



# The Library Lookout

February 2000

Tel: 474-9072

## Wish List

We still need computers. Our donated ones often need repair and we are using one gift for spare parts.



## Popular Selections



**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY**  
compiled by Françoise Labonte

<i>Romance</i>	Ed McBain
<i>Love &amp; War</i>	John Jakes
<i>Love Can Build a Bridge</i>	Naomi Judd
<i>Love in Another Town</i>	Barbara Bradford
<i>Love Invents Us</i>	Amy Bloom
<i>Love Story</i>	Erich Segal
<i>Loved One</i>	Evelyn Waugh
<i>The Heart Speaks Many Ways</i>	Madeline Polland
<i>Heartbeat</i>	Danielle Steele

## **LATEST NEWS**

*Compiled by Mary Davies and Jim Foster*

Our library will soon begin restoration work. This project has been made possible in part by a matching grant from the New Century Community Program, a statewide cultural initiative funded by the people of Maine. We received \$20,000, which we will match in order to begin restoration on the windows and possibly more.

Other recipients of the New Century Construction/ Renovation Grants were the libraries of Belfast, Bethel, Blue Hill, Brunswick, Castine, Damariscotta, Dixfield, Eastport, Gardiner, Guilford, Hiram, Limerick, Monmouth, Norway, Oakland, Pittsfield, Poland, Princeton, Waterville, Windham, and Winthrop.

Architect Sylvanus Doughty will begin the bid process, and we should be well on our way by June. There is a lot to be done, but Mr. Doughty advised us that the windows are a good place to start, as that will not interfere with other changes and will immediately affect fuel preservation and climate control in the building. Many thanks to all who helped with the grant process and to our legislators who have helped many libraries by funding this legislation. The second story front windows are barely hanging in, and there is much structural repair work to be done in that area. We're all very excited and GRATEFUL!

Thanks to Bill Laney and Joan Moes for a great presentation on Literacy and Beginning Readers at the January Friends meeting. Bill is Director of the Somerset County Basic Skills Program and Assistant Director of the SAD 54 Adult Education program. Joan is Somerset County Director of the National Literacy Project. Statistics are alarming. The national illiteracy rate is 20% so it is heartwarming to know so much effort is being made through these programs to affect educational progress in Somerset County. Volunteers are needed and you'll learn a lot at the 6-week course and ever after from the people you help. So if you're just sitting around playing Canasta or Free Cell, give it a thought. You'll win every time.

The computers remain busy and are the main source of new patrons. It's great to see more young people coming into the library to use the computers. Research, typing, and private

Continued on page 2

e-mail are most popular and we all find the web an enormous resource. Some of our customers have computers at home but one computer to a family limits some projects. Françoise knows her way around the search engines and provides able assistance when needed. Most high school students are familiar with the set-up but a lot of adults are not.

Thanks to the Ogunquit Library, we received a box of audio tapes, as they have a donor who provides more than they can house. We're on their list of libraries trying to build up a collection and we were happy to receive them. If you have some to donate, please keep your library in mind. Maine libraries are reporting audio & video circulation as the fastest growing areas. Driving to work or out-of-town is sometimes the only time people can find to enjoy a good book. If you have tired eyes, it's also great to have someone read a story to you. Remember when?

An application for the next round of the NEW CENTURY GRANT PROGRAM has been mailed. This grant is for collaborative expansion of services and our application is sponsored by Canaan, Madison, Norridgewock and Madison libraries and supported by the Skowhegan Economic Development Department, Skowhegan Camera Club, Skowhegan Heritage Council, Kennebec Valley Computer Society, and interested historical societies in the area. If successful, we would be able to provide an up-to-date computer for our ongoing classes, taught by Jim Foster, as well as offer Central Maine citizens computer ability to scan, repair and restore photos and documents. There is a great need for this service as our treasured pictures are becoming fragile. This service will be a great boon for genealogical research. We hope the postman rings twice.

**Our Computer Classes at the Library, co-sponsored by the Friends and the Kennebec Valley Computer Society, will start a new series at the beginning of March if there is sufficient interest. For more information or to sign up, please call Jim Foster at 474-2589 or e-mail [jfoster@somtel.com](mailto:jfoster@somtel.com).**

Happy Valentines Day to every one. We love a lot of people, our animals, our town, our library, and oh yes, we love a good laugh:

#### One Perfect Rose

A single flow'r he sent me, since we met,  
all tenderly his messenger he chose,  
Deep-hearted, pure, with scented dew still wet—  
One perfect rose.

