



THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT December 2005

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

The Skowhegan Free Public Library is looking very festive for the holiday season. In keeping with the spirit of the season, library elves were seen in the holiday parade tossing brightly colored arm bands to people as the parade went through the down town area on Friday night. On Sat. the library sponsored "Season's Readings" with local authors David Richards, Katie Ouellette, Barbara Winslow, Ed Rice, Corrilla Hastings and Alberta (Gould) Cole autographing their books. The Friends supplied refreshments from the Gilded Age, and sold their cook book "Readers Recipes." Raffle tickets to win the Empire Falls Quilt were also for sale. "Country Comfort" delighted all those who attended with holiday music. The Children's Room offered milk, cookies and a craft. Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this event.

The latest news on the Athena computerized catalog project is that we have passed the half way point. With 8,000 items now in the system, we have about 7,000 left to upload. Another exciting project is a new venture sponsored by the Maine Historical Society. It is called the Maine Community Heritage Project and the Skowhegan area has been chosen as one of three communities selected as a pilot program. The library will be working closely with the schools, the Heritage Council, the History House and other community groups and citizens to create a Skowhegan area history gallery on the Maine Memory Network. This is a great website and it is located at: <http://www.mainememory.net>

If you still have some last minute shopping to do, stop by the library and check out our larger "gift quality" book sale rack. You may

find just the right something for that special someone--- or a cozy holiday read for yourself. Enjoy this special time of year.

MORE LIBRARY NEWS

By Katherine LeBlanc

The children's room could use a few craft items that you may have laying around the house. These items will be used throughout the year to make crafts with the children during story hour or special events. Any help that you can give would be greatly appreciated.

- clean meat trays
 - baby food jars
 - Christmas decorations that you no longer use
- We could also use some small sponge paint brushes. They are easier to clean up than bristle brushes and are inexpensive enough to throw away when they get too far gone.

The annual teachers reception is scheduled for January 26, 2006. We will need refreshments donated as well as help here at the library from 3:30 to 5:30. Please call the library if you wish to participate or donate goodies.

I would like to take a minute and thank three Friends of the Library;

- Corrilla Hastings for tirelessly helping the staff barcode books each week.
- Maureen Calder for always stepping up to the plate and organizing refreshments and volunteers for many events during the year.
- Last but never least, Marcia Granville, for always supplying cookies, her time and a smile when volunteering. Thank you ladies for always coming to our aid.

Visit our website: www.skowhegan.lib.me.us or write us by email: skowlib@skowhegan.lib.me.us.

NEW RELEASES

Fiction:

Buchanon, Edna	<i>Shadows</i>
Banville, John	<i>The Sea</i>
Doctorow, E. L.	<i>The March</i>
Grafton, Sue	<i>"S" is for Silence</i>
James, P.D.	<i>The Lighthouse</i>
Karon, Jan	<i>Light from Heaven</i>
Koontz, Dean	<i>Forever Odd</i>
LaHaye, Tim	<i>The Regime</i>
MaComber, Debbie	<i>There's Something about Christmas</i>
Patterson, James	<i>Mary, Mary</i>
Perry, Anne	<i>A Christmas Guest</i>
Piercy, Marge	<i>Sex Wars</i>
Proulx, Annie	<i>Brokeback Mountain</i>
Thayer, Nancy	<i>Hot Flash Holidays</i>
Rice, Anne	<i>Christ the Lord</i>
Turow, Scott	<i>Ordinary Heroes</i>

Non-fiction:

Hunter, Tab	<i>Tab Hunter Confidential</i>
McCourt, Frank	<i>Teacher Man</i>
Spitz, Bob	<i>The Beatles</i>

2005 in Review

The year 2005 has been an eventful one. The Children's Room celebrated the publication of Lynn Plourde's new book, *Pajama Day*, in February. Youngsters attended in pajamas and participated in the author's spirited reading of the story. In March, Pam Flowers, showed slides and told the story of her solo journey, by dogsled, from Barrows, Alaska to Repulse Bay in Canada. Crafts around the world were celebrated in April. The annual Lawn Sale at the Hastings's farm took place in May. Then the library participated in National Trails Day in June.

There was a successful summer reading program followed by the new (annual?) Community Fall Festival in September. The library hosted a quilt show in October. The Middle School auditorium was filled with spectators for the play which raised nearly \$1200. for the library. Then spooks of all ages and descriptions joined the Halloween Parade. In December, there was the Holiday Stroll.

Not only were there many events during the

year of 2005, there were improvements as well. The Friends of the Library sponsored the repair of the library's Victorian clock. The lobby and reading room were cleaned and painted. Contributions of paint and supplies from the Dove Society and Aubuchon Hardware made the job possible. The Friends of the library paid for the excellent job done by Dan Coyle.

