



<http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us>
skowlib@skowhegan.lib.me.us
207 474 9072

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

December always begins with the festive Holiday Stroll in downtown Skowhegan. This year the fun-filled weekend will begin Friday night Dec. 3rd at 6:30pm with the parade. The parade will line up in front of the Skowhegan Public Library. After the parade there will be a bonfire at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds. On Saturday Dec 4th there will be activities all around the down town area. There is also a raffle on a garden/patio theme. You can buy your raffle tickets at the library and the proceeds for this raffle will benefit Main Street.

Saturday, Dec 4th 10am–2pm the Skowhegan Public Library will feature a Fiber Arts Festival at the library. There will be quilt art exhibit, knitted items, felted pieces and other fabric arts on display. The Somerset Samplers and community members have provided these beautiful items to inspire and help give you ideas for holiday gifts. 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 some free refreshments provided by the Friends.

In addition from 11am-1pm there will be a Jazz Band performing at the library led by music teacher, Paavo Carey. The Holiday Stroll Jazz concert is an opportunity for folks to preview a new program which is coming to the library in 2011—Jazz nights @ the library which will be on the third Thursdays of the month at 7pm. The first one will be on Jan. 20th. The Friends Group

The Library Lookout

December 2010

is sponsoring the Jazz nights and there will be pie and beverages for sale during the intermission on Thursday nights.

'Tis the season to be giving and the library has many items for sale to help you with your holiday gift list. First and foremost, are beautiful new copies of Louise Coburn's poetry book called, "Kennebec and Other Poems", These books are out-of- print now, but reasonably priced at \$7.50. There are also library book bags at \$10 and library T-shirts at \$15. We have some special gift bag sets which are only \$25-\$30. Kathy Littlefield has created a wonderful Doggie Gift Basket that will be raffled off just before Christmas. It includes homemade dog biscuits, Pea-mutt Butter and Bark-B-Cue flavored. Tickets are \$1 for 1 and \$5 for 6. We also have Library note cards and prints with original artwork done by Dick Anzelc. Prices vary according to size. There are many more items, handmade jewelry and Christmas ornaments. Another idea for that person who has everything is to make a donation in their name to the Library Renovation or buy them a membership to the Friends Group. You will find all these items at the library.

On Dec 8th the "Towns in Transition" will meet at 7pm to enjoy a video on Peak Oil and discuss alternative energy. All are invited to join the discussion. Free popcorn!

I would like to wish everyone the happiest of holidays. May you all enjoy time with your family and friends.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

There's something new in the Children's Room. It's a beautiful handmade bookcase for board books! The bookcase was made by Mel Burnham and painted a bright yellow by Stan Trevains. Board books are more popular than ever with our very youngest library users. Did you know that if you visit the library on your birthday you get to pick out a free book? It's true. We also give out a free book to every toddler who attends Toddlertime.

The library is looking very festive for the holidays. Somerset Valley Academy has put up a beautiful Christmas tree by the fireplace. We have another tree in the lobby that is covered with special handmade ornaments on a nursery rhyme theme. You can buy the ornaments 1 at a time or create your own set of favorite nursery rhymes. These unique decorations were made by Diane Godin, one of our story hour readers. All proceeds from the ornaments will go to the library renovation Project 2012.

The winner of the Peace Poster contest sponsored by the Lions Club was Ravin Davis. Congratulations to Ravin! Her poster has now gone on to a state level contest.

Don't forget Sat., Dec 4th from 10am-2pm we will be giving away one free book per child. The children may pick out their own book from a box of books donated by Kristine Rinaldi. There will also be refreshments. Happy Holidays everyone!

Iver and I were delighted to have won the "Leaf Peeping Tour in an Antique Car" with Dale Watson at your fund raising auction. We had a wonderful time meeting Mr. Watson and learning so much about Skowhegan and the farms that used to be up on Bigelow Hill and the Rowe Road. Mr. Watson had a great idea to support the library in this way. Oh yes, the leaves were great too!

Maillilani Bailey

New membership deadline for Friends of the Library

Membership dues for Friends of the Library will now become payable on April of each year to avoid confusion and to coincide with our membership drive and National Library Month. For any member whose membership is close to that April deadline, the fee will be waived until the following April. Once a year has passed, the confusion will be gone, making it easier for members to remember one dues date and allowing the executive committee to keep better track of income. Library Lookout issues will be sent to paid-up members and some complimentary issues also will be delivered.

