



The Library Lookout

September 2010

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

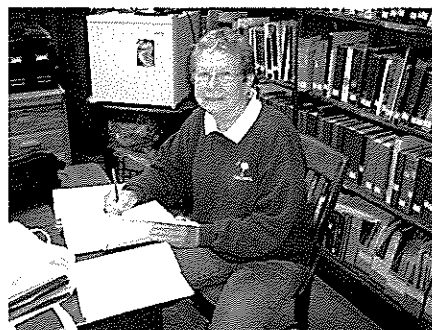
DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

September is here and the library benefit auction is upon us. This first time event will be on Friday, September 10th at the Tewksbury Building on Skowhegan Island. The doors open at 5:30pm to preview the items. You also can see some of them on our library facebook page or in the display case at the library. With over 150 items donated by area businesses, community members and artists, there is something in every price range for every member of the family. All that is needed now is a big turnout on the night of the auction. Chuck Robbins will be the auctioneer and light refreshments will be served. Tickets are on sale at the library for \$10. You will also receive 10 luck of the draw tickets with the entrance fee. One item that is generating a lot of excitement is a new unopened copy of "Skowhegan on the Kennebec" This two-volume set by Louise Coburn is in pristine condition. The auction itself begins at 7pm and promises to be full of fun and surprises. Invite your friends and help support the library renovation. Tickets will be on sale at the door for \$12.

The Library Renovation Committee received a huge boost to their fundraising efforts with a grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation of \$50,000. The grant was written by Jim Hastings and was requested for the new elevator. The generosity of the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation is deeply appreciated and much needed. The elevator is estimated to cost about \$100,000.

Ruth Blood has offered to teach a class on genealogy research beginning this month on Wed. September 15th from 3pm-5pm. This 6 -week class is perfect for beginners or those who have been searching on their own and would like some guidance. Space is limited so please call the library to register if you are interested. A genealogy researcher from Florida with Skowhegan roots named Sally Furber Nelson has spent a lot of her summer vacation in the library genealogy room. She donated a very valuable scrapbook which her grandmother had created during WWI. She had followed the Skowhegan class who signed up for the war and left Skowhegan before graduating. Sally Furber Nelson also donated a very useful book, "Vital Records of Skowhegan, Maine: (formerly Milburn and a part of Bloomfield)" which she compiled herself. It has been published by Picton Press this summer and we are very thankful to have one of the first copies. Thank you, Sally!



Sally autographing her book for us

CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Katherine LeBlanc

With August coming to a close I must say that it was another successful summer in the Children's Room at the Skowhegan Free Public Library. With so many enthusiastic readers it has been a pleasure watching the kids come in and out each week searching the shelves for a new find.

I have finally finished processing all of the donated books from Kristine Rinaldi. Another shout must go to Kristine for her unbelievable annual donation. Many thanks! I was quite fortunate to have both the library volunteer Stan Trevains as well as young adult volunteer Anthony Seamans help to conquer the mountain of books this summer. I just would like to say a quick thank you to both of them for helping with the process of getting those books out to our young readers.

I also would like to add that library volunteer Pam Arinze was the relief we needed this summer in the Children's Room. Pam shuffled between floors filling in where necessary during vacations and cries for help. I am very appreciative for all the help that I received during the busiest time of my year. The Library could not run without all the outside assistance we receive from volunteers. A special thanks from me to three wonderful helpers for all their assistance.

Autumn is gaining on us rather quickly. With school beginning and kids retreating back to their school libraries, it can be a slow time at the library. Even though it is slowing down we also get an influx of school groups or organizations that visit the library. If you or someone you know would like to schedule a field trip or tour of the library, please feel free to call. We so enjoy teaching and sharing with school children the treasures at their local library.

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!

.....

New and Renewed Members:

Miriam Malloy

Mary Stuart

Molly Stefan and Alexis Staples

Brett Worster

Renee and Rod Worster

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.

.....

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 Meg Hastings

*For All the Tea in China
How England Stole the World's Favorite Drink and
Changed History*

By Sarah Rose

You might expect a non-fiction book about tea to be dry and more than a little dull. Maybe you think the tome might have far too many facts to keep track of or, being set in Victorian times, might actually bore you to sleep. Not so with this fascinating first book by Sarah Rose.

The author is a native of this country but has done her research over the pond meticulously. Our protagonist, Robert Fortune, is a hero cut from Scottish cloth, employed by the East India Company of England and well versed in China and its closed society at that time. The year is 1842 in the time of Queen Victoria. England is experiencing massive growth and is in perpetual need of new income to fund its ongoing wars and expansion into new lands as well as needing to continuously fill the English public's insatiable desire for tea. The country has long been a partner with China, trading opium for tea, porcelain and other goods. It is generally thought that if England had the ability to grow tea, its depleted coffers and future trading status would both be elevated. Fortune is a devoted botanist and seasoned traveler by the time the huge East India Company employs him to undertake a journey of epic proportions and danger - to steal the secret to growing and making tea from the Chinese kingdom. As an Occidental, this will prove to be an almost impossible task but through three years of seemingly endless ordeals we are treated to a riveting account of his eventual success. The failures and dangers he had to overcome were many, but more importantly we see how Fortune changed the entire shape of England and eventually, the world.

Although the ending is a foregone conclusion, how Fortune gets there is what makes this book great.

Put up your feet, make a cup of tea and enjoy!

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Adler, Elizabeth/ *It All Began in Monte Carlo*
Burke, James Lee/ *Glass Rainbow*
Gardner, Lisa/ *Live To Tell*
Gear, W. Michael/ *People of the Longhouse*
Hilderbrand, Erin/ *The Island*
Isaacs, Susan/ *As Husbands Go*
Jance, Judith A./ *Queen of the Night*
Jenoff, Pam/ *A Hidden Affair*
Johansen, Iris/ *Shadow Zone*
Kava, Alex/ *Damaged*
McCall Smith, Alexander/ *Corduroy Mansions*
Marlantes, Karl/ *Matterhorn*
Neggers, Carla/ *The Whisper*
Pronzini, Bill/ *Betrayers*
Reich, Christopher/ *Rules of Betrayal*
Roberts, Nora/ *The Search*
Silva, Daniel/ *The Rembrandt Affair*
Tanenbaum, Robert/ *Betrayed*
Weiner, Jennifer/ *Fly Away Home*

NON-FICTION

Alexander, William/ *52 Loaves*

R E M E M B E R

Buy your tickets at the Library today!

LIBRARY BENEFIT AUCTION!

Sept. 10 at Tewksbury Hall

Bonnie and Jayne admire auction items.



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, Corilla 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

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM

Sept. 2 Friends' Executive Board meeting, 6 PM

Sept. 7 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM

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

Sept. 11 Socrates Café at the Blueberry Cupboard, 11 AM to 1 PM

Sept. 13 & 27 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

Sept. 15, 22 and 29 Genealogy Class, 3 to 5 PM

OCTOBER

Oct. 5 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM

Oct. 6 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM

Oct. 6, 13 and 20 Genealogy Class, 3 to 5 PM

Oct. 9 Socrates Café at the Blueberry Cupboard, 11 AM to 1 PM

Oct. 11 & 25 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM