



THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT November 2005

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

October was an eventful month at the library. We had a wonderful quilt show on Oct 15 which filled the library with color and beautiful patterns. Thank you to the Somerset Quilters who raised \$14. for the library during their quilt show. On October 13, the knitting group called, "Knitting for the Heart and Soul" had their first meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday Nov 10 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

On Saturday Oct 22, the Library Play and Pie event was held at the Skowhegan Area Middle School cafeteria. Yes, there was "Trouble at Serenity Pond" but it was a lot of fun! The Lions Club held their yearly poster contest art show at the library this year. The grand opening of the Art Show was on Thursday Oct 20, from 5-7pm. The art work was on display until Nov 1st. On October 29, the library sponsored the "Halloween Parade" led by Children's Librarian Katherine LeBlanc.

This month the library is displaying a variety of books and materials on the Civil War as part of a Veteran's Day Observance. For this special presentation, the History House will be loaning some of its civil war collection as well. All of the items will be on display at the library from Monday November 7 through Sat Nov 12. However the library will be closed on Friday Nov 11th.

Next month the library will have a Special Holiday Stroll event on Dec 3rd. from 10-2 pm. We will have several local authors signing their books. Music and refreshments will be on hand to add to the festive atmosphere. There is always something interesting going on at the library. Stop by and see for yourself.

MORE LIBRARY NEWS

By Katherine LeBlanc

The Skowhegan Free Public Library is working in conjunction with Laura Richter's technology class from the Skowhegan Area Middle School, Lee Granville and Lynn Perry to create an exhibit and timeline for Veterans Day. This exhibit will be on display the week of November 7th at the Skowhegan Municipal building. The timeline will be encompassing all the veterans from Skowhegan.

As a part of the annual Holiday Stroll, the library will hold Season's Readings on Saturday, December 3rd from 10-2. We will be celebrating with a milk and cookie party in the Children's Room with several crafts for the kids to create. Downstairs the adults will enjoy live music from Country Comfort, as well as refreshments from the "gilded age".

Local authors will be signing and selling their books that day. David Richards, from the Margaret Chase Smith Library will be here signing his new book *Poland Spring, a Tale of the Gilded Age*. Along with David we will have Alberta Cole, Barbara Winslow author of *Dance on a Seal Skin*, Ed Rice author of *Baseball's First Indian*, Wesley McNair author of *The Town of No*, Katie Ouillette, and Corrilla Hastings, author of *Dead Lady at Green Meadows*.

Please join us for these wonderful festivities. What better gift to give this holiday season, but the gift of a good book.

SKOWHEGAN FRIENDS WIN \$500 FoML GRANT

Our library received exciting news on October 24 when the winners of three \$500 Friends of Maine Libraries grants were announced at the MLA Annual Conference in Augusta. Chosen from nineteen applicants from around the state, the winning libraries are

Skowhegan Volunteers in the Spotlight

By Melissa Gaspar

Ruth Blood has been a dedicated volunteer at the Skowhegan Free Public Library for many years. She helped set up and organize the Genealogy Room, a project she began in the summer of 2001. Since then she has spent many hours researching genealogical or historical information for patrons. She has helped people over all the US and some from other countries. In addition she has been very instrumental in acquiring more books and information to help build our collection of useful resource materials.

In January of 2002, Ruth began teaching classes in genealogy for people who were interested in researching their family history. Each year the interest in these classes has grown and one class had as many as 16 people.

Ruth has always made herself available to answer questions for people who are looking for information. She enjoys helping others and has spent a lot of time organizing notebooks on obituaries and social news from Louise Coburn's collection of newspaper articles from the early 1900's.

Ruth first became interested in genealogy when she visited the Maine State Archives in 1993 and began researching her own family. She had just retired from the Skowhegan Area High School where she taught English for 25 years. She first moved to Skowhegan in 1960 when she began her teaching career. She married and raised two sons here.

Recently Ruth represented the Skowhegan Free Public Library at the Sept 9 meeting of the Maine Old Cemetery Association which was held in Norridgewock. The meeting included an update on the Gerald Marble Monument Records. This is a compilation of the orders Gerald and his father filled as monument makers in Skowhegan and Norridgewock. This multi-volume set includes, sketches of monuments, records of orders, payments-some by the bartering method, names and dates of deaths, and other inscriptions. The only volume left to be com-

pleted is the index. Three sets of this work will be printed. One set will be kept at the Skowhegan Free Public Library and be available to the public.

Ruth plans to teach the Genealogy class again starting sometime in Jan 2006. Watch our website for the class dates or stop by the library and let us know you are interested.

Thank you Ruth, for all you have done to establish the Genealogy Room and for your continued help with research questions.

