



THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT March 2008

www.skowheganlib.me.us

Director's Corner by Melissa Gaspar

2008 is already an exciting year for the Skowhegan Free Public Library. We have two new and interesting traveling displays in the library for your viewing pleasure. One is from The History House which has an exhibit of paper ephemera from the 19th century. There are many intriguing items. For example, there is a dance card from the senior hop. Another exhibit is an interactive kiosk on the Maine Mountain Heritage. The exhibit was created to raise awareness and deepen knowledge of the history and natural history of the Maine Mountains. Both exhibits will be at the library for a few weeks, so come in and enjoy them while they are here.

The Friends of the Library organized a great program on Feb. 14th to honor the founding members of the group and celebrate 10 years of on-going support for the library. Maureen Calder, Laura Richter and students from SAMS created a very impressive multimedia program which will soon be on the school website for your viewing. The pod cast is sure to bring back many fond memories as you watch the wonderful activities which the Friends have sponsored over the last 10 years and then look ahead to new projects in the future. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project.

Looking ahead to the near future, we will have two renovations done on the library this summer. Roof Systems of Maine will begin re-roofing in April with a completion date of July 1st. This will be paid for in part by the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation Grant. The other project will be work done on 11 windows. Nine of these windows will be paid for by the CDBG Façade Grant. Steve Dionne will begin the window res-

toration as soon as the weather permits.

Thurs February 20th at 6:30 was the first meeting of the "Entering Nature" Let's Talk about It series sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council. Michael Burke, a professor at Colby College who specializes in environmental literacy facilitated the discussions. There is a lot of excitement and anticipation as the second session draws near. The group will meet once per month over the next 5 months to discuss books on nature. To join the group or for more information call the library at 474-9072.

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Dear FAB fair group, Thank you so much for your time and efforts so we could have a presence at the FAB fair. We sold \$70 in raffle tickets, almost \$20 with books, I added it to money from the ongoing book sale at the library designated for the renovation and the total was \$50. We also had \$15 in donations so all and all I deposited \$130. on Monday to the LRC account. Thank you again. Every bit is really helping.
Melissa

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**News from the Friends
of the Skowhegan Free Public Library**
By Marilyn Renfrew

The executive board met on January 3rd and discussed the next fundraiser which is the play. The performance dates are January 26 at 7:00 PM and January 27th at 2:00 PM at the Skowhegan Area Middle School. Tickets are \$8.00 and may be purchased at the door. Pie and cookies will be served.

The tenth anniversary of the Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library is this February. We are planning an open house celebration on February 14th at 4-6 PM at the library. Refreshments will be served.

The next executive board meeting is March 6th.

What are the Friends of the Library ?

By

Maureen Calder

The Friends of Skowhegan Free Public Library is a group which was formed in 1998. The purpose of the group is "to support, aid, assist, and render useful service to the Skowhegan Free Public Library in developing library services and facilities for the community and to raise funds to carry on the above." Our entire membership is made up of 120+ members which is approximately double the membership at its beginning.

Anywhere from nine to eleven of these members serve as an Executive Board including a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Executive Board for Skowhegan Friends meets every other month at 6:00p.m. at the library to plan Fund raisers, membership drives, and to meet with the library director. At that time we also review requests from the director concerning library needs. Any of our members are more than welcome to attend these meetings.

The annual meeting, which is held in May, is specifically for all Friends members. The meeting is announced each year and is held at the library. During this once-a-year meeting old business is revisited, any new business is briefly discussed, new officers are elected, and refreshments are served sometimes with entertainment provided. Once the annual meeting is adjourned, the executive board also adjourns until August or September.

If you have ever considered becoming a member of the Friends or have any questions please pick up a membership card at the library or call Maureen Calder, President of the Friends at 858-0448.

News from the Trustees

By Corrilla Hastings

Current business at Trustee meetings has been to approve a contract with Steve Dionne for window restoration on the front of the library building. This work will be funded by a grant from the Skowhegan Community Development Block for the downtown facade improvement program, and will be completed this spring.

We will soon finalize a contract for the roof repair funded in part by a grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation. This work is also

scheduled for this spring and early summer.

At each of our Trustee meetings, besides hearing reports of all library events and programs, we work closely with the Friends of the Library and the Library Renovation Committee. Made up of hard working volunteers, both of these organizations are vital to the library's progress into the future.

Each month, Melissa reports on the library statistics for the preceding month. This includes the total number of books and videos circulated, and the number of patrons using the library facilities. It is obvious by these reports that more and more people are enjoying our library and the many services it provides. We realize that this success is in great part due to our excellent staff under the outstanding leadership of Director Melissa. We are so fortunate to have them!

