



# The Library Lookout

March 2002

Tel: 474-9072

## LATEST NEWS

### March Friends Meeting

The program for March 13 Friends' meeting will be a series of book reviews by area children and adults. Come and learn what books are currently being enjoyed by Skowhegan readers. The meeting will be held at 7 PM at the Library.

### Valentine Craft Party

Valentine Craft Party Paper, ribbons and lace were combined by a group of creative crafters to make beautiful Valentines on February 8. Participants appeared to have fun at this annual library party organized by Lois Moody, Kathy Hughes and Corilla Hastings.

### Library Lawn Sale

Saturday, May 18 is the date for the Friends' annual Spring Lawn Sale to benefit the Library. The location will be the Hastings' barn on the Malbons Mills Road. We're looking for donations of toys, furniture, books, tools, clothing and household items. You may arrange to bring your donations to the barn now by calling 474-3949. If you need trucking, please let us know.

### Library Week, April 14 to 20

In observation of Library Week, the Friends will once again sponsor poetry and poster contests for Skowhegan school children. Prizes will be awarded at an Open House on April 20.

### Trustees News

The Bloomfield Trustees Library Board met February 5<sup>th</sup>. Several items were discussed. Lee Granville reported on the noisy light fixtures in the Children's Library. An electrician has replaced the dangerous, worn ballasts with new ones. The noise has ceased. Mr. Granville received authorization to install a light fixture in the stacks where one was missing. This has been done.

### Childrens' Room News

A Weeding Committee consisting of volunteers under the direction of Kathy Hughes, who has a Masters Degree in Library Science, was authorized by the Bloomfield Trustees to begin work in the Children's Library. The Committee has met on three Mondays and worked for three hours on each of those days. In excess of 200 outdated or obsolete nonfiction books were scheduled to be discarded. Approximately 150 were marked for upgrading. A list was made of all books to be upgraded for ease in reordering. The Friends of the Library

plan to raise money for replacement books. The Trustees were informed of the book sale being held at the Skowhegan Mr. Paperback. Kathy Hughes was authorized to spend up to \$200 for bargains in children's books. She was able to purchase 33 books, half nonfiction, the other half fiction requested by Childrens' Librarian Lois Moody.

### Secretary's Report of Friends Meeting January 9, 2002

The response to the College Orientation program at the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Friends of the Library was gratifying. A number of high school sophomores and their parents attended to learn about area colleges and their admission procedures. The speakers were Jared Rivers, University of Maine at Farmington, Tammy Light, University of Maine at Orono, Jennifer Quinlan, Thomas College and Eric Bertelsen, Colby College.

We learned that UMF has 1500 to 1600 applicants each year with space for only 500 Freshmen. The required courses for entrance are: 4 years of college English, three years of math - usually Algebra I and II plus geometry, at least two years of lab science and two years of social science of which one must be United States History.

SATs are not required at Farmington, but they are looking for a certain range of scores.

Mr. Rivers urges students to visit the campus, set up interviews and generally scope out the atmosphere to find if this is the college they really want to attend.

The University of Maine at Orono is the flagship college of the university system. They have room for 1865 students each year. (1865 is the year the school was founded.) UMO does require SATs. There are five colleges at Orono; Education, Career Exploration, Forestry and Agriculture, Engineering and Business, Policy and Health. Orono has 20 sports programs and is the only school in Maine with Division 1 sports. There is ROTC for the army, navy and marines at Orono.

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## Book Reviews

### Susan Trott, *The Holy Man*

Reviewed by Michael E Walker

A book that I have read many times, have shared with people, or have given as a gift is *The Holy Man* by Susan Trott. In this book, people from all walks of life make their way to the hermitage, a two-story wooden building on a stone foundation high on a mountain. The "pilgrims" all come to either see the Holy Man or to seek his advice. Many do see him but don't even realize it until they have been ushered out the back door "I have come to see the Holy Man!" "You have seen me. Goodbye!" For many others, the Holy Man helps them to solve their problems by showing them their follies. The Holy Man, whose name is Joe, is a keen judge of character and sees each person for what he or she is. The Holy Man also has a concern. He is now in his seventies and knows that he will not live forever. He lives at the hermitage with several other friends, whom the pilgrims look upon as monks. Joe is looking for "The One", a person who could take over his role once he passes away. He doesn't feel that the monks who live there are right for this position, so he is constantly searching for the next "Holy Man". This book is a quick read, yet it is a gem. Susan Trott writes with such humor, understanding, wit and wisdom, that you eagerly read each chapter. You also see yourself in many of the characters. This is a book that will make you think, laugh, and smile.

