

OCTOBER 2024

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



We are thrilled to announce the kick-off of our 6th Annual Fall Book Drive! This event, which started as a result of our book budget being frozen in 2019, has turned into an annual month of community support and excitement.

Each year we use the Fall Book Drive to stretch our budget by inviting you to select and purchase books directly from our wish list. This puts our community in the driver's seat as to which books are added to the shelves. With your help, we can expand our collection and ensure everyone has access to the stories that inspire and educate.

Why is this important? A well-stocked library fosters imagination, creativity, and a love for reading—essentials for a thriving community. When we come together to support our library, we're not just adding books; we're building a space where everyone can explore new worlds, share experiences, and connect with one another.

How You Can Help:

1. Check out our wish list <https://a.co/dyzFRbm>
2. Take a tag off our tree and purchase the book from a bookstore of your choice
3. Make a monetary donation in person or via our paypal account (the name of it comes up as the Bloomfield Academy Trustees: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=22ZTRYELT8KHW)

Our goal this year is 300 books! Help us make this year's book drive the best one yet and fill the shelves! Thank you for your support in making our library a vibrant place for all. Together, we can create a community that celebrates the joy of reading!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Recurring

Every Wednesday- Storytime @ 10:30AM

Every Friday- Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM

Last Thursday- LEGO Club

Every Saturday- Library Yoga @ 10:30AM

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10/01- Start of the Fall Book Drive!

10/01 - Tween the Screams @ 4PM

10/02 - BooOooks in the Basement @ 6PM

10/03- Makers Club @ 4PM

10/08- Tween the Screams @ 4PM

10/08- Android Basics Session 1 of 3 @ 4PM

10/15- Tween the Screams @ 4PM

10/15- Android Basics Session 2 of 3 @ 4PM

10/16- Energy Class w/ Melissa Sinclair @ 6PM

10/16- Makers Club @ 4PM

10/17- Books & Brews at Unwined @ 6:30PM

10/18- Harry Potter Trivia & Treats @ 6PM

10/19- Tales to Tails @ 10:30AM

10/22- Tween the Screams @ 4PM

10/22- Android Basics Session 3 of 3 @ 4PM

10/24- Guest Bartending at Unwined, closing @4PM

10/29- iPhone Basics Session 1 of 3 @ 4PM

### CLOSURES

10/14- In observation of Indigenous People's Day

10/24- Closing @ 4PM

10/26- All day



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

This past month in the Children's Tower has seen some programs coming to an end...and other programs starting up again. Summer Reading concluded, but we have added back to our schedule Makers Club, our Tween the Pages Book Club and Yoga.

Our first Makers Club was exciting and STEAM-based, as we used photo-reactive paper to imprint objects onto the surface. We took photos with the sun's shadow. It was great fun moving in and out of the building with the children and their grownups, making collages on paper and waiting and watching them develop. It was great to see how the kids entertained themselves and each other while they waited too; building mini rock cairns, practicing their balancing skills and sharing stuffed animals.



In addition to our Fall programs, we also had a special Storytime and Obstacle Course at Coburn Park. After the final count there were nearly 70 people participating in our kid-friendly course, crawling through tunnels, jumping over hurdles, skittering like crabs, and so much more. The weather was perfect and we all had a great time moving our bodies.



We look forward to all the programs beginning in October, including the Tween the Screams Spooky Book Club, as well as, some programs that are still in the works. There is always something happening up here in the Tower.



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

October is one of my favorite months here at the library! Perfect reading weather, the Fall Book Drive boosts our collection, Book Clubs are reading once again, and the art quilts are put up so the library feels nice and cozy.

We will be hosting the Art Quilts Maine again for the month of October to mid-November so be sure to make a special trip to the library to see these beautifully made quilts. They add such nice pop of color to the walls here, don't miss them! Here are a few photos of last year's quilt display.



On October 16th at 6:00pm Reiki Master Melissa Sinclair is leading a class on energy healing. Participants will learn what energy healing is, how to use their energy to heal themselves and family, and how to support themselves energetically to improve their lives. We will also do a guided meditation, talk about the importance of grounding yourself and learn some ways of grounding. With all the stress we accumulate in our lives come learn how to release it!



