

Festival of Trees

Kristy Boulé

The halls of Tuttle Library are overrun with nutcrackers and gnomes this month. Antrim's Festival of Trees has put on quite a display for the 9th season of the community event. Hundreds of trees and displays fill all three floors of the historic library on Main Street.

Special attractions include a nine-foot Nutcracker Tree decorated by GBS students using some of Patrick Cogan's sizable collection. Another nine-foot tree features gnomes and fairies. Committee members made giant six- and seven-foot nutcrackers, numerous and humorous gnomes and elaborate garlands. Students from AES decorated trees with handmade ornaments based on their Eagle Group reading books.

Special attractions also include a Hall of Trees in the Stack room, a notoriously difficult area to decorate. The Bio Room features plenty of colorful retro kitsch while the Historical Society Room and hallway are elegantly decorated, with a generous sprinkling of gnomes and a unique nutcracker display. Several trees and other holiday décor were generously donated by George and Michelle Caughey, the current owners of Bass Farm, the former Herb Nilson estate. The Children's Room features a woodland gnome setting and fantastical trees.

Participants have outdone themselves with unique creations this year and are all vying for your vote as Favorite! Voting for Favorites has become so popular that it's been extended an additional week. Ballots can be cast through Saturday, December 15th. Superlative winners in their categories and the recipient of the coveted Gilded Tree Award will be announced at

✍ — continued on page 2

Christmas Lollipops

Norine Edwards Sipe

I was born in Antrim in 1922, in a house on the Old Hancock Road. My mother and father were Susan Maxwell Edwards and Ellerton (Bill) Edwards. My father worked as a general contractor for George Caughey and Henry Pratt and acquired the company from them in 1941. From 1958–1968 he represented Antrim and Bennington in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. My father grew up in Bennington with eight sisters: Freda, Arline, Atheleah, Caroline, Barbara, Natalie, Marjorie, and Florence. I had a sister, Marcia, and two brothers, George and Bill. My sister and I spent lots of time in Bennington with my aunts when we were growing up, reading Uncle Wiggley stories and having tea parties in the barn. When I was seven years old, my family moved to North Main Street in Antrim village.

When I was eight years old, Aunt Arline took Marcia and me swimming at Lake George, now known as Whittimore Lake. On the way home, we stopped at a white house on Route 31 opposite the lake road and bought butterscotch lollipops from a woman who made them at home and sold them from a window on her front porch.

✍ — continued on page 6

TRANSITIONS

Marcia Ullman (L), outgoing Grapevine Board Chair, with founding Grapevine member Sydney Wilson-Smith. Photo Credit: Melissa Gallagher



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— SUBMISSIONS —

The Limrik welcomes submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, news and calendar items by, for and about the people of Antrim. Submission deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Submissions should be no more than 1500 words in length and should be submitted in digital form as a Microsoft Word-compatible document attached to an email. Submissions should be sent by email to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org. Call 588-2569 for more information or to discuss ideas.

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

The Limrik accepts letters to the editor of maximum length of 250 words. Publication is subject to the Editor's discretion. Email letters to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org.

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

the Festival Gala and Meet-the-Artist night on Saturday, December 15th from 6–8 p.m.

Always a sparkler, the Gala evening will feature entertainment by Jive Man Co. Sweet and savory hors d'oeuvres, holiday punch and seasonal lighting are highlights. There'll be special Donation Baskets raffled that evening for people making monetary donations of any size. A perennial favorite, the Scavenger Hunt, loved by all ages, promises to be extra challenging. Watch for additional Hunts as the season progresses.

The final event of the season will be a performance by the Hancock Bell Ringers under the direction of Sarah Hale on Wednesday, Dec. 19th from 6–8 p.m. The entire Tuttle Library will be aglow with holiday lighting! The winner of the annual Festival Quilt Raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of the evening.

Free admission ~ always!

We are grateful to the community for their support and participation, the Antrim Historical Society and Friends of the Library for their sponsorship, and the staff and Trustees of the Library for allowing us to use their space to help "put a little sparkle in the holidays." ❁

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Conservation Corner

Peter Beblowski, Chair
Antrim Conservation Commission

In the fall and early winter, we all have chores we complain about. One of the chores people complain most about is picking up leaves. Whether we rake them up or blow them into piles to be picked up, it is generally a chore we would rather not do. At some point the question is asked: What is the purpose of all these leaves or what are leaves good for?

Well, among plants, trees are exceptionally important transmitters of water vapor into the atmosphere. Trees are a very significant component of the system known as the water cycle, which is crucial to the health of the planet. This is something we all learned in school and probably forgot.

The surface area of our planet is mostly ocean (approximately 78%). The planet is made habitable on land by water that is fresh. In fact only 3% of the planet's water is fresh and most of that is contained in the frozen polar ice caps. If the water cycle relied only on evaporation from the oceans to transmit moisture to the atmosphere, then rain would only fall in a relatively thin strip of land approximately 150 to 200 miles from the oceans, and the vast interior of continents would be desert.

The reason this does not happen is that trees transmit water to the atmosphere through the process of evapotranspiration. What this simply means is that trees transmit a tremendous amount of water vapor to the atmosphere, and this occurs primarily through their leaves. Did you know that an average large tree transmits approximately 100 gallons of water per day to the atmosphere through the amazingly large surface area of its leaves? This is why forests tend to be cool places to hike on a hot summer day. In fact, a typical acre of mature forest can contain more than 1,000 acres of leaf surface area! That same acre of mature forest also provides enough oxygen in one year for eighteen people.

Trees are great indicators of the seasons and they filter dust out of the air and absorb pollutant gases by trapping them on their leaves and bark. Trees provide very important habitat for many diverse types of wildlife. Trees and their leaves are essential in keeping our planet moist and habitable. Think about this when you are picking up all those leaves. And maybe give a tree a hug, if no one is watching. ❁

Food Pantry Thanks

The staff at the Antrim Bennington Food Pantry want to thank all those who make contributions to our community's food pantry this time of year. From the door-to-door collections by the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, to the schools, local businesses, and individuals sending in a donation, we all work together to reach out to those who need a meal. Thank you so much!

Rev. Charles Boucher

Planning Board

Ashley Brudnick-Destromp
Assistant to the Land Use Boards

Let me introduce myself: I am Ashley Brudnick-Destromp, your new Assistant to the Land Use Boards. I was hired in late August. My husband and I moved to New Hampshire from Haverhill, Massachusetts, after our son was born, looking for a better upbringing for him. We found the Town of Antrim and fell in love with the scenic roads, the farmhouses, and the history.



As the assistant to both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, I am the first contact person you will speak with in the office when you need information and direction for questions around our zoning, ordinances, town maps, lot line adjustments, sub-divisions, the various applications and fees and other land-use issues. I act as a resource person and work closely with Carol Ogilvie, Antrim's Planning Board Consultant, and Dario Carrara, the Town Building Inspector. You can get your building permit applications from me.

My office hours are Monday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday–Thursday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. I also attend and take the minutes for the Planning Board meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Feel free to stop in and say, "Hello!" I look forward to meeting and assisting you. You can also reach me by phone at 588-6785, ext. 246, or email me at antrimplan2@tds.net. ❁

Free Community Suppers

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First Presbyterian Church, 73 Main St, Antrim

Select Board Report

Bob Edwards, Chair

As we approach the end of the 4th quarter, we wanted to report to our residents some of our key activities and accomplishments during 2018.

First, the new water line and drainage improvement two-year initiative for Highland Avenue and Pleasant Street is now complete with the Project coming in on budget.

Our bridge replacement program will continue with the replacement of our West Street, Craig Road and Elm Street Extension bridges. The town portion of the funding was raised and appropriated at our 2017 and 2018 Town Meetings.

The Select Board recently approved Antrim's tax rate after reviewing our unassigned fund balance and the county, state education and school district rates. The school district impact on Antrim was an increase of \$1.31 over 2017. The Select Board voted to reduce Antrim's town rate by \$1.00 which allowed our new tax rate to remain unchanged at \$27.97 per \$1,000 of current assessed value. Although our tax rate remained unchanged, assessments varied based on the recently completed town-wide revaluation.

The Capital Improvement Committee (CIP) has conducted meetings with all department heads at their work locations to view first hand their operation and to discuss their future needs. The Committee found the site visit approach to be a great learning tool and experience. The results are reported to the Planning Board and then to the Select Board to discuss what needs should be supported in the 2019 Warrant.

Antrim's Water and Sewer Commissioners have been developing an Asset Management Plan jointly with the Town of Bennington Commissions. Funding for this initiative was through a matching grant awarded to both towns through the NHDES. The final Plan is expected on or before April 15, 2019. Because this is the first asset management joint initiative in NH to be completed by two communities working together with common objectives and goals, the NHDES invited both communities to make a presentation on October 30th at their Asset Management Workshop in Concord. The workshop was entitled "The lost art of communication."

Donna Hanson and the Select Board are continuing the preparation of Antrim's 2019 budget and are hearing presentations from all departments. After evaluating the presentations, a budget along with appropriate warrant articles will be prepared for our public hearings during the first quarter of 2019.

As many are already aware, the SEC will be conducting hearings regarding the petition by Walden Green Energy, et al., to transfer their membership interests in Antrim Wind Energy, LLC, to Antrim Level, LLC, which is owned by TransAlta Corporation, a Canadian entity. The Town of Antrim was granted Intervenor status and the Select Board will have a presence at future hearings. Antrim Wind Energy, LLC, information affecting Antrim may be found at www.antrimnh.org.

The Select Board voted to approve a 36 month third-party power agreement through Balanced Rock Energy to provide a reduction in electric costs with the Town of Antrim's energy operation. The Select Board will reevaluate the program in three years but an estimated savings is expected to be \$11,000.

On Saturday, December 1, 2018 at the Town Hall St. Jean Auctioneers will conduct a public auction of certain selected parcels of property that the town has taken title to. The dual purpose is to collect past due taxes due the Town and return the properties to the tax roll.

Since our last Select Board article in *The Limrik*, we have welcomed Kathleen Clark as Asst. Tax Collector and Town Clerk and Ashley Brudick-Destromp as Planning Assistant. Please welcome them when visiting the Town Hall.

It is so important to thank all our town employees for their hard work throughout 2018. We know the Highway Dept. has faced many weather challenges this year while paving and repairing our roads. A situation that will continue to be a challenge. We all appreciate their dedication.

