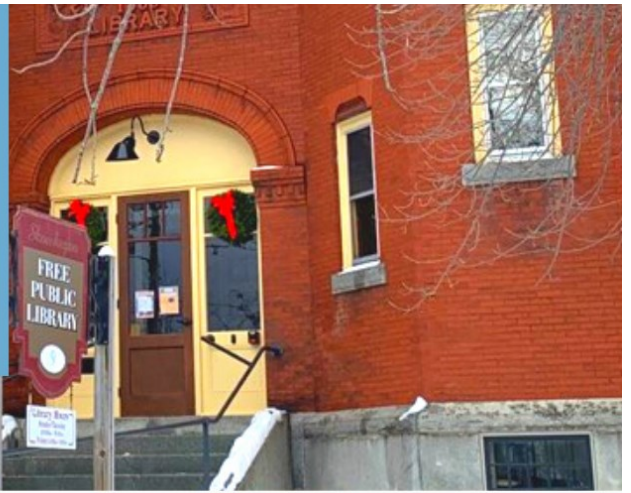


DECEMBER 2023

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Most of our library family and friends are aware that we lost our long-time employee Francoise Labonte in October. She was a volunteer, a substitute, and then finally a staff member for over 40 years here. On November 11th, her family hosted a Celebration of Life here at the library and so many people came to remember her as well as pay their respects.

In 2022, the library trustees recognized her retirement by placing a bench out front. She was smiling from ear to ear when she first saw it. It reads: "In Honor of Francoise Labonte for her 42 years of service." It was heartwarming to see her reaction to this bench, and now it is heartwarming to see the bench and remember her and the legacy she has left behind.

She was such a steadfast presence in the library and she knew generations of patrons by names and reading preferences. So many people have shared with us that she used to hold books or suggest books that she thought they might like to read next. It is just amazing to see how many people that were impacted by her.

Thank you, Francoise, for the innumerable hours you spent making the Skowhegan Free Library a better place, for being a diligent and fastidious worker, a valued community member, and most importantly a friend.

Tu vas nous manquer.

This month's Library Lookout is dedicated in memory of Francois Labonte

DECEMBER 2023

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Winter has arrived at the library and with it came the snow and some beautiful seasonal decor. We're all about cozying up with a good book to brave the winter weather and watch the snow fall.

Just a quick reminder that the library is closed from 12/25-01/02 for our winter break and 01/22-01/27 for inventory. Don't get caught in the cold! Stock up on stories to tide you over until we're back in business. Additionally, when MSAD 54 is closed due to weather, the library will also be closed that day. We will keep our Facebook page updated with these closures to keep you in the know.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLOSURES & NOTABLE EVENTS

- 12/21 - Library closes @ 2 PM
- 12/25-1/02 - LIBRARY CLOSED for winter break
- 1/22-1/27 - LIBRARY CLOSED for inventory

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

- Every Wednesday** – Storytime @ 10:30 - 11:30AM
- Every Thursday** – Career Center Consultant @ 1 - 4PM
- Every Friday** – Sit and Knit @ 1PM

~ ~ ~

- 12/05 - YA Book Club @ 5PM
- 12/12 - Teen Poetry Club @ 4:30PM
- 12/13 - Mason jar craft @ 4:30
- 12/20 - Mason jar craft @ 4:30
- 1/03 - Mason jar craft @ 4:30
- 1/11 - Author talk w/ Ron Joseph @ 6 PM
- 1/18 - Books & Brews @ 6:30 PM at Unwined



FALL BOOK DRIVE



Our fall book drive was a spectacular success thanks to the support of all of you, our wonderful patrons! We not only achieved our goal of 260 new titles, but exceeded it by over 30 coming in at 293 books! We even had a surprise guest drop in to help us get there! These new titles help keep our reading selection current, relevant and allows us to budget for other items. By giving the gift of stories, we give so much more and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank You!





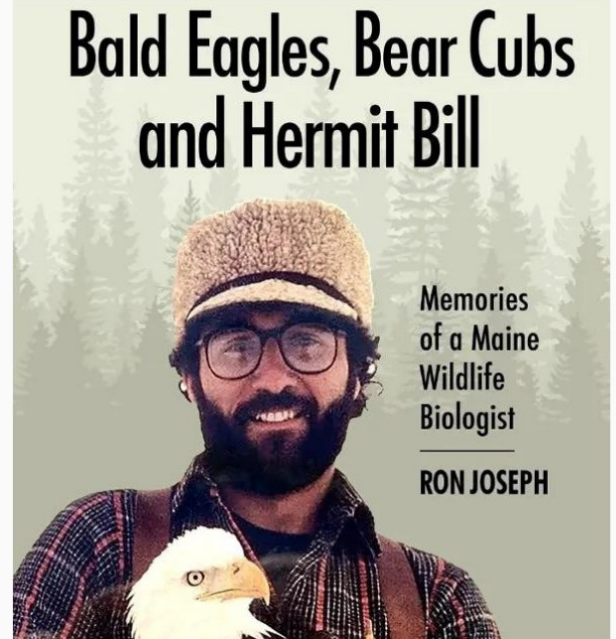
UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Last month saw the wrap up of our Chicken Book club which really “took off”. We are continuing our YA book club and Teen Poetry workshops into December and January.

We’ll also be hosting a Mason Jar Crafting Series hosted by our newest addition to the library staff, Nikki. We’ll have one for each of the two weeks leading up to our winter break and then another the week following. Due to supplies and limited spots available, please preregister if you’d be interested. Each week will be a different project so follow along on our events page on Facebook to see which ones you might like to attend.

For Adult programming this month, we are so grateful to have Bree back from her well deserved vacation. She will be hosting Books & Brews on January 18th at Unwined, discussing *The Red Road: Book One of the McGinn Family Saga* by J.E. McCarthy

We’re also excited to announce that we will be having local author, Ron Joseph here to share his novel: *Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill*.



Lego club members building some amazing structures, we even had a Baba Yaga house!



HVAC SYSTEM UPDATE

It's finally complete! We appreciate your patience while we awaited the final pieces of the puzzle to come together. The dust has now settled and we have our new system up and running!



Staff Picks of the Month

Angie - *The Gathering Room: A Tale of Nelly Butler* by Michelle E. Shores

Bree - *The Gathering Room: A Tale of Nelly Butler* by Michelle E. Shores

Nikki - *The Unfortunate Side Effects of Heartbreak and Magic* by Breanne Randall

Gabrielle - *The Appearing House* by Ally Malinenko

Lydia - *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT 9 ELM STREET SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976

LIBRARY STAFF

Director: Angie Herrick
Adult Circ: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald
Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter
Technology Librarian: Nicole Hathaway
Library Aide: Lydia Dore
Volunteers: Lyn Demchak & Sam Galbraith

LIBRARY FRIENDS

Chair: Karen Lewia
Treasurer: Kirk Karkos
Secretary: Lynda Quinn
Matt Dubois
Gretchen Washburn

LIBRARY COMMITTEE TRUSTEES

Devin MacMichael
Patrick Dore
Debra Sterling
Lynn Perry
Lynda Quinn