



THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT February 2005

LIBRARY NEWS

Ruth Blood will be hosting another **Genealogy Class** beginning February 3 from 3-5 p.m. This is always such a successful program that sign up is necessary at the library. Sign up early to guarantee your space

The **Teachers Wine and Cheese Reception** will be held on February 17 from 3:30 to 5:30. There will be FREE Reiki sessions provided by Andrea Smith of Reiki Works in Madison. Also FREE Massage sessions provided by William Toles of Have Touch, Will Travel of Skowhegan. There will be several door prizes, and give-aways. Come and sample some of our favorite recipes from the Readers Recipes Cookbooks, and enjoy some social time with your fellow educators.

11 females of any age are wanted for a once-a-month **Ladies' Book Club**. The first meeting will be held on the evening of Friday, March 18th at 7PM at the home of chairwoman, Lyn Govoni. A book will be chosen for each member to read (from a selection of 3). The book may either be purchased or borrowed from the library or from another member who has finished it. On the 3rd Friday of each month, members will gather and discuss the book over light appetizers and desserts at the home of a hostess who volunteers to have the meeting. It is a "bring your own beverage" group. After the discussion, 3 more books will be presented as choices for the next month and members vote on which one sounds the best to them. The next month's meeting is agreed upon and marked in calendars. Most meetings come to an end by 10PM. Anyone interested in joining, please call Lyn Govoni at 474-3404. Only 11 members will be accepted by February 25th, so call today!

The Library Trustee Meetings have always been held on the first Tuesday of every month at 4 pm. Beginning in March, the time of the meetings will be changed to 6 pm. The public is welcome.

The **DOVE Society** has generously offered to help give a fresh new look to the downstairs of the library with a donation of \$100.00 for paint.

The Library will be closed **February 21st** in observance of President's Day.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY NEWS

We will be celebrating "**Pajama Day**" with **Lynn Plourde** from 11-1 on February 19th. Lynn will be here, reading and signing her new book. Please join the Skowhegan Free Public Library and Mr. Paperback in a fun filled morning with Pajama activities, cookies and juice. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Skowhegan Free Public Library.

Story Hour continues each Wednesday morning from 10-11. Come join us for some wonderful stories, and crafts.

We have some nonfiction books in the Children's Room: *Meteorologists, Archaeologists, Geologists, Astronomers, The French Revolution, Blacks in America, The Cold War, Medieval Town and Country Life, The People Could Fly*

New Books List for Downstairs

Fiction: *Demon Rumm* Brown, Sandra
State of Fear Crichton, Michael
The Count of Monte Cristo Dumas, Alexandre
Paradise Fields Fforde, Katie
Whiteout Follett, Ken
Silenced Jenkins, Jerry S.
Life Expectancy Koontz, Dean
The Motive Lescroart, John
Alice in Jeopardy McBain, Ed
Loop Group McMurtry, Larry
Bad Dirt Proulx, Annie
The Hot Flash Club Strikes Thayer, Nancy
Pride and Prejudice Austen, Jane
The Hour Game Baldacci, David
Home Body Boyle, Gerry
The Christmas Thief Clark, Mary and Carol Higgins
Black Wind Cussler, Clive
Winter of Discontent Dams, Jeanne

Night Fall DeMille, Nelson
Metro Girl Evanovich, Janet
A Redbird Christmas Flagg, Fannie
People of the Fire Gear, Kathleen O'Neal and
 W. Michael
Skeleton Man Hillerman, Tony
Twisted Kellerman, Jonathan
Falling Awake Krentz, Jayne Ann
The Mark LaHaye, Tim
The Sunday Philosophy Club McCall Smith,
 Alexander
London Bridges Patterson, James
Silver Bells Rice, Luanne
The Two First Novels Scottoline, Lisa
Light on Snow Shreve, Anita
Echoes Steel, Danielle
 Nonfiction
Yukon Alone Balzac, John
Sharing Good Times Carter, Jimmy
Winning Modern Wars Clark, Wesley K.
Mountain Men Conefrey, Mick
The Long Goodbye Davis, Patti
Racing to Win Gibbs, Joe
Ice Willis, Clint
Guns Freedom and Terrorism LaPierre, Wayne
Close Shaves Long, John
Faithful O'Nan, Stewart and King, Stephen
Left for Dead Weathers, Beck

SPRING LAWN SALE: Now is the time to clean out those closets, attics and basements to find some "treasures" for the annual FOL Lawn Sale to be held again at Hastings' barn on the Malbons Mills Road. We're looking for furniture, toys, household items, tools, games, books, children's clothing, baby equipment, etc. Items may be left at the barn at any time. Please call first: 474-3949. The date for this year's sale, which is part of the annual "Six Mile Lawn Sale", is May 21.

Give your Valentine our cookbook and a box of heart-shaped cookies from the recipe on page 56. Pick one up at the Library or the Blueberry Cupboard for \$6.00.

