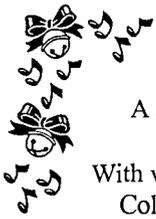


The LIMRIK

A Quarterly Journal

For, by and about the people of Antrim

Vol. 13 #1
December 2003



CHRISTMAS

A wonder of births,
A song of the very stones,
A tangle of bells—
With warmth against winter cold,
Color and Light triumphant.

"NUNCRACKERS"

ANTRIM PLAYERS AT TOWN HALL

An Antrim Players production: "Nuncrackers" by Dan Goggin. December 11-14 at the Antrim Town Hall. Curtain times: Thursday, 7:30 PM; Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM; Sunday, 3 PM.

Those outrageous sisters from Mount Saint Helens Convent are at it again, this time entertaining and involving the audience with their unconventional Christmas musical. Singing and cavorting in black and white habits will be Players favorites Sheila Haley, Erin Proctor, Betsy Olson, and Tom Dowling (yes, wearing a habit!), and they'll be joined by newcomers Heather Dickson, Megan Caffrey and Glori B. Luebbermann.

Christmas is for children, right? Fourteen area kids will be featured in special Christmas songs. Chorus members and instrumentalists round out the cast and the whole production is directed by Bill Nichols. Admission is \$10 (\$8 for children and retired citizens); advance tickets may be purchased for \$1 less at Tenney's, the T-Bird and Toadstool/Peterborough. To reserve seats call 588-3403. Come and have a good time with the "Nuncrackers". ♣

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A Christmas Concert titled "Bethlehem's Child" will be given at the Antrim Baptist Church on December 14th at 7 PM. The program includes singing by a community choir led by Cheryl Boucher, liturgical dancing and multi-media enhancement. All are welcome. ♣

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By Dave Penny

for the Board: Bill Prokop and Mike Genest

It's been a busy season in the Selectmen's office. We have finally completed the reassessment process and have passed the State Department of Revenue Administration's (DRA) review with flying colors. We have almost completed the conversion of the accounting system from our old BMSI computer system to the new MuniSmart system and two of us (Bill and Dave) have completed the year long Selectperson Institute at Antioch College. Because of his work schedule, Mike was not able to attend all of the sessions.

Autumn has also been a season of change and as a result you will see some new faces in the Town Office. Fran Greene has been hired to replace Nancy Tanner who left in August. Fran lives in Washington, NH and brings with her a considerable amount of bookkeeping experience. Fran is no stranger to Antrim as she had been working as a bookkeeper for Brian Biehl just a few doors down at Boxes on

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Best wishes to all. Russ

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING



The 13th Annual Tree Lighting will take place on Sunday, December 7th at the Gazebo in Memorial Park.

The Girl Scouts will decorate the tree at 4 PM, followed by caroling, led by the GBS Chorus. Santa arrives by fire truck at 4:30. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served. Bring flashlights or lanterns. Don't forget to drive down Main Street to see the tree in Touchwood Square and the murals made by GBS students in the Town Hall windows. In case of inclement weather please call the Recreation Office at 588-3121. The event is sponsored by the Antrim Friends of Recreation. This wonderful group of volunteers is to be credited for assisting with and enabling so many of our recreation programs, from holiday programs like the tree lighting and Easter Egg Hunt, to middle school dances and financial aid for summer programs. ♣

FREE COMMUNITY SUPPERS

By Dick Winslow

Free, weekly community suppers on Thursdays at 5:30, shared by Antrim, Francestown, Bennington and Hancock, have recently drawn enthusiastic gatherings. Well over 100 people attended recent suppers in Antrim at the First Presbyterian Church. The suppers were established to strengthen the sense of community both within a given town and between towns—and they seem to be doing exactly that.

No reservations are necessary: just show up. If you need a ride, call The Grapevine at 588-2620 by noon on the day of the supper.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

December 11 in Bennington at the Pierce School and December 18 in Antrim at the First Presbyterian Church.

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Please make checks payable to the ANTRIM *LIMRIK*. We hope people will keep up with the expiration dates of their subscriptions to the *LIMRIK*. On the mailing label is the following information:

Subs. Exps. 'date'

ADVERTISING FEES

Half Page (Back Page)	\$75 per issue
Half Page (Inside page)	\$65 per issue
Business Card size ad	\$30 per issue or \$100 for 4 issues

Advertising copy is due by the 10th of the month prior to *LIMRIK* publication—May 10, August 10, November 10 or February 10. Final decisions about acceptable content for ads will be made by the Managing Editor and the Advertising Manager.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E-mail your letters to the *LIMRIK* in care of Lyman Gilmore.
The address is: Lgilmore@conknet.com



NEWS DEADLINE



Contributors to the *LIMRIK* should provide copy to reporters by the 8th of the month preceding each issue. Issues are published in December, March, June, and September. For the next issue, copy should be delivered by February 8, either to a staff member or to the Tuttle Library.



"HOMETOWN PRIDE"

ANTRIM POLICE SERGEANT
BECOMES WILTON'S CHIEF



Brian Brown, Chief
Town of Antrim Police

"Hometown Pride" can be seen printed on the rear of each Antrim police cruiser. This is more than just a slogan or a statement; it is a commitment that I believe shows throughout our community in many ways. One way I see it is the relationship our police officers have with people of this community. It can be as simple as a friendly morning wave as we pass in our vehicles and as difficult as a death notification of a family member. But I think this relationship can be measured by the fact that, since 1991, five patrol officers have left Antrim to become Chief in another town.

The relationships that they develop with the citizens of Antrim, along with the positive exposure to the needs of a small community, allow them to successfully compete with other law enforcement professionals. They also develop pride within themselves for their accomplishments of working with parents and business owners. This development of character and professionalism obviously shows when they go through the hiring process for a Chief's position.

SGT. HAUTANEN TO WILTON

Such is the case with our recent loss of Sgt. Brent Hautanen. He is thirty three years old, married with three children. He was hired by the Antrim Police Department in 1996 and served as a patrol officer until he was promoted to Sergeant in March of 2000. He recently competed with nineteen other professional police officers, some already Chiefs. Brent was picked as being first in each round of the process and ultimately chosen by the Wilton Board of Selectmen to become their next Chief of Police.

I think that we can all take pride in their selection of Brent Hautanen because over his seven years in this community he developed a relationship that all communities desire between their citizens and their police officers. It is also one that can be recognized by others. But we, as citizens of Antrim, know it as "Hometown Pride!"



CORRECTION

In the last *LIMRIK*, the Town History Revisited article about Antrim's Revolutionary War soldiers and the memorial stone on Depot Street contained a misspelling. The stone is on the property of Ed and Sybil Hebert—not, as was printed, Herbert. We apologize to the Heberts.

—Editor



CREDITS

The Christmas verse on page 1 is by Dick Winslow, Managing Editor. The cartoon on page 1 is the creation of Russ Russell, Art Director.

DOTTI AND DAVE PENNY AN APPRECIATION

Dotti and Dave Penny are departing Antrim after 26 years, leaving behind them a remarkable record of community service and participation. Although they will live in nearby Hillsboro, residence requirements necessitate Dave's resigning from our Board of Selectmen and Dotti's from being trustee of Antrim Trust Funds. They hope to return in the future to buy property on Gregg Lake and live there again.

Here are some other Antrim participations by the Pennys: Dotti has been active with the Recycling Station, the Historical Society, the Library, the Rec Center, The Grapevine and the committee for the 1996 Main Street Celebration. She has provided Christmas decorations for community trees and Town Hall. David has been a Library Trustee, a member of the Planning Board, the Board of Adjustment, the Aiken Street Barn Trust and the Contoocook Valley Housing Trust. He has participated with the Antrim Players and has worked on behalf of The Grapevine. Both Dotti and Dave have helped the *LIMRIK* by mailing copies to out-of-town subscribers.

The Pennys have been a great community resource. We are ever so grateful and will surely miss them. —Editor

Selectmen's Report continued

Board/Kids on Board. Please stop by the office and say hello to Fran.

In October Sherry Miller resigned. She wore several hats, serving as business manager, treasurer and welfare administrator. It has been a challenge to cover Sherry's many duties. We appointed David Essex as acting treasurer and he has agreed to cover the position until town elections next March. Meanwhile, all three selectmen have been covering the business manager position under the guidance of former selectmen and business manager, Phil Dwight. Phil graciously agreed to come down from his home in Kennebunk, Maine for two to three days a week to share his extensive town government experience and to help us get our financial accounts transferred from the BMSI system to the new MuniSmart system. The transition from one system to another has been quite difficult and Phil's help has been greatly appreciated. Because of this transition and the onset of the budgeting season, we did not feel that we were in a position to bring a new business manager on board and Bill Prokop agreed to serve as acting business manager effective November 1. Bill is serving on a part time, temporary basis while the needs of the office are being assessed. I have been serving as acting welfare administrator.

As many people know, Dotti and I sold our home on Gregg Lake Road in mid-November and have moved to Hillsboro. I was willing to continue as selectman and finish my 3-year term, which expires in March 2004. Unfortunately, state law does not permit me to do that, so I resigned my position as soon as we moved our residence. It has been a pleasure living in Antrim and a privilege serving the town as selectman. I've enjoyed working with Bill and Mike, our town employees and the many volunteers who serve on town boards and committees. I hope we will be able to live in Antrim again, someday. ♣

Community Suppers continued

GENERAL SCHEDULE

- First Thursday of the month at the Frankestown Community Church.
- Second Thursday in Bennington at the Pierce School.
- Third Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church in Antrim.
- Fourth Thursday at the Hancock Congregational Church Vestry.

Suppers are both free and open to all. They are funded by financial contributions (individuals and organizations as well as free-will offerings at the suppers) and donations of food and goods. For example, Cricenti's donated three turkeys in October and other ingredients in September; Wayno's provided groceries at cost; the Maplehurst Inn lends pans and tablecloths; the Tenney Farm donated cider and mums in October.

Volunteers make the suppers happen. *Kitchen:* John Vance, Brian Freas, Adam Phelps, Ron Haggett. (John has cooked professionally and Adam was a cook in the Marines.) More cooks to plan and prepare future suppers are needed. *Set-up:* Kristen Readel and her children, Richard, Ryan and Heather; students Alisha Paquette, Maddie, Claire and Ethan Biehl; Ellery Ring, Grace Healy, Nicole Grant, Ashley Dutton, Tasha Case; *Servers:* Joyce Ring, some of the students, David and Linda Ward from the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club. *Cleanup:* Ben Pratt, Dawn Phelps, Linda Bryer, Sarah and Bob Edwards, and others.

At recent Antrim suppers, Tom Dowling played piano and Betty Avery and Ben Pratt brought leftovers to the Antrim Girls' Shelter and elsewhere.

Antrim menus have included Turkey and Beanie (vegetarian) Tetrazzini, salad, rolls, and a variety of desserts.

At the October supper, Maddie Brozowski's son Dick surprised her with a visit.

There has been talk of establishing a post-supper bridge game.

Response to the suppers from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Particularly appreciative is Brian Freas, a cerebral palsy victim who places unusual value on the fellowship and working for its success.

The goal of the suppers is to allow people to get to know each other better. Simple as that. It all started last winter when The Grapevine assembled residents from the four towns to take a look at community well-being. From discussions of such things as available health care, social services, churches, civic groups, schools, etc., there emerged a realization that many people feel isolated. Often we don't even know our neighbors and feel just plain lonesome. Ben Pratt told of how, when he has delivered hospital beds to elderly people, the visits were more welcome than the beds.

The group concluded that an important first step towards improving community health would be to offer a community gathering where people can meet up. Thus, community suppers.

Leadership in all this has centered on The Grapevine and Kristen Vance, director. For information or to volunteer as a helper, phone The Grapevine at 588-2620. ♣

WELCOME TO ANTRIM A REAL ESTATE GLOSSARY

By Connie Kirwin

I recently read a real estate listing that described the location of a property on my road as Antrim Highlands. I was puzzled because I've lived here 24 years and I thought I was familiar with the various locations in town, like Antrim Center, North Branch, etc. Since it would be helpful to prospective residents to know the area, I have prepared a glossary.

Antrim Highlands: property located at an elevation where you will need 4-wheel drive in the winter to get home. There may be a view from the attic window of surrounding hills when the trees are bare. Recommend buying a riding snow blower and a generator.

Antrim Meadows: property located in a flat area surrounded by fields. Recommend central AC because when the neighboring farmer spreads manure you will need to live with the windows closed and breath filtered air. Recommend installing a wind blind on the north side; some fast growing arborvitae work well.

Antrim Moors: similar to the Meadows except that the surrounding fields are so wet that your neighbor can't farm the land. Recommend installing central AC so you can get some sleep when the mosquitoes, peepers, frogs, and owls carry on all night long. Make sure that the whole family is current on their malaria vaccinations.

Antrim Lochs: property located on Gregg Lake or Pierce Lake. Great neighborhood for night owls; partying or fishing for hornpout all night. Recommend buying a boat; don't be a party-pooper! Forget about staying during the winter months.

Antrim Urbs: downtown location. Perfect for the NYC or Boston native looking for that country home with city amenities. Dean and DeLuca and Trader Joes have nothing on the T-Bird and Waynos. Center of entertainment. Get the best spot for Antrim in the Evening concerts; check in at gossip central at Town Hall; see Antrim's police in action.

