

FEBRUARY 2025

# THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



February is typically one of the coldest, snowiest months in central Maine. If the past few weeks are any indication of what is to come then inside is definitely the place to be. We just want to remind you that if cabin fever hits and you and the family are looking for a bit of escape, the library is a fun place to come hang out for a bit. We have a children's library full of toys, iPads, books, and Miss Gabby always has activities out for the kiddos to do. Our new puzzle table on the main floor is a great place to relax and put some pieces in the community puzzle. We also have free Wi-Fi, games, and kits that can be checked out, public access computer to game, watch movies, check your social media, or just surf the web on, and of course we have books galore. In the afternoon when the sun pours in through the south windows it is a nice, warm inviting place to relax and unwind. Also we have programs every week. Storytimes, book clubs, Sit & Knits, computer classes, and soon we will have a teen D&D club up and running. We invite you to come visit.

Also we want to say thank you to our community for being patient with us as we were closed the last week of January for our annual inventory. Our staff spent the entire week scanning over 26,000 items and making sure that the book was accounted for and that the catalog record was accurate. It took us a fair amount of time to scan each and every item, but we are proud to say that we are done for another year. Thanks for your patience as we finished this project.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Recurring

- Every Wednesday- Storytime @ 10:30AM**
- Every Friday- Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM**
- Every Saturday- Library Yoga @ 10:30AM**

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- 2/04- NDEC- Beyond Gmail Session 1 of 2 @ 3PM**
- 2/05 - BooOooks in the Basement @ 6PM**
- 2/11- NDEC- Beyond Gmail Session 2 of 2 @ 3PM**
- 2/18- NDEC- Identifying Fraud & Scams @ 3PM**
- 2/19- D&D Club for Teens @ 3:30PM**
- 2/20- Books & Brews at Joe's Flat Iron Cafe @ 6:30PM**
- 2/25- NDEC- Getting News and Information Online @ 3PM**
- 2/27- LEGO Club @ 3:30 PM**

### CLOSURES

- 2/01- Closed for Inventory**
- 2/17- Closed for President's Day**

## Library Updates

### NEWS FROM GABRIELLE HUNTER, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

In the Children's Tower, we have been keeping busy, despite the cold weather outside. We have had a few months off from Lego Club, just because of holidays and our upcoming inventory week, but Legos are still being used! Afternoons you can find some of our regular kiddos wrist deep in our giant Lego bucket, searching for just the right block to add to their creations.

In addition, to exciting STEAM type activities here, we are also gearing up for Dungeons and Dragons for Teens, which begins February 19th. It's been a while since we had a dedicated teen group, and all the possibilities of D&D just seemed right. Those that sign up first will get a complimentary set of dice as part of the Club's swag.



Finally, our amazing Storytime Group continues to shine. We have been incorporating more child-directed, mini craft stations for kids of different ages. It's been a hit! Any Wednesday morning you may find some children finger-weaving bracelets, coloring and gluing the Storytime craft, building with Legos, or jamming out on our collection of rhythm instruments. It is a sight to see, even if we may prefer some earplugs occasionally. If you haven't climbed up to the Children's Tower with your kiddos in a while, stop by.

### NEWS FROM BREE BUSSELL-FITZGERALD, ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN

We're dreaming of Spring here at the library and while we're still working out some details, we wanted to share a program coming up on March that we're excited about! We're partnering with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension to offer "Planning a Preserving Garden". More details to come, stay tuned!

Our first Books & Brews at Joe's Flat Iron Cafe was a huge hit! We look forward to seeing you for this month's session on February 20th to discuss *The Flatshare* by Beth O'Leary.

### NEWS FROM NIKKI HATHAWAY, TECH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

We have three different NDEC courses coming up in February! The first is "Beyond Gmail": A 2 session class that teaches you how to get the most out of your Gmail account! These will be held on 2/04 and 2/11 from 3-4PM. The following week on 2/18 from 3-4, we'll have "Identifying Fraud and Scams". This one part course focuses on helping you protect your data so you don't fall prey to scammers. Lastly, 2/25 from 3-4PM we'll have "Getting News & Information Online". This course is focused on helping you determine what online sources you can trust and how to spot less trustworthy articles and news.