Lastly, the Select Board extends its sincerest best wishes to all for a happy and safe holiday season. ❁



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First Presbyterian Church

Sharon Dowling, Music Director

Greetings! After a busy autumn we are now advancing towards the Holiday Season—and quickly!

We have been navigating the past three months without Pastor Jan, as she has been on sabbatical, but we were very lucky to have a wonderful supply minister, Rachele, lead us in worship and fill the position with grace, love and care. Now Pastor Jan has returned, and will be hitting the ground running!

The Season of Advent begins this year on the first Sunday in December. It begins our preparations for Christmas while keeping us focused on the meaning behind all those Falalala choruses! In our church, the first Sunday of Advent is marked with decorating the Chrismon Tree and beginning to light the Advent wreath. These are great traditions and give extra meaning to this solemn season of preparation. We also have an informal congregational Christmas pageant this year on December 23rd during the 10:30 a.m. service. Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. on December 24th—this is a service of Lessons and Carols, and always includes lots of candles and beautiful music! Please join us during Advent and Christmas and share in the Peace and Joy we experience!

The service on the Sunday after Christmas we traditionally share with the Baptist Congregation—and this year that will be held in the Baptist Church at 10:30. It is always fun to get together with our neighbors, and as it is still technically the Christmas season, more carols will be sung!

Once January begins we move our congregation into the Fellowship Hall as it is easier to maintain a comfortable temperature in there for three months. The drafts that find their way into the sanctuary can be chilling, even though the heat is on! The feeling is a bit more informal, but cozy—come check us out!

Our tiny congregation manages to do a great deal of good in our community—locally and further afield. Besides hosting the Senior Center during the week from 9–12 a.m., running the Revival Shop and providing space for community suppers, as well as other groups and events, several collections are being taken to aid various missions—crackers and snack foods, as well as regular nonperishable food items for ConVal End 68; sock and underwear collection for our Veterans; and personal hygiene and nonperishable food items for 100 Nights Cold Weather Shelter for the Homeless in Keene. Are you aware of the homeless population that exists in the Monadnock region? 100 Nights is an incredible organization, and we hope you will check them out—a cause that is very much deserving of support from the wider community.

Antrim First Presbyterian Church believes in being a Loving answer to the hate and fear that seem to be so prevalent in our society recently. We are called to respond to the needs of our neighbors and to always remember that we are ALL children of the same Creator. May the Holiday and winter seasons ahead be safe and filled with all good things. ❁

Antrim Historical Society

Bill Nichols, President

As the winter months approach and the daylight becomes shorter, the Board members of the Antrim Historical Society prepare for the long, cold winter. And although our Sunday programs are on hold for the next few months, have no fear; hibernation is not an option for this group.

Our sign committee has been very busy and meeting almost every month and has narrowed down the first ten locations. Hopefully, in the spring these signs will start popping up around town marking important buildings and locations of historical interest to both visitors and locals.

Last month, we joined many of the towns throughout the country by celebrating the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day with a display upstairs in the Tuttle Library, as well as organizing the ringing of the church bells at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 11.

December can mean only one thing and that is the Festival of Trees. Beginning in late November and running through the month of December, the Tuttle Library comes alive with an anticipated 150 trees! The trees can be viewed during regular library hours. Although this is not an AHS event, we gladly support it and submit a tree each year for the exhibit.

Beginning in the spring, we will bring back our Sunday programs at the Presbyterian Church. If you have an idea for a program that you would like us to host, please get in touch with me or anyone on the Board. We're always looking for fresh ideas. If you're interested in viewing past programs hosted by the AHS, head on over to YouTube and search for the AHS YouTube channel. There you'll find most of our past programs and some videos of our ongoing Oral History Project.

We have many more irons in the fire but unfortunately, we are approaching the new year with two fewer hands. After six years, President Steve Ullman has stepped down and will be leaving the AHS. Steve has been the maestro behind the podium, conducting the Antrim Historical Society through many years of wonderful Sunday programs and, of course, his favorite composition—which he has written and rewritten each year until it played like a royal symphony—everyone's favorite, the Apple Crisp at Home and Harvest. There has never been anything quite as sweet. Leonard Bernstein would be proud. But honestly, all of us will miss Steve and want to thank him for his sense of humor, patience, guidance and everything he has done for the Board and the Society throughout these past six years and wish him much luck for the future. We will try to continue to be the Board that you have molded us into.

Are you looking for some information on your Antrim family, a local building or past event? Shoot us an email at info@antrimhistoricalsociety.org or write to us at PO Box 172, Antrim, and we'd be glad to assist you in your search. If you're at the Tuttle Library, ask the librarians to contact us for help. There's a good chance someone might be nearby to help you out. ❁

Aunt Atheleah told me that the woman who made the lollipops was Edie Danforth, a school-teacher who came to Bennington in the summer. Mrs. Danforth had three children, two boys and a girl. One of her boys, as an adult, managed Smithholm, a restaurant and cabins on Route 9 in North Branch, and later worked as manager of the Maplehurst Inn. I believe the Danforth home in Bennington was burned in its old age, at the request of Mrs. Danforth's daughter.

One of my cousins who lives in Bennington remembers how happy Aunt Arline was when she received a copy of the lollipop recipe. Arline gave me the recipe in 1949 when I was teaching in Brookline, Massachusetts. It was deemed highly secret and I was expected to keep it a secret. But as the adage claims, "Once a secret is told, it is no longer a secret." I'm amused that none of the cousins in my generation is without the coveted recipe.

The first time I made the lollipops for my family was in 1953, when we were living at Park Avenue in Derry. I did not have molds, so I made them as Aunt Atheleah did by dropping teaspoonfuls of the hot butterscotch mixture onto a buttered surface. A toothpick was placed in each one to act as a stick. I used a marble slab that I found in the basement for the buttered surface. It was probably the back piece from an antique sink.

As the lollipops became a family tradition, we graduated to real lollipop sticks and Wilson's candy molds. The original butterscotch favorites have Santa faces. Using a different recipe, we added green (wintergreen) Christmas trees and red



Norine and Marcia Edwards, circa 1930

(cinnamon) Santa Clauses. The lollipops are wrapped in plastic sandwich bags and tied with gold, green, or red curling ribbon. They can be mailed easily in bubble-wrap envelopes. These lollipops have appeared in Christmas stockings of children, cousins, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They have been enjoyed by friends and neighbors far and wide. For many years, I've made seven dozen butterscotch, and over twenty each of the cinnamon and wintergreen lollipops.

Butterscotch Lollipops

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup Karo syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- 1 ounce butter

Mix all ingredients, except butter, in a saucepan and cook on stove top. Add butter when mixture reaches 286°F. At 290°F, lollipops are done and ready to be dropped onto a buttered surface.

Makes one dozen lollipops. I would suggest that under-cooking the recipe by a couple of degrees contributes to good flavor. ❄️

AHS Membership

The Antrim Historical Society depends on the generosity of friends in and outside the community to enable us to preserve the history of the town of Antrim. Please consider a membership in the Antrim Historical Society to help us with our endeavors. Individual membership is \$10/year and family membership is \$20/year. Please send your remittance to:

Antrim Historical Society
PO Box 172
Antrim, NH 03440

For information, contact Neil Brown by phone at 352-571-0124 or email at brownneilh@aol.com.

Happy Howlidays
From Our Woofs to Yours

May your days be merry and bright.

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Bells, Bells, Bells

Kathi Wasserloos

For sure you heard all the commotion on Veterans Day. Antrim joined every town in the Monadnock area at eleven a.m. on Sunday, November 11th, and the commotion you heard was the sound of church bells tolling throughout the area to commemorate one hundred years since the Armistice was signed to end the “War to End All Wars” — World War I.

One hundred years ago in Antrim, the news of the end of the war and of the resulting peace was met with incredible enthusiasm. Upon receiving word of the cessation of hostilities on the morning of the 11th, the Public Safety Committee and town folks (who had previously been focused upon such state-side activities as encouraging participation in the sale of war bonds, encouraging austerity, helping to send packages from home to the Antrim men and women overseas, and keeping up the public morale) assumed the task of hastily creating a “proper celebration.” Church and school bells rang throughout the day, including the “new” fire alarm.

Preparations included organizing a parade, trimming the Town Hall, arranging for vocal and instrumental musicians and for fireworks, and inviting local dignitaries to speak. Keeping in mind that there were no means of speedy social communication as we have today, the word-of-mouth good news must have spread incredibly fast, for by 6:15 in the evening, a crowd of between 800 and 1,000 residents of Antrim and Bennington gathered along our downtown streets to hoot and holler as a lengthy parade passed by. The parade featured floats, decorated automobiles, bands, Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, and horseback riders...surely a forerunner of our present-day Home and Harvest parade!

A crowd of up to 600 then moved into the Town Hall to hear multiple speakers, patriotic music, and a benediction.

The bell ringing that took place on November 11, 2018, was the result of

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George Caughey

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tanned leather, carded wool, paper fans, and chisels
potash, saltpeter, ground bark, and excelsior
cutlery, horseshoes and dyed cloth
shovels and patent leather
clapboards
guns

a largely grass-roots effort that spread throughout the United States under the mantle of BELLS OF PEACE. Organizations driving the effort included the World War One Centennial Commission, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the National Cathedral, The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In Antrim, the American Legion and the Antrim Historical Society joined forces to effect the result.

As our bells were being rung, bells were peeling at the same time in the National Cathedral and throughout the country to honor the sacrifice of veterans of the Great War and of all veterans.

Source: *The Antrim Reporter*, November 13, 1918 ❄

Festival of Trees 2018

GNOMES AND NUTCRACKERS



Photo by Frank Gorga

Antrim Police Department

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE

Sgt. Brian Lord

On October 20, 2018, we held our 10th annual Father/Daughter dance. The dance is held every year in October and takes place at the Town Gym located at the Antrim Elementary School. This year our theme was "Love You to the Moon and Back." In the past our themes have included "Boots and Bling," a country music-themed dance, a '50s Sock Hop, a Masquerade Ball, a Luau, and the old standby, "Fall Formal."

