



The Library Lookout

December 2001 Tel: 474-9072

LATEST NEWS

Compiled by Jim Foster

LIBRARY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sponsored by the Friends, the annual Holiday Open House will be held at the Library on Saturday, December 8 from noon to 2 PM. Maxine Russakoff and Ginny Foster will act as hostesses for the event and preside over the refreshment table of homemade goodies and punch. Kathy Hughes will have craft projects available upstairs for the children. Individual invitations have been mailed to town officials, members of the Trustees, all school librarians, and business people who have recently been involved with renovations at the Library. A general invitation, via posters and news releases, has gone out to all members of the community.

Do stop in to "share the holiday spirit and celebrate with us as the Skowhegan Free Public Library steps into the future"!

COLLEGE ORIENTATION MEETING

The program for the first Friends' meeting of the new year on January 9, 2002 at 7 PM, will be a College Orientation program for students and parents presented by representatives from University of Maine Orono, University of Maine Farmington, Colby College and Thomas College. We hope high school students and their families will avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity to find answers to their questions about college choices and admission procedures.

WEDNESDAY MORNING STORY HOUR

Stories, songs and crafts provide lots of fun in the children's room every Wednesday morning at

10 AM. This program will continue through the year, including school vacations, so bring the older brothers and sisters during the holidays! Volunteers Kathy Hughes and Corrilla Hastings will be there to welcome all ages.

BASEMENT CLEAN-UP

Three members of the Friends recently spent a Saturday morning in the Library's dark and dingy basement, sorting trash from treasure. Many thanks go to Mary Stuart, Nancy Warren and Bill Laney for lending their time and energy to this difficult undertaking. The Library is indeed fortunate to have these willing volunteers.

November 14 Friends of the Library Meeting

Secretary's Report

At 7:00 p.m., November 14th, Friends of the Library President Corrilla Hastings opened the meeting by welcoming all those who attended. The Secretary's Report was read and accepted. In the absence of the Treasurer, Corrilla announced that the most recent balances reported were \$1233.00 in the checking account and \$11,601.00 in the Savings account for the Renovation Restoration Fund.

After the meeting, Ann Thomas spoke on genealogical research. The theme of her talk was "Who, Where, When, What Says So?"

The audience was told that family documents such as birth, marriage and death certificates make a good starting place. Older people are a valuable

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source of information also. One should ask them why they live in the region, what did they do for work, etc. Ms. Thomas said not to worry about any shady characters in the family. Every family has at least one black sheep.

Documentation is also very important. One should keep careful notes on the sources of any information. Future researchers will be able to authenticate the records. Negative results may also be recorded. That will prevent a researcher from making another futile effort some time down the road.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library will be held on January 9, 2002. There will be representatives from several colleges to explain the admissions process.

BAILEY LIBRARY BUILDING TOUR

On Friday, November 30th, nationally recognized library building consultant Jay K. Lucker toured Winthrop's Bailey Public Library. The two-story granite building dating from 1916 has been renovated. Originally, the collection occupied only the main floor. A few years ago, the cellar was converted to usable space and the children's collection was moved down there.

Even with all this additional space, the Winthrop Library is very crowded. Every available inch holds books, books on tape or videos. The reading room once had lots of open space with a few bookcases along the wall. Now movable bookcases are spaced for easy access to reading materials. When there is to be a meeting, the bookcases are rolled to the back of the room and approximately 30 chairs are set up.

Despite the crowded conditions, Winthrop manages to have a number of programs for patrons, including babytime twice a month, storytime every week, and music time and craft time twice a month for youngsters. There is even tea and book discussion for the adults once a month.

The Winthrop Trustees, Building Committee and

Town Council are working together to find solutions to their problems. One thing they are thinking about is coordination between school and public libraries. Another option would be to buy a nearby apartment building for parking and library expansion. Unfortunately, along with no space and no parking, there is also no money at this time.

Mr. Lucker found little to criticize in Bailey Public Library operations. He did point out that the stacks are eight shelves high rather than the recommended seven. He also noted the optimum use of every available inch of space.

All told, Mr. Lucker agreed that Winthrop is doing a superb job with the available resources.

T-1 TO BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY JANUARY

The new T-1 line for the Library's internet access is scheduled to be installed on the third of January, with the necessary equipment to be arriving within the week following. This will increase the speed of our connection by approximately twenty times.

Happy Holidays



Reviews

by Marcia Granville

Rex Stout, Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin

For real mystery lovers, the Nero Wolfe stories by Rex Stout are a true joy. Not only is there a mystery to be solved, but there is also a glimpse into the past. In the New York of the forties and early fifties, a meal may be purchased for less than two dollars, blondes are glamorous and Archie Goodwin does all the legwork for Nero Wolfe. An added advantage to reading about the orchid fancier and his sidekick is that there is no gratuitous sex or violence. Also, the strongest expletive is Nero's "Pfu!"

Some Buried Caesar, first published in 1938, is an unusual case in which Nero Wolfe actually leaves his home for a period of time. This is the tale in which Archie meets his friend, Lily Rowan, for the first time. A prize winning bull and a proposed barbecue make for an interesting tale.

The Golden Spiders is unique in that a twelve-year-old boy becomes the client. Children seldom enter the brownstone mansion or complicate the lives of its inhabitants in any way.

Children's Computer Games

Disney

My recommendation is that you have your own computer whiz on hand whenever your children insist on playing the Disney games. I'm sorry to say that the Disney Company does not live up to its reputation when it comes to computer games. They are priced about ten dollars more than most and perform less well. The action games in particular are prone to trouble. One I purchased recently will not fill the screen. No matter how many times the maximize button is pushed, the game window remains about four or five inches square. Another game freezes so that nothing will move. Even trying to turn the computer off isn't possible unless you disconnect it from the power source.

This newsletter is
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WINTER LIBRARY HOURS

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ADULT	1-7:30	10-6	10-6	1-7:30	1-7:30	10-2
CHILDREN	3-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	3-5:30	3-5:30	10-2

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. individuals, \$8. Seniors & Students, and \$15. for families. We normally meet at the Library the second Wednesday of every other month, unless scheduling conflicts require another date. For more information, call Corilla Hastings (474-3949).

Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, 175 James Road, Cornville, Maine 04976.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Tel. # _____
E-Mail Address _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 5 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
December 8 Holiday Open House, 12-2 at the Library. See page 1.
December 12 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
December 19 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
January 2 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
January 9 Wednesday Morning Story Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
January 9 Friends of the Library Meeting, 7 pm at the Library. See page 1.



The Library Lookout
Friends of the Skowhegan
Free Public Library
c/o Skowhegan Free Public Library
Elm Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your Librarians Are:

Francoise Labonte,
Lois Moody
and Thelma Butler

Your Library Trustees Are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,
Mary Davies, Betsey Hall,
Kathy Dorko,
Toni Jo Blaisdell and
Rick Anzelc

Friends Officers Are:

Corilla Hastings, Pres.;
Jim Foster, V.P.,
Marcia Granville, Sec.
and Kathy Hughes, Treas.