

THOMPSON FREE LIBRARY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2020



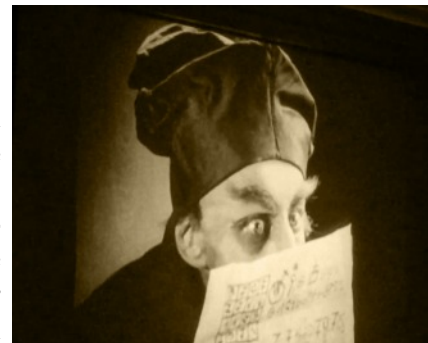
MONSTER MASHUP by Tom Lyford



This year I honestly got creeped out on Halloween. Why? Because I allowed myself to get peer-pressured into attending TFL's special holiday screening of the 1922 silent horror classic, *NOSFERATU*. Back in sixth grade seeing this skeletal, spidery-fingered scarecrow-fellow worming his way up the stairs toward the helplessly-entranced damsel in distress, left my tender psyche to deal with quite a few year's worth of vivid and recurring nightmares. Now here it was all over

again, all 94 minutes of the darn thing and being screened way down there in the dark, subterranean TFL underbelly (otherwise known as the "Community Meeting Room").

In truth, however, we found ourselves delightfully entertained. Much of this vintage classic turned out to have held up surprisingly well after 90 years, albeit with a few unexpected laughable moments (palming off a scampering striped hyena as a "werewolf" being one example). But what powerfully infused a true vibrance into our screening was the unique background soundtrack created and performed live by Jason Curran, accompanist for (and undoubtedly one of the best-kept secrets of) the Sangerville U. U. Church. Not only an accomplished musician, Jason has a technically creative bent as well. On a day before the showing, he paid our library a visit to record random bytes of sounds and voices. Then back home, he experimented, digitally blending and slowing down samples to produce a strange and often macabre sound effects "library." These sounds, tense and disturbing at times, were then artfully sewn into the emotionally apt accompaniment composed and performed by our maestro. Hats off to Jason for a satisfying and unforgettable Halloween experience.



FEELING FINE FREE by Kim Brawn

And so, a new chapter begins: TFL has gone fine free! We're following the lead of an increasing number of libraries in Maine and the U.S.—as well as a recent ALA (American Library Association) resolution to end library fines as "a form social equity...to better align practices with mission."

TFL's director Greta Schroeder says, "We no longer charge fines on late items. This ensures that all people have access to library books and materials which is our primary purpose as a public library."

Of course, we do want our stuff back! Materials that are 30 days overdue (after renewals) are assumed lost and patrons will be billed for the replacement costs.

Studies have shown fines don't affect return rates and may discourage disadvantaged families from using the library which means children are especially affected.

Post-fines: many libraries see an uptick in usage and an increase in circulation. Bigger picture: childhood literacy has been linked to overall life and career outcomes.

One article about the switch noted that staff-patron interactions can be friendlier and more relaxed. In fact, I do feel more relaxed. Not having to bring up or collect fines is a relief. And it can make interacting more pleasant. It's a win-win for both sides.

For those who miss contributing, we welcome your donations and have a Love your Library jar at the circulation desk. ☺



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THE ORIGINAL TEXT by Kim Brawn

Imagine having a backpack filled with incredible books on one interesting topic?! What a fun way for the little ones to dive deeper into a subject. Best of all, you check it out just like a book.

Thanks to the contribution of the Rose & Samuel Rudman Library Trust in memory of Julie Pingree with help from the Friends of the Library (who bought the L.L. Bean backpacks and tote), Children's librarian Michelle Fagan has created ten text sets.

A text set is a collection of related texts organized around a unique topic, theme, concept, or idea. Michelle hand-picked each book (the majority of which were published in the last five years) "These are geared towards preschool and elementary age," says Michelle. "Great for teachers, parents, and homeschoolers."

