



# THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT AUGUST 2007

[www.skowheganlib.me.us](http://www.skowheganlib.me.us)

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

Summer is the most wonderful and busiest time of year for us when all the children are out of school and many summer residents return. It is a joy to see so many readers checking out literally thousands of books. In July we had a record-breaking month of 3500 items going out. The library has been a bustling place and the genealogy room has gotten a lot of use. Many people are using the Gerald Marble Records for family research.

There are so many wonderful developments since the last newsletter. For one thing, the brickwork project was completed at the end of June. Not only did the masons repair the exterior of the building, they completely rebuilt the chimney. While the scaffolding was up, a local photographer, Kevin Couture took some professional photos of the library icons, the very distinctive symbols on the upper portion of the brick façade. He is selling these photos as a fundraiser for the Library Renovation. An 8 x 10 framed print costs \$45.00, the 5 x 7 framed print costs \$30.00. These photos are gift quality. The library icons are displayed on the mantel at the library.

The next renovation project will be a new roof. We are currently accepting bids on the project and plan to have the work done sometime this fall. We will also have some work done on 9 windows, which face the street. We received a \$10,000 grant from Main Street Skowhegan specifically for façade improvements. The proposal we sent to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission has been approved and we are waiting for the next step in the process.

Another wonderful happening this summer was the arrival of Kristine Rinaldi. Many of you

know how Kristine collects new children's books all year and donates them to the library when she visits in July. This year Kristine donated over 450 books!!! It was definitely like having Christmas in July for the library. She also did a craft program as part of the summer reading program, which was a lot of fun. Thank you, Kristine for your generous donation and service to the community.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who helped support the library during the recent budget difficulties. To everyone who wrote a letter, made phone calls, invited friends and neighbors to town meeting, or voted at town meeting-- thank you. During the two weeks of uncertainty we received an overwhelming amount of support from the community. We truly heard how much the library is loved and valued. There are many wonderful volunteers who do hours of work to keep the library running: the story hour readers, Toddler time help, volunteers who process books for us, the Renovation Committee who is raising funds, the Friends who promote the library and all of its services. My deepest thanks to you all.

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

By Katherine LeBlanc

This year's summer reading program has again seen more than 100 readers participate. It is always a boost to see so many enthusiastic readers! I have also seen a trend towards more boys reading this year, which does my heart good. The staff has ordered an abundance of new books, but they are flying off the shelf, which also makes this librarian very happy.

We have hiked through the Joyce Street Trail with Jeff McCabe, made book shelves with Kristine Rinaldi, and had an exciting tour through the Skowhegan History House led by Lee Granville. On August 3, we will be welcoming au-

thor/illustrator Scott Magoon for a drawing program at the municipal building at 1:00. Our final program will be held on August 8th at 1:00. Magician Wes Booth is back to astound us with his mystical talents. This nutrition based program is sponsored by the Maine Nutrition Network, and in conjunction with the Skowhegan Farmer's Market. We hope that you are able to join us!

**Minutes of  
The Friends of The  
Skowhegan Free Public Library  
Executive Board Meeting and Annual Meeting  
May 9, 2007**

The Secretary's report was accepted as read.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. The Brown Bag lunch profit was \$1043.85. Next time Marcia would like more help with sales. We did not have as many orders as in the past. Marilyn wondered if the day before a vacation or doing it on a Friday could be the reason.

We discussed the money in the credit union savings account and we passed a motion to move \$2000 from the credit union savings account into a CD and leave \$158 in savings if we need a savings account or if possible to put all of it in a CD.

Melissa Gaspar, the librarian reported that she is actively recruiting members for the Renovation Fundraising Committee. The library received a nutrition grant for \$400 and a windows grant. She gave a plant to each member of the board as a thank you for our efforts. We approved her request to spend \$40 for a vacuum cleaner cord.

We discussed how the Friends could help get citizens out to vote for the June 11 Town Meeting. We decided to do a phone calling to members: "The library budget comes up for a vote. Please try to attend. We appreciate your vote." We then adjourned the business meeting and enjoyed music performed by Harry Vayo.

The next Executive Board Meeting meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Renfrew, Secretary**

Post script:

June 10--The profit from the Yard Sale--\$1536.84. Thank you to all the helpers--especially to Corrilla and Jim for hosting it.

