

SMALL TOWN GOVERNMENT

Eric Tenney

This article is being written in response to several comments I have heard about the lack of candidates in the local election. Another comment you often hear is, “How come it’s always the same names that do show up on the ballot?” The response to this is in reality nothing has changed. This is a recurring problem.

There are many reasons why people will not run for office. It’s easy to find a reason not to run, but harder to find a reason to run. One of the best reasons to run is that you learn how local government works and why things happen.

You also learn that committees and boards have an odd number of members so in theory there are no tied votes: you win some, lose some, and some “got rained out.” It’s important to have different opinions on boards because nobody knows everything. Remember, there also boards that are appointed if you make yourself available.

The reason some people keep running is that nobody runs against them. They believe that in a small community you should participate in something, whether it’s government, civic organizations, churches or charities. That’s what makes small towns function. Small towns will suffer if you do not have community involvement and citizens will have no one to blame but themselves. ☐

LIVING STRONG AT THE GRAPEVINE

Melissa Gallagher

One of the things I love about the Grapevine is how it seems to touch people in every phase of life. While you may associate the Grapevine with childhood and parenting support, we offer many other programs and resources. One of them is the Strong Living Exercise Program for Seniors, which meets Tuesdays and Fridays at the Grapevine from 1:30-2:30.

I recently sat down with this lively group before they began their exercise routine. My workspace is just down the hall from the room where they gather, and I couldn’t help but be drawn in by the roars of laughter that often erupt between their rhythmic chanting of exercise cadences! I was curi-

✍ — continued on page 10



Whitewater Canoeing on Gregg Lake

JIM BURNHAM, QUILTER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Joan Gorga

Quilts, dramatically filling blank wall spaces and hanging from mantels, made delightful additions to the 2015 Festival of Trees. They were brought to us by the Monadnock Quilters Guild. Incoming Guild President Jim Burnham pieced, quilted and donated the stunning “One-Block Wonder” Raffle Quilt. To try to find out where his inspiration came from, I met up with Jim as he set up coffee at the Antrim Area Senior Center one morning.

Jim was originally from Littleton, New Hampshire. He moved to Boston to attend the Mass Radio and TV School, and spent six years repairing radios and TVs in a Radio Shack basement before deciding that he just wasn’t seeing enough of the sun. A truck-driving neigh-

✍ — continued on page 8

☒ VOTE • MARCH 8 ☒
Town Hall 8:00 am–7:00 pm

TOWN MEETING • MARCH 10
Town Gym 7:00 pm

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— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

The Limrik accepts letters to the editor of maximum length of 250 words. Publication is subject to approval of the content. Mail letters to Editor, Limrik, PO Box 84, Antrim, NH 03440 or by email to Joan Gorga at: jgorga2@gorga.org.

— CREDITS —

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— WEBSITE —

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ANTRIM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tod Bryer

Over the past year the Antrim Fire Department responded to 117 calls, running a full spectrum of events, which included building fires, automobile accidents, many of them serious, brush fires, mutual aid assignments to surrounding communities and numerous other calls for service for the townspeople of Antrim. A further breakdown will appear in the Town Report. The Antrim Fire Department is in need of new volunteer members. Please look for flyers we will be posting around town. We are an equal opportunity employer and no experience is necessary, just a desire to help the community. As always we thank the greater community for your continued support. ☐

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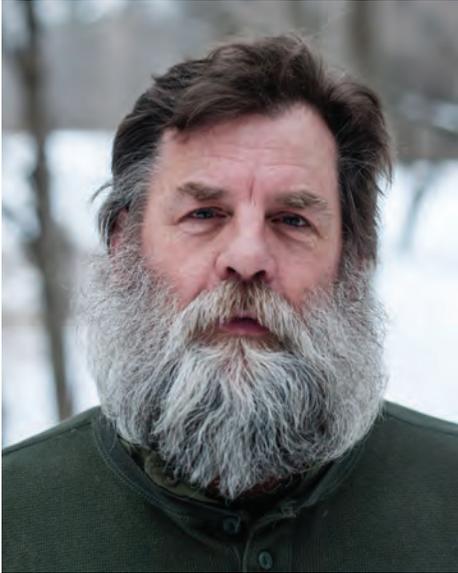
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CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICES AND SCHOOL BOARD

Candidates for Town offices and School Board were given the opportunity to submit short statements summarizing their motivation for running.

Gordon Webber SELECTBOARD

My name is Gordon Webber, and I am running for re-election for Selectman



in Antrim. Please consider voting for me when you go to the polls on March 8, 2016. I grew up in Antrim, and I have a strong personal connection to the Town. I love my Town. I have travelled around the country and the world, I have lived in many states, but I moved back to Antrim because I like living here. I remember when Antrim was mostly agricultural with many working farms and have watched it grow and change to the Town it is today.

By NH Statute, the role of the Board of Selectmen is to administer the operations and manage the prudential affairs of the Town. We are very fortunate in Antrim to have great employees that are very competent in what they do which makes our job as Selectmen relatively easy.

It is always a challenge as Selectmen to balance the Town Departments and the needs of the residents of Antrim with the tax rate. We have some large projects coming up in the near future.

Jeanne Cahoon SELECTBOARD

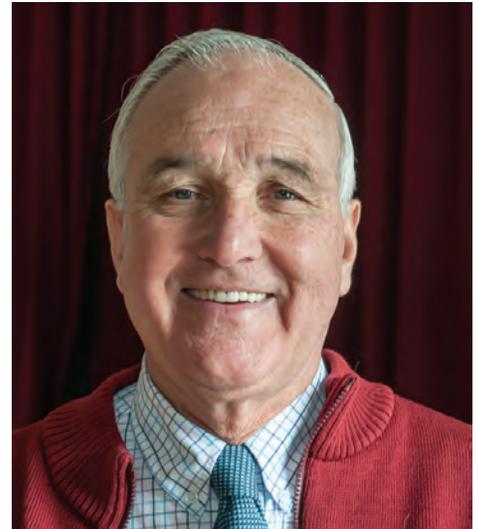
Sixteen years ago as a young family my husband and I chose Antrim to raise our family. We chose Antrim because having a community where knowing and caring about your neighbor is the norm not an exception and this was important to us. I have spent many enjoyable years getting to know the hard working families of our commu-



nity through working and volunteering at the local schools and attending the many town functions and celebrations. With all the experiences I have had in the Antrim community I have learned that working together will always be important to me, I feel that everyone has something helpful share in any situation. This is what makes our community great! I would like to have a direct experience in helping to maintain the town we live in and love. I want to make sure, in the future, our town still emanates the togetherness that drew us to settle here. I am asking for your support this year as I run for Select Board. I would like to be in a position to hear issues that community members feel will have an impact on their town. I

Robert L. Edwards SELECTBOARD

My decision to file for the position of Antrim Selectman was driven by two factors. First, I believe the position in today's world requires knowledge of municipal operations, a greater level of business and financial familiarity, a demonstrated willingness to listen to others with contrary opinions, welcome collective wisdom from others, and to be able to reach a decision that is in the best interest of our community as a whole. I believe that I have those skills. Secondly, as a retiree, I have more time to devote to this important leadership position.



In terms of my involvement in Antrim, I have lived in our community for 46 years and have served twice as Chair of our Planning Board. I have further served Antrim as a Trustee of Trust Funds for 28 years. I am presently a member of Antrim's Advisory Budget Committee and have attended many of the Select Board meetings as they prepared the town's 2016 budget. I am a long standing member of the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club which is dedicated to serving others.

— ALL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 —

Gordon Webber: SELECTBOARD

The repair of water lines and installation of drainage on Highland Ave. and lower Pleasant St. are the most pressing. We have another bridge on West St. that we are planning on replacing in another year. Although these projects will be costly, they are necessary, and we will likely benefit from State funding and grants. Deciding on how to spend tax payer monies is the role of the Selectmen. This is probably the most difficult part of our job but our employees make the rest of it easy.

I am honored to be able to represent the residents of this Town and to work with our employees and look forward to having the opportunity to do so for another 3 years.

Jeanne Cahoon: SELECTBOARD

will come onto the board with an unbiased opinion, an open mind, and a willingness to make educated choices on any topic on the table. I understand that every decision the Select Board makes will impact each member of our diverse community differently; not just today but for many years to come. For this reason I will make it a point become educated on each issue and vote with the town needs in mind. Together we can make good choices.



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Robert L. Edwards: SELECTBOARD

On a more regional basis, I presently serve as a member of the Principal’s Advisory Committee at ConVal High School which addresses topics that affect our children’s total educational experience. I have served as Board Chair and continue to be a Trustee at Monadnock Community Hospital and currently serve on its Long Range Planning and Finance Committees. Lastly, in January 2016, I was elected to the NH Charitable Foundation’s Monadnock Region Advisory Board which is dedicated to the promise of creating stronger NH communities.

I believe all these experiences have helped me to have an improved understanding of business and community challenges and have allowed me to deal positively with issues facing our town and region as a whole.

Matters of key importance to our town that I will focus on:

- Prudent management of our town’s needs and financial resources.
- Address the challenges of our town’s general physical infrastructure including an aging and fragile municipal water and waste water system.
- Management of our current and future debt position including careful and proactive planning for future issues noted in our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- Interaction and collaboration with other local and regional leaders and communities to analyze our energy opportunities, shared services potential, zoning considerations, and employment and economic expansion ideas that may enhance our town and region and encourage an expansion of our present resident and economic base.
- Explore ideas with socially minded groups to improve our citizen’s quality of life issues and address today’s social concerns that affect us all.

I believe that with my experience and commitment to our town that I will make a positive contribution to Antrim and I welcome the opportunity to work in concert with our other two Select Board members and community leaders to initiate positive change and measurable progress with addressing the key issues facing our community.

If you agree, I welcome your vote on March 8, 2016. Thank you.

 — MORE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Free Community Suppers
March 17 • April 21 • May 19
5:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
73 Main St, Antrim

COMMUNITY PROFILE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

Michael Rondeau and Kristen Vance

Together with UNH Cooperative Extension, residents of Antrim have started planning a Community Profile, a process by which citizens will take stock of where our town is today and forge a vision for the future. "The Planning Board initiated this project as a way to get the necessary community input for the Master Plan," says Chris Condon, Chair of the Planning Board. "There are other ways to do this, but the community profile process is a proven method that really encourages citizen participation, dialogue and setting of priorities."

In response to the December 2015 *Limrik* article entitled "Developing an Antrim Vision," Shelly Nelkens, Michael Rondeau and Kristen Vance met with the Planning Board on December 15 to begin the process. Following a discussion about the role and responsibilities of the community profile steering committee, Kristen and Michael agreed to serve as committee co-chairs.

"Kristen and I met for the first time at this meeting, and it turns out we work very well together. We are looking forward to organizing a first-class event that will not only provide citizen input for the Master Plan, but will also be the catalyst for four or five citizen-led initiatives that will improve our town," says Michael Rondeau. Janet McEwen joined the committee in January and, at this writing, the committee of four is actively recruiting more residents to help steer the process.

The steering committee is responsible for organizing and publicizing the event, and for ensuring that a large and diverse group of residents participates in the community profile this fall. At the two-day fall event, townspeople will convene to identify potential opportunities in the community, develop an action plan, and collaborate to create solutions. Community issues to be considered include economic growth and vitality, healthy families, natural resources, education, recreation, community services and transportation.

According to Kristen Vance, the steering committee is "really excited about the potential for this event to revitalize our community," adding that, "Good things happen when the citizens of Antrim come together." □

SELECTBOARD UPDATE

Gordon Webber

Over the past year the Selectboard has been working closely with the Antrim Water and Sewer Commission and Peter Holden of Holden Engineering on the proposed Highland Avenue and Pleasant Street project. This project will involve digging up both Highland Avenue and lower Pleasant Street to replace aging water lines and installing a drainage line to address ground water issues on Highland Avenue, while eliminating the deep ditch along the north side of lower Pleasant Street. This project has been on a to-do list for a number of years. We will bring a Warrant Article to Town Meeting to fund this project and look forward to the support of the town.

The Selectboard is keenly aware of the issue of substance abuse, and especially the use of and addiction to opioids. Over the years we have seen numerous drug overdoses and in 2015 had two deaths in Antrim related to heroin. Clearly Antrim is not immune to this problem, and while there is no silver bullet we nevertheless intend to address it through education. This certainly is a community issue that we feel cannot be ignored. We have met with Antrim Police Chief Lester and members of HOPE, a substance misuse prevention committee, to educate ourselves on the problem and to develop ways to deal with it. While the manufacturing and sale or distribution of opioids will not be tolerated and should be criminally prosecuted, we may be able to save lives by redirecting users into a recovery program. The Selectboard and Chief Lester anticipate strengthening our collaboration with community organizations to help addicts towards recovery. If we can save even one life we believe it will be worth the effort.

After two days of hearings in Concord, the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) voted on September 29, 2015, to assert jurisdiction over the Antrim Wind Energy Project. In October 2015, Antrim Wind, LLC, filed an application with the SEC to construct a wind facility on the Tuttle Hill/Willard Mountain ridgeline. The Selectboard has supported this project since its inception and we continue with our support.

To date it has been a very mild winter, especially compared to last year, and while there is still more winter to come, our snow removal costs are considerably below where they were at this time in 2015.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, March 8, and to attend Town Meeting on Thursday, March 10.

We would like to remind Antrim residents to contact your Selectmen at Town Hall if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to serve you. □



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**Anne Chisholm-Enman
CEMETERY TRUSTEE**

I became interested in cemeteries growing up in Concord, Mass. I feel that cemeteries are an important part of a town's history and should be preserved and maintained. I wanted to become involved with Antrim's cemeteries to preserve our history and pay respect to those people buried there. It is very satisfying to see the headstones repaired, the stone walls restored and the grounds maintained. I thought that becoming a Cemetery Trustee was a good way for me to be involved in Antrim. It has been a great experience for me. I have met a lot of great people and am happy with what we have accomplished. Volunteering for this job has not felt like a job at all. I look forward to being a Trustee for a long time.

**Rich Cahoon
SCHOOL BOARD**

I believe that the ConVal School District is at a critical juncture. Massive changes are underway, with new district leadership, the ongoing consideration of school closings and consolidations, towns threatening to withdraw from the District, and significant ongoing improvements in curriculum, technology and physical infrastructure. Over the past three years as your representative on the Board, I have served as Chair of the Policy Committee, as a 3-year member of the Education Committee, as a member of the negotiating team through two contract negotiations, and on the Strategic Plan, Technology, and Selectmen's Advisory Committees. I would appreciate your vote on March 8th so that I may continue with this work. Thank you.

**Chris Condon
PLANNING BOARD**

As a member of the Planning Board I helped to initiate the 2016 Community Profile project, in which Antrim citizens will set priorities for the future of our town. I'm running for re-election because I'm excited about this process and want to see it through, especially when it comes to how the profile will influence the next Master Plan. For the past two years I have served as Chairman and I think most people would say that I am fair, give everyone a chance to have their say, and keep meetings drama-free as possible. I'd be honored to have your vote.

**Arthur Merrill
MODERATOR**

I've been in the Grange for more than forty years, and became Master when I was only 19, so I learned how to run meetings. Being Moderator is something I enjoy doing, and I see it as my small way to give something back to the town.

**Steve Ullman
LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

I am running for a second term as a Tuttle Library Trustee because of the gratitude I feel toward Antrim's Head Librarian a half a century ago, Mrs. Clara Pratt. During the 1950s there was no cable TV or Internet. After I finished my chores and walked to the public beach, there was significant time left over. This is where the Tuttle Library filled a vital niche. Later in life I was able to study in more lionized libraries. However, the Tuttle Library remains the particular setting where I developed my love of reading under Mrs. Pratt's guidance.

**Steve Ullman
TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS**

"Somebody is probably better than nobody" is the theme of my campaign for Trustee of Trust Funds. If anyone else had signed up, I would have withdrawn. I have read Attorney General Joseph Foster's gripping, page-turner *Handbook for Trustees of Trust Funds, Cemetery Trustees, Library Trustees*. (Spoiler alert – much of the plot is revealed on page 169 in the section entitled "Application of Cy Pres Doctrine to Trust Accounts For Which No Instruments Exist.") Therefore, I recognize that I would have a good deal to learn. However, in the past, I helped manage School District and University funds worth tens of millions and I hope to apply that experience to the Trustee of Trust Funds position.

**Margaret Warner
LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

One of the great pleasures of living in a small town is the opportunity to give back to the community in a meaningful way. This is intensified when you can do so in an area which you greatly enjoy—for me, library services. Since childhood, libraries have always been an integral part of my life, from Wilton (where I was the youngest child in town with a library card) to Antrim, where my Grandmother Pratt thoroughly initiated me into the care and nurture of libraries, to 35 years as a librarian at Prince George's Community College in Maryland. So on returning to Antrim, I naturally turned to the Tuttle Library, where it has been a real pleasure as a member of the library board to be part of maintaining its tradition of excellence while moving forward in this era of change. □

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The paper on which this *Limrik* is printed has been generously donated by the Monadnock Paper Mills. For this, *The Limrik* is very grateful.

Composers' Cabins

Joan (Caughey) Gorga

Did you know Antrim has at least two small cabins set up as quiet retreats where music composers could ply their trade without intrusions from the outside world? I stumbled upon one of the cabins last winter while enjoying a quiet stroll on snowshoes deep in the woods. When it appeared in front of me, a manmade geometric shape rising out of a gentle knoll, I thought, "I'm not in Kansas anymore." But then a little voice in my head said, "You've seen this before, maybe fifty years ago. It's the old composer's cabin." Every once in a while, while my siblings, cousins and I were exploring the woods around Gregg Lake, we stumbled upon this tiny cabin, but we tried to stay away since we knew a composer worked there when he wanted a quiet place to think.

What had become of the composer who chose this quiet corner of Gregg Lake to unleash his creativity? Was there even a chance I could find out? The starting point was the time-honored New Hampshire tradition of not acknowledging change—I still called it the Vogel place, even though, as far as I knew, no Vogel had owned it for at least twenty-five years. That, combined with the new-fangled Google search, led me to musician Leslie Vogel of Greenfield.

Leslie says her parents, Norman and Lucille Vogel, bought the remote property at the southern end of Gregg Lake around 1957 for \$1200, planning to spend peaceful family summers there. They erected the main cabin on the lake from a kit that cost \$500, and then started on the little A-frame cabin back in the woods, where Norman would spend quiet hours composing songs and pieces with lovely melodies for dance-like movements. Leslie and her young brother Tim helped carry the lumber back to the little knoll chosen for the cabin. Norman built the cabin with the help of a local carpenter, who apparently said little and demonstrated a solid work ethic, but periodically hit himself on the thumb with his hammer, whereupon he would let loose

a muffled expletive and hurl the hammer into the woods. Of course, both he and Norman then had to spend time searching for the hammer. I had an ominous feeling that this story was going to go where I didn't want, and emailed back to Leslie that possibly no one in Antrim would want to claim the hammer-throwing relative. Unfortunately, she didn't take the hint and broached the carpenter's identity with her mother, now living in Peterborough, who was certain it was a Caughey, and it can only have been my father's cousin Jack. "Tee hee—it's your family!," Leslie wrote. "But my father was quite eccentric himself, so they were in good company together building the A-frame." We'll leave the many Jack Caughey stories for some other time.

To help with his composing, Norman borrowed a heavy harmonium (also known as a pump organ) from some friends and carted it the length of the lake in a rented boat, since



there was no road in. Leslie remembers that "by stages that harmonium was dragged, carried and coaxed all the way back to the cabin in the woods." There, they had to build a porcupine-proof cage around it because they would chew anything they could get to. While the rest of the family enjoyed

the lake, Norman worked in his woods retreat.

Norman Vogel had attended the student program in New York City affiliated with the Juilliard School, and graduated from Michigan State University. He remained interested in the connection between music and movement after his Ant-

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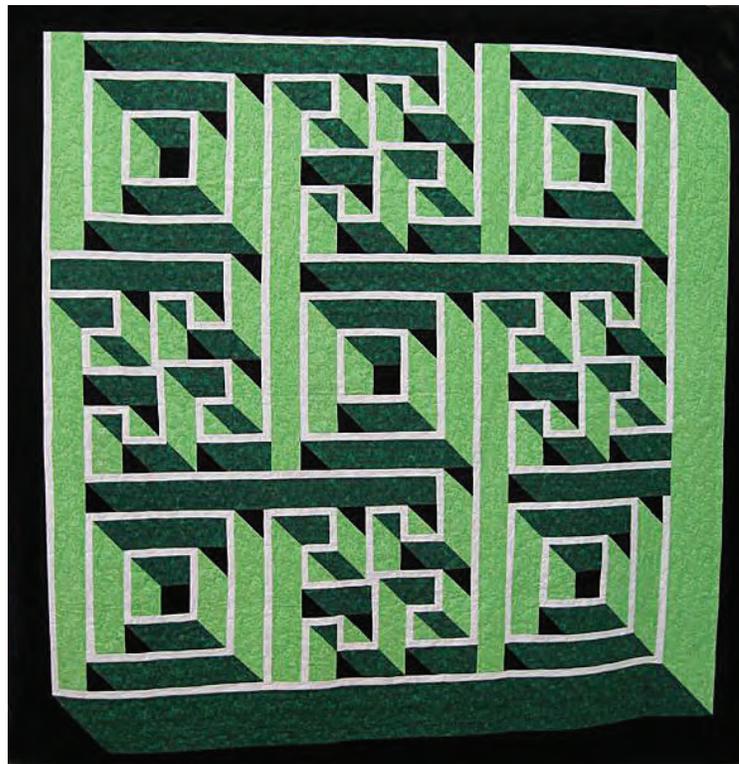
bor in Littleton had occasionally taken him on trips, and he decided to attend truck-driving school in Vineland, New Jersey. He found a job with a regional carrier outside Boston, spent seven years on the platform loading and unloading, and seven years as a terminal-to-terminal road driver moving refrigerated trucks full of frozen fish, whale blubber and other exotic products overnight between New Jersey and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Only then did his seniority allow him to bid a day job delivering and picking up freight in the Boston metro area.

Jim met his wife, Nancy, in Boston, and they raised their four children (three girls and a boy) in Chelmsford. Their youngest daughter, Kristen, loved horses, and free-leased a horse while in high school. She begged her parents to take care of the horse while she was away at college. Jim decided that if he was going to take care of a horse, he was going to use it, and when Nancy pointed out that she didn't have one, they bought a Shetland pony. When Kristen returned from college and wanted her horse back, Jim got a Norwegian Fjord, a relatively small, but strong, horse that is one of the world's oldest recognized breeds. The dun-colored horse with a black dorsal stripe was named Bart. As a joke they changed the spelling to Bjart and have enjoyed watching people stumble over his name ever since.

A few years later, Jim and Nancy retired to play with the horses. Nancy never rode the Shetland pony, but she enjoyed driving him, whereas Jim both rode and drove Bjart. They ran a hayride business for seven years at a park in Carlisle, Massachusetts, took drives in Shelburne, Vermont, for ten consecutive years, and went on about ten drives a year with the Granite State Carriage Association. When two members of the Granite State Carriage Association from Hancock sponsored a drive on High Street, they were introduced to Antrim.

Jim and Nancy moved to Antrim in 2002. They found a house that fit the bill, built a barn and cleared a pasture for the horses. Nancy's Shetland pony died of old age, and they lost a donkey a few years ago, but Bjart is still strong at 28 years old, and Jim jokes that Bjart will outlive him. Bjart and Jim no longer compete at the New Hampshire fairs, but still enjoy each other's company.

In 2000, their third child, Sheila, invited them to go to a show put on by the Fitchburg, Massachusetts, quilting guild she had joined. Jim says he was "just blown away by the artwork." He asked Sheila to show him how to do it, borrowed Nancy's rickety old sewing machine, and his quilting passion was born with his first "Card Trick" pattern quilt. For his second quilt, Jim did the cover pattern on a book on 3-dimensional quilt design. As he says, he likes "to make quilts that are not conventional" and make people go, "Wow!" He especially likes to adapt trompe l'oeil or impossible figures, such as those by M. C. Escher or Bruno Ernst, into quilt language. The "One-Block Wonder" quilt he donated for the Festival of Trees was made by cutting through six aligned layers of one fabric to make sets of six identical triangles, which were arranged together in hexagons to make kaleidoscopes showcasing different areas of the fabric.



Jim designed and made quilts on his own for several years, then checked out the Monadnock Quilters Guild in 2008. Now Jim finds himself the new President, as well as the bus driver, for the Guild. They take two trips a year to Marden's (the Building 19 of fabric shops) in Sanford, Maine, as well as a day-long Mystery Quilt trip, whose destination is kept a secret, and other outings.

As Jim says, he's been going nonstop since his retirement in 1996. One summer he, Nancy and

another couple drove two trucks, two trailers and seven Fjord horses out to Libby, Montana, for the Fjord show of the Northwest. These days, they have for the most part traded the horse trailer for a little A-Liner camper. They explored the five national parks in Utah last summer, and plan to head out to Colorado this summer to visit their daughter Kristen, and to go to both Albuquerque and Niagara Falls on A-Liner rallies next summer.

Jim has also been the Senior Center Treasurer since the ice storm of 2008, and drives the town bus for both Senior Center and Recreation Department functions. As I polished off a slice of the delicious sour cream coffeecake he baked for Nancy's birthday, I had to wonder when he finds time to make those magnificent quilts. ☐

Olive Kitteridge

by Elizabeth Strout

Reviewed by Lyman Gilmore

Olive Kitteridge is the best fiction I have read in years, and Olive herself is an unforgettable character who is both offensive and endearing. She irritated me from the beginning; I ended up loving her.

First published in 2008, and winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, *Olive Kitteridge* reads like a novel but is actually a collection of thirteen connected short stories in which many of the same characters appear, especially Olive. This is a challenge for the author because each story must be able to stand on its own, unlike chapters in a novel. Also, each character has to be introduced anew even though she or he may have appeared previously, and to accomplish this without tedious repetition is a problem Strout handles beautifully.

Although the setting is an imaginary Maine village on the coast about an hour north of Portland (where Strout has lived), its people and problems would be familiar to anyone living in a small New England town, including Antrim. The lives of Olive's neighbors and friends and enemies are deeply, authentically human in their joys and sorrows and fears, and especially in their need for loving and being loved.