They are located on the shelf above the YA section. (Just ask a library staff member for assistance.) You can take one out for three weeks at a time and they can be renewed or put on hold just like our other materials.

Michelle tried to match bags and topics. Her favorite text set? The geography tote. "The books are just really cool, and full of great information about places kids don't know enough about," she says.

Michelle teamed up with TFL's cataloger Val Talmadge on the project. "Val created an original catalog for them. And she had the clever barcode label idea," Michelle explains.

"I hope more people will take them out and use and enjoy them. It's a good way to spend time together or for children to learn on their own," says Michelle.

Here's a cheat sheet:

Dinosaurs: Dinosaur Bag
Friendship & Kindness: Red Bag
Art: Pink Bag
Fairytale, Folk Tale, Tall Tale: Blue Bag
Autumn & Winter: Orange Bag
Ocean: Shark Bag
Nature: Forest Bag
Poetry: Camo Bag
Spring & Summer: Flower Bag
Friendship & Kindness: Red Bag
Geography: Tote Bag



KID CAT by Kim Brawn

Now there's a fast and fun way for kids (or their parents) to search for children's books called KPAC (Kid's Public Access Catalog). This online catalog is on the Chromebook (small laptop) by the picture books in TFL's children's section.



The touchscreen makes it easy to find so many cool books (children's, juvenile, & YA) on a whole variety of subjects. Children's librarian Michelle Dyer-Fagan says that a child can see a picture of a dinosaur and just click on it and then get a list of all the dinosaur books available at TFL.

Michelle is pleased to see kids and parents using this great online resource and hopes more will put it to good use. It's technology with a specific purpose—not for googling and gaming!

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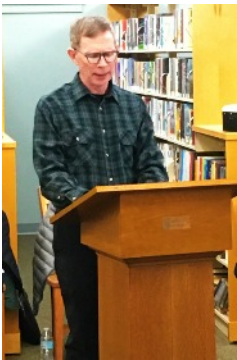


A MAGICAL MYSTERY “TOUR” by Tom Lyford

You feel a breeze on your cheek, the cushioning crush of pine needles pressed underfoot, the mushroom strawberry-blossom bouquet tickling your nose. Maybe you find yourself dallying among the forest whispers, hearing the splash and babble of a brook, and the distant croak or sharp caw reminiscent of a better somewhere, way back in your childhood.



Oh sure, you're still seated in a chair in the library on a brisk November evening, but you're also on a sensory “walkabout” through the Maine woods conjured by the strings of Ruth Fogg's cello, Susan Ramsey's violin and guitar, and the rhythmic images composed and read by poets Kristen Lindquist and Paul



Corrigan. Their subtle magic creates a gentle “perfect storm” that only poetry—spoken in concert with the music of strings—can create.

We were definitely swept away by these artists' combined talents. Kristen Lindquist of Camden has been published widely throughout Maine in newspapers, journals, and anthologies; her book *TRANSPORTATION* was a 2012 Maine Literary Awards finalist. Millinocket's own Paul Corrigan, a one-time Baxter State Park Ranger, English teacher, and whitewater rafting guide, writes and publishes poems, essays, and stories inspired by his love of the Maine woods. Violinist Susan Ramsey and cellist Ruth Fogg often perform together with the touring chamber ensemble Highlands Classical as well as the North Country Strings Duo. Both teach, Ruth focusing on the cello, Susan directing the Foxcroft Academy String Program.

HARMONIOUS HABITAT by Kim Brawn

On a Friday evening in November approximately 16 people gathered in TFL's community meeting room to watch the feature-length documentary *Inhabit: A Permaculture Perspective* presented by Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District, the last in their series on permaculture.


Library director Greta Schroeder said that the film drew some of the PCSWCD crowd and those interested in gardening and farming and living more in harmony with nature.

Inhabit shows how people use this ecological design process to shift impact from destructive to regenerative. Permaculture is about working more in harmony with nature—not depleting resources but creating a more self-sustaining environment.

