

The Limrik

A Quarterly Journal

For, by and about the people of Antrim.

Vol. 24 #1
December 2014

FESTIVAL OF TREES: SEE THE COMMUNITY SPARKLE

Open House November 29

Kristy Boule

An especially delightful display of holiday trees and traditions is expected to welcome a record number of visitors at the **Festival of Trees Open House on Saturday, November 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tuttle Library.** Celebrating our fifth season, the month-long Festival promises to be a feast for the eyes with displays of traditional beauties, crafty creations, and magical enchantments. A perfect place to bring holiday guests, the Open House offers more than a reprieve from holiday shopping and turkey sandwiches. The day will also be filled with musical entertainment including the esteemed Ray Sweeney as well as a return performance by the Carolsome Caugheys.



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Community Tree Lighting

SUNDAY DEC 7 • 4:00 p.m.
Memorial Park

Caroling
Lighting of Community Tree
Refreshments & visit with Santa
at Town Hall



HAWTHORNE ACADEMY

Lyman Gilmore

In late October the new owner of the Hawthorne College property, Dr. Lu Bin, Ph.D. from Beijing, China, and his Executive Assistant Zhoulai (Caroline) Zhu, invited me to visit the campus to learn of their plans for the new Hawthorne Academy. Dr. Lu had been living on campus for three months completing extensive approval paperwork for the NH Department of Education and overseeing renovations to existing buildings that had been used by Nathaniel Hawthorne College from its inception in 1962 to its closing in 1988.

We met in large Scarborough Hall at the west end of the campus, and over

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WINTER AT THE GRAPEVINE

Kristen Vance

An Ounce of Prevention...

By now we hope you've received our annual appeal letter asking you to support the work of The Grapevine with a financial contribution. If you didn't that means you're not on our list, but it doesn't mean we don't need your support! According to NH Charitable Foundation, *one dollar invested in early childhood development produces an annual return to the economy of 7 to 10 percent, or a total of \$4 to \$17.* And The Grapevine is so much more: family support, senior wellness, teen center, parenting education, before and after school programs, helping families to meet basic needs. Please donate today—mail your tax deductible contribution to The Grapevine PO Box 637, Antrim 03440. Thank you for doing your part to keep The Grapevine here for our community.

The Avenue A Club for GBS Students Wednesday afternoons from 2:15 to 3:45 at the **Avenue A Teen Center** at 42 Main Street. Play pool or foosball, hang out with friends, listen to music, do homework. Some club days will have local experts in the areas of nature, wellness and culture. Registration is required; you will find forms at GBS, Antrim Recreation Office or The Grapevine. Contact Avenue A Coordinator Heidi Schultz at 588-2620 or email her at AvenueATeen-Center@gmail.com.

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For more information and specifications on sizes, contact Ral Burgess at: 588-6650 or ralb@tds.net.

— NEWS DEADLINE —

All news copy is due by February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Please email your article to Lyman Gilmore at: lyman-gil@comcast.net.

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

The Limrik accepts letters to the editor of maximum length of 250 words. Publication of the letter is subject to approval of the content. Mail letters to Editor, Limrik, PO Box 85, Antrim, NH 03440 or by email to Lyman Gilmore at: lyman-gil@comcast.net.

— CREDITS —

Photos courtesy of Lyman Gilmore. Illustration by Virginia Dickinson.

RICK AND DIANE'S FOR SALE

Rick Davis.

Most of you already know that Rick and Diane's is for sale, and has been for a couple of years. The reason is Diane's M.S. requires 24/7 care, and nights are especially difficult. So, we are trying to sell a great business in a great location.



Nick and I plan to stay in town and do something that doesn't require my working nights. We love Antrim and plan to stay here in some sort of business, and I want to continue coaching kids, which is one of my passions. However, Diane is my biggest passion, and she deserves more of my attention.

In the meantime, fun things are still happening at Rick and Diane's. Paul Dugan, who many of you know from his days as the meat man at Wayno's, has been working for me for over a year now. I can tell you he makes a great meatball, both Cajun and Regular and we've been offering them and other spicy meals as specials.

Not only can Paul cook, he is co-owner and DJ for "Groovy Reflections Radio," and we now have an oldies station streaming in the restaurant for your listening pleasure. We think you'll like the oldies music and Paul's great radio voice right through our speakers. I will soon be advertising on this terrific online radio station.

So, even though we are for sale we are always cooking up something great at Rick and Diane's. ❄️

LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

at Tenney's Farm Stand



CONVAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Crista Salamy, School Board

Happy Fall everyone! The school district has begun its budget preparation with our daylong budget work session. To be honest, this one went much smoother than in years past, I think. The board had charged the SAU to work on an approach this year different than years past. We asked them to give us the “must haves.” What I mean by this is what we are obligated to do such as contracts, health insurance, and other contractual obligations. We then asked the SAU to give us a list of items they feel are important or even not important that we could potentially rid our budget of this coming year. We still have one more work session at the end of the month, but we have already made some critical decisions that directly affect our students.

The biggest and most important is moving forward with a new science curriculum for the whole district. The science curriculum has been “put on the back burner” for many years and we now feel comfortable moving it forward because of work the SAU was able to do with other cuts. The cost of the whole curriculum is approximately \$750,000. This includes books, professional development for the teachers, and materials. Yes that is a large number, which is why the education committee recommended that we spread out the cost over many years, along with adopting the program at different grades instead of the whole K-12. We will be looking at the first year approximately \$173,000 for K-2. The following year it will be increased to \$450,000 for grades 3-5. Each set of adoptions is roughly two years which is why the following year the cost will again be lower at \$175,000. This third year will be second year for grades 3-5 and first year adoption grades 6-8, and so on. We also picked

this plan to make sure that if there are to be any facility needs they would not fall on the same years.

Once we approach the high school, we are hopeful that with the possible building aid being available again, we can adopt the new science curriculum there and renovate the very outdated science labs (which are the same ones that I once used as a student over 20 years ago). We also voted to do away with athletic fees. We received about \$45,000 in fees per year, but have found that many students do not participate in sports because they cannot afford the fees. We want everyone who wants to play a sport to be given that opportunity. This also makes the athletics align with non-athletic clubs that do not charge to participate. Not to worry however, we accepted the recommendation to eliminate the mentor program position that cost \$99,000. So the elimination of athletic fees will not increase the budget but reduce it. Other items we are still looking at are the possibility of outsourcing the food service, technology, enrichment art at the elementary schools, Camp Quest (a two week camp in the summer which services approximately 75 students), the Harris Center (elementary, middle and two grades at the high school), the Cornucopia Project (services all elementary students), and of course the teachers’ contract. After discussing these budget items among the Board, we will move out into the community to explain all of this. If you have any questions, PLEASE call one of us and ask. We really want people to understand the work we have done and how it will affect not only you the taxpayers but our students and staff. Have a wonderful holiday season and stay warm! ❄

ANTRIM SELECTBOARD

John Robertson

A lot has been happening since the September Limrick. Galen Stearns resigned effective October 30th, Donna Hanson has been promoted from her Town Clerk/Tax Collector positions to Town Administrator and Diane Chauncey has assumed Tax Collector/Town Clerk duties. Donna is a long-time employee as Tax Collector/Town Clerk. She has served with three different Town Administrators, and she is well-versed on all issues of town government. Please stop in and congratulate Donna on her new responsibilities.

Diane has served as deputy Tax Collector/Town Clerk with Donna as well as secretary to the Planning and Zoning Boards. Diane has earned her new duties and welcomes the challenge.

The selectmen are in the process of hiring a replacement for Diane. The new person will be the contact for Zoning and Planning boards as well as deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Rick Seavey has resigned as custodian of the Town Hall and Police Station and we are in the process of hiring a replacement.

Through sharpened pencils and sound budget planning we were able to reduce Antrim’s tax rate by 44 cents. Your November tax bill will show a slight decrease from the June billing.

The budget process is nearly complete for March Town Meeting and should be flat for the coming year. This results from savings initiated by your Selectman and Administration. Engineering for Drainage and sewer projects for Highland Avenue and Pleasant Street is close to completion. We plan to have public meetings in early December to discuss the scope of the project. Bonding for this will be voted at March Town Meeting.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

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Treats both savory and sweet will fill tables in the Library's main room for visitors to sample as they contemplate their favorites before completing their voting ballots. The popular Scavenger Hunt promises to be a bit challenging this year with so many trees and displays to hunt through. A lucky visitor (or two) could take home a door prize featuring a handcrafted fabric bag or Christmas stocking filled with goodies.

The annual Quilt Raffle features a custom quilted red and gold 60" round quilt that can be used as a wall hanging, table topper or tree skirt. Raffle tickets will be available through December 13th at \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six. The Festival of Trees committee has also produced another Community Calendar featuring town-wide events, dates of note, personal listings, and ads by local business supporters. Perfect for gift giving and keeping track of community events, our 2015 Calendars will be available for purchase throughout the month of December for \$5 each. Proceeds from the Quilt Raffle and Calendar sales allow the Festival of Trees to remain free of charge for all to visit and enjoy.

Voting for Favorites will be extended through December 12th so that even those who could not attend Open House can join in the fun. Results will be announced on December 13th with ribbons and awards placed on the winning displays. The Gilded Tree trophy

will be awarded to the display that best represents the spirit of the Festival.

The Festival is proud to be a backdrop and will provide refreshments for a special musical program sponsored by the Tuttle Library on December 13th featuring Antrim's own NH Artist Laureate, Rodney Miller, and beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Music Among The Trees is the final special event of the season for the Festival and will feature a performance by Celtic harpist, Sharon Dowling at 7:00 p.m. on December 17.

Committee members for 2014 include Connie Vandervort, Laurie Cass-Griggs, Gerry McGlory, Imogene Drabble, Sherrill Scales and Kristy Boule. Innumerable hours of preparation go into staging this event that wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the Library staff and Trustees, the Antrim Historical Society, friends of the James A. Tuttle Library, local businesses and community members. We hope to "Put a little sparkle in the holidays while celebrating community." The Festival continues through the month of December during regular Library hours. Please join us!

For more information, visit our website: www.AntrimFestivalOfTrees.org, follow us on Facebook, or contact Kristy at kaboule@hotmail.com or 831-1802. ❄

HOME AND HARVEST, STILL "NOTHING LIKE IT"

Rick Davis

Antrim Should be very proud of our 11th Home and Harvest Festival! The event had to work around cold temperatures and rain showers, but despite that thousands showed up and had a great time.

Downtown was once again flooded with people and vendors. Brad and Ella Kemp work at getting the vendors organized for the festival months in advance. The parade is still the highlight of the festival, and just to see the different floats and the Conval and Hillsborough marching bands is always a blast. Crista Salamy announces all of the participants including the float winners, The Festival of Trees, Edmunds Hardware, and Monadnock Mountaineers.

Fun and Games are always great fun, and everybody enjoys watching whole families enjoy Bouncy Houses, Climbing Walls, and Bungee Jumping. Jonas Taub and his group of volunteers do a fantastic job of organizing the fun and games. Thank you Jonas!

This year Sunday night capped off the Festival with a great cookout and spectacular Atlas Fireworks. Crista and Chris Salamy and staff do a super job of hosting the evening.

I had fun with the Pizza Toss Challenge for Multiple Sclerosis. Nick bet me 24" to 20" to see who could toss the largest pie, and Brian Murphy tossed a 16' pie and tied with two others for a worthy cause.