This is particularly true for Olive herself, an unforgettable character. Early in the book Olive is a junior high school math teacher who knows and is known by everyone in town (where everyone seems to know everyone else's business). She is a large and sometimes awkward woman with a cranky temper and "stormy moods," a propensity for speaking her mind bluntly that some find rude, but also an inward sensitivity and generosity that not everyone recognizes. She loves her son Christopher and cannot understand why he is surly with her, and she is impatient with her kindly, church-going, respectable pharmacist husband Henry who values convention and appearances, as this exchange between Olive and Henry illustrates. Olive has refused to go to church with him, and he snaps: "Is it too much to ask, a man's wife accompanying him to church?" Olive responds: "Yes, it

most certainly is too goddamn much to ask! You have no idea how tired I am, teaching all day, going to foolish meetings where the goddamn principal is a moron! Shopping. Cooking. Ironing. Laundry. Doing Christopher's homework with him! And you, Mr. Head Deacon Claptrap Nice Guy, expect me to give up my Sunday mornings and go sit among a bunch of snot-wots! Well, I'm sick and tired of it. Sick to death." Later we learn that Henry is puzzled that "Olive herself has become an unapologetic atheist."

In the course of the book Olive retires from teaching and Henry suffers a debilitating stroke leaving him unable to speak and perhaps to understand. Despite her earlier impatience, Olive visits him in the nursing home every day and talks with him gently even though she cannot know if he hears or recognizes her. As she grows old Olive never completely loses her outspoken irritation with much about her, but gradually she gains some understanding of why others find her difficult, especially her son Christopher. He does well in school and college and becomes a successful podiatrist in town which pleases Olive though she doesn't understand why he avoids her. She disapproves of his first wife, "a woman from out of town" who convinces him to move to California and then leaves him, and Olive has even more distaste for his second wife Ann with whom he lives in Brooklyn, New York, with their two young children. One of the most poignant, sad, and hilarious stories in the book is "Security" when Olive, at seventy-two, visits Chris and Ann in their messy, bohemian New York apartment. Olive disapproves of everything—toys strewn about, dirty floors, their child-rearing, Ann's smoking and drinking beer—and she is critical and impatient until Christopher confronts her and they have a terrible argument in which Chris tells his mother: "You have a bad temper. At least I think it's a temper. I don't really know what it is. But you can make people feel terrible. You made Daddy feel terrible." Olive, hurt and angry, bursts into tears and flies home to Maine.

— continued on page 10

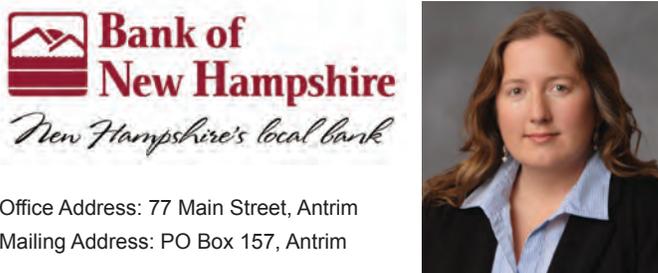


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ous to hear how they felt about the program, what kept them coming back, and how it has impacted their health and well-being.

The Strong Living Exercise Program was, at its inception, an official research project at Tufts University and served as a national model for a successful group exercise program for seniors. Created in 1995, the community-based program was designed to promote an opportunity for increased physical activity for older adults. The classes offer a unique opportunity for participants to improve in levels of strength, balance and fitness. Several years ago Tufts University ended its research project, but the program in Antrim has continued thanks to some committed volunteers.

As we went around the room and members opened up about how they came to the group, I heard similar phrases used over and over again. "We look out for each other. We make each other laugh. We have a great time." Some describe themselves as bona fide couch potatoes; others have enjoyed a life full of physical activity. All have seen improvements in their physical and mental wellness being a part of this group. On average, between twelve and fifteen members attend each week. As friend invites friend, it grows in size. Members themselves vary in age and physical agility, but all seem to find their individual pace and place in the group. Martha Martin of Antrim, one of the founding members, recalls meeting in church spaces before eventually bringing Strong Living to the Grapevine. She credits Betty Avery for getting the program started, and Sally Buehler of Antrim has been one of its leaders in recent years.

Pam Veenstra of Antrim has been a part of the group for three years and was eager to share. "Exercise is not me. I've never been into it, and I don't really do group things either. But I gave this a shot, and it's been a wonderful experience. We all have a great time together and I just love this group of people. I've lost 35 pounds since I joined."

Says Jeanne Pickett of Frankestown, a member since 2008, "When I broke my hip, my doctor was amazed by how quickly I recovered and could do everything. It was because of this group and how strong I was that I recuperated as well as I did. My doctor loves it and thinks it's been great for me."

Are you a senior looking to meet people and engage your mind and body? Why not giving Strong Living a try? Call the Grapevine at 588-2620 to learn more. ☐

Limrik Website

We at *The Limrik* are pleased to announce the launch of our own website. The main function of the site is to provide access to information about *The Limrik* and especially to serve as an archive for back issues of our publication. Please visit the new site at www.antrimlimrik.org. Comments about the website may be emailed to webmaster@antrimlimrik.org.

Olive appears in each of the thirteen stories, either prominently, or as an observer. Each story involves a fascinating drama, sometimes funny, often sad, occasionally tragic. One especially sad moment comes in the story "A Little Burst" when Olive tires at Christopher's wedding and decides to take a nap. As she lies on a guest room bed she worries about her son's long loneliness: "She knows that loneliness can kill people—in different ways can actually make you die. Olive's private view is that life depends on what she thinks of as 'big bursts' and 'little bursts.' Big bursts are things like marriage or children, intimacies that keep you afloat, but these big bursts hold dangerous, unseen currents. Which is why you need the little bursts as well: a friendly clerk at Bradlee's, let's say, or the waitress at Dunkin' Donuts who knows how you like your coffee. Tricky business, really."

By the end Olive, who all her life was convinced that she was right, gradually discovers that she had been wrong often; she who had never apologized realized that she had missed opportunities to apologize. She had avoided the sentimentality of romance and sex, but in the final pages she awakens to the beauty of both.

I don't know how I missed this wonderful book when it was published seven years ago. Antrim's Tuttle Library obtained a copy in 2009, and since then four readers have borrowed it. If Antrim's population is about twenty-six hundred souls, it means that like me 2,596 people have a treat in store for them in *Olive Kittredge*.

Strout's linked stories about folks in a small coastal Maine village may have been inspired by Sarah Orne Jewett's 1896 masterpiece *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, a collection of linked stories about people in a small coastal Maine village. (Thanks to Emerson Doty for this observation.) Strout's newest novel *My Name Is Lucy Barton* has received excellent reviews. ☐

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A WOODLAND WALK

Charles Butterfield

*The trees encountered on a country stroll
Reveal a lot about that country's Soul.*

W. H. Auden

Nina Harding was watching birds from her window when a truck loaded with wood chips rolled down Pleasant Street where she lives. Not just one truckload. Several rumbled past, and she was curious. Where were the wood chips coming from? Where were they going?

She made a few inquiries. She learned that some neighbors were cutting trees—"not clear cutting, but selective cutting," she wrote to me. "They want to improve their woods. Seems like there's a story there." And there is. It's the old story of woodlot management.

Trees are self-centered. They grow as hard and as fast as they can, devil take the hindmost. In their race to reach the sun, they crowd out competitors, making an unholy mess in the process. Like deer herds, woodlands benefit from managed care.

Nina learned that from her father. "Any farmer with a woodlot will cut selectively each year to keep the forest growing without crowding," he told her.

My farmer-father followed that practice. And what my father practiced, I practiced, no two ways about it.

I began working in the woods with him when I was old enough to tend the fires that burned up the branches he chopped off the timber he was cutting. Creating a big burn on a cold winter day was exciting work. In time, I graduated to pairing with my father to crosscut pines and hemlocks. I reached the top of the hierarchy of lumbering jobs when I could harness our horse and twitch logs out of the woods.

I was thinking about that history as I walked through a recent cut just off Old Pound Road in Antrim Center. I saw plenty of evidence that the trees there had been harvested by a vastly different method than the one my father and I used.

Stumps, for instance, showed no telltale signs of notches we used to cut into the base of a tree to make it fall where we wanted it to. Instead, these trees had been turned into logs by a self-powered machine called a harvester. Great clamps gripped and steadied the tree trunk while a circular saw severed the base. Then the harvester turned the whole tree horizontal in the air and the machine pulled it against knives that sheared off its limbs. Finally, the saw was turned upright to buck the tree into logs. Untouched by human hands, manipulated by the driver in the harvester's comfortable cab, each selected tree was reduced to a neat pile of logs.

Where my horse left ruts in the ground and scars on standing trees as he dragged three or four logs chained together out of the woods, at the Old Pound Road site I saw only rough roads that extended far into the woods. The logs there had been lifted off the ground and loaded on a huge cart at-

tached to the tractor-like forwarder. Carried, not dragged, by the forwarder, logs arrived at the loading site clear of scrapes and clean of mud.

This method of timber harvesting is known as "cut-to-length." I suspect that system was also used at the Pleasant Street property that Nina told me about. There was one difference, though.

The limbs sheared off the trees in Antrim Center were laid crosswise on the roadways running through the woods. The heavy equipment pressed them into the soil, the faster to decompose. I saw no brush piles anywhere in those woods. On residential Pleasant Street, wood debris left on the ground to decompose would be an unsightly nuisance. So instead, limbs were chipped into a valuable forest product. Truckloads of wood chips went past Nina's house on their way to becoming garden mulch, playground surfacing, erosion control material, or predominantly biofuel.

What happened on Old Pound Road and Pleasant Street in recent months and long ago at Butterfield Farm had the same purpose: To put trees under management. Timber harvesting generates income for the landowner, sure, but selective cutting does more than that. Thinning a mature stand assures that the remaining trees will grow efficiently. Growing trees clean our air and absorb greenhouse gases. They provide habitats and food for birds and mammals. The spongy soil they create beneath them takes up runoff rain and prevents erosion. With more than half of all New Hampshire's forestland being owned by families and individuals, as opposed to corporations and municipalities, responsible landowners play a big part in what our trees say about who we are.

Managing the growth of trees speaks to the future. Through management, forest owners extract resources now and envision production and benefits in the years ahead. Thoughtful woodland management is evidence of an optimistic outlook. There will be trees for the generations who will come to walk among them.

Nina, now in her tenth decade, was impressed by her neighbors' woodlot management. When she went to look at the cutting near her house she "saw many straight and stately trees left to grow and drop their seeds for a new crop many years down the road."

Her words reminded me of what Martin Luther once wrote: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." A woodland walk through a managed forest puts me in that spirit. □

SEVENTY-EIGHT DAYS

Sheila Nichols

Seventy-eight days and counting. Things changed November 18, 2015. While picking up a Christmas gift I fell down a flight of stairs and broke my arm in two places, resulting in five-and-a-half hours of reconstructive surgery. Now, although not truly bionic I have metal plates, screws, and wires permanently enclosed in my right arm. Future plane flights will be exciting as I am sure I will set off TSA machines with ease.

This story strays from the usual anecdotal farm stories because when the farmer breaks she can do little farming. My wonderful husband, Bill, has assumed all the farm chores, most of the cooking and the lion's share of just about everything here at Liberty Farm without a single complaint. He has cared for me in his kind gentle way and for that I am both grateful and thankful.

Those who know me understand what a difficult time I have with inactivity, asking for help, being patient with not accomplishing things and general lack of "doing." Priding myself on being a life-long learner, I am challenging myself to learn to work through my recovery with as much positivity as I can muster.

What exactly can one do when confronted with the lack of use of one's dom-

inant arm, hand and fingers? Nothing! You can't wash your hair, carry hay, drive your standard car, fold laundry or, most upsetting of all, pick up your adorable grandchild. The list of things I cannot do seems not only endless but so oppressive that forward movement toward recovery feels like a trip into a black hole.

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in the wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Dear Mr. Frost, I am taking stock of your words tonight. Which road shall I take? Shall I follow the path that is easiest, give in to the discomfort and fear and resign myself to acceptance of an arm that remains immobile and deficient? Shall I follow the one that moves toward maximum recovery however limiting that may be?

I have decided to work on the latter. Physical therapy is humbling on the best of days but beginning to show promise. Taking stock of what I can do versus what I can't is much more in my nature. To that end I am taking stock of what I can do.

I can drive myself to work because my dear friend has swapped her automatic car for my standard. I can travel to physical therapy appointments because of dear friends who have been driving me. I can read for hours because friends have given me wonderful books. I can spend time with my family because they love me regardless of the range of motion my arm demonstrates. I can cuddle for hours with my sweet dogs.

I can do all these things because of the support of my friends and family. I choose the road that has bumps and twists because it leads to the next adventure. I choose the road that teaches me new things and stretches my resolve. I am not actually sure if we choose the road or if it chooses us. I can only say with certainty that I am happy to travel my life's road with my dear friends and loving family. ☐

Festival of Trees Thank You

Kristy Boulé

Thousands of people came through Antrim to visit the Festival of Trees in December, making it our most successful season yet. The Library was decked out with more than a hundred trees and displays, including a wonderful exhibit of holiday quilts by members of the Monadnock Quilters Guild and community members. It's sure to be a feature that will continue!

The Committee is especially grateful to the staff and trustees of the Tuttle Library for their hospitality and for allowing us the space to host our event. Did you know that the Festival of Trees is an independent committee of community members? Or that the month-long event is self-funded? The Committee and volunteers work all year long to produce what has become an Antrim tradition. It would not be possible without community support and the many volunteers who help out as exhibitors, bakers and donors, as well as the local businesses who've advertised in our Community Calendar. Visitors are always astounded by what our little town accomplishes with this event and are equally impressed with our community spirit.