The executive committee also voted, and Treasurer Kathleen Littlefield agreed to accept the responsibility, to have the treasurer keep track of paid dues with a tracking system she will devise. Littlefield may be contacted at 474-8486 if a member is not sure about when his or her dues are payable.

Darla L. Pickett, FOL President

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.

.....
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 Corrilla Hastings

Kennebec and Other Poems by Louise Helen Coburn

Published in 1916, *Kennebec and Other Poems* is a collection of seventy-three poems written by Louise Helen Coburn and dedicated to her brother, Charles. Selections include a variety of subjects, from the state of Maine (for example, "A Song to Maine") to changing seasons. Many of the poems express sadness but also a marked faith and hope for the future. "April smiles amid her tears", she says. Because Miss Coburn was a botanist, it is not surprising that nature is a frequent subject with a number of descriptions of flowers, trees, birds, mountains and the ocean.

The first poem in Miss Coburn's book is called "Kennebec" and begins with the words:

"Do you mind one evening, brother,
Of a far away July,
How we glided up the river,"

Many of us know the story of the Coburn family that lived in the house now occupied by Ruth and Gerald Vermette. Stephen Coburn and his wife (Helen Sophia Miller) had five children: Helen, Charles, Susan, Frances and Grace. Newspaper stories tell us that in 1882, Stephen, deeply depressed, crossed the road and walked into the Kennebec River to his death. Trying to save his father, Charles, aged 22, followed him only to meet with the same ending. Both men were unable to swim. One wonders how his sister was still able to see the beauty of the river that she describes in her poem.

Reading these delightful poems, one gains a picture of our town and its people in the early 20th century. Copies of this handsome, hardcover book are currently on sale at the library, with proceeds going to Project 2012. What a wonderful Christmas present!

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Baldacci, David/ *Hell's Corner*
Beaton, M.C. / *Busy Body*
Bell, Ted/ *Warlord*
Bradford, Barbara Taylor/ *Playing the Game*
Brown, Rita Mae / *A Nose for Justice*
Butcher, Jim/ *Side Jobs*
Cannell, Stephen/ *The Prostitutes' Ball*
Child, Lee/ *Worth Dying For*
Coben, Harlan/ *Back Spin*
Connelly, Michael/ *The Reversal*
Coulter, Catherine/ *The Valcourt Heiress*
Deaver, Jeffery/ *Edge*
Evans, Richard Paul/ *Promise Me*
Flagg, Fannie/ *I Still Dream About You*
Flynn, Vince/ *American Assassin*
Grisham, John/ *The Confession*
Jacobson, Alan/ *Velocity*
Johansen, Iris/ *Chasing the Night*
Karon, Jan/ *In the Company of Others*
Khoury, Raymond/ *The Templar Salvation*
King, Stephen/ *Full Dark, No Stars*
Kinsella, Sophie/ *Mini Shopaholic*
Klavan, Andrew/ *The Identity Man*
Le Carre, John/ *Our Kind of Traitor*
Leonard, Elmore/ *Djibouti*
Macomber, Debbie/ *Call Me Mrs Miracle*
Muller, Marcia/ *Coming Back*
Parker, Robert B./ *Painted Ladies*
Patterson, James/ *Cross Fire*
Perry, Annel/ *A Christmas Odyssey*
Pronzini, Bill/ *The Hidden*
Robb, J.D./ *Indulgence in Death*
Roberts, Nora/ *Happy Ever After*
Rosnay, Tatania de/ *A Secret Kept*
Roth, Philip/ *Nemesis*
Tapply, William/ *Outwitting Trolls*

NON FICTION

Blaine, Gerald/ *The Kennedy Detail*
Rice, Condoleeza/ *Extraordinary, Ordinary People*

This issue of Library Lookout is sponsored by

**Franklin
Savings Bank**
FranklineBranch.com

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.

Calendar of Events

Every Wednesday, Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM. (No Story Hour on Dec. 22)

DECEMBER

Dec. 1 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM.

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

Dec. 7 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.

Dec. 8 "Towns in Transition": video and discussion on Peak Oil, 7 PM

Dec. 13 & 27 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM.

The Library will be closed Dec. 24,25, and 26, and Dec. 31.

JANUARY

Jan. 4 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM.

Jan. 5 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM.

Jan. 6 Friends Executive Board meeting, 6 PM.

Jan. 8 Socrates Café at the Blueberry Cupboard, 11 to 1 PM.

Jan. 10 & 24 Toddlertimne, 10:30 AM.

Jan. 12 "Towns in Transition": Money, its history and meaning, 7 PM.

Jan. 20 Jazz Concert - Free! Refreshments will be sold, 7 PM.