Special Thanks to the Home and Harvest Committee who work year round to make it happen. Rick Wood takes care of the Roller Skating and Wii contest, Dave Kirkpatrick makes the Skateboard Slalom Races happen, while Barbara Reynolds handles the Free Style Skating. Paul Dugan gets the PR out and helps me as well. We can't forget the Antrim Police Department and the Antrim Fire and Rescue

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Presbyterian Church, 73 Main Street, Antrim

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cups of green tea Caroline translated for Dr. Lu (whose English is shaky) and me (whose Mandarin is nonexistent). I had met Dr. Lu earlier in the summer, and in this meeting as then I found him to be a welcoming, personable, acute individual. The day after our meeting, Dr. Lu returned to China, while Caroline, who just completed a Masters degree at Harvard, will continue to live at Hawthorne Academy supervising renovations and managing Academy progress until Dr. Lu and his wife Dr. Hong Liu, Chair of Board of United Education Foundation, return to Antrim, probably at Christmas.

Dr. Lu said they plan to open Hawthorne Academy as a private boarding school in the fall of 2015 with between ten and twenty secondary students from the United States. When I asked how they might accomplish this while living in China and speaking little English, he explained that they intend to employ experienced consultants to hire faculty and administrators, recruit students, develop curriculum, and establish a support staff of maintenance, food service, dormitory, and health employees. As much as possible, they will have local builders do renovations, as is the case now with Antrim contractors Andrew Guislin and Keith Murdough.

Not all of the college buildings will be ready for next fall, but those that will include the gym, President's House (originally Sawyer House,

1824), Scarborough Hall, and the Chapel (1877). Peabody Hall and Hubbard Hall, the college's main classroom and cafeteria building, need more extensive repair and should be open the following year. Luciano Lipari, an independent systems analysis consultant who has been living on campus and maintaining the grounds for the Transcendental Meditation organization

from which Dr. Lu and his wife purchased the property, has developed a web site for the Academy and will stay on to assist Caroline. The new website is: www.hawedu.org.

Since this interview Caroline has informed me that the NH Department of Education has approved Dr. Lu's application to establish Hawthorne Academy. ❄



Caroline and Dr Lu

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APOLLO AND ATHENA

Sheila Nichols

We moved to Liberty Farm knowing we wanted to have many types of animals. Barn cats were near the top of the list. Knowing there are so many cats that need homes my first stop was a local cat rescue.

They were very glad I wanted to adopt. However, they insisted that all the adopted cats must be inside only cats. I explained that we lived at the end of a dirt road with 6 acres of land, woods and fields—cat nirvana. The staff would not waiver and so my search continued. One of my students knew we were looking for cats and let me know of a local family with free kittens.

When I arrived at the house I found 4 kittens playing together. They were so cute that I quickly decided that we would take two. The children informed me that I had selected Pumpkin Head and Joe. Pumpkin Head so named because of an orange swath on her black head and Joe, an orange tabby, well I am not sure why, but there you have it.

I did have a commitment that afternoon that prevented me from taking

the kittens directly home and so I rendezvoused with my son Mark. He took the kittens to the farm while I continued with my errands.

When I arrived home later that evening I found Mark wrestling two kittens in the kitchen sink. He said it was their third bath. They were apparently covered with fleas and nicotine. Once they were dry and clean they started purring and cuddling and haven't stopped since.

We renamed them Apollo and Athena, brother and sister, children of Zeus.

Apollo was the god of music, archery, poetry, dance, intellectual inquiry and the protector of herds and flocks.

Athena is the goddess of wisdom, agriculture, arts and literature. She is fierce and brave in battle but, only wars to defend her home from outside enemies.

True to their namesakes they have protected us from chipmunks, mice, and unfortunately, sometimes birds and bats. They have divided the chore of vermin eradication. Apollo takes on mice and Athena is the birder.

They are generous to a fault and frequently bring in live animals through the cat door as offerings for us humans. Nothing quite says 'I love you' like a mouse squeaking for its life at 2 am. The cats bask in the sun and purr and cuddle, basically doing cat things seemingly with pleasure and contentment.

The student who had directed me to the kittens stopped me in the hallway



one day months later and asked how Joe and Pumpkin Head were doing. I told her we had changed their names and explained heroic new names. She was very upset that we had changed the names. Thinking quickly, I said, well I mean, we just added middle names they are still Pumpkin Head and Joe. Phew!

Apollo acts more like a dog than a cat. When we take hikes with the dogs he follows along. Athena, more diminutive, does not lower herself to dog behaviors. She will follow me to the clothesline, curl up in my lap, and purr for hours on end. Each cat enjoys sleeping with us, that is if they can find room between the dogs. Why we have invested in pet beds escapes their logic when we have a perfectly good king sized bed.

On a recent trip to the vets for an annual check-up the doctor picked up Apollo and opened the door leading to the technician room and said, "You should see the size of these cats!" I added, "You should see the size of our mice!" ✨



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ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Steve Ullman, President

At our Annual meeting, the Antrim Historical Society (AHS) honored three recently retired AHS officers. We recognized Davis DuBois as the creator of the AHS web site, guitarist extraordinaire, and Renaissance man. (Continuing in alphabetical order). We also paid tribute to Thelma Nichols, our former AHS President, one of the founders of the Antrim Area Senior Center, and the prime mover behind the AHS's storied annual July 4th celebrations. Finally, we celebrated Missy Taylor (Antrim's loss and South Carolina's gain) for her devotion to the Festival of Trees and the AHS apple crisp sale, as well as her legal acumen and bubbling enthusiasm.

The Antrim Historical Society is in transition. Having spent just three years on the Board, I am now the longest-serving member. Compensating for the retirements noted above, we have added four strong members to the Board. They are: 1. Sue Conklin who is serving as the AHS Secretary. Though a relative newcomer to Antrim, Sue has already made great contributions to the AHS through her work to archive our AHS artifacts. 2. Joan Gorga, a retired scientific researcher and who, by virtue of her maiden name (Caughy), is a cousin to nearly everybody living in Antrim. 3. Victor Rosansky, business professor emeritus and currently a consultant, and who along with his wife Lynne

has operated for several years the Up-lands Inn (which old timers will remember as Captain Dudley's). 4. Bill Nichols, Izi's and Martin's son, who has done so much to sustain Antrim's proud theatrical traditions. I am most thankful that Bill has agreed to serve as the AHS Vice-President.

Rick Wood, a computer guru, Antrim Players trouper, and close confidant of Santa Claus (Rick is sometimes even mistaken for Mr. Claus) joined the Board a year ago. Completing our AHS Board is Eric Tenney (Select Board member during three different eras, Town finance expert, and former "Citizen of the Year") who is serving as our AHS Treasurer. Given Eric's imposing grasp of matters financial, the AHS is blessed to have him managing our books.

Our October AHS program featured four generations of Edmunds who sketched out the fifty-year history of their stores. The Edmunds attracted more than sixty attendees to the Presbyterian Church on a day the Patriots were playing. Unfortunately, Don Dunlap, who was to have been our November presenter speaking about the impressive 250-year history of the Scottish woodworking methods that he and his family have mastered, had to cancel due to illness. We hope to reschedule him.

Now is the time either to renew your AHS membership or join us for

the first time. Dues are only \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Members, old and new, can enjoy the warm feeling of knowing they have done something significant to celebrate and preserve Antrim's history. Those wishing to join may contact any member of our board. Dues can also be sent to the Antrim Historical Society, P.O. Box 172, Antrim, New Hampshire 03440. See you at the Festival of Trees. ✨

NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sharon Dowling

It has been an exciting fall at the Presbyterian Church. We entered into serious small group discussions about our New Beginnings process, and on November 16th we had our final group discussion. Prayer, contemplation, study of the facts, recognition of gifts and resources, as well as recognition of lack of gifts and resources, and much more, have all been part of this very important process. Perhaps more questions have been raised, but solutions are not really part of this first step. It has been hard not to put forth quick fixes, or fall into the traps many churches have as they address the downhill trend of traditional worship in traditional churches. The biggest problem to get our heads around has been the two competing models

✍️ — continued on page 14



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CARE PACKAGES TO OUR TROOPS

Susan Ellsworth

The Circle of Strength Military Moms, Friends and Family Members Support Group would like to thank all the people that bought raffle tickets in September during the Antrim Home Harvest Day fest. The money went to care packages. Congratulations, to all the raffle winners. Thank you also for all the gift certificates donated by Rick & Diane's Restaurant, Edmunds Hardware, Ginger House Restaurant, Trends of Fashion Hair, The Peterborough Basket Co, and Kathleen Holmberg-Botelho of Mary Kay. Also thank you to Brick Ends Financial Services in Peterborough, Contoocook NH VFW, Peterborough Salvation Army for postage of the care packages, the Bennington Congregational Church, the Hollister's of Jaffrey, the Peterborough Fire Department, the Woodin's of Antrim, The Michaels of Milford, Candance Bergstrom, St. Patrick school students for their donations to buy gifts to send. I would like to give a big thank you to Ocean State Job Lot of Peterborough who gave us 25% off all our shopping for the troops.

With all our donations we sent 23 boxes to former Conval Student troops, other troops, and the Wounded Warriors. This year we have also helped our Fallen Hero's of New Hampshire's children thru the Survivor Outreach Services with gift

cards. We want to let them know that they are not forgotten and to thank them for their parents' sacrifice.

I want to personally thank the students and staff at the Antrim's Great Brook School, St. Patrick's school in Jaffrey, the Well school in Peterborough, and the Peterborough Daisies for their wonderful handmade cards, letters, and picture for our Christmas 2014 care packages. I received thank you notes from the troops in the past, and I was told that they passed all the cards and letters around so that their entire platoon got to read them on Christmas Eve. These little gifts from the children let them know that people from home are thinking of them and we are proud and thankful for their services. It was an honor to be a part of this wonderful event and I hope to do it as long as our children, family members, and friends are in the military protecting us here at home. Thank you also to the caring ladies that belong to the Circle of Strength Military Moms & Family Members Support Group for all their hard work in helping me make this idea come to life and to Peter and Mike at the Antrim Post office for getting these packages out in time for the troops to receive them for the holidays.

If you would like to join our group or know of a person you would like us to send a care package to, please email me at ellsworthsusan@ymail.com. Our next mailing will be in April for troops to receive in May 2015. ✨



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A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction

by Joel Greenberg

Reviewed by Dick Winslow

In 1781, insects destroyed all principle grain crops in N.H. The resultant loss of food was so powerful that some residents considered pulling up stakes and leaving. But N.H. was rescued, in important part by the presence of an immense number of passenger pigeons, caught by citizens for eating and for sale. One family, the Tylers of Piedmont, caught “over 400 dozen.” (That’s 4800 birds!) Pigeon meat not only tasted good, but preserved for the winter, was a crucial replacement for lost grain crops.

The famed painter of birds, John James Audubon (1785–1851), estimated that there were in his day some four billion passenger pigeons in the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada. When a flock of these birds flew south for the winter, it would create a dense cloud across the sky such as to blot out the sun, and the sound of their flapping wings would be

Killing the birds was excruciatingly simple, just aimlessly fire a shotgun at a low-flying flock and, presto, a dozen birds would fall to the ground. Or just hit up at a flock with a stick, same result. The pigeons were, to mix a metaphor, “sitting ducks” for even the most amateur hunter.

