



Library Lookout

February 2004 Tel: 474-9072

LIBRARY NEWS

By Katherine LeBlanc

The Library is still buzzing. We had thought that things would quiet down this winter, but we have found that the cold has not kept our patrons away.

There are so many things planned in the next few months that I thought I would start out by saying that Empire Falls is back! Our book discussion plans have finally materialized and the race is on to sign up. Our discussion will be led by facilitators Mike Lambke and David Richards at none other than the **Empire Grill on March 2, 2004 at 6:00 pm**. Please mark your calendar and join us for an enlightening evening. Sign up is necessary. Limit to 50 people. Call ahead to register at 474-9072.

The Skowhegan Friends of the Library will be hosting a "Craft a Day" in the Children's Room from 1:00 to 2:30, February 17th through February 20th. Please join us for a fun way to keep the children occupied during school vacation.

The Renaissance Fair will be held from April 19 through April 25th.

The tentative schedule for the **2004 Summer Wednesday Afternoon Program** is:

July 14 Rhythm Inlet

July 21 Joe Scozzofazza, Magician

July 28 Papa Joe, Interactive Story Teller

August 4 Judy Pancoast, Musician

August 18 Northern Stars Planetarium

August 25 Annie Wenz Musician Summer Program Party

I hope this gives you ample time to mark your calendars for what seems to be an exciting year of events.

Meet a Trustee

Aside from four years at UMO where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and four in the US Army, Skowhegan has been home to Bill Randall. Bill was born and raised here and after his time with the military, returned to his home town to raise a family and begin work at Skowhegan Savings Bank. He started as an officer trainee and eventually became president of the bank. Having retired, Bill and his wife of thirty five years, enjoy time with their grown children and three grandchildren. Time with his grandchildren is something he obviously treasures. He is also an avid reader and likes to collect coins and stamps.

Although Bill retired in 2002 after thirty five years at the bank, he is still actively involved with numbers and is generous with his knowledge and abilities. Not only does he participate as Secretary/Treasurer for the Rotary, but he is also Treasurer for the Bloomfield Trustees. It is through his capacity with Bloomfield Trustees that he is involved with the Skowhegan Free Public Library Trustees. As treasurer, it is his responsibility to keep careful and methodical track of the financial aspects of the library, as well as, other organizations that fall within the umbrella of the Bloomfield Trustees. Bill has taken on this massive responsibility for over twenty years. He says it is satisfying to contribute to a need especially in these tough times, and he is proud to be associated with the library, a place that provides such a valuable service to the community, and with the people who work towards that end. As for the future of the library, he believes that it greatly depends on many factors: whether to stay at its location or move, architectural limitations regarding practicality and

(Meet a Volunteer continued from page 1)

costs and funds available. In this last regard, he feels that the town has "stepped up to the plate" in the past.

Bill Randall has most assuredly stepped onto that same plate. He picks up his pencil, lays out the spreadsheet, turns on the calculator and does his part in helping the library get to the next base. With players like Bill, the library is sure to have a good game.

Thank you, Bill, for generously sharing so much of your time, energy, and expertise.

BOOK REVIEW

by Olympia Thibault

Zink by Cherie Bennett

Do you know about the struggle of having cancer? Becky Zaslow sure does. She's only in sixth grade when she is diagnosed with leukemia and is sucked into the darkness of sickness. But she doesn't let her spirit die. When the sharpest needles pierce her skin, Becky's spirit runs with the zebras of Africa where she feels no pain.

Zink by Cherie Bennett is a dramatic, yet truthful, story of the unfortunate reality of cancer and how it effects a young girl's life.

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)

.....
Please complete this form and mail to Skowhegan Free Public Library, Elm Street, Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Tel.# _____

THERE'S GOLD IN YOUR ATTIC!

Once again the Skowhegan Free Public Library will be pleased to host a visit from well-known auctioneer, Tim Gould who will tell us of the wonderful treasures from the past which just might be hidden in your attic! On Thursday, March 11 at 7 PM Tim will be on hand to evaluate any item which you might wish to bring from your home. Who knows, maybe that old teacup of grandma's is worth more than you ever dreamed! Join us for a fun and fascinating evening!

(We are requesting a \$3 donation to the Library for each item to be evaluated.)

MARCH FOL MEETING

A Readers' Theater by students from the Margaret Chase Smith School will be the program for the next Friends of the Library meeting on Wednesday, March 10 at 7 PM. Do come and bring a friend, and enjoy watching these talented young people.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP

How would you feel if you could not curl up with a good book, or order your favorite meal at the local restaurant because you could not read?

More than 20% of Mainers have this problem. They are considered functionally illiterate. This means they read on a fifth grade level or less.

The mission of Literacy Volunteers of Franklin and Somerset Counties is to train tutors to teach people who cannot read. This year a workshop to train these tutors will be held at the Skowhegan Area High School on Tuesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 & 13 from 5 to 7 PM. If you are interested in helping to turn someone's life around, please call 474-7553 or 1-800-322-5455.

