



<http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us>
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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By your Director, Dale Jandreau

Well, the air is finally getting crisp; it's officially feeling like fall! I hope the library has been one of your "must stop at" places this month. We love seeing you.

We're always busy. This month I've moved my staircase office to the back room in the Children's Library. This will give me the privacy I need when I'm composing emails, writing letters, working on forms, cataloging, etc. It's also warmer in here than on the staircase landing. I know we've had a warm fall, but the cold weather is coming.

This month has also seen the restarting of Saturday hours. Patron turnout has been light, with most folks using the computers. But I'm sure they'll pick up. We'll see what the future brings.

The most important news has been the start of our renovations (a cheer goes up amongst the readers). Steve Dionne has been busy overseeing a number of contractors who've been working here already. Excavators, Masons, Pipefitters, Core Borers, Linesman, Plumbers, and more have all descended on the building. The sights and sounds of machinery running have been quite constant. Our staff and volunteers are taking it in stride though. They know that many more changes are in the works. Flexibility is the key. As I told them, just pretend you're like that children's character "Gumby" and bend with it. We're of course still looking for donations to complete the renovations. If you know of anyone that might be interested in giving, please speak to them about it. We can certainly use the help.

On November 8th, we'll have an author talk video conferencing program. Author, lecturer, and documentary film maker T.R. Reid will speak about his book "The Healing of America: A Global Quest for

The Library Lookout

November 2011

Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care". Mr. Reid's program is being held at the Portland Public Library and is being video cast live from there via our new video conferencing equipment. The program will be shown on a large screen TV in the Memorial Room of the library. It begins at 5:30, and admission is free.

The library will also be having hosting National Gaming Day on November 12th from 10-2. We're planning on having adult and child electronic and board games available that day. The library is one of hundreds of others offering this program to its patrons. This program is made possible by the coordination of the American Library Association.

Just a reminder; the library will be closed on November 11th in honor of our veterans. We'll be closing early (5pm) on November 23rd and of course closed on Thanksgiving itself on November 24th.

Until next month,

Dale

BOOK EVENT

Lost Trail: Nine Days Alone in the Wilderness, co-authored by Donn Fendler and Lynn Plourde and illustrated by Ben Bishop.

Sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Library, Mr. Paperback Book Store and the Skowhegan Free Public Library, this event will take place on November 15 at 6:30 at the Methodist Church on Dr. Mann Road. Free admission. Both authors and illustrator will be present, a video will be shown, and books will be available for sale and autographing. The 1939 classic story of a twelve-year old's nine day adventure in the Maine wilderness is one that so many of us have enjoyed. Now it has been retold in a graphic novel format with added details of before and after Donn was lost. For more information, call Mr. Paperback at 474-5806 or the library at 474-9072.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Angie Herrick

How many computers are there in the library? What does the stained-glass window in the Civil War Room say? What is the Director's favorite food? If you are a 4th grader from Margaret Chase Smith School, you can answer all of those questions and more about the Skowhegan Free Public Library. Mrs. Greenlaw's and Mrs. Herrick's classes came in for a field trip on Friday, October 21st. There were 45 kids in the library and they all had a great time exploring and hunting out answers to the scavenger hunt questions. When the student's completed their hunt, they all got a cool bookmark as a reward (thanks to Ms. Kristine Rinaldi!) Mrs. Greenlaw and Mrs. Herrick also sent home library card applications beforehand and 24 kids got their first library card that day! It was an exciting day for sure!