Each dance requires a lot of time and energy and behind-the-scenes preparation. A theme has to be developed, and once that is done, planning how to decorate and set up the dance is next. Everything has to be thought out and discussed at length to ensure that we have a successful event and that everyone who attends our dance has a great time dancing the night away. Each dance requires decorations related to the theme, which have to be purchased to arrive in time for the dance. There have been dances in the past where certain items haven't arrived in time due to shipping issues. One such item was the life-size cut-out of John Wayne, which we had ordered well in advance for the "Boots and Bling" dance, only to have him arrive a few days after the dance. He now resides at the PD and you may see him from time to time in the background of photographs for other events.

Next on the list of things to do is seeking donations from area businesses for the raffle prizes. This involves writing a donation letter and sending it to people and businesses in hopes they will donate to this great event. We send out about seventy-five letters every year and typically receive forty to fifty responses.

The next order of business is to make the flyer for the dance. This project also takes a lot of time and planning. The flyer, once completed, has to be approved by the SAU for the ConVal School District. Once it is approved and we have the enrollment numbers for the year, then printing of the flyer can begin. This year we printed about six hundred

flyers. In addition to the flyers, we also produce a poster that is placed in the Police Department lobby to advertise the dance and is also used to promote the dance at Home and Harvest.

All of this planning starts at the beginning of the summer and continues throughout the summer months up until the time of the dance. We have to plan the photo shoot, which involves purchasing and creating props to be used for the photographs. We also purchase and prepare snacks and drinks for the dance.

The preparation intensifies as the minutes tick down to the time of the start of the dance, but as usual and without too much of an issue, the dance goes off without a hitch. Everyone who attends has a great time. Great prizes are won and every single young lady leaves with a goodie bag filled with gifts related to the theme of the dance. This year the goodie bag included a crescent moon necklace and a moon pie.

This annual event is successful and made possible by the time and effort put in by the volunteers, the very generous donations of area businesses, and by all who attend the dance each and every year. We, the Antrim Police Association, would like to thank all of you for another successful Father/Daughter Dance. * ❁

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Antrim's Causeway

Joan Gorga

Have you ever noticed Antrim's causeway, that is, the raised stretch of Gregg Lake Road reaching from the eastern edge of the public beach to the intersection of Craig and Brimstone Corner Roads? There is water on both sides, sometimes reaching nearly up to the roadway. Otters and beavers are frequently seen, along with sunning turtles, hunting herons and nesting kingbirds. The blueberry bushes along there yield prolific crops and even some tangy cranberries can be found in the fall.

Until recently the causeway function hadn't really entered my consciousness, even though I drive over it every time I head to town. But it reared its head and made its presence known several times this fall, and wouldn't be ignored any longer.

Determined, hard-working beavers crammed the space under the Gregg Lake Road bridge with sticks until both dam and water touched the bottom of the bridge, even when it wasn't raining. When it was raining, which was quite a bit of the time this fall, I just held my breath, fearing being marooned in the outer-lying suburbs of Antrim, which sounded exciting until Linda Tenney reminded me I would be marooned *with* my husband. Yikes! How far up the bridge the water was at any given time became a major topic of neighborhood conversation, with some worrying about the bridge getting washed out and others that the causeway would give way or get undermined by the building water pressure.

In September, one of the Highway Department trucks landed on its side in the water after the shoulder on the north side of the causeway collapsed. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wasted no time in getting there to ensure that any environmental hazards from the truck spill were contained. Booms were set up and absorbent pads were placed on the water surface to

capture the small amount of crank case oil that was released. Although a few folks mourned the loss of some prime blueberry bushes, there appeared to be little real damage done...to the lake, at least. The load of sand and gravel destined for Brimstone Corner Road was scooped back up. A few weeks later, the Highway guys quickly filled in another sizeable hole that opened up at the edge of the causeway across from the bathroom at the beach. Earlier in the season, they had filled in a sinkhole that appeared in Craig Road near the bridge.



A beaver wastes no time rebuilding the dam under the Gregg Lake Road bridge shortly after it was removed by the Highway Department in October. Photo by Joan Gorga.

In October, the Highway Department received permission from NHDES to remove the beaver dam clogging the underside of the Gregg Lake Road bridge, and the water level on the north side of the causeway dropped by several feet as the water surged into the lake proper and tumbled on down Great Brook. It would have made for an exciting kayak ride to town! Within a few days, however, fresh sticks and branches were sticking out from under the bridge, and it was evident that the beavers were rebuilding.

Why are we beginning to face problems with the causeway that we didn't have historically? Has something changed?

I asked Eric Tenney, the fount of knowledge of the history of Antrim roads, if he knew when the causeway was built. He responded, "They built it when they got damn tired of driving all the way around!" While I suspected that his explanation hit the nail on the head, perhaps it lacked some details...

According to W. R. Cochrane in his *History of the Town of Antrim, New*

Hampshire, From Its Earliest Settlement, to June 27, 1877, Samuel Gregg built a saw and grist mill at the mouth of "the pond" in 1793, which did a brisk business until it was taken down some eighty years later. Large quantities of grain were ground at Gregg's Mills, especially at the time when there was a "large population west of the pond." Many old cellar holes from those days can still be found. In 1794, a town road was built which passed "from the old

— continued on page 10

meetinghouse past the pound and thence westward over Holt's Hill, and then ... round north and west of the pond, till it intersected with the road south of the pond at the corner near the Capt. John Worthley place." This "westward road" likely passed well to the north of "the pond" to avoid the low, marshy areas and then traveled south approximately along what are now Craig and Brimstone Corner Roads.

By 1835, perhaps the residents to the west got "damn tired of driving all the way around" to Gregg's Mills and, according to Cochrane, a road was laid out "from Clinton to the...Worthley place...through a dense forest," and "a road was laid out from Gregg's Mills to strike the other near the north end of the pond." It seems likely that the latter was the first road to cross the meadow at the site of the current causeway. Given that the remnants of the Gregg's Mills dam are currently under several feet of water at the mouth of the channel, the water level of "the pond" would have been several feet lower at that time, and it is likely that the area traversed by the road was considerably less wet than it is now. A modest bridge may have sufficed to cross what is now being called Hattie Brown Brook as it ran through the meadow. Hattie Brown was the last of a succession of Browns who lived on the old road northwest of the lake.

The "Meadows" area of the lake really was once a meadow, and one purpose of regulating the height of the water when the Gregg's Mills dam was installed was to ensure that the meadows at the north and west ends of the pond could be drained so the hay could be cut. Maps as far back as 1858 show the road crossing the area, but not passing through water. Long-time residents remember when the meadow was regularly mowed.

The meadow road was upgraded periodically. In 1917, Warrant Article 18 was described in the February 28 *Antrim Reporter*: "To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to improve and widen the highway leading from the George Brown corner to the corner at Clinton Village or any part of same, or take any action thereon..."

Even though Gregg's Mills were taken down in 1876, the dam rights (or "privilege") had been purchased around

1847 by the Antrim Water-Power Company to control water release to power the many downstream mills along Great Brook. I've been unable to establish for sure when the dam was first built in its current location, some 1000 feet east of Samuel Gregg's dam. The map in Cochrane's *History*, which was published in 1880, clearly shows the dam in its original location, as does a map published in 1892. An article in the August 8, 1908, *Antrim Reporter* says:

A New Dam at Gregg's

It is probable that soon there will be erected at the outlet of Gregg Pond, near the ice house, a new and substantial dam to supplement the one which has been there for about 35 years. The first intimation of such need was last week when a leak was discovered and of such a nature as to cause some alarm. An engineer was summoned and on investigation it was seen that something must be done at once.

Above the dam on the east shore of the pond is now being built a coffer-dam to hold back the water while the work on [the] new dam is in progress. This is a large sheet of water held back by the dam, and the interested ones—those who have factories on the stream—consider it good policy to take this extra precaution, especially as at times the pond gets very high and the danger is thereby increased.

Those residing on the banks of the stream have nothing to fear as every precaution is being taken and the management can be trusted to do everything as it should be and protect the interests of every one who is the least bit concerned.

This was probably the first dam built at the current location. Ben Pratt thinks the engineer who built it was my grandfather, G. H. Caughey, of Waltham, Massachusetts, who moved to Antrim with his young family several years later and founded Caughey & Pratt along with Ben's father, Henry.

As electricity was brought in to power the mills downstream, control of the water flow in Great Brook became less important. At the same time, vacationers began to find Gregg's Pond (renamed Gregg Lake in 1910, at the request of Paul Thayer, the developer of White Birch Point, even though many people, of course, still call it "The Pond"). In general, the lake began to be kept higher for the "summah folk," but not without some controversy. Drenching spring rains in 1936, which led to flooding that blocked all roads out of Antrim for days and were the deciding factor in the decision to cut passenger train service through Antrim, were followed by a severe drought, and Gregg Lake dropped to the lowest level ever seen.

In a letter to the editor entitled "Gregg Lake Doomed as Summer Resort is Opinion of a Former Summer Visitor," published in the November 26, 1936, *Antrim Reporter*, Mrs. Emma A. Phelan of Boston said that Gregg Lake, "one of the most charming I had ever seen, had been turned into a quag-



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mire to run a mill.” She continued on to say that it should be saved from “mercenary destruction” and she would not be coming back. A response published in the December 3 *Reporter*, which came from Rachel Caughey, my grandmother, who was never known to mince words, was entitled “Water From Gregg Lake Gives Work to Majority of the People of Antrim.” She said, “Presumably, Mrs. Phelan does not know that without the mills there would be no Gregg Lake: that they built the dam that holds back the water; and maintain it... No one would be more grateful than the mill owners if Mrs. Phelan and her friends could show them how to maintain a sufficient supply of rain to run the mills, and still keep the lake at its utmost beauty, which ‘the natives’ also appreciate.”

In the late 1960s the new town beach, complete with picnic area and parking lot and many loads of imported sand, was built at the north end of the lake in the relatively shallow “Meadows” area. This provided extra incentive to keep the lake level high to enhance the swimming area. The dam was rebuilt in 1982, with the flexibility to adjust the lake level by placing up to three flash boards above the main section of the dam. The lake was originally kept quite high in summer, with all three flash boards in place, but only two of the boards are now routinely used, which raise the water about 16 inches above the dam level.

The flash boards are removed to draw the water down for the winter, usually around mid-October, but the lake water now reaches under the Gregg Lake Road bridge year-round and laps at the causeway on both sides. Given the fluctuations in dams and water levels, it is hard to say exactly how much higher the water is than “historic” levels, which might be said to be before Samuel Gregg built the first dam—perhaps on the order of five to ten feet. By any consideration, the lake level in both summer and winter has crept up substantially over the past 225 years.

