



The Library Lookout

August 2008

<http://www.skowheganlib.me.us>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

As August begins, the library is humming with activity. It has been a wonderfully busy summer with lots of new patrons signing up for library cards. One day in July we checked out over 430 items! It may be a new record. The genealogy room has also been used extensively. People from Oregon, MA and CA have been in to do research. Ruth Blood's spring genealogy class has continued to meet over the summer. A new class will begin in September and you may register by calling the library at 474-9072.

For those of you who were able to attend "The Little Black Dress Revue" fashion show at Lakewood, you know what a memorable event it was. Jeff Quinn did an excellent job as the Master of Ceremonies and Tim Gould was a perfect auctioneer for the special "date" packages. Everywhere I looked that evening I saw happy faces enjoying a very special time with family or friends. . Many thanks to all the models, businesses and community members who participated in making this fundraiser so much fun and for raising over \$5000 for the Library Renovation. Special thanks to Davida Barter, Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Jeanne Hogate and MaryEllen Carpenter whose style, elegance and attention to detail made this a remarkable evening.

The Skowhegan Community Writing Project has been completed. You may check out the book "Enjoying Nature: sharing our stories" at the library. We had 43 works entered and received poems in all age groups. Thank you to everyone who submitted a poem or a story. Next year we plan to have a Community Art project. This will include all types of art and photography. Get your paintbrushes and sketchbooks ready!

Now that the roof is finished the next major project at the library is a new heating system. We are continuing our fundraising efforts by selling Skowhegan Library book bags (\$10), library medallions (\$3) and statues of a girl reading (\$20) created by John Richardson. Raffle tickets for the Civil War Memorial Quilt are also on sale. 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The drawing for the quilt will be December 6th at the Holiday Stroll. The renovation committee meets the first Wed. of the month at 6 PM at the library. New members are welcome.

Congratulations to Lee Granville for winning the At Large Paul Harris Fellowship Award this year. The Skowhegan Rotary honored Lee for his outstanding contributions towards preserving the cultural history of Skowhegan and for "putting service before self." Lee is currently the chairman of the Library trustees. He is also the curator of the Skowhegan History House and on the Trustees of Bloomfield Academy board. Lee has been very successful in writing grants and attracting volunteers to help him. Thank you, Lee Granville for all the work you have done for this community.



CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Katherine LeBlanc

It is hot, hot, hot in the Children's Room this summer, and I'm not talking about the weather. We have had a record breaking number of check outs so far this summer reading program season, and a whopping 131 enthusiastic readers signed up to read this summer. Needless to say the children's room is "Buggy for Books."

Our first program was held on July 9th with a mountain bike trail ride through Debe Park. Denise LeBlanc from the Skowhegan Community Center led us on our journey that ended at the sandy beach along the Kennebec River. If you have not had the opportunity to walk or bike any of these awesome trails in Skowhegan, it is a must do this summer. Denise and her staff do an outstanding job of maintaining the trail system in Skowhegan, and the readers from the Skowhegan Free Public Library loved it. Thank you to Denise and her staff for not only opening our eyes to this beautiful trail, but with the healthy kids program we were also given some peanut butter crackers, raisins and a bottle of water to keep our energy up. What a treat!

We have quite a few new titles for the kids this summer, which include some new Hardy Boys Mysteries that we did not have in the past. Clearly these classics are still favorites with the way they fly off the shelves.

As part of the Maine Nutrition Network Grant we will be providing snacks for the story hour children on Wednesday morning. If you can join us from 10:00 to 11:00 AM we would love to see you there.

Lastly, there is no better way to beat summer boredom than by reading a good book. We love to see children read, but we love it even more if they want to read. The staff at the library is committed to helping families find books that are "right up their alley." So when you have a minute, bring the kids in, we want to make sure that everyone has a "Buggy for Books" summer!

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Anna Lee Court
Bruce Moore
Patricia and Norman Dickey
Maureen and David Calder
Miriam Malloy
Marion Snyder
Pinella's Foundation

FOL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Led by our new president, Mary Hill, the Friends Executive Board will hold its next meeting on September 4 at 6 p.m. at the library. Serving on the board at this time are Darla Pickett, vice president; Sherri Vigue, treasurer; Kathy Littlefield, secretary; Marcia Granville, Pam McDermott, Dave McDermott, Judy Gamage, Virginia Jordan, and Peggy Lovejoy. Although these are the people who comprise the Executive Board, ALL members and future members of the Friends are welcome to attend the board meetings and to participate in FOL activities and events.

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.

BOOK REVIEW

By Darla Pickett

Witness by Susan Page Davis is a quick, light read in the "love inspired suspense" genre.

Davis, a former colleague and fellow member of my writer's group – Media Chix – has written at least 14 novels in several different styles.

Without giving away the ending in Witness, a Portland nurse with Waterville connections is an unwilling witness to a murder and pays the price in fear for her life.

In her search for answers about the crime –and the body no one can find – Petra Wilson finds a new future and her way back to God.

What makes the book a fun read is its connection to Maine towns and settings that leave a local reader feeling involved and imagining being there.

Petra's trips around Waterville, Sidney and even the Two-Cent Bridge beside the Sentinel office in downtown Waterville make for interesting reading. Witness is about searching for truth and standing firm in one's beliefs even if everyone else thinks you're wrong. At the back of the book, Davis has provided a list of discussion questions to turn the book into a tool for learning.

**The Library is now on its Summer
Hours schedule: Monday-Friday
10:AM -6 PM**



Francoise was recently honored by The Ladies' Book Club for her tireless customer service and friendly assistance to the group over the past three years. Francoise was given two lovely wine bottle containers bought at the Blueberry Cupboard holding a bottle of red wine and a bottle of white wine, both from France. The Ladies' Book Club currently has 12 members who meet every month at a volunteer's home. Each member takes a turn to choose a book for the following month. There have been quite a variety of books over the years. One of our favorite authors is Jodi Picoult, but other book titles over the past year have included: Marley & Me, The Memory Keeper's Daughter, The Smoke Jumper, Whispers and Lies, Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons, and To Kill A Mockingbird. Our ladies range in age from 30-something to 70-something and live in Skowhegan, Norridgewock, and Moose River.



Calendar of Events

AUGUST

Every Wednesday Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM
Aug. 5 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM Public is welcome.
Aug. 6 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM. New members welcome.
Aug. 12 & 26 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER

Every Wednesday Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM
Sept. 2 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM Public is welcome.
Sept. 3 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM
Sept. 4 FOL Executive Board meeting, 6 PM Public is welcome.
Sept. 9 & 23 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM
Sept. 27 Fall Festival at Coburn Park

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

Non-Fiction:

Isabel Allende/ The sum of our days
Bryce Corbett/ A town like Paris
Bob Delaney/ Covert
John Gruen/ Callas kissed me and Lenny too
Randy Pausch/ The last lecture
Barbara Walter/ Audition

Fiction:

Jeffrey Archer/ A prisoner of birth
Jo Bannister/ Fathers and sins
David Baldacci/ The whole truth
Mary Balogh/ Simply perfect
Nevada Barr/ Winter study
M.C. Beaton/ Death of a gentle lady
Elizabeth Berg/ The day I ate whatever I wanted
Dorothy Cannell/ Goodbye, MS. Chips
Carol Clark/ Zapped
Harlan Coben/ Hold tight
Barbara Delinsky/ Suddenly
Katie Fforde/ Practically perfect
Dorothea Benton Frank/ Bulls Island
Heather Graham/ The death dealer
Colin Harrison/ The finder
Alice Hoffman/ The third angel
Iris Johansen/ Quicksand
Peter Lovesey/ The headhunters
A McCall Smith/ The miracle at speedy
Lee Martin/ River of heaven
Steven Pressfield/ Killing rommel
Amanda Quick/ The third cycle
Karen Robards/ Guilty
Elizabeth Strout/ Olive Kitteridge
Randy Wayne White/ Black widow
Stuart Woods/ Santa Fe dead

The Library Lookout

9 Elm Street

Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your librarians:

Library Director Melissa Gaspar
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte
Children's Librarian Katherine LeBlanc

Your Library Trustees:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,
Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,
Carol Jarvis, Corilla Hastings
Ex Officio, Mary Hill

Friends officers:

Mary Hill, pres.
Darla Pickett, vice pres.,