



THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT FEBRUARY 2007

www.skowheganlib.me.us

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

During the cold month of February, it is helpful to focus on something that warms our insides. For some of us that may be hot cocoa, for others it may be Valentine's Day, hearts and love. As we decorated the library for February, I reflected on how many people love the library. Frequently people stop in to look at the building and let us know what the library meant to them as youngsters. I enjoy hearing these stories about favorite books that are still on the shelf or how they "lived" here after school. Some people say the library was their home away from home, or a quiet place where they felt safe and peaceful. Many tell us how much they love the library now. Well, there is a lot to love at the library

The Skowhegan Free Public Library has been an integral part of this community for 118 years. Can you imagine all the lives that this grand old institution has impacted? It has held a place of respect, dignity and honor. In addition to the books, and other materials in the collection, the library sponsors programs like the recent play, story hours, and the Peace Fleece multi-media event, which culturally enrich our town.

Recently I had to research what materials were used to build the library. I found an article about the library from the Somerset Reporter, January 17, 1889. It described in detail what the library would look like and what materials would be used. It was heartwarming to learn how excited the town was about the construction of the library.

The reporter wrote, "The location of the building is superior. Elm Street with its magnificent river view where the eye sweeps at a glance the 5 miles of the placid Kennebec...is probably the

finest bit of river scenery in Maine." After describing the various rooms the article ended with "The building on this site cannot be otherwise than an elegant one and second to none of its kind in any village in Maine. Our people will take a lively interest in it and be eager for its completion and occupancy."

The building project was contingent upon the citizens agreeing to create a Soldier's Memorial for those who served in the Civil War. The reporter said he was strongly in favor of the proposed memorial and asked that every patriotic man in Skowhegan show his support by voting a reasonable sum of money to carry the plan into effect.

The town did vote their support and the library was built. The library has served this community for over 100 years and it is because the community has loved and supported the library. I would like to say thank you to every one who continues to support this much loved institution.

Volunteers needed! We are forming a renovation committee to make our historic library handicap accessible. This will be a fun group as well as a fund raising group. If you are interested please come in or call Melissa at 474-9072. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

Cynthia Lord's book *Rules* received the Newbery Honor for outstanding contribution to children's literature this month. Cynthia, a resident of Brunswick, relates her experiences with her autistic son into an award winning book. This book also received the Scheneider Family Book award which is given to those who "embody the artistic expression of the disability experience." *Rules* is available in the Children's Room, so please stop by and check it out.

NEW BOOKS

Fiction:

Lilian Jackson Braun / *The Cat who had 60 Whiskers*

Yasmin Crowther / *The Saffron Kitchen*

Janet Evanovich / *Plum Lovin'*

Martha Grimes / *Dust*

Alice Hoffman / *Skylight Confessions*

Judith A. Jance / *Web Of Evil*

John T. Lescroart / *The Suspect*

Fern Michaels / *Lethal Justice*

Barbara Parker / *The Perfect Fake*

Richard North Patterson / *Exile*

Dana Stabenow / *A Deeper Sleep*

Lisa Unger / *Silver of Truth*

Non-Fiction:

Ron Clark / *The Essential 55*

Francis Collins / *The Language of God*

Barack Obama / *Dreams from my Father*

Barack Obama / *The Audacity of Hope*

Large Print Books:

Clark / *A Cry In the Night*

The library has a collection of 20 Large Print titles on loan from the state library.

VIDEOS

VHS TAPES:

The Fellowship of the Rings

DVDS:

Beauty Shop

Hitch

Just My Luck

Madison

Scott Cannon : *Mime*

AUDIO BOOKS

Books on CD

Barak Obama / *The Audacity of Hope*

FOL Meetings

At the December meeting of the Friends of the Library Executive Board we welcomed Darla Pickett as a new member of the board. We voted to pay \$200 to help pay for a humorist to kick-off the Community Reads program on March 17th. Cookbooks—there are still quite a few available—are now selling for \$2.00. We will need volunteers to bake pies and to help out at the fundraiser Theater Performance on January 27th.

Marcia Granville encouraged members to contribute book reviews for the newsletter. Report from the January meeting of the FOL Executive Board: We now have gift membership cards available for sale if you would like to purchase a membership for the Friends of the Library for a friend or relative. Each new membership comes with a free cookbook. Forms are available at the library.