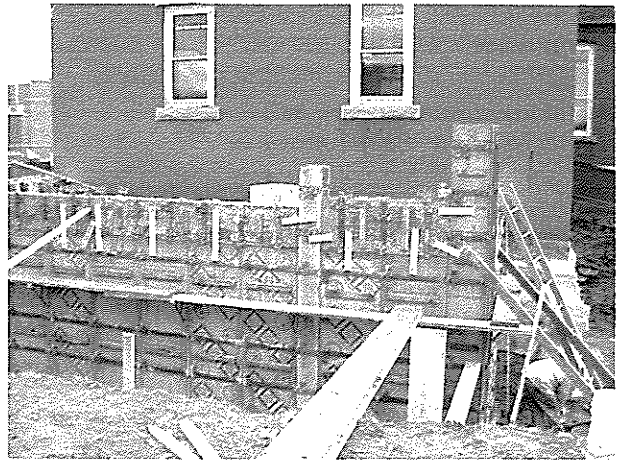
Another exciting thing going on upstairs is the Diary of a Wimpy Kid Comic Contest. In anticipation of Jeff Kinney's newest book, Cabin Fever, being released next month, the kids are having a comic contest. The Grand Prize winner will receive the entire Diary of a Wimpy Kid collection and two runner-up winners will receive a copy of the new book Cabin Fever! So stop upstairs for more information!

The Children's Library is also doing a food drive this month in honor of Thanksgiving. It will start November 1st and run until November 19th. The food will be going to the Skowhegan Community Food Cupboard. Drop-off boxes will be located upstairs as well as downstairs at the library. Any items are welcome, just please make sure nothing is out-dated and as always, money donations are accepted if that is preferred.

And lastly, a Pen-Pal Club is starting here at the library! We have been able to partner up with some other libraries around the country and we hope to be able to match every interested child up with a similar child from another state. Kids will be able to SAFELY write back and forth to another child without ever giving out personal information. The Pen-Pal club will meet once a month starting on November 21st at 3:00. This is for kids in 3-8th grade. If you can't make it to the meetings, but still want to participate that is okay too, just see me for more details!

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You have donated \$1,573.21 in bottle returns to the Renovation Fund! Keep up the good work!

RENOVATION PROGRESS!



The forms for the new stairway and egress.

WANTED! (Please drop off at the Library)
Handmade items for the "Library Christmas Bazaar".

Balls of yarn to sell.
Items for Nana-2-U shelves

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If you prefer to receive your Lookout by email, please send your address to Corrilla at jascor@myfairpoint.net

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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 for Individuals, \$8 for Seniors and Students, and \$15 for Families.

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Please complete this form and mail to:
Skowhegan Free Public Library, 9 Elm Street,
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

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

Please check the activities you are willing to help with.

- Refreshments for library activities.
- Making phone calls.
- Helping with fundraising activities

Meet a Friend

By Marcia B. Granville

Darla Pickett retired three years ago after 37 years as a journalist. During those years, she was an editor for the *Somerset Reporter* when it was owned by the *Bangor Daily News*. Darla also worked as a reporter for the *Bangor Daily News* for several years. She also was the public relations director for the Margaret Chase Smith Library for nearly two years. She retired from the *Morning Sentinel* after she had been with them for nearly 25 years. She had worked out of the Waterville office for eight years and, at the time of her retirement, was Bureau Chief of the Skowhegan office.

Aside from her job, she spent many years acting in plays at Lakewood Theater under the leadership of Marti Stevens, and also for local Skowhegan producers.

For Darla, 'retirement' might just as well be simply a word in the dictionary. She works as hard as she ever did, perhaps harder. Currently, she edits copy for special sections at the *Morning Sentinel* as well as freelancing articles for special supplements. She also serves on the Skowhegan Economic Development Corporation Board, a one-year term and on the Skowhegan Budget and Finance Committee, a three-year term.

Other activities include membership in the Skowhegan Women's Club and being a member of the Communications Committee at the Maine State Museum where she helps promote programs and increase patronage. As if all of that is not enough Darla is on the Board of directors for Channel 11, public access television and is host of the Channel 11 panel show, "Keeping Pace." The other panelists are Donna Finley, Alan Foxwell and Jamie Doiran. The show is directed by Katie Ouilette. The cameraman is Gary Allain.

Six years ago, Darla was invited to be a member of the Executive Board of the Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library where she now serves as President. She helped produce the fundraising event, "Dancing With the Stars" two years ago and has acted in two plays that Marcia Granville wrote as fundraisers for the library.

Darla says "I've always been a big fan of the library. We're doing real well, but in these economic times it's been a real struggle to get the funding for the work that needs to be done."