Antrim Dales: valley location surrounded by hills. Definite need for riding snow blower with headlights and snow mobiles for when the area gets dumped on by Mother Nature in the winter. Make

sure the cellar has at least two working sump pumps for spring thaw. Recommend flood protection on your homeowner's insurance policy.

Antrim Woods: definitely in the boonies. For the family that enjoys togetherness. You will have to keep your kids and pets in the house after dusk; bear, coyotes, wolves, fisher cats, etc. are your neighbors. Don't feed the birds. Recommend buying at least ten cords of firewood, a gun and a chainsaw.

Antrim Uplands: high elevation location, not quite as high as the Highlands or Hills. Don't try to find the views; there will be too many trees surrounding the property. Four-wheel drive vehicle a definite plus. Recommend keeping a pantry full of nonperishable items including water, buying a generator and building an outhouse for emergencies.

Antrim Riverside: property located along the Contocook and North Branch Rivers. Great location for outdoor activities: canoeing, fishing, rafting, catching snakes and wrestling stray alligators. Area has definite appeal for the Sierra Club family. Recommend flood insurance and keeping current on vaccinations. Don't drink the water.

Antrim Hills: best location in town. High enough to be prime property but not so high that you need 4-wheel drive although that Land Rover will look great in the driveway. Expect at least 30 acres to be included with the house. Recommend installing a security system since gated communities haven't reached town yet.

Antrim Suburbs: just far enough out of the hustle and bustle of town living. Expect to drive your kids to school since the area is too close for bus pickup and too far for the kiddies to walk. Property should have just enough lawn to look presentable but upkeep shouldn't kill your weekends watching sports on TV. Recommend buying a second car.

The following clues are indicators of what you might be getting yourself into as you look at property with the Realtor. **Screen Porch:** area has mosquito problem. **Rubber Raft:** area prone to flooding. **Swimming Pool:** party neighborhood. **Viking Grill:** upscale neighborhood. **Playground Equipment:** LOTS of kids in

neighborhood. **Renovation:** house will be on the market soon. **Dumpster:** more than 1 family in residence. **Multiple cars:** LOTS of teenagers in neighborhood. **Police car:** troubled neighborhood. **No Hunting signs:** Sierra Club members. **Generator:** area prone to power outages. **4-wheel drive vehicles:** last area to be plowed by Town. ♣

PARKS & RECREATION

By Celeste Lunetta with contributions from Rick Wood and Kathy Maguire

LEGO TOURNAMENTS

Parents, teachers and students alike may have passed the Recreation Center office next to the Town Gym the last two months and wondered what is that strange looking table with the funny red surface and various Lego structures? As mentioned in a previous *LIMRIK* article, the Antrim Recreation Department is sponsoring two teams in the First Lego League Challenge Competition titled "Mission to Mars". The table's red surface depicts the surface of Mars, and the Lego structures represent various challenges each team must accomplish during the competition with a 2 1/2 minute time period. The eight weeks of training in robotics, computer software, engineering and design will culminate in a local tournament to be held December 6 at the Nashua High School.

The First Lego League is a junior version of the high school First Robots competition held every year. In the senior level, a team from the Keene High School qualified for the national competition held last year in Houston, TX. The program is so popular with elementary and middle schools that this year there are as many as seven local qualifying tournaments around New Hampshire where teams compete for a place in the NH State Tournament in Nashua on December 13. There are 3,200 teams registered in the program this year with over 750 teams in Scandinavia, Germany, UK, France, Singapore, Korea, Brazil, and China.

The two Antrim Lego League teams are comprised of 24 children. One team of 4th and 5th graders is called the *Technology Titans*. The other team of 6th through 8th graders is called the *Albino Monkeys*. On

➡ — continued on page 13

RECREATION NEEDS COMMITTEE

CUTTER LAND RECOMMENDED

By Rick Wood

Following the 2003 Antrim Town Meeting in which the purchase of the Roberts property for recreational use just missed the required 66% approval, the Selectmen organized the Antrim Athletic Field and Recreational Area Study Committee. With a directive to look into current and future land needs for various types of playing fields and other recreational activities appropriate for a town the size of Antrim, the Committee began meeting in July of 2003. The committee included a cross section of Antrim residents with Selectman Mike Genest as its Chairman. Members included Bruce Cuddihy, Lois Essex, Sam Harding, Matt Miller, Eric Tenney, Warren Witherell and Rick Wood.

SHEA FIELD USAGE

The committee looked at the current usage and conditions of recreational fields within Antrim, mainly the Shea Field adjacent to the Antrim Elementary school. It was agreed among the committee members that Shea Field has outgrown the capacity to host all the competing sporting and recreational events sponsored by AES, GBS, Antrim Recreation Department, the town and others. With the plan for GBS to expand its extracurricular sports offerings and the Antrim Recreation Department's growth in hosting various games with teams from Bennington, Frankestown and Hancock, the pressures on Shea Field will most likely increase. There are already times when Antrim teams are forced to play home games in these other town due to limitations of available fields here. Long standing and unresolved issues concerning Shea Field, such as upkeep and maintenance, acreage, ownership, overlapping seasonal sports events and overuse, were also cited as reasons to see if there were other available sites within town limits. Though the School District and Town of Antrim continue to work through some of these issues, the committee felt it important to move forward in finding a new site that would properly support future recreational needs while allowing a scaled back continued use of Shea Field.

CRITERIA FOR NEW FIELD

The committee identified 24 criteria for any land it would consider. These criteria included but were not limited to: safety, acreage (12-20 acres), access, parking needs, walking/biking, proximity to downtown, number of abutters, immediate usage, future development costs, traffic flow, as well as price and availability. Input was requested and received from Selectmen, Antrim Police and Road Agent. Though the committee had no funds to spend, it was able to have initial talks with a site engineer.

SELECTION PROCESS

During the months of July-September, the committee held numerous open meetings while communicating its progress to the selectmen, town bulletin board and local press. It initially selected as many as 12 potential sites. After many site visits and discussions on the advantages/disadvantages of each, the committee narrowed its focus to three sites. They included the initially proposed Roberts land on Route 202, the Verney land on High Street and the Cutter land on Clinton Road. Each site had many advantages as well as some disadvantages. There was no one perfect site that met all requirements. But after consulting with the Chief of Police, Town Road Agent, as well as a site engineer, the committee unanimously agreed that the Cutter Land across from the Antrim Fire Station would be the site that best met the criteria for current and future needs.

NEW COMMITTEE

Armed with this recommendation, the Selectmen will name a new committee to carry the project forward to the 2003 Town Meeting. The mission of the yet unnamed committee will be to prepare a presentation to the citizens of Antrim at the next Town Meeting to include a detailed assessment of needs, and a proposal to purchase the Cutter property. The new committee will be represented by some of the same members of the original committee, as well as new ones. Abutters and other interested parties will be invited to be part of this ongoing process, either as a committee member or through open meetings starting in November of 2003.

If you would like to participate in this project, call the Town Hall at 588-6785. ♣

ANTRIM IS GROWING

By Janet MacLachlan

Have you met any new neighbors this year and perhaps made new friends? There are new folks moving into town and they could be in your neighborhood.

Jeff Parson, Antrim's building inspector, reports that 23 building permits have been issued so far this year. You can't help but notice the land being cleared of trees, bulldozers pushing the dirt around, and then suddenly, like those mushrooms in the forest, a new house emerges on the scene. There have been new buildings on Liberty Farm Road, Route 9, Route 31, Elm Avenue, and Pierce Lake Road, and probably some we have missed. The new homes come in all shapes, styles, and sizes.

When asked why he thought this rapid growth in our town was happening, Mr. Parson said this part of New Hampshire is accessible to the larger centers where people are employed. The Hillsborough bypass has certainly helped to cut down the traveling time for commuters. New owners can buy more of a house for their money than they could closer to Nashua, Manchester, and Concord or over the border in Massachusetts. Mortgages are at their lowest rate, too. Then there is the rural character of towns in the Monadnock area, with less congestion of traffic and hardly any traffic lights. Families with children must be attracted to the Conval School system and its promise of better schooling.

How will these newcomers in our town affect the way of life here? How will their arrival change our lives and theirs? Eventually it will put a growth curve on the services. New people bring new ideas and experiences which can enrich our lives and organizations. We could all use some new outlooks and new friends. So don't be shy and retiring. Greet newcomers and tell them what a great, friendly town Antrim can be for them. ♣

TRIVIA

Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels.

MARY CHAUNCEY THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER

By Isabel B. Nichols

You may have seen Mary Chauncey (people notice her—she has red hair) working at the Chauncey Family Farm just off Route 202 on the way to Hillsboro, but you may not know that she was once a student writer for the *LIMRIK*. The opportunity arose during her senior year at Conval High in a volunteer community service project. Mary, an honors English student with Gib West as well as taking advanced placement English with Jill Lawler, chose to volunteer by reporting for her own community's newspaper.

"I've always loved to write," she says, "ever since the third grade." One of her assignments with the *LIMRIK* was to cover an old house tour which included historical homes in Antrim, and another time she visited and wrote about the Old Pound School, a private school on Old Pound Road. "I liked the small school a lot," she says, smiling at the memory.

At this time she was also writing for the Conval Essence (there's a pun there somewhere) while studying journalism with Mike O'Leary. But when asked if she carried this interest with her when she went to college, Mary replied, "No—reporting's not for me. Creative writing is the thing I like". This was evidenced by a prize-winning poem she wrote for the Tuttle Library contest.

Her education at UNH took an entirely different route. With a major in business administration and a minor in agri-business, her particular interest is in marketing, and she is able to employ advertising skills while at work on the family farm. In her direct way, Mary focussed on her studies, eschewing sororities and similar social activities, and graduated cum laude in 2003 with a bachelor of science degree.

She is now employed full-time by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the Farm Service Agency in Concord. Her business education has led her to become part of the farm loan assistance programs, and she hopes to continue working in this area in the future.

When asked how small-town life had influenced her choices so far, Mary made it quite clear that she is a small town girl,

INTERNATIONAL ARCHEOLOGIST FROM ANTRIM

PHIL KOHL

By Lyman Gilmore

How do prehistoric Mongolian "deer stones" carvings and hip hop music relate to Antrim? It was an Antrim family matter that brought them together when archeologist Phil Kohl met up with his twenty-three year old son Owen last August in the Mongolian capital, Ulaan Baatar. (The senior Kohl prefers "Phil" to Philip.)

Phil Kohl, an archeologist and Professor of Anthropology at Wellesley College, was investigating possible connections between the Bronze Age (4000-3000 BC) peoples he has studied for years in southern Russia and the Ukraine, with those in Mongolia to the east. He was interested in prehistoric burial sites, and also Deerstones, elaborately carved, upright stone stelae or pillars, depicting fantastic animals, such as duck-billed reindeers, human faces, and metal tools and weapons. The origins of these ancient stone carvings are in question, and discovering who created them and when they came into existence might provide valuable information about religious and ritual lives of a prehistoric people. His son, Owen, was in Ulaan Baatar completing a year of travel abroad on a Watson fellowship investigating the global phenomenon of youth hip-hop music. He wanted to know whether hip-hop, the anti-establishment

not just a farmer's daughter but a citizen interested in small community life. Growing up in Antrim her favorite 4-H activity was raising and training working steers, and while showing her steers at agricultural fairs around the state she became well-acquainted with other farmers. But she still thinks Antrim is a special place with more to offer than some other small towns.

It would seem to be a very full life for a 23-year-old, and it may be many years before Mary comes back to writing and to fulfill the promise she showed when in high school. We can but wait and hope for the time when Mary Chauncey's by-line will again appear in the *LIMRIK*. ♣

music American young people are so wildly enthusiastic about, is also popular in cosmopolitan Paris and Moscow, as well as in their developing regions, French Senegal and Russian Croatia and Mongolia.

But however far they roam, Antrim is home to the Kohls. Phil Kohl says they had been drawn to New Hampshire for years, having bought a vacation house in Nelson on Lake Nubanusit in 1993, which he calls their "dacha," the summer cottages many Russians enjoy. They loved the region so much that they decided to live here permanently, and in July 2002 Philip, his wife, Barbara Gard, an attorney, Owen, and daughter Mira, a Conval sophomore, moved to the Old Bryer Farm, out on Pleasant Street Extension, that Pam and Bob Bagloe had renovated so beautifully.

As I approach the Kohl house where Pleasant Street disappears into the wilds of Antrim's western woods, my first greeting is from two beasts foreign to North America, Artik and Shashlyka. Artik, named after a town in Armenia, is an old Caucasian Sheepdog Phil obtained in trade for his Swiss Army Knife from a herder who fancied its many unfolding blades and tools. "I got her off of a glacier, so she loves the New Hampshire cold." Shashlyka is named for a favorite meal in Dagestan where she came from, sishkebob.