Please plan to attend the Community Reads Kick-Off Event at SAHS at 7:00P.M. on March 23rd. Gary Crocker, a humorist will be the performer. Tickets are \$10 to benefit the senior class of SAHS. Refreshments will be served. We need some volunteers to make refreshments and to serve them that evening.

The next FOL fundraiser is the Brown Bag Lunch. Orders need to be in by April 3rd. The lunches will be delivered on April 13th. We will need volunteers to take orders, make the lunches, bake the cookies, and deliver the lunches.

May Lawn Sale

Do you need something to do on these cold (brrrrr!) winter days? How about looking through your closets, your cupboards, under the bed, in the attic or the garage for things you don't need. Get a jump on spring cleaning and help the library at the same time! The Friends of the library will hold their annual lawn sale on or about May 19th this year. Box all those treasures up to take to the Hastings farm in May. For large items, call Corrilla at 474-3949.

The Trial of Pauline Meeker

Thank you everyone for the success of the play. Skowhegan Area Middle School contributed the space free of charge. Many thanks. A library volunteer designed and printed the posters. A great job, thank you. Numerous Friends contributed homemade pies and desserts. Nobody left hungry! In fact, we had a few left over to auction off. Thank you kitchen artists. And thank you to the people who solicited pies, set up and served the pies and beverages. We couldn't do without your help.

The door prizes were great, also. Sherri, someone said your felted hat was too good to give away, someone asked if you had business cards. Thanks for your generous donations. Thank you, Melissa and the library for the book baskets. A

good read always makes a marvelous prize. Above all thanks to our stellar cast who made everyone laugh at key points in the play! Butch, Darla, Dave C. and Dave S., Iver, Jan, Judy, Maureen, Mary, Melissa, Midge, and Richard; what a great job!

Finally, thanks, to Maureen for the basic idea, Lee for invaluable advice and to the Other Maine Writers for all your help in getting the play just right.

We made a profit of \$850.00 on the play this year.

Marcia B. Granville

BOOK REVIEW

By Darla L. Pickett

Fish!, is a book about teamwork and improving morale in the workplace.

By Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D., Harry Paul and John Christensen.

A very quick read, *Fish!* offers some sound advice on how to introduce a positive spirit into the work environment and boost morale.

The story is told in a very engaging style and uses as evidence of its effectiveness the same theory applied to a fish market in Seattle.

In the fish market, the men learned to do a nasty and often thankless job by integrating joy in the work itself and giving over entirely to making the customer happy. In other words, they introduced fun.

A fictional manager is handed the responsibility of turning a group of sour employees into a good and friendly department by showing them how the fish market did it.

All the ideas -- such as working together to improve customer satisfaction and learning to enjoy fellow workers -- do offer some solutions for making one's workplace happier. It left some room for doubt for me, because one would have to bring all the employees on board to make it work, and that would seem next to impossible.

However, the book is a real treat for showing what could be possible when all people work together for the good of the unit. It demonstrates how a joyful attitude could work to enhance everyone's life if only they would choose it.

Fish! is an excellent read even if a person learns only one tip on how to adjust one's own spirit to make work more fun.

BOOK REVIEW

By Marcia B. Granville

Hatchet by Gary Paulson is an excellent book for adventurous young boys. It tells about a thirteen-year-old who flew off to spend the summer with his father in the north woods. Unfortunately, the pilot died and the plane crashed into a lake. Somehow the boy escaped the plane and swam to shore. The rest of the story relates how he survived, with only a hatchet, for nearly two months alone in the wilderness.

This book was located in the young readers section of Borders where I searched for a birthday gift. Of course, I had to read it, too. And I was fascinated. I learned a lot of facts that could be incorporated into a book that I am writing about a cave girl!

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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

FEBRUARY

- Every Wednesday** Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room
February 6 Library Trustee meeting 6 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome.
February 12 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room
February 19 Library will be closed for President's Day
February 26 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room

MARCH

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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:
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Assistant Librarian
Françoise LaBonte,
Children's Librarian,
Katherine LeBlanc
Your Library Trustees are:
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Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,
Carol Jarvais and Corrilla Hastings
Ex Officio, Maureen Calder
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