A six week training workshop for Literacy Volunteer tutors will be held at the Madison Elementary School on Tuesday afternoons from 5 to 8 PM, beginning on March 8. For more information or to register, call 474-7553 or 1-800-322-5455

MEET A VOLUNTEER

By Maureen Calder

Skowhegan Free Public Library is most fortunate to have, as a patron, a vivacious and personable woman who gives of her time in caring, creative, and thoughtful ways. Petra Prokop and her family became part of the Skowhegan community three years ago. She and her husband, Dr. Otto Prokop, came to this country from Slovakia about nine years ago. After living in places such as Texas, Florida, Alabama, and New Jersey, they chose Skowhegan as their home and a place where her husband could begin his medical practice. Petra, who has a degree in psychology and sociology, worked in Austria as a Nanny before coming to the United States with her husband. At present she is a Mom to young son, Matush, and is expecting another child in the spring.

Petra is a well liked volunteer for the library mostly as a storyteller for the weekly Story Hour held each Wednesday morning. Although, she has assisted with other activities sponsored by the library or Friends of the Library, she seems to have found her niche with the young children and parents reading stories and planning crafts for them to do.

Arriving in this community, she was drawn to the library because she has always enjoyed time spent there, even as a child. The library "is the place to be" according to her. She could come and benefit not only herself but Matush as well. Here was a spot where they could socialize, make friends, learn about this area, this state, anything. People who come here, the staff, friends she has made are all helpful and thoughtful. "It has, as she puts it, become our place." As a child, growing up, in Slovakia, the library was a place she appreciated because she has always loved books. Coming to our Skowhegan Library, bringing her son with her on a regular basis, is allowing him to learn and appreciate a love of reading also. She says that in just a short amount of time she can see how much he has grown in this direction. Petra views the library as both a place of solace but also a spark towards thought and educating oneself. One can come here and be alone but still have the necessary human contact or come and visit, converse, and share ideas. In Slovakia, the li-

brary was a place where she could get many books and sit quietly or take them with her. Here, the library offers so much more in the way of cultural, social, and educational activities. "People," she states, "have an inborn curiosity and the library is an essential place for supporting that." She feels that the library is a necessity to the community. It is a place of "involvement, motivation, and discovery, a connection to something."

Petra started coming to the library to benefit herself, but then wanted to do something, to give a service to others. The storytelling has offered an opportunity for her to interact with children by giving of her time and attention while instilling the benefits of books and reading for her own son. It gives her a chance to do something for the community, "a small thing I can do."

It is no small thing. It is an asset to any community, to any library, to any storytelling group to have someone so passionate in her involvement and in her love of the journeys we can all take through books. This is what you give us, Petra, and we thank you for becoming a presence here.

BOOK REVIEWS

In the Devil's Snare, written by historian Mary Beth Norton and published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2002, is a provocative and fascinating study of the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692.

The central thesis of this text is, I believe, a new and unique explanation of the underlying hysteria which triggered the trials. Ms. Norton, through obviously extensive and detailed research, has discovered that many of the young females who were central to the crisis, had been victims of, or were witness to, horrible massacres of frontier settlers by Indians in the District of Maine.

Who would not act in strange ways, having endured the sadistic brutality of these massacres? Just as soldiers and victims of modern warfare are psychologically disturbed by their experiences, these girls manifested their suffering through this bizarre behavior. The puritan community in which they resided, steeped in religious fundamentalism and ignorance, mistook their actions as witchcraft. Twenty people were killed as witches as a result of these trials and it still must be considered as one of the darkest periods of the American experience.

Ms. Norton, being an academic, has written a lucid but sometimes overwrought and repetitive account of the Salem witchcraft crisis. I consider it well worth reading.

By David Calder

The Way Things Work Stories of then and Now, Here and There, This and That by Norman Roberts is a collection of short stories that illustrate events in the day to day lives of ordinary people. The reader is taken on a walk in the city with a small boy, to Korea and Japan with a young soldier and into the Maine woods with a logging crew. Readers experience the frustration and bewilderment of a man whose entire way of life was about to be disrupted by a new highway, witness the effects of night photography during hunting season and wait for the response to a job application with a college professor. The stories all have the ring of truth in them because they so skillfully show 'the way things work.'

by Marcia Granville

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Irene Magoon
Charles A. Potratz
Bonnie Chamberlain
Bruce T. Moore

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 _____
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E-Mail Address _____

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Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

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

February 1 Library Trustees Meeting, 4 pm at the Library The public is welcome to attend.

February 17 Teachers Wine and Cheese Reception 3:30 to 5:30 at the library

February 19 "Pajama Day" with children's author Lynn Plourde 11:00 to 1:00 in the Children's Room

February 21 Closed in honor of President's Day

MARCH

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

March 1 Library Trustees Meeting, 6 pm at the Library The public is welcome to attend.

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 Blynn Currier,

Assistant Librarian Françoise LaBonte,

Children's Librarian Katherine LeBlanc

Your Library Trustees are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,

Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell

and Carol Jarvais

Friends officers are:

Dina Jeannotte, Pres.,

Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,

Maureen Calder, Sec.

Pam Arsenault, Treas

Editor, Marcia B. Granville