Beyond the friendly dogs I am met at the door by hearty, bearded, fifty-seven year old Phil Kohl. We pass through the living room decorated with lovely Persian rugs and a unique Mongolian chess set completely made of felt, and climb to his workroom where he has his professional library and computer. Kohl was born in Chicago, received an undergraduate degree from Columbia, and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard. He is the author of more than 120 articles and reviews on the archeology of the ancient Near East, including Afghanistan, Armenia, and other regions of the Caucasus. He worked in the National Museum of Iraq in Bhagdad before it was vandalized in our current war,

We were both eager to talk about his recent trip to Mongolia. Here is how he has described a visit to a nomad family

↳ — continued next page

Philip Kohl continued

during his visit last summer: “It was late afternoon and we were bouncing over the open steppe trying to visit a Mongolian-Turkish archeological expedition in the Orkhon valley of central Mongolia... We had to hurry, since the sky was threatening a major rainstorm, and the roads were, well, non-existent. Suddenly, I told our driver to stop. I had just noticed an isolated yurt (or portable nomadic dwelling, in Mongolian called ger) sporting a solar-powered satellite dish. I wanted a picture of what struck me then as anomalous and, what later—as our trip progressed—proved a commonplace; nomadic encampments with electricity and television. We stopped...and were invited inside the ger for snuff, tea, and light refreshments. As always proved the case, the hospitality was immediate and overwhelming.”

Kohl reports that he feels fortunate to have spent the night in a nomadic encampment, including an experience he did not expect: “As a field archeologist, I’ve lived in many villages throughout the greater Near East and, frankly, I was surprised not to hear the braying of donkeys and the crowing of roosters; instead, I was awakened by the grunting of yaks!”

One of Kohl’s major projects has been preserving the cultural and national heritage of Afghanistan. He is concerned that for more than two decades Afghanistan’s rich archeological remains have been systematically plundered for the antiquities market, obliterated by incessant fighting, and even deliberately demolished by governmental decree, as when the Taliban blew up huge ancient statues carved into high desert cliffs.

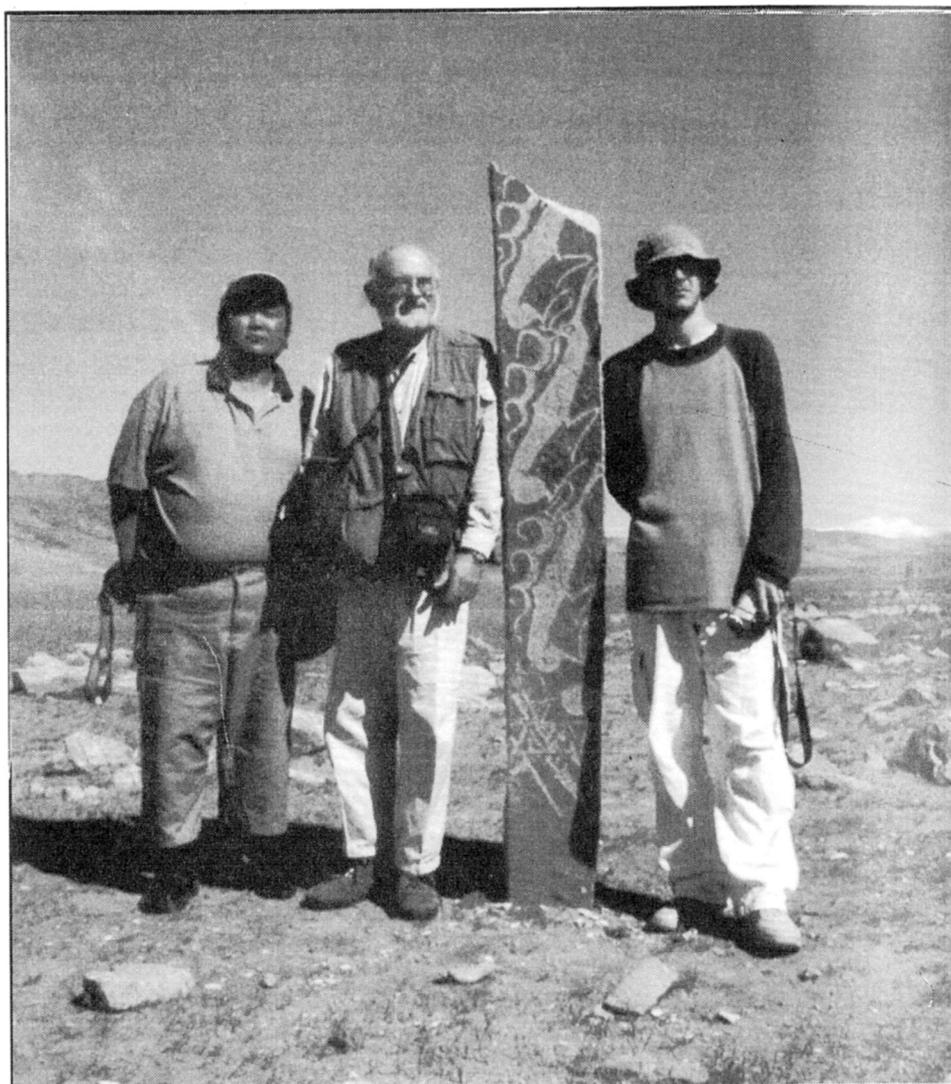
Another focus of Kohl’s research, about which he has edited an important text, is the way archeology is often used by political groups to seek and hold power. A tribe or state will produce ancient archeological artifacts to prove that they are the sole and rightful owners of a particular piece of geography. He described a recent example of how a modern person could make a ridiculous nationalistic claim based on a prehistoric finding. Recently scientists have discovered at the village of Dmanisi among the foothills of the

Caucasus mountains in the Republic of Georgia, bones of the first pre-human hominids found outside Africa. When the team of German and Georgian scientists uncovered a hominid mandible or jawbone, one of the Georgians is said to have declared with nationalistic pride, “The first Georgian!” Chuckling, Kohl said that the bones were 1.75 million years old, so any relationship to any modern country is pure fantasy. This may be an amusing example, but one must recall that the Nazi state used archeology for its superior race propaganda. (The November 2003 *Scientific American* has an engaging article on the Dmanisi finds.)

Kohl was as delighted to see his son in the Mongolian capital as Owen was to see his father. In a recent telephone con-

versation, Owen remarked: “It was incredible. It had been about eleven months since I last saw him. We had an amazing trip across the steppe to see archeological sites that remain. Had he not come, I probably would have just stayed in Ulaan Baatar and focused on my hip-hop nonsense. I may have never seen the real Mongolia.” (If you want to visit the real Mongolia, see the Travel Section of the *New York Times*, Sunday, November 16, 2003.)

But Owen’s hip-hop research is far from nonsense, as will become apparent in the next issue of the *LIMRIK* where an article on his fascinating and important journey will appear. ♣



Phil Kohl with his son Owen, their Mongolian Guide, and a “deer stone” carving.

THE ANTRIM AMBULANCE

EMT'S ARE US !!

By Peter Moore

Red lights often bounced across the white plaster walls of my bedroom. The eerily soft, flashing glow would grow progressively bright and proceed along the ceiling as the sound of a diesel engine rattled down into town past my sleeping house. I'd awaken momentarily to witness this passing aura in the night, contemplate the plight, roll-over, pull the covers up and go back to my comfort and dreams.

And so...the Antrim Ambulance, with it crew of three, rolls again. In the middle of the night, in the midst of a storm, weather freezing, or not, toward a destination where someone is in trouble. They don't pick the runs, they can't choose their patients, the scene and incident is entered for better or for worse, moving quickly, calculating moves, with a little hope and prayer added for good measure.

I haven't participated on the 'rescue squad' over the dozen-plus years I've served with the Antrim Fire Company, but I've watched their lights go by. Joining the fire department back when it was done to seek camaraderie, the desire to contribute to something more meaningful than my day-to-day existence—you know, to serve my community—and yes, because I was younger, more fit, and with a greater fear-tolerance, able to help out at a fire or accident scene. It is not because I had some insane, innate desire to enter burning buildings, balance on snow-covered roofs snuffing out chimney fires, or put myself in harms way at an accident scene with wires down and less-than-attentive drive-bys.

Admittedly, that little adrenaline rush that I experience when I get the 'tone' and respond does serve as some reward at times. And yes, the little A.F.D. plate I earn to adorn the front of my pickup affords me a sense of pride and belonging that's hard to find anywhere else. But for some reason, about a year back, my attention was stirred to go a bit farther, and I'm not sure why.

Perhaps it was my recent status change, through no desire or effort of my own, to qualify for the ranks of the AARP—and that 'new chapter' in my life. Or maybe it was the inspiration I got from the dedication and expertise of our rescue squad

members, like Chris Salmon, who, for over 20 years has served this community as an EMT because, in so many words...he thinks it the ultimate expression of humanity that he knows, to serve for the greater good in this way. Or Chief Beauchamp, who probably answers the ambulance call more than any other in town, and holds one of the lowest NH State 'Providers License' numbers around—meaning that he was there from the beginning. And also likely, it is the practical fact that our ambulance squad responds to four times as many calls as our fire fighters, and with a third the people-power. Qualified and dedicated EMT's, their resources ever stretched thin, and thinner all the time, have to make a huge commitment to the town, often away from their families for hours—with only seconds notice.

EMT CLASSES

And so it came to pass one day early last spring that I inquired of my wife: "Schatze, how would you like to take an EMT-Basic class with me and make a serious commitment to 'run with the ambulance'?" "Sure" she said, "I'd like to do that, I've been wanting to give that a try." Much to my surprise she called my bluff—and while I wasn't bluffing, neither was she. The two of us were game, and there was no turning back.

The Academy of First Response, headquartered in Greenfield and enthusiastically operated by Dave Hall, became a twice-weekly dating-game for my running mate and me. The 120-hour EMT-Basic course was taught by Dave, with some assistance from other able volunteers and professionals—hospitality provided by the Frankestown F.D. at their fine classroom. On Wednesday evenings I would pick-a-pizza up from Rick & Diane's on my way through town, and rendezvous with date-mate, coming from work, at the Old Frankestown Turnpike site, for a pre-class slice or two. On Sunday eves, March through June, we'd study our chapters and procedures home-side and prepare for the three hour session of shared knowledge, experience, example, and always the wonderful humor that Dave Hall, better than any other, would share with us rookies. And those four romantic, all-Saturday practical sessions afforded hours of quality-spouse time together—more I think

than during the last 24 years of matrimonial bliss we've shared! It was really compelling and fun at the same time.

EXAMS

Once the ten week course wrapped-up and the three exams loomed ahead—class exam, NH State Practical exam, and National Registry Test, I knew why I had never sought 'higher education' after UNH. This course was not for slouches, or the weak-of-disciplined pursuit. Dave Hall runs a pretty tight course (and test) load, and his well-defined expectations and standards can not be taken lightly. The subject matter is fascinating, one learns a lot about what goes on inside themselves (or doesn't when nature or trauma intercedes), and it can be gratifying to test ones wit and acquired wisdom as the class progresses—toward the point where you actually have to perform—on real people—in real trouble and in great need!

WITH THE ANTRIM AMBULANCE

Well, we're at that point now. We both passed our tests, personal and academic, and have been running with the Antrim ambulance, as it were, for about half a year. Every call is a new and unique experience, something learned each incident about best and proper emergency procedure—admittedly, like anything else, the classroom and book only give you the initial foundation for what reality actually dishes out. And perhaps, as importantly you learn about yourself, selflessness, and safe-keeping—along with an enhanced personal appreciation and perspective for ones own good health and welfare.

So now, when those red lights bounce across the white plaster walls of our bedroom in the middle of the night, or any other more convenient time for that matter, we are more likely than not to be in the ambulance in route to a call while our dozing dog and napping cats witness that passing aura in the night. EMT's are us!

(The other dedicated, round-the-clock ambulance EMT's serving you in Antrim, as well as the towns of Bennington and Stoddard are: Chief Mike Beauchamp, Tom Beaumont, Terry Benda, Paul Chandler, Bruce Edes, Dan Heffernan, Brenda Hennessy, Jay Hennessy, Asst. Chief Patty Lovering, Sherry Miller, Schatze Moore, Eric Phillips, and Rescue Captain Chris Baker-Salmon.) ♣

TOWN HISTORY REVISITED

"I've led three lives:"

The Autobiography of the Grange Hall

By Isabel B. Nichols

From my situation at a high point of Antrim Center, on a tricky curve of Route 31, I have one of the best views in town. My windows look out over the landscape, not only taking in the comfortable homes and broad fields but reaching beyond Patten and Nahor Hills to include mountains in other towns, like Mount Crotched in Francestown. I'd like to sit here forever and enjoy this vista, but time doesn't stand still and it never did.

Along my east side runs Meeting House Hill Road, part of the first "leading" roads in town. Nearly a half mile up—and I do mean up—this dirt road is located the first burying-ground, and alongside it is where I first saw the light of day in 1785. The town was beginning to grow rapidly after the Revolutionary War, and I guess the town fathers figured that the geographical center of town was the place to build a meeting house, which would serve as a church as well as be a place to hold their frequent town meetings.

So in June of '85, under the guidance of William Gregg of Londonderry, all my timbers were cut and framed, and on the 28th I was raised with much celebration. The locals were joined by workers from other towns, and the womenfolk served up meals of bread, cheese, meat and dried fish, all topped off with two barrels of rum. Hearty stuff that was, too, not like the namby-pamby rum folks drink today.

Everybody was so happy to have a new meeting house that they couldn't wait until I was finished, and the next Sunday they all came trudging up the hill to hold services. They crowded inside my 40' x 50' walls, sitting on makeshift planking in the broiling sun, because the roof wasn't done, and suddenly a violent thunderstorm came up and they all had to run back down the hill for shelter in Benjamin Gregg's barn.

