



The Library Lookout

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

FEBRUARY 2009

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Melissa Gaspar

In my last Director's Corner, we were getting ready for the Fiber Arts in Action Program and the Holiday Stroll. We had a full house on Friday night to view the fabulous fiber art, quilted pictures, sewn, felted and knit items. On Saturday we had record numbers—almost 300 people-- visit the library in 4 hours. We gave away 4 boxes of books; many were donated by Kristine Rinaldi. Judee Koda, Maureen Calder's cousin from California, was the winner of the Civil War Era Quilt made by Jayne Hart. The quilt was mailed to her and arrived safely. Toni Jo Blasidell was the winner of the beautiful quilted Christmas stocking made by Toni Oster. Abby Provencher donated handmade coasters to sell, and Ruth Blood and Colleen Johnson knitted hats and scarves. All of these items together raised almost \$500 for the Library Renovation Fund Project 2012. Many thanks to all. It was a very festive Holiday Stroll.

I would also like to thank the Friends Group for their generous donation to the library. They have agreed to purchase a new office chair and desk for the library, a CD/cassette player and shaker eggs for the Toddlertime program and a DVD cleaner/repairer for the library to maintain our DVD collection. This is over \$500 worth of items we would not be able to purchase for the library without the dedicated group of Friends. I would also like to thank them for this newsletter that allows us to get the word out about the exciting things happening at the library.

Now as 2009 unfolds we are planning new programs beginning with "Socrates Café"—a philosophers discussion group that will meet on the second Saturday of the month, Feb. 14th from 11am-1pm. Coffee and tea will be provided. Come in and enjoy an engaging and lively discussion of ideas.

Listening to the inaugural speeches reminded me of how powerful ideas and words can be. They can inspire a whole nation, even the world. Our country is founded on democratic principles, which advocate the necessity of education and reading. Public Libraries are considered essential to having an educated and literate public. Your public library is a democratic institution offering unbiased information for you to inform yourself and then form your own opinion. What a great freedom it is to be free to read whatever your heart desires and to be able to discuss ideas freely. It's good to know your library is here for you.

Save this date: The Library Renovation Committee will be sponsoring a Chicken Pie Dinner thanks to the generosity of the Methodist Church on the Dr. Mann Road on March 14 at 6pm. More information will be coming in the Library Lookout next month.

Warm up this winter with some sizzling new stories from the library!

CHILDREN'S ROOM

By Katherine LeBlanc

The Children's Room got a bit of a face-lift recently. Winter seems to be the time that I can take a good look at the collection and do some weeding. I also am very pleased to announce that our young adult collection of hardcover fiction books has expanded so much in recent years that I had to move and rearrange the stacks. In the last six years the staff has really put a lot of effort into adding to the collection to make it more inviting to the children that we serve. I think I have really noticed the fruits of our labor pay off with the growth of this collection and the updated non-fiction collection. So when entering the Children's Room although things have moved, the same great service is there with much more to offer.

Also we have purged the games and some puzzles due to missing pieces and made a nice seating area for the easy readers to use. If I do say so myself it looks much more inviting. I hope the kids feel the same way.

We had a very successful Holiday Stroll event in the Children's Room. Thanks to Mary Hill and all the volunteers who helped with the mad rush of children that converged on us right at ten o'clock and did not let up until closing. We far surpassed our expectations, and were pleased with all the smiling faces that were able to take part in celebrating the holiday season at the library.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Mary and Alan Burgess
Bruce Moore and family
Margo and Will Reid
Govoni family

FOL NEWS

By Mary Hill

The Friends of the Library Executive Board met on January 8th. Plans were discussed for our annual meeting to be held on May 13 to which all Friends are invited. This year's meeting and Wine and Cheese Party will also be the kick off for the Library Celebration of Art. Several artists are expected to be in attendance demonstrating and/or exhibiting some of their work. More information about this exciting event will be available in the next few months. Meanwhile save the date - May 13.