Plans for 2016 are already well underway. A few Tree Registrations have even come in already, including one inspired by the new movie based on J.K. Rowling's book "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," which is scheduled to be released just before the Festival begins.

We are actively seeking volunteers to serve on the committee, take on a project or area, help with website, publicity, or simply provide manpower for set-up weeks. We can be contacted via email at info@AntrimFestivalOfTrees.org, Facebook message, or by calling 831-1802. ☐

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CONVAL SCHOOL BOARD

Rich Cahoon

Now that our high-profile primary election is behind us and the campaigns are packing up their volunteers, signs and truly prodigious direct-mail operations and moving on, we turn our attention to another election. Your votes on the ConVal warrant in March will in all likelihood escape the attention of CNN. But they will have a real and direct impact on the education of the children of this community.

First up on the warrant will be an article asking you to approve the District's proposed operating budget of \$45,228,639. More than \$45 million is a lot of money by anyone's standards. Education is expensive, and the District's costs rise every year. But we do want everyone to know that we are very aware of the burden your taxes represent, and worked very hard to keep the budget as low as we could while fulfilling our obligation to the students of the community. The proposed budget represents an increase of less than 0.4%. That is POINT four, less than half a percent. This will be the third straight year that district spending has increased by less than 1%. And this funding will enable us to maintain our existing schools, continue revamping our curriculum, make critical investments in technology infrastructure and energy efficiency measures, and extend opportunities to students of all interests and abilities. The School Board asks for your support of the proposed budget.

Also on the ballot will be an article seeking approval of a two-year wage and benefit agreement with the Contoocook Valley Educational Association (CVEA), the union representing our teachers, allied professionals and para-educators. Priorities for the District were to fairly compensate our highly-valued employees, have the ability to reward outstanding performance with merit-based compensation, and gain the flexibility to change the base health insurance plan to reduce costs to the district.

The School Board Negotiations Committee and the CVEA negotiating team began meeting last spring. Negotiations continued throughout the summer and autumn and included two separate mediation sessions before an agreement was reached in the first week of November.

In the new contract, the CVEA has agreed to move to a higher deductible health insurance plan that will result in very significant savings for the District. The parties also agree to return to the negotiating table in the event that the health insurance plan triggers an Affordable Care Act excise tax (the so-called "Cadillac Tax") in 2018.

Teachers and allied professionals will receive increases to base salary of 2.5% in 2016-17 and 2.25% in 2017-18. Para-educators will receive increases in their hourly wages of 3% each year. Furthermore, a pool of money totaling approximately another 1% of payroll will be established to reward outstanding staff performance.

This agreement allows the District to fairly and competitively compensate staff while rewarding good performance and achieving much-needed savings in health insurance costs. The Board appreciates the willingness of the CVEA to come to the table and persevere through months of often difficult negotiations. I served on the Board Negotiations Committee, and want to personally assure the people of Antrim that the agreement is a good one, the result of much give-and-take on both sides, and is worthy of your support.

Finally, the warrant this year will include a petition warrant article advanced by John Anderson and signed by a number of you, Antrim's voters. This article would change the Articles of Agreement to provide that the District SHALL maintain middle schools in Antrim and Peterborough (the current language is that the District MAY do so) and also require that an impact analysis be completed prior to any school closure or consolidation.

However you are inclined to vote, please do come out to the polls on March 8. Antrim's high turnout has been a source of pride and political strength, and coming out to vote is the best way to protect our schools and the education of our children.

As always, Crista Salamy and I welcome your input, suggestions and questions. We can be reached at csalamy@conval.edu and rcahoon@conval.edu. ☐

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rim years, and later taught eurythmy, a kind of dance movement developed in conjunction with the anthroposophical movement and used extensively in Waldorf Schools. He is now eighty-seven years old and lives in Switzerland near the Anthroposophical Society's international center.

Leslie Vogel has continued the family musical tradition, even though she didn't get to use the little cabin as a studio. She is one of the founders of "Folksoul Music" and has performed at many local venues, including the Antrim in the Evening concert series. She also fondly remembers playing the piano for Antrim composer Dick Winslow's musical play "Many Moons" at the Peterborough Players Theater in 1998.

As you might have guessed, Dick Winslow, venerable musician, prize-winning poet and former *Limrik* editor, is the owner of the other composer's cabin in Antrim. Dick's old cabin can be seen through the woods on the west side of Smith Road, but it wasn't always there, nor was it always in the woods. Dick says his retreat was originally an ice house located behind the Alabama Farm barn. Ice was cut from local ponds in the winter and stashed in sawdust there to provide cold storage through the summer. Around 1955, Dick precisely laid out a place where he wanted a studio at the far side of a pasture across the road from the farmhouse. Friends and family helped him rig rollers under the ice house and tow it out from behind the barn, across the street, through a gap in the stone wall and into the pasture. But there were so many rocks impeding the progress that they finally gave up and left it where it was in the pasture, far short of his carefully prepared spot. They managed to get a piano out to it, too, and Dick used it as his studio for at least twenty years.

Dick graduated from Wesleyan University in Connecticut with a degree in English. It was during a stint in the Navy in World War II, while working with a mine disposal unit in Panama, that he decided he wanted to become a musician. When the war ended, he enrolled in graduate school at Juilliard, where he studied music composition. He was enticed back to Wesleyan as a music professor, where he was instrumental in expanding a small traditional music department with programs in experimental music and ethnomusicology, now better known as world music.

Dick spent summers in Antrim composing in his studio. Why did he need a retreat across the road a good distance

away from the farmhouse? Dick answered quietly, "Well, I had five children...everyone knew not to get near me there." He especially loved choral music. He wrote operas and oratorios that were performed at numerous northeastern universities, as well as directing the Wesleyan Glee Club and Concert Choir. He was renowned at Wesleyan for engaging the community in his compositions, and the same held true when he directed plays at the Peterborough Players Theater and at Town Hall in Antrim.

Dick was one of the major figures in the Antrim Players productions for many years. He conducted his first production, *The Pirates of Penzance*, in 1939, when he was a senior at Wesleyan, with a cast and crew of nearly fifty and an audience of four hundred. He produced several more Gilbert and Sullivan operettas after World War II. In the 1960s, the Players put on two of his original musicals, *Her Father—The King* and *Alice*.

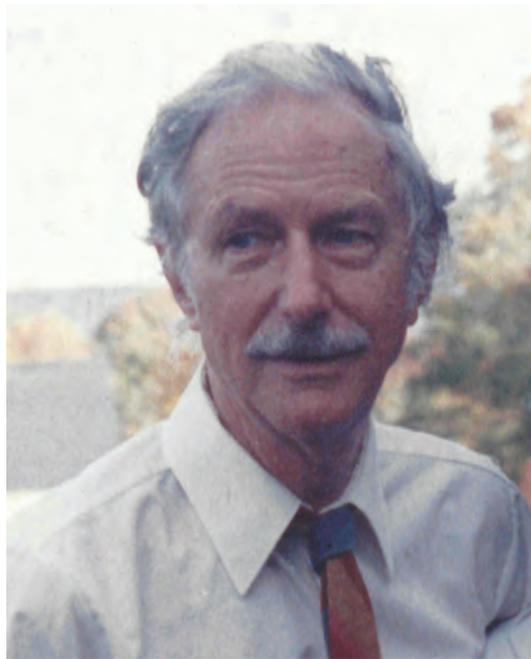
Dick retired to live in Antrim full time in 1983. Ten years later, he became editor of *The Limrik*. At about the same time, he won the grand prize (\$250 worth of free books) in a contest sponsored by the Harvard Square Booksellers Association, fittingly, with the following limerick:

Said Melville to Beckett, "You know
you have written a contrary show!
Whilst I must be quick to espy Moby Dick,
you just sit there and wait for Godot."

In 1998, Dick adapted James Thurber's children's story "Many Moons" for the musical stage and wrote the music for the production, which was performed at the Peterborough Players Theater. Maria Belva, Director of the Peterborough Children's Choir (now the Grand Monadnock Youth Choirs), remembers how he reached out to her to invite the children to participate and what a wonderful experience it was for them to work under Dick. This was the same production that Leslie Vogel fondly recalled.

Trees have slowly filled in the pasture around Dick Winslow's cabin, and he says he hasn't used it for years. Those he's influenced have spread far and wide, his words and music continue to delight, and at the age of ninety-seven, he is still contributing to *The Limrik*.

Two small cabins in the woods, two composers, and two musical legacies still playing in Antrim and beyond. ☐



ANTRIM ECLECTIC BOOK CLUB

Coordinator: Steve Ullman
sullman@brockport.edu 588-2005

Until the mid-1990s I considered reading fiction a waste of my time. My job required that I stay immersed in my research specialties—fun stuff like the evolution of Quebec's provincial parties, and the political socialization of aboriginal Canadians.

Then one summer afternoon I was sitting in my tattered recliner on the second floor of 69 White Birch Point Road (our summer cabin now owned by my brother Peter), and I realized that Theodore Dreiser had admitted me to the imaginary world of upstate New York in the 1920s. He created a sphere in which I could imagine myself as a young working-class factory hand having to choose between two romantic partners (one played by Shelley Winters and the other by Elizabeth Taylor in the movie). Since then, thanks to the Antrim Eclectic Book Club, I have inhabited 1939 Los Angeles among desperate Angelinos who realize that the "American Dream" is going to be denied them. And I have occupied 19th century Russia deeply involved in arguments over God, free will, and whether or not killing your father is ethical.

You too can journey to alternative mental universes with the help of the Antrim Eclectic Book Club. For the 2015-2016 varsity reading season, we have selected books listed by The Modern Library as being among the 100 best novels ever written in the English language. In doing so, we tried to avoid overly lengthy novels. Here is the schedule:

April 16 • John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (464 pages)

May 19 • D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers* (400 pages)

June 16 • Dashiell Hammett, *The Maltese Falcon* (217 pages)

July 21 • Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (384 pages)

So if you are looking for sprightly discussions of our culture's most notable fiction, please join us between 11 a.m. and noon at the First Presbyterian Church on the dates listed above. Melissa Lawless will once again be providing copies of these books at the Tuttle Library. Thank Melissa. ☐

GREAT BROOK GYMNASTICS

Coach Cari Gillespie

At Great Brook we take pride in establishing meaningful relationships with our kids. We strive to know our students well and provide opportunities for each student to engage in extracurricular activities. So when a group of 7th graders recently approached us to request a chance to have gymnastics at our school, we worked to make that happen. Our gymnastics club is open to boys and girls in grades 5 through 8. Over twenty kids have joined, including members of our homeschool community.

We began modestly, using only the wrestling mats and folding mats already here at GBS. We taped out the four-inch width of a balance beam silhouette for girls to practice lining up leaps, turns, rolls and cartwheels. We laid the groundwork for a handspring vault through flatback handstand drills onto mat stacks. We worked on floor kip drills with the hopes of someday getting a low bar. Our gymnasts are seeing the reward of practice and conditioning, achieving not only better handstands and roundoffs but some students have also gotten their back and front walkovers, front handsprings and aerials.

The PTO at Great Brook is a genuinely invested, responsive and supportive group. They heard the voices of the students and with one night of roller skating fundraising we earned almost \$1000 to purchase equipment for our kids. We seek to bring in a low beam, a low bar, a spring board and back handspring octagon mat. The gymnasts are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new pieces, so we will extend this year into the spring season, which will allow the students contact with pieces of apparatus soon.

Thank you to the school and community members who helped to bring this opportunity to our Bobcats! ☐

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

Sharon Dowling, Music Director

Greetings from First Presbyterian! Spring is soon to be upon us, and with Holy Week and Easter happening earlier than we typically expect, March will be busy in the Sanctuary. The first half of the month the congregation is still worshipping in the warmer space afforded by the Fellowship Hall. Lent is still the season, and somber preparation for the Holy Week emotional roller coaster ride is being practiced. This is a great time for contemplation and meditation. It is also a great time to be mindful of the frailty of ourselves and our neighbors, as we ask how we can help alleviate the various types of suffering around us. Reaching out to share the true meaning of Christ's ministry is best performed with loving actions.

Palm/Passion Sunday service on March 20 will be held in the Sanctuary, marked with powerful music, readings, and prayer. It will begin with the Hosannas, and end with the entire story of Christ's Passion. This is the first of the roller coaster ride! But, we cannot truly appreciate the Light, without experiencing the Darkness. Service starts at 10:30 a.m. Come share this moving worship experience with us!

Holy Week continues on Maudy Thursday, March 24, with a 7 p.m. service. This is a quiet and contemplative service with music, readings and prayer. Everyone is invited to come at 6:15 to share in a simple meal of bread and broth. Communion will be served during the service. All are welcome!

Good Friday service, March 25, will also begin at 7 p.m. A simple service, with candles, solemn prayer, and the reading of Christ's last words. Another very moving experience—all are welcome!

Easter Sunday, in all its glory, begins outside on the Presbyterian Church lawn this year, at 6:30 a.m. This is a joint worship experience with our Baptist neighbors, and Pastor Charlie Boucher will be leading the service. Afterwards a continental-style breakfast, along with hot beverages, will be served in our Fellowship Hall. JOY!

