

JANUARY 2025

# THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Recurring

**Every Wednesday- Storytime @ 10:30AM**

**Every Friday- Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM**

**Every Saturday- Library Yoga @ 10:30AM**

~~~~

**1/07- NDEC- Android Basics Session 1 @ 11AM**

**1/08 - BooOooks in the Basement @ 6PM**

**1/14- NDEC- Android Basics Session 2 @ 11AM**

**1/21- NDEC- Android Basics Session 3 @ 11AM**

**1/23- Books & Brews at Joe's Flat Iron Cafe @ 6:30PM**

### CLOSURES

**1/01- Closed for New Year's Day**

**1/20- Closed in observation of Martin Luther King Jr Day**

**1/27-2/01- Closed for yearly inventory**

The staff ended 2024 with a wonderful winter break. We know that it is a long time to go without grabbing a new book or two, but our staff is so appreciative of the time to spend at home with our families resting and relaxing. We hope that you all who celebrate the holidays also had a wonderful and memorable season with loved ones.

What an incredibly busy and fantastic year 2024 was for us at the library. We ran 238 programs ranging from technology classes to book clubs to author visits to yoga. Our staff stays busy making sure that we are offering a wide range of programming to serve our communities interests and needs, so if any of you ever have an idea or a suggestion for us, we would love to hear it.

In 2024 our library users checked out over 21,000 items. This includes physical books, audiobooks, DVDs, board games, and downloaded audiobooks and ebooks from cloudLibrary. Our top 3 books were The Women by Kristin Hannah, Pitch Dark by Paul Doiron, and Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters.

It's always fun to look back on the year and reflect on all the happenings at the library, but we are also excited to look ahead. We promise that we have great things brewing for 2025. Our librarians are hard at work planning and prepping for the months ahead. We also want to remind everyone that the last week of January the library is closed for our collection inventory. We scan, count, and fix any errors of all the books on all the shelves. It takes all 5 librarians all week to complete this project so we appreciate your patience.



## Librarian Updates

### NEWS FROM GABRIELLE HUNTER, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

We are excited for new programs as well as the return of patron favorites, in the Children's Department for the 2025 year. We will be adding more dates for Makers Club and another Sewing Club. We are also currently interviewing Volunteer Dungeon Masters for our Dungeons and Dragons Club. In addition, we have our weekly Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30 am, that has blossomed into a very tightknit group of families and their kiddos, including many homeschooling families



A photo of one of our most special guests last year! Santa!

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

2024 was such a great year for programs for us with a wide range of representation. From author talks, to cryptid hunters, to true crime and more.

We're excited to offer more in the coming year as well. One big change that I wanted to remind everyone of is that Books & Brews has moved to Joe's Flatiron Cafe, following the same schedule.

We have some exciting things up our sleeve for 2025, be sure to follow us on Facebook and keep up on our website (<https://www.skowhegan.lib.me.us/>) so you don't miss anything!

### NEWS FROM NIKKI HATHAWAY, TECH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

We're excited to continue to offer our partnered classes with the NDEC! If becoming more comfortable with technology was a part of your New Year's resolution, reach out for more information on our Digital Literacy classes, all for free! Call or message the library for more info!

BooOOooks in the Basement is still going strong! Check Facebook and our website for our upcoming book for our February meeting!



# Fundraising Updates

As many of you know, running a nonprofit means that much of our funding comes from the support of our patrons and town. We are so appreciative of our community and the town of Skowhegan for their continued efforts to allow us to provide worthwhile services and an updated collection of materials and to maintain our historic building.

Our donations come to us through many different sources, one of which being our annual appeal which is currently underway.

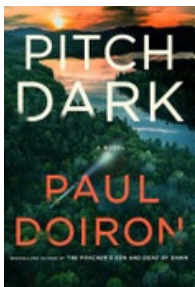
Another source is through fundraising events held in partnership with our local businesses in Skowhegan. In 2024, we were fortunate enough to have four of these partnerships, working with Hannaford, Joe's Flat Iron Cafe, Brickyard Hollow, Lakewood Theater, and Unwined. The total raised between these partnerships was an impressive \$3,724.15!

Throughout the year we also hosted two bake sales and a craft fair which brought in \$1,050. With fundraisers of this nature, our community supports us in two ways, by donating the goods to sell, and making purchases!

Our annual Book Drive is a huge help to our library and aids in lowering the cost of adding to our collection. This year was our best yet, bringing in \$1963.15 in monetary donations and 228 book donations. Rough estimate of \$4,600 which equated to 323 brand new books to our library shelves.

We closed out the year with our Quilt Raffle! Once again this was a great success. This year, three handmade quilts were donated for the raffle. Thank you to everyone who either sold or purchased tickets or donated money for this event. Because of all of your generosity, \$1,365 was raised towards upcoming projects.

## Staff Book Picks for 2024



**Bree -**  
*Pitch Dark*  
by Paul Doiron



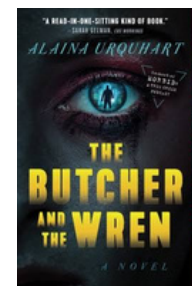
**Nikki -**  
*Rebel Girl*  
by Kathleen Hanna



**Angie -**  
*I'm Glad My Mom Died*  
by Jennette McCurdy



**Gabrielle -**  
*Your Blood, My Bones*  
by Kelly Andrew



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

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  
Volunteers: Celeste Banda  
Intern: Rose Henry

**LIBRARY FRIENDS**

Chair: Lynda Quinn  
Vice Chair: Debra Sterling  
Treasurer: Sarah Leavitt  
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.

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

Send via Email

Send via Mail

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.)

