



# The Library Lookout

April 2004 Tel: 474-9072

---

## Library Director's Corner

Written by Katherine LeBlanc

The week of April 18th is National Library Week. In celebration, we will have two special events. On April 21st, we will have a chess match, information will be forwarded to the schools with specifics.

We will be having a Renaissance Faire on Friday, April 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The library will be closed for all other business that day so that we may concentrate on this celebration. Stations will be set up with interactive activities such as necklaces, stained glass, crowns, bird feeders, etc. Come in with your children or grandchildren and enjoy yourselves. Refreshments will be served.

Be on the lookout for the new "Skowhegan Reads" campaign. Familiar faces will be displayed throughout town to publicize the support that the library receives on a regular basis.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library met on March 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Members and guests were welcomed by Pres. Corrilla Hastings. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were passed around for review and acceptance.

Corrilla took a moment to remind everyone that Tim Gould would be at the library the following evening for anyone interested in bringing in "treasures" for value assessment. A \$3.00 fee would be requested as a fund raiser for the library. Maureen was asked to give an explanation of the upcoming Renaissance Faire to be held on April 23rd from 10:00 to 3:00. The library will be closed to usual business and transformed into a faire atmosphere. Craft and food booths will be available, a juggler/

jester/musician will be on hand, plus more to add to the fun. Come in costume of the period to really add to the feel of the time. Volunteers for various duties are always appreciated. The Empire Falls quilt has been completed and Corrilla had it on hand for all to see. It will be auctioned to raise funds for the library. The Somerset Samplers are to be applauded for their exceptional work.

Blynn Currier, Library Director, was asked if he had anything to add. He spoke about a new PR idea which is already in the works. Reading posters featuring people from the area will be used in the near future to promote reading and the use of the library. The graphic arts dept. at Skowhegan Area High School is lending their talents to the project. There will be an update on this as it progresses.

Corrilla asked for acceptance of the reports and it was moved and seconded to accept them as written. She noted that David Calder would be the featured guest at the annual May meeting and that election of officers would take place then also. At this point in time, she handed the meeting over to Mary Stuart and her students who were the feature of the evening. The group of four students and Mary presented an explanation and presentation of Readers' Theater. There were posters to point out some of the traditions of this type of performance. She called it a "Theater of Imagination which essentially involved little to no props and costuming, and in a classroom setting, could be used as an indicator of how well students understand and retain what they have read and learned, and provides an additional enjoyment of the written language. The students performed a piece from "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland—The Mad Hatter's Tea Party." Partici-

pating in a wonderfully enjoyable performance were Amanda Olsen as the Doormouse, Danika Wheeler as the Mad Hatter, Abby DuBois as Alice, Lila Eldridge as the March Hare and Mary Stuart as the Narrator. Adding to this, they also performed pieces from "Joyful Noise" which features a reading in two voices with the characters being little bugs, of one type or another, talking to each other. Once the students had completed their performance, volunteers from the audience were invited to try it out. David and Maureen Calder stepped forward and tried their hands (or should I say, voices) to one of the pieces selected by Mary.

We could not have enjoyed the company of talented and polite young people more than this group of young ladies. Thanks to them and a thank you and congratulations to their Moms (all in attendance), Kathleen Olsen, Sue Wheeler, Joanne DuBoise, Becky Eldridge, and their teacher, Mary Stuart. We appreciate the time and talent of the performers and the nurturing of the joys of reading by these adults in their lives.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.  
Respectfully Submitted.

Maureen Calder

#### MAY FOL MEETING

The next meeting of the Friends will be on Wednesday, May 12 at 7 PM at the Library. Officers will be elected and David Calder will entertain us with his songs. Please come and bring a friend.

A REMINDER: MAY IS THE MONTH FOR FOL ANNUAL DUES!

#### MAY 22/23 BOOK SALE

Plans continue for the gigantic book sale at Hastings' barn on the weekend of May 22 and 23. We'll have hot dogs, pop corn, kids' grab bags, etc. to make the occasion as much fun (and as profitable!) as possible. We'd love to have you volunteer some suggestions and/or time, so please call either Maureen (858-0448) or Corrilla (474-3949).

The Library Lookout is sponsored by



CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK!  
APRIL 18-24 READ!

#### BOOK REVIEWS A collection of short reviews by FOL members

*Evensong* by Gail Goodwin

A beautifully prosaic book about people, relationships, and faith. The characters seem to come out of the pages and mingle in the room with you as they travel through the uncertainties of their lives. "A good read."

Maureen Calder

*Tommy the Cork: Washington's ultimate insider from Roosevelt to Reagan*

by David McKean

A leader cannot be good and great - he turned out to be neither. He was a brilliant political tactician but had a blind eye to ethical considerations.

Phil Russakoff

*Living La Dolce Vita*

by Raeleen D'Agostino Mautner

As the cover says, "Bring the passion, laughter and serenity of Italy into your daily life." Okay, I started by marrying a great Italian guy, and now hopefully the book will finish the process!

Dina Jeannotte

*Deception Point* by Dan Brown

Action packed thriller; James Bond type adventure in book form.

Marilyn Renfrew

*The Number One Ladies Detective Agency*

by Alexander McCall Smith

Wonderful stories about a woman who cleverly solves problems and mysteries in her town in Botswana. Part of a series. I've read three of them!

Marilyn Renfrew

*Beginner's Luck* by Laura Pedersen

A sixteen year old, feeling smothered by her conventional big family, finds comfort in a very unconventional but delightful home. Funny and full of wisdom.

Corrilla Hastings

*Sahara Special* by Esme Raji Codell

A fifth grade girl loves to read and write, but her refusal to do either in school lands her in special ed. Her second time around in fifth grade brings "Miss Pointy" as her magical new teacher. I laughed right out loud and also shed a few tears.

## MEET A TRUSTEE

By Maureen Calder

Lee Granville is a man of many talents and skills. He's an easy going, friendly man with a great grin, and a warm personality.

He and his wife, Marcia, are parents to four daughters and grandparents to six grandchildren. They are most likely remembered as owners and operators of Boynton's Greenhouse, a business they purchased from Marcia's parents in 1978. Their daughters all live in the area with the exception of one in Maryland. A trip there at least once a year is something they enjoy and look forward to.

About ten years ago, Lee experienced some health issues which caused him to turn things around in his life. It was time to take time. Retiring from their business, he took up an interest in photography, joined a camera club, and spent quite a bit of time with outdoor photography. He also became interested in volunteering his time with various projects around town. Around this same time, he became quite interested in history, especially of the Skowhegan area and in the Civil War era. Town Manager, Pat Dickey, approached him concerning a photography project for the town. The Skowhegan Historic Photo Committee was formed. Assisted by fellow photography enthusiast, Lynn Perry, he proceeded to make copies of over 2000 photos. From this came the publication of the book Skowhegan-Then and Now. He and Lynn provided the pictures and Lee did a large amount of writing and captioning. Now, Lee didn't stop here. He produced a column for the Somerset Gazette called "Historic Skowhegan Weekly", and taught a photography class through Adult Ed. for the next three years. In 1996, he added a project for History House which involved scanning old photos primarily from the Civil War time period. This was quite successful and in 1997 became a member of the Board of Directors. Two years later, he was elected President and Chairman of the Board. For the past two summers, he has been curator of History House, a post he thoroughly enjoys. He also is currently serving as the Chairman of the Heritage Council which is an official part of town government and manned by volunteers. He explained that part of the responsibility involves advising on cultural and historical events and maintaining a community profile. One of the current projects under this is the restora-

tion of the Dudley Corner School. Lee has, most recently, along with Lynn, been working closely with SAMS students in creating historical material both on the internet and in booklet form.

In 2002, the Bloomfield Trustees asked Lee to join them. With this new role, he would also become a Library Trustee. The Bloomfield Trustees not only oversee the library, but also History House and Bloomfield Academy (he chairs this last one). As a trustee for the library, he has observed many positive changes especially with the hiring of Director Blynn Currier. He feels the staff of the library is doing a great job of building PR and bringing the community to the library. As to the future of the library? He sees the process of expansion moving along with such things as "astounding" recent support of towns people, the building of programs and staff, skills and capabilities of the new director, a good rapport between the library and Friends of the Library, and much more. With yet another big grin, he says, "Nothing happens overnight. The pace of what's happening is going well. The demands of services will bring on expansion." He also stated that the library building is one of the finest in the state, perhaps in the whole U.S. The original building needs to be the "core of any expansion."

Lee Granville is an individual who not only possesses an unbelievable wealth of historical knowledge, but a passion for preserving the past and a willingness to put forth the necessary hard work to make it work with our present and our future. We are truly fortunate to have him in our midst. Thanks and then some, Lee.

### 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. Individuals,

\$8. Seniors & Students, and \$15. for families. We normally meet at the Library the second Wednesday of every other month, unless scheduling conflicts require another date. For more information, call Corrilla Hastings.

(474-3949)

Please complete this form and mail to Skowhegan Free Public Library, Elm Street Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel.# \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Calendar of Events

## APRIL

**Every Wednesday:** Story and Craft Hour at 10:00 am in the Children's Room

April 6: Library Trustee meeting at 4:00 pm. The public is welcome.

April 11: Happy Easter!

April 18-24: National Library Week

April 23: Renaissance Fair 10:00 am to 3:00 pm The library will be closed for ordinary business and transformed with craft and food booths. Children will receive a bag of beans to "buy" things with. A juggler, jester musician will be on hand. Please come in medieval costume to add to the fun.

## MAY

**Every Wednesday:** Story and Craft Hour at 10:00 am in the Children's Room

May 4: Library Trustee meeting at 4:00 pm. The public is welcome.

May 9: Happy Mothers' Day!

May 12: FOL annual meeting at 7:00 pm Officers will be elected. Dave Calder will entertain us all with his music. Come and bring a friend.

May 22/23: Gigantic book sale at the Hastings farm. A barn full of books plus, hot dogs, drinks, popcorn and kids' grab bags will be featured.



**The Library Lookout**  
Friends of the Skowhegan  
Free Public Library  
c/o Skowhegan Free Public Library  
Elm Street  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

### Your Librarians are:

Library Director Blynn Currier,

Assistant Librarian François Labonte,

Children's Librarian Katherine Connell,

Your Library trustees are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,

Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell

and Carol Jarvais

Your Friends Officers are:

Corrilla Hastings, President

, Vice President

Maureen Calder, Secretary

Corrilla Hastings, Treasurer