Easter Worship will continue in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. with joyful music and beautiful flowers on the inside—no matter what a New Hampshire March looks like on the outside! The Resurrection is real! Christ is alive! Death has been

conquered—Life is Everlasting and LOVE is ALWAYS the ANSWER! ALLELUIA!

April and May continue the Easter Season until finally, on May 15, we celebrate the true Birthday of the Church, on Pentecost Sunday. The Holy Spirit arrives to ignite our hearts and minds to practice Love! Red is the liturgical color, and symbolizes the flames that danced on the heads of the Disciples who were waiting for the Comforter that Jesus promised would follow. The symbols of flames, mighty wind and pure white doves all speak to the power we are all able to tap into that gives us the grace and strength to carry the Gospel message to the world, through our words, but more importantly through our actions to the people standing right in front of us. That is our Mission and our Vision. Come celebrate with us, come make community with us, share the love and the joy. All are welcome!

Questions? Comments? Please call: 588-2209. ☐

Virginia Dickinson says, "I was looking through a sketchbook this morning and came upon these sketches. My dad, who was an artist, used to say to become a really great artist you had to practice, practice, practice! He also said the most readily available subject is yourself. These are not glamorous sketches; they were inspired by Rembrandt's self-portraits. Rembrandt used to make faces and sketch what he saw. Albrecht Durer used to pluff up a pillow, draw it, and then pluff it up and draw it again and again."



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 7–11 *Amnesty Week at the Tuttle Library* • No-fine returns • during library hours
8 *Town Elections* • Town Hall • 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
10 *Antrim Eclectic Book Club* • First Presbyterian Church • 11:00 a.m.
10 *Town Meeting* • Town Gym • 7:00 p.m.
11 *Eat Out for The Grapevine* • Rick and Diane's • all day
13 *Eat Out for The Grapevine* • The Common Place Eatery, Bennington • Sunday Breakfast
16 *Eat Out for The Grapevine* • Fiddlehead's Café and Catering, Hancock • all day
16 *A Modern Day Gleaner: Hazel Gershfield* • Antrim Grange Hall • 7:00 p.m.
17 *FREE Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
20 *Palm/Passion Sunday service* • First Presbyterian Church • 10:30 a.m.
20 *Eat Out for The Grapevine* • Hancock Inn • Sunday Dinner
24 *Truck Farm documentary screening* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.
24 *Maudy Thursday service* • First Presbyterian Church • 7:00 p.m.
25 *Good Friday service* • First Presbyterian Church • 7:00 p.m.
27 *Easter Sunday service* • joint ecumenical worship with Baptist Church led by Pastor Charlie Boucher at the First Presbyterian Church • 6:30 a.m.
31 *Great Decisions Group* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.

APRIL

- 7 *Great Decisions Group* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.
9 *Open House & Thank You Celebration for Kristen Vance* • The Grapevine • 2:00–4:00 p.m.
14 *Great Decisions Group* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.
16 *Birthday Card Making with Pam Berry* • The Grapevine • 9:00 a.m.
16 *Antrim Eclectic Book Club* • First Presbyterian Church • 11:00 a.m.
17 *Antrim Historical Society Program: The Limrik with Lyman Gilmore* • First Presbyterian Church • 3:00 p.m.
18–22 *Drop-In Crafts during ConVal Spring Break* • Tuttle Library • during library hours
21 *FREE Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
28 *Great Decisions Group* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.
30 *Big Bold Paint Camp & Creative Story Telling* • The Grapevine • 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
30 *Dog Licenses Due* • deadline to get your dog license • Antrim Town Clerk

MAY

- 5 *Great Decisions Group* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.
7 *Mom's Muffin Morning* • Tuttle Library • 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
14 *Annual Grapevine Spring Walk for Families* • The Grapevine • 9:30 a.m.
15 *Antrim Historical Society Program: The History of the Antrim Grange* • First Presbyterian Church • 3:00 p.m.
19 *Antrim Eclectic Book Club* • First Presbyterian Church • 11:00 a.m.
19 *FREE Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
20 *Community Awards & Grange Baking Contest* • Antrim Grange Hall • 7:00 p.m.
26 *Great Decisions Group* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.

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BROWN BAG COALITION

Dick Loveland

The Brown Bag Coalition (BBC) was created in 2007 as a vehicle for local groups, schools and other organizations to share ideas and explore opportunities to meet community needs. At a 2010 forum hosted by Dick Loveland and Kristen Vance over 35 groups and organizations serving our community were identified. Members of all of these groups are invited to attend BBC meetings on the first Tuesday of every month from noon to 1:00 p.m. at The Grapevine. The meeting is chaired by Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director of The Grapevine, and attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. The meetings focus on the following topics:

Publicize Events - One of the more common topics, as each group brings attention to an upcoming talk, fundraiser, service or activity. For example:

- Ann Allwarden, Principal of Antrim Elementary School, getting the word out on the Summer Food Service Program in Antrim, through which all children can get free breakfast and/or lunch
- The Q & A forum sponsored by the Grange for candidates running for public office in Antrim
- The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club providing free vision screening for children at Home & Harvest and Tuttle Library

Solicit Support - Organizations share ideas or projects for which they need support. For example:

- Jan Howe, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, looking for opportunities to better integrate into the community and provide additional services
- Antrim Grange seeking broader support for their sponsorship of the Community Garden

Solve Common Issues - Combined efforts help tackle common issues.

- Primer developed on the most effective methods to generate publicity

Promote Awareness - Knowing BBC member groups' services, priorities and key issues promotes service group awareness. For example:

- Keeping a continually updated list of member organizations
- Planning an open forum where residents can learn more about member organizations and hopefully decide to become involved

Develop Projects - Identify new community projects and larger initiatives on which multiple organizations could participate.

- Discussing improvements in communicating with residents about activities available in Antrim. Like the Outdoor Guide developed by the Antrim-Bennington Lions, we might think about an Indoor Guide listing education, services, entertainment and many other available options.

The BBC thanks all of our organizations for what they provide our town. We need to keep them going, encourage them to expand and remain as a permanent fixture in our community. Please contact Melissa at melissag@grapevinenh.org or call 588-2620 to see about participating in a future BBC meeting. ☐

Thanks from the Circle of Strength

The Circle of Strength would like to thank those who made donations for our Christmas giving to active troops and local veterans. Without your help we would not be able to do these wonderful acts of kindness for those who protect us. We sent care packages to deployed troops, gift checks to active military in the USA, and 15 gift cards from Dunkin Donuts and 20 gift meals from Rick and Diane's to our local American Legion and VFW Veterans or surviving spouses. It was a small token of our appreciation for their services past and present. We believe it is never too late to say thank you to our military members. We included wonderful handmade cards from Great Brook School students and a local 4-H group, which the troops love to receive. It reinforces why they joined the military, in that they are protecting us all here at home. We also will be bringing lovingly handmade lap blankets made by one of our group members and her mom to the Manchester VA Hospital with some other goodies.

These are some of the people and companies we'd like to thank who donated to our Christmas 2015 Gifts: Ms. Nancy Clarke, The Brick Ends Financial Services, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Woodin, Mr. & Mrs. John Conklin, The Hancock Women's Club, Ms. Bonnie Drummond, and Mr. & Mrs. Hollister. Thank you all,

Susan Ellsworth, Founder

The Circle of Strength Military Support Group



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ANTRIM GRANGE NEWS

Beth Merrill

Three Antrim Grange members attended the Northeast Grange Leaders' Conference in January, where we made plans for membership growth, legislative action, and the region's summer youth conference. The State Grange Youth Committee's Moon Stomp was held at the Merrill home, where an adventurous group enjoyed socializing and a full moon-lit walk in the woods.

At our January program meeting, Rod and Ruth Zwirner and Marguerite Roberts spoke about their experiences working for the Peace Corps, and we welcomed new member Anna Murphy. In February we explored the Historical Society room at the library. We also held Candidates' Night in February to give citizens a chance to meet those who seek election to town office. Several members attended the State Grange Winter Youth Rally, where they participated in workshops, a community service project, a Grange Knowledge test, and the Youth Association Meeting. A lot of fun was had by both those who dressed as their favorite farm animal and the more faint-hearted onlookers!

Three Antrim members participated in the National Grange Legislative Fly-In held in Concord the weekend before the primary. Alongside thirty Grange members, many of them youths, from thirteen states (even California and Washington), participants learned about the First-in-the-Nation Primary from qualified professionals, including Secretary of State Bill Gardner. A State House tour covered many interesting topics, among them portraits of New Hampshire Governors Nahum J. Bachelder (1903-1905), Past National Grange Master, and David H. Goodell (1889-1891), Charter Member of Antrim Grange. The second day offered a chance to volunteer at a campaign, attend a political rally, and observe the media in action in and around Manchester. This was certainly one of the most rewarding and unique experiences of this writer's long Grange "career."

Upcoming events include the State Grange Bowling Tournament (March 13), the Spring Fling workshop day (April 9) and the State Lecturer's Variety and Talent Show and Grange Month Banquet, set for April 30 in Hooksett.

At our March 16 public program, Bennington's Hazel Gershfield will talk about her work as a modern day Gleaner. Our annual Community Awards Night on May 20 will also be our Grange Baking Contest, so visitors will be able to sample the blueberry muffin entries. New this year is a non-member category; anyone may bring their best blueberry muffin entry to take a shot at bragging rights for best cook in town. (Please make a note whether or not your entry contains nuts.) And if you know someone in Antrim or Bennington who deserves to be honored for excellent contributions to the community as a teacher, policeman, fireman, rescue, or community volunteer, please let one of our members know or contact Beth Merrill at 588-6615.

We have formed a committee charged with creating plans for the Community Garden, which was constructed last year behind Town Hall. If anyone is interested in helping out please give Renee Mercier-Gerritsen a call at 547-5144.

Be thinking of the 14th annual Art Show to be held at the Grange Hall June 17-19. If you are a local artist not already on our mailing list, please see the contact information above. And let us know if you have questions about the Grange. Anyone can follow our activities on Facebook. Ours is a fraternal family organization with great traditions, values and opportunities. Many have found the Grange to be a great place for the entire family to enjoy together. ☐

SHEA FIELD LIGHTS

Joan Gorga

Last March, Town Meeting approved funding for lights at Shea Field, Antrim's athletic field. In the first phase of the installation, five bases and three poles were installed in September. Many residents reported how much they enjoyed seeing the fields in use under the lights, and there were few complaints. In March a warrant article will be put forward to fund the remaining two light poles. The field continues to be heavily used during the school day by AES and GBS for recess and gym classes, and late into the afternoon and evening for school sports and recreational programs. ☐



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TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

Laurie Cass-Griggs, Melissa Lawless, and Ann Putnam

Programs and Holidays

- Fridays Weekly Storytime at 10:00 a.m.
- March 7–11 Amnesty Week • Return anything you owe to the library and no fine will be charged!
- March 24 *Truck Farm* Documentary Screening • 6:30 p.m.
- April Poetry Challenge for children of all ages
- April 18–22 Drop-In Crafts during ConVal's Spring Break
- May 7 Mom's Muffin Morning • 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- May 30 Memorial Day • Library closed

Welcome Cynthia!

Stop by the Library on Saturdays and meet Cynthia Jones, our newest staff member. Cynthia has been living in Antrim for seven years now after moving from Southern California. She has always been an avid reader, so having the opportunity to work at the Library is thrilling for her. Cynthia was the president of the Library Club when she was in school and often thought of going on in school for Library Science. She enjoys meeting all of our Library patrons and loves the idea of handling the newest books and looking them over even before they circulate. We are enjoying her pleasant demeanor as well as her sense of humor. We are delighted to have Cynthia working with us.

One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten

All aboard babies, toddlers and preschoolers! *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* is a program designed to help parents prepare their children for one of life's biggest milestones: Kindergarten! Research has shown that children get ready to read years before they begin their formal education. An excellent way to get your child ready to learn is to read to them.

Come into the library to sign up for this new program. Each time you and your child finish one log sheet (100 books), you will return



to the library and receive a small prize and a milestone sticker. After completing 1,000 books, your child will receive a brand new book of their choice! "Experts tell us that children need to hear a thousand stories read aloud before they begin to learn to read for themselves."—Mem Fox

Seed Lending Library

Lettuce and tomatoes and beans, oh my! Our Seed Lending Library is back in action so come into the library to pick up some free seeds for spring planting. A garden variety of resources, including an Antrim-based planting calendar, is on display.

Spring is coming! Jump start the 2016 growing season with a FREE screening of the award-winning documentary *Truck Farm*. Using green-roof technology, lightweight soil and heirloom seeds, filmmakers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis transformed Ian's granddad's '86 Dodge into a traveling 20-member CSA. *Truck Farm* tells the story of a new generation of quirky urban farmers. Viewers are trucked across New York to see the city's funkier urban farms, and to find out if America's largest city can learn to feed itself. Blending serious exposition with serious silliness, *Truck Farm* entreats viewers to ponder the future of urban farming, and to consider whether sustainability needs a dose of whimsy to be truly sustainable. Join us for a screening of the documentary *Truck Farm* at the Library Thursday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Reference Room. Run time: 48 minutes. Free Seeds and refreshments available.

Antrim Poetry Challenge

Open to children of all ages—submit a typed or handwritten poem to the Library during the month of April and we will add it to a Poetry book that will circulate in the children's room! We'd also like to see your black-and-white artwork for consideration as illustrations for the book. Come into the library to view past years' books for inspiration!