It was another seven years before I was considered finished, but Town Meeting took place in the new building that first September and continued to do so without fail for 50 more years, at least two meetings a year. With regular church services every week, I was a busy place, and a noisy one! If you think the long Sunday

worships were dour and pious, think again: not only did all the children in town have to come to church, but their dogs followed them, and on warm days the dogs would wander inside and start a rumpus. It became necessary to elect a dog pelter, whose job was to sit near the door with a cudgel and hit on any dog that dared to step over the threshold. This was a source of great amusement for the children, and what with one thing and another it wasn't easy to sleep through those two-hour sermons.

Things began to change in Antrim Center when a new road to the North Branch was built around the west side of Meeting House Hill in 1820. Because it was hard to get up the hill for Sunday services the Presbyterians built a beautiful brick church on the new stretch of road (now Route 31). Other folks preferred to do their praying differently and they built a church Over East. The church was split and the town just missed being separated too, but the State Legislature ruled that Antrim should remain as it was, intact.

So here I sat on top of the hill; alone except for the residents of the graveyard, since the original families had gradually moved down to join the villages. Summer-time brought herds of cattle up here for pasturing, but they weren't the kind of company I was used to. Town meetings were the only time I was filled with people, so they now called me the Town House.

But the Selectmen took pity on me in 1832, and they came up with a plan to rebuild and relocate the Town House "by leaving out the middle band and cutting it down to one story in height" (ouch!—that hurt!) and bringing it down to a more suitable location.

And so I began my second life, dwarfed in size and modernized in structure. Moving buildings from one spot to another was common practice in those days—I guess I was built to last. There was nothing left behind to show where I'd been for almost 50 years, but many years later the Antrim Improvement Society thoughtfully implanted a plaque on a rock up there which says:

HERE STOOD THE FIRST
MEETING HOUSE IN ANTRIM
NEW HAMPSHIRE
ERECTED IN 1785

DANIEL NICHOLS

SAMUEL DINSMORE

JAMES DINSMORE, BUILDING
COMMITTEE

Now I was once again part of a village with lots of activity. Here, in Antrim Center, on the corner where the new road branched off to the west I was only a few rods from the brick church, and the Center School was just across the road from that. Several houses clustered around a small common, and for a while there was a store and post office, not to mention Vose's tavern over to my left, which used to be Benjamin Gregg's farm where the folks had run for shelter from the thunderstorm.

Social activities now became part of my life because there were some events that just couldn't take place in my neighbor, the church vestry, without upsetting some of the older members. Not that the parties were rowdy, mind you, but young people just need to kick up their heels now and then. Specially after the harvest is in and the cider has turned hard. I was a little put out when the town observed its Centennial in 1877—most of the important celebrating went on at the church. There were long speeches and food enough to feed 3000 people, for free! Although I was decorated in red, white and blue bunting, the parade marched right past me up to my old location on the hill.

But important changes in the town were once more going to threaten my life. Antrim was becoming an industrial center, and all the action was on the waterways, Great Brook in particular. South Village was where most of the factory workers lived, and when it came time for national elections, for example, there was no way for the men to leave work and get up to the Center and vote without losing time at their jobs. The Center was no longer the real center of town, and a new Town Hall was needed down on Main Street.

Of course I was tickled that a lot of men didn't want to give up the good old Town House, and they came up with some good (and not so good) arguments for keeping it. The new Town Hall was going to cost taxpayers a lot of money, and you know how that affects people's reasoning. One

— continued on page 10

Town History continued

straight-laced old codger stood up at Town Meeting and argued that a fancy auditorium with a stage would bring in undesirable vaudeville shows with sword-swallowers and naked women. His argument had the opposite effect, though, and the Town Hall was approved, built and opened for business in 1894.

You might think I was bereft at being abandoned yet again, but you'd be wrong. The Grange, nationally known as Patrons of Husbandry, a support group for farmers, had formed a local chapter in 1883 and been meeting around at one another's houses. I was the perfect place for them, and they immediately took possession. This became my third life. I've been known as the Grange Hall for so long that most people don't even think about me as anything else. The variety of activities that I've seen over the last 109 years is mind boggling; I probably couldn't name all of them because my memory fails me a lot these days. There've been square dances, hog rassles (another kind of dance featuring liquid refreshment), school plays and wedding receptions. All this above and beyond the Grange business, meetings and such. But the most famous might be the Harvest supper and fair. This tradition lasted a long time and is fondly remembered by anyone who ever enjoyed the boiled dinner with corned beef and baked beans. Except for the cooks, maybe: after

I was cut down to size, losing my "middle band", my second story was pretty small, and that's where the suppers were served on long tables. People crowded onto the deacon's benches, and the servers worked from a very limited kitchen area with no running water. There were always at least two settings, after which everyone went downstairs and enjoyed the auction of harvest vegetables and fruits, tossed around by a fun-loving auctioneer.

Farming in Antrim nowadays is pretty small potatoes compared to what it was 100 years ago, but the Grange is still a lively organization. Sparked by leaders like Arthur and Beth Merrill, Liz Robertson, and Master Carryl Davis, they've raised thousands of dollars, by local donations and lots of hard work. I've gotten a whale of a facelift, both inside and out. With a new roof and all that paint, not to mention a classy new floor, I'm good for a lot more years. I even looked spiffy enough to house an art show last spring.

I like to think that, old and venerable as I am, people have taken good care of me over the years, and will continue to do so in the future so I can still sit here and look out over Antrim and watch the changes that will probably come about. I've been overhearing talk about something called "urban sprawl" and I'm keeping my timbers crossed that it's not coming to Antrim to spoil my view. ♣

THE LIMRIK INVITES NEWS ABOUT ANTRIM COLLEGE STUDENTS

ANTRIM STUDENT IN COLLEGE PLAY

Denison University senior Jennifer McInnis, daughter of Pam Caswell of North Main Street, Antrim, and Clayton McInnis of Hillsboro, served as stage manager of the Denison production of the play "Approaching Zanzibar." Jennifer is a 2000 graduate of Conval High School. ♣

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

The following boards will have positions available for fulfillment in the 2004 Town Elections: Selectman, Moderator, Treasurer, Library Trustee, Trustee of the Trust Funds, Planning Board, School Board. There may be some we missed so check with the Town Offices. Filing period is January 21-30. ♣

SCHOOL BOARD

By Denise Holmes

RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Have you ever considered running for School Board? In recent years, many elected positions have been filled by people who have been unopposed on the ballot. Antrim citizens should have a choice of more than one person when casting their ballots for school board representative. It takes a person who is dedicated to ensuring that every student has an opportunity for a quality education. There are many people in Antrim with the integrity to fill this position. We urge anyone with an interest in serving the community to offer Antrim a choice. Names can be submitted between January 21 and January 30 at the SAU office (behind South Meadow School in Peterborough).

FINITE RESOURCES, DECREASING REVENUES

A most pressing challenge for the Conval School Board has been how to fulfill our obligation to provide a quality education considering our finite resources and looking ahead to decreasing revenues. We are very sensitive to the fact that taxes are increasing. Looking at last year's budget, we found very little to cut. As we review programs to look at their effectiveness, we will look closely at their cost and what we are getting for our taxpayer's dollars. At the heart of the matter is our belief that education is essential and what is essential in good times is also essential in bad times. We continue to scrutinize the budget for things that are not needed or are not effective.

ABOUT THE BUDGET

There is a detailed overview of the budget process in our most recent newsletter sent out in October. The dates for the Public information nights are December 3rd at 7 PM at South Meadow School and December 4th at 7 PM at Great Brook School. A preliminary budget will be reviewed and the public is encouraged to take a look at the budget, ask questions and offer suggestions.

Visit our web site at www.conval.edu to learn more about our schools. If you have questions or suggestions call or e-mail Denise Holmes, 588-3098, denise.holmes.sb@conval.edu or Rich Morel, 588-3326, richard.morel.sb@conval.edu.

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ANTRIM WOODS PROJECT RELINQUISHED

By Peter Moore

The two year effort to try and acquire the 58 acre open space between West Street and town-owned land along Clinton Road for a town forest, has ended. Known as the Antrim Woods Project, the effort had raised about half the \$160,000 needed to secure this land for conservation and recreation close to the heart of downtown Antrim and the schools.

Over the duration of this planning and fund-raising effort, moneys were generously appropriated at the 2002 town meeting, received in grants from the McCabe Environmental Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation, the Hurlin Fund held by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and the Gilbert Verney Foundation. Money set aside to complete this worthwhile initiative also accumulated from resident donations and several spirited benefit concerts at the hands of Brian Murphy, Jonas Taub, and Richard Morel.

IMPACT OF STATE BUDGET

At the outset of the effort to protect the Antrim Woods a key source of funding potential, and part of the impetus to raise the substantial funds needed, was the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). It was hoped that this state-funded "matching grant" program could make the acquisition of the land possible without having to seek an unreasonable amount of money from local sources which are particularly hard-pressed at this time. Two LCHIP grant rounds were attempted without success in 2001 and 2002, and the LCHIP program was basically "gutted" by the NH Senate for the next 2 years in reaction to an unusually tight overall state budget.

Along with the loss of this major source of potential funding for completion of the Antrim Woods effort, the landowners would not give an option on the purchase, choosing to continue marketing the land to all potential suitors with no guarantee that the property would remain available as more long-term fund-raising efforts took place. On top of this, the town's

appropriation of \$40,000 toward the purchase, voted at the 2001 town meeting, will lapse on December 31st, 2003.

UNLESS THERE'S AN ANGEL...

With time short, a loss of LCHIP, and no guarantee of option-to-purchase—it has been determined that the effort to conserve this important open-space, for all to enjoy forever, is at best a very long-shot. Short of an "angel" coming forward to donate the balance of funding needed to complete this acquisition it has been determined that the timing is just not right, and the resources not there, for this effort to continue.

On behalf of the Antrim Conservation Commission, I sincerely thank all those on the Antrim Woods Planning Group and the many others who joined in the vision and the effort to bring the Antrim Woods to reality. Can there be success in failure? I think there has been and perhaps we'll get to make a similar effort once again when the time is right and the circumstances are more favorable. Thank you to all for your support! ♣



Friends & Neighbors of Antrim Town!

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Saturday - the 6th of December, Two Thousand and Three

Mirth & Merriment All Day Long

PARKSIDE GALLERY

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Blending the Old & the New

Vintage Gifts, Decorative Accessories & Christmas Shop

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Our Family & Friends in Period Costume Celebrate the Holiday Season
Demonstrations of Hearth Cooking, Toddy Tasting & Traditional Decorating

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OLD POUND ROAD SCHOOL

By Jane Forrestal

What had been known as Price Farm School in Antrim became the Old Pound Road School, getting a new home and new teacher. That was in 1998, when Price Farm's Jane Miller decided to let her career follow a different course, taking her away from running the small private school she founded, to pursue doctoral studies and become a faculty member at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene.

Intent on following her new dreams, Jane did not want to simply let the school end. Nor did Price Farm School students of that time, or their parents. One parent in particular, Noreen Kilbride, herself an Antioch graduate and an aide at the school, was ready and willing to accept Jane's offer to continue the school and become its head teacher. Noreen and her husband, Charlie Levesque, and two sons, decided to sell their home in Deering and found a place on Old Pound Road in Antrim to purchase what would be both their home and new home to the school. Noreen and Maria Chambers of Antrim began the school together, and Maria stayed on for a second year as well.

It has been five years since this transition was made, and the *LIMRIK* had a chance to catch up with Noreen Kilbride to hear about the work of the school and its young students.

The school's philosophy and daily rituals and routines of learning have remained much the same as they always had been. Students flourish in an intimate, multi-age environment, receiving personal care and attention to their individual growth and development. Eight students, ranging from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade, make up the "bigs" and the "littles," and the curriculum is tailored to the developmental stage of each child. "Bigs" know it is their job to help the "littles." The school closely follows the seasons and takes time to celebrate both the cyclical nature of our earth and the seasonal customs associated with those cycles. Every year, celebrations like "Haunted House," Fall Gathering, and Twelfth Night are looked forward to eagerly.

Each school day begins with handwork, with children busily working on finger weaving, knitting, or embroidery. They recite a poem, sing a song or two, and share news. Students then move into an active part of the day with "choice time," where they are given three to four different things to do, all relevant to the school's current study theme. (This changes year to year, but currently is centered on studying Medieval history and folklore.) After clean-up from this choice period, students know to take out their "black-and-white books" in which they will write, mostly about what they did during choice time. This is followed by silent reading of chapter books. When the older students have completed their reading, they'll take some time to read to the Kindergartners. Old Pound Road School students also have reading buddies at Antrim's Field School, so the sharing of reading is carried on with middle school age students, too.

After reading comes an important ritual before snack is shared. Students and teacher gather together, arrange their snack and napkins, paying attention to manners. They light a candle, sit closely in a circle and sing the familiar Shaker tune, "'Tis a Gift to be Simple...". Snack is a time for chatting, sharing news, and they have a song to blow out the candle flame. The children are accustomed to a game, particularly singing games with little Contra dances, at this time.

Next is another cherished time of day when Noreen reads to her students. They all settle in to hear *The King of Ireland's Son*, Padraic Colum's 19th Century Irish folktale, with a palmful of bee's wax to keep their hands quietly occupied. After this morning of working hard and singing, listening and thinking, the children go outside for "Out Time". They play outdoors, playing soccer, building forts, playing "village," swinging on a swing, hiking, or sledding in winter. When the children come back indoors, it is time for lunch.

