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# The Library Lookout

**February 2022**

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES

By Lynda Quinn, President



As of February 1st, the Skowhegan Free Public Library will start a new fiscal year, and with this new year comes the announcement that Angie Herrick will officially become our Library Director, after having been SFPL’s acting director for nearly 3 years! Finding a director of Angie’s abilities was next to impossible. Angie and her team have kept our library accessible, current, and active in our community. We are also pleased to announce that Josie Pease, along with her jobs as technology librarian and genealogy aide, will serve as assistant director in order to allow Angie to continue with Youth Services for the time being.

So! Is the library busy? It certainly is! So much so that we are looking for part-time help. Call the library for more information.

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY DESK

By Bree Bussell-Fitzgerald, Adult Circ Librarian

Well January certainly went out with a bang! It wouldn’t be winter in Maine without copious amounts of snow. I spent this past snowstorm next to my woodstove with a book in one hand and a coffee in the other. I was also trying to forget about the fact that I had all that new snow to clean out of my driveway.

As a reminder for those who are cooped up during the winter, or who just prefer staying home, we have a huge selection of games and puzzles that patrons can borrow! Have a few games or puzzles (with all the pieces) that you’re bored with? Swap them out with something from our collection. A one-thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle is sure to keep you busy when it’s just too cold to go anywhere. Have some kiddos you need to keep entertained? A board game is sure to do the trick!

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## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

**From Margo Reid**

I just finished *Chernobyl* about the Ukraine nuclear disaster, and I’m now reading *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, about two friends growing up in Naples, Italy. And I just bought Jamie Raskin’s book *Unthinkable*.

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## WHAT ARE YOU READING? (Continued)

### From Louise Tessier

*The Exiles*, by Christina Baker Kline. A heart wrenching journey with historical facts! *A Journal For Jordan*, by Dana Canedy, which is about two sides of the same event. *The Christmas Pig*, by JK Rowling. Thought it would be at a child's level, but it was riveting in her writing style and full of underlying issues in today's society. *Judge's List* by John Grisham. Excellent, as all of his books are!

### From Mike Walker

*The Book of Joy* by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu,  
Douglas Carlton Abrams  
*Unthinkable* by Jamie Raskin  
*It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah  
*The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion  
*Renegades* by Barack Obama and Bruce  
Springsteen  
*Billy Summers* by Stephen King  
*Pee Wees: Confessions of a Hockey Parent* by Rich  
Cohen

### From Jean Walker

*The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline  
*The Lincoln Highway* by Anne Towles  
*The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi  
*Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell  
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris  
*This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger  
*Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid  
*The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn  
*The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music* by Dave  
Grohl

### From JoEllen Gifford

Now reading: *Finding Freedom* by Erin French (a really good read!) and *Taste My Life Through Food* by Stanley Tucci. And I just finished *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn! I have also started *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah.

### From Patricia Horine

*Ice Cold* by Tess Gerritsen  
*Squeeze Me* by Carl Haasen  
*Nature Girl* by Carl Haasen. I got a real laugh when this Florida author mentioned Skowhegan, Maine!

### From Lynda Quinn

I have read *Billy Summers* by Stephen King. Not your typical SK novel but an excellent read. Now I am reading *Call the Midwife* by Jennie Worth (there are 4 books to the series).

### From Bonnie Chamberlain

For the book group sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Library, with David Richards as facilitator, I read *Arundel* by Kenneth Roberts. I had avoided the book, probably because of its size, but I enjoyed traveling along with a lad from Arundel on Benedict Arnold's march to Quebec.

### From Alan Foxwell

The *Joe Pickett* Series by C.J. Box, about a game Warden from Wyoming.  
The *Mike Bowditch* Series by Paul Dorion's, a Maine author.  
The *FBI Series* by Catherine Coulter  
*Forever* by Peter Hammil (one of a kind, a favorite!)  
*The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albon

### From Maureen Davis

Two books people have been talking about: *The Postmistress of Paris* by Meg Waite Clayton and *The Prophets* by Robert Jones, Jr.