Greta appreciated that the filmmakers “interviewed people in various locations and walks of life—from suburbs, to cities, to farms—about their permaculture practices.” Whether it's a rooftop garden, a section of reclaimed land, or your own backyard, “Wherever you are—whatever the scale—you can practice permaculture.”

(<https://www.piscataquisswcd.org/>)

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENTS



November 22nd
Showtime 6pm
Location: THOMPSON
FREE LIBRARY

FMI: PCSWCD, 207-564-2321 ext. 3
info@piscataquisswcd.org
www.piscataquisswcd.org

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PASSION FOR PAINTING by Kim Brawn

It's never easy to put yourself out there, especially when it comes to sharing your creative work with others. Kudos to all the artists who've shared themselves with us, for making that scary leap into the unknown, whatever their experience level.



In October, Monson artist Roberta Jarvis brought her contemporary and traditional style paintings and techniques to the library. In the past, she mostly painted with oils but is currently working with watercolor and has developed a fondness for milk paint. She also finds deep satisfaction in restoring artwork, giving new life to old paintings. She and her husband live on Lake Hebron in Monson, and she finds great inspiration in the diverse beauty of the area (as seen in her striking “View from My Window” series).

Dover-Foxcroft's Kathy Farris returned to TFL in November to display a new and eclectic mix with a common theme: playing with color. The standout for me was “Bodfish Station,” the evocative piece captures the lonely, abandoned train station on the way to Borestone Mountain surrounded by autumn hues. With the help of TFL librarians Greta Schroeder and Michelle Fagan, Kathy researched the building's history, learning that the station had been the official residence of the section foreman for the Canadian Pacific Railroad.



Finally, December gave us the budding talents of young artist & Foxcroft Academy student Laci Hughes. “About six years ago I became interested in painting. Along the way I dabbled in watercolors and oil paints. This year I became more serious about it,” Laci says. She also plays the guitar, sings, and loves animals—especially her dogs and cats. Her bright, colorful abstract designs were a lively change of pace.



If you are a local/area/Maine artist who would like to display your work at TFL—or know someone who might be interested—please contact us: thompsonfreelibrary@gmail.com, 207-564-3350, or via Facebook.

IN THE ZONE by Kim Brawn



TFL and SeDoMoCha have joined forces to make Kid Zone Wednesdays even more accessible. Third and fourth graders (with permission) can ride the bus to the library after school on Wednesdays. Children's librarian Michelle Fagan meets the bus and takes them inside to do an art project (focusing on different mediums) or play Legos & board games, these activities alternate each week.

Michelle describes the program—which is open to the public—as “a time to stay away from technology, be social and interact with each other...and kids are taking books home too, which is a big plus,” she says.

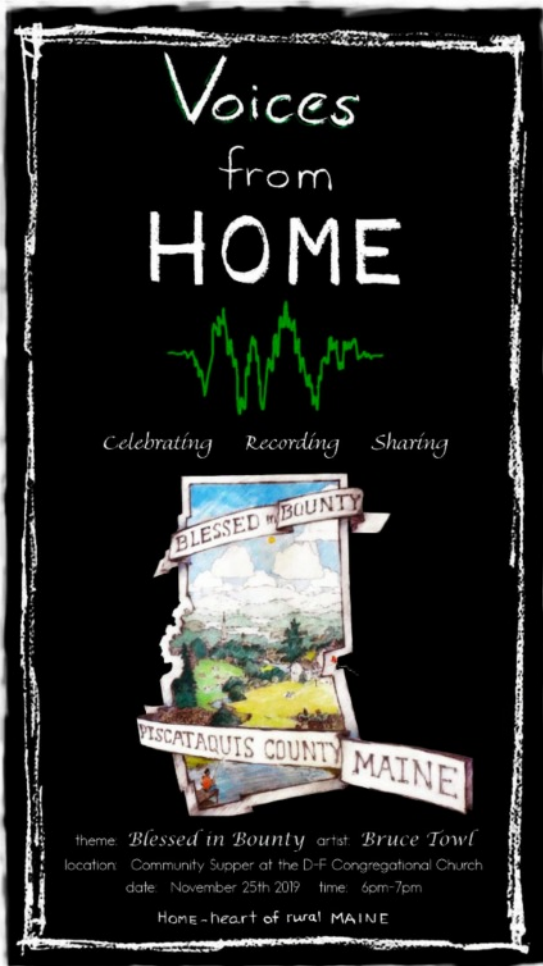
Kid Zone Wednesdays (3:30-4:30 p.m.) will continue through the end of the school year and start up again in the fall.