Lunch is not rushed. The school recognizes that young children, particularly Kindergartners, might need to take their time with a meal. Therefore, there is no

"done time." When they are finished with lunch, students move to what would be considered the heaviest academic part of the day. This is called "folder work time," and students work from their folders at assigned seats to make choices regarding one math activity and one language-arts activity each day. To be sure each child is accomplishing what he or she should, according to curriculum standards, Noreen carefully arranges the folders and oversees the work. While the children are working, Noreen sits in a rocking chair, and they will come to her if they need help.

Another component of folder work is the time students devote to their own story books. They are expected to write at least one page per day. They are always at work on some stage of writing a story, and according to Noreen, the students' love of writing is encouraged like the love of candy. One of the ways this is fostered is through sharing their work. Completed books are finished with a cover and stapled. Then the author reads his story to the whole group. At this time, all the students get to tell the author what they loved about the book. This point is so rewarding, that Kindergartners are apt to offer many three-page books as ready for publication!

In the midst of this daily routine are opportunities for children to direct their own learning, to find out more about an area of interest to them, or to find the answer to a question they are keen on answering. Out of these interests, it's not uncommon that an annual theme of study is born. Noreen keeps her eye out for interesting projects for the children to pursue as well. Lately they've been building a model of a castle fortress, and have begun a quilting project that eventually will look like a picture at a distance because of its design. They made applesauce, and have enjoyed a recent gift to the school, a copy of James Whitcomb Riley's *The Frost is on the Pumpkin*. Throughout the year, students are involved in projects too numerous to mention. Starting at Fourth Grade, homework is given in the form of a year-long exploration and research into a single topic. This work is thorough and meant to

— continued next page

Parks & Recreation continued

November 6, these two teams represented Antrim at a Keene Jamboree event at the Fuller School. The Jamboree was a means to give the team members, many first timers in the program, a chance to see what tournament conditions would be like and see how they measured up to other area teams from Peterborough and Keene who field two teams apiece. The two main goals of the Jamboree, to develop teamwork and have fun, were successfully accomplished by all participants. The Antrim teams came in 1st (*Albino Monkeys*) and 3rd (*Technology Titans*) respectively. Things look promising for the Nashua tournament but there is still a lot of hard work needed over the next three weeks. So don't be surprised if you see strange lights in the sky over the next few weeks. It may not be your imagination, but that of these teams exercising the limits of their's. Let's wish them luck on Decem-

Old Pound Road School continued

be compiled into a book at the end of the year, so students aim for quality, and parental help is crucial.

Noreen points to several keys to the children's continued success and happiness at school. These include an intentional rhythm of each day, the fact that students know what comes next, and what is expected. Noreen supplies healthy doses of guidance and tools to help students take off in areas of exploration that they find meaningful. Students and teacher also work at treating each other well, with teaching carried out in an atmosphere that is loving and respectful. This kind of early childhood and youth education is a gift not every elementary-age child is able to experience as often or as deeply. One indication of how much school time is cherished by Noreen and her students is heard in the song they share before leaving Old Pound Road School each afternoon:

Now it's time to go
We've been singing and playing all
the day
Until tomorrow, we must say
now it's time to go.

ber 6. Information on the program is available at: www.usfirst.org/jrobtc/flg_chal.htm or you can contact the Rec office at 588-3121.

REC PROGRAMS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE...

In other recreation news, **Family Fun Nights**, held on the first Friday of every month, have been very well attended and quite fun for the kids and the grown-ups! Each Fun Night has open gym time for basketball, crafts, and games. Note that because of the holidays, the January Fun Night will be held on January 9 from 6–8 PM.

The Antrim **Youth Soccer** program was also very successful, with more than 150 kids registered! The program continues to grow, and next year we plan to hold a Jamboree at the beginning of the season. Hats off and a round of applause and thanks to our volunteer coaches: Dominic Rizzo, Dave Pollak, Peter Lamb, Paula Clough, Sean Lowe, Brian Murphy, Mike Kuchinos, Eric Zilling, Jim O'Mahoney, Jay Creighton, Dennis Green, Jon Kullgren, Charles Levesque, and Peter Martel. In addition, sincere appreciation to Don Crooker who refereed all the home games.

Antrim **Youth Basketball** is now underway, with the department sponsoring four teams in the Silver Valley and Emerald Valley League. There are basketball programs for youth in grades K through 9th grade.

SKI TRIPS

The recreation department will be sponsoring two ski trips during the winter season. On December 29, there will be a group trip to Crotched Mountain Ski Area. On January 19, Martin Luther King Day, there will be a bus trip to Mt. Sunapee Ski Area. Watch the paper for more details on these two trips.

CRAFTS

A holiday craft program will be held at the recreation office on Saturday, December 13 from 10 AM to NOON. During this drop-in program, children and adults will have the opportunity to create crafts for holiday gift giving, including candles and ornaments. A small donation per family will help cover the costs of this program.

YOGA

There is a Kripalu Yoga class being offered by Morgan Cleveland. The class is held three times weekly at the Town Hall: Monday mornings at 7 AM and 9 AM, and Wednesday evenings at 6 PM. A class especially for high schoolers will be starting soon, led by Julie Cyr. Call the Recreation office for information on these or any other programs.

HELP WANTED

The recreation department is hoping to establish an activity program for toddlers during the long cold days of winter. The program will be held at the Town Hall, and will be for children to have a chance to run, dance, tumble and play during the season of snow and ice. We are looking for people who are interested in helping organize.

We are also looking for adults who are interested in helping supervise Open Gym time for high school aged youth on Saturday evenings. This would be a time for kids to play basketball, listen to music, watch movies, play table tennis, and hang out. If you are interested in helping to develop either of these programs, please call the office at 588-3121.

SUMMER LIFEGUARDS

As we watch the snow fly and ponds freeze over, we are always thinking of the summer season. If you know a college age or high school junior or senior who would make a great lifeguard or swim instructor, encourage them to contact us. We can help fund lifeguard classes, and financial reimbursement may be offered to qualified individuals who take the Water Safety Instructor class. For information, call the Rec Dept at 588-3121.



THE CHRISTMAS VERSE

The Christmas verse on page 1 is, technically, a *tanka*, defined as a Japanese verse form of 31 syllables in five unrhymed lines, the first and third having 5 syllables each, and the others having 7 syllables. The line, "A song of the very stones," is a reference to Luke 19, 39–40, wherein the Pharisees ask Jesus to rebuke his disciples, and Jesus replies, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." ♣



ABOUT TOWN

ANTRIM-BENNINGTON LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

We will be selling Christmas Trees again this year at the Tenney Farm stand on Saturdays and Sundays in December. Be sure to come early to ensure that you have the tree to make your holidays bright. This is a very important project as the proceeds raised help fund the Operation Santa project in Antrim and Bennington.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Fall Breakfast in November. The proceeds raised will go to help Youth Programs, both locally and within Lions International.

The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club is a service oriented club that is part of Lions International with Lions worldwide. We are always looking for new, dedicated members who feel they would like to make a difference in our community. To find out more about how you can become a part of this worthwhile group, please call Bob Edwards at 588-6861 or ask when you attend one of our functions. ♣

BABYSITTING FOR PARENTS' NIGHT OUT FRIDAY DEC 12 6-10:00 PM

Go shopping, see a play, go to the movies or out to dinner. Drop your child (over the age of 4) off at Great Brook School by 6 PM. There will be movies, snacks, arts and crafts and open gym. Babysitting will be provided by 8th grade volunteers (with adult supervision) to raise money for their class trip to Washington. Cost is just \$5 per child for 4 hours of fun. Call Carol at 547-6221 or Deb at 588-3703 to reserve your spot. Must pick up promptly at 10 PM. ♣

CADETTE & SENIOR GIRL SCOUTS

By Sharon Dowling, Leader

This year Antrim welcomes new Senior Scout Troop 1367, as several Cadettes bridged up to this higher level last June. The Seniors have met at times on their own, as well as joining with the regular Cadette 2706 meetings. In October, the Senior Scouts took a hike up Pitcher Mountain for lunch, and were able to enjoy an unseasonable shower of sleet and snow! Once back in town, hot cocoa helped warm the bones—but it was all great fun. Thank you to Lorrie Buxton for hiking along with us.

Cadettes and Seniors both had fun painting pumpkins for the residents at Harborside Pheasantwood Nursing Home. Plans for community service projects at both the Nursing Home and Kitty Rescue and Adoption in Jaffrey are underway. The girls also planned and held a Bridging and Rededication ceremony for the beginning of November.

November 20 saw older scouts helping younger scouts prepare Holiday gifts at the area wide Holiday Workshop (and pizza party!). Girl Scouts from the entire Great Brook Service Unit were invited to participate.

December will include service projects and planning for Interest Badges. When the holidays are over it will once again be COOKIE TIME!!!! If you have a girl who may be interested in joining a great group of 7th-12th grade girls, or you have an interest in volunteering your time, money or expertise to the Girl Scouts, please call 588-3459. ♣



INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS HISTORICAL SOCIETY LAKES-RIVERS-RAILROADS

By Ron Haggett

The Antrim Historical Society is preparing several programs for next year and needs your help.

Program *one* will trace the history of Franklin Pierce Lake from its creation in the 1920's (before that it was a river and wetlands area) through the development of the electric power plant (again in the 1920's) to its present time as a lake-front recreation community. We are looking for oral history, pictures, maps and other memorabilia you may have in your attics and basements. This should be a program of interest to all those who lived in town long enough to see these changes and to the newcomer to town for whom the lake has always been here.

Program *two* will trace the history of the settlement along the Contoocook River with its use as a transportation highway and as a source of water power for the development of the mill industry.

Program *three* will be a history of the Boston and Maine railroad and it's impact on the towns in the area. This last will be of special interest to the "Railroad Buffs" among us.

We hope that you will help us make these presentations of our local history memorable and enjoyable events. If you are able to help, please contact either Nina Harding at 588-6175 or Ron Haggett at 588-6715 or leave word at the Tuttle Library and we will contact you. ♣

*It was evening all afternoon.
It was snowing
And it was going to snow.
The blackbird sat
In the cedar-limbs.*

*(from Wallace Stevens'
Thirteen Ways of Looking At A Blackbird)*



CHURCH NEWS



Antrim Presbyterian Church
 Rev. Peggi Kephart Boyce
 588-2209

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
 (nursery available for 4-year-olds and under)

Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM
Sunday School 10:30 AM
Youth Ministry 11:30 AM

Communion on the first Sunday of each month and every Sunday of **Advent** (November 30 –December 21)

Dec 24 6:30 PM Candlelight Service

Choir: anyone interested in singing in the choir should contact Madelyn Betz at the church for practice schedule.

Revival Shop: quality used clothing. Open Saturdays from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Baptist Church

Pastor Charles V. Boucher
 Cherryl Boucher, Associate Pastor
 588-6614

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
 (Nursery and junior church provided)

Dec 14 7 PM Christmas Concert
 "Bethlehem's Child"

Dec 21 10:30 AM Christmas Pageant

Dec 24 7 PM Candlelight Service

Antrim Antrim Church of Christ
 588-3491

Sunday Schedule

Bible Study 10:00 AM
 Worship 11:00 AM

Bible Study Ladies 7 PM Tuesdays

Saint Patrick Church

Rev. Richard A. Smith
 588-2180

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:15 PM
 Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM
 Mon-Fri 7:30 AM

Penance ½ hour before all weekend masses and by request.



PARKSIDE GALLERY

AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

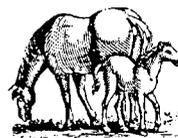
Old North Branch Village, Antrim, NH. On Saturday, December 6, Parkside Gallery will host the fourth annual "An Old Fashioned Christmas". Jacob and Betsy Tuttle who ran the store and Stagecoach stop over two centuries ago will host the event.

In Tuttle's day, the Old North Branch Road was the main coach route from Boston, and went over the North Branch River and through the woods through the Lower Village and on to Concord. The dam creating Pierce Lake was built in 1929 flooding the old route. The remains of stone bridges and farm foundations are sometimes visible when the lake is lowered.

Thousands of guests have frequented the many establishments that called this place home. The Cadillac Inn, The Hillside House, Smithholm, David's, and the Hawthorn Inn. Local residents still remember Smithholm's All-You-Can-Eat Saturday night supper of hot dogs and beans for \$1 and fondly recall the "Hat Lady". Noralee Syssin entertaining at David's on Saturday nights.

For the last 20 years, the Tuttle Inn has been an antique shop. Parkside Gallery is completing its fourth season in the Antrim location. One by one the buildings are being cleaned and painted. The newest addition to the "Branch" is the Bee Hive, a gift shop blending the old and the new. The owner, Melissa Anwar, has a knack for mixing vintage gifts and decorative accessories in colorful displays. She will offer a wide array of decorations to help create a country Christmas. Also, for the second year, there will be affordable Christmas trees available from The Rock, a non-profit center for environmental education in Bethlehem, NH. The sale of trees helps to support their programs.

Friends and neighbors are invited to stop by and try a hot toddy or some syllabub. The Tuttle (Leizures) and friends, in period garb, cook the Christmas Dinner on an open hearth. There will be mirth and merriment all day long. For information please call 5889-3322. ♣



HOT TO TROT 4-H CLUB

By Beth Merrill

Hot To Trot 4-H members have a few varieties of 4-H cookies left to sell at \$3 per package. This cookie sale is similar to the popular Girl Scout cookie sale, but has its own unique flavors. Please contact Beth at 588-6615 if you would like to support 4-H and buy some cookies.

