

# THOMPSON FREE LIBRARY

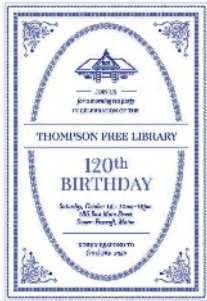
## ASSOCIATION MEMBERS' UPDATE

January 2018

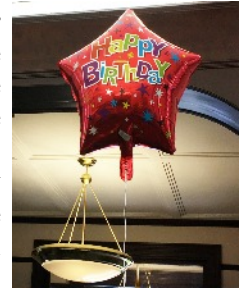
*HAPPY NEW YEAR!!*

## GALA TEA PARTY CELEBRATING TFL'S 120<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

by Tom Lyford



Planners for a small-town event of this magnitude needs must hold their collective breaths in the dire hope of at least a decent turnout. Advertising, the sending and receiving of invitations, the gourmet food preparation, and the strenuous set-up of the various rooms leaves one in the hope that the capstone will not end up being something akin to the tail wagging the proverbial dog. Too often TFL's best laid plans of mice and men have oft gone underwhelmingly awry, attendance-wise, that "Build it and they will come" begins to feel like childish wishful thinking. But guess what! **THEY DID COME!** Everybody and his/her grandmother came. In droves! It was a wonderful time...



Cookies and pies and cakes (oh my!) and not just cakes, mind you, but *cheesecakes*... and not just *cheesecakes*, but *flavored* cheesecakes like amaretto and and chocolate and hazelnut (oh my!). Plus candies and crackers and cheese! And pickles, stuffed pastries, and breads!

**OH MY!!!**



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**FARMERS' MARKET** by Kim Brawn

*(Please note: The following was written before fire destroyed Leaves and Blooms Greenhouse, owned by the Robinson's. We wish them all the best moving forward and await their future collaborations with TFL.)*

The Dover Cove Farmers' Market has taken up residence downstairs in our Community Meeting Room on the first and third Saturday of the month through April 21. Interestingly, we have observed some cross-pollination: library patrons are eager to peruse the local produce and products while market-goers are taking advantage of the library's collection and resources, making it a potential win-win. Gail Robinson, from Leaves and Blooms Greenhouse, has been "very pleased" with the first two turnouts; the third outing got off to a slow start, but picked up nicely as the morning progressed. She and her husband Peter offer a varied and impressive array of homemade food, produce, and handmade creations. In addition to coffee and her delicious homemade donuts, Gail promises a different soup each week. Customers can "eat here or take it to go."

Gretchen Huettner from Farm in the Woods told me, "We're happy we're here." And apparently customers are too. Their cheese and cheese dips are quite popular. She offers dairy samples. (I tried the dill goat cheese dip—very good). They also sell yogurt, pork products, Maine cranberries, and more.

Here is just a partial listing of what you may find at the Market: homemade bread, onions, garlic, dried tomatoes, apples, squash, fudge, chocolate bark, honey, and potatoes. Gail points out that there is not just food and produce from area farms, but crafts and artisan vendors too, like goat milk soap from Turning Page Farm and her own adorable gourd critters.

The Farmers' Market proved fertile ground for gift shopping (Christmas, birthday, host/hostess) as well as the perfect place to purchase local food/produce/ingredients/desserts to use for a special event or an everyday meal. TFL staff even got in on the act—buying special presents for friends and family and tasty treats for ourselves. What everyone agrees on is it that it will take time to build a following, getting the word out about the time and the location. Making it become a habit. And, they are always looking for new vendors. If you know anyone who is interested, please have them contact market coordinator Rose Rapp at 322-8368, go to [dovercovefarmersmarket.com](http://dovercovefarmersmarket.com), or visit their Facebook page.



### HALLOWEEN AT TFL

by Kim Brawn

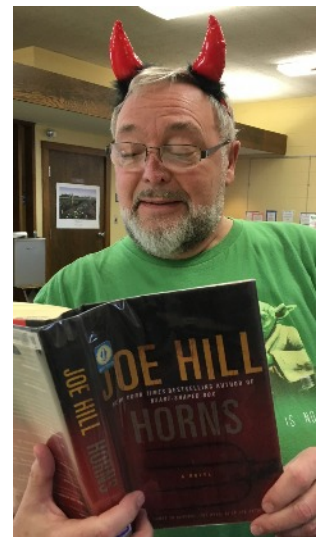
Trick-or-treaters descended upon the library on All Hallows' Eve, climbing the original front steps in a quest for candy and, more importantly, books. In fact, Michelle the Mermaid\* handed out 175 books to kids in costumes. She was "surprised but happy" with the number who stopped by. Not knowing what to expect, Michelle stockpiled books to make sure she had enough, even grabbing ones destined for the book sale.

