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# THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT April 2007

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

April Fool's Day begins the month of April in a joking and humorous way. For those of you who attended the Gary Crocker Community Read event you heard about the healing power of laughter. Gary Crocker mentioned the book, "Anatomy of an Illness" by Norman Cousins. This classic book tells how one man, Norman Cousins, cured himself of a terminal illness by laughter.

Scientific studies have proven that laughter does have a measurable healing power on the body. Many times patrons will share a funny story with us or tell us a joke. It is always uplifting to have a really good laugh and look on the bright side of life.

That's what the folks at North Platte Nebraska, in our community read book, were trying to do for the service men and women who stopped in their town. The folks of North Platte knew the realities of war. They knew what the young troops would soon be facing. They wanted to do something cheerful for the troops. They did this by making the time at North Platte one that was joyful, full of music, good food and welcoming smiling faces. The impact of their loving support made lasting impressions on the soldiers and even now as we all read the book it can have a ripple effect in our lives right here at the library and in our community.

After the Gary Crocker event, the refreshment committee made up of members of the Friends of the Library, the Woman's Club and Semper Fidelis showered the exiting audience with delicious food and 40's music. It was fun to see how people were happy to be offered some free refreshments. About 160 people attended the Gary

Crocker event and now our Community Read is off and running.

A reminder that on Wed. April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 am and 6 pm we will be showing the DVD "Miracle at North Platte Canteen" which is a documentary on the town which our community read book "Once Upon a Town" is written about. All are welcome. Free popcorn will be served and a discussion will follow after the 1 hour show.

On Monday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Margaret Chase Smith Library, Dr. David Richards will facilitate a book discussion on the themes of the book, civic involvement and social capital. Participants will also be able to view the photos on the Era of Challenge: a unique photo exhibit currently on display at the Margaret Chase Smith Library. Refreshments will be served.

On April 26, Larry Ross from the Margaret Chase Smith School will facilitate a book discussion at the Skowhegan Public Library. Refreshments will be served.

The Community Read program will culminate with the Skowpendous Family Fun Day at the Municipal parking lot on Friday April 27, from 5-8 pm. The Skowhegan Public Library will be giving away free books to children and there will be many family activities to enjoy including a scavenger hunt, the climbing wall, healthy food and beverages, music, and much much more. The event is free and sponsored by the Somerset Family Enrichment Council and many other groups in town.

## E x c i t i n g     N e w s

Genealogy Classes will be offered at the Skowhegan Public Library beginning the first week in May. The classes will be taught by Ruth Blood and be on Wednesday afternoons from 3 - 5 pm. Registration is required. Please call the library at 474-9072 to register.

From the Children's Library  
by Katherine Leblanc

Welcome to April! Mud season is officially here, and I for one am glad that the snow is disappearing quickly. The Crocuses are "springing" up on the front lawn, and that is a sure sign that summer is just around the corner.

With summer comes the planning of our Summer Reading Program. I am busy setting up our five weeks of fun for the children, and pooling resources and ideas from all over.

During April vacation the library will be sponsoring a program for the children upstairs. We will be planting seeds and making a craft. I hope you can find time to bring your children or grandchildren in for this afternoon of fun. The event will be held from 11-2 on April 20th. For more details please call the library.

On a side note, we will be loosing Butch Asselin as Police Chief for the Town of Skowhegan on April 13th. Houlton's gain is our loss. Not only is Butch a wonderful supporter of the Library, but he has volunteered his time in several plays that have been major fundraisers for us. Thank you Butch for all that you have done in this community, but especially for the Skowhegan Free Public Library.

#### FOL News

The Dessert Theater was an enjoyable evening and earned about \$890.00 for the Friends. The play will be shown on the local cable channel (Channel 11).

The "Community Reads" events begin on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Six Mile Yard Sale is planned for Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed (a few hours or all day) to help with the sale. Anyone who can help with pricing, prior to the sale, can score a few early bargains. Also, remember to bring any sale items to Jim and Corilla Hastings's house. Arrangements can be made to pick up bulky items by calling

Maureen Calder or the library.

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 9, 2007. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Also, members of the Friends of the Library are encouraged to attend the Town Meeting in June. There will be a vote on the budget for the library.

#### NEW RELEASES

##### FICTION:

Balogh, Mary	<i>Simply Magic</i>
Binchy, Maeve	<i>Whitethorn Woods</i>
Brown, Sandra	<i>Two alone</i>
Chevalier, Tracy	<i>Burning Bright</i>
Graves, Sarah	<i>Trap door</i>
Hill, Reginald	<i>Death comes from a fat man</i>
Hoag, Tami	<i>The Alibi Man</i>
Jackson, Lisa	<i>Absolute Fear</i>
Jacobs, Kate	<i>The Friday night knitting</i>