**NEW RELEASES**

**Fiction:**

Adler, Elizabeth	<i>Meet Me in Venice</i>
Bachman, Richard	<i>Blaze: A Novel</i>
Burke, James Lee	<i>Tin Roof Blowdown</i>
Capella, Anthony	<i>The Wedding Officer</i>
Cumming, Charles	<i>A Spy by Nature</i>
Dailey, Janet	<i>Something More</i>
Delinsky, Barbara	<i>Facets</i>
Deveraux, Jude	<i>Someone to Love</i>
Howard, Linda	<i>Up Close and Dangerous</i>
Jance, J. A.	<i>Justice Denied</i>
Lowell, Elizabeth	<i>Innocent as Sin</i>
Miller, Linda Lael	<i>A Wanted Man</i>
Muller, Marcia	<i>The Ever-running Man</i>
Patterson, James	<i>The quickie</i>
Pearson, Ridley	<i>Killer Weekend</i>
Perry, Thomas	<i>Silence</i>
Pronzini, Bill	<i>Savages</i>
Luanne Rice	<i>What Matters the Most</i>
Roberts, Nora	<i>High Noon</i>
Rowling, J. K.	<i>Harry Potter and the</i>
	<i>Hallows</i>
Steele, Danielle	<i>Bungalow 2</i>

**Non-Fiction:**

Deen, Paula	<i>Paula Dee: It Ain't All</i>
	<i>About</i>
	<i>the Cooking</i>
Greenwald, Glenn	<i>A Tragic Legacy</i>
Howell, Georgina	<i>Gertrude Bell</i>
Tenet, George	<i>At the Center of the Storm</i>

**New and Renewed Friends**

Elinor and Charles Clark  
Kathleen and Robert dorko  
Mary and Linwood Hill  
Mary and Roy Kennedy  
Dorothy and Gerald LaCasse  
Robert and Mary Schneider

**Visit the library website at:**

[www.skowheganlib.me.us](http://www.skowheganlib.me.us) There is a lot of information there including Library hours, new books, coming events and the history of the library.

## BOOK REPORT

By Maureen Calder

### *A Place Called Trinity*

By: Delia Parr

The place is Trinity, Pennsylvania and the year is 1833. Martha Cade has moved home. She has raised two children, now mostly grown, on her own since the death of her husband. Martha is not particularly welcome here as far as Dr. Park is concerned. She is a midwife and he is not impressed. He is determined to stand in her way. Having moved in to a place above where her brother and his wife run a small eatery, she intends to remain here as a help to them and to offer her skills and kind ways to the women of this town and their babies.

Not long after arriving here, her daughter runs away and takes with her Martha's hope that she would one day follow in the footsteps of generations of Cade women. After spending time searching for her daughter, Martha returns home heartbroken but determined to fulfill her role in assisting the women of Trinity through the birthing process and attempting, at the same time, to make the skeptics of midwifery see that birth is a life process and not an illness where birth is the cure. The births she attends are not always without complications and so she must prove herself when the odds seem against her.

Martha Cade finds herself in the midst of a town scandal, mending relationships, and healing the women who need her, all while coping with her sorrow over the loss of her daughter and still harboring a hope that she will be found. Her brother, her sister-in-law, and a little songbird, which was a gift from a grateful new father, bring her comfort and sustain her in her determination to remain strong and hopeful.

### Coming in October

#### Our own "Antique Road Show"

Kaja Vellieux will assess your antiques for you at the rate of \$5.00 per item. The funds will be used for library renovations.

The Library Lookout is sponsored by



# Skowhegan Savings

## FOL and Library Renovations

One of the first things the newly formed Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library did in 1998 was to conduct a survey of public opinion. At the time of the article appearing in the "Somerset Gazette" on April 17, 1998, not all surveys had been tabulated, but the preliminary results were indicative of the whole and were very interesting.

There were requests for more large print books, books on tape, videos of great movies, and computers on the Internet. Desired activities to be held at the library included preschool stories and activities, discussion groups on books, movies and poetry, art and painting, drama and set design as well as tutors for high school study groups.

Expanded hours were also requested, especially for morning hours. At the time, the library was open from 1:00 to 8:30, Mon. through Fri plus Sat. from 10 to 2:00. The evening hours were not especially busy, so they were dropped in favor of the morning. Current hours are from 10:00 to 6:00 during the week and 10:00 to 2:00 on Saturdays.

Many of the desires for an expanded collection have been fulfilled. There are many computers in use at all times. More activities are conducted at the library than ever before.

The desire for a handicap accessible library is now being addressed. More on this subject next time.

## 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

## AUGUST

- Every Wednesday** Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room
- August 2 Library Trustee meeting, 6 p. m. The public is welcome to attend.
- August 2 Moonlight Madness See and buy at the library table downtown Skowhegan
- August 3 Author/illustrator, Scott Magoon will preside over a drawing program for the children at the Municipal Building at 1:00. p. m.
- August 3 Skowhegan Lobster Fest in the tent downtown
- August 8 Wes Booth will demonstrate his magic tricks at the library at 1:00 p.m.
- August 11 Longaberger basket will be raffled off at the Skowhegan State Fair. It is on display at various merchants around town. go see it and plan on buying lots of tickets!
- August 13 & 27 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a. m. in the Children's Room

## SEPTEMBER

- Every Wednesday** Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room
- September 4 Library Trustee meeting, 6 p. m. The public is welcome to attend.
- September 10 & 24 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a. m. in the Children's Room
- September 29 Fall Festival Stay alert for more details

**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

2008-May

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