



# The Library Lookout

August 2010

<http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us>

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

Summer is so much fun at the library. Not only are we busy with the Summer Reading Program and children who are out of school, we have many summer residents that are back to renew their friendships and share their vacation stories. It is also the time of year we meet people who are traveling. Some are just passing through while others are in town specifically to visit the library.

One such person who traveled from CA to Skowhegan to do genealogy research mentioned that he was in the movie Top Gun. Another person, using the genealogy room to write a family history, donated a wonderful scrapbook about the Skowhegan High School class that enlisted in World War I. It is great to see the Genealogy Room attracting so many visitors and I have some good news. The library has received a grant for \$2,500 to be used to make a safe storage facility in the cellar. The grant was written by Jim Hastings and the work will be done sometime this winter. Once the library has its new elevator and the cellar is accessible, this special room will become our new Genealogy Room. It will be much more spacious with tables for doing research.

In addition, the library was awarded \$6,868 to renovate and paint 19 windows that are badly in need of repair. This grant was made possible through the town's Community Enterprise Block Grant and because we are a Main Street Community.

The good news continues. Kristine Rinaldi, a former Skowhegan resident and teacher for 23 years in Texas, donated over 14

boxes of new books. Every year Kristine volunteers in the Scholastic Warehouse in Texas. She is paid in books, that she donates, to the Children's Room. We are eternally grateful to her.

There is something new and exciting on our library website. You can now access our online catalog by going to [www.skowhegan.lib.me.us](http://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us) You can see what we own and whether it is available. If, for example, it says 0 of 1 is available, it means we own the book, but it is currently checked out. You may call and ask us to reserve it for you. You may link to our catalog from any computer that has Internet access.

Many of you have heard that due to the \$10,000 shortfall in our budget we have had to cut some hours. Our new hours are Mon-Thurs. 10-6, and Fri. 10-2. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause our patrons. We hope next year we will be able to be open on Saturdays again.

For those wondering who won the Great Duck Race-- it was Sarah Grace Kutter, who donated much of her \$100 back to the library! Thank you, Sarah. Petra Prokop won the gift certificates to Lake George. Our three third prize winners were: Laura Thyng, Stan Trevains, and Cade Washburn. Thank you to everyone who supported the Duck Race! We sold 193 ducks.

Hope you are all enjoying the summer. When it gets too hot to do anything else you can always relax with a good book!

# CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Katherine LeBlanc

The Children's Room has been very active this summer because Skowhegan kids know Reading is FUN! We have had 80 children sign up for the Summer Reading Program and the programs have been very successful. We began our summer with Chewonki on July 7th. With standing room only, Emma, from the Chewonki Foundation, presented a wonderful hour of Wildlife and Water. She also brought with her a few surprises that included live animals. The Somerset County Extension office presented a nutrition program for children and their parents. With snacks and good information the children left here with full bellies and their heads full of knowledge. Kristine Rinaldi and her little elves presented a "Make your own Book" program that was attended by 40 people. This wildly successful program was made from kits that were donated by Kristine.

Mr. Harley performed in Coburn Park on the 21st, and although he met with some technical difficulties he performed for over 100 parents and kids under the shade trees of the park. There was dancing, singing and grooving to the music. Everyone "got their silly's out" and we were all begging for more. Hopefully Mr. Harley will be back to visit the kids at the Skowhegan Free Public Library next year as well. Our final event will take place at Lake George on July 28th. As of this writing, we are praying for continued good weather and a wet and fun time for the wonderful readers at the library. There is no better way to celebrate their successes than at one of Skowhegan's most adored landmarks, Lake George.

Special thanks goes out to all the presenters for their time and energy and gifts that they shared with the kids at the library. An enormous thank you must also go out to Kristine Rinaldi for her generous donation once again this year. Without her donation of books and prizes we would not be able to spread our book dollars in the children's room as far as we do, nor would we be able to have so many fantastic prizes in the prize box for the

dedicated readers. Kristine's dedication throughout the year to contact us and focus on the needs of the Children's Room is greatly appreciated. Keep a look out and you will see her name in hundreds of books in the Children's Room. Thank you so much Kristine!

## LIBRARY BENEFIT AUCTION

DATE: Friday, September 10

PLACE: Tewksbury Hall

TIME; Preview 5:30, Auction 7:00

TICKETS: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, now on sale at the Library. Price includes admission, 10 Luck-of-the-Draw tickets and delicious light refreshments. Don't miss this fun event, and the chance to win some spectacular items such as: one week in a Florida condo, one day ski pass at Sugarloaf, 10 hours of genealogy research, oil paintings, amphicar cruise on the Kennebec, antiques, jewelry, ride in a police patrol car, gift certificates, handknit and quilted items, and more. How could you resist? See you there!