Non-human residents have also had a dramatic effect on water levels in the area north and west of “The Pond.” Beavers were abundant when the first settlers arrived in America, and would almost certainly have built impoundments in the swampy areas upstream of Gregg Lake. (“Impoundment” is



Paula Carcedo, an exchange student at ConVal from Santander, Spain, who is having an adventure staying with David and Sharon Ward in a seasonal cottage on “The Pond” this fall while the Wards’ Peterborough home is undergoing renovation, caught this ambitious beaver at work along Gregg Lake Road one night. We predict another power outage in our future.

the official term, possibly due to the fact that the word order in the term “beaver dam” is easily and often switched.) But the beavers were heavily trapped in the 1600s and 1700s, and were completely gone in New Hampshire by the late 1800s. They wouldn’t have been a factor as the road was built across the meadows and gradually widened and raised and improved over the course of 150 years. Beavers were reintroduced in New Hampshire beginning in 1926, and had fully repopulated the state by about 1955. Ben Pratt says he first saw a beaver a few years after that.

Troublesome as they may seem at times, beaver dams do serve a purpose. They trap sediment that would otherwise fill downstream lakes and ponds and slow water flow that might otherwise cause downstream flooding. They allow water to slowly seep back into the ground and refill aquifers. They build up areas of rich soil and provide habitat for wildlife. The areas generously endowed with beaver ponds to the north and west of Gregg Lake are considered to be some of the highest quality wildlife habitat in the state of New Hampshire.

Our causeway is challenged on both sides in ways that weren’t imagined when that first road was laid out across the



**Great Brook
Veterinary Clinic**

Dr. Tom Dowling, Veterinarian
Route 202 North • Antrim, NH 03440
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—continued on page 12

meadow. Back then the lake water level was considerably lower most of the time, the public beach wasn't located in the Meadows, and beavers hadn't repopulated the area.

The high lake level set by having two flash boards above the new dam makes the area around the public beach more pleasant for swimming. It also stresses the causeway on the south side and creates a large area of shallow water where aquatic plants thrive and provide cover for small fish, amphibians and insects, but the aquatic plants also decompose and release nutrients into the water that encourage algae growth. Shallow water warms up faster than deeper water, which also facilitates algae growth.

The beaver dam under the Gregg Lake Road bridge raises the water level on the north side of the causeway to unprecedented levels. As indicated by the sinkhole that opened up earlier this year, the stretch of road near the Craig Road bridge likely faces similar challenges from the beaver dam under that bridge.

Is there something we can do to alleviate the problems for the long term?

Beavers are notoriously determined. If their dams are removed, they just rebuild them. If the beavers themselves are removed, others move in. One ingenious solution that seems to work in spots where a beaver dam really could cause serious problems, such as under the Gregg Lake Road bridge and possibly also the Craig Road bridge, is a flow device called a beaver box, or trademarked as a "Beaver Deceiver." The idea is to run pipes through the beaver dam of concern with cages that exclude beavers from each end. The beaver dams stay in place, the water can be kept at the desired level and the beavers can still live in their chosen pond. The Harris Center has installed several such devices, and highly recommends them. Other towns have used them as well to cut back on road, culvert and bridge repairs. Should we consider installing beaver boxes under both the Gregg Lake Road and the Craig Road bridges to maintain a lower water level?

Do we also need to consider keeping the lake water level lower in summer or winter or both? Would we face less erosion along the causeway if the water level was consistently lower? Was it better for the quality of the water when the lake water level was drawn father down in the winter, so the aquatic plants did not survive as well in the shallows? Is there a lower level that will keep the public beach the attractive summer town gathering spot that it is today? Or do we accept the fact that our lake is maturing with its increased shallows, and keep it as clean as possible under the current conditions?

We're still looking for the answers to these questions. ❁

Antrim Grange

Renee Mercier-Gerritsen, Grange Master

Antrim Grange is happy to announce that we have received some significant donations from individuals and local businesses lately.

In the last *Limrik*, Jane McLean had asked people to donate and said that she would match up to \$5000 if donations reached that before December 31st. She has acknowledged that we have exceeded that amount and her donation will be made in the future. After a meeting with Richard Verney of Monadnock Paper Mills, he has generously donated \$12,500 to the NH Grange Foundation in the name of the Antrim Grange Hall Restoration Fund. It came in the form of two donations in the amount of \$6500 each from Monadnock Paper Mills and the Gilbert Verney Foundation. He has also pledged the same amounts for next fall, making it a total donation of \$25,000. This will help us replace our leaking roof and continue on our foundation work. Thank you to Jane and Richard for helping us get rolling again.

We are humbled and grateful for the people and businesses of our community that have graciously given us the opportunity to restore that beautiful building on the hill in old Antrim Center.

We held a 50/50 raffle in October. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to support our cause! The winner was Justin Wright of Antrim. We are hoping to hold another 50/50 raffle in the spring.

Antrim Grange members have been busy. Many of us attended the annual NH State Grange Conference held in Keene. Sharon Stickney won a blue ribbon for her beautiful jacket that she sewed. It has now been sent on to National Grange to be displayed in November in Stowe, Vermont. Beth Merrill received 1st place in card making. No surprise there because they were perfect! They also are headed to Stowe, Vermont.

We are currently getting our annual submission for Festival of Trees ready. We are looking forward to the gnome theme this year.

Antrim Grange is hosting the community supper on December 20th at the First Presbyterian Church. Please join us for a Christmas in July meal!

If you are curious about Antrim Grange, the Restoration project, membership, or anything else you may want to know, please contact me via email at renee_mercier@yahoo.com or feel free to call me at 603-547-5144. Also, 'like' Antrim Grange on Facebook. We are currently working on getting our website up and running again so we will be posting upcoming public events there, too.

Antrim Grange is currently meeting at the Town Hall on first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend anytime. We always have an open door policy. Hope everyone has a blessed and safe holiday season with a prosperous and healthy new year. ❁

Tuttle Library News

Laurie Cass-Griggs, Cindy Jewett, Melissa Lawless and Ann Putnam

WINTER PROGRAMS

Ongoing	Library Services—Free to You!
Thursdays	Lego Club, 3:30 p.m.
Fridays	Storytime, 10 a.m.
December	Festival of Trees through the month
Dec. 8, Sat.	Author Hope Phillips reads “Christmas Eve Fun.” Storytime, milk and cookies in the Children’s Room, 11 a.m.
Dec. 24, Mon.	Closed—Christmas Eve
Dec. 25, Tue.	Closed—Christmas Day
January	Facebook/Instagram—Like and Check-In to Win!
January	After-School Movies Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 21, Mon.	Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
Jan. 24, Thu.	“Investment Strategies” with VALIC, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 9, Sat.	2 nd Annual Chili Cook-off. Drop-off 10 a.m. Tasting begins at 11 a.m. Make a Valentine card, Children’s Room
Feb. 18, Mon.	Closed—President’s Day
Feb. 28, Thu.	“Retirement Pathfinder” with VALIC, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 26–Mar. 2	Winter Break—Check our website for fun activities!

After-School Movies

The library now has a license to show movies! Come in on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. after school for a movie with popcorn throughout the winter months. Enjoy our new big screen television and meet up with friends.

Chili Cook-off

Do you make a mean chili? Join us for a chili cook-off February 9th! Bring in your yummiest or spiciest chili by 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9th, to be judged by our patrons. Tasting begins at 11 a.m. Who will win? Winner will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. Patrons—come in to taste and cast your vote!

Also on that day from 11–2 p.m., make a Valentine card for your loved one in the children’s room. Pam Berry from “Cards by Pam” joins us for a Valentine make and take. The supplies are free while they last!

Retirement Pathfinder with VALIC

Thursday, Feb. 28th at 6:30 p.m., we host VALIC Financial Advisors, Inc., to discuss “Retirement Pathfinder,” a program sponsored by VALIC. This program explores the cost of retirement, as well as options for claiming and maximizing Social Security benefits and how to bridge possible income gaps. There will be time at the end of the presentation for questions.

Winter Break

We have some fun projects planned to liven up this cold February, including movies, crafts and more. Check out our website for more details and announcements! www.jatuttlelibrary.org

Inclement Weather—In case of inclement weather, please check the library website or Facebook page to see about closings. You can also call the library at 588-6786. If we don’t answer during a storm, chances are we’re closed! Remember—the library is your place to get warm and cozy. Come sit in one of our comfortable chairs and read a book or magazine. We strive for a warm and friendly environment for you to relax in! ❁

Library Services—Free to you!

We bet you didn’t know all that your library has to offer—all free to you! Check it out!

- Genealogy Databases and Drop-In Genealogy
- Electronic Books—ask us how!
- Free Wi-Fi—check your email and more
- Comfortable reading chairs
- Printing Services including copying, scanning and faxing
- Museum Passes—Strawbery Banke, Boston Museum of Fine Art, Canterbury Shaker Village, and Currier Museum of Art
- Newly re-stocked children’s room. Check out all the new books in the newly configured children’s room.
- NYT Best Sellers books and new movies updated daily—save money and borrow from the library!

Festival of Trees

For the entire month of December, join the Antrim Festival of Trees as they host their 9th year of colorful, festive trees displayed in the library. The Festival continues throughout the month of December! Join us for the fun and festivities!

Children’s Book Author

Hope Phillips, Storytime with Milk and Cookies

Join us at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 8th, for storytime and milk and cookies. Local Children’s Book Author Hope Phillips reads from her newest illustrated book, “Christmas Eve Fun,” in the Children’s Room. This event is free to the public and copies of the book will be offered for sale. Cookies and milk will be served.

Facebook/Instagram Like and Check-In to Win!

Check-in and “like” the James A. Tuttle Library on Facebook or Instagram during the month of January to be entered to win a \$15 Gift Card to Amazon! Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/jatuttlelibrary.org/>. Winner will be announced in February.

Investment Strategies

On Thursday, Jan. 24th, at 6:30 p.m., we host VALIC Financial Advisors, Inc., to discuss investment strategies. Let VALIC help you prepare for your future by sharing helpful tips and practices to benefit you and your money. VALIC will share a 30-minute presentation with time at the end for questions.

I Am a Building of People...This is my history and my possible future...

