

NOVEMBER 2024

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

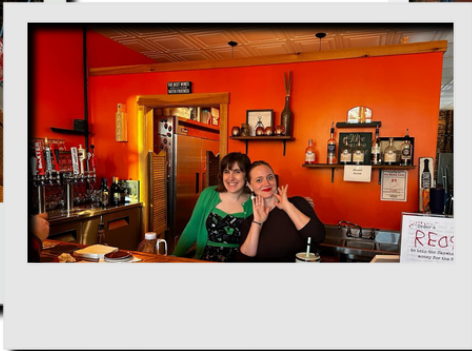


Thank you!

Another Fall Book Drive has ended and once again our community has blown us away with their generosity. Last year our goal was 260 and we exceeded that goal by getting 294 books. So, this year we went BIGGER and set our goal at 300 books. To be honest with you, I thought we may not reach it, but not only did we reach it, we reached it with a week left to go.

Thank you to the everyone who participated and bought the library books off the wish list. Because of the book drive, we are able to take October and November off from purchasing books out of our own budget. Not only does it save the library money, it also helps the community be involved in what's going on the shelves.

This year the book drive has added 143 new adult books and 165 young adult and kids' books. We are super grateful and super happy to have all these beautiful new books. Please come in and check out what's new.



Some snapshots of our Guest Bartending event @ Unwined to fundraise for the Book Drive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Recurring

Every Wednesday- Storytime @ 10:30AM

Every Friday- Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM

Every Saturday- Library Yoga @ 10:30AM

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**11/02- Mr Sean Presents: The Umbrella of Happiness @ 10:30AM**

**11/06 - BooOooks in the Basement @ 6PM**

**11/07- Makers Club @ 4PM**

**11/07- Write ME Epistolary Poetry Project @ 5PM**

**11/13- Shiva Lila Kirtan Songs (Sat Manav Yoga Ashram) @ 6PM**

**11/14- Murder She Told @ 6PM**

**11/19- NDEC- Introduction to Google Drive & Docs: Session 1 of 3 @ 4PM**

**11/19- Tween the Screams @ 4PM**

**11/21- Makers Club @ 4PM**

**11/21- Books & Brews at Unwined @ 6:30PM**

**11/26- NDEC- Introduction to Google Drive & Docs: Session 2 of 3 @ 4PM**

**11/26- Tween the Screams @ 4PM**

### CLOSURES

**11/11- In observation of Veteran's Day**

**11/28, 11/29 & 11/30- Closed for Thanksgiving Break**





## NEWS FROM YOUTH SERVICES BY GABRIELLE HUNTER, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

This past month in the Children's Tower we have been up to our elbows in hands on crafts with a two-part Makers Club, Spooky Lego Club and our Tween the Screams Book Club. We have played with clay, built magic wands, concocted and bottled spells, and built haunted houses and spooky monsters with blocks.



In addition, the kids were busy outside with our Chalk the Walk. Some of the most recent photos we snapped of their creations included a giant Dragon with wings. Though the chalk will have to be put away for the chilly season, we are so happy it was such a hit. It will definitely be back for next year. In addition, though we wrapped up our Tween the Screams Book Club, our young participants were so excited by the horror genre that we are extending it for the final Tween Book Club of the year. So Tween the Screams 2.0 is on the schedule for Nov/Dec 2024.

Finally, our Wednesday Storytime is flourishing. We have been dancing to spooky skeleton songs, hunting for monsters in the book shelves and feeding a very large oversized box monster with monster pellets. And that doesn't even cover the crafts or the books. We have a very friendly and caring group of parents and children every Wednesday morning that make Storytime so successful. They help make the Children's Tower the place to be.





## News from the Library Desk By Bree Bussell-Fitzgerald, Adult Services Librarian

We have some really interesting programs coming up in November!

The first of which on November 7th, the Write ME Epistolary Poetry Workshop with author and former Maine Poet Laureate, Wesley McNair. In this workshop, participants will choose one of five letter-poems as an inspiration for writing their own in-class poem.

What is an epistolary poem you ask?