I know the language of the flower  
"My fragile leaves," it said, "his heart enclose"  
Love long has taken for his amulet  
One perfect rose.

Why is it no one ever sent me yet  
One perfect limousine, do you suppose?  
Ah no, it's always just my luck to get  
One perfect rose.

Dorothy Parker 1926

That was ridiculous,  
This is sublime:

#### Sonnets from the Portugese XLIII

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.  
I love thee freely as men strive for Right;  
I love thee Purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with the passion out to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints,—I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life!—and if God choose  
I shall love thee better after death.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
1850

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**Book Reviews**  
by Marcia Granville

Biography: Louis Armstrong

*Louis Armstrong an American Genius* by James Lincoln Collier was written in 1983. The life of Louis Armstrong seems almost a secondary theme. The main thrust of the book is the origin and growth of jazz during the early 1900s. Much of what Mr. Armstrong said about himself is discounted in a rather disparaging manner, although the author has respect for his music. I personally, didn't think much of the book as a biography. It is of more value, in my opinion, as a scholarly treatise on jazz.

*Louis Armstrong an extravagant Life* by Laurence Bergreen was written in 1997. The book draws on a vast, previously unexplored archive of Mr. Armstrong's writings and recordings. Also, other documents are cited which back up some of the claims Mr. Collier refuted. Mr. Bergreen is more sympathetic to Mr. Armstrong than Mr. Collier was and his book is more readable as well. This book, again in my opinion, is a good biography of Louis Armstrong and of jazz.

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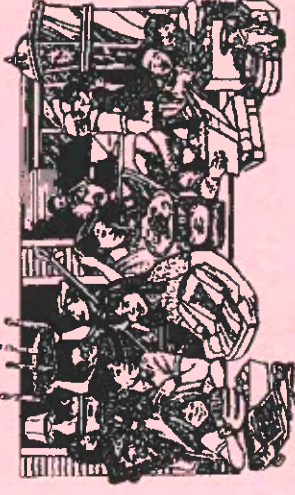
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ADULTS	1-8:30	10-6	10-6	1-8:30	1-7:30	10-2
CHILDREN	3-5:30	10-6:30	10-6:30	3-5:30	3-5:30	10-2

**Friends to Participate in Cornville Six-Mile Yard Sale**

This coming May once again the Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library will participate in the Cornville Six-Mile Yard Sale. The location will be on the front lawn of Jim and Corrilla Hasting's house, the former Brick Farm on Malbon Hill Road.

Please begin looking through your no-longer-needed treasures. All saleable items are welcome. For further information, or to arrange a pick-up, call the Hastings at 474-3949 or e-mail them at [jascor@tdstelme.net](mailto:jascor@tdstelme.net).

Last year, this event netted us about \$1000, which was given to the Library Restoration Fund.



**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 Corrilla Hastings (474-3949) or Mary Davies (474-7446).

Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, RR1, Box 2760, Skowhegan, Me 04976. Welcome.

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Feb. 4 1:00 p.m. Computer Class: Resources Available Online



Feb. 7 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: a biography



Feb. 11 1:00 p.m. Computer Class: File Formats & the Programs that Love Them



Mar. 6 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: Poetry



Mar. 8 7:00 p.m. Friends Meeting. Program: **There's Gold in Your Attic** Tim Gould



Apr. 3 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: Mystery



May 1 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: A play TBA perhaps a reading by all.



May 10 7:00 p.m. Friends Annual Meeting. Program: **Book Reviews** Skowhegan Readers of all ages.



### The Library Lookout

Friends of the Skowhegan  
Free Public Library

c/o Skowhegan Free Public Library  
Elm Street  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your Librarians Are:

Helen Shaw,  
Françoise Labonte,  
Lois Moody  
and Thelma Butler

Your Library Trustees Are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,  
Mary Davies, Betsy Hall,  
Kathy Dorko,  
Toni Jo Blaisdell and  
Rick Anzele

Friends Officers Are

Jim Hastings, Pres.:  
Mary Davies, V.P.,  
Marcia Granville, Sec. and  
Kathy Hughes, Treas.