(Donations of additional items are still welcome. Please contact Melissa.)

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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

## BOOK REVIEW

By Darla Pickett

*Death in the Devil's Acre* is yet another of Anne's Perry's Victorian murder mysteries that has captivated me from beginning to end. From the time I began reading Perry's works last fall, I have been in awe of her character insight, dialogue and ability to weave a suspenseful tale around Victorian England in the 1800s--and keep me in the dark until the end.

*Death in the Devil's Acre* is the seventh in a series of Perry's novels featuring the investigative works of Police Investigator Thomas Pitt and his wife, Charlotte. Pitt takes on some of the most gruesome cases of 19th century England and Charlotte and her sister, Emily, can't help but get involved. Charlotte, who married beneath her social station, keeps one foot in her marriage with Pitt--to whom she has pledged her undying love--while still stepping into her former social life with her sister in order to help ferret out the murderers in her husband's high profile cases that involve aristocracy.

Not for the faint of heart, Perry's novel weaves the tales of prostitution, unfair child labor practices and the snobbery of the well-to-do in England in a way that puts the reader strongly behind the Pitts and their fight for justice. When I first read one of Perry's latest novels, I was hooked. I decided to begin with the first in her William Monk series and read all 16 in order. Having finished those, I now have 16 more in the Pitt series and find them all most entertaining. I prefer the hero and heroine in the Monk series, but both series are entertaining. I usually read her novels within a day or so, because I simply cannot put one down once I've begun.

So, if you like murder and mystery and love and justice, *Death in the Devil's Acre* is right up your alley. The fact that the writing is charged with justice, great dialogue and believable characters adds real dimension to the mix. Her research work is superb.

Many of the Perry's books are available at the Skowhegan Free Public Library and what is

not on the shelves is available through interlibrary loans. How lucky we are to have the library and wonderful writers such as Anne Perry to choose from.

## NEW BOOKS

### FICTION

Blum, Jenna/ *The Stormcatchers*  
Boyle, Gerry/ *Damaged Goods*  
Brown, Dale/ *Executive Intent*  
Child, Lee/ *61 Hours*  
Coulter, Catherine/ *Whiplash*  
Cussler, Clive/ *The Spy*  
Deaver, Jeffery/ *The Burning Wire*  
DeMille, Nelson/ *The Lion*  
Eisler, Barry/ *Inside Out*  
Evanovich, Janet/ *Sizzling Sixteen*  
George, Elizabeth/ *This body of Death*  
Gerritsen, Tess/ *Ice Cold*  
Giffin, Emily/ *Heart of the Matter*  
King, Laurie/ *The God of the Hive*  
LaHaye, Tim/ *Edge of Apocalypse*  
Lindsey, Johanna/ *That Perfect Someone*  
Lowell, Elizabeth/ *Death Echo*  
Lustbader, Eric/ *Robert Ludlum's the Bourne Objective*  
McCrum, Sharyn/ *The Devil Amongst the Lawyers*  
Margolin, Phillip/ *Supreme Justice*  
Martini, Steve/ *The Rule of Nine*  
Palmer, Diana/ *Dangerous*  
Parker, Robert B./ *Blue-eyed Devil*  
Patterson, James/ *Private*  
Perry, Thomas/ *Strip*  
Preston, Douglas/ *Fever Dream*  
Sandford, John/ *Storm Prey*  
Slaughter, Karin/ *Broken*  
Smiley, Jane/ *Private Life*  
Steel, Danielle/ *Family Ties*  
Thor, Brad/ *Foreign Influence*  
Turow, Scott/ *Innocent*

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## REMEMBER

Buy your tickets at the Library today!

## LIBRARY BENEFIT AUCTION!

Sept. 10 at Tewksbury Hall

MC: Warren Shay

Auctioneer: Chuck Robbins

**The Library Lookout**  
**9 Elm Street**  
**Skowhegan, ME 04976**

**Your librarians:**

Library Director Melissa Gaspar  
Assistant Librarian Francoise LaBonte  
Children's Librarian Katherine LeBlanc

**Your Library Trustees:**

Toni Jo Blaisdell,  
Lee Granville, Corrilla Hastings  
Carol Jarvais, Warren Shay  
Ex Officio, Darla Pickett

**Friends officers:**

Darla Pickett, pres.  
Peggy Lovejoy, vice pres.,  
Pam McDermott, sec. Kathleen Littlefield, treas.

## Calendar of Events

Every Wednesday, Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM

### **AUGUST**

August 3 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM

August 4 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM

August 9 & 23 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sept. 2 Friends' Executive Board meeting, 6 PM

Sept. 7 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM

Sept. 8 Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM

Sept. 10 **LIBRARY BENEFIT AUCTION** Preview at 5:30, Auction at 7 PM

Sept. 13 & 27 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

TBA Jazz nights, live music