## Books & Brews



Books & Brews is finally back up and running! Our first read is The Only One Left by Riley Sager. A spooky book sure to get us into the Halloween spirit! Join us at Unwined on October 17th at 6:30pm. We will meet again on November 21st (book to be announced) and we'll skip the month of December. What should we read in 2025?!

## Staff Book Picks of the Month

### **Angie** - *An Outbreak of Witchcraft* by *Deborah Noyes*

A gripping tale of paranoia at its worst, *An Outbreak of Witchcraft* visually imagines the haunting details of the Salem witch trials in this bewitching narrative nonfiction graphic novel.

From 1692 to 1693, fear reigned in the small village of Salem, Massachusetts. The night Abigail Williams and Betty Paris first accused their servant of witchcraft was only the beginning.

Several more accusations would follow suit, sparking a widespread panic that consumed Salem in one of the longest cases of witch trials in America, where more than twenty innocent lives were lost, and mistrust ran amok.

The community was in ruins, from the afflicted who fanned the flames of superstition to the judges who used their power unjustly and the accused who were falsely charged and hanged in consequence. In the absence of due process and with hysteria abounding, no one in Salem was safe.

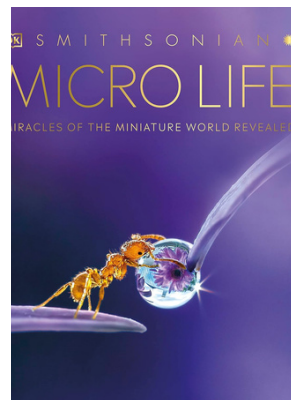
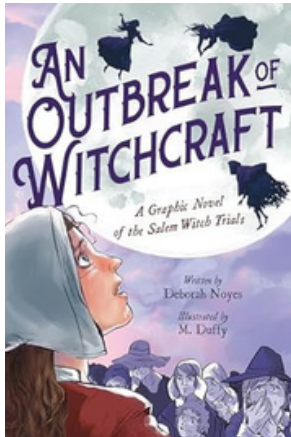
Journey into how it all began in this arresting, true-to-life look at how lies became facts, friends turned to foes, and loved ones turned to enemies.

### **Gabrielle** - *Microlife* by *The Smithsonian*

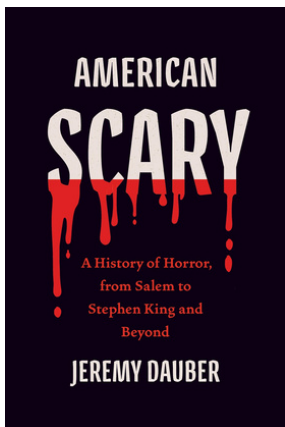
Explore the inhabitants of an invisible world in incredible detail with this book, which contains macro photography and spectacular microscope imagery. You'll have so much information about the hidden world of intricate structures beyond the naked eye. From the tiniest spiders and insects to even microscopic creatures like bacteria and viruses, this book contains it all!

See the beauty of a pollen grain, a butterfly egg, the spore of a fungus and a human's nerve cell in extreme close up. The amazing imagery in *Micro Life* contains focus-stacked macro photographs and micrographs (microscope images), including scanning electron micrographs. Illustrations in this book explain the science – from the workings of an insect's eye to how a plant "breathes" through its leaves.

*Micro Life* is an unexpectedly breathtaking look at the natural world. Find out how life works and how organisms solve the fundamental problems of movement, reproduction, energy, communication and defense. This book belongs on the bookshelves of schools, libraries and homes for those interested in photography, nature or biology.



## Staff Book Picks of the Month

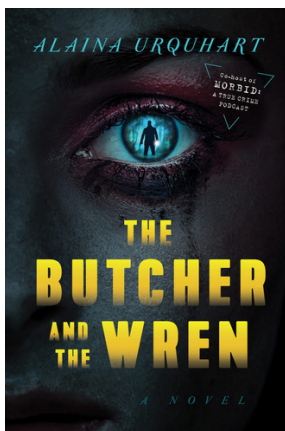


### **Bree** - *American Scary* by *Jeremy Dauber*

America is held captive by horror stories. They flicker on the screen of a darkened movie theater and are shared around the campfire. They blare out in tabloid true-crime headlines, and in the worried voices of local news anchors. They are consumed, virally, on the phones in our pockets. Like the victims in any slasher movie worth its salt, we can't escape the thrall of scary stories.