 — continued on page 22

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ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS

Richard Reilly

Richard Reilly can frequently be seen around town at the top of a tall ladder, with paintbrush in hand. Although the painting business keeps him plenty busy, he also has a sideline business, called The Book Preserve, which is based on his love for antiquarian books. He does appraisals, book searches and buying, and will come out for free to look over what people have and help guide them to the best outcome. Here's his story of getting hooked on antiquarian books. — Editor

I've been a member of the New Hampshire Antiquarian Booksellers Association for a number of years, and it's been a great experience. Like a lot of folks, I was oblivious to old books until someone was kind enough to share the gift of appreciation. It takes time to hone your skills, but once it takes hold of you, you never lose the affinity for it.

Old books by definition could mean hundreds of years old or simply out of print. Books were the internet of the days prior to television and computer. If you wanted knowledge you sought it out in print. Living in New England, where many of our earliest established families and libraries began, we are surrounded by evidence of people's love of books. In my experience you find an amazing similarity of titles from home to home and farm to farm, including multi-generational farms I've visited. You find biographies of great people throughout history, books about gardening and flowers, even awkward books from the early 1800s about the keys to a successful marriage, and books about anything relevant to people's pursuits and fancies.

My antiquarian book teacher was a great treasure hunter who somehow had the foresight to pass the gift along. I was armed with as much information as I could retain and sent out into the world to find treasures. Most of the time I brought back trash, but occasionally I would dredge up a pearl for which he would make me feel so wonderful it made me crave that discovery for its own reward, as well as demonstrating my understanding of the subject. I once found a somewhat rare Mark Twain first edition strictly by chance. When I brought it to him, he proclaimed that I was showing signs of becoming a book dealer, and I still remember the energy and excitement of that realization. The thrill of the hunt is very much part of the exhilaration I find in old books. For me it's very instinctual, as it's not always clear just what matters to the value of an old book.

The feel of a quality book in your hand is undeniable to someone with the fever. You learn by its weight and feel how well it was made, but it all boils down to the title and the

 — continued on page 22



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Mom’s Muffin Morning

Celebrate Mom and join us for “Mom’s Muffin Morning” on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00 to 3:30. Spend time at the Library relaxing with Mom and enjoy a light snack. We will have complimentary coffee, muffins and juice.

**Coming Soon: Tool-Lending Library
(for Crafts & Hobbies)**

Want to learn how to knit, crochet, make jewelry, etc.? Borrow one of our craft tool kits to try your hand at a particular craft without investing in the tools—materials not included. The Tool-Lending Library works just like the library’s other collections except that they allow the temporary use of tools for arts, crafts and hobbies. Power tools are not included in the TLL. This allows the community to access the tools they need to experiment with a new craft without having to purchase and store the equipment. The tool kits include tools for knitting and crocheting, stenciling, quilling, jewelry making, beading, pottery, scrapbooking and other paper crafts, and more! We have about 20 tool kits to start and will be adding more—suggestions and donations welcome.

Sneak Peek into the Summer Reading Program

Readers of all ages will enjoy this year’s Summer Reading Program: “On Your Mark, Get Set Read!” Activities may include a guest speaker, fun activities and crafts. The 2016 Summer Reading Program is open to preschoolers through young adults, with programs, prize drawings, and story times.

New and Forthcoming Books on CD

Books by: David Baldacci, Jim Butcher, Lee Child, Ann Cleeves, Clive Cussler, Joseph Delaney (YA), Janet Evanovich, John Flanagan (YA), Neil Gaiman, Elizabeth George, Tess Gerritsen, Sue Grafton, John Grisham, Kevin Hearne (urban fantasy), Benedict Jacka (urban fantasy), J.A. Jance, Darynda Jones (YA), Jan Karon, Stephen King, Pittacus Lore (YA), George R. R. Martin, Toni Morrison, Kate Morton, Louise Penny, Kathy Reichs, Rick Riordan (YA), John Sandford, Charles Todd, Simon Winchester, Stuart Woods, and others. ☐

edition. You can have a first edition, first issue, or a first edition, second issue. You can have a first trade edition or a first American edition. It can be very involved at the higher levels. Ultimately, as in real estate, where the mantra is “location, location, location,” in books, it is “condition, condition, condition.” Illustrations, such as those by New Hampshire artist Maxfield Parrish, also add greatly to the value of a book.

Books have a very traceable lineage, and it’s rare for something that has never been seen or sold to appear. There are exceptions and there are those Holy Grail items. The first book ever printed, the Gutenberg Bible, was produced in Germany in the 1450s. Forty-eight copies or substantial portions of copies survive. The last complete Gutenberg Bible was sold in 1978 for \$2.2 million. Present estimates are at \$25 to 30 million, so we should all take a moment to peek under our beds or root around in the attic, just in case.

Finding a rare book is a rare thing. Finding it in great condition is even more rare. Probably the way a horse trader is able to scan a herd to gauge its health and condition, a book person can scan library shelves and get a solid read of content, condition and age. However, even in those collections that you feel are strictly the remnants of what might have been, invariably among the chaff are those gems that bring back that zing.

At first I sensed the chance to make a few extra dollars buying and selling old books. Once, an antique dealer wanted to sell me a box of old postcards, medals and a mishmash of other things. We decided to play ping pong for the box. If he won I paid \$20; if I won it was free. Maybe it was the adrenaline, but I managed to best him. The following day I went to the Hollis Flea Market as a dealer, sold much of the contents of the box and came home with some well-earned ducats. Enthused, I decided to spend each week finding items, followed by Sunday at the Flea Market. However, it turned out to be a feast-or-famine proposition, and I didn’t like that sense of uncertainty. Realizing it was not for me, I gave up the career idea and made it a hobby.

The love of antiquarian books is a great infirmity to which some of us succumb, and are thankful to suffer from. Even today when I read a book I deem worthy, I buy a first edition and stick it away. Maybe somewhere down the road an enterprising understudy will dig it out and some older treasure hunter will pat him on the back and say, “Well done.” I really hope so. ☐

AN INVITATION

This is an invitation to join the **Antrim Historical Society**, which is dedicated to the celebration of Antrim’s history. Dues are just \$10 a year for an individual and \$20 for an entire family. To join, please contact Steve Ullman at sullman@brockport.edu or 588-2005, or Eric Tenney at 588-2793. You can also join by sending a check to the Antrim Historical Society, P.O. Box 172, Antrim, NH 03440. ☐

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AES – A HISTORY OF MAKING CONNECTIONS

Kathleen Stacy

June 2016 will mark the end of my teaching career in Antrim. For over 25 years I have been blessed to work with some of the youngest members of our community, first at Antrim Preschool, and then at Antrim Elementary. There is something almost magical about spending the day with five-year-old children. Everything takes on new meaning when you are planning to introduce a concept to a child for the first time. Teaching kindergarten tends to give one a very positive perception of the world. Mistakes are made, corrected and forgotten within minutes. If only life could always be so simple!

After reading a letter of introduction that I sent out to parents before the school year began, Dr. Ann Allwarden proposed that I contribute a brief history of Antrim Elementary School. I am pleased to have this opportunity, but as I have reflected over the past several months, I have realized that though much has changed in the way of new programs and initiatives throughout the ConVal district, the passion and dedication of the teaching staff has remained the true strength.

It has been my experience that teaching becomes a lifestyle. Since I began teaching, my husband and I have not been on a vacation without bringing home something for the classroom. Likewise, every Thursday evening I have written a weekly newsletter to let families know what their children have been learning during their week. Family, friends and community commitments all must be juggled to accommodate the demands of the classroom.

Since my involvement with AES, I have seen seven principals come and then move on. Each brought their own talents and views to our school and each tried to maintain and improve our sense of community with a variety of new ideas. Through all of these changes, the constant has been the teaching staff, continuing to make the connections with and for the children.

It was my love of children's literature and reading to my own children that brought me to teaching. Elementary school

teachers help children connect to books by reading aloud. They increase children's vocabulary and broaden their understanding of the world by discussing the work of different authors and illustrators. They encourage creativity by allowing the children to experiment, explore and discover, and help them to define and express their own thoughts.

It is the teachers who connect the school to the families. We write newsletters. We invite parents and older siblings into the classroom as volunteers. We have whole school celebrations, programs and events to share our learning with the community. We invite a variety of "experts" to share their knowledge with the children. Over the years we have hosted authors, illustrators, scientists, musicians, puppet and marionette shows, poets, astronomers, artists, storytellers, dancers, quilters, gardeners and landscapers to come and work with our students.

Likewise, we extend our school community into the town by participating in the Antrim Home and Harvest Day Parade, the Halloween walk to Antrim Village and trips to the Tuttle Library, contributing to the Festival of Trees, walking to McCabe Forest, using the Town Hall for plays, welcoming the Grange, going on field trips to the Tenney Farm Stand and supporting our local food bank. All of these extra events require an enormous amount of planning, time and enthusiasm from the teachers to make them a success for our students. These are the "little things" that make school fun and memorable.

As I begin to count down the days I have left at AES, I am also counting all of the wonderful connections I have made over the years. I have met so many wonderful supportive families, been taught and entertained daily by the children and had the tremendous pleasure of working with wonderful colleagues. AES has provided me with a great history, and great memories! ☐

TOWN MEETING • MARCH 10 Town Gym 7:00 pm

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THEN, NOW, NEXT?

John Robertson

This is a look back from the 50s through today and a perspective on our future on planet Earth as I see it.

It's Saturday morning. The chores are done and it's dump day. We load the truck with old tires, a busted rake, and other miscellaneous unwanted items, along with household refuse. The trip to the dump is only about a mile. We arrive and back up to the huge pile. The attendant greets us and we toss everything into the pile. There are old bicycles, tires, rusty pails, glass and garbage all thrown in together. Nothing is separated. That landfill is now included in the state park.

Television was just becoming popular. If you were lucky enough to have one you were very popular. As kids we would visit a neighbor to watch the Howdy Doody Show. Channel nine was in its infancy. Our first TV was found at the aforementioned dump.

The talk back then was not of drug abuse, global warming or sources of renewable energy, but of how we were to make ends meet with gasoline at 20 cents/gallon and wages at \$1/hour. We had all we could do to keep food on the table.

Heating our large home was a challenge as well. We kept four wood stoves going in the winter months. It was all hands on deck to get the ten cords of wood in the shed. We spent the winter cutting wood and the fall getting it in. There were no government rules regarding installation of woodburning stoves.

It seems that winters were much more severe. As I recall, 20-25° below zero was quite common. Winter snowfall from year to year was much more consistent, with several feet of accumulation common. The first frosty morning was usually mid-September, and the last mid- to late-May. These days it seems last frost in Spring is in early May with the first in Fall in mid-October. At my house the first frost occurred October 18 last fall.

Severe storms in all seasons were much less frequent. Hurricanes were fewer and tornadoes were unheard of. As a young man growing up, I don't recall the severe flooding and ice storms like we've experienced in the past twenty years. Certainly not the frequency. These days if we get a few days at or near zero it's noteworthy. A snow event of a

few inches closes almost every form of public entity. I do not recall snow days as a child.

Summertime was usually hot and humid, but it was only for a few days at a time. Yes, we had thunderstorms and rainy periods, but it seems they are more frequent and severe now.

As the polar ice caps continue to recede, oceans rise, and the average annual temperature rises, severe weather becomes more frequent, and our atmosphere becomes more polluted. Let's take stock of these phenomena. It is time to take those actions necessary to make the health of Mother Earth a priority. If mankind does not do those things required to protect her, the Earth will continue to warm and deteriorate.

In January NASA and NOAA announced that 2014 had been the warmest year on record, but that 2015 was warmer yet. Are we experiencing global warming? For an eye-opening experience obtain a copy of the November 2015 National Geographic Magazine. It will amaze you.

Let us each do what we can to make our planet a cleaner and safer place to live. ☐

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ANTRIM-BENNINGTON LIONS CLUB

Steve Ullman, 1st Vice-President

Christmas Tree Sale. If you drove by the Tenney Farm in December you may have spotted Antrim-Bennington Lions selling Christmas trees. Why were we out there freezing? The answer is Operation Santa, the project which annually finances holiday gifts for economically disadvantaged children in Antrim and Bennington. So those of you who bought our five-star trees not only have the satisfaction of hosting them but the pride of knowing that your purchases went to brightening an otherwise gloomy Christmas for needy kids.

Service Projects. The AB Lions hosted the Community Supper at the First Presbyterian Church on January 21. A variety of soups, cornbread, sloppy joes and cookies were served. We donated all proceeds to the Grapevine.

Nearly a century ago Helen Keller assigned Lions Clubs the task of safeguarding vision. Lion Dick Loveland has zealously taken on this mission. (I often say that if I had to plan a major operation, e.g., the Normandy invasion, reworking the Tuttle Library computer system, or even resuscitating the Red Sox for the 2016 season, I would place Dick at the helm.) He has invested enormous time and effort into creating a true “state of the art” program of vision screening for ConVal schoolchildren. Indeed, he has actually written the textbook for other New Hampshire Lions Clubs involved in similar projects. Under Dick’s guidance, in September, 2015, we did 362 screenings in the Antrim, Bennington, Hancock, Francestown and Greenfield elementary schools. And on January 11 and 12, 2016, AB Lions performed 187 screenings at the Great Brook School. Further extending the reach of our vision assessment efforts, we checked up on preschoolers at the Grapevine, Wonderworks Learning Center, and Three Little Birds Child Care. Lion Dick would like to “...thank our Lead Screeners - Robin Loveland, John Conklin and Joan Gorga, as they led all the screenings we did this year. I would also like to thank our other screeners, as they stepped right up and make each screening successful - Dave Ward, Linda Ward, Sue Conklin, Richard Reilly, Rick King, Marcia Ullman, Steve Ullman, Kathleen Robbins and Ken Robbins.”

