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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

Coming Tuesday November 9th to a library near you— *Snapshot 2010: Libraries Connect*. Libraries all over Maine will be collecting statistics, patron comments and photos to take a "Snapshot" of the invaluable programs and services provided by Maine Libraries to their communities on a typical day. Please stop by the Skowhegan Public Library on November 9th and be counted. Tell us what you love about your library and why it is important to you. Results of the snapshot day will be posted on the Maine State Library website at the end of November. www.maine.gov/msl/snapshot/

November is also a time to remember our Veterans. We will have a special exhibit on local veterans during the week of Veterans' Day, along with a book display. In addition we will be displaying the Peace Posters that the Middle School students have created. This is a program that is organized by the Lions Club and promotes art with peace as the theme. Each year we display the original art work and patrons may vote on their favorite picture. The creative talents of the middle school students are always very impressive.

Another exciting development is that the Junior Lions Club at the High School has chosen to support the Skowhegan Public Library this year. Throughout the year, this group of energetic and community-minded teens will sponsor fundraising events and help out on programs at the library. They have already helped with the Prudential Insurance Library Cleanup Day on Sept 24th. Through their efforts and the efforts of other community members, the library received a \$1000 donation from Prudential Insurance. Donna Brown from Prudential Insurance helped organize this event that involved cleaning up

The Library Lookout

November 2010

a room in the cellar which will soon be a safe storage facility for our important historical books. I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard.



Library Clean-up Day Volunteers

Save the date! Saturday Dec 4th from 10am-2pm when the library is having an especially festive holiday stroll event. Paavo Carey and his jazz band will be entertaining us with lively holiday music. Sponsored by the Friends, this is a kickoff event for the new "Jazz Nights at the Library" coming in 2011. In addition, there will be a Fiber Festival at the library featuring quilt art, knitted items, felted pieces and other fabric arts. Upstairs, in the Children's Room we will be giving away one free book per child thanks to the generosity of Kristine Rinaldi. We will also have cookies and milk. It is going to be the best holiday stroll ever, so mark your calendars and be sure to attend.

November is also the time to visit with family and friends and give thanks for all that we have. I hope that you all enjoy a very delicious Thanksgiving Day dinner. And remember, there are many delicious books available at the library. 0 calories per serving so you can enjoy guilt free. Bon appetite.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

Recently two fourth grade classes, the Greenlaw / Herrick Team, walked from the Margaret Chase Smith School to the library. Forty students listened attentively to a short book talk and then eagerly explored the library to find books to check out. The room was full of excited chatter as students found books that interested them. For some students it was their first trip to the library. It was a joy to have them visit the library and other classes are welcome to call and schedule a visit. One student said, "I'll be back, maybe even later today!" He returned that afternoon for more books.

The Children's Room is a happy sunny welcoming space in the library offering books for all ages as well as coloring pages, puppets and a puppet theater, marvelous dinosaurs, games and other toys. It is a great place to spend a few hours browsing for picture books or researching a topic of interest. On Wednesday mornings at 10am we have Story hour and craft time. Our wonderful volunteer readers are: Kathy Hughes, Tina Burns, and Diane Godin. On the second and fourth Mondays of the month we offer Toddlertime at 10:30 am for youngsters under the age of 3 years old. Our wonderful Toddlertime readers are: Kathy Woodbury, Laurie Pierce, and Jessica Pinkham.

PROJECT 2012

Project 2012 is moving forward! Our Campaign Manager, Pat Dickey, is continuing to solicit funds locally from both businesses and individuals with great success. Please consider putting the Library on your Christmas gift list this year. Just contact Melissa, Pat, or a member of the Renovation Committee if you would like to make a donation or pledge.

Grant writers, Sherri Vigue and Jim Hastings are also hard at work. They have applied for eight different grants during the last two months and are now waiting for

the results. Just this week, a seed grant of \$1,000 was received from Maine Preservation.

Together we will soon be able to realize our dream of a library that meets ADA compliance and all fire and safety code guidelines. Did you know that there are nine steps to climb before reaching the library front door, and twenty-three additional steps to the second floor? These challenges inadvertently deny handicapped or elderly people from using library facilities and enjoying programs. When we reach our goal, the entire library will be available to all patrons!