A central question that *A Feathered River Across the Sky* addresses is how the passenger pigeon, existing in the billions, becomes extinct during a fifty-year period, roughly from 1850 to 1900. The book’s answer, they tasted good. They were an important source of food for an ever-growing American population, and business conglomerates packed them in ice for shipment, not only across the country, but abroad as well. Meanwhile, forests were being leveled for lumber thereby destroying habitat for the pigeons. It was a no-win combination of forces that brought about extinction. The last surviving passenger pigeon, nicknamed Martha, had been held in the Cincinnati Zoo and died there in 1914—just 100 years ago.

It was hard for me to believe that billions of pigeons could have gone extinct in so short a time. But this thoroughly researched and very well written book, supported by over twenty handsome illustrations, has convinced me. “A flight to extinction” indeed! Joel Greenberg has produced a memorably fine work in *A Feathered River Across The Sky*.

A Feathered River Across the Sky is available at Antrim’s Tuttle Library.

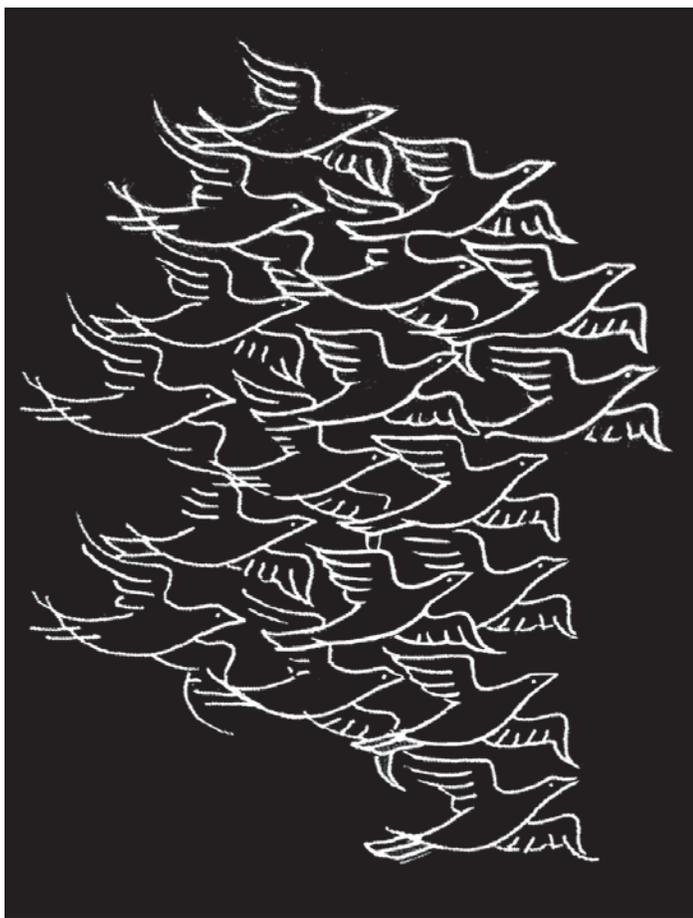


Illustration by V.S. Dickinson

mesmerizing In May of 1850, an American Indian named Simon Pokagon, camping in Michigan during trapping season, reported being startled by a far-off gurgling sound that suggested horses tramping towards him through the forest. But as he listened more intently, he concluded that it was not horses at all, but distant thunder. And yet, “The morning was clear, calm and beautiful.” Simon Pokagon quickly realized what it was he was hearing. “While I gazed in wonder and astonishment, I beheld moving toward me in an unbroken front, millions of passenger pigeons, the first I’d seen that season.”



CHRISTMAS AXES

Charles Butterfield

Giving axes as Christmas presents might seem a bit reckless, especially when the recipients are two boys not yet in their teens. But it happened, and no fingers or toes were lost (though a tooth was bent).

It was probably the Christmas of 1944 (it's difficult to say for certain now). If it were that final Christmas of World War II, I was about to turn 13 and Ben was a few months away from turning 12. There would have been a bit of hesitancy, I imagine, concerning the timing of these gifts. My mother would have argued that we weren't old enough yet. My father would have reminded her that we boys were always taking risks around the farm and nothing untoward had happened yet. His strongest argument would have been that he needed our help in cutting and splitting the firewood he sold when he wasn't tending to his cows.

Ben's mother would have sounded an additional note of caution, I'm sure. Had it been left to her, I doubt she would have walked into a hardware store and asked to see an ax suitable for her young son. On the other hand, she would have known that Ben and I spent endless hours in the woods with my father whom she admired and trusted. My father, she knew very well, was a woodsman through and through. And knowing that Ben had his heart set on an ax of his own, she held the crucial conversation with my

father concerning the purchase of an ax for her son.

Perhaps that conversation prompted my father to approach my mother with the possibility of buying an ax for me at the same time. With the dust finally settled, and in pre-Christmas secrecy,



he walked into the Red & White Store, and under the bright tinsel ropes and holiday decorations negotiated for two light axes.

So there they were on Christmas day, decked out with red ribbons tied to their helms, their sharpened heads gleaming under our respective Christmas trees. Either that day or the next, Ben and I headed into the woods, new axes slung over our shoulders.

Time has dimmed the memory of what specific use we first made of the Christmas axes. I'd like to think there were some chunks of red oak waiting to be split. It is a fine feeling to bring a sharp ax down on the thread-like crack

that always extends from the heart of a block of dry red oak. Hit precisely, the wood falls apart with a single whack. In no time, a proud pile of split pieces accumulates around the chopping block, and the ax-wielder has good evidence of time well spent.

If it were not splitting that provided satisfaction on our day in the woods, then it may have been limbing. Once a good-sized tree is on the ground, the limbs are cut away before the trunk is sawed to length. That, too, is fairly easy work with a sharp ax, and the waste piles up impressively.

Our Christmas axes were most often teamed with my father's crosscut saw. A good-sized maple can be cut down with an ax, but that is hard work. Much easier by far is dropping a tree with a two-man (boy) crosscut saw, though that can be tricky.

One day Ben and I went into the woods to cut down a large maple from which to make a pedestal for an anvil that had appeared in our school woodworking shop. We found the perfect specimen and plied the crosscutting skill we thought we had learned sufficiently from my father. Partway through the trunk the saw blade (sometimes referred to as a misery whip) was pinched in place by the tilting tree. We could not budge the blade either to cut or to remove it. So we left it dangling in the tree trunk.

 — continued on page 12



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THE ANTRIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Scott Lester

After a mild summer, the Antrim Police Department has been very busy this fall. We enjoyed another Home & Harvest weekend, even though the weather did not cooperate. We have had a great start to the new school year and enjoy the opportunities we get to mingle with the students of GBS and AES. Our Police Association continues to host our annual Father/Daughter Dance. This year Ryan and Carol Storro put together a Luau themed dance which received a lot of positive feedback and continued to be a great success. We really enjoy putting on this event and receive overwhelming support from sponsors, **THANK YOU!**

We encourage residents and business owners in town who have alarms come to the station and complete or update a contact form with the information for your alarm notification system. This information is very important to us in order to better provide a quick response and to notify you or the person you assign as soon as possible. We greatly appreciate your assistance, and the information provided is not public information and will not be shared with anyone other than law enforcement services

As always during the winter months snow removal becomes harder with each passing storm. Please remember the Winter Parking Ban is effect from November 15th through April 1st. This means "Parking is prohibited between

the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m." on ALL town and state roads. Also, in order to assist our town highway department, I would like to remind everyone that when they are removing the snow from our driveways and walkways, you must keep the roadways clear. I have attached the related RSA for Snow Obstruction below.

236:20 Snow Obstruction – *Any person who shall put or place or cause to be put or placed any snow or ice upon the surface of the traveled portion of any class I, class III, or class III-a highway or state maintained portion of any class II highway for any purpose, except to provide a place necessary for crossing, re-crossing and traveling upon said highways by sleds, logging or farm equipment, shall be guilty of a violation if a natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person. The provisions of this section shall not apply where snow or ice is pushed across the traveled surface of said highways for the purpose of snow removal from land adjoining said highways.*

All of us at the police department would like to remind everyone taking to the roads this winter, during your commute or for plea-

sure, to please do so safely. As you know the weather changes frequently here and can cause some terrible driving conditions. The safety of you, your passengers and everyone on the road is dependent on driver awareness and preparedness. Be aware of your vehicle's capabilities and condition. Proper tire inflation and tread depth are very important. All-wheel drive vehicles are great and provide better traction, but they also provide a false sense of safety. If your vehicle loses traction, all-wheel drive will not help you stop any faster. Please drive responsibly.

The members of the Antrim Police Department greatly appreciate all the support everyone has shown us throughout the year, and we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. ❄️



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who do a great job keeping us safe. Many other volunteers donate their time and energy, and yes we are exhausted when it's over. It truly is a town wide team effort.

Next year's dates will be September 18, 19 and 20th 2015. One big change will be the Fireworks and Cookout on Friday evening with Sunday being for the skaters.

New ideas are always good, but if you have an idea be prepared to put it into action. We are discussing some new possibilities including a Battle of Marching Bands and Cheerleader Teams and a Kayak racing on Great Brook. We are always looking for volunteers, and perhaps you or your group would like to raise money by helping with the Fun and Games.

I still believe there is **"Nothing Like It"** because the people of Antrim have such talent. I believe everyone has something they can do to make our Home and Harvest Festival better every year. You just have to step out on faith and do it! ❁

Ben's recollection is that we returned the next weekend with wedges that we drove into the saw cut with our new axes until we lifted the tree off the blade and were able to continue the job we had started. When the tree was about to fall, we planned our safe retreat, but in the excitement over our success neither of us grabbed the saw off the stump and the trunk of the tree in its descent caught the blade and badly bent a saw tooth. The saw never worked properly again. Though my father tried every trick he knew to straighten the tooth, it always hindered smooth sawing.

To our complaints about the work involved using the damaged saw, my father's patient reply was this: "Boys, I did the best I could with it, and you will just have to make the best of it."

A while ago I bought a new ax. Perhaps I didn't sharpen it well enough, maybe over seventy years I've lost my touch, or possibly the damned thing was made in Taiwan, anyway when I went into the woods to use it, there was nothing of the old sense of satisfaction that I remember the Christmas ax brought me.

(With gratitude to Ben Pratt for his memory of our Christmas axes.) ❁

THE ANTRIM PLAYERS

Bill Nichols, Director

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts.

William Shakespeare

And so it is with the Antrim Players. Possibly you've heard of us? We've been around for a few years. Maybe you were at one of our shows back in October? No? Well, if you missed it there's no need to fret. We're already making plans to bring more quality entertainment to a town hall near you.

The Antrim Players got their start back in 1918 when a group of actors, singers and dancers got together to produce a show for the benefit of the American Red Cross to assist in the war effort. Through the years, they continued to perform plays and musicals on the town hall stage to appreciative audiences and returned the proceeds back into the community through local organizations such as the American Legion, the Woman's Club, the Rescue Squad, the Antrim Grange, the Bandstand project and the Con-Val Music Department just to name a few.

Fast-forward to the 21st century and here we are, alive and well. The shows we produced in October involved actors from all over southern New Hampshire. Our newest member is a second-generation Antrim Player and some of our current members are fourth-generation players and have been involved in all aspects of community theater. But you don't need to be related to anyone to get involved.

If you've ever thought about trying your hand at acting, singing, painting, set design, set construction, sewing, lighting, sound as well as a handful of other theatrical jobs, we'd love to have you get involved. You can reach us by email at antrimplayers@gmail.com or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AntrimPlayersNH or talk to us at the next show. We'd love to hear from you!