##### club

Jenoff, Pam	<i>The Kommandant's Girl</i>
McMurtry, Larry	<i>When the Light Goes</i>
Morrell, David	<i>Scavenger</i>
O'Dell, Tawny	<i>Sister Mine</i>
Parker, T. Jefferson	<i>Storm Runners</i>
Perry, Anne	<i>At Some Distance Barri- cade</i>
Raban, Jonathan	<i>Surveillance</i>
Scottoline, Lisa	<i>Daddy's Girl</i>
Tademy, Lalita	<i>Red River</i>
White, Randy Wayne	<i>Hunter's Moon</i>

##### NON-FICTION:

Beah, Ishmael	<i>A Long Way Home</i>
Carter, Jimmy	<i>Palestine: Peace not Apart</i>

##### heid

Hirsi, Ali	<i>Infidel</i>
O'Reilly, Bill	<i>Culture Warrior</i>
Tammet, Daniel	<i>Born on a Blue Day</i>
Woodruff, Lee	<i>In an Instant</i>

### BOOK REVIEW

By Maxine Russakoff

*Daniel Isn't Talking* by Marti Leimbach

This book is listed as a novel, but it is as true as a life story, which is repeated over and over throughout real families.

This is a wonderful, warm, caring and poignant story of a youngster with autism. Having a great-grandson who is autistic, one has to admire the efforts, the energy, and the patience of each mother. It is a daily struggle, with the parents and the child always learning as they go. The great reward is to hear, "Hi Mommy."

Autism is being recognized more frequently than in previous years. It is my hope that many of you will read this book, learn more and support the cure for autistic children. Go on-line for more details.

### BOOK REVIEW

By Maxine Russakoff

*About Alice* by Calvin Trillin

This short book by Calvin Trillin is another outstanding book. He is at his best when writing about his family, bringing us into their lives in other books, he has written: *Alice, Lets Eat, Third Helpings*, and, *Messages from my Father*.

This brief book is a touching tale: a love story, and a family history of Alice and Calvin and their two daughters, in sickness and health, in joy and in sorrow.

### FUND-RAISER

APRIL 13—LIBRARY LUNCH

The next FOL fundraiser is the Brown Bag Lunch. Volunteers will distribute menus and order blanks to businesses in town. They will collect the orders along with the payment of \$7.00 per lunch early enough to enable the necessary shopping to be done-by April 3rd. The library will also have an order blank, for anyone else who would like to purchase a lunch for delivery to the library on Friday, April 13th.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Bonnie Chamberlain, Bruce and Betty Haynes, Chester Manuel, Judith McCarthy and Robert Landry, Hilma Millet, Bob and Gloria Nicholson, Oto and Petra Prokop, and Roger and Marilyn Renfrew

### FUND-RAISER

MAY 19—LAWN SALE

We will have our annual lawn sale in conjunction with the Cornville Six-Mile-Sale again this year. Anyone who has 'white elephants' hanging around is welcome to donate them to the cause. Saleable 'white elephants', that is We can use Dad's old easy chair, those dishes you never take out of the cupboard, Junior's outgrown tricycle, baby clothes, useable appliances, just about anything that you no longer need or use – as long as it's in relatively good condition. The Hastings' barn will be open on May 1st. to receive items. Please call before delivery 474-3949. To arrange for delivery of bulky items, call Maureen Calder at 858-0448 or the Library at 474-9072.

The Library Outlook is Sponsored by



# Skowhegan Savings

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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.

# Calendar of Events

## APRIL

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room

April 3 Library Trustee meeting 6 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome.

April 4 Showing of *Miracle at North Platte Canteen* 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the library, with popcorn and other refreshments

April 9 and 23 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room

April 9 Dr. David Richards will facilitate book discussion on the themes of *Once Upon a Town* at Margaret Chase Smith Library at 6:00 pm. (More details on front page)

April 13 Library Brown Bag Lunch

April 20 Fun in the Children's Library from 11 to 2. (More details on page two)

April 26 Larry Ross from the Margaret Chase Smith School will facilitate a book discussion at the library. (More details on the front page)

April 27 Family Fun Day at Municipal Parking Lot from 5 to 8 p.m. (more details on front page)

## MAY

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room

May 1 Library Trustee meeting 6 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome.

May 9 FOL MEETING 7:00 pm at the Library. Please attend!

May 14 & 28 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room

## JUNE

June 11 **Town Meeting! Library items to be voted on. Please attend!**

## The Library Lookout

Friends of the Skowhegan

Free Public Library

c/o Marcia B. Granville

P.O. Box 278

Skowhegan, Maine 04976



### Your Librarians are:

Library Director, Melissa Gaspar,

Assistant Librarian

Françoise LaBonte,

Children's Librarian,

Katherine LeBlanc

### Your Library Trustees are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,

Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,

Carol Jarvais and Corrilla Hastings

Ex Officio, Maureen Calder

### Friends officers are:

Maureen Calder, Pres.,

Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,

Marilyn Renfrew, Sec.

Sherry Vigue, Treas

Marcia Granville, Editor

2007-May

James & Corrilla Hastings

538 Malbon Mills Road

Skowhegan, Maine 04976

2007-11