\*How to create Michelle's charming scales: put a fishnet stocking over your head, mix different shades of blue eye shadow together, and dab the mixture on with a makeup brush, then take off the stocking. *Voila*: an awesome aquatic effect.



A mermaid, a punk alien, and the devil walk into a bar...wait, never mind.

So, I had planned on wearing the horns on my wig but when Tom walked through the door, sans costume, I knew they were destined for him—the perfect fit. Patrons agreed. They seemed to enjoy our role playing: making comments, laughing, doing double takes all day. Others didn't even bat an eye or raise an eyebrow, as if our Halloween makeovers weren't really much of a stretch.





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Cold winter days are just made for reading, snuggling, and hot cocoa.



**Holiday Reading Suggestions**



***ANOTHER DIMENSION*** by Kim Brawn

Several of Corinth resident Susan Beardsley's watercolors graced the walls of TFL in December. While photographs don't do her paintings justice, especially their three-dimensional quality, her unique artwork sparked curiosity and raves from patrons. These art lovers, eager to share their discoveries, called husbands and children over to look at the imaginative designs.

According to Susan, "Watercolor has maximum fluidity which is perfect for discovery and exploration, and, at the same time can be explicitly controlled if the subject demands it...montage and collage especially create an opportunity for visual impact with the element of shadow added to the versatility of the watercolor."

### ***DOMESTIC PARTNERS FOR PEACE*** by Kim Brawn

October's Brown Bag Lunch featured Casey Faulkingham (left) and Merrily Fales, from Partners for Peace (formerly Spruce Run-Woman-care Alliance). Casey presented a passionate overview of how of how their organization serves people affected by domestic violence and how they work towards ending personal, institutional, and cultural violence. By participating in several role-playing activities featuring realistic scenario scripts, we learned just how challenging and complicated asking for (and getting) help can be. They came loaded with information and left us with a plethora of useful literature.



### ***CHRISTMAS CRAFTING*** by Kim Brawn

The Saturday of Hometown Holidays, TFL buzzed with activity. We had the Farmers Market downstairs and Michelle's annual Make a Christmas Ornament program upstairs. With the guidance of Michelle and her loyal elf, Blaire Fagan, 40 kids made Christmas ornaments.



### ***A CHRISTMAS STORY(TIME)*** by Kim Brawn

Even though other holiday events and hectic schedules kept the numbers down for the Christmas story and cookie decorating program, those who did attend were an enthusiastic bunch. Miss Michelle read *Polar Express* and then she and Blaire Fagan helped the kids decorate sugar cookies—a festive way to end the year.



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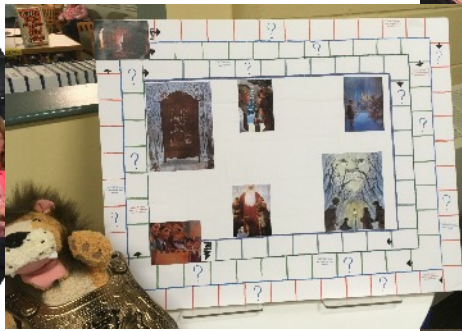
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### *THE LIBRARY, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE* by Tom Lyford



When community outreach clicks... it's beautiful. In October, the perfect storm of librarian Michelle Dyer-Fagan, theater director Bobby Keniston, and the cast of The Slightly Off-Center Players' Center Theatre's Christmas offering *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* came together for a well-attended and fun evening. Amid refreshments and free copies of the book, Michelle began with an oral reading of the book's first chapter. Bobby gave a high-powered introduction to the play and its key cast members. Then Michelle presented her original *Monopoly*-type board game (pictured below). The game was designed to encourage families to read the original novel over the time leading up to the show's opening in December. Each time a child completed a new chapter, he/she could come in to the library, roll the dice, move the game piece, and possibly win an immediate small prize. The grand prize: free show tickets.



### *TRICKSTER TRACKS* by Kim Brawn

Shortly after 9 a.m. one recent Wednesday, Diane Boretos walked quickly towards the circulation desk. "Kim, I want to show you something," she said urgently. Despite the cold temps, I followed her outside, without donning my jacket or boots. She pointed to fresh tracks in the snow on the walkway. "Do you know what these are?"

"Dog prints?" I guessed, knowing I was wrong.

"Coyote," she declared, pronouncing it *ky-oat* (which just sounds rugged and outdoorsy and worthy of tracking) as opposed to *ky-oh-tee* (as in Wily or Peter). She explained in rapid fire detail how she made the identification, as only a wildlife biologist/tracking expert like herself could do, which means it flew over my head. Later, she showed me an indentation in the snow, a sign that the animal was looking for food, perhaps mice or voles.

In Native American mythology, the coyote is often known as the trickster. Hmmm...