Patty Grant

I have been The Presbyterian Church in this town of Antrim for a long time. My first service was held February 20, 1893. I have had such a wonderful social life, which has changed often through the years. I have provided a meeting place for many, many activities in a small, rural town. In the past they included town fairs (the Hospital Aide Fair); breakfasts (May breakfasts started in 1920); and suppers (Harvest Supper and Washington's Birthday Suppers started in 1921). These suppers would serve up to 300 people. Other activities included Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Youth Groups, Women's Club, Pre-School, AA, Lions Club, and of course, many, many weddings, funerals, and baptisms. The list goes on.

Right now, I have the Senior Center meeting here every morning of the week, and Meals on Wheels at lunch. The community suppers are the third Thursday of each month. The Historical Society has a monthly program. A school fair is starting to be held the weekend after Thanksgiving. The Revival Shop, a clothing consignment shop, is housed here and provides affordable clothing.

I know I have been an important building in this town. I have seen people come and go through my years in Antrim.

I have loved all. Many people have joined and left the church. Some have left because they moved out of town, some looking for a change, some through death. Leaving for a difference of opinion has been here since Antrim was first organized. No matter what the reason, they were all once inspired by me. It may have been the warm surreal feeling they got when they entered and saw my stained-glass windows, or heard the old pipe organ or the town clock ringing in my steeple.

Even though I have been an important part of this town, the membership of the church has been dwindling. In the last twenty years the Sunday School has dropped from over ninety kids to none at all. The few members that remain will keep me thriving as long as they are able, but they are few and aging. The repairs I need are more than the money received.

Someday, when the membership is no longer, the money has run out, and I stand empty, the deed of the property states that I will be dismantled. I will no longer stand tall in this town. Antrim will need to use another building for their fairs, their suppers, their weddings, their funerals, their worship, and their many, many different meetings. Will my stories continue in this town or will they end? ❁

Dry Firewood for 2019



We are sold out of **dry firewood** for this year but we have already been taking orders for delivery in fall of 2019. We sell out early so it is not too early to place an order for delivery next fall. We also have plenty of **maple syrup** from this year so give us a call at 603-588-3272

We only sell **dry** firewood because that is the best and safest way to burn it. **We will soon be working to produce firewood for next season!** Order today for fall 2019 delivery. Price: **\$260/cord delivered for 3 or more cords. \$270/cord for 1 or 2 cords.** Ask our customers—it is dry! **Call: 603-588-3272**

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Fungus Among Us: Antrim as Mushroom Paradise

George Caughey

To paraphrase Charles Dickens, 2018 was the worst of times and then the best of times—fungally speaking—but allow me to provide a bit of background before explaining further.

The fact that Antrim is mycologically blessed is not nearly as well-known as it could or should be. The same variety of soils, exposures, drainage conditions and habitats—our swamps, floodplains, pastures, shrubland, mature forest and mountain balds, which support a range of wildlife and a particularly rich mix of plants and trees—also enable growth of many different types of fungi. Like most living things, mushrooms and other varieties of fungi can be very particular about when and where they will grow. Many of the big fleshy mushrooms that are familiar to anyone who walks our woods grow in association with the roots of selected living trees. They are so-called mycorrhizal mushrooms, becoming intimately associated with and, in effect, extending the roots, and thereby helping the tree by improving access to nutrients. Almost all of our trees have mycorrhizal partners, and often more than one. Some of these partners, such as the lovely Painted Slipperycap (*Suillus spraguei*), associate with just one species of tree, in its case with Eastern White Pine, which explains why it is common here, but not, say, in Alabama. Another point to keep in mind about mycorrhizal mushrooms: most of them cannot be cultivated—not without planting a tree, anyway—and so if they are edible (and many are delicious!) they must be foraged in the wild. This provides one of the best excuses I know for getting out into the woods.

More than a thousand varieties of fungus with fruiting bodies (otherwise known as mushrooms) visible to the naked eye can be seen in southern New Hampshire—so many that try as you might you will never learn them all, and that challenge is part of their attraction. The woods and fields of Antrim are prime fungal territory. Of course, you are not

going to see every kind of mushroom every year. That will depend on conditions and luck, and some varieties are rarely encountered. Just because you don't see a particular mushroom doesn't mean it isn't there, for much of the year most types lurk largely unseen as mycelium—the white, stringy or cottony material you see inside a log or under a mat of leaves. Some years, if conditions are not right, the fungus, although very much alive, may opt not to send up spore-producing fruiting bodies at all, but just wait for better times. In 2018, by mid-summer, for many Antrim fungi, the time was right.

The late Spring and early Summer mushroom season started inauspiciously, with June and much of July being unseasonably dry, despite occasional torrential downpours—not great conditions for fruiting. Nonetheless, we did find our first Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) “west of the pond” on June 7th, just as the black flies were tapering off, the snapping turtles were laying their eggs by the Gregg Lake inlet, and haying was underway at Bass Farm. It provided the first wild-picked fungal feast of the season. Chicken of the Woods grows exuberantly in large overlapping plates directly on wood, looking (when fresh) like huge yellow and orange-banded chunks of candy corn. This fungus, growing enthusiastically on a different log, despite multiple frosts and a recent light snow, was collected fully 5 months later on November 7th and provided what is likely our last freshly foraged fungal meal of 2018. As it happens, Chicken of the Woods is one of three edible fungi common in Antrim and named after fowl, the others being Chicken Fat (*Suillus americanus*, under Eastern White Pine) and Hen of the Woods (*Grifola frondosa*, also known as Miyataki), which is a choice edible that fruited this fall in spectacular sizes (20-pound specimens!) under oak and beech. Deer mushroom (*Pluteus cervinus*) also was com-

—continued on page 18



A selection of mushrooms found in Antrim this year. From left, Coral Tooth (*Hericium americanum*), Russell's Bolete (*Boletellus russellii*), Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*), and Caesar's Amanita (*Amanita jacksonii*). Photos by George Caughey.

Avenue A

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON—HAMMERS, DRILLS, AND A PIANO!

Jacqueline Roland, Avenue A Coordinator

The busyness of summer rolled right into fall here at the Teen Center! Under the thoughtful leadership of **John Conklin** and **Glenn Stan**, we've begun a woodworking program for high school students. The group is hard at work creating shelving units for our side room. We can't wait to see the finished product!

Yoga is back at Avenue A! **Tanja Schmitt**, a local yoga instructor, teaches classes for us on Friday afternoons. Teens enjoy unwinding after school while learning stretching, breathing, and meditation techniques to care for their bodies.

Jam Nights moved to Thursday evenings this year—teens practice for Open Mics and collaborate on performances together. And, of course, we always manage to have a drum jam...Everyone grabs a djembe, tambourine or drum sticks, or stomps their foot to join in! Thanks to **Jess Gerrior**, piano music fills our Center; teens pause before writing club, yoga, and art workshops to play the piano Jess gave us!

Our Middle School Writers' Society is filled with novelists and poets. No doubt you'll see them in bookstores one day! Led by **Cynthia West**, our High School Writing Club enjoys visits from fabulous guests. Sy Montgomery, Nanette

Perrotte, and Adam Arnone from *Adam and the Flood*, visited us this season.

On Wednesdays our afterschool Club for middle schoolers bustles with activity—the Club is full this season with 30 kids! **Arlene Soule**, our awesome Ave A Club Coordinator, leads circle time discussions, giving students a voice in the Club's activities and operation!

Jeff Wilson continues to rock as our pick-up basketball volunteer! The boys enjoy playing ball in the gym on Wednesday nights. (Thanks to the Antrim Rec Department for giving us the space.)

Over 30 local teens received winter coats, hats, and clothes at our last Clothing Day. This was made possible by the generosity of over **25 local folks** who donated clothing for this event. This community goes above and beyond to support our teens!

Our lead Art Interns from New England College—**Alex, Anna, and Makoma**—taught self-portrait and watercolor workshops for us this fall. They're already busy creating plans for our Winter/Spring art programs!

 — continued on page 20



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Community Calendar

DECEMBER

- 1 & 2 *Lions Club Christmas Trees* • Tenney Farm • 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 1 *Public Auction of tax deeded property* • Antrim Town Hall • 10:00 a.m.
 8 & 9 *Lions Club Christmas Trees* • Tenney Farm • 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 8 *Storytime with local children's book author Hope Phillips* • Tuttle Library • 11:00 a.m.
 15 & 16 *Lions Club Christmas Trees* • Tenney Farm • 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 15 *Festival of Trees Gala & Meet the Artist Night* • Tuttle Library • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 16 *Free Pancake Breakfast* • Antrim Baptist Church • 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Pageant during worship service • Antrim Baptist Church • 10:30 a.m.
 19 *Festival of Trees Ringing in the Holiday* • Hancock Bell Ringers concert • Tuttle Library • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 20 *Eclectic Book Club* • Antrim Area Senior Center • First Presbyterian Church • 11:00 a.m.
 20 *Free Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
 22 & 23 *Lions Club Christmas Trees* • Tenney Farm • 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 23 *Christmas Pageant* • First Presbyterian Church • 10:30 a.m.
 24 *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service* • Antrim Baptist Church • 7:00 p.m.
 24 *Christmas Eve service* • First Presbyterian Church • 7:00 p.m.



JANUARY

- 17 *Free Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
 20 *Free Pancake Breakfast* • Antrim Baptist Church • 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
 24 *Investment Strategies with VALIC Financial Advisors* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 9 *Second Annual Chili Cook-off* • Tuttle Library • Drop off: 10:00 a.m. Tasting: 11:00 a.m.
Make a Valentine with Pam Berry of "Cards by Pam" • Tuttle Library • 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 20 *Free Pancake Breakfast* • Antrim Baptist Church • 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
 21 *Free Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
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mon in Antrim's late Spring, but not much else apart from overwintering, wood-rotting perennials like Tinder Fungus *Fomes fomentarius*, which has been in the news because it was carried in a fire-starting kit by Ötzi, the 5300-year old Tyrolean Iceman found frozen in the Alps).

By July 1st, perhaps our biggest fungal fruiting body, of Berkeley's polypore (*Bondarzewia berkeleyi*), began to push up at the base of Red Oaks. Many Antrimites surely have marveled at this exuberant tan-yellow fungus, which can reach the size of a Great Brook student, only to die back completely in the Fall. Reliably, it will return next year, in the same place, and unfortunately may hasten the demise of the tree it grows under and infects.