The Lions Club Speakers Forum. One of the purposes of American service clubs is to provide a forum for respected speakers. On February 16 we enjoyed an informative discussion with the Reverends Peter and Jan Howe, pastors at the Washington Congregational and Antrim First Presbyterian Churches, respectively, about what led them into the clergy and their roles in the community beyond presiding over services.

On March 1, Rebecca Rule will be addressing us on the New Hampshire tradition of Town Meeting. If you would like to attend, feel free to stop by the First Presbyterian Church a little before 7 p.m. Remember, Town elections occur on Tuesday, March 8, and Town Meeting on Thursday, March 10.

Lions Club Membership. Richard and Mary Reilly value their Lions Club membership in part because of the friends

they have made including “...the many local members who are such amazing talented people.” They also have liked serving “...the children who came in for eye testing, and in many cases left with clear vision for the first time and a life-changing moment.”

And the Reillys treasure our other service projects: “...being able to give back to Antrim (which is such a great town), be it painting the bandstand or building a ramp for the town beach, helping Operation Santa, making sure local children have a present to open on Christmas morning, or helping parents through a tough time. Maybe the defining moment was the change that came over us when we tallied the smaller moments, and we were left with a sense of belonging and meaning, and who could ever measure that?”

Linda Tenney reflected on her involvement in the AB Lions Club: “I must say my membership in the Lions Club keeps me involved in the lifeline of our communities. This has provided me with a sense not only of giving but also a profound sense of belonging.”

If you are interested in joining our merry lively band and thereby helping with our community service programs, please contact any AB Lion. Our meetings are generally held at the First Presbyterian Church on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. ☐

RECREATION DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Celeste Lunetta

- March 7 Bus trip to Stone Zoo, All Ages (NO school!)
- March 9 Jump Rope for Heart; register before March 3.
- March 11 Baseball and Softball Registrations due
- March 12 Roller Skating; 6-9 p.m. Rentals included in price.
- March 18 Community Bus Trip to Boston Flower Show (\$30 adults/\$20 children). Register and pay before March 11.
- March 19 Spring Egg Hunt - Children 1 year through 4th grade, 9:30 at Memorial Park
- March 24 Community Bus trip to Capitol Center for the Arts, 5:30 p.m. Aquila Theater presentation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Free for Antrim Residents.
- April 1 Nighttime Egg Hunt for kids in grades 5-8, 8:00 p.m.
- April 9 Roller Skating, 6-9 p.m. Rentals included in price.
- April 15 Deadlines for Lacrosse Early Development Program (K-3rd grade) and Sporties for Shorties (4-6 yo)
- May 6 Early Bird Registration Deadline for Rec Summer Camps
- May 7 Youth Fishing Derby at Memorial Park, 8 a.m.
- May 14 Bike Safety Rodeo
- May 14 Roller Skating, 6-9 p.m. Rentals included in price.

For more information, please check the Town website www.antrimnh.org or call 588-3121. ☐

THE GRAPEVINE CELEBRATES TWENTY YEARS

Marcia A. Ullman, Chair
The Grapevine Board of Directors

Twenty years ago, a handful of concerned, dedicated citizens, came together with the idea of forming a Family and Community Resource Center in Antrim. The purpose of this Center was to promote family and community health and well-being through support, education and sharing resources. Under Andrea Gilbert's leadership, local planners Sydney Smith, Susan Bartlett, Jonas Taub, David and Dottie Penny, Mark Cavic, Brian Giammarino, Peter Martel, Gordon Allen, Teri Moore, Rev. Charles Boucher and Pat Berry worked tirelessly to bring their dream to fruition. Peter Martel was hired as part-time coordinator in November 1996, and The Grapevine opened in its first location next to the Antrim Village Store on Main Street.

The Board and Staff of The Grapevine want to recognize this special anniversary year by sponsoring a series of events. It seems fitting to start off this year of celebration by hosting an **Open House at The Grapevine** to pay tribute to Kristen Vance for her eighteen years of devoted, visionary leadership as Executive Director. We know that many of you would like to thank Kristen in person for all she has done for our communities, and so we invite you to stop by and share your good wishes with her on **Saturday, April 9, from 2-4 p.m.** On Sunday, June 12, at 3:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, the Antrim Historical Society will host a presentation by several of the founding mothers and fathers of The Grapevine.

Be on the lookout for future articles discussing the history of The Grapevine, its programs and future plans. We will also introduce you to The Grapevine's outstanding staff, past and present.

Other Grapevine Board News:

The Board proudly announces that Melissa Gallagher has accepted the position of Executive Director. We feel fortunate to have such a highly qualified, experienced person in this position.

The Board thanks the Grapevine staff for extending a warm welcome to Melissa and for working diligently with her to ensure a smooth transition period.

Bennington resident Peter Martel resigned from the Board after five years of service. The Board is most grateful to Peter for his many contributions to The Grapevine, especially for the hours he spent on the Wood Bank and the Facilities Committee.

The Board thanks Rick Fitzgerald, who ran the monthly "Heard It Through The Grapevine" open mic at Avenue A for three years.

Hancock resident Kathleen Robbins has joined the Board. Kathleen is a retired nurse who has years of experience in behavioral health and substance abuse. Given the nationwide drug crisis, Kathleen's expertise will be a welcome addition to our Board. ☐

CROCHET LESSONS WITH GRANDMA

Susan Ellsworth

One day after my sixth birthday, while on summer vacation, Grandma asked me if I wanted to learn how to knit or crochet. I was very excited; I loved all the wonderful things Grandma made for us. I told her I wanted to learn to make pretty dollies like she did. She said they were all crocheted, but it would take a while for me to be able to make them. I first needed to learn some basic crochet stitches. She brought out her crochet bag with a smaller bag of all different size crochet hooks and yarn in many colors. I would need to learn on a thicker yarn than the dolly cotton because it would be easier. I picked out a pink three-ply acrylic and a much thicker needle than Grandma used. My crochet hook was a size 4; Grandma used a size 14. Hers was so thin you could hardly see the bend in the metal making the hook. We sat in the comfy vestibule of our house. It got many hours of sunlight, so we could start early and end before it was time to make dinner. I loved sitting with Grandma talking about many things. She told the best stories.

It was hard for Grandma to teach me because I was right-handed while she was left-handed. On top of that, she would wrap the yarn around her finger two or three times and let the yarn glide through her fingers to get a good tension, whereas

 — continued on next page

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I had to wrap it around my finger ten times or more. I was getting the hang of crocheting, but after a while Grandma gave up trying to convert me to her way of getting the tension, and said as long as we came out with the same product in the end it was all good. She said people were all unique, that we were the same in some ways but different in others. That is what made us who we are, and that's why there were no two people exactly alike.

She showed me how to make a chain stitch, which was what you used to start most projects. After I made a chain long enough to touch the floor she asked to look at it. I asked why I had to make so many stitches. What was that going to turn into? She showed me how my early stitches were all different sizes. I said, "Yes, aren't they supposed to be?" She then showed me how my stitches near the end all looked about the same size, and explained why. She said I was getting good tension there, and that only came with time and practice. She told me that I did very well and tomorrow she would teach me how to make a single crotchet, and suggested that I should go show my mom my good work. I ran into the kitchen where Mom was making dinner. She was so proud of me. She said that I was doing great, that I was a fast learner and that Grandma was the best teacher. I agreed.

The next morning Grandma and I did our chores and then headed to the warm cozy vestibule to continue my lessons. "Today," she said, "I will teach you a single crochet, and if you do well with the tension I can show you how to do a double crochet as well." After I did several rows of single crochet Grandma noticed a mistake and ripped out my work back to it. I was upset and asked why. She said, "When you make something you want it to be the best you can do. I know you can do better, and after ten more rows you'll see how much better it will look." She was right! All my stitches lined up and were the same size. We were both happy then.

Next Grandma showed me a double crochet and then how to mix and match rows of the two types of stitches. It was magic how the project looked so different. After weeks of practice I made my first clothing item, a baby sweater for my doll. I was so proud, and Grandma told me I had her gift and I was a natural. It was so exciting to be told I was gifted like Grandma. She was my best friend, my idol and mentor. To be compared to her was all I could ever ask for.

I loved Grandma for teaching me so many things in life. I hope to do the same for my grandchildren, too. Grandparents are a gift and so are grandchildren. They are meant to spend time together so parents get a break, children learn and grandparents still have purpose. Another of Grandma's wise observations. ☐

VOTE March 8
Town Hall • 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Steve Ullman, President

Like the black bear, the Antrim Historical Society goes into semi-hibernation from late December to late March. However, we are still planning programs, acquiring artifacts, and organizing our archives.

I hope you spotted the AHS entry in the Festival of Trees. We are grateful to our talented elves, Barbara Black, Liz Robertson, and Kathi Wasserloos, who led this project.

Future Programs

Bill Nichols, AHS Vice-President, will be gathering several generations of Antrim Players to videotape their recollections of the various productions the Players mounted over the decades. The Players have been a vital Antrim institution for more than 100 years. Old-timers will remember Don Madden's scripts and the Players' inimitable production of "Summer People, Some Are Not." Younger generations have been able to attend recent Player performances such as "Hearts and Flowers" and "Black Comedy." My father, Albert Ullman (himself an Antrim Player) marveled at how such a small town could produce so many exceptional performers.

Lyman Gilmore served as Managing Editor of *The Limrik* for more than a decade. Those of us who esteem Antrim history owe him a giant debt of gratitude for documenting the evolution of our community. We have asked Dr. Gilmore to reminisce about his work as *Limrik* Editor on Sunday, April 17, from 3-4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

Several days ago I was leafing through the Antrim Grange file in our AHS archives. I discovered that in 1915 there were at least five Merrills who were serving as officers of the Antrim Grange. We have invited our current Town Moderator, Arthur Merrill, to outline the historical background of the local Grange. Complementing Mr. Moderator will be Lynne Rosansky, who lives right next to the Grange at the Uplands Inn (which we elderly residents will continue to call Captain Dudley's). Dr. Rosansky holds a doctorate in cultural anthropology and will bring that perspective to the Antrim Grange program, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 15, from 3-4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

The Grapevine was created in 1996 to serve the needs of families living in and around Antrim. Grapevine programs now include both parent and child education and support for children, parents and grandparents. On Sunday, June 12, from 3-4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, we have invited the Grapevine's founding fathers and mothers to look back at its development. Among the founders we hope will appear are Ben Pratt, Dot and Dave Penny, Sydney Wilson-Smith, and Bob Bernstein.

If you are interested in upcoming Antrim Historical Society programs, you can consult the events schedule on the AHS website www.antrimhistoricalsociety.org or on our Facebook page. You might also sign up for News and Events at www.AntrimNH.org. ☐

AVENUE A TEEN & COMMUNITY CENTER

Heidi Schultz, Coordinator

Avenue A Club began again in December for Great Brook School students, as a way for pre-teens to enjoy all Avenue A has to offer, including pool, ping pong, foosball, games, puzzles and art supplies. We will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 2:15-4 p.m. through May. We also offer team-building exercises, provide free food, check in with the kids about their lives and discuss what input they have on club management. Last year we spent time in Memorial Park, celebrated our last club day for the school year at Gregg Lake, and completed trash pick-up for community service on Earth Day. We welcome Arlene Soule as the new Avenue A Club Coordinator.

Friday Night Teen Open Hours continue. Teens can take advantage of a cozy seating area, games, art supplies, computers and free Wi-Fi in a supervised setting. Snacks and drinks are provided free of charge.

Community Service with Great Brook School. Working in conjunction with GBS staff, we hope to provide middle school students with community service opportunities this year.

Antrim's **HOPE committee** meets monthly at Avenue A. In October, in conjunction with the Monadnock Community Hospital "Be The Change" task force, the committee facilitated a town forum on substance misuse, and in November sponsored a Great American Smokeout event at Avenue A. The HOPE committee and Avenue A Club will be co-sponsoring another community supper in 2016.

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Grant. Avenue A was awarded a \$10,000 grant in 2015 to be used to increase staff hours. These funds will help continue teen and pre-teen programming and create partnerships in the community.

Use of Avenue A Space. Alcoholics Anonymous and Al Anon meet at Avenue A weekly. Antrim Church of Christ parishioners meet at Avenue A on Sundays, and the band *Tombstone Territory* practices in the space approximately once a month. Individuals and groups can rent Avenue A for celebrations, work meetings and trainings, generally for a fee of \$25/hour. Groups that have a mission aligned with Avenue A's may use the space at no cost.

Internet Safety. The Grapevine and The River Center

partnered to offer an Internet Safety Seminar for parents, held at Avenue A in February, in response to a request from parents who participated in Guiding Good Choices, our parenting program on preventing drug misuse. Other programs on this topic may be offered as the year progresses.