Until the curtain rises... ❁



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Justice of the Peace

ANTRIM PLAYERS A SUCCESS

Lyman Gilmore

Once upon a time, before the hurly-burly of Home & Harvest and the nail-biting drama of our wind farm battle, for many years Antrim Players was the major attention getting and much loved entertainment in town. Then, like Lear and many of us other old codgers, it shuffled and limped into senescence and finally expired. Now, Bill and Sheila Nichols and their talented and tireless fellow thespians have like the ghost in "Hamlet" returned from the grave to strut and fret upon the stage once more.

Antrim Players mounted the Town Hall stage in October with two witty one-act plays, "Hearts and Flowers" and "Black Comedy." Director Bill Nichols did not hesitate to take on dramatic challenge of two regional dialect farces, one rural southern patois, the other posh British upper-class.

Hearts & Flowers

Set in a farmhouse back in the day, Hearts & Flowers is an old fashioned (comic) melodrama with good (if naïve) folks and a nasty villain who is, naturally, foiled. Sheila Nichols as Mrs. Goodheart is a natural on stage (and in real life as *Limrik* staffer and farmer) as is her actual son Mike Haley who as Godfrey Goodheart plays Mrs. Goodheart's son. The olde-time sentimental music was perfect throughout, and I was surprised to be the only audience member to begin hissing when Blackie the Villain entered with a gigantic black mustache (the always expert Tom Dowling). I thought I heard a Shakespearean (conscious?) echo when Jessie (talented Susan Shaw-Sarles) expressed her shame at letting Willie (the reliable Dean Proctor) hold her hand by scrubbing her hands like Lady Macbeth's "out, damned spot!" In the ever goody-goody character True Hope, Ruth Richardson was the picture of Virtue!

Black Comedy

Written by the famous Peter Shaffer, this slapstick satire is hard to describe because of its complicated staging with its lights-on when it is dark and lights-off when it is light. That is, in the play when a fuse blows and the lights on the set supposedly go off, the stage lights actually turn on, or go up. And when an actor lights a match or shines a flashlight, the stage goes dark. The play is set in a London flat (apartment) with lots of furniture and characters, and when the fuse blows the characters must pretend they cannot see anything (despite the fully lit stage) and stagger about with arms outstretched to keep from bumping into things and people which of course

they inevitably do. How Bill Nichols was able to direct their convincing blind wandering about the set was impressive. (The drink mix-up was hilarious!)

The same actors appear in this second play, with the addition of the fine Tim Bower as an impressive meddling blowhard Colonel Melkett, a very funny Rick Wood as the huffing and puffing pretentiously artistic Harold Gorrige, and Liz Richardson a wonderful sexy drunk throwing drinks on everyone.

I remember Antrim Players thrilling and welcoming us fifty year ago when Cinda, Richard, and Lisa and I arrived in Antrim, and I am thrilled to see them rise anew! ❄



From left: Dean Proctor, Liz Richardson, Tim Bower, Susan Shaw-Sarles, Michael Haley, Sheila Nichols, Rick Wood, Tom Dowling

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BOY SCOUTS

Brian Beihl, Scoutmaster

The new 2014-2015 Scouting Year Has Begun!

Troop 2 meets twelve months of the year, but the new Scouting year begins in September. Another big year is ahead, with new boys joining this fall, and some outstanding trips planned for next year. Already this fall, Troop 2 participated in the Antrim Home & Harvest Festival, and in the Keene Pumpkin Festival.

New Record for Food Drive

Thank you to all the residents in Antrim, Bennington and Hancock who donated over 4,600 cans of food to the Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry. We believe this to be the highest amount ever collected in one of our drives. We are fortunate to live in such a generous community! Thanks also to Rick & Diane's Pizzeria, Antrim Marketplace, and Bennington Country Store for also hosting our pick-up boxes.

Wreath Sale Helps Scouts Go to Camp

Thanks to the purchases of wreaths by the residents of Antrim, eleven Scouts attended a week of summer camp in 2014. Your purchases of holiday wreaths pay half of the cost for any Scout who wishes to attend, and who has worked as part of this effort. As always, the wreath sale begins the weekend after Thanksgiving at Hilltop Farm and in downtown Antrim, Bennington and Hancock, beginning Saturday, November 29. Each weekend until December 21, Troop 2 Scouts and adults will be at Hilltop Farm on Norway Hill, and will be in the downtown locations Saturday, December 6 and 13 as well. Troop 2 will attend Hidden Valley this year, July 19-25, 2015, after having attended Camp Bell last year.

Scouts Exploring Space

As part of the Space Exploration merit badge, Scouts built a model

of the International Space Station, created models and drawings of future space colonies, constructed and launched model rockets, and took a trip to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. In the midst of the badge, there were two mishaps in space, with the destruction of two spacecraft, and the landing of a probe on a comet going 80,000 mph and 300 million miles away. It's an exciting time to be studying space!

Two Big Trips Planned for 2015

We are going to Philadelphia March 19-21, during a ConVal teacher workshop and ensuing weekend. Troop 2 will be visiting the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and other sites in Philly, and doing a couple of rounds with Rocky Balboa. We might just have to have a cheese steak sandwich while we're there, too!

In late June, Troop 2 will be taking a trip to Acadia National Park for biking and hiking. June 28th to July 3, the troop will travel up the Maine Coast to Mt. Desert Island. We'll be biking the carriage trails, climbing Cadillac Mountain, and seeing the sea life on the shore.

Join Scouts Anytime!

Even though the Scouting year has begun, new Scouts can join anytime. Boy Scouts is for ages 11-18, and Cub Scouts for age 7 (or 1st Grade) to age 10. For more information, contact Scoutmaster Brian Beihl at 588-3014.

✱



of "church," the Membership (or "attraction") Model that has pretty much been in vogue for the past 300 years, and the newer Discipleship Model. So many of the quick fix ideas lend themselves to the first, or "attraction model," the idea that we simply attempt to attract people to membership in our church. The second model, much less brick and mortar, involves the congregation going out into the community, building relationships, finding needs, and being examples of Christ's love and lifestyle on the ground. The end results could either be energizing and exciting, or sad and bittersweet. Stay tuned.

Worship and Programs will continue to be offered for all who might wish to participate. Schedule is on the Church News page 28.

Nov.30th First Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. This service will include the decorating of the "Chrismon Tree," and the lighting of the Advent wreath. This marks a beautiful time of preparation in our sanctuary and in our hearts as we look forward to the Christmas Season.

Dec.7th Communion will be served this second week of Advent during the 10:30 service. Celtic Evensong will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. with candlelight, music, prayer, and contemplation. All are welcome to both services.

Dec. 13th- Come to the Baptist Church for the amazing joint project called "A Night in Bethlehem"

Dec.21st The third Sunday in Advent will see us enjoying our Children's Christmas pageant, with a twist. This will take place during our regular worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Dec.24th Christmas Eve will be celebrated at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary with a Service of Lessons and Carols. This is the service that most feels like Homecoming for our congregation, as

✍️ — continued on page 22

BOBCAT PRIDES: GREAT BROOK BUILDS STUDENT LEADERSHIP

James Elder, Principal

One of my goals as the educational leader of Great Brook has been to try to develop leadership skills in and among the middle school students. Leadership is a critical need, and an integral part of the democratic experiment, and unfortunately, many of the ways students once learned these skills have become less prominent. Organizing backyard kickball games for instance, used to be a way in which children developed their voice as a leader. Fortunately, things like Boy Scouts, 4-H, and church groups help students with this as well, but these child-centered organizations have been less prominent as of late. In the past we, at Great Brook, have been guilty of saying: "Organize a school dance," yet the students do not have the knowledge of how to begin.

To correct this we recently took 37 students who volunteered to be leaders, on a leadership retreat. The site for this event was the "Harris Center for Conservation Education," and our contact person was the fabulous Suzie Spikol-Faber. We were able to enlist the services of a Boston University professor at the School of Management who volunteered his time for this training. This professor, "Hutch" Hutchinson, taught our students about attacking and leading large tasks by using games that later became analogies for more complicated activities. Students found through these games

that they needed to rely on each other—everyone present in fact—to accomplish some seemingly impossible tasks. The importance of integrity was also illustrated by a game where students relied on peer communication to make it through a maze. If the student going through the maze came in contact with any of the objects in the course, the whole team had to go back to the beginning. Our GBS leaders stayed true to their values and were honest. Every time someone touched an object, they went back to the beginning, even when they thought the adults weren't watching. Hutch later shared stories with the students about doing this maze activity with adults and college students and more often than not, they cheated to complete the task. Hutch was very pleased and im-

pressed with the level of honesty from our Great Brook students.

Probably the most important thing students learned was how to, when faced with a daunting task, brainstorm all that needed to happen, and then to logically sequence the steps that needed to be taken to complete the assignment at hand. To create a "real life" experience for the students to work on we selected the traditional "Turkey Trot," which is a several mile run that all Great Brook Bobcats participate in on November 21st. Each of our leadership students selected a piece of the logistics to take complete responsibility for.

It is our hope that we, as a school and community, develop ways to help our children develop the skills they will need to lead our country forward. ✨



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ANTRIM-BENNINGTON LIONS CLUB

Steve Ullman, 1st Vice-President

The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club has had a productive fall. While we all had great fun at our events (after all, Lions are jolly people), we did not lose sight of our *raison d'être*, assisting our fellow Granite Staters facing vision and hearing hurdles.

Anyone fortunate enough to wolf down the barbecued chicken prepared by Mr. "Cordon Bleu of Antrim" (that would be Selectman John Robertson) on Sunday, September 14th knows he prepares five-star fare. The proceeds of the annual cookout at the Home and Harvest Tenney Farm chicken extravaganza all go toward our vision and hearing programs.

Also this past September the AB Lions utilized advanced technology at five local elementary schools in order to detect childhood vision problems. Our new SPOT camera offers a quick, in-depth examination of children's sight. In fact, the SPOT device can catch problems that even an ordinary examination by a pediatrician cannot detect.

John Conklin, our SPOT camera technical expert (and part of the dynamic John-Sue Conklin duo now so active in various Town organizations) supervised the screenings.

John reported that the eye screenings start with some upfront preparation. Consent forms were sent out this year in the first-day packet. I believe this was critical to us achieving an 82 % ratio of screened students to overall students. We met with the school nurses and they agreed to pre-load the students' name, age, gender, etc. onto a USB drive for easy loading into the SPOT. ...the screenings at the schools went very fast. We still need to capture more pre-school students. ...Overall we did 364 screenings this year as opposed to only 44 screenings last year and we still have plans to screen at the

middle school, more pre-school and additional events.

The AB Lions eye screeners got enthusiastic reviews from the staff at the elementary schools. Here's an account from Linda Tenney:

"I wanted to share a feel-good story for us on the eye screening you all did last month. I got a call from the school nurse in Hancock, Lise Lemieux, on one of the two referrals we had at Hancock Elementary. The parents of one of the referrals were full of praise for us for having picked up an eye problem with their child. They said the problem would not have been caught and would have created problems for their child down the road. ..."

The other good part of this story was that the parents took their child back to their pediatrician who referred them to Dr. Tyszko, an Optometrist in Peterborough. He validated the SPOT data and indicated it correlated 100% with the equipment he uses in his office.

As part of the school nurses checking back with the parents of children who were referred, we should be hearing more great stories like this. Lise is checking with the parents if they would be willing to go public for an article we are writing for the Ledger-Transcript."

The Antrim-Bennington Lions also organized three "Meet the Candidates Nights." On October 22nd at Antrim Town Hall, New Hampshire State House candidates, Steve Hahn, Jon Manley, and Dick McNamara answered written questions from attendees. On October 29th we hosted House candidates, Bob Fredette, Marjorie Porter, and Gil Shattuck. And we finished off with the State Senate District #8 candidates, Linda Tanner, and Jerry Little on October 30th.