In November, the club went on a field trip to the 10th Annual Equine Affair, a huge horse expo held at the Eastern States Exposition grounds in West Springfield, MA. The girls attended clinics conducted by such notable horsemen as Olympians Karen and David O'Connor, horse whisperers GaWaNi Pony Boy and Monty Roberts, and western reining trainer Josh Lyons. Many familiar and exotic breeds of horses were on parade, and the commercial displays ranged from gifts to hoof picks to supplements to fencing to saddles to horse trailers. You name it; if it has to do with horses it was there at Equine Affair. The highlight of the event was the Pfizer Fantasia show, an equine extravaganza featuring live horse performances in the spotlight accompanied by inspiring music. Favorite acts from the show were the youth volte act, draft horse hitch salute to the armed forces, comedic dressage rider, the O'Connor's pas de deux with jumps, and Josh Lyons' bridleless reining performance.

Rainbeau Jewel, the filly that was born this spring during a 4-H meeting (described in the September *LIMRIK* by Caitlin Campbell) is growing big and strong. She has been weaned from her mom and is responding well to basic handling and training, some techniques of which were learned at Equine Affair.

Just after press time, club members will have participated in the Hillsborough County Judging Contest in an effort to earn a spot on the county team that will compete at the state level in the spring. Results will be listed in the next issue of the *LIMRIK*.

The club is looking for one or two horse project leaders to help expand the learning opportunities for our members. If you would like to help out, please call Beth at 588-6615. ♣



LIBRARY NEWS

by Melissa Lawless

PROGRAMS

- **Dec 5 2 PM** Homeschool Support Group celebrating the 100 Years of Flight with crafts and books.
- **Dec 6 11 AM-4 PM** Patron Appreciation Day
- **Jan 9 2 PM** Homeschool Support Group
- **Feb 6 2 PM** Homeschool Support Group
- **Feb 27 10 AM** Pet Read-In for children pre-school through elementary school

PATRON APPRECIATION DAY

Come eat, drink and be merry on Patron Appreciation Day, Saturday December 6th from 11 AM to 4 PM. We invite all our patrons and volunteers to join us as we kick off the holiday season with a big "thank you" for all your support throughout the year. Many people give of their time and talents to the library, allowing us to offer far more to the community than we could otherwise. We are grateful for all the smiling, eager faces who greet us each day for programs, class story times, reference questions, or simply checking out materials for school, work, and pleasure. Our common bond is a love of books and community; for this we are thankful.

PET READ-IN

Our annual Pet Read-In offered to young children on the last day of their winter school vacation, Friday, February 27 at 10 AM will feature reptiles as pets. Stories and activities will have reptiles as a theme. Refreshments will be served. We ask that children under the age of ten be accompanied by a supervising adult. All are welcome. If you have any pictures of pet reptiles, we would be thrilled to see them and hear about them.

A VISIT WITH ILLUSTRATOR

ERIC INGRAHAM

As part of the CLIF Grant recently awarded to the James A. Tuttle Library, Antrim Elementary School students were treated to a visit from illustrator Eric Ingraham on Thursday November 6. Mr. Ingraham presented a story and spontaneous illustrations to a large group of delighted children. The visit was well re-

ceived as evidenced by the thank-you notes we have received from excited students arriving for class visits to the library. Thanks go also to the Children's Literacy Foundation for providing the library and the children of Antrim with this wonderful opportunity.

SAVE \$\$\$ BY USING YOUR LIBRARY

An article in the December 2003 issue of *Better Homes & Gardens* suggested using the library to trim expenses from your family's budget.

"One huge center for cost savings is as close as the local public library.

"Of course, libraries are a great source of books, magazines, and newspapers that you don't have to buy yourself. You could save \$155 a year, the amount spent annually on reading, according to government statistics. Libraries are also a great source of audio CDs, movies, and books on tape. If expenses for a movie rental each week (\$4 each), a CD per month (\$16 each), and four books on tape a year (\$30 each) are eliminated from the family budget, that's a savings of \$520 a year. Total savings by switching over to using your library: \$675."

HOLIDAYS

The library will be closed for the Christmas Holidays on December 24-26 and will be open for regular hours on Saturday December 27. In 2004 we will be closed on January 1 New Years Day, January 19 Martin Luther King Day, and February 16 Presidents Day.

NEW FICTION

David Baldacci *Split Second*; Sandra Brown *Hello Darkness*; Diana Gabaldon *Lord John and the Private Matter*; Jan Karon *Shepherd's Abiding*; Toni Morrison *Love*; Richard North Patterson *Balance of Power*; Ann Rice *Blood Canticle*; Stuart Woods *Capital Crimes*.

NEW MYSTERIES

Patricia Cornwell *Blowfly*; Lillian Jackson Braun *The Private Life of the Cat Who...*; Deborah Crombie *Now May You Weep*; Sharon Kay Penman *Dragon's Lair*; Ruth Rendell *Babes In The Wood*.

NEW NON-FICTION

Molly Ivins *Bushwacked*; Saira Shah *The Story Teller's Daughter*. ♣

SPRUCING UP MAIN STREET

By Janet MacLachlan

Antrim's Main Street is looking brighter and better these days, thanks to the TIF program which stands for Tax Increment Finance. At the last town meeting \$15,000 was appropriated to underwrite the sprucing up of Main Street buildings. Those having places of business, or institutions such as churches, were eligible to apply for help in repainting. About ten applications were received by David Essex and, of these, six are completed or in the process of being finished.

The Baptist Church, the Lutheran Girl's Shelter, and the Contocook Housing Trust are among the institutions which have benefited from the grant which can reimburse the owners up to \$2,000. (Not everyone needed that much money for their projects.) Rick and Diane's Restaurant is sporting a bright, colorful facade, and the Mail Box Video is also in the process of repainting. There was one private home on Summer Street that also was included in the district.

Three or four applications have not yet been processed and those projects will probably have to wait until next spring to start.

As money cannot be carried over from one year to another, there will have to be an item on the warrant asking for the remainder of the \$15,000 to be appropriated at next year's town meeting. If your building improvement was not undertaken this year, you may be able to complete it next summer.

David Essex is to be commended for his dedication and hard work implementing the improvement of Antrim's Main Street.



GREAT BROOK VET CLINIC
BETTER LIVING
THROUGH CHEMISTRY

Dr Tom Dowling

A major chemical company used those words in their advertising slogan decades ago. This slogan has great significance to medical science, and veterinary medicine in particular.

As Great Brook Vet Clinic has grown, we have been able to acquire and provide more and more of the new diagnostic testing equipment. The newest addition to our arsenal of diagnostic capabilities is the "ABAXIS", which enables us to lessen our dependence on outside laboratories.

The name sounds almost menacing, but the ABAXIS is truly a medical marvel. About the size of a shoe box, the ABAXIS is an amazing powerhouse providing quick and accurate blood chemistry information for many species of animals (even humans!). It uses a sample volume of 100 microliters (2 drops) of blood to yield a laundry list of information about liver and kidney function, sugar and electrolyte levels, as well as plasma protein values. And the neat part is, it gives all this information in less than 15 minutes!!!

It wasn't hard to choose the ABAXIS over its competitors, since it is used and endorsed by many veterinary schools, and even NASA. You can be sure that the ABAXIS will be a major player in our pursuit of excellent veterinary care at Great Brook Vet Clinic. ♣

ANTRIM GRANGE

By Beth Merrill

Antrim Community Grange #98 has been working hard this past summer and fall with an art show, fair exhibits, fabric swap, craft fair, and plans for other upcoming events. With a wide range of ages represented within our active membership, we welcome all to come and share ideas of how the Grange can best serve the Antrim-Bennington community.

For a new project, the Grange is offering a Holiday Decorating Contest. All residents and businesses of Antrim and Bennington are invited to participate by decorating your houses and buildings. The cost is only your time. Gift Certificates to a local company will be awarded to the winners. Entries will be judged by Antrim Grange members during the week of December 14. If you are interested in entering the contest, or perhaps nominating your neighbor, please call Gloria Davis at 588-3208, and leave your name, phone number, and location of the property.

Antrim Community Grange youth participate in statewide activities throughout the year, such as winter and summer youth rallies, and the New England Youth Conference. Antrim Grange had two youth

members on the winning drill team at the regional competition this summer. One member placed first in the NH Grange Youth Public Speaking contest and fourth at the regional conference.

Several members attended Grange Day at the Eastern States Exposition. Eliot Davis served as the building manager of the New England Grange building and was surprised with the honor of receiving the "Host of the Day" award presented by Wayne McCary, president of the exposition.

At the recent State Grange convention, Antrim Community Grange president Carryl Davis, was part of a panel discussion on the progress of the five NH Granges currently enrolled in the Action Grange 1 program. Members participated in the following contests with varying degrees of success: Photo, Art, Creative Writing, and Talent. Arthur Merrill was re-elected to serve a three-year term on the State Grange Executive Committee.

We would like to welcome all to come and lend a hand with our Antrim-Bennington area community projects. Antrim Community Grange meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 PM. For more info please call the Secretary, Eliot, at 428-4392. ♣

AN OLD-STYLE WILL

The following is a report on the will of Stephen Hopkins, Plymouth, Massachusetts 1644. Stephen Hopkins is a forebear of Antrim's long-time summer resident, Althea Ullman.

—Editor

He gives to Giles his great bull then in the hands of Mrs. Warren and to his grandson Stephen 20 shillings due from Mrs. Warren for its hire, to Constance his mare, to Deborah a cow and her calf and half of another cow, to Demaris a cow and a calf and half of another cow with Deborah, to Ruth a cow and her calf, a bull and half of another cow and to Elizabeth a cow and her calf, the other half of the cow with Ruth, and a yearling heifer. To his four unmarried daughters he gave equally all the moveable goods in his house, including a silver spoon to each, and provided that if any of them should die unmarried, her share should go to the survivors. To Caleb he gave all his right, title and interest in and to his house and lands in Plymouth and in and to any lands that might come to him or he might have the right to by reason of being one of the first comers. He also gave Caleb a yoke of oxen, then in the hands of Richard Church and their hire, and all the debts due him. He provided that his said four daughters should have the right to remain in his house in Plymouth till married.

The will also provides: "... that my Executor and Supervisor shall advise, devise and dispose by the best wayes and meanes they cann for the disposing in marriage or otherwise for the best advancmnt of the estate of the forenamed Deborah, Demaris, Ruth and Elizabeth Hopkins."

The witnesses were Capt. Miles Standish and Gov. William Bradford.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Izi Nichols

OLDEST RESIDENT

The Historical Society has been searching for Antrim's oldest resident who has lived in town the longest in order to present him or her with the *Boston Post* cane.

The Antrim Reporter of August 18, 1909, announced: "The Selectmen of Antrim have received a nice gold-headed cane with this inscription: 'The *Boston Post*, for the oldest person in town; to be transmitted.' It was taken by Selectman O.H. Robb to Mr. Hurlin, who is 95 years old."

Upon Mr. William Hurlin's demise the cane was "transmitted" to the next oldest citizen, and so on for 95 years. The present-day Selectmen recently turned over the process and cane to the care of the Historical Society. The cane is kept in the permanent collection at the Library, and a duplicate, made by craftsman Don Dunlap, is presented to the oldest resident.

Nelly Thornton was the most recent holder of the cane, having been presented with it in 1998 on her 100th birthday. She passed away last December and a committee has been at work since then, searching through sources to find Nelly's successor. A decision will be made in the very near future.

If anyone has any suggestions about someone who might meet the requirements of age and length of residency, please notify the committee, Izi Nichols at 588-6581 or Carole Webber at 588-2332, by January 1, 2004.

COLORING BOOK

The Antrim Historical Society announces the publication of the "Antrim Coloring Book", a comprehensive collection of local scenes, for ages 6-10. Barbara Shea created the art work which includes familiar places such as the school, Town Hall, Maplehurst Inn, and Gregg Lake beach, as well as examples of how people lived in Antrim in earlier days. Each picture is accompanied by a small amount of explanatory text.

These books are on sale at Edmunds, the Tuttle Library and the Maplehurst Inn, for \$5.00. Just in time for Christmas! ♣

I REMEMBER RUTH

By Lyman Gilmore

Ordinarily, the *LIMRIK* does not publish obituaries, so I suppose I should not mention that Ruth Alvin died at 10:00 a.m. on November 6, 2003. But we do publish memoirs.

I remember meeting Ruth in up in North Branch during the fall of 1964 when her husband Bob and I were hired to teach at the year-old Nathaniel Hawthorne College. Noticing her wry wit and good natured skepticism, I liked her instantly. It was the beginning of a thirty-nine year friendship of pickled herring and wonderful talk about all manner of things, especially the theatre and books. Ruth loved fishy hors d'oeuvres, and wow, could she talk! Wise, cheerful, and irrepressible, she was a wonderful talker. She would get going and there'd be no stopping her: one thought leading to an idea, sentences blending into paragraphs, paragraphs segueing into chapters, chapters becoming volumes. That is, unless her husband Bob was around, rolling his eyes comically, staring at her gruffly, sometimes declaring with mock ire, "Ruth, Shut Up!" She didn't seem to mind; it was like a play with two characters who loved and made fun of each other.