As teens and the community continue to evolve, so does the programming at Avenue A. Ideas for the future involve engaging with teens and their caregivers outside of Avenue A, and providing support for teen-specific issues. One possibility is re-offering a Safe Sitter Course for tweens and teens. We will continue to develop programming for teens outside of our Friday night hours and provide community service opportunities. If you have ideas or activities that you would like to facilitate at Avenue A, please contact us at 588-2620, send an email to AvenueA@grapevინeh.org, or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter/>. We look forward to a great 2016! ☐

PSYCHOTHERAPIST HANGS UP SHINGLE

Joan Gorga

Kathy-Jo (Cait) Murphy has set up a private practice psychotherapy office at the Antrim Mill Offices at 42 Main Street. Cait is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor with several years' experience in community mental health. Her practice is focused on using a variety of traditional evidence-based practices with a holistic and integrative approach of mind, body and spirit to assist individuals in achieving an improved sense of wellbeing.

Cait can assist with a variety of issues, such as feeling overwhelmed, coping with stress, anxiety, depression, PTSD, trauma or abuse, navigating through grief and loss, life transitions, divorce, relationship issues, parenting, co-dependency and self-esteem. She also provides therapy and support to caregivers and those individuals exposed to trauma and prone to burnout working in public and human service professions. She views this part of her job as "helping the helpers."

Cait places emphasis on the practice of mindfulness, which she considers an essential part of wellness. She says, "The ability to slow down and tune in can help us identify and change thinking and behavior patterns that are often on autopilot, or that no longer serve us. The exploration of a spiritual practice as a tool for individual growth and healing is also encouraged and supported."

Another important aspect of wellness Cait includes, which she says is often absent in traditional practice, is education and awareness of how healthy choices in the food we eat and the products we use on our bodies and in our homes can have a positive impact our physical and mental health. She is available to assist individuals in making healthier choices.

Cait accepts self-pay and a variety of insurance options. Please contact her for more information at 603-831-1686, caitmurphy50@gmail.com or PO Box 225, Hancock, NH 03449. ☐



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FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE TO FRANCE

Liz Robertson

Growing up on a rural New Hampshire dairy farm, I had natural inclinations toward participating in agriculture and the 4-H Programs of New Hampshire and the USA. 4-H was designed to further best practices in agriculture and related arts among the farming and rural areas of America. Clubs were formed for young people who would learn and perfect agricultural skills. Ages of 4-H-ers ranged from seven to twenty, organized from beginners to the most advanced. At all levels of accomplishment boys and girls were awarded ribbons, public recognition and trips to different areas of the US, meeting with professionals and many other like-minded young agriculturalists.

Especially after World War II, the 4-H national organizers instituted an International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) program for better world understanding among nations. Young people from the US were sponsored as exchanges to live in other countries on their farms at a real “grass-roots” level. In return, these other countries could send their delegates to several states in the USA. The exchanges usually were arranged for a period of six months with host family support. Sometimes several families contributed to the support of the exchanges in their country. Financial support (travel costs, etc.) often came from agricultural entities, organizations and businesses, as well as the USDA.

While a student at UNH in 1958-59, I attended a talk given by two New Hampshire IFYE delegates who had just returned from their exchanges, one to Australia and the other to Sweden. I was so thoroughly impressed with their talks and slide show presentations that I vowed to get an application for the exchange program! After completing paperwork submitted over several weeks’ time, I was invited for an interview session in Concord with several other applicants. The interview committee reached their decision; fortunately, I would be one of two New Hampshire delegates for 1960!

Having studied some French language, I was offered an IFYE exchange to France! My obligation was to represent my country in the best way possible and upon my return, relate my experiences through IFYE speaking arrangements at schools

and with many other public service sponsoring organizations in all ten counties of New Hampshire. That took more than six weeks. It was a great way to earn money for the next exchanges and a super way to know more about one’s home state. Needless to say, it was a wonderful experience for me and hopefully for all the others I met through the speaking tour.

Perhaps the greatest thing is that the program continues! My French family friends have come to visit me and I have re-visited them. The IFYE organization continues with exchanges and, to assist financially with the travel costs, we alumni have an annual auction at our national conference, which is held in a different part of the U.S. each year.

In 2015, the IFYE Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Alumni contributed auction items from their own areas. I was really fortunate to carry items from my vicinity, especially when I found area artisans so generous and willing to contribute to the cause. There were potters, weavers, painters, wood-crafters, knitters, soap-makers, sculptors, writers, photographers, a piece of crafted granite, and the list goes on...I was almost overwhelmed with the generosity. At the auction it all amounted to hundreds of dollars!

Thinking, “Am I too old for this now?” I traveled to France again last July to visit my first host family matriarch, who is eighty-seven years old. In late January this year, there was a small packet of photos in my mailbox and a note: “Are you coming for a visit this summer?” ☐

GREAT DECISIONS GROUP

Steve Ullman, Coordinator

Great Decisions is a series of informal conversations about American foreign policy. No special expertise in foreign policy is needed, only an interest in our country’s future abroad. Attendees may take part in the discussions or just listen. Either approach is fine.

Antrim’s Great Decisions group intends to meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Tuttle Library on the following Thursdays to discuss the topics listed below.

March 31 – Middle East Allies

April 7 – Islamic State, a.k.a., ISIS or ISIL

April 14 – The Kurds

April 28 - Migration

May 5 – The Koreas

May 12 – The United Nations

May 26 – Climate Change

June 2 – Cuba and the United States

Participants may order the Great Decisions manual from the Foreign Policy Association for \$20 (800-477-5836 or sales@fpa.org). The manual contains short articles, which accompany each session’s topic. There will also be two Great Decisions manuals on reserve at the library for those who prefer a free edition. For further information please contact Steve Ullman (sullman@brockport.edu, 588- 2005). ☐



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THE GRAPEVINE

Melissa Gallagher

As I've settled into my new role, I continue to be heartened by the support of this community. I am reminded of a recent Grapevine visitor. As a Family Resource Center Director in another part of the state, she had heard a lot about our organization. What stood out most to her, she said, was the level of support and involvement that we receive from Antrim and neighboring communities. She has been working hard in her own community to build their support, trust and confidence and asked, "How did you do it?" "Well," I answered, "it's a pretty neat history..." and went on to describe how the Grapevine came to be. Were it not for the efforts of a handful of committed and engaged citizens, as well as the ongoing support from our towns, we wouldn't be here celebrating our 20th anniversary this year! We have so many people to thank, and I hope you'll join us as we mark this milestone through various events this season.

I am pleased to share that I have accepted the permanent position of Executive Director of the Grapevine. I look forward to learning, growing and succeeding in this new role! I am also excited to announce that Arlene Soule has been hired as the Avenue A Club Coordinator. Arlene will be working with GBS students every Wednesday after school. She comes to us as a long-time volunteer with Avenue A and brings expertise in afterschool programming with youth. She has also done considerable work in programs focused on bullying prevention. Welcome, Arlene!

Workshops and Parenting Education

For all programs please call 588-2620 for more information or to register.

Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren - Join Carol Lunan for a discussion on the joys and challenges grandparents face, hear from other grandparents and learn about some of the resources and support available. This program is FREE. If child care is a need, please let us know. The group gathers **one Saturday each month**, dates to be announced. Call for details.

Birthcard Making with Pam Berry - Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. Each participant will create two hand-made personalized cards. \$5 per person.

Big Bold Paint Camp and Creative Story Telling - Saturday, April 30, 9-3. This will be a fun, interactive workshop with Carol Lunan and Nancy Macalaster. In the morning we will play with various ways to use paint, like a 5 year-old. No experience necessary. In the afternoon, we will explore creating and telling stories. Be ready to have fun! This program is for parents, caregivers and early childhood professionals. Cost of \$55 includes materials. Please let us know if this is a hardship.

The Baby Boom continues...

Parent-led Playgroup: 5 weeks beginning Thursday, March 3, from 12:30 to 2:00. Parents will have access to the playroom, snack area and appropriate materials. For children ages birth to 4. This program could continue. Cost is by donation; call to register.

We've added a second "**Better Beginnings for Babies**" group offering play, songs and social time for babies and parents with Parenting Educator Nancy Macalaster, M.A., including informal discussion on topics of interest to parents of young children from birth to about 18 months. Parents with young toddlers and babies who are crawling meet on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m., and parents with younger babies and newborns meet on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Expectant parents are always welcome.

Free Tax Prep

IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Mondays from 3-6 p.m. through April 11, 2016. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now for your appointment.

Eat Out for The Grapevine in March!

Four generous local restaurants are once again donating 20% of their gross receipts on their "Eat Out" day. Please support The Grapevine by enjoying a meal!

Rick and Diane's - All day Friday, March 11

The Common Place Eatery - Sunday Breakfast 7-11am, March 13

Fiddlehead's Café and Catering - All day Wednesday, March 16

The Hancock Inn - Sunday Dinner, March 20

People's Service Exchange

The People's Service Exchange is based on the Time Banking model where 1 hour of service = 1 Time Dollar. Everyone has something to offer! We have a list of over 300 services to get you thinking about what you might need or have to offer. Call Nancy at 588-2620 or email her at pse@grapevინeh.org to find out more!

Spring has sprung...

Spring Walk for Families, Saturday, May 14. Tune up your strollers, lace up your walking shoes and get your pledges for The Grapevine's 12th Annual *Spring Walk for Families*. This is The Grapevine's biggest fundraiser and we count on your support, so please call 588-2620 or stop by to get your pledge sheet. Then meet us in The Grapevine parking lot at 9:30 on May 14 to register and walk in support of our families and community.

Black Fly Community Art Show, Saturday, June 4, 10-12. Our popular annual art show features multi-media art by local children and youth, community and family art

 — continued

activities, and more. If you have art you would like to show, call Carol or Amy at 588-2620.

Learning Vine preschool for children 3½ to 5 years old. We are now registering for the 2016-17 school year! This hands-on program focuses on social interaction and problem-solving skills in a small group setting, in a fun, engaging environment. Now scheduling visits for interested families, so give us a call to set up a time.

Learning Vine Yard Sale, June 18, 8:30 to 12 noon. Grapevine parents are collecting new and gently-used items for the annual Learning Vine yard sale. All proceeds support the Learning Vine preschool and make it possible to provide financial assistance. Call Carol if you have a donation.

Summer is just around the corner...

Backyard Summer Adventures. It's not too early to think about summer activities for your child. The Grapevine staff is planning these fun and enriching programs now:

- Summer Backyard Adventures for 4½ to 6 year olds July 11-15.
- Backyard Science Adventures for 7 to 9 year olds July 18-22.
- NEW! Backyard Art Adventures for 4½ to 7 year olds July 26-29.

Services at The Grapevine

- **Information & Referral:** Information about area resources for financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs.
- **Community Wood Bank:** For those who use wood to heat their home and can't afford to buy it. Call if you need wood, if you have wood to donate, or to volunteer for the 2016-17 season.
- **Heating Fuel & Electric Assistance:** Call 924-2243 or 877-757-7048 for an appointment or The Grapevine for information.
- **Child & Family Counseling** by Monadnock Family Services
- **Help Finding Shelter** for families who are homeless or face homelessness

Thank you . . .

to the many people who supported The Grapevine in so many ways over the winter months, including:

Sue Conklin, Sadie Cahoon and Eren Pils-Martin of Antrim for all their work in planning and donations for our Fancy Schmancy Tea Party

Pam Berry of Frankestown for donating hundreds of books for our children's programs, as well as Valentines card-making in February

Larry Schwartz of Hancock for his ongoing tax preparation program offered during tax season

Presbytery of Northern New England for their 2016 grant of \$230.70 to support our program and outreach efforts

The **Keith M. Sullivan Foundation** for their \$1,000 grant to support our Parent-Child support programs

MoonRivers Technology Group for their sponsorship of our Annual Fall Auction website

Grove Street Fiduciary and Staff for their customer account giving program

Bruce French for donating and installing a plasma TV at Avenue A

Arlene Soule and Ted Brown, for help with the Avenue A Club

Sue Conklin, Matt Ferrisi and John Anderson for volunteering and supporting Avenue A Friday Night Teen Open Hours

To everyone who participated in our Annual Online Auction last November. Individuals and local businesses donated a total of over 400 items and we raised \$10,600 to go toward supporting our family and children's programs, including much-needed scholarship funds for families. Your participation made this event a huge success!

We continue to draw amazing support for The Grapevine's annual appeal for donations. Thanks to all in the community who gave to us during the holiday season.

The Grapevine is a nonprofit service organization located behind the Tuttle Library and serving residents in Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, Frankestown and nearby towns. Other programs include the Before and After School Clubs, Avenue A Teen Center and Senior Wellness. For more information call 588-2620. The Grapevine exists because of charitable contributions from people like you. No amount is too small, or too big! Tax-deductible contributions are gratefully accepted at P.O. Box 637, Antrim, or drop by the center at 4 Aiken Street (behind the library). Visit us online at www.GrapevineNH.org and LIKE us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grapevinenh.org/>. ☐

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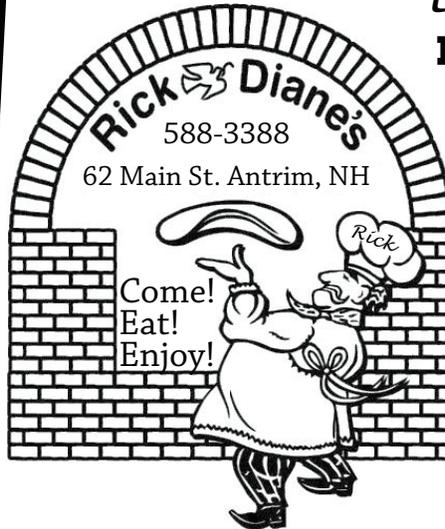
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