One of the abundant benefits we derive from living in the Granite State

is the closeness we enjoy with our elected representatives, both local and state. These Candidates Nights help solidify our relationships with these officials. The AB Lions are also planning an "accountability meeting" with our representatives once the Governor has submitted an executive budget.

Finally, a reminder about an annual Lions event: within a few weeks, the Antrim-Bennington Lions will be selling Christmas trees at the Tenney Farm. The profits from this enterprise go to "Operation Santa" under which Lions purchase gifts for local kids in need. ❄



*Quot libros,
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so little time



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 29 *Festival of Trees Open House* • Tuttle Library • 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Musical entertainment and refreshments.



DECEMBER

- Festival of Trees* • Tuttle Library • entire month during open hours
- 3 *Cookie Decorating* • Antrim Grange Hall • 7:00 p.m.
- 7 *Community Tree Lighting* • Memorial Park • 4:00 p.m.
Refreshments and visit with Santa at Antrim Town Hall
- 7 *Celtic Evensong* • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 13 *Performance by NH Artist Laureate fiddler Rod Miller* • Tuttle Library • 2:00 p.m.
- 13 *A Night in Bethlehem* • Baptist Church • 3:30–8:30 p.m.
- 17 *Performance by Celtic harpist Sharon Dowling* • Tuttle Library • 2:00 p.m.
- 18 *Free Community Supper* • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 21 *Children's Christmas Pageant* • Presbyterian Church • 10:30 a.m.
- 24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* • Baptist Church • 7:00 p.m.
- 24 *Christmas Eve Service* • Presbyterian Church • 7:00 p.m.



JANUARY

- 4 *Celtic Evensong* • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 15 *Free Community Supper* • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.



FEBRUARY

- 1 *Celtic Evensong* • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 7 *Valentine Card making* • Tuttle Library • 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
- 14 *Fancy Schmancy Tea Party* • The Grapevine event at Town Hall • 11:00 a.m.
- 15 *Stop, Drop & Romance* • The Grapevine • 3:00–6:00 p.m.
- 19 *Free Community Supper* • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 23–28 *Drop-In Crafts* • Tuttle Library • during open hours

MARCH

- 1 *Celtic Evensong* • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 10 *Town Voting* • Antrim Town Hall • 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
- 12 *Town Meeting* • Antrim Town Gym • 7:00 p.m.



MISSING IN ACTION

Peter Moore

My dad never talked much about his participation in the “D-Day” assault of February 18, 1944, at Eniwetok (code named “Downside Atoll”), or his assault landings on other small islands in the Marshall Island group of the South Pacific. He did, once or twice, as I remember, recount experiencing the terror of Japanese Zeros and their Kamikaze pilots, witnessing other, larger warships nearby being struck, or their shooting down the invaders before they were able to meet-their-mark. I don’t remember that he ever did expound or romanticize much more than that about his experience in the war, or the trauma and loss that he saw. He served as the gunnery officer of USS LST 246, Ensign rank.

One incident that he mentioned briefly to me, perhaps 50 years ago, I did not think much about, until recently. After the Marines that his LST and many others had deposited on the beach at Eniwetok, with much overhead fire support cover from offshore battleships and carrier aircraft, the beachhead was secured and he was able to go ashore. There he found a dead Japanese officer, among many others. As was the procedure, documents that might have been of value for intelligence were searched for and taken if found. He said something to the effect of, “The bullet passed right through

the chest pocket from which I pulled the man’s journal, and there was a hole right through it.”

I never though much more about his WW II experience in the South Pacific until last year when prompted by a commentary on NHPR which portrayed the remarkably low number of soldiers missing-in-action during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as compared to those MIA in previous wars. A quick Google search revealed that only about 10-12 US service members are still un-accounted for in Iraq and Afghanistan, whereas during the Vietnam conflict some 2,225 are MIA, about 4% of the 58,152 service members that lost their lives in that “conflict.” The numbers tick-up for the Korean conflict, to 8,177, or 15% of those lost in a war. In WWII, 78,750 US Service members are now considered MIA, or 19% of the 405,399 US members that lost their lives. These disturbing statistics don’t account for those missing that we fought against, including perhaps the Japanese soldier my father found on the beach that day in 1944.

My dad died from a sudden heart attack ten years ago last summer when he was 82 years old. Last year, while cleaning out a room over our garage, I found an old manila envelope in a steel Navy trunk in which my parents had stored decades worth of bank statements and canceled checks. There in the envelope were the small brown journal and two maps, one a US gunnery-grid map of Eniwetok, the other a Japanese map of the Marshall Islands. Also enclosed was a return response from the Joint Intelligence Center, P.O.A. in San Francisco advising that, “Subject book has been examined and found to be of no intelligence value. It is returned herewith for souvenir purposes.” Dated July 2, 1944.

After I learned of the unimaginable number of Missing in Action from WW II, and while holding this small journal that was full of Japanese handwriting, it occurred to me that, although the odds were small, closure might be brought to the family of the Japanese officer encountered by my father. Was he MIA, or was he accounted for? I decided to take it a step further.

My phone call was passed through to a receptionist and then two other offices at the Japanese Consulate in Boston. The last connection was finally made with a man named “Richard.” One of Richard’s responsibilities was to respond to and administer the transfer of information, artifacts of war, or souvenirs that might be returned to their rightful owner’s family in Japan.

Richard stated that they would not want the actual journal returned unless they were able to make some sort of connection, and then it could be donated. He requested I

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— continued on page 24

GRANDMA

Susan Ellsworth

I remember arts and crafts at grandma's house with my siblings and cousins as a fun time. Grandma was way before her time for recycling of still useful items. She would sit for hours cutting with her sharp scissors little figures from used cards and putting them in a special decorated shoe box for her grandchildren to use at holiday times. She would cut out little embossed duck, chicks, bunnies, flowers, Santa's, turkeys, birthday presents, party hats, balloons and so much more from used cards. Next she would separate them as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, 4th of July, and Happy Birthday and put the cutouts into envelopes she would then store into the shoebox. Grandma also would take used ribbons and bows and cut them into little pieces and store them in her crackle glass vase for us to use when making the holiday and birthday cards for our parents. She would wait until our parents left to do their holiday shopping without kids before she would prepare the kitchen table. She would cover the whole table with newspaper and then bring out the goodies we were all waiting for. We never knew what they would be until that moment. She would give us scissors, glue, cray-

ons, and construction paper to make our new cards. We were allowed to pick out three items from the shoebox as long as they fit on our cards. Then grandma would help us place our figures, glue them, and write the words on our cards. We could also color and add our drawing to the picture if we wanted. We could add sprinkles of ribbon and bow pieces that were all prepared and waiting for us. They were works of art! Masterpieces she called them. This made us all feel proud of our work and looking forward to our next holiday to do it all again. When we were all done it was time to clean off the table and get ready for homemade cookies and milk. It was the perfect ending for our hard work.

When my children were young and I did this with them I saw all the time, hard work and love that went into this wonderful family time. I am waiting for the day my grandchildren are old enough to do this with me, as my grandma did with all nine of her grandchildren. It's the time, love, and attention that made the memories so special for me. I hope to pass this on to my children and grandchildren as a family tradition. ✨

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THE HOLIDAYS IN JAPAN

Mike Haley

In 2004 I left the New Hampshire life I had known since childhood for the mountains and rice paddies of Aki-ta, Japan. As I re-acclimate myself to Antrim after ten years abroad, I find that though the differences between these two cultures are many, our similarities far outnumber them.

As winter gets underway, I am glad to be home to enjoy the holidays for the first time in a long time. During my ten years in Japan, I did make it home for two or three Christmases, but never for Thanksgiving. Even when I was here much of the holidays were a jetlagged blur, often feeling like a competition against time to see how many visits with relatives I could squeeze into my short stay. Staying in Japan for the holidays was usually a more practical solution.

It goes without saying that with no Pilgrims celebrating bountiful harvests, Japan does not celebrate Thanksgiving. However, despite a vanishingly small Christian population, they do celebrate Christmas, though only the commercial aspects and not remotely to the same scale as here in the US. Christmas was not a day off from work, decorations were much sparser, and gift giving was limited to occasional (and not obligatory) gifts between close friends and family.

More than anything, Christmas was treated as a date holiday for young couples to treat each other to a nice

dinner. “Christmas cake,” usually a birthday-cake-like-dessert with fruit on top, was also a staple, and people in Japan were usually surprised to hear that in the US we do not have a specific cake to celebrate Christmas with. I am sure many people do have cake in one form or another, but it is not a set tradition on par with Christmas trees and visits from Santa. As a side note, with Japan’s recent declining marriage and birth rates, the phrase “Christmas cake” has been coopted to refer to a woman past her prime marrying age. The misogynistic implication is that women are best “enjoyed” at twenty five (like Christmas cake on the 25th) but become increasingly unpalatable thereafter. There is no equivalent expression for men.

New Year’s is a much more family-oriented holiday, analogous to Christmas in the US. It is on New Year’s that families traverse great distances to come together, eat enormous meals, drink too much, and generally enjoy each other’s company. It was very flattering for me to be invited to spend such an intimate occasion as New Year’s with a Japanese family. The first time was at the home of a physical education teacher at the school where I worked. My Japanese at the time was mediocre and their English was all but nonexistent. However they were very involved in the martial art called “Kendo,” which pits fighters against

each other with bamboo swords, so they dressed me up in the full regalia and we communicated with the international language of violence.

The following New Year’s, and every year thereafter, I went to the home of a friend whose father ran a fish market. I was invited by a fellow ex-pat, Amie, who wanted me to come so I could keep her away from the seat next to the father – a seat known as the “danger seat.” This was because of “Dad’s” complete lack of English ability, except for the words he used to enforce a requirement that you match him drink-for-drink and sake-for-sake until the New Year arrived (though “Dad” himself never made it past 10 o’clock).

One year “Dad” made me transcribe a letter of rapidly deteriorating coherence to Amie’s mother explaining a box of gifts he was sending her. “Dad” spent another New Year’s trying to convince me, in all seriousness, to start a business with him teaching English to taxi and bus drivers in preparation for Tokyo’s 2020 Olympics. “There’s no overhead,” he assured me, “all you’d need is a fax machine and you could run it out of your apartment.” As I struggled to visualize how Tokyo’s taxi drivers were going to learn English via fax from someone sitting in an apartment hundreds of

✍ — continued on page 23



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TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

Laurie Cass-Griggs, Lynne Lawrence, and Melissa Lawless

Holidays Library is CLOSED

Dec. 24-25 • Christmas Holiday

Thurs. Jan 1 • New Year's Day

Mon. Jan. 19 • Martin Luther King Day

Mon. Feb.16 • President's Day

Programs

The month of **December** *The Festival of Trees*

Sat. Dec.13 • 2:00–3:00 p.m. Performance by renowned NH Artist Laureate, local fiddler **Rod Miller**

Wed. Dec. 17 • 7:00–8:00 p.m. "Music Among the Trees" Celtic harpist **Sharon Dowling**

January • **Snowman making** on the front lawn

Sat. Feb. 7 • 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. • **Valentine Card making**

Feb. 23–28 during February Vacation • **Drop-In Crafts**

Don't miss these exciting new programs at the library this winter!