There is neither sufficient time nor enough ink to discuss each of the hundred-plus species of fungi encountered this year in Antrim's woods, especially after the steady rains began to arrive in later July. Suffice it to say that they ran the gamut, from elegant (such as the Coral Tooth *Hericium*, growing out of cavities excavated by Pileated Woodpeckers) to bizarre (such as the Lobster *Hypomyces*, a fungus attacking a fungus), from fragrant (such as Chanterelles) to malodorous (notably, Stinkhorns, which emit the odor of carrion to attract spore-dispersing flies), delectable (such as porcini) to deadly (the white Destroying Angel *Amanita bisporigera*). Instead of the usual dominance of mushrooms with gills, there were an unusual abundance of mushrooms with teeth (especially the tasty Hedgehogs *Hydnum repandum* and *H. umbilicatum*) and fungi with pores (for example, Boletes).

Our lovely red and yellow Bicolor Boletes had a banner year, as did one of my nominees for Antrim's most attractive mushroom, Caesar's Amanita (*Amanita jacksonii*). Another mycorrhizal Amanita species, the Blusher (*Amanita rubescens*), was among the first large fleshy terrestrial fungi to appear after the rains in later July, in uncharacteristic abundance. My other nominee for Antrim's most attractive mushroom, the reclusive and rather uncommon Russell's Bolete (*Boletellus russellii*), graced us with special appearances.



Berkeley's Polypore (*Bondarzewia berkeleyi*) and Milo.
Photo by George Caughey.

We were additionally grateful for encounters with several types of prized Yellow Chanterelles (great with green beans or eggs), and also of porcini (King Bolete, *Boletus edulis*), which among the many mushrooms eaten by Italian peoples, are perhaps their favorite. Last and certainly not least, it was a huge year for trumpets/Black Chanterelles, which we plucked and heaped in piles from mid-August to late October, for routing to our dehydrator and ultimately to winter-time pizzas and pasta sauces.

Yes, it was a big and exceptional year, with notable fruitings of multiple edible and esthetically commendable fungi—altogether the stuff of legend. Some day when I am an old geezer (okay, my sister says that I am one already) sitting around the stove with younger, spryer pickers, reliving hunts of yesteryear, I'll be able to say: "You think this is a good mushroom year? Why, you should have seen 2018!" ❁

Thank you ...

to Richard Verney, owner of the Monadnock Paper Mills, for his generous donation of the paper on which the *Limrik* is printed.



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Nov. 24, 2018 through Jan. 2, 2019

Schedule of Events 2018

Open House

Sat. Nov. 24 10-4

Entertainment by Ray Sweeney, Bob Baker and the Carolosome Caughey's.

Community Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa

Sat. Nov. 24 4:00

Carolers lead families' in song on the front lawn until Santa arrives to light the tree and visit with each child. Treats, cookies by the Antrim Grange and photo-ops!

Festival Gala and Meet-the-Artist Night

Sat. Dec. 15 6-8 pm

Entertainment by Jibe Man Co., Favorites Award winners announced.

Ringin' in the Holidays

Wed. Dec. 19 6-8 pm

Entertainment by the Hancock Bell Ringers under the direction of Sarah Hale.

Quilt and Handcraft Display by community members and Monadnock Quilt Guild. Scavenger hunt, Quilt Raffle, Music, refreshments. Voting for Favorites. Free admission

All events held at the James A. Tuttle Library, 45 Main St., Antrim 03440

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High School Writing Club | 9th–12th graders | Tuesdays 6–8 p.m.

Avenue A Afterschool Club for Middle Schoolers* | Wednesdays 2:15–4:15 p.m.

Pick-Up Basketball | Guys in 8th grade and up | Wednesdays 7–8 p.m.

Woodworking* | 9th–12th graders | Thursdays 3–5 p.m.

Art at the Avenue* | 5th grade and up | Monthly on Thursdays 6–7:30 p.m.

Jam Time | 8th grade and up | Monthly on Thursdays 6–8 p.m.

Open Hours | Ages 13–18 | Fridays 6:30–9 p.m.

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Teens having a drum jam at the November Jam Night at Avenue A.
Photo by Jacqueline Roland.

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Me and Julio

William Bryk

I've been learning to ride since February 2017, working with Dorothy Crosby (<https://crosbyequi-librium.com/>) and Julio, one of her horses. A few months ago, one of Dorothy's interns told me, "You're not an inexperienced rider."

I agreed. Riding Julio has been an experience. He has stepped on my foot, walked backward when I was commanding him to go forward, and once so frustrated me while I was trying to turn him that I leaned over, lost my balance, fell from the saddle, and, as the British say, had the ground come up to meet me.

The winter of 2017–18 was unfavorable for riding. Snowstorms, wind, ice, and bitter cold are good for neither horse nor rider. So for some weeks I groomed Julio, put his blanket on him, and led him to his stall. On such days I spent my hour using yoga balls to simulate riding and overcome some of my physical faults as a rider. This involved much stretching of muscles. On the ball, my legs have to hold me up while I stretch; on the horse, he holds me up. It was sometimes uncomfortable. Yet, as the Jesuits taught me at Fordham, if one desires the end, one must desire the means.

By the calendar, winter ended in March. But New Hampshire has five seasons: April marked the fifth, mud season. Perhaps the season's progress was measured by my riding boots. In the second week of April, I sank into four inches of mud while going to the paddock to catch Julio. In the third week, five inches. In the last week, six inches. I thought the mud might suck the boots from my feet. Shades of the Western Front, 1916.

The mud? It's a function of rain, melting snow, and four horses congregating outside the stable door. That's over two tons of horse churning the ground. From their point of view, food and friends may be in the stable. Mud season must make an enormous contribution to the profits of saddle soap, mink oil, and boot polish makers.

After stepping from the stable into the mud in late April, I saw Julio. He gazed at me as I approached. He did not walk away as usual. He advanced and nuzzled the lower right

pocket of my denim jacket, where I keep the carrots. I let him nip one from my hand. Then I slipped the bridle and lead rope over his head. I gave him another carrot as a reward and then turned toward the barn. He did not follow. He gazed at the pocket instead. This went on for some time. I recalled the old description of an honest politician as one who, once bought, stayed bought. Julio wouldn't stay bought.

Finally, Dorothy, who had been cleaning manure from the paddock, strode over and belted him on the hindquarters with the manure rake. He began moving and so we got to the grooming. I closed the stable door to about six inches. Toby, another of Dorothy's horses, a tall, fine-boned thoroughbred, has a small head and shoved it through the gap. He too knows that the tall man in the denim jacket usually has carrots on him. I gave him some, too.

My wife, Mimi, had given me *Horse Speak*, a book about communicating with horses by adopting some of their means of conversation. One thing I grasped from it was the importance of sniffing.

Julio dislikes having his face groomed. As it has to be done, I was pulling a wire comb through his forelock. He raised his muzzle into my face and gently shoved my head back an inch or so. I sensed an objection. With his distended nostrils within an inch of my eyes, he began sniffing and exhaling heavily. So I raised my head and sniffed and exhaled back. Imitating adults, after all, is how children learn to speak. After our third exchange of breaths, he lowered his muzzle and let me finish the work.

I've grasped some of Dorothy's teachings about steering the horse. Julio was much more cooperative than he'd been before. I spent much more time looking down the road at my goal than at my horse's neck. I primarily direct Julio through my legs, although minor shifts in weight and manipulation of the reins also come into play. It requires developing muscle memory: acting by force of habit rather than reasoning. Someone once defined a cavalryman as "A

— continued on page 22

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valiant fellow with intelligence slightly greater than that of his horse.” Perhaps the truth underlying that quip is found in Nietzsche: there are some things that the rider must know in the blood, by instinct and muscle memory rather than conscious thought.

Of course, progress with Julio is a matter of two steps forward, one step back. During the next lesson, while we were walking, he suddenly stopped. Squeeze, boot, tap-tap-tap: all instructions to go forward. Nothing. Then he began, quite gracefully, to walk backwards. I kept on squeezing, booting, and tapping. Dorothy shouted me an instruction. I took the reins into my left hand, shifted my hold on the crop with my right, turned in the saddle, and belted him hard twice on the rump. Perhaps this was akin to the old story about the Missouri mule. You had to hit him in the head with a two-by-four to get his attention.

Julio began walking forward again, and then we trotted.

A week or so later, Dorothy asked me to mount without first placing my left foot in its stirrup. This was a first step toward mounting from the ground, without a mounting block. I stood on the mounting block and tried to throw my right leg over Julio’s back. I was too stiff to do it. More stretching exercises ensued. I have to be able to mount from the ground if I ever have to dismount away from a mounting block.

The ring was still muddy (mud season having just ended, the ground had not yet dried), so we went up and down a dirt road on her property. We spent a lot of time at the trot that day. I’m able to turn him within his own axis. Now I’ve to learn how to maneuver a horse precisely, in tight squares with sharp corners.

A week later, Dorothy knotted the reins so they would not fall from Julio’s neck. Then I took him to the trot without holding the reins, my fists punching the air in rhythm with my posting, and steering by pressing my legs to his sides. It’s classic cavalry training. I found it intensely satisfying.

Dorothy told me that she was lending Julio to a friend who runs a Vermont stable specializing in therapy horses for emotionally troubled children. According to Julio’s dentist, the horse’s teeth show that he’s closer to 30 than 20, which makes him pretty old for a working horse. He’s also unhappy with being ridden by aspiring horsemen. But he’s trained as a therapy horse, loves children, and they love him. I’ve watched him follow them from the barn without difficulty and provide them a safe, gentle ride. One child observed, “He’s just like riding a sofa.” He’ll be an excellent therapy horse.

As Dorothy spoke, I was grooming Julio. I paused to listen. When she’d finished, I replied, quietly, “I’m very fond of him. I want him to be happy.” She replied, “I know that.”

So in mid-July, after Julio’s departure for Vermont, I would begin working with Toby. That is his barn name. He

is 15.2 hands, taller than Julio; a registered thoroughbred born in 1994, by Vicksburg out of Noble Dream Maker. Hence Toby’s formal name in the Jockey Club Registry, derived from those of his parents: Noble Victory.

Magnificent, I thought, and smiled.

What have I learned from Dorothy and Julio?

Dorothy patiently taught a poorly coordinated man in his early sixties the basic elements of riding. She showed profound insight into my capacities, both intellectual and physical. She advanced me toward new challenges when I was ready for them. She guided me from ignorance to marginal competence. I learned that learning to ride is a process of growth, and riding itself is a way of life, not a goal to be checked off on a list.