### Robert Ludlum, *The Sigma Protocol*

Reviewed by Priscilla Bilodeau

The story begins in Zurich, Switzerland at the start of this century. Before the story ends, the reader will be taken back to a time span of fifty years. Several characters mentioned in the story are very familiar to all of us who know anything of the history of that era. Among them are Hitler, F.D.R., Joseph Mengeles, John Foster Dulles, Stalin, Churchill, DeGaulle, Joseph McCarthy and Rothschild.

The hero, Ben Hartman, is in Switzerland on a business trip which he has just completed. His plans are now to meet friends in the Alps for a skiing vacation. Those plans are abruptly interrupted when an old college friend whom he has not seen in over ten years tries to kill him. Now begins the ordeal of trying to find out why. Does this attempt have anything to do with the death of his twin brother two years earlier? He discovers that his father was a member of a select group of International financial, political, and scientific leaders known as *Sigma AG* during and after the second World War.

In the meantime in Washington, D.C., Department of Justice field agent Anna Navorro is summoned by the head of a top secret agency to investigate a series of killings of old men from around the world. How are these killings related to the

information discovered in a file of the CIA that uses the code word *Sigma*? It is during the investigation that these two meet. Their search for the answers will take them all over Europe, Canada, U.S.A. and South America. It becomes more and more dangerous for them as they get nearer and nearer to solving the puzzle that is *Sigma*.

For anyone taking on the task of reading this book, I recommend you have plenty of time to digest the various clues as the writer presents them. It is not a book that can be read in one sitting. The main plot runs throughout the story, but there are several sub-plots that must be connected before the puzzle is completely solved.

### Karen Gillman, Ph.D., *Whipped Cream on Rain...A Poetic Journal of a Caregiver*

Reviewed by Dorothy W. Cleaver

Alzheimer's is a brain disease, a form of dementia that leads to confusion, memory loss, behavioral and physical decline and ultimately death. There is no cure.

If anyone has written with painful honesty yet inspiration concerning this dreaded disease, it is Karen Gillman. She lives in the Winslow-Waterville area and has journeyed into this hell of her talented husband's descent. As a psychologist and poet she has written a valuable, inspiring and helpful tale of her love, suspicion, fear, grief, heartbreak and of her determined survival. Despite the slow developing trauma of this ordeal I see her as a personal friend - attractive, upbeat, positive, humorous, caring and most of all giving! In her book she indeed gives the tough truth with tools for survival of the caregiver.

Her candid poems are separated by short biographical essays that put the poetry in perspective of her and her husband Richard's situation as it slowly dawns upon their happy, successful lives. Her story takes you from their newfound love and professional success to angry, lonely despair but eventually to works of understanding, beauty and art.

Her work is very readable and heartwarming yet helpful as a witness to not only the vivid details of Alzheimer's but as a witness to a path for making the best of a tragedy through vital respect for oneself and determination to lighten the burden of ones survivor as a caregiver.

The title of her book gives a clue to the charm of Karen Gillman's writing...when as one stormy morning accompanied with lightning and thunder, her husband comes to the kitchen for breakfast - facing his own approaching storm of darkness - she asks: "What would you like for breakfast, love?"

"I'd like", he whispered immediately between claps, "some whipped cream on my rain".

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One student asked if one could take some core classes in Farmington, in order to save dormitory costs, and transfer to Orono. Light suggested that the student check with Orono to be sure what scores could be transferred as some class hours may not apply to a specific degree.