### From Barbara Whitkop

*The Rise of Wolf 8: Witnessing the Triumph of Yellowstone's Underdog* by Rick McIntyre. This story chronicles the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park with a special focus on Wolf 8 - the feisty runt who, against the odds, rises above his size limitation to become a fearless, highly successful alpha male.



Alan Foxwell and Jim Hastings chat about favorite books.

## NEW BOOKS

### FICTION

Allende, Isabel / *Violeta*  
Brazier, Eliza Jane / *Good Rich People*  
Davids, Patricia / *The Inn at Harts Haven*  
Evison, Jonathan / *Small World*  
Gardner, Lisa / *One Step Too Far*  
Gudenkauf, Heather / *The Overnight Guest*  
Hairston, Andrea / *Redwood and Wildfire*  
Hoover, Colleen / *Reminders of Him*  
James, Chantal / *None but the Righteous*  
Kastner, Deb / *Their Unbreakable Bond*  
Koontz, Dean / *Quicksilver*  
Krentz, Jayne Ann / *Lightning in a Mirror*  
Lighte, Carrie / *Caring for Her Amish Family*  
Lillard, Amy / *Marry Me, Millie*  
Lutz, Lisa / *The Accomplice*  
Miller, Emma / *Their Secret Courtship*  
Naigle, Nancy / *The Shell Collector*  
Peterson, Tracie / *Ever Constant*  
Reid, Taylor Jenkins / *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*  
Roberts, Nora / *The Becoming*  
Roberts, Nora / *The Awakening*  
Shipman, Viola / *The Secret of Snow*  
Young, Erin / *The Fields*

### NONFICTION

Gorman, Amanda / *Call Us What We Carry*  
Rooks, A.E. / *The Black Joke*  
Thompson, Erin L. / *Smashing Statues*

## NEWS FROM YOUTH SERVICES

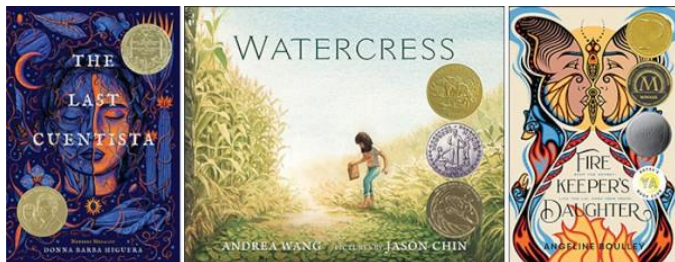
By Angie Herrick, Library Director & Youth Services

One of my favorite days in January is when the American Library Association Youth Media Awards are announced. I always say that it is like the Super Bowl of children and young adult literature. *Watercress* is the 2022 Caldecott Medal winner. Written by Andrea Wang, and illustrated by Jason Chin, *Watercress* centers on a girl growing up in rural Ohio, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. She and her family stop by the side of the road one day to pick watercress, which is served that night for dinner “glistening with garlicky oil and freckled with sesame seeds.” The watercolor illustrations are absolutely striking.

This year the Newbery Award, which is the award given to the most distinguished contribution to literature for children, celebrates its 100th anniversary! *The Last Cuentista* written by Donna Barba Higuera, is 2022’s winner. This story weaves together, Mexican folklore, science-fiction, and dystopian genres. It’s a story that reminds readers young and old about the importance of storytelling.

The Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults was awarded to *Firekeeper’s Daughter*, written by Angeline Boulley. Printz Committee Chair Dr. Janet Hilbun describes this book as a “thrilling mystery that embraces modern reservation life as well as strong female characters.” It provides a unique view on both Native American culture and the drug culture that impacts both her world and the world outside the reservation.

It is nice to see such a rich and diverse selection of books being recognized this year. As always, the award-winners that we don’t already have on the shelves will be ordered and added to our children’s library. For a full list of awards and recipients, please visit: <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2022/01/american-library-association-announces-2022-youth-media-award-winners>



Some of this year’s American Library Association Youth Media Award winners