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SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW by Tom Lyford



Artwork by Bruce Towle

What's old is the "treasure" that's out there (for now), a myriad of personal memories living in the minds of the local citizenry, remembrances which are in danger of evaporating once these people are no longer with us. What's new (well, comparatively recent)? TFL's Voices from Home Oral History Project, an effort that strives to gather and record these hometown histories delivered in the individuals' own voices. The ultimate goal: a digital, on-line library of as many gleaned descriptions and stories as possible.

In 2018, TFL's Michelle Dyer-Fagan applied for and received a grant to fund this project. The grant has covered staff training workshops, purchasing a video recorder, four audio recorders, and a wand scanner for copying photos and documents. Greta Schroeder joined the project shortly after becoming TFL's new director. And the team has since grown to include Trisha Smith and Merrilee Schoen.

Not to overwhelm or intimidate interviewees right off the bat with too much to handle (as in, Hey, tell us EVERYTHING you remember about your past!), the interviewers find it helpful to conduct monthly, more focused, calendar-themed interviews. November's "Blessed in Bounty" was conducted near Thanksgiving with the team attending a hunters breakfast and a community dinner to interview people and promote the project. Past sessions had these titles: "Moms and Proms," "Dads and Grads," "Upta Camp," and "Blue Ribbon Fair." A likely popular one planned for April will be "The Flood of '87." Keep an out of for details.

To share your stories or to conduct interviews, please contact the library (thompsonfreelibrary@gmail.com, 207-564-3350, or via Facebook).

MONUMENT MAN by Kim Brawn

Tim Hudson, Superintendent of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, stopped by TFL in early October to talk about the new monument as well as his 50 years in the National Park Service.

Library director Greta Schroeder calls Hudson "a great speaker...who seems well-suited to his job." Around 15 people attended the informative program, some were curious about the new monument, especially how to get there and when there would be better signage; some had already visited the area. Woods and Waters is on the International Appalachian Trail and is part of ITS (Interconnected Trail System for ATVs & snowmobiles).



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Monument Man continued

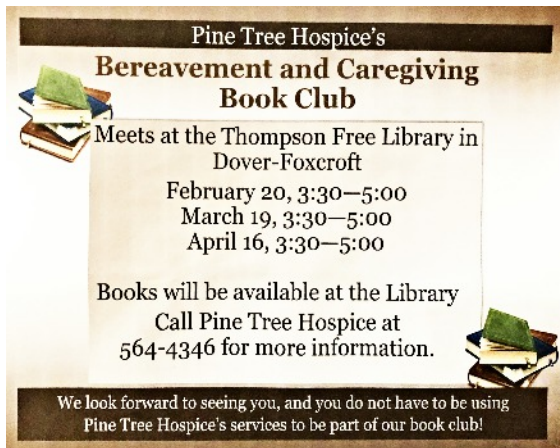
Hudson has worked in Alaska, Yellowstone, and prior to his Maine appointment, he coordinated the NPS recovery efforts after Hurricane Sandy. He started as a seasonal worker in California's Kings Canyon National Park in 1967 during his summer break.