BOOK REVIEW

by Barbara Rowbottom

To all of our library's friends, and those especially whose favorite is a story of Ireland. This book is titled *Ireland* and its author is Frank Delaney. It is the saga of the last of "The Story Tellers". He wanders the country sides to be welcomed by his many friends to their firesides for a warm supper, to tell his stories and then a warm bed. The stories are fascinating and involve the ancient wars and invasions and on down to the later history of Ireland. It is a long book but as it is ending one wishes it could go on and on, and not have an ending.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Joan Farnsworth

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.

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Skowhegan, Canaan and Wells. Skowhegan's project, called "Toddler Time", is an early literary and music program for toddlers and their caregivers with particular attention to non-traditional library users. It includes bimonthly meetings for toddlers, books on early literacy for parents, and an interactive workshop for parents focused on resolving conflicts and improving family dynamics. Congratulations to Melissa and all the Skowhegan Friends who were involved in the writing of this grant!

New Adult Books at the Library

NON-FICTION

- Browne, Sylvia *Book of Angels*
 Browne, Sylvia *Contacting Your Spirit Guide*
 Browne, Sylvia *God, Creation, and Tools for Life*
 Browne, Sylvia *Phenomenon*
 Browne, Sylvia *Prophecy*
 Moehring, J.R. *The Tender Bar*
 Richards, David *Poland Spring*
 Talbot, Page *Benjamin Franklin in Search of a Better World*

FICTION

- Baden, Michael *Remains Silent*
 Baldacci, David *The Camel Club*
 Connelly, Michael *The Lincoln Lawyer*
 Cornwell, Patricia *Predator*
 Evans, Richard P. *The Sunflower*
 Gould, Judith *Dreamboat*
 Hammontree, K. *There Was a Time*
 Hicks, Robert *The Widow of the South*
 Ludlum, Robert *The Amber Warning*
 North, Oliver *The Assassins*
 Oates, Joyce Carol *Missing Mom*
 Rendell, Ruth *The Rottweiler*
 Roberts, Nora *Blue Smoke*
 Roberts, Nora *Gabriel's Angel*
 Shreve, Anita *A Wedding in December*
 Sparks, Nicholas *At First Sight*
 Steele, Danielle *Toxic Bachelors*
 Tanenbaum, Robert *Fury*
 Truman, Margaret *Murder at the Washington Tribune*
 Wood, Monica *Any Bitter Thing*
 Woods, Stuart *Iron Orchid*

Trouble at Serenity Falls

By Marcia B. Granville

There was no trouble at Serenity Falls at the beginning of the evening of October 22nd. It had been a beautiful fall day and continued to be just as pleasant that night. Enthusiastic playgoers crowded into the Skowhegan Area Middle School eager to see just what the 'trouble' could be.

As the play began, all was calm. Then people began to laugh. Sometimes they laughed when lines were spoken. Sometimes they laughed when someone merely walked across the stage. They laughed in places the author had expected them to laugh and in places that she hadn't realized were that funny. It was very gratifying.

The good humor of the audience continued to be in evidence throughout the evening, showing during the intermission when homemade pies were served. Leftover pies were auctioned off to generous people who started the bidding as high as \$10 for a single pie.

Special thanks go to the Skowhegan Area Middle School and janitorial staff for staging the event free of cost, to Butch Asselin and the Skowhegan Police Department for the generous provision of Officer Watson's uniform and the police crime kit, and to Mary Stuart for donating her own furniture and coffee service for the evening.

Thanks must also go to the cast who spent hours of their personal time for weeks and weeks of rehearsal. Extra special thanks to Mary Stuart for directing the play. You were the glue that held it together.

The generous people who baked and donated pies for the event were instrumental in adding to the fun and profits. Thanks to them and to Maureen Calder for coordinating the pies and other refreshments.

When the evening was over, the net profit to the Skowhegan Free Public Library was a wonderful \$1180.37. Thank you everyone.

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
November 1 Library Trustee meeting, 6 pm. The public is welcome to attend.
November 7-12 Books and material on the Civil War on display in observance of Veteran's Day
November 11 Library closed for Veteran's Day
November 14 Toddler Time 10:30 in the Children's Room
November 24 Library closed for Thanksgiving
November 28 Toddler Time 10:30 in the Children's Room

DECEMBER

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
December 6 Library Trustee meeting, 6 pm. The public is welcome to attend.
December 13 Toddler Time 10:30 in the Children's Room
December 27 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 Jarvis and Corrilla Hastings

Ex Officio, Maureen Calder

Friends officers are:

Dina Jeannotte, Pres.,

Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,

Marilyn Renfrew, Sec.

Sherry Vigue, Treas

Marcia Gratvillè, Editor