New Books For spring

Fiction:

David Baldacci / *Stone Cold*
Clive Barker / *Mister B. Gone*
Barbara Taylor Bradford / *The Heir*
Clive Cussler / *The Chase*
Anne Enright / *The Gathering*
Richard Paul Evans / *Finding Noel*
Richard Paul Evans / *The Gift*
Elizabeth George / *What Came Before He Shot Her*
Terry Goodkind / *The Confessor*
Greg Iles / *Third Degree*
Dean Koontz / *The Darkest Evening of the Year*
Julia London / *Guiding Light: Jonathan's Story*
Alexander McCall Smith / *Love Over Scotland*
Colleen McCullough / *Anthony and Cleopatra*
Patrick O'Brian / *The Reverse of the Metal*
Ann Patchett / *Run*
James Patterson / *Double Cross*
Ian Rankin / *Watchman*
J.D. Robb / *Creation in Death*
Nora Roberts / *Blood Brothers*
James Rollins / *Black Order*
James Rollins / *The Judas Strain*
James Rollins / *Map of Bones*
Alice Sebold / *The Almost Moon*
Margaret Truman / *Murder on K Street*

Non-Fiction:

Tom Brokaw / *Boom!*
Sylvia Browne / *Prophecy*
Eric Clapton / *Clapton : an autobiography*

Victoria Doudera / *Moving to Maine*
 Nelson Madore / *Voyages : a Maine Franco*
American reader
 Steve Martin / *Born Standing Up*
 Ed Sikov / *Dark Victory : the Life of Bette Davis*
 Studs Terkel / *Touch and Go*

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BOOK REVIEW

By Bonnie Chamberlain

1776 by David McCullough

David McCullough is an American historian and bestselling author. He has won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award twice. Through his words, many readers have learned of troubles and struggles encountered by leaders and common people during the unfolding of the American story. In October 202, McCullough delivered the 13th annual T. H. White Lecture sponsored by the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy. "While a great deal about our country has changed since September 11, everything hasn't, including our history --- an inexhaustible source of strength," he said. "These are dangerous, uncertain times, but not the worst we've ever been through, by any means." Those dangerous and uncertain times could certainly be applied to the first year of the War for Independence.

McCullough takes us in *1776* from the siege of Boston to the victories in Trenton and Princeton. McCullough concentrates on the military view rather than political, following the as yet untested George Washington with his supporters, many also untested and untrained. We see Washington more as a man, one who had doubts and was at times indecisive, fighting nobly against a professional and skillful British Army and Navy and trained German Hessians. Washington and his troops were buoyed by the win in Boston, but humiliated when the British took New York City.

McCullough's narrative, as they say, makes history come alive. We read of dismal conditions on both sides. Many of the soldiers were killed, but many revolutionaries also left, returning home. Often there was little food, little shelter, shortages of clothing, shoes, muskets and gunpowder, poor pay. The British and their George, King George II, expected a quick end to the matter. They didn't give credit to the Americans and thought that the revolutionaries would quit. Yet, Washington and his generals were able to motivate the troops and worked at keeping up morale. At times, just Washington's actions were enough.

The sight of Washington set an example of courage such as he had never seen, wrote one young officer afterward. "I shall never forget what I felt . . . when I saw him brave all the dangers of the field and his important life hanging as it were by a single hair with a thousand deaths flying around him. Believe, me, I thought not of myself."

McCullough spent ten years researching for this book. My paperback edition included over eighty pages for source notes and bibliographies of books, manuscript collections, reference works, diaries, journals, articles, memoirs, and newspapers. Another twenty pages are filled with maps from the Library of Congress and illustrations of art from libraries, societies and museums.

The good news for those readers who like this author and his subject matter is that there are more, like *John Adams* and *Truman*. And, the treasure chest has more.



Library Outlook is Sponsored by

Skowhegan Savings

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.

Calendar of Events

MARCH

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room

March 4 Library Trustee meeting 6 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome.

March 5 Library Renovation Committee meeting 6 p.m. at the library.

March 6 Friends of the Library Executive Board meeting 6 p.m. at the library.

March 10 & 24 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room

March 20 Maple Sugar Day Ice Cream Social and a video on maple sugar 5:30 to 7:00 at the library

March 23 Easter Sunday

March 27 "Let's Talk About It" *The Lives of a Cell* by Lewis Thomas 6:30 at the Library

APRIL

Every Wednesday Story and Craft Hour, 10 a. m. in the Children's Room

April 1 Library Trustee meeting 6 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome.

April 2 Library Renovation Committee meeting 6 p.m. at the library.

April 11 Library Lunch

April 13 through 19 National Library Week

April 14 & 28 Toddlertime 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Room

April 21 Patriot's Day. The library is closed.

April 24 "Let's Talk About It" *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Anne Dillard

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 Lancy, Warren Shay,

Lee Granville, Toni Jo Blaisdell,

Carol Jarvais and Corrilla Hastings

Ex Officio, Maureen Calder

Friends officers are:

Maureen Calder, Pres.,

Mary Stuart, Vice Pres.,

Marilyn Renfrew, Sec.

Sherry Vigue, Treas

Marcia Granville, Editor