First, for the entire month of December, join the Antrim Festival of Trees as they host their 5th year of colorful, festive trees displayed in the library. Join in the fun and vote for your favorites until December 12. Winners of the tree awards and the quilt raffle will be announced on Saturday, December 13, from 2:00–3:00 p.m., during a special event featuring NH Artist Laureate Rodney Miller, fiddler and violin maker, who will be performing a special live concert for us that day. Light refreshments will be served. On Wednesday, December 17, the library will host "Music Among the Trees" with Celtic harpist Sharon Dowling from 7:00–8 p.m.

In January, (weather permitting) join the library and make snowmen for the front lawn. Come inside to warm up and we'll provide accessories to adorn your snowman in bright hats and scarves.

In February, chase the blues away and drop in with your children for a Valentine card making session all day on Saturday, February 7. We'll provide the supplies to make a heartfelt card for a friend or loved-one and still give you time enough to get it to that special someone by Valentine's Day. Also, during the week of February vacation (Feb. 23–27), drop in for a fun craft to make and take.

The Strange World of Ben Aaronovitch

The almost real and very quirky world of Ben Aaronovitch is nowhere more evident than in his "*Rivers of London*" series. On the surface it is a police procedural with the young hero, Peter Grant, a fledgling detective, until you realize that their office space is in an old folly, and his commanding officer is actually a wizard. "[It's] what would happen if Harry Potter grew up and joined the Fuzz," according to author Diana Gabaldon. But the crimes are gritty, the mysteries are tantalizing, and the good guys are witty and likable. It's called urban fantasy; the fantasy label (Aaronovitch also wrote for "*Dr. Who*") sometimes turns people off but it would be a shame to dismiss this author without a try.

On a different level, one of the most appealing characteristics of the Aaronovitch books is the setting; a "love letter to London" is how one fan website perfectly describes it. If you have ever been to London, or would ever like to go, reading Aaronovitch is both a tutorial and a hymn to this ancient and cosmopolitan city. The author has been quoted as saying he will leave London when they "pry it out of my cold, dead fingers."

The Tuttle Library has both audio and hard cover books, and his newest title, scheduled to be published in January, is already on order.

Urban fantasy is a sub-genre of fantasy fiction and is defined by place, fantasy (involving wizards, magical creatures, vampires, Druids, etc.) that takes place in a real-life urban setting. It combines contemporary times with supernatural elements. For instance, Aaronovitch's books take place in modern-day London, and Jim Butcher's *Dresden series* takes place in and around Chicago. High or epic fantasy is at the other end of the spectrum in that it occurs in a completely fictitious and magical world (J.R.R. Tolkien's "*Lord of the Rings*" is one example). Urban fantasy has become more and more popular over the last few years, and has even made it to the television screen – *The Highlander*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Once Upon a Time*, *True Blood*, and *Grimm* are just a few examples. If this genre interests you, stop by for suggestions. ✨

Presbyterian Church continued from page 14

we welcome back many folks we have not seen for awhile. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall afterwards, so we can catch up with everybody.

Dec.28th The Presbyterians will worship in the Baptist church this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. This is yet another chance to share our faith between denominations on Main Street.

Jan. 4th and Feb. 1st Communion Sunday celebrations at 10:30 a.m. and Celtic Evensong at 5:30 p.m.

Senior Center activities continue during the week in the Fellowship Hall. Please come join us as the Spirit moves you.

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season, and welcome the light during the season of Epiphany.

Questions? Comments? Call us at 588-2209. ✨

miles away, "Dad's" eyes lit up as he realized his ace in the hole. "If we run into any trouble, don't worry, because I'm friends with the chief of the west branch of the police department." Mercifully, "Dad" fell asleep on schedule at 10:00 and Tokyo's bus drivers can keep their eyes on the road and not on their fax machines.



A standard New Year's tradition is called "Hatsumode," which is the first visit to the local Shinto shrine of the year, just after midnight. The shrines are usually very lively for Hatsumode. There are good luck charms made of paper and wood for sale, and since it is a tradition to burn the previous year's charms, there are usually bonfires going. You can also pay for a small paper fortune, usually for ¥100 or about a dollar, and see how lucky you will be in the year to come.

As much fun as I had with these experiences, I am thrilled to be back in New Hampshire this year. At the holidays, there's no place like home. ❄️

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JANET MACLACHLAN

Lyman Gilmore, Editor

Ordinarily The Limrik does not print obituaries, but Janet MacLachlan was a Contributing Writer for the Limrik whose quiet cheerfulness and elegant writing voice graced many of our pages. Last August just before our staff meeting to discuss the upcoming September issue she told me she didn't think she could attend the meeting or write an article because she was feeling ill, but she assured me that she would be up for the December issue. She died on September 20, just three weeks after our September issue was published.

Perhaps a good way to remember Janet is to listen again to her voice in the June 2013 Limrik:

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Janet MacLachlan

Has anyone else noticed how especially beautiful the flowers and trees and shrubs are this spring? As I write this in early May, I am very conscious of all the beauty around me.

Everywhere I look I see the forsythia blooming so profusely. The yellow blossoms seem to greet me wherever I turn. The clumps of daffodils swaying gently in the breeze seem to be springing up in all the gardens and along the roadsides in town. Another eye-catcher are the graceful weeping cherry trees that remind me of ballerinas performing on the lawns. The gorgeous magnolia tree on Route 31 is so lovely. Other trees in bloom are in shades of pink, white, and a stunning cerise red on Brian Murphy's lawn. You may think I'm being rather euphoric about Spring and the awakening of the trees and plants and you are right. I feel a little like what Rip Van Winkle must have experienced when he awoke from his long sleep. I realize this renewed appreciation of all the awakening beauty around me is because I have been pretty much unaware of it for the last year or two while I was focused on the care of my beloved husband, Mac. In March he passed on to a better place and I have started to reshape my life and look outward to the world around me. Old friends greet me and I feel that I am a part of this town again and can step back into familiar places and once again enjoy the feeling of belonging. I am coming back to a new life and with an appreciation of all that I have been missing. ❄️

email digital images of each page and the maps, which he would then transfer to Tokyo for interpretation, and perhaps a match or connection to relatives of this Japanese officer.

“What is your email address...?” I asked. “*r.winslow@Japanese.*” Interesting I thought to myself, and then probing a little further, “Why, I have a friend here in Antrim, New Hampshire, by the name of Richard Winslow.” “That’s my father...you live in Antrim...is this Peter Moore from Antrim? “Yes, by God, the very one!” I was as surprised as he. He went on, “I met you at the Transfer Station many years back, when my young child was getting a bit out-of-hand, and driving the old attendant a bit out-of-his-mind. Why you helped calm him down, he was a friend of yours, I think.” “Yes, it was my good friend Bill Lang, and he could out-of-sorts.”

So, last March, I sent off the 40-plus digital images to young Richard Winslow of Japanese Consulate, in Boston. And in-turn, off to Tokyo he transmitted the same.

Not too long ago, after waiting perhaps seven months, I received an email from Richard Winslow: “At long last we have had a response from Tokyo regarding the diary that your father brought back from the War in the South Pacific. Unfortunately, the researchers were unable to locate a surviving family member. It does not totally surprise me, given the lack of clear identifying information. I greatly regret this, as I know that it would be interesting and gratifying to be able to return the diary into those hands.”

Missing-In-Action, a life lost is put to rest. ❄

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ANTRIM GRANGE NEWS

Arthur and Beth Merrill

Autumn comes and the members of Antrim Grange continue to be busy with local, state, and national events. In September, we enjoyed a Mystery Ride to Greenfield and toured the amazingly diverse and ingenious gardens of David and Hilda Bridgewater. Our Grange goat, Oliver (named for Grange founder, Oliver H. Kelly) was escorted through the Home and Harvest parade route by Grange members and this year was joined by an equine friend, Jewel “Merrill”, who enjoyed picking up pieces of candy corn that littered the street. For the first time, our Grange also had a booth on the Baptist Church lawn, where we sold some home baked goodies, and answered general questions about the Grange.

The next weekend, seven Antrim members traveled to The Big “E” in West Springfield, MA and participated in Grange Day events at the New England Grange Building. We marched in the daily parade and applauded member, Brian Murphy whose Big Maple Tree-o Band played on the stage in the Grange building. Various members also volunteered at the blueberry pie booth in the NH Building on three separate days of the fair.

continued next page

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October brought the third annual Ukulele Fest, featuring music by the Ukulele Society of Antrim and the Kukuleles, from Milford. Proceeds from the event were dedicated to our Grange Hall Painting Project and we thank our patrons for their support.

Later in the month, Davi Penny presented a program on her trip to Germany this spring and her cross-country tractor-trailer journey following her graduation from Conval High School.

As is the tradition every year, late October finds several of our members in attendance at the annual NH State Grange Session, this year held in Nashua. Arthur Merrill was elected Steward, Adam Paquin Varnum was elected Assistant Steward, and Beth Merrill continues to serve her term as a member of the Executive Committee. Besides the honor of now having three State Officers in our Grange, there were numerous other awards presented to our members throughout the convention. We received a plaque for achieving the high score in the Youth Program. We had winning entries from Sharon Stickney (Christmas ornament) and Beth Merrill (recycled art) in two of the youth contests. Three members, Adam and Bob Paquin Varnum and Davi Penny were officers for the Youth Opening of the Session on Saturday morning. Our Grange sent in a number of entries in the Lecturer's contests and Sharon, Adam, and Dawne Hugron all were recognized for their literary efforts. Also, two members were rewarded for their visual art entries: Beth in Photography and Gloria in Art. The Family Committee sponsors a needlework contest each year and Antrim members had the following winning entries: Plastic Canvas – Betsy Bean, Crochet Baby Afghan and Stuffed Toy – Beth Merrill, Embroidery – Dawne Hugron. Our Community Service notebook, so lovingly assembled by Nancy Bean received an honorable mention. Dawne Hugron's embroidery entry and Beth Merrill's photo entry were selected to be sent on to be displayed at the National Grange session.

In November, Arthur, Adam, and Bob attended the National Grange Session in Sandusky, OH. Arthur was a prominent member of the cast of the Seventh Degree.

We thank the Peterborough Kiwanis for their financial assistance for the second year as we presented a dictionary to every third grade student in our district. This is a community service project that our Grange has participated in for a number of years in cooperation with the mission of the national organization, The Dictionary Project.

Also, in November we accepted three new members: Armond and Renee Gerritsen, and Kaitlin Rooney. Bob was elected Overseer, Renee was elected Lecturer, and Gloria was elected to the Executive Committee and all were installed by Arthur Merrill at our November meeting. This is

significant in that we now have a full slate of officers for the first time in many years.

We hosted a group of Antioch graduate students for a pot luck supper and meeting in early November. Each of our members and guests were interviewed by the students as they lay the groundwork to assist The Greenhorns, a national organization of young farmers, in planning a project which intends to interview and record older generations of farmers nationwide in an attempt to preserve and pass their knowledge and experience on to younger generations. Both students and Grangers were honored to share this unique experience together.

By the time you read this, our Yankee Humor theme tree should be on display at the Festival of Trees. The idea for this was sparked by conversation in our van ride home from Grange Day at the Big "E". We hope you enjoy the results of our collaborative efforts!

Coming up, we will be decorating cookies at our December 3rd meeting at the Grange Hall. Anyone who would like to join us for this fun project is welcome to come to the hall at 7:00 p.m. The cookies are then donated to the rec department and they distribute them at the Town Tree Lighting Ceremony. This is the eighteenth year we've done this project.

Antrim Grange is preparing the December 18th Community Supper, which is held the third Thursday of the month at the Presbyterian Church. Patrons will have the opportunity to enjoy an assortment of casseroles prepared by our members. Perhaps there will be a holiday treat or two for added entertainment?