In *American Scary*, noted cultural historian and Columbia professor Jeremy Dauber takes the reader to the startling origins of horror in the United States. Dauber draws a captivating through line that ties historical influences ranging from the Salem witch trials and enslaved-person narratives directly to the body of work we more closely associate with horror today: the weird tales of H. P. Lovecraft, the lingering fiction of Shirley Jackson, the disquieting films of Alfred Hitchcock, the up-all-night stories of Stephen King, and the gripping critiques of Jordan Peele.

With the dexterous weave of insight and style that have made him one of America's leading historians of popular culture, Dauber makes the haunting case that horror reveals the true depths of the American mind.



### **Lydia** - *The Butcher and the Wren* by *Alaina Urquhart*

From the co-host of chart-topping true crime podcast *Morbid*.

Something dark is lurking in the Louisiana bayou: a methodical killer with a penchant for medical experimentation is hard at work completing his most harrowing crime yet, taunting the authorities who desperately try to catch up.

But forensic pathologist Dr. Wren Muller is the best there is. Armed with an encyclopedic knowledge of historical crimes, and years of experience working in the Medical Examiner's office, she's never encountered a case she couldn't solve. Until now. Case after case is piling up on Wren's examination table, and soon she is sucked into an all-consuming cat-and-mouse chase with a brutal murderer getting more brazen by the day.



### **Nikki** - *The September house* by *Carissa Orlando*

When Margaret and her husband Hal bought the large Victorian house on Hawthorn Street—for sale at a surprisingly reasonable price—they couldn't believe they finally had a home of their own. Then they discovered the hauntings. Every September, the walls drip blood. The ghosts of former inhabitants appear, and all of them are terrified of something that lurks in the basement. Most people would flee.

Margaret is not most people.

Margaret is staying. It's her house. But after four years Hal can't take it anymore, and he leaves abruptly. Now, he's not returning calls, and their daughter Katherine—who knows nothing about the hauntings—arrives, intent on looking for her missing father. To make things worse, September has just begun, and with every attempt Margaret and Katherine make at finding Hal, the hauntings grow more harrowing, because there are some secrets the house needs to keep.

## Meet Rose!

We wanted to dedicate a page of the Lookout this month to introducing our newest addition to the library staff, our intern, Rose Henry. We had her answer some interview questions, check out her answers below!



What is your favorite book? The Miss Peregrine series.

You've been working here for a few months now, what surprised you most about working in the library setting? How laid back it kind of is. I was half expecting it to be like school where the knuckled down on everything that you did or didn't do.

What has been your favorite project/task while working at the library? I don't have one. I loved all the projects that I've done, even the mundane ones. They were enjoyable because I didn't have to do much.

When you aren't at school, working, or reading, what do you do for fun? For fun I write on one of my two (current) books, and paint all kinds of things. OH! And cuddle with my cat, she's a sweet-pea.

If you could have any super power, what would it be and why? Time travel! If I had time travel I could see historical events as they happened detail for detail. I would love to see it all happen! Yes, even the bad stuff that no one likes to remember or talk about.



# Tech News by Nikki Hathaway, Technology Librarian

October is finally here! With it comes our very first BooOOooks in the Basement book club meeting on 10/02. We'll be discussing *The September House* and taking in the ambiance of the basement in the library after closing (if you're not too scared that is). November's book will be a True Crime novel, I'll post the book within the first week of October to give folks enough time to get their copies.

Our Digital Skills classes with the NDEC have officially launched with four sessions already under our belts! For the month of October, Android Basics on 10/08, 10/15 and 10/22 at 4PM and for our Apple lovers, we have iPhone Basics on 10/29, 11/05, and 11/12 at 4PM as well! These sessions are a great way to get to know your smart device and make the most out of your phones!

We have the ability to request classes too! If there's something you would like to learn more about, or feel like you could use some brushing up on take a look at the [Catalog of Classes](https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/onsite-class-catalog/) on the NDEC website: <https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/onsite-class-catalog/>. You can email your requests or questions to me at [skowtech@skowhegan.lib.me.us](mailto:skowtech@skowhegan.lib.me.us).

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### 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.