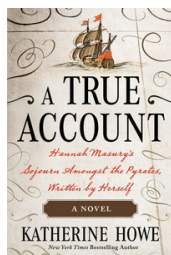
An epistolary poem is a poem that is also a letter. The epistolary poem remains a powerful and captivating poetic form—and one that seems particularly crucial to our present moment, in which the intimacy, community-building, and grounding, physical aspects of letter writing can provide us with much-needed antidotes for social polarization and isolation. Julia Bouwsma, Maine's Poet Laureate, has created a Maine-wide epistolary poetry project that:

- 1) introduces the form through a series of 20+ free public workshops across the state and then
  - 2) pairs up participating individuals as "poetry pen pals" to communicate with one another over a period of months.
- Simply put, this project will pair together people in different parts of Maine to exchange letter poems. This project is open to anyone who lives in Maine (or is connected to the state) and is ages 18+.

We are thrilled to have creator and host of Murder, She Told podcast Kristen Seavey at the library on November 14th as she talks about her advocacy work, podcast and some of the lesser known cases and crimes that have left a dark spot on our home state of Maine and New England. Murder, She Told is a true crime podcast shedding light on the cold cases and unsolved murders, missing persons, and crime stories that often get overlooked from Maine, New England, and small towns from away. Rooted in deep research, straightforward narratives, and the victims and their family at the center of every story, Murder, She Told will speak to any listener no matter where they call home. Join victim's advocate and central Mainer, Kristen Seavey, and explore the dark underbelly of the safest places in America, where everybody knows everyone, and bad things never happen... Murder, She Told seeks to help the people who remain without answers.



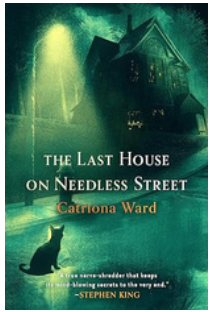
### Books & Brews



November's Books & Brews read is *A True Account* by Katherine Howe. Join us at Unwined, have a drink and a snack and let's talk books! Due to very popular demand, we are adding a December date for book club! Join us on the 19th before all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season! We'll save you a seat. \*Book to be determined\*



## Staff Book Picks of the Month

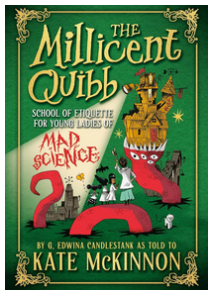


### **Angie** - *The Last House on Needless Street* by *Catriona Ward*

This is the story of a serial killer. A stolen child. Revenge. Death. And an ordinary house at the end of an ordinary street.

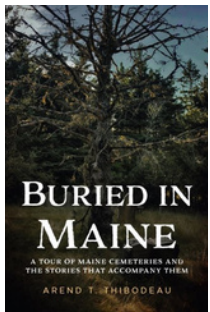
All these things are true. And yet they are all lies...

You think you know what's inside the last house on Needless Street. You think you've read this story before. That's where you're wrong.



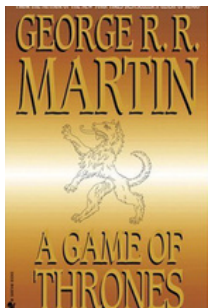
### **Gabrielle** - *The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science* by *Kate McKinnon*

So, you want to be a young mad scientist. Congratulations! Admitting it is the first step. The second step is reading the (definitely true) tale of the Porch sisters...



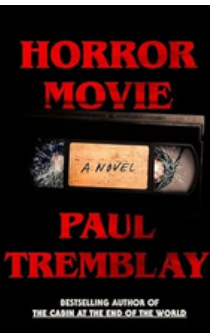
### **Bree** - *Buried in Maine* by *Arend Thibodeau*

This book explores cemeteries that have hosted the departed since the early colonization of Maine. Hand-carved angels of death, thoughtful epitaphs, and even intrigue surround these old and unique burial sites. We also visit infamous grave sites such as the Jonathan Buck memorial in Bucksport. Buck, a forefather of the town of Bucksport, allegedly had a curse placed upon him by a condemned witch, as the book will explore.