She also says that she is going to cut down on some of her activities. She says ruefully, "I don't know what I was thinking." We hope, however, that she will

continue to be a Friend of the Skowhegan Free Public Library and keep helping with fundraising activities.

When this busy woman has time for hobbies, she gardens, plays the piano, writes and meets with the Waterville Writing Group, and reads.

BOOK REVIEW

Turn Right at Machu Picchu by Mark Adams

Mark Adams describes the adventures of Hiram Bingham in 1911 on his famous exploration to the Peruvian Andes. Almost a century later, Adams follows in his footsteps. Both explorers were fascinated by the Inca civilization and the mysterious and hidden ruins of Machu Picchu high in the mountains.

Adams, a writer for *National Geographic Adventure*, tells the tale in a detailed and humorous manner. I recommend the book for any reader who enjoys history or adventure.

Jim Hastings

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Beaton, M.C./ *As the Pig Turns*
Berg, Elizabeth/ *Upon a Time, There Was You*
Brown, Rita Mae/ *Murder Unleashed*
Burke, James Lee/ *Feast of Days*
Child, Lee/ *The Affair*
De Los Santos, Marisa/ *Falling Together*
Evans, Richard Paul/ *Lost December*
Gregory, Philippa/ *Lady of the Rivers*
Grisham, John/ *Litigators*
Hoffman, Alice/ *The Dovekeepers*
Johansen, Iris/ *Bonnie*
Macomber, Debbie/ *1225 Christmas Tree Lane*
Mills, Kyle/ *Robert Ludlum's The Ares Decision*
Muller, Marcia/ *City of Whispers*
Patterson, James/ *Christmas Wedding*
Patterson, James/ *Kill Me if You Can*
Perry, Anne/ *Christmas Homecoming*
Reichs, Kathy/ *Flash and Bones*
Rosenberg, Joel/ *Tehran Initiative*
Sanford, John/ *Shock Wave*
Sparks, Nicholas/ *Best of Me*
Steel, Danielle/ *Hotel Vendome*
Taylor, Patrick/ *Dublin Student Doctor*

The Library Lookout

9 Elm Street

Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your librarians:

Library Director Dale Jandreau
Children's Librarian Angie Herrick
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte

Your Library Trustees:

Toni Jo Blaisdell,
Lee Granville, Corrilla Hastings
Carol Jarvais,
Lynn Perry, Warren Shay
Ex Officio, Darla Pickett

Friends officers:

Darla Pickett, pres.
Peggy Lovejoy, vice pres.,
Pam McDermott, sec. Kathleen Littlefield, treas.

Calendar of Events

Children's Story and Craft Hour every Wed. at 10 AM

Nov. 1 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.

Nov. 1-19 Food Drive

Nov. 5 Socrates Café, "Rationalism", 11 AM-1 PM

Nov. 8 Author T.R. Reid on "Comparative Health Systems", BTOP system, 5:30 PM

Nov. 9 Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM

Nov. 10 Genealogy Group, 1 PM.

Nov. 10 Friends of the Library Executive Board meeting, 6 PM

Nov. 12 National Gaming Day, 10 to 2

Nov. 12 Scrapbooking, 10 to 12.

Nov. 14 & 28 Toddlertime, 10:30

Nov. 15 Family Story Hour, Giving Thanks! 4:30 to 5:30

Nov. 15 Diary of Wimpy Kid comic Contest Winners Announced

Nov. 15 Donn Fendler, Lynn Plourde and Ben Bishop presentation, Methodist Church, 6:30 PM

Nov. 16 Transitions Group, "Skills we have for Transition", 7 PM

DECEMBER

Dec. 3 Holiday Stroll: "Christmas Bazaar", Holiday Music, Cookie Walk, Book give-away and crafts for kids. 10-2

Dec. 6 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.

Dec. 10 Socrates Café

Dec. 12 & 26 Toddlertime

Dec. 14 Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM

Dec. 20 Family Story Hour, Holiday Hoopla!, 4:30-5:30 PM.

Dec. 21 Transitions Group, 7 PM.

Dec. 26-30 Creative Writing Workshop for kids all week, Grades 5-12, 1-2:30 PM.