DECEMBER**

Dec. 3 Holiday Stroll: "Christmas Bazaar", Holiday Music, Cookie Walk, Book give-away and crafts for kids. 10-2  
Dec. 6 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.  
Dec. 10 Socrates Café, 11 to 1.  
Dec. 12 & 26 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM.  
Dec. 14 Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM  
Dec. 19 Pen Pal Club, 3 PM.  
Dec. 20 Family Story Hour, Holiday Hoopla!, 4:30-5:30 PM.  
Dec. 21 Transitions Group, 7 PM.  
Dec. 26-30 Creative Writing Workshop for kids all week, Grades 5-12, 1-2:30 PM.

### **JANUARY**

Jan. 3 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.  
Jan. 9 & 23 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM.  
Jan. 11 Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM.  
Jan. 14 Socrates Café, 11 to 1.  
Jan. 16 Pen Pal Club, 3 PM.  
Jan. 17 Family Story Hour, A Snowy Adventure!  
Jan. 18 Transitions Group, 7 PM.  
Jan. 28 Super Science Saturday, 11 AM.