LIBRARY HOURS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10-6	10-6	10-6	10-7	10-6	10-2

This newsletter is

Sponsored and Supported by
Skowhegan Savings Bank



YOUR PARTNER FOR THE FUTURE

Serving Central Maine Since 1869
SKOWHEGAN • BELGRADE • BINGHAM • CORINNA • DEXTER • FAIRFIELD
LIVERMORE FALLS • MADISON • NORBIDGEOCKE • PITTSFIELD

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The January 14th FOL meeting was opened by Pres. Corrilla Hastings with a welcome to those few who braved the bitter cold to attend.

Both the secretary's and treasurer's reports were handed around for review and acceptance. It was announced, at this time, that donations totaling \$1800.00 towards the online catalog system has been achieved. The FOL will honor their pledge of matching funds and the system will be ordered.

Upcoming fundraisers include "Treasures in Your Attic" with Tim Gould on March 11 at 7:00pm at the library, cookbooks to be on sale by summer, and a May 22-23 "Book Sale Plus" to be held at the Hastings during the annual six mile yard sale.

Blynn informed the group of some of the latest library news. There will be a wine and cheese Teachers' Reception for K-8 Teachers, Ed. Techs, and Principals on January 29th from 3:30-5:30. It will be hosted by members of FOL. Representatives from History House and the MCS Library will also be on hand. This event is being held in order to introduce staffs to each other, allow our teachers an opportunity to socialize and see what is offered in the way of local resources. In April, the library will have a Renaissance Faire. Plans for this are in the early stages and the event will take place during April vacation. Children's Librarian, Katherine LeBlanc, has begun studies towards an associate degree in Library Science. We wish her well and give her our full support. Go, Katherine! A new face will be joining the library staff on a temporary/part time basis. Diane Drew, currently working in the library at Bloomfield Elem. School, is completing work on her degree in Library Science. She will be doing her Internship at Skowhegan Public Library. Welcome, Diane.

Corrilla reminded us of the trustees meetings which take place the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00. All are welcome to attend any of these meetings.

At "The Friends" meeting on March 10th we will be treated to a "Readers' Theater" presentation by Mary Stuart and some of her students from the MCS School.

The meeting was turned over to Maureen Calder, who introduced the speaker for the evening. Dave

Richards, Assistant Director of MCS Library, gave us a rewarding and insightful evening on the Literacy Program in which he plays an important role. Dave not only works with literacy here in Skowhegan but also travels to Waterville, Palmyra, Greenville and sometimes, to Jackman in order to facilitate reading groups for adults who are being tutored by volunteers. He holds discussion groups for a variety of people in order that they learn, not only to read the words, but to understand and be able to discuss what they have read. He based a large part of his presentation on five areas: 1. The problem of illiteracy in our area and elsewhere, 2. The role of the Maine Humanities Council, 3. The role of the MCS Library, 4. His role, and 5. What we, as individuals, can do. The specific program Dave is involved with is called **New Books, New Readers**. He explained how it focuses on various themes and introduces books at all reading levels based on a specific idea. Right now the theme is "Justice" and includes such book titles as *The Tale of the Mandarin Duck*, *Shilo*, *Little Red Hen*, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, *The Magic Paint Brush*, *Bargain for Frances*, and *Old Henry*. He shared with us the slogan of the Maine Humanities Council which is "Power and Pleasure in Ideas". It's important, he said, to get away from the issue of looking at it as adults reading children's books, but rather, to instill ongoing reading for everyone and to strive towards more family and community involvement. Skowhegan's site for this program is one of the most successful around which helps when it's time for federal funds to keep it going! Dave held our attention quite effectively throughout his presentation and the ongoing discussion. He is a man on a mission and is most passionate about his work and the people involved (his readers).

If you want to know more, want to help, want to learn to read, or know someone who would love to pick up a book and read it; Dave Richards is most definitely the guy who can guide you in the right direction. Thanks, Dave, for your presentation, your hard work, and your dedication to readers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Calder, Secretary

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

February 3 Library Trustee meeting, 4 pm at the library

February 17-20 vacation week "Craft a Day" 1 to 2:30 in the Children's Room

MARCH

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

March 2 Library Trustee meeting 4, pm at the library

March 2 *Empire Falls* Book Discussion, 6 pm at the Empire Grill

March 10 FOL meeting at 7 pm Readers' Theater by Margaret Chase Smith School students

March 11 "There's Gold in Your Attic" by Tim Gould 7pm



The Library Lookout

Friends of the
Skowhegan Free
Public Library
c/o Marcia B. Granville
P.O. Box 278
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your Librarians are:

Library Director Blynn Currier,

Assistant Librarian François La-
bonte, Children's Librarian

Katherine LeBlanc

Your Library trustees are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay, Lee

Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell and

Carol Jarvais

Friends Officers are:

Corrilla Hastings, Pres.,

()V.P.,

Maureen Calder, Sec.

()Treas.