Rocking chairs, a new magazine rack and several video display cases were also added to the furniture in the library. The space saving, revolving units actually make the library appear open and less crowded while making the collection more visible to patrons.

The electrical upgrade of the library was completed, which allowed more computers to be accessible for the patrons. The computer in the genealogy room is now connected to the Internet, allowing people to research their families on line.

Toddler Time and a knitting group have also been added to activities at the library. Finally, but not least in importance, more than half the books have been listed in the computer data base.

In March, Mellissa Gaspar joined the staff as Library Director. She spent a great deal of her time arranging the library to be more convenient for the readers. After a few false starts, the books, videos and DVDs have been put in their permanent places and are easier to find than ever before.

Melissa has built a great rapport the library staff, the library trustees and the community. She has been responsible for starting new programs and for encouraging and enabling the success of old ones. We are fortunate to have her.

A great deal has been accomplished this year due to the efforts of our library staff and volunteers. We expect to see more good things in 2006.

Please Note: The library will follow the MSAD54 winter weather alerts. If school is cancelled, the library will be closed for the

day. If there is a delayed opening, the library will also have a delayed opening. Thank you.

Apology

I am sorry this newsletter is so late this month. My New Year's resolution is to get the "Library Lookout" published closer to the first of the month in 2006 than it has been in 2005.

BOOK REVIEW

By Connie Connell

Most of my reading is adventure/mystery novels. My latest read is *Cold Hit* by Stephen Cannell. His novels usually deal with police departments and many have been made into television shows. *Cold Hit* is about the Department of Homeland Security which seems to be taking cases from local LAPD department. Detective Shane Scully thinks the Department of Homeland Security is exceeding their authority. As Shane and his partners begin investigating the "Fingertip Killer" cases, they find a bullet relating to a murder of a policeman from ten years earlier. In investigating this *Cold Hit*, they become involved with Russian mobsters and go into deep cover to find the conspiracy cover-up, putting family, themselves, and the LAPD department in danger. As usual, Cannell tells a tale of undercover and espionage. It isn't one of his best but it is an easy read.

Favorite authors

By Marcia Granville

Mysteries have always been some of my favorite reading. I especially enjoy those featuring women as detectives or police. Even Agatha Christie's Jane Marple is fun to read about, although she hasn't a detective's license and is not a police officer. She is a little old lady who usually manages to discover the identity of the murderer before the police do, but not always in time to prevent more deaths.

Current favorites, however, are more modern and involve much younger heroines. Sara Paretsky writes thrilling stories about the private detective, V.I. Warshawsky, who has a tendency to get into more trouble than she expects even when doing a

favor for a friend. Sue Grafton entertains her readers with humor and a masterful depiction of Santa Teresa, the town in which private detective Kinsey Millhone lives. You couldn't fail to recognize the street where she lives if you should ever happen to be in that neighborhood. Aspiring authors would do well to follow her example.

Some of the mysteries fall into a category called 'police procedurals'. Jonatahan Kellerman's *Twisted* is an example and features Petra Conner of the Los Angeles Police Department or LAPD. Her relationships with fellow officers and a youthful intern add interest to the tale.

Another detective new to me is Faye Quick, a scrappy 1940's private eye, who stars in a new series by Sandra Scoppertone.

My all time favorite author-for the moment-is Nora Roberts. I like all her books whether she is writing about the magic of Ireland, romance on Chesapeake Bay or fanciful colored flowers. Her characterizations are wonderful. You feel you know the people just as well as any of your own friends and neighbors, and may expect to meet them sometime soon.

I especially love the books she writes as J.D. Robb. Detective Lieutenant Eve Dallas and Rourke are two fantastic individuals who live in New York about 50 years in the future. So far, there are about 20 books in the series and I can hardly wait for the next one.

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 _____

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Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

December 26 closed to observe Christmas

There will be no newsletter for January 2006. The next issue will be out on Feb, 1st, 2006.

JANUARY 2006

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

January 2 Library closed to observe New Year's Day

January 3 Library Trustee meeting, 6 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

January 3 FOL board meeting, 7 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

January 9 Toddler Time 10:30 in the Children's Room

January 12 Knitting 6:30 to 8:30

January 23 Toddler Time 10:30 in the Children's Room

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:

Dina Jeannotte, Pres.,

Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,

Marilyn Renfrew, Sec.

Sherry Vigue, Treas

Marcia Granville, Editor

2006-May

James & Corrilla Hastings

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Skowhegan, Maine 04976