When I began writing about my experiences on horseback, I quoted a British cavalryman that, with infinite patience, one can master any horse. The Englishman was half right. With infinite patience, one can learn to *work* with any horse. Riding is a collaboration based on mutual understanding, which requires the rider to clearly communicate his wishes to the horse. If he can do that, the horse will gladly comply.

 — continued on page 24

Happy Holidays!

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Antrim-Bennington Lions Club

Steve Ullman, 2nd Vice-President

The Antrim-Bennington Lions had a very active September. On Thursday, September 13th, we participated in the Antrim Elementary School open house where we invited parents to join our club.

For the first time in Home and Harvest history, there was a Friday night happening under the lights at Antrim's Shea Field on September 14th. This gathering featured Nerf Capture-the-Flag contests and lightsaber duels. Over 400 people of all ages attended this very successful inaugural event. The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club, with the assistance of the Great Brook School girls' field hockey team, provided participants with fresh popcorn, pizza and, most importantly, water. (The evening turned out to be unseasonably warm.) We look forward to expanding our participation next year.

And then on Saturday night, the 15th, the Lions hosted the annual pre-fireworks Home and Harvest Barbecue. Under the expert leadership of John Robertson, we AB Lions dispensed delectable chicken and other fare to more than 500 foodies at Tenney Farm. Among the numerous Lions serving Antrim's gastronomes was Bob Edwards, particularly unforgettable and resplendent in his eye-catching chicken hat. This annual barbecue is a major fundraiser supporting our service projects. We thank all of you who contributed.

Perhaps the most valuable of our endeavors is our vision screening program. This program detects eyesight challenges early in children's lives and is, therefore, invaluable. During late September and early October, the AB Lions tested 569 children; 528 passed, and the remainder were recommended for additional checkups. We worked in the towns of Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown, Greenfield, and Hancock, as well as at The Grapevine and Great Brook Middle School. We are most grateful to Lion John Conklin who masterfully guides our team effort.

For the fourth time, we Lions presided over three "Candidates' Nights" involving local candidates for the New Hampshire State House and Senate. These programs have proven to be both civil and illuminating.

Members of the AB Lions also took part in a Christmas Card Challenge, an effort to cheer up our servicemen and servicewomen overseas during the holidays.

Club members have also assisted The Grapevine whenever possible, most recently putting a dent in their community woodpile stock and making plans for interior painting.

Linda Ward has assumed local leadership of the Lions Club International Fund, an entity that sustains charitable endeavors around the world. We are grateful to Linda for taking on this important responsibility.

As you are reading this article in early December, please remember that you can purchase your Christmas tree at Tenney Farm. After Thanksgiving, Lions will be selling trees Saturdays and Sundays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. while sup-

plies last and weather permits. Proceeds are donated to Operation Santa, the initiative that furnishes gifts for economically disadvantaged children.

If you would like to contribute a gift directly to a needy child, pick up a donation card containing information about a recipient's gender and age at the Bank of New Hampshire, Trends of Fashion, and Tuttle Library. You then should return an unwrapped present to the Bank of New Hampshire by the end of the first week of December.

Thanks to Marcia Ullman, Cheryl Riley and Rick Wood for their assistance with this piece. ❄

Antrim Eagles Soar! A-E-S!

Chris Stultz, AES Library Media Specialist

Antrim Elementary School's students, staff, and community families continue to work hard to instill core values of honesty, respect, cooperation, kindness, and the newest core value—GRIT!

Grit is a universal goal; it can be considered an academic goal or a goal based on perseverance, bravery, determination, or spirit. Students at AES work constantly to fine-tune their roles in showing grit!

Within the walls and throughout the halls of Antrim Elementary School, students are recognized on a consistent basis for their ability to demonstrate not only grit, but the other four core values, as well.

The eagle mascot for AES was chosen for its beauty and its representation of these core values.

Kindness—Did you know no other member of the bird family is as gentle and attentive to its young? An eagle mother has been known to carry its young on her back as it learns to fly!

Cooperation—Did you know male and female eagles work together to build their nests? The largest eagle nest ever found weighed more than 6,000 pounds!

Grit—Did you know an eagle will fly directly into a storm while other birds find shelter? An eagle will use the wind from the storm to fly even higher!

"Setting the hook" in elementary school is vital in preparing a young child for a successful role with their own educa-

 — continued on page 24



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As for Julio, I knew from day one that his intelligence was different from mine, but in no way inferior. Perhaps what humans dismiss as instinct in animals is, in fact, a highly developed hereditary common sense. And, while I have never anthromorphized Julio, I sometimes sensed what in humans one might call a dry sense of humor.

Our adventures explored my temperament and character, too. I'm a natural barn rat, gladly willing to do the necessary maintenance: grooming the horse for his health and comfort; collecting the hair, manure, and urine from the floor; sweeping the barn; and cleaning the tack.

My patience with Julio was almost inexhaustible, far greater than it is with some people. Admittedly he occasionally inspired vulgarities, including *sukinsyn*, the Polish canine epithet I picked up in childhood from my father during an unguarded moment. To a Pole, it's a left-handed compliment suggesting the object of the insult is a really tough guy.

I often laughed at Julio's misbehavior, even while pressing his side, shortening the reins, and pulling his muzzle nearly to my knee as I fought to make him turn in the direction I'd chosen. He always had my respect; his independence of mind and spirit inspired affection.

On July 3, the day of my last lesson with Julio, the weather was 91 degrees and humid. I agreed with Dorothy that riding him in such weather would be cruel. Instead, we walked together. I kept in step (left-right, left-right) and guided him in a zigzag pattern, not by touch or pressure, but by shifting my focus—my eyes, face, and navel—toward my goal. He responded easily.

The horseflies were harsh. Julio used me several times as a scratching post. He once slammed my head with his muzzle. This made me grateful to the people at Tipperary Equestrian who had made my riding helmet.

I groomed and shampooed him, rinsed him with a hose, scraped off the excess water, and put on his fly mask. I led him out and removed his halter. He fell to the ground within seconds and rolled around in the dirt. So much for the shampoo.

After cleaning and sweeping the barn, I walked outside. Julio was about 200 yards away, grazing in a far corner of the field. I went to him. He turned to me. I said "Hi there! Want a carrot?" He stepped forward and lipped it from my hand. I gave him four more, one at a time. I stroked his neck, saying "Thank you for everything. Take care of yourself. Goodbye." Then I turned and, without looking back, went back to the stable. ✨

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tion. At AES, a number of things are done to "set the hook" so GBS and CVHS can "reel them in."

Unified Arts, sometimes known as "specials" is just one example. Students at AES, and throughout the entire ConVal School District, participate in Art, PE/Health, Music, and Library Skills. For many students these "specials" are an opportunity to explore their creative side. Research shows specific portions of the brain work better in unison, while being creative and eliminating the feeling of judgement. One often overlooked creative outlet is writing. At AES, along with formative writing, students are encouraged to write creatively without judgement.

One such opportunity is story pirate writing. In simple terms, a theme is randomly chosen during a school-wide assembly, and students write their stories and turn them in by placing them in a treasure chest. The AES story pirates choose a story while pillaging and plundering from other stories, rewrite the story, and act out the story in a school-wide dramatic presentation.

The wonderful things happening at AES are plentiful and should be on display. From an outstanding PTO to amazing teachers, staff, students and families, AES is where Antrim Eagles Soar! ✨



An AES student crosses a bridge designed to be like the bridge in Memorial Park. Photo provided by Stephanie Syre-Hager, AES Principal.

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Universal Design—Aging In Place and More

Joan Gorga

Several times recently I've watched visitors stop at the bottom of our beautiful new granite steps, look up, take a deep breath and brace themselves to walk up the stairs. I can almost hear them saying, "I think I can! I think I can!" Only a few years ago, after a back injury, I was saying the same thing. I should point out that, in spite of good intentions, we still haven't installed railings on the steps.

Luckily for me my injury was only temporary, but many people live with long-term challenges that make them acutely aware of obstacles that complicate their everyday life—and not just aging senior citizens, as Certified Aging In Place Specialist (CAPS) Jane Butler of Butler Restorations in Bennington kindly explained to me. There is a growing need for accommodation for all ages. People are surviving injuries that once would have been fatal, and want to live active and independent lives. So, the better term to use to describe changes that can be made to a home or other building to make it more livable to all is "universal design."

Jane's husband, Mike, has worked in the construction and remodeling business for forty years. Jane began working with him twenty-five years ago, and three years ago took an intensive CAPS training course in which she learned what to consider when people come seeking help in renovating or building a home to suit their specific needs.

Jane said she often starts by asking someone to analyze what they find challenging throughout the course of their day. Are the stairs dark? Is there a threshold that's difficult to get over? Is the bathtub slippery? Do they have trouble reaching the stovetop? If someone has complicated issues or perhaps has had a stroke, for example, Jane might meet with a health care professional or family member—anyone who might have insight into the person's needs—but she stresses that it is important to look at the remodeling from the client's perspective.

What can be done to make the house more livable? What's easiest (and least expensive) to change? People often do not

have large sums of money available for remodeling. Do the changes need to be permanent or can they be temporary? Another consideration is that a home is generally less appealing on the market if it has lots of specific modifications, so it tends to be better to carefully consider a client's needs and not do more than is necessary.

How mobile is the person? Can they walk with help, even if only a few steps? If so, the approach to the house might be able to be changed or regraded to allow entry without building a ramp, which requires no more than a 1" incline per foot, as well as an exterior railing and a firmly-mounted hand rail that you can really get a grip on. Sometimes entry can be rerouted through the garage or a back door to allow a gentle approach with only a shallow step or two.

As far as the bathroom, Jane says many things have come on the market in the last ten to twenty years that are modern-looking, safe and accessible and do not make it look like a "handicapped" bathroom. "Comfort" toilets, for instance, are a few inches higher than standard toilets and allow someone to get up much more easily. Looking ahead, we installed one of those a few years ago when we redid our master bathroom. Easy-access bathtubs and showers can look very nice, too, and a shower that accommodates a wheelchair can be built with a slight incline to allow the water to drain away.