Eric Bertelsen suggests that students decide what they want before trying to get into Colby. Of 25 % percent who think they know what they want, 75% change their minds. Visit several schools, small, medium or large to find a sense of campus. Colby does look at SATs, however high scores are no guarantee, low scores are not necessarily prohibitive. Mr. Bertelsen says extra activities add to a student's chances. "Don't try to impress, do what interests you or what you are passionate about." The college is not impressed by 15 activities, but is more impressed with dedication to one or two.

Colby College is an opportunity to go to school relatively close to home and meet people from all over the world. As much as 12% of the students come from countries other than the United States of America. Only 10% come from Maine. The cost is high, \$34,000 per year, but don't let the sticker price make you cross Colby off your list of possibilities. 40% of the students receive financial aid.

One package is \$22,000 per year. 20% of the financial budget goes to Maine students. Mr. Bertelsen urges you not to be discouraged if you cannot afford Colby. There are other very similar colleges where you can be happy.

There is a standard student aid form which can be filled out once and copies sent to several schools. One can even apply on line which may be faster. Colby tells what aid one gets at the time of acceptance, other colleges may take longer.

Thomas College is a small private institution with a total of 1100 students. There is a 17 to 1 professor student ratio with an average class of 20. Jennifer Quinlan says Thomas College has just introduced a guaranteed job placement program. Every student is guaranteed a job in the field studied for within six months or Thomas will pay the student loan for one year. If the student is not happy with the job after six months, he or she may go back to Thomas for one year for study in another field.

Acceptance at Thomas is based on high school transcripts – what classes were taken and how well they were done and SATs. They look for the ability to succeed, reading letters of recommendation and personal essays. Ms. Quinlan stresses that applications and essays submitted on line must have proper capitalization and punctuation, not the chat room abbreviations that are so popular.

Thomas has rolling admissions competing against a standard. If the numbers of applications reaching that standard are not sufficient for the year's enrollment, the standards are lowered. On the other hand, if the applicants are of a higher quality, standards may be raised.

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### WINTER LIBRARY HOURS

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ADULT	1-7:30	10-6	10-8	1-7:30	1-7:30	10-2
CHILDREN	3-5:30	10-5:30	10-5:30	3-5:30	3-5:30	10-2

## 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 Corilla Hastings (474-3949),

Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, 175 James Road, Cornville, Maine 04976.

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

## Secretary's Report

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The speakers were asked about including a portfolio on a CD with the application. Orono is not overly impressed with extra information and rarely reads it. If the grades are there, you will be accepted. Thomas College looks for more input in the personal essay than in a movie or CD. But if you send one in, it had better be good. If, for example, you sent a violin solo on a CD to the music director, it had better be very good. Some colleges just toss CDs into a box and never look at them.

How many applications should be sent out? One should apply to the dream school, the more probable school and a fall back school. If the desired college is highly competitive, one should apply to several. You cannot be sure how the financial aid will be figured. If you apply to three to seven, you will have more options as to the financial package, etc.

The speakers were awarded a round of applause from the gratified audience of students and parents.

## Book Reviews

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She follows through with this thought in the last verse of her book..."Why wouldn't he, life liberally sprinkled with salty tears, acid rain, want to top it all off with a little whipped cream?"

The Gillman's deep love and concern for nature twines through her story and she ends with the thought for us all to ponder, do we as a nation have a social form of Alzheimer's? Are we as a nation losing access to important memories, disoriented to time, place and person – are we regressing and seizing up? Can we turn anger to compassion – can we stop dwelling on *why* and get *how* we are diseasing our society?

Karen's spirit of life comes from a fire within and she keeps it aflame in her book for herself and for Richard. Her book is a fine gift for those who share Alzheimer's with a loved one or fear its dread for themselves.



### The Library Lookout

Friends of the Skowhegan

Free Public Library

P.O. Box 278

Skowhegan, ME 04978

Your Librarians Are:

Francoise Labonte,  
Lois Moody  
and Thelma Butler

Your Library Trustees Are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,  
Mary Davies, Betsey Hall,  
Kathy Dorko,  
Toni Jo Blaisdell and  
Rick Anzelc

Friends Officers Are:

Corilla Hastings, Pres.;  
Jim Foster, V.P.,  
Marcia Granville, Sec.  
and Kathy Hughes, Treas.