Our winter speaker meetings had not been planned by the time of this issue's deadline, so please keep an eye out for future announcements of public programs in January, February, and March. We do plan to host a Meet the Candidates Night at the Town Hall on Wednesday, February 25th, so you can mark your calendar accordingly.

It's been a fantastically busy and productive year for Antrim Grange. We can hardly wait to see what 2015 has in store for us! ❁



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confident that extending the hours of usability on the field will allow us to promote new programs, such as adult softball, soccer, kickball, and skating in the winter, and more. We hope that community members who have an interest in this project will come forward now to ask questions.

In addition to the Shea Field Lighting project, the Commission continues to work on improvements and maintenance improvements to Memorial Park. There is also some work starting towards creating an Antrim Dog Park! The Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at the Antrim Town Gym.

The fall soccer season was very busy and successful. More than 130 children participated in the Antrim Youth Soccer league, from 4 years old through 12 years old. Soccer is always a fun season. We benefit greatly from the support of local businesses like Edmunds, Mush Cooks Garage, McGrath Lumber, Mike's Towing, Haley's Service Center, Franchestown Sand & Gravel, and D.H. Hardwick & Sons. You can see the kids sporting their soccer jerseys all year round—they love wearing them! If your business would like to support one of our spring or fall sports teams, please let us know.

The Halloween Window Paintings were a delightful addition to the spirit of the season on Main Street. Congratulations to the Antrim Girl Scout troop for their popular painting which claimed the grand prize.

Pickleball has started at the Antrim Town Gym on Thursdays, 4:30–6:00 p.m. This is a very popular and fun game, and has elements of tennis, racquetball and uses a waffle type ball. The origin of the name is the dog of the creators, a spaniel named Pickle, who was fond of absconding with the game ball. This program is led by Dick

Loveland, and will be ongoing as long as there is enough interest.

The Recreation Department welcomed back Children's Stage Adventures and with 23 local children, produced a delightful production of 'A Sword Called Excaliber'. We hope to have this group back next summer, and hope that the participation grows.

The Recreation Department has been working with the Conval Athletic Department, and the Varsity Basketball Coaches to try and enrich our current youth Basketball Program. In partnership with Mark Swasey, Athletic Director at Conval, Kevin Proctor and Deb Riley (Varsity Coaches), and Peterborough Recreation Department, we are working on a Sunday Cougar Cubs program that will be held on weekends in January and February, for 1st through 4th grade kids who want to work on gaining fundamental basketball skills. Basketball is a great team sport through the schools, and also throughout life. In fact, we have pickup basketball for adults at the Town Gym on Sundays, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays after school in December and January we will have programming for youth. In December, there will be an after-school movie series at Town Hall, 2:30–4:00 p.m. For movie showings, refer to the town website.

We also have a special Circus Arts program for three Wednesdays, 4:00–5:00 p.m. at Town Hall. This will culminate in a show on Sunday December 28. The leader for this circus program will be Sara Greene from Silver Lining Circus Learning. The focus will be on acrobatics, juggling, tight wire, clowning, and more.

Wednesdays in December will also offer the Gifts from the HeART program, after school at the Town Gym. Registration for this and all programs can be found on the town website.

After School Ski Trips to Crotched Mountain begin on Wednesdays in January. Late registrations for the ski/ride lessons and bus to the mountain can be accepted through December.

Indoor walking at Antrim Town Gym will return in December. Participants can walk at the gym and indoors at AES, Monday through Fridays, 7:00–8:00 a.m., when school is in session. We want you to stay active, even when the conditions outdoors are not conducive to walking!

Tumbling for cheer and Acrobatics has started at the Town Gym on Sundays. With this program, we welcome back Alison Wozmak, a talented tumbling coach. This program is running, ongoing, in four week sessions, current information can be found at gym and on the town website.

Toddler Playground returns on Fridays, starting in January! This is a program for our youngest friends, ages birth through 3 years old. A fabulous 90-minute open playtime for kids and their families, with music, balls, slides, tunnels, tents, balance toys and more! Antrim Town Hall, 9:30–11:00 a.m. on Fridays in January through March.

Miss Laura continues her Friday ballet classes for 4–5 year olds, as well as her Parent Child Dance classes. These are ongoing as long as there is adequate interest.

After School Jujitsu with Elizabeth Kenney continues on Thursdays at the Town Gym. Kids in Kindergarten through Middle School participate in her classes, and are very happy with their training.

We will be building our Lacrosse programs during the winter, in preparation for the spring season. We have a Friday Lacrosse Clinic starting in December. This program will be for girls in 2nd through 6th grade, and will focus on ball handling, and fitness training.

 — continued next page

We hope to continue it as gym space and interest permit.

We are offering a winter vacation camp, during the December holidays. Fire and Ice, a winter wonderland camp will be led by our extraordinary camp staff J.T. Clough. Registrations for this camp are on the town website.

February Vacation will feature the popular NHDI Vacation Camp, with Lisa Cook. This is our third year presenting this dance camp, and the participants always love it!

Adult exercise programs currently are Zumba and FabAbs on Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.; Yoga on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.; Adult Volleyball on Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.; Adult Basketball on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. In addition, there is the indoor walking program mentioned above.

We are planning a trip to The Boston Flower and Garden Show Thursday March 12, 2015. Leave Antrim at 8:30 a.m., return before 5:30 p.m. Cost: Seniors \$27; Adults \$30. This includes admission to the show and a seat on the bus.

More trips, movies and programs are always added after the publication of the Limrik. Please, stay up to date with our offerings by checking our bulletin boards at the Town Hall, as well as our page on the town website: www.antrimnh.org, and make friends with us on Facebook! Our phone number is 588-3121. We hope you will join us soon! ❄

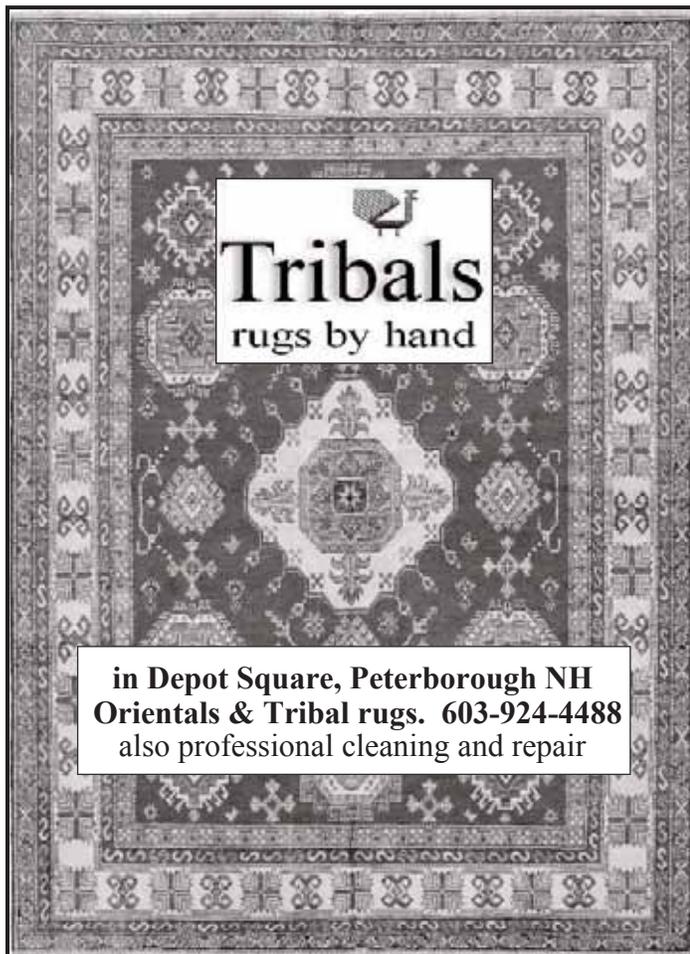
ANTRIM STONE CHURCH HISTORY

Lyman Gilmore, Antrim Historical Society

The lovely old Stone Church on Clinton Road built in 1898 down the hill from the Grange Hall was not always as peaceful and tranquil as it appears today. Indeed, it grew out of a bitter dispute that still echoes in some Antrim homes one hundred and ten years later. In the late 1700s and during most of the 1800s, the majority of the town's residents lived at Antrim Center near Meeting House Hill, the geographical center of the town. In 1826, families at Antrim Center erected just west of our current Grange Hall a beautiful brick Presbyterian Church with a tall, graceful steeple and a Paul Revere bell. Because so many of our early settlers were Scots Presbyterians, the Center Church had the largest congregation in town, two hundred and sixty three by 1880. But as more and more families moved to the South Village, our current downtown, they wanted a Presbyterian Church closer to home than the Center Church a four mile walk, horseback or buggy ride uphill. Having discovered from the Presbytery in Boston that two Presbyterian churches could not exist in the same town, they petitioned for permission to tear down the Center Church and build a new church in the South Village.

In 1893 the new Presbyterian Church was completed at its current location next to the Maplehurst Inn. Naturally, many residents of Antrim Center wanted to maintain their beloved Center Church, and led by angry Center resident Eben Bass, they attempted to prevent efforts of the South Village Presbyterians to eliminate it. The South Village congregation filed a lawsuit against the Center congregation for ownership of the Center Church, and although the Center Church group contested it aggressively, the South Village group won at trial in July 1895. They removed to their new church the Center Church bell, pews, doors, windows, rugs, and bricks, and in 1896 the Center Brick Church was demolished.

Determined to have their own church at the Center, in 1897 Eben Bass and other residents began construction out of fieldstone found on the site what would be completed in 1898 as the 1st Congregational Church of Antrim, "The Stone Church." As described in Parades and Promenades, "The church prospered for many years. At times, the congregation reached the two hundred mark. Morning and evening services were held regularly, as well as mid-week and preparatory services. Church suppers (for as little as ten cents in the early days), harvest suppers served by the best cooks in town, it was said, and strawberry festivals were-not-to-be-missed events. But with the attrition of time, the attendance dwindled, and by the year 1960 the meetings were reduced to an early service during the summer only." In 1992 the Congregational Society deeded the Stone Church to James Rymes who offered it to the Antrim Historical Society in 2007. ❄



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HISTORY OF HAWTHORNE COLLEGE

Part Two: The Battle for Accreditation

Lyman Gilmore

In the last issue of the Limrik (September) I described the extraordinary way two inspired individuals—Judge Kenneth McLaughlin and William “Bill” Shea— created a successful, non-profit, non-discriminatory college from scratch in four months before opening in the fall of 1962. Here is their next challenge.

In September, 1964, I crossed the bridge over North Branch River into the Hawthorne campus and a new life as an English professor. What I found there were the very students for whom Judge McLaughlin founded the college. When I interviewed him for the *Limrik* this past August he told me he wanted to start a college for students who could not get in to more established institutions. So most of my students were young men and women who were generally bright and energetic but lacked the knowledge and study skills of most successful college students. Many had either been rejected by other schools or had flunked out. Most of my students were enthusiastic and willing workers, if occasionally marijuana-laid back happy. I liked them.

The faculty was an interesting bunch too, partly young and inexperienced teachers like me, and considerably older individuals who had retired from colleges and universities. I liked the faculty too, and several of my good friends today joined me in crossing the bridge that autumn of 1964.