In the kitchen, Jane asks if everything needs to be within arm's reach or if there is a need to roll a chair up to the sink. She nearly always suggests using drawers rather than cabinets for the base to make everything easier to reach, even though drawers are more expensive. It is possible to install upper cabinets with pulldowns, but they tend to be quite costly. It generally makes more sense to make kitchen supplies accessible in drawers.

Lighting can also be an issue for independent living. As we age we tend to need more light for reading and performing other tasks. We also need to be able to see well on stair-

 — continued on page 26



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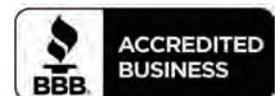
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Festival of Trees 2018

GNOMES AND NUTCRACKERS



Photo by Frank Gorga

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Universal Design continued from page 25

ways and in hallways. Task lights can be installed under cabinets to provide extra light at the countertop. Extra lighting can be installed in a hall, and lights can even be installed on the riser for each step to make climbing stairs safer, especially if someone needs to get up at night.

For those with arthritis or other challenges to using their hands, round doorknobs can be hard to grip. You may notice that lever handles are now found in many public areas. They are a universal design concept that can be attractive and stylish and don't look like they belong in a hospital. They can be used throughout a house to ease door opening. Think how much easier it is to be able to use your elbow when your hands are full.

For turning lights on and off, larger rocker-style light switches can be easier to use than toggle light switches, and can be placed at a height where someone in a chair can reach them. Remotes can be used for fans and lights.

There are many ways a home can be made more livable for those faced with physical challenges. I want to "age in place" for as long as I can here in Antrim's backwoods. I also like to have friends (and sometimes even family) feel comfortable about dropping in to visit. Most of them ignore the doormat that says, "Oh no! Not you again!," anyway. So, I guess it's time to get serious about building that railing up the front steps... ❁

Eclectic Book Club

Steve Ullman, Coordinator

Sponsored by the Antrim Area Senior Center



The Eclectic Book Club will meet Thursday, December 20th between 11 a.m. and noon at the First Presbyterian Church. We will be discussing Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. We then go on vacation until April. ❁

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Where in Antrim?

Quite a few folks recognized the back door at the Tenney Farm in the September *Limrik*. Stacey Fitzgerald was the winner of the \$25 gift certificate to Tenney Farm. Other correct responses came from Ruth Benedict, Laurie Cass-Griggs, Trish Fletcher, Dawne Hugron, George Davison and Rick Sudsbury. Thank you all!

The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Edmunds Ace Hardware. Send your response by email to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 588-2569.

Submissions for "Where in Antrim" photos are welcome. Please send to editor@antrimlimrik.org.

Photo by Frank Gorga ❁



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A Holiday Story About Love

Diane Yeo

Softly falling snow, hot mulled cider, turkey with all the fixings, Christmas trees, Hanukkah traditions, warm fires blazing on the hearth, and that Currier and Ives quintessential feeling are warm reminders of family traditions. The holiday season is typically a time when families get together to give thanks and celebrate.

In New Hampshire, there are more than 12,000 children living in grandparent-headed households. Over 6,700 grandparents reported that they were responsible for their grandchildren who were living with them. There are over 2,300 children living in households headed by other relatives. Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in New Hampshire, more than 4,000 are living there without either parent present. These grandparents and relatives have stepped forward to care for these children because their parents were either unable or unwilling to raise them.

The number of grandparents in New Hampshire who have become full-time guardians has progressively increased because of the surge of opioid-related deaths and other causes such as mental health, substance abuse, parental incarceration, suicide and various other medical conditions. Grandparents often assume the role of parent to keep their family together and to keep their grandchildren out of the foster care system.

The babies, children and youth who enter a grandparent's care have often had adverse experiences, which places them at a higher risk for behavior- and health-related issues. Placing children with grandparents provides stability, support, safety, family, and unconditional love, which provides protective factors to promote resiliency and healing.

Grandparents face many challenges.

Like most grandparents, we love our own children very much. A parent wants their child to have a wonderful life and has hopes and dreams for their child's future. When your child, the baby you once held, the laughing toddler, the loving person, becomes addicted to drugs it feels like a death...the death of that dream you once held for your precious child. We also, as parents, often have feelings of guilt. "What did I do wrong?" "What else could I have done?" We are in constant fear that we will get a call that our child has overdosed, and we feel helpless. We have no control over this dreadful disease.

We are thrust into the role of "parent" suddenly when we step up to take care of our grandchildren and may be faced with the challenges of the children, many of whom have experienced significant trauma. Finding the time, energy and resources to attend to our own health can also be compromised by stress-related conditions from taking on this role.

Many grandparents are still in the workforce and saving for retirement, which may now have to be slotted for childcare and education. There may be a strain on our relationships with family and partners due to this untraditional role. Some grandparents are retired and looking forward to their golden years and now find they have challenges meeting the material needs of the children without extra income. Many must tap into savings or retirement to pay for legal expenses to protect their grandchildren in the court system.

Then there is stigma... judgement.

When a parent has an adult child with an illness, such as cancer, people flock and step up to help in any way they can. But when a parent has an adult child who has a diagnosis of substance use disorder, people disappear, they whisper, they judge. Substance use disorder is a real, defined, medical diagnosis. There is a physiological difference in the brain of someone battling this illness, as well as a behavioral health component. We are losing a generation to this dreadful disease.

So, it is now holiday time...sleigh bells, winter walks, hot soup, family gatherings.

We should also reflect on the wonderful success stories of children who return to their parents after their parents have worked very hard to treat their illness; stories of grandparents who have happily and eagerly adopted their grandchildren and stories of those who have found the support and resources they need to continue to care for their grandchildren. Some of us are rebuilding our lives after doing the honorable, loving and compassionate act of stepping up to give emotional support to our adult children and to care for our grandchildren when they needed us.

This holiday story is about love, family and giving.

Diane Yeo is a member of the HOPE Initiative and the Grandfamilies Advisory Counsel, a sitting member of the NH State Commission to Study Grandfamilies Affected by the Opioid Situation, the Telehealth & IDN Integration Specialist at Crotched Mountain Community Care, a member of the National Ski Patrol and Crotched Mountain Ski Patrol and a loving and proud Mother and Grandmother. Statistics used in this article are from: www.DHHS.nh.gov and www.grandfactsheets.org.



Antrim H.O.P.E. Initiative
Health-Opportunity-Prevention-Education
For Substance Misuse Awareness and Prevention
Supported by The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center

Editor's note: The Grapevine offers the ongoing support program "Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren." ❄

The Geezer

Anonymous

We pulled into the campground well after dark, after a long day on the road in the rain. It was Columbus Day weekend and the place was obviously packed, even though it had been raining for days. The campground host came out with a flashlight to greet us and started to say they were full. Then he glanced over at our tiny camper and said he thought maybe we could squeeze into one little available spot. He warned us it was muddy and crowded and would be like camping on the infield at a car race. We were happy to be offered anything and followed his golf cart as he led us off into the mist.

Twisting and turning past a pond, over a bridge and through cabins, tents and campers of all shapes and sizes, the host led us to our spot and pointed with his flashlight to a narrow slot between someone else's canopy and a fire pit. He suggested we not hit either one as we backed in. We looked at each other and proposed instead that we just pull in forward and face the music in the morning.

We quickly set the camper up, put on our headlamps and sloshed off on foot toward the bathrooms. I had my heart set on a warm relaxing shower (It was free!), while my husband just wanted to get ready for bed. When I emerged from the women's room it took me a few seconds to get oriented in the fog that had moved in. Eventually, I recognized the decorative lights on a few campers we had walked past and headed in that direction, found the correct two left turns and arrived at our dark little nook—too dark, it occurred to me as I approached. I had a sinking feeling my husband hadn't found his way back by himself. He'll try to argue that he doesn't have a bad sense of direction, but...

I turned our camper lights on inside and out so he might spot it if he got close, and went off in search. With my headlamp on, I walked back to the bathrooms, in case he had found his way back there, and ran into a couple in a golf cart. They said they had seen an old guy with a white beard roaming around and had offered to help, but when asked what site he was camping in, he had said, "My wife would know that, but I don't." Since there were 129 soggy, foggy sites to choose from, they had left him to his wandering. I identified our campsite (He was right about that!), and they drove off in search as well, while I walked up and down row after row. As it was quite late, most people had settled in for the night, but occasionally someone would say yes, they had seen the guy with the white beard. "He went that way." Or, "He went THAT way."

At first I wasn't too concerned, but after some time I did begin to worry that he had fallen into the pond or had wandered on over the bridge into the other section of the campground. Surely he would remember that we hadn't crossed

the bridge to get to the bathrooms? I was hoping he hadn't changed into his pajamas first...

Eventually, I ran into the couple in the golf cart again near our campsite. As the three of us were joking about the hazards of getting old, guess who came meandering along? He explained that when he realized he had no idea either where he was or where we were camped, he had gone over the bridge all the way to the campground entrance to find a map, and was attempting to follow that back. He tried to tell the couple in the golf cart he doesn't have a bad sense of direction, but he did admit that if he had to get up in the middle of the night, he was going to look for the nearest tree.

In the morning, after a careful analysis of the parking situation, we squeezed car and camper between a couple of trees and drove out the camping spot on the other side with no trouble. Still, I think a certain old guy with a white beard has now fully earned his "Geezer" stripes. ❁

Salvation Army in Antrim

Dawne Hugron

I would to thank Frank Scales for his years of dedication serving as the Salvation Army Representative for Antrim. Frank asked me last year if I would consider taking the role of the representative for The Salvation Army here in town, as he wanted to retire his role. I have accepted the position. Ted Brown has been a very dedicated volunteer for years with our "Red Kettle" Campaign at Christmas. Ted and I have discussed placing our Red Kettle in a few other areas here in town to allow folks to have the opportunity to donate. This is the only time we ask our town folks to think about donating funds to our program. These funds are used only here in Antrim. Our Kettle fund-raising efforts helps us to provide services to families in need throughout the year.

I would like to thank The Bank of New Hampshire and Rick and Diane's Pizzeria for allowing us to place our Red Kettle inside their businesses. As is traditional, we will continue to have our Kettle outside at Edmunds Hardware Store. A couple of weeks before Christmas is the usual time we begin our fundraising.

A bit of history: The Salvation Army was established in London in 1865. We have been helping people here in the U.S. with social service needs for 138 years. Ted and I would like to thank you in advance for your support this Christmas season. ❁

The *Limrik* is privately published for, by, and