From those early years until last month, I enjoyed hearing about her life: a pampered little girl in a well off Jewish family, dropping out of Smith College to work in a regional theatre in New Jersey, meeting Bob on the eve of World War II, studying acting at the famous Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City where they became friends with "Greg" Peck and other actors who went on to become movie stars, teaching for ten years at the progressing Bennington College for women in Vermont, having their daughter Judy, discovering a second home at the Peterborough Players where they relished working every summer, and finally arriving at Hawthorne College and putting down permanent roots in and around Antrim. Bob left Hawthorne for a position teaching theatre at Franklin Peirce College in 1969, and Ruth became as vital a member of the Peirce community as she had been at Hawthorne. Their three grandchildren, Jason, Aaron, and Olivia, lived large in their hearts.

Most Conval high school students from the 1970s to the 1990s knew Ruth intimately as the famous "Super Sub," a nearly full-time substitute teacher who took in stride as only an expert actor could classes in every imaginative academic subject. Antrim residents may remember Ruth's devotion to Tuttle Library as a Trustee, as well as her strong speeches supporting library issues at Town Meetings.

With Bob's death in 1998, and Judy's moving to England to live, Ruth's existence became more solitary than it had ever been. In one of those minor annoyances that later loom large, one day as she was about to take a trip out west with a friend, Ruth stubbed her toe, bruising it badly. She didn't think much of it; only a stubbed toe. But the toe did not heal, and no matter what the doctors did, it became infected, the circulation declined, gangrene set in, and it had to be amputated. This began a long and painful convalescence. Since she could not live by herself, she had to sell the house in Antrim of which she and Bob had been so fond, the first house they had ever owned. She entered Pheasantwood nursing home in Peterborough where she managed to talk the administration into giving her a single room where she could bring in all her own furniture and entertain visitors in grand style. She held court in that elegant room like the theatrical diva she was. I always thought of Ruth at Pheasantwood as the Thespian Queen, and indeed, she dressed and behaved regally, much to the delight of the staff.

Ruth was fortunate to have made friends earlier with her Antrim neighbor, Joyce Davison, who for the final four years of Ruth's life took it upon herself to care for her in all the ways Ruth could not care for herself. It was an act of extraordinary commitment and devotion, which nobody who knows Joyce would be surprised at.

I visited Ruth two days before she died. She was obviously failing. She looked awful and she knew it. In the ironic tone we always took with one another, I began the cliché "What goes around..." which she finished with a sardonic smile, "Comes around," and nodded off to "sleep that knits up the raveled sleeve of care." ♣

GLEANNINGS

By Farmer

glean: to gather information or material bit by bit

LIGHTS AT THE FITZGERALDS

The lights will go on at the Fitzgeralds this Christmas season, and if you and yours are anything like me and mine, you will be amazed and delighted. For the past eight years, Linda and Tom have lavishly decorated their house on Pleasant Street Extension, adding hundreds of dollars worth of new lights, statues, and displays each season. Theirs is an extraordinary scene, combining beautiful religious figures, such as last year's full sized manger, with joyful pop objects like reindeer, elves, snowpersons, and Santa. This year they take the show into a whole new realm with Jordan and Judy, a live mother and daughter donkey family. If you get a chance to enter the house, as my grandsons and I have, you will see that while the outside is unbelievably bright and colorful, on the inside every horizontal and vertical surface holds lovely Christmas art.

WMD WITH CHEESE

Driving down to get my paper early one morning last month, I spied what looked like a huge weapon of mass destruction being levered into a gaping hole in the side wall of Rick and Diane's Pizzeria. Leaping from my truck, I encountered two large men maneuvering the thing into the building. Rick, who was supervising, explained with proud grin that the WMD was actually his new brick oven that will allow him to cook the best hand-tossed pizza he is capable of. He said he had ten years experience baking with a brick oven, but a couple years ago decided to try a conveyor oven which is easier to use. But he missed his old brick oven, and so he went out and bought the latest model. I feel very lucky to have two great pizzas nearby, Rick and Diane's in Antrim, and Joe Cuddemi's Alberto's in Bennington. In some families (mine!) folks argue passionately about which makes the better pizza. As far as pizza is concerned, we have an embarrassment of riches.

BACK ALI'S

When Doug Aborn hauled Rynborn off to Keene, many of us Antrimites were bereft. Rynborn had become an oasis of food,

drink, and good cheer. In the months since Doug left, the old building has been dark, silent, and haunted. Now, as everybody must know, Alice and Kevin Cutter have opened "Back Ali's" where lights shine, music sings, and the ghosts are gone. Alice says that she has worked in the food business since she was fourteen, and she has long dreamed of opening her own restaurant-music pub. About Rynborn's disappearance, she comments that "Often people don't appreciate something until it's gone. Back Ali's started because I want to promote Antrim, support the community, have the parking lot full of cars again. So far the business has been good, better than we projected." Open from lunch to midnight, Ali has a busy crew of local folks cooking, bartending, and serving: Lisa Mellen, Karen Bourque, Kathy Dendy, Christine Monkton, Mindi Gelardi, and Marda Smart. Mary Schacht helps in the deli, and Steve Schacht does some bartending. Kevin's mother Mary Ellen Cutter is the bookkeeper, Ali's boys Jacob and Jesse lend a hand when they can, and her brother Bobby Church is a backup wherever needed. Daughter Emily, a GBS fifth grader, is the boss!

FOLK TALES THE STRANGER

By Fred Roberts

Earle Worth and his wife Ethel and their three daughters lived on Pleasant Street in Antrim. That part of the neighborhood had several children from various families. On Halloween Earle liked to put on some outrageous costume that he dreamed up and go out after dark and scare the local kids. It was great fun and he always said that he was going to come back from the dead which would make the kids run off laughing and screaming.

Several years later Earle died and was cremated. It was winter so his ashes were placed in a double urn in anticipation of Ethel joining him when she passed on. Since the urn was small, a cremation lot was purchased from the cemetery and I, the oldest son-in-law, volunteered to dig a small grave. Thus the urn was buried with the immediate family in attendance at the gravesite.

Some years went by and Ethel died and was cremated. Her ashes were delivered to the cemetery superintendent and arrangements were made to retrieve the urn and place her ashes beside her husband's. The superintendent said he would take care of opening the grave. That evening my telephone rang. It was the superintendent and he said "Fred, we have a problem." What is it? I asked. "I can't find Earle!" he exclaimed. What do you mean you can't find Earle? "I've poked, prodded and dug down with no success. It's getting dark so I'll go back tomorrow and try again." I tried to figure out what could have gone wrong. Suddenly I realized what had happened. The next morning I called the superintendent and said "Meet me at the cemetery. I think I've solved the mystery."

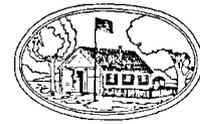
Between cemetery lots there is a grass walkway. I had opened the grave in the walkway instead of the lot. "Dig here."

I pointed. "The urn should be about there." Sure enough the urn was right where I said. Later that afternoon the family gathered at the cemetery for a short graveside service. As the minister was bringing the service to a close a voice was heard at the back of the group. All eyes turned to see who it was. There stood a man with a straggly beard dressed in old garments and pushing an old bicycle. No one had seen him come in, "Who died?" he asked. No one spoke and he turned around and left. Just as he got to the gate one of Earle's daughters said "What a great costume. He really did come back from the dead." ♣



GREAT BROOK SCHOOL NEWS

By Barbara Black



QUE PASA (What's up?)

QUE ASCO! (How gross!) What? These aren't the phrases you learned in foreign language "eons" ago? Were you lucky enough to travel to Canada or France, Spain or Mexico, only to find that the no one spoke the language as you had learned it so painstakingly in class?

This year every Great Brook student, fifth through eighth grade, will participate in both Spanish and French classes. Through songs, poetry, everyday activities and games, students will explore the language and customs of both cultures. As you travel the halls of Great Brook, you will see signs of this cultural immersion. Flags, posters, and student work can be found throughout the building. As you walk past classrooms you may hear common courtesy conversations in Spanish or French. Senora Goodman and Mademoiselle Roy have worked hard to share with GBS students these important world cultures.

In November 7th and 8th grade Spanish students traveled to Margaritas Restaurant in Keene to culminate their studies. They had an opportunity to see slides depicting Mexican culture, observe a food demonstration, and partake of an authentic Mexican meal (complete with fried Ice cream for dessert). Mmmm, what a great way to appreciate another culture!

ANCIENT CHINA

As a kickoff to their geography unit on ancient China, seventh graders traveled to the Mariposa Museum in Peterborough. There, David and Linda Blair engaged students in a variety of activities designed to pique interest in Chinese culture. From October 20th through October 27th students make shadow puppets, explored Chinese writing, and studied artifacts housed in the museum.

Marcia King planned the unit after a summer workshop run by Primary Source. The workshop focused on creating an interdisciplinary study of Ancient China. Mrs. King and Sheila Proctor spent several days during the summer at the museum. They have created a unified program blending the museum experience with geography work in the classroom.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Once again, Great Brook students have stepped forward to help those less fortunate. For the third year Mrs. Maynard has organized GBS's participation in the United States Fund for UNICEF. This organization raises money to ease suffering around the world. Each Halloween children across the United States collect for UNICEF. Funds are used for vaccinations, medical and food supplies, agricultural training, and sanitation and shelter projects.

In 2001 GBS contributed \$900 for the Afghan Children's Relief program, and in 2002 sent \$400 to help fund polio vaccinations. This year students collected \$538.10 to donate to this worthy cause.

A PARTNERSHIP BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT

Schools tend to be insular communities, involved in preparing the students within their walls for life while protecting them from some of the harsher realities. This is as true of a public middle school such as Great Brook as it is for a rehabilitation center such as Crotched Mountain. But we are all part of a larger community of people, and the sooner that community connects, the greater the benefits for all.

Students from Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center and Great Brook School have begun to form those connections. It has been a learning experience for all. GBS students have learned how an alternative communication device called a Dyna Vox can be used when speech is not possible. They have watched a "Night Line" documentary of how a person with cerebral palsy deals with life—and spoken with the fourteen year old himself. Eight graders have participated in literature discussions with high school students from Crotched Mountain. Students have shared gym class.

Great Brookers have helped with projects such as repairing a boardwalk at the mountain. They are also involved in the huge tree house project. Picture the rickety tree house of your youth, and then imagine it large enough to support a group of youngsters in wheel chairs (which can

weigh as much as four hundred pounds each). Envision a wheel chair ramp leading to the tree house which by law can only rise one inch for each foot. The work and expense are tremendous. Bill Allen, founder of Forever Young Tree houses Inc., helps groups organize volunteers to help with the work. Enter Great Brook sixth graders under the guidance of Extended Learning Teacher Beth Frost. Students helped paint and cut trees as well as skin bark and install decking. But it's not all work. Students from the two schools have gone bowling together and shared pizza. In addition, GBSers have attended performances put on the by Crotched Mountain students.

Both schools continue to find ways to share experiences and build a common community. Future plans include a joint maple sugaring project and more opportunities for Crotched Mountain students to be involved in Great Brook activities.

(Note: To create the large tree house needed to accommodate the wheel chairs several trees are connected with cables so they move as one in the wind. Holes are drilled through the trees and the house is secured with bolts rather than nails.)

HAVE A SKILL? WE HAVE A SPOT RESERVED FOR YOU!

Here's your chance to engage in your favorite hobby or for artisans to gain a fresh perspective on their craft. Great Brook is looking for community volunteers—young, old, and in between—to share their interests. These could be oil painting, cooking, woodworking, chess, beading, book discussions, math challenges—whatever skill/love you have. Eager, engaging students are looking forward to spending time with caring, talented adults.

Groups can be as large or small as you like. The school will provide the supplies needed, a place to meet, and organizational support. Groups will meet from 2:15-4:10 in the afternoon and may run for as many days or weeks as you wish. Assistant Principal Marc Eldelheit will be organizing the program. Please give him a call at 588-6630 if you are interested in sharing your talents with GBS students.

— continued next page

HARK! DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

'Tis the season for music and joy. On December 11th Great Brook musicians invite one and all to join them in the GBS gymnasium. The GBS Winter Concert will feature vocal and instrumental groups as well as soloists. Come and bring your family to an evening of music and celebration. This free concert begins at 6:30 PM.

MUCKING OUT THE STABLE

Who would have believed cleaning out stalls would be the favorite task of students? Since the beginning of the year about twenty GBS students have volunteered at Turtle Rock Rescue in Rindge as part of their community service. There students help feed, care for, and—yes—clean up after the horses which have been rescued. This is just one of the many community projects students help with as part of the Student of the Month program at GBS.

But it's not all work and no play. Each month students who have qualified, also

participate in a special outing. September Students of the Month went to Stonewall Farm where they learned about leaves, took a hayride and made fresh cider with an 1830's press. Each student also came home with a pumpkin. Other recent activities have included climbing Pitcher Mountain and bowling. Next month students will swim at Crotched Mountain, and In January they will travel to Pat's Peak.

If you have a community project with which students could help, or if you could drive for one of the special outings, please call Assistant Principal Marc Eldelheit at 588-6630.

IT'S AN EPIDEMIC!

Did you know:

- Childhood obesity is a national epidemic?
- 26% of children and 40% of teens are overweight?
- 30,000 children have obesity related Type 2 adult onset diabetes?
- 60% of overweight 5-10 year olds have one or more risk factors for cardiovascular disease?

You've seen the headlines, heard the warnings, but what is to be done? The Great Brook School Health Advisory Committee isn't taking the situation lying down. In fact, they aim to get students moving and making healthy food choices.