### **Lydia** - *Game of Thrones* by *George R. R. Martin*

Sweeping from a harsh land of cold to a summertime kingdom of epicurean plenty, *A Game of Thrones* tells a tale of lords and ladies, soldiers and sorcerers, assassins and bastards, who come together in a time of grim omens. Amid plots and counter-plots, tragedy and betrayal, victory and terror, allies and enemies, the fate of the Starks hangs perilously in the balance, as each side endeavors to win that deadliest of conflicts: the game of thrones.



### **Nikki** - *Horror Movie* by *Paul Tremblay*

In June 1993, a group of young guerilla filmmakers spent four weeks making *Horror Movie*, a notorious, disturbing, art-house horror flick.

The weird part? Only three of the film's scenes were ever released to the public, but *Horror Movie* has nevertheless grown a rabid fanbase. Three decades later, Hollywood is pushing for a big budget reboot.

But at what cost?

*Horror Movie* is an obsessive, psychologically chilling, and suspenseful twist on the "cursed film" that breathlessly builds to an unforgettable, mind-bending conclusion.



# Harry Potter Trivia and Treats

October was such a busy month! We also had our yearly Harry Potter Trivia and Treats night! It was a magical night filled with costumes, snacks, trivia, crafts and a scavenger hunt through the library!



For our craft, we made Pixies in a jar!



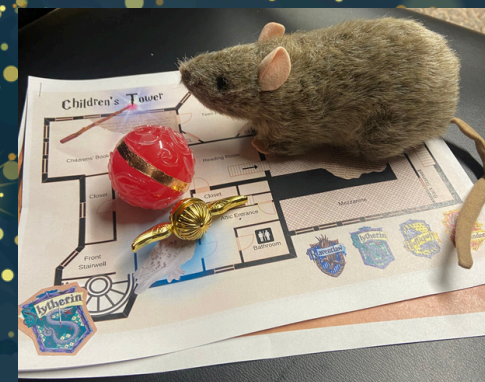
Hogwarts Professors (and Bellatrix) made an appearance!



The library was transformed into Hogwarts for one night only!



Hedwig the owl won best costume (no contest, really)



After being sorted into their houses, patrons were provided a map and clues to help them find all of the hidden items!





## Tech News by Nikki Hathaway, Technology Librarian



Our first BooOOooks in the Basement was a great success! Thank you all for making it such a strong start! We discussed *The September House* and made haunted gingerbread houses while enjoying the spooky basement vibes!

During the month of October, we read *Blood & Ivy* and I'm so excited to get to discuss this interesting case of murder on the Harvard campus. I've posted the vote on the Skowhegan Library's Facebook page to decide on the book for our December meeting. We're choosing between: *Salem's Lot* by Stephen King; *What Moves the Dead* by T. Kingfisher; and *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson. Once decided, I'll post to our website and Facebook to keep everyone in the loop!

Digital Skills classes continue here in the basement! With such a wide range of topics, there's something for every level. I've learned something new in each course I've attended! As always, if you're curious what they have to offer, their link is here:

<https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/onsite-class-catalog/>.

You can email class requests or questions to me at [skowtech@skowhegan.lib.me.us](mailto:skowtech@skowhegan.lib.me.us).

**THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT**  
**9 ELM STREET**  
**SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976**

### **LIBRARY STAFF**

Director: Angie Herrick  
Adult Circ: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald  
Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter  
Technology Librarian: Nikki Hathaway  
Library Aide: Lydia Dore  
Volunteers: Celeste Banda  
Intern: Rose Henry

### **LIBRARY FRIENDS**

Chair: Karen Lewia  
Treasurer: Kirk Karkos  
Secretary: Lynda Quinn  
Matt Dubois  
Gretchen Washburn  
Claire Theriault-Perkins

### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE TRUSTEES**

Devin MacMichael  
Patrick Dore  
Debra Sterling  
Lynn Perry  
Lynda Quinn



# Our Mission

At the Skowhegan Free Public Library, our mission is to foster a community where the freedom to read and access information is paramount. We are dedicated to providing a well-rounded and diverse collection of resources that cater to the educational, recreational, and cultural needs of all our patrons. Our library serves as a welcoming space for every community member, promoting inclusivity and accessibility. We are committed to sustainable practices, ensuring that our operations and services contribute positively to the environment and the well-being of future generations. Together, we empower minds, inspire lifelong learning, and build a brighter, more informed world.