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The Library Lookout

August 2022

SAYING GOODBYE AND WELCOMING A NEW FACE

By Josie Pease, Technology Librarian

As you may have noticed over the last few months, the library has been missing a core member of our staff – longtime librarian, Françoise Labonte. That's because our wonderful coworker and friend has retired after 42 incredible years of service here at the Skowhegan Free Public Library!

Hired on in 1980, she has worked as children's librarian, as well as in the computer lab, at the front desk, and as everyone's favorite interlibrary loan librarian. She has had her hands in just about every aspect of this library's running over the years, and we all feel so lucky to have had the chance to work with her!

We saw many of you in attendance at our July 29th retirement party that we held in her honor. People dropped off cards or stopped by to say hello, chat, and wish Françoise well. And we were finally able to show off our new bench out front, dedicated to this wonderful woman who has helped make this library what it is today. We wish our dear friend the happiest of much-deserved retirements!



You may have also noticed a new face here at the library lately! You'll find our new library aide, Lydia, around and about at the library covering one of the desks or working on all sorts of different projects. She has been a great addition to the team so far in the few weeks she's been here!



We asked Lydia a few questions to help you all get to know her a little bit...

What drew you to working at the library?

Well, this library is where I spent most of my time in high school. It's my comfortable, safe space. Working here just seemed like the right fit!

What has been your favorite part of the job so far?

Working with the patrons, definitely. Especially the kids. Being able to help them find books that they love has been so great, because I remember that feeling of finding something I really loved reading as a child.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Read, of course!

What is your favorite genre?

Fantasy. That sums up just about everything I read.

We hope you all get the chance to meet her and say hi soon!

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Carr, Robyn / *Temptation Ridge*
Coulter, Catherine / *Reckoning*
Douglas, Claire / *The Couple at Number 9*
Emerson, Ramona / *Shutter*
Gerritsen, Tess / *Listen to Me*
Graham, Heather / *Aura of Night*
Green, George Dawes / *The Kingdoms of Savannah*
Grisham, John / *Sparring Partners*
Hand, Elizabeth / *Hokuloa Road*
Holmes, Linda / *Flying Solo*
Koontz, Dean / *The Big Dark Sky*
Smith, Alexander McCall / *The Sweet Remnants of Summer*
Miranda, Megan / *The Last to Vanish*
Munier, Paula / *The Wedding Plot*
Patterson James / *Shattered*
Peterson, Tracie / *Beyond the Desert Sands*
Sager, Riley / *The House Across the Lake*
Silva, Daniel / *Portrait of an Unknown Woman*
Steel, Danielle / *Suspects*
Talty, Morgan / *Night of the Living Rez*
Ware, Ruth / *The It Girl*
White, Adam / *The Midcoast*
Woods, Stuart / *Black Dog*

NONFICTION

Kendi, Ibram X. / *How to Raise an Antiracist*

STAFF & VOLUNTEER PICKS

Angie – *Night of the Living Rez* by Morgan Talty
Bree – *The House Across the Lake* by Riley Sager
Lydia – *Percy Jackson* series by Rick Riordan
Lyn – *One Good Thing* by Wendy Wax
Josie – *Shutter* by Ramona Emerson

NEWS FROM THE CIRCULATION DESK

By Bree Bussell, Adult Circulation Librarian

We have so much going on here at the library this summer, most days we're all running around with what seems like 100 different projects going at the same time. Between cataloging and processing books, checking patrons in and out, helping with all computer needs, running programs and so much more, we are doing our best to make the library a truly wonderful place to visit!

We are somehow halfway through both the adult and the children's Summer Reading Programs, which doesn't seem possible. Where did the summer go?! Keep reading, keep coming in to collect those prizes, and keep up the good work!

This summer we are also collecting "Sea"real (cereal) for the Skowhegan Food Backpack Program. Every little bit helps and we appreciate each and every patron who has donated already. Cheerios, Lucky Charms, Fruity Pebbles - oh my! Box by box, hunger stops!



We're still collecting boxes for our cereal drive!

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

By Angie Herrick, Library Director

The month of July is the busiest month for the children's library. We have two major events up here during this time: the summer reading program and the visit from our friend and benefactor, Kristine Rinaldi. Kristine, who works part time for Scholastic, travels to Skowhegan every summer from her home in Spring, Texas. This year she brought us 5 boxes of new books! They will be used for both our collection and also as giveaways for programs such as the Holiday Stroll and Skowpendous. We are always super excited when we see her roll in and start to pull out box after box of beautiful, new books! This librarian (and many, many young readers!) appreciates her very generous donations.

If you have been at the library on a Wednesday morning, you know that our Summer Reading Program is going full throttle. We have been busy diving deep in all things ocean-y. We have read about lighthouses, sharks, pirates, jellyfish, and boats. It's a chaotic time filled with bubbles, laughing, playing, dancing, and reading. After Storytime we offer free lunch to any child. If you haven't visited, why not?

After a very loooooong hiatus, I have decided to bring back Tween the Pages Book Club. This is a book club for kids in grades 6-8. To join, kids must have a library card and sign-up. This is a great program where we read, discuss, snack, and do some sort of project in conjunction with the month's book. Please contact us if you have any questions. We do limit participation in this program, so don't delay in registering!



Some fun at our weekly storytimes this month!

**The Library Lookout
9 Elm Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976**

Library Staff

Director: Angie Herrick

Technology Librarian: Josie Pease

Adult Circulation: Bree Bussell-Fitzgerald

Library Trustees

Karen Lewia

Patrick Dore

Debra Sterling

Devin MacMichael

Friends Board

Chair: Debra Sterling

Vice Chair: Karen Lewia

Treasurer: Kirk Karkos

Secretary: Lynda Quinn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST CALENDAR

8/3 – Storytime @ 10:30

8/3 – Beach Windchimes @ 6:00 (This event requires registration and is for ages 13 - adult)

8/5 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

8/8 – Career Center Information Table at the Library @ 10:00

8/9 – Chewonki presents: Tide Pools @ The Space on the River (181 Water Street)

8/10 – Storytime @ 10:30

8/12 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

8/15 – 8/19 – Sidewalk Book Giveaway

8/16 – STEAM Lab @ 2:00

8/17 – Storytime @ 10:30

8/19 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

8/19 – Youth Summer Reading Program Ends

8/24 – Storytime @ 10:30

8/25 – Lego Club @ 3:30 – 4:30

8/26 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

8/26 – Adult Summer Reading Program Ends (Grand Prize Drawing)

8/31 – Storytime @ 10:30

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

9/2 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

9/5 – Library Closed in observance of Labor Day

9/6 – Tween the Pages Book Club @ 3:30 – 4:30 (For students in grades 6-8)

9/7 – Storytime @ 10:30

9/9 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

9/14 – Storytime @ 10:30

9/16 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

9/20 – STEAM Lab @ 4:00

9/21 – Storytime @ 10:30

9/23 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00

9/28 – Storytime @ 10:30

9/29 – Lego Club @ 3:30 – 4:30

9/30 – Sit & Knit @ 1:00 – 3:00