The Board voted to purchase a new chair and DVD-CD cleaner for the library, also a new desk, boom box and Toddlertime shaker eggs for the Children's Room.

Our next meeting will be on March 5th at which time we will be working on the Library Lunch fundraiser that will be held on April 18.

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

If you like a good mystery and can stand a little bit of gore, *TripTych* by Karin Slaughter would be right up your alley. She has you guessing who the culprit is two-thirds of the way through the book and keeps you wondering if the bad guy will really get caught in the end. It's quite violent, so it is not for the weak-at-heart, but Slaughter does a good job of character building, so it makes it worth the read.

The story is about a psycho who kills women and leaves them in pretty messy shape for the police. More detail would be too much detail.

Slaughter weaves into the plot the tale of a dyslexic detective. The research she had to do in order to supply the reader with a realistic character makes it really interesting for anyone with a literary bent. The background on a man who was sent to jail as a youth also provides great insight into how much damage can be done if the wrong person is sentenced.

Pay special attention to the newspaper excerpts that begin some of the chapters and be sure to read the acknowledgements at the end.

LIBRARY SUPPORT

In recent issues of the "Lookout" we mentioned two ways people could help support the library renovation. They were: 1. Donate the money for your returnable bottles and cans at C & M Redemption Center on St. Mark's Street. 2. Use www.goodsearch.com as your search engine on your PC or Mac.

Here's another way to help. Members of the Somerset Samplers have created a beautiful hand embellished 60" x 70" Victorian Crazy Quilt for which they are selling raffle tickets. Drawing will be in October and proceeds will benefit the Skowhegan Library. Tickets (\$1 each or 3 for \$2) may be purchased at the Library, from any member of the Somerset Samplers, and wherever the quilt is currently on display. This quilt is truly a work of art. Don't miss the chance of winning it!

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Box, C. J. / *Three Weeks to Say Goodbye*
Cannell, Stephen / *On the Grind*
Corwell, Bernard / *Agincourt*
Evanovich, Janet / *Plum Spooky*
Grisham, John / *The Associate*
Hiaasen, Carl / *Scat*
Higgins, Jack / *A Darker Place*
Jacobs, Kate / *Knit Two*
Jones, J. Sydney / *The Empty Mirror*
Kingsbury, Karen / *This Side of Heaven*
McGarrity, Michael / *Dead or Alive*
Patterson, Richard North / *Eclipse*
Pfarrer, Donald / *A Common Ordinary Murder*
Spindler, Erica / *Breakneck*
Woods, Stuart / *Mounting Fears*

NON-FICTION

Browne, Sylvia / *All Pets Go to Heaven*
Gladwell, Malcolm / *Outliners*

NOTICE

The Skowhegan Free Public Library will be at the Fun And Business Fair on Saturday February 21st from 10am-3pm located at the Skowhegan Area High School. Stop by our table to buy some used books, a raffle ticket to the Somerset Quilters Crazy Quilt or a ticket to the Chicken Pie Dinner. We will have Dick Anzelc's original artwork of the library for sale as well.

The Library Lookout is Sponsored by:



Skowhegan Savings

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Every Wednesday: Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM

Feb. 3 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

Feb. 4 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

Feb. 9 & 23 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

Feb. 14 Socrates Café, 11 to 1

MARCH

Every Wednesday: Story & Craft Hour, 10 AM

March 3 Library Trustees meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

March 4 Library Renovation Committee meeting, 6 PM. Public is welcome.

March 5 FOL Executive Board meeting, 6 PM. All members welcome.

March 9 & 23 Toddlertime, 10:30 AM

March 14 Chicken Pie Dinner at Methodist Church, 6 PM

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:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,
Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,
Carol Jarvais, Corrilla Hastings
Ex Officio, Mary Hill

Friends officers:

Mary Hill, pres.
Darla Pickett, vice pres.,
Kathy Littlefield, sec. Sherri Vigue, treas.