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New and Renewed Members:

Violet Ferland
Joseph Quirion
Aileen Murray and Judith Benson
Alex and Mardi Pakulski
Judith McCarthy and Robert Landry
Jim and Lisa Veilleux
Gust and Jan Stringos
Kathy Hughes
Melissa Gaspar
Kathleen Littlefield
Donna Finley and Leitha Wallace

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted: We are looking for someone who would be interested in helping us ebay some of our unwanted books. This is an income producing opportunity. If you have experience with ebay, and are interested, please stop by and talk to Melissa. Thank you.

Wed. Nov 10th Green Group Video and Discussion: "Farmer John" Family Farms and sustainable living will be the topic of discussion. Free refreshments. 7pm

BOOK REVIEW

By Lyn Hill

MATTERHORN by Karl Marlantis is an exciting tale of the Vietnam War. Its main character is Lt. Melas, a platoon leader in Bravo Company of the US Marines. It's set in the mountains of Vietnam bordering Laos.

Melas and his platoon are dumped in the area to capture a mountaintop called Matterhorn. They did this successfully only to be ordered to abandon it. The upper echelon ordered that it needed to be taken again. Once again Melas' Bravo Co. did it under very trying circumstances.

The only way to supply troops in the bush in Vietnam was by helicopter. Rainy weather and fog grounded helicopters for days on end. No food, no water, no ammo, no evacuation of wounded could be accomplished. Melas and his men spent days without any relief whatever. They suffered from hunger, trench foot and difficulty in trying to keep the wounded alive until help could come.

The story also tells of the problems between Caucasian and African-American troops. Melas was very good at keeping potential disruption among his troops at a minimum.

Political directives will always be a part of War. In Vietnam the enemy retired to Laos for rearming, and our troops were not allowed to go after them. In Afghanistan we can't go into Pakistan to get the Taliban.

If you like exciting stories of military operations, I highly recommend *MATTERHORN*. It seems to me that the author has personally experienced some of these events.

NEW BOOKS

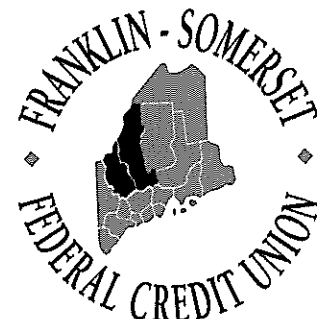
FICTION

Archer, Jeffrey/ *And Thereby Hangs a Tale*
Cornwell, Bernard/ *The Fort*
Evanovich, Janet/ *Wicked Appetite*
Follett, Ken/ *Fall of the Giants*
Franzen, Jonathan/ *Freedom*
Lewis, Beverly/ *The Thorn*
McCall Smith, Alexander/ *The Charming Quirks of Others*
McMillan, Terry/ *Getting to Happy*
Palmer, Diana/ *Lone Star Winter*
Mapson, Jo-Ann/ *Solomon's Oak*
Patterson, James/ *Don't Blink*
Rosenberg, Nancy/ *My Lost Daughter*
Sparks, Nicholas/ *Safe Haven*
Steel, Danielle/ *Legacy*
Taylor, Patrick/ *An Irish Country Courtship*
Woods, Stuart/ *Santa Fe Edge*
Sanford, John/ *Bad Blood*

Non-Fiction

Pinkham, Steve/ *Mountains of Maine*

This issue of Library Lookout is sponsored by



The Library Lookout

9 Elm Street

Skowhegan, ME 04976

Your librarians:

Library Director Melissa Gaspar
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte

Your Library Trustees:

Toni Jo Blaisdell,
Lee Granville, Corilla Hastings
Carol Jarvais, Warren Shay
Ex Officio, Darla Pickett

Friends officers:

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

NOTE:

There has been some confusion caused by the dates on the top or bottom of some mailing labels of the Lookout. Please disregard; they do not necessarily mean a membership renewal is due. A new system for membership dues is being devised by the Friends and will be explained in the near future.

Calendar of Events

Every Wednesday, Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.

Nov. 3 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM.

Nov. 4 Friends of the Library Executive Board meeting, 6 PM.

Nov. 8 & 22 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM.

Nov. 9 Snapshot 2010: Libraries Connect.

Nov. 10 Farmer John video – Green Group, 7 PM.

Nov. 11 Library closed for Veterans' Day.

Nov. 13 Socrates Café at the Blueberry Cupboard, 11 AM to 1 PM, "Is it ever right to do wrong?"

Nov. 25 & 26 Library closed for Thanksgiving break.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM.

Dec. 4 Holiday Stroll – Jazz music and Fiber Fest sponsored by the Friends, 10 AM – 2 PM.

Dec. 7 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.