Hawthorne College DC 3

Antrimites of a certain age will remember September 1964 as another important time, the beginning of wild student free-speech strikes and demonstrations that began at the University of California at Berkeley and lasted throughout the '60s. This movement three thousand miles away had a profound influence on the Hawthorne campus. As the free-speech student rebellion began to spread beyond Berkeley, colleges and universities across the country were anxious and apprehensive that their campuses would follow the Berkeley violence. Hawthorne was no exception. In order to prevent student (and faculty) unrest and disruption, the Hawthorne administration instituted policies designed to maintain a civil, respectful, patriotic atmosphere on campus. In addition to strict class attendance regulations, they established a loyalty oath and a firm rule that when the Star Spangled Banner was played on loudspeakers throughout the campus each afternoon, everyone, students and faculty alike, indoors or outside, must stand at attention until the national anthem was finished.

At thirty-one I was a cocky, left-wing, pseudo-intellectual-bohemian who knew everything (some things never change), so when the administration instituted these policies, I and some of the younger faculty were distressed at what we took to be repressive, dictatorial violations of our academic freedom and a coerced patriotism contrary to democratic values. Our rebellion took the form of my volunteering to speak with Hawthorne President Judge McLaughlin, which I did one afternoon as he drove his big car around the campus. I waved to him and he stopped as he often did for a chat with anyone he encountered, and I approached his window and politely mentioned that some of us were displeased with the patriotic policy. I'll never



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forget the essence of his no nonsense reply, in effect: "IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN CROSS THE BRIDGE!" Since that meant you are fired, our little rebellion for academic freedom was short lived. What I did not know at the time was that his patriotic intransigence paid off significantly the next year during the great accreditation battle.

The spring of 1965 brought the first graduating class of those students who had amassed enough credits in three years at Hawthorne in addition to credits transferred from other colleges. It was to be an historic and splendid celebration of the new and successful little college that many in Antrim predicted would have failed by then. But suddenly, just weeks before graduation in early June, catastrophe struck. The administration received a letter from the NH Coordinating Board of Advanced Education and Accreditation that Hawthorne had the power to grant only "provisional" not full Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees. The campus had been cleaned and readied for graduation, the students were struggling to finish their academic work, and parents from all over the eastern US had made travel and hotel reservations to attend the first graduation ceremony.

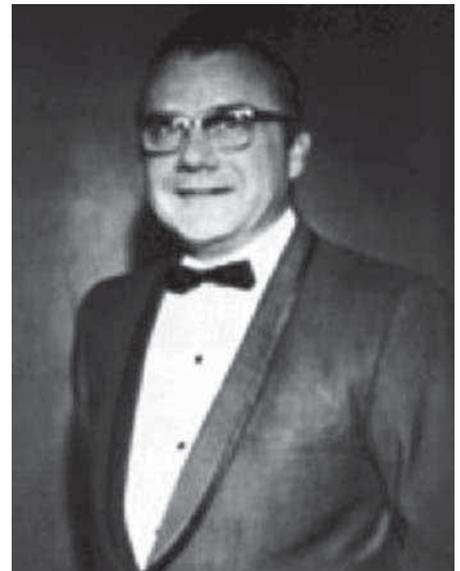
What was to be done? Just as President McLaughlin and Chancellor Shea had miraculously created the college in just four months in 1962, they leapt into action to get the NH Legislature to pass a bill authorizing—or re-authorizing as was the case—Hawthorne's power to confer complete bachelor degrees on its students who had completed its requirements. Fortunately the college had friends in power, not only several adult students who were current members of the NH legislature, the important Antrim contractor and member of the House, Bill

Edwards, Peterborough's realtor and House Speaker and future governor Walter Peterson who had helped get the college started, but also and arguably most important, the editors of New Hampshire's largest and most influential newspaper, the *Manchester Union Leader*. That newspaper had been impressed with Hawthorne's patriotic policies as well as the establishment on campus of a quasi-military Civil Air Patrol Wing, a flight-training program, and several retired US military officers on its faculty.

To give you the flavor of the paper's opinion on the sort of academic freedom claimed by the California students that certainly did not exist at Hawthorne College, here is an excerpt from its editorial on Sunday, June 6, 1965:

"Academic Freedom! It is the great unifying shibboleth which rallies the modern college beatniks, street demonstrators, teach-inners, rioters, pacifists, pornographers, and pinks. It is the cloak for every transgression against intellectual order and decency, from chorused obscenities under the dean's window to the installation of communist doctrines on university lecture platforms."

The editors called for support of House Bill 603 that would grant Hawthorne complete degree-granting power, and the college administration aided by its politically powerful friends worked frantically to muster support for the bill in the legislature. As the *Union Leader* said in an editorial, "More than 20 witnesses backed the college during last Thursday's three hour public hearing before the joint Senate and House Education Committees" arguing that it was "grossly unfair...that three years after issuance of the charter, the Legislature will turn around and agree that House Bill 603 be amended to give Nathaniel Hawthorne College only 'provisional'



Judge Kenneth McLaughlin

degree-granting power." Further, the college had been given its charter more than a year before the accrediting board was created which meant the board should have no power to penalize the college retroactively. Finally, after much debate, the Legislature passed the bill.

But the crisis wasn't over. Once passed, the bill had to be signed by the Governor before it would go into effect, and the Governor was on vacation somewhere. In his 2010 *Aviation Memoir*, Chancellor Bill Shea describes what happened next: "On the Thursday before the Saturday graduation day we were told the bill . . . still had to be signed by the governor. Friday afternoon we flew the bill up to Berlin, NH, for the Governor to sign it into law. Graduation was the next day!"

The Governor signed with no time to spare, and the students in Hawthorne's first graduating class got their official Bachelors Degrees in June 1965.

The History of Hawthorne College Part Three will appear in the March 2015 Limrik. ✨

Looking for something to do Friday night?

Spend as few as two hours a month as a chaperone at Avenue A Teen Center. It's fun, it feels good, and we'll team you up with a seasoned teen center volunteer. Heidi awaits your call!

Call Now for Guiding Good Choices in January

This nationally-recognized workshop, set for five Thursday evening sessions beginning January 22, teaches parents of children ages 9-14 the effective family management and communication skills needed to help reduce their children's risk for using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Says one parent: "Guiding Good Choices gave our family the skills to help our son deal with peer pressure. Now that he's in high school, we're thankful we took the course when he was nine." Offered in partnership with Great Brook and Antrim Elementary Schools and PTOs, and generously sponsored by Bank of New Hampshire. Call 588-2620 now to register, it will fill quickly.

Free Tax Prep (yes, FREE)

Hancock resident and IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz will provide free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Mondays from 3:00–6:00 p.m. starting January 19,

2015. All returns will be filed electronically. Larry has been providing this free service for a number of years as both a volunteer with Money Matters of Peterborough and as a member of the People's Service Exchange. Call The Grapevine now for your appointment.

Back by Popular Demand!

Fancy Schmancy Tea Party Saturday, February 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Antrim Town Hall. This High Society Event, the creation of Grapevine parents, was such a sparkling success last year that we're doing it again. Dress in your fanciest, schmanciest duds and join us for tea, punch, finger cakes, crumpets and assorted goodies (along with water and crudites to cleanse the palate). Enjoy games, crafts and other delightful diversions.

If you have any fancy schmancy tea party paraphernalia—including tea sets, cups, saucers, platters, punch bowls, silverware—we're gratefully accepting donations at The Grapevine between 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Monday–Friday. We're also looking for donations of crayons, markers and craft supplies.

Look for information on advance tickets soon on The Grapevine Facebook page, or call 588-2620.

Stop, Drop & Romance Sunday, February 15 from 3:00–6:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for your child to enjoy fun activities and crafts with other children while you and your love celebrate. \$12 for the first child, \$6 for siblings. Please let us know when you call to sign-up if the cost is a hardship. Space is limited, so call now.

It's not too early to think about Preschool 2015–16!

If your child will be between 4 and 5 years of age in September 2015, call now to schedule a visit to The Learning Vine, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Home Heating and Other Resources

Community Wood Bank

Free firewood is available for families and individuals who cannot afford to buy wood and who use wood as a primary heat source. Please call The Grapevine during office hours. Many thanks to Robblee Tree Service in Antrim, to Priscilla Starratt and Paul Merrill in Hancock, and to D.H. Hardwick, the Pelletiers and Linda McGilvery in Bennington for donations of wood, and to the many volunteers who cut, split and stacked so far this fall: Peter Martel, Cathy Joly, Sean and Gen Joly, Larry and Donna Martel, Wayno Olson, Ben Pratt, Brian and Caryn Brown, Ron and Wanda Clough, Kristina Burnside, Dick and Lorraine Edmunds, Linda Osienski, John Schultz, Don McCormick, Chris Brown and The Pywell Family—Roy, Kimri, Elianna and Kaila. The wood bank relies on donations and volunteers. If you need wood or would like to help, call The Grapevine.

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Fuel Assistance

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The People's Service Exchange

What talents and skills do you have? We offer a coordinated network to connect you with your neighbors who may need what you have to offer. Need a service that is hard to find? Call to see if one of our members could help you out.

Services usually needed this time of year: Help with firewood, yard clean up, delivering meals, snow shoveling and plowing are a few that come to mind.

Popular services year round: Financial planning, massage, house repair, transportation, someone to talk with and housecleaning.

One hour of service equals one time dollar in your account to be saved, spent or donated! Save money, make friends and help others by joining the PSE. Call Nancy at 588-2620 or visit www.pse-nh.org.

Other services available at The Grapevine...

Assistance with on-line applications for food stamps, Healthy Kids insurance and other State assistance

Child and family counseling through Monadnock Family Services

GED preparation and tutoring in reading for adults through Project LIFT

Help meeting basic needs—food, transportation, shelter, and other resources.

About The Grapevine

The Grapevine is a nonprofit organization serving residents in Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, Frankestown and nearby towns. Other programs and resources include the Before and After School Clubs, Avenue A Teen Center, Senior Exercise, and Better Beginnings parent-child programs.

Tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted at PO Box 637, Antrim, or drop by the center at 4 Aiken Street (behind the library). *

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Presbyterian Church
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HISTORY OF THE LIMRIK

1991-2014

The first issue of the Limrik was published in November 1991 under the name of the Antrim Community Newsletter. It was founded by Bev Tenney with Nancy Timko as editor and Lois Harriman as Business Manager. A feature article announced a contest for a name for the publication, the winner to receive a \$25 gift certificate at the Rynborn, a local restaurant and blues club. The winning entry, submitted by Madeline Dusky, turned out to be The Antrim Limrik. When Madeline was asked what she thought of the publication 10 years later, she replied: "I love it. It catches the pulse of the town."



With the publication of the December 2003 issue, the name was once again changed to The Limrik, A Quarterly Journal. Editor Dick Winslow and the staff felt that the word journal best described the content that has evolved to include essays and opinions in addition to news and events "for, by and about the people of Antrim." The Limrik is an historical snapshot of life in Antrim, NH.

Over the years many people have contributed their talent, expertise, and time to the publication. The first issue of 1991 November listed Bev Tenney, Founder, and Nancy Timko, Editor. Subsequent staff changes were as follows:

- 1992 September-Renee Blinn, Layout & Design
1993 February-Bev Tenney, Editor
1993 December-Dick Winslow, Editor
1995 June-Pam Veenstra, Layout & Design
1995 September-Connie Kirwin, Layout & Design
2004 September-Lyman Gilmore, Associate Editor
2005 December-Lyman Gilmore, Editor, and Dick Winslow, Emeritus Editor.

As with the first issue, all staff members are volunteers and the paper on which it is printed is generously donated by a local company, The Monadnock Paper Mills. *

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