The group is focusing on six components of a healthy school nutrition environment. First, is a commitment to nutrition and physical activity. This includes life long individual activities as team sports become less of a focus. Next are quality school meals and offering healthy food options. The approach includes creating pleasant eating experiences and nutrition education as well as marketing their program.

The committee represents a cross-section of the GBS community: Linda Compton (school nurse), Nancy Blair (Consumer and Family Services teacher), Holly Connell (Parent), Marc Edelheit (Assistant Principal), Erin Cuddemi (GBS Food Services Director), and Beth Frost

↳ — continued page 22

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WAYNE & MAUREEN DEKONING

THE GRAPEVINE

Kristen Vance, Director

Please Spread the Word: Heating fuel and electric assistance is available at The Grapevine Thursday mornings. Southern NH Services, which administers the program, tells us that this service is being under-utilized in Antrim. Elders and families in our town may not be aware of this resource. You can help people keep warm this winter by spreading the word.

GOOD PEOPLE IN ANTRIM

Ben Pratt was leaving The Grapevine one cloudy Monday afternoon in early November, he and Mike Genest having spent the last three hours digging postholes and assembling the picket fence for the play yard. "Mike's a good man," he said. After a thoughtful pause, Ben continued: "We may not have a lot of wealthy people here in Antrim, but we sure have a lot of good people." Earlier, while Ben and Mike were working on the fence through lunch, Sydney Wilson Smith stopped to invite them to her house for a pot roast sandwich. Ben told me it wasn't just 'a sandwich'—Sydney served a pot roast dinner, complete with gravy and mashed potatoes. Ben's right. We have a lot of good people in Antrim.

WHERE THE WOMEN ARE STRONG...

Those of you who listen to "A Prairie Home Companion" on National Public Radio know that Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon is a town "Where the Women

are Strong, the Men are Good Looking, and the Children are Above Average." Well, Keillor would have been proud of our fence crew one Sunday morning in early November: Kathleen Crawford, Lois Essex and son Robert, Kristin Readell and sons Ryan and Richard, Lisa Burroughs and me. Considering the fact that none of us has any experience with this sort of thing, we managed to get a good start on the fence. And I don't think I'm the only one who had a good time. There's something about working and learning with good people, for a good cause, that makes you feel, well, good. Kathleen had her extensive tool collection in the back of her station wagon, and was able to repair the two gates. Lisa came armed with construction know-how that gave the rest of us confidence. Lois was ready to do whatever needed to be done. Kristin and I had a pretty good idea of the layout, and I wanted to see if I could get my PhD (Posthole Digger). Robert, Ryan and Richard put their young muscles to good use digging postholes and moving boulders. These three 'children'—young men—are clearly *above average*.

The site work for the play yard—pulling stumps and creating sand and equipment play areas—was generously donated by Scott and Kristina Burnside. Scott did the work on a Saturday. We began the fence work Sunday morning. Kathleen, Ben, Mike and I finished it up Monday. The fence was donated by John and Judy Vance of Dublin.

HELPING NEIGHBORS KEEP WARM...

So far, we've held five wood "parties" to cut and split the pile of logs generously donated by Matt and Diane Chauncey. Three hardy volunteers have worked every or nearly every weekend for the wood bank—John Vance, Wayno Olson and Ben Pratt. David, Robert and Jacob Essex are quickly becoming part of that core group. The crew has been joined on at least one occasion by Brett and Connor Longood, Peter Beblowski, Jim Tuttle, Taylor Dutton (all from Antrim) and Billy Horton (Hancock). Our hope is to get as much wood out as we can before too much snow comes. If you can spare a Saturday morning, we could sure use your help.

Our young citizens and their families have been hard at work stacking the wood at The Grapevine. Many thanks to Angelea and Nick Nanicelli and their parents, Rick and Jean; Robert and Jacob Essex and their mom, Lois; Richard and Ryan Readell and their mom, Kristin; Nathan and Andy Boule and their mom Janet McEwen; Barbara Beblowski and her dad, Peter; Tasha Case; and Nick Call, Michael Heddy, Brandon Lawrence and Jeffrey Sweeney (assisted by Great Brook School Assistant Principal Mark Edelheit). I hope we've included everyone—volunteers have been dropping in unannounced, a welcome surprise. If you'd like to help out, don't despair—there's plenty more wood to stack.

The wood bank relies on donations of split-and-delivered wood, as well. Chris and Susan Brissett have pledged two cords, and Steve and Paige Jones have pledged a cord. We hear that the Farmer's Almanac is predicting another cold and snowy winter. Donations of six more cords of split-and-delivered wood, plus the Chauncey's wood, should get us through to spring.

Why do we need a Wood Bank? The federal Fuel Assistance program and town welfare are also available to help people keep warm this winter. Those who call The Grapevine to request wood are always advised to apply for assistance from these resources, but sometimes wood is needed while folks are waiting for fuel assistance. And on a cold Friday night the wood bank is the only alternative. That's when good local people make the difference.

EXERCISE PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS—"STRONG LIVING"

Betty Avery, Antrim resident and Certified Strong Living Trainer, is working with The Grapevine to start a Strong Living Program early in the New Year. Strong Living is a community-based exercise program for older adults created by exercise physiologists from Tufts University. The Program is based upon two decades of laboratory-based research on exercise and the aging process. This research has clearly shown that older adults can improve their health and fitness with appropriate exercise. The most recent aging studies highlight the importance of strength, balance and flexibility training for older adults to maintain their ability to

— continued next page

School News continued

(GBS Extended Learning teacher). The committee plans to generate student awareness and support with a student survey. What do students view as healthy snacks. What are their favorite fruits and vegetables?

Immediate plans include creating a more pleasant cafeteria environment by adding curtains and sound absorbers. Consumer and Family Services students are creating a Health Bulletin Board for the cafeteria with changing themes. The first display will be "Healthy Holiday Parties", offering healthy snack alternatives to cupcakes, cookies, and other traditional sweets. You might want to check out that bulletin board before planning your own holiday party. ♣

function independently. If you have interest in participating in this program, please call The Grapevine.

**NEW PLAY-AND-LEARN
GROUP TEACHER**

We are pleased to announce that Beth Bradford of Hancock is now a member of The Grapevine's teaching staff. Beth will be co-teaching Better Beginnings play-and-learn groups with Kristin Readel, and facilitating Better Beginnings for Babies with help from her 13-month-old son Oliver.

Beth grew up in Hancock and graduated ConVal High School. She received her degree in Child Development from Wheelock College in Boston. After college Beth spent ten years in Romania, working with children in hospitals and orphanages, and consulting with non-profit humanitarian organizations. In Romania she met her husband, Eduard Hristache, and they now have two children, Emil and Oliver. "I am enjoying getting to know the wonderful families and their children, and the community supporting The Grapevine's efforts," says Beth.

S.T.E.P. COURSE BEGINS IN JANUARY

Ann Falby will offer S.T.E.P. (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting), a 7-week course put out by the American Guidance Society, beginning January 6. According to Ann, former director of Happy Valley School in Peterborough, participants will learn listening and communication skills that will help enhance self-esteem and self-motivation in their children. Skills include using logical and natural consequences in response to misbehavior, avoiding conflict struggles, and expressing feelings in a respectful way. Ann adds "In my 10 years of teaching this course to parents and teachers I have had every participant say that they have grown in their ability to build positive and effective relationships with children and adults. The skills are powerful life-long tools." The fee for the course is \$65, plus a \$15.95 materials fee. Scholarships are available—no one is excluded due to inability to pay.

SAFE BABYSITTING COURSE

January 10, for children 11 years and older, in collaboration with Monadnock Regional Pediatrics and The Family Center. Call now to sign up!

**PARENT-CHILD PROGRAMS
AT THE GRAPEVINE**

- Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 AM: Better Beginnings playgroup (18 mos. to 2 ½ years)
- Mondays 3:30 to 5 PM: Teen and Young Parents playgroup
- Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:30 AM: Better Beginnings playgroup (2 ½ to 4 year olds)
- Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 AM: The Learning Vine Preschool
- Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30 AM: Better Beginnings playgroup (mixed ages)
- Fridays 9:30 to 11:30 AM: The Learning Vine Preschool
- Fridays 10:00 to 11:30 AM: Better Beginnings for Babies

The Learning Vine has 4 openings beginning in January. The Teen and Young Parents playgroup has openings now. Call for information about Better Beginnings openings.

MORE THANK YOUS

- Wayno Olson, for donating your time and talent, as well as the materials, to create big, beautiful, functional storage cabinets for Better Beginnings and Learning Vine supplies.
- Don Readel and sons, for more "moving in work" at the center.
- Heather Readel, for her Mother's Helper assistance in our programs.
- Jim Tuttle, for donating a computer system (which Jim first upgraded).
- Dave Pollack of Hancock, for installing our new-to-us phone system.
- Jean LaPointe, for assisting with our play-and-learn groups.
- Kathleen Crawford, for her computer expertise and support.

SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE

- **Information & Referral:** Information about area resources for financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs.
- **Wood Bank:** Free firewood for families and individuals who use wood to heat their homes and cannot afford to buy firewood.
- **Heating Fuel & Electric Assistance** for eligible families, provided by Southern NH Services Thursday mornings from October through March.

- **Child & Family Counseling** provided by Monadnock Family Services by appointment. Sliding scale fee.
- **Family Conflict Resolution** offered by Milford Area Mediation Services by appointment. Free.
- **Community Suppers:** If you'd like to go but need a ride, give us a call. Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 for more information about programs and services, or to register for programs. We welcome visits.

WISH LIST

- Good, sturdy vacuum cleaner
- Portable dishwasher

**LOCAL SUPPORT KEEPS THE
GRAPEVINE DOOR OPEN**

The Grapevine is a community-based nonprofit service organization. We rely on financial support from local people and businesses for about 45% of our funding. Contributions to The Grapevine are tax deductible, and can be mailed to PO Box 637, Antrim NH 03440. Thank you for supporting our families and our community.

Grapevine supporters include Monadnock Paper Mills, Hillsborough County Incentive Funds, NH Children's Trust Fund, Monadnock Community Hospital, Bridge-Builders Foundation, The Robin Colson Memorial Foundation, NH Ball Bearing, New England Presbytery, Granite Bank, NH Dept. of Health and Human Services, and many people and businesses in Antrim and nearby towns. Many community members and businesses also donate time, talents, and supplies. ♣

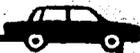
THE NURSE IS IN

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services will offer a FREE "The Nurse Is In" clinic at Antrim Village, December 16 from 11 AM to NOON. No appointment is necessary. Have your blood pressure checked. Ask our registered nurse about cholesterol, high blood pressure, and other health concerns. The nurse will answer your questions or refer you to your local health professional. For more information, call Working for Wellness at HCS at 352-2253 or 800-541-4145, or visit our website at www.hcsservices.org. ♣

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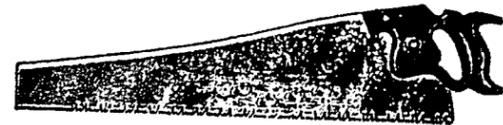
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ANTRIM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December

- 4 CONVAL SCHOOL BUDGET INFO MEETING • GBS-Antrim • 7 PM
- 5 HOMESCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP • Tuttle Library • 2:00 PM
- 6 PATRON APPRECIATION DAY • Tuttle Library • 11 AM – 4:00 PM
- 7 ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING • Gazebo in Memorial Park • 4:00 PM
- 11 COMMUNITY SUPPER • Pierce School-Bennington • 5:30 PM
- 11 WINTER CONCERT • GBS-Antrim • 6:30 PM
- 11 "NUNCRACKERS" • Antrim Players-Town Hall • 7:30 PM
- 12 "NUNCRACKERS" • Antrim Players-Town Hall • 8:00 PM
- 12 PARENTS' NIGHT OUT • Babysitting/GBS-Antrim • 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- 13 LEGO TOURNAMENT • Nashua • call Rec Dept for info
- 13 HOLIDAY CRAFT PROGRAM • Rec Dept • 10:00 AM
- 13 "NUNCRACKERS" • Antrim Players-Town Hall • 8:00 PM
- 14 "NUNCRACKERS" • Antrim Players-Town Hall • 3:00 PM
- 14 CHRISTMAS CONCERT • Antrim Baptist Church • 7:00 PM
- 16 THE NURSE IS IN • Antrim Village • 11 AM – 12 NOON
- 18 COMMUNITY SUPPER • Presbyterian Church-Antrim • 5:30 PM
- 21 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT • Baptist Church • 10:30 AM
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
6:30 PM • Presbyterian Church
7:00 PM • Baptist Church
- 29 SKI TRIP • Crotched Mountain Ski Area • call Rec Dept for info



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ANTRIM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January

- 6 S.T.E.P. COURSE (7 weeks) • The Grapevine • 5:30 PM
- 9 HOMESCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP • Tuttle Library • 2 PM
- 10 SAFE BABYSITTING COURSE • The Grapevine • 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 15 COMMUNITY SUPPER • Presbyterian Church-Antrim • 5:30 PM
- 19 SKI TRIP • Mt Sunapee Ski Area • call Rec Dept for info

February

- 6 HOMESCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP • Tuttle Library • 2 PM
- 19 COMMUNITY SUPPER • Presbyterian Church-Antrim • 5:30 PM
- 27 PET READ-IN • Tuttle Library • 10 AM



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