Those at the talk received the Loop Road Interpretative Map. The Loop Road is the most popular of the private roads that the public can use. The travel route "highlights cultural, biological, and geological features of significance as well as scenic viewpoints and hiking and biking trails of differing distance and difficulty."

Hudson, who has loved nature and woods and mountains since he was a kid, reminds us to take advantage of all that this beautiful state has to offer.

To learn more about these 87,000+ acres in Northern Penobscot County, located on the eastern border of Baxter State Park, visit <https://www.nps.gov/kaww/index.htm>

CARING FOR YOURSELF by Kim Brawn



Pine Tree Hospice's
**Bereavement and Caregiving
Book Club**

Meets at the Thompson Free Library in
Dover-Foxcroft

February 20, 3:30—5:00
March 19, 3:30—5:00
April 16, 3:30—5:00

Books will be available at the Library
Call Pine Tree Hospice at
564-4346 for more information.

We look forward to seeing you, and you do not have to be using
Pine Tree Hospice's services to be part of our book club!

Pine Tree Hospice's Caregiver and Bereavement Book Club is geared towards those who are, or have been caregivers, and those who have lost a loved one, recently or in the past. The readings center on caregiving and bereavement.

Greta Schroeder, TFL's director, has attended the previous sessions and says that the monthly group, which began in October and averages 6-7 participants, will resume in February for three more sessions. It's held in a cozy area of the library, around the table in the Maine room. Pam Pultz (from Pine Tree Hospice) organized the group and guides the discussion. As Greta puts it, "Pam creates a warm, welcoming, and upbeat environment, she even brings snacks."

Pam told me that "the club has been so much fun with lots of discussions and everyone is willing to share their thoughts on the

readings." She selects books, poems, short stories, etc. that will be interesting to all readers with relatable characters and situations. She gets feedback from Greta on her selections. "Greta has been instrumental in the choices," says Pam.

Greta found Juan Thompson's memoir *Stories I Tell Myself* about his relationship with his father Hunter S. Thompson to be very interesting. The book explores his complicated bond with the famous writer who ultimately committed suicide. "It's an honest look at a complicated father/son relationship...loving and growing up with someone despite their imperfections." The book brought up issues surrounding caregiving and grief—as well as reconciliation and forgiveness.

Everyone in the group brings their own perspective. "I come to the meetings with questions that start conversations and move the discussion forward," says Pam. "At the end, everyone has a greater understanding of the book and the questions it raises."

Pam would love to have even more join the club. You don't have to attend every session or have attended any of the previous ones. February's reading is Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* (about death, forgiveness, and hope). Books will be available on January 23 at TFL.

Upcoming meetings: February 20, 3:30-5 p.m., March 19, 3:30-5 p.m., & April 16, 3:30-5 p.m.

For more information, call Pine Tree Hospice: (207)-564-4346.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS! by Kim Brawn

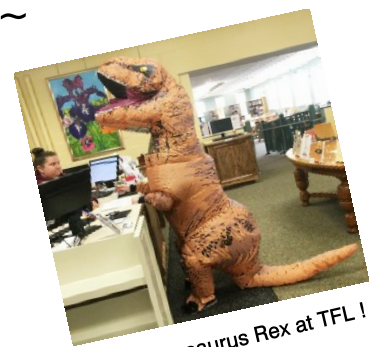
A special thank you to our lead elf, Michelle Fagan, for decking the halls of TFL in fun, festive fashion. All the little and big touches were appreciated, as was the help from Santa's other helpers, including Barbara Lockwood for making the bulletin board come to life as a starry village in the forest; volunteer Pat & IT guy Dan Juska for giving us the wonderful cyclamen plant that has received many likes & comments; and Dover Cove Farmers Market for satisfying our sweet tooth with another terrifically tasty Christmas Cookie Walk!



Another successful Halloween Book Giveaway !



Robert Betjemann's exquisitely handcrafted gift to TFL has caught the eye and imagination of many patrons, especially the little ones.



Spookasaurus Rex at TFL !