Our book for the March 5th BooOOooks in the Basement will be *The Witch of New York* by Alex Hortis.

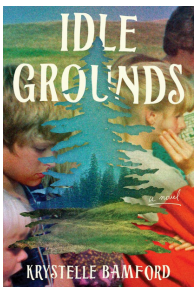
# Fundraising Updates

We want to give a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Annual Appeal. Every little bit helps and our community showed up in a big way to support us. This year marked a very successful one and we are so grateful to our patrons for their generosity. Our total collected for our Annual appeal this year is at \$10,855 so far, with donations still rolling in. Funds from the appeal go towards everything from operating costs to programming and purchasing new books, we're fast at work making sure it all goes right back into services that will benefit all library users.

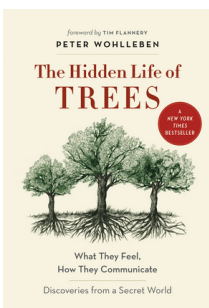
Over the holiday season, we had a book bag fundraiser and it was such a hit that we decided to keep it going! You can find these bags at the library or at the Friends of the Library Shop (open Wednesdays from 10 AM-1 PM). There are two options: A filled bag (which comes with cocoa, a coupon for a free book at the Friends of the Library Shop, and a mug) is priced at \$25.00, and just the standalone bag is priced at 20.00. We also have various designs to suit different tastes! Come check them out while they're still available!

We also want to make sure to share our gratitude for some local partnerships! First, thank you to Old Mill Pub for sponsoring the library with their drink of the month, The Lion, the Whiskey and the Wardrobe. A dollar from each drink sale went towards the library in the month of January! Hannaford's is also sponsoring the library for their February Bloomin' for Good. During the month of February, \$1 from each specially marked bouquet will go towards the library, just in time for Valentines day! A new ongoing partnership we have is with Skowhegan Redemption! Now when you're returning bottles or cans, you can let them know you'd like your returnables to go towards the Skowhegan Free Public Library! Now you can save the planet AND help out your local library!

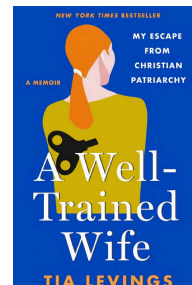
## Staff Book Picks for February



**Bree -**  
*Idle Grounds*  
by Krystelle Bamford



**Nikki -**  
*The Hidden Life of Trees*  
by Peter Wohlleben



**Angie -**  
*A Well Trained Wife*  
by Tia Levings



**Gabrielle -**  
*What is Color?*  
by Steven Weinberg



**Lydia -**  
*Onyx Storm*  
by Rebecca Yarros

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT  
9 ELM STREET  
SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976

**LIBRARY STAFF**

Director: Angie Herrick  
Adult Circ: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald  
Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter  
Technology Librarian: Nikki Hathaway  
Library Aide: Lydia Dore  
Intern: Rose Henry  
Volunteers: Celeste Banda

**BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY TRUSTEES**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| President: Lynda Quinn | Maureen Provencal |
| Devin MacMichael       | Noella DesPres    |
| Patrick Dore           | Sarah Leavitt     |
| Debra Sterling         | Robert Washburn   |
| Lynn Perry             | Kristina Canon    |
|                        | Patricia Horine   |

## 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.

Supporting the library year-round is essential to maintaining the programs, resources, and services our community relies on. Please consider making a donation today to help ensure we can continue offering these valuable resources all year long.

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Join our Monthly Newsletter

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No Thank You

**Checks should be made payable to the Skowhegan Free Public Library**

**Send completed form to: The Skowhegan Free Public Library**

**9 Elm Street, Skowhegan, ME 04976**

**Gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.**

You can also donate online using Paypal by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera.

(You will be directed to the TRUSTEES OF BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY – this is correct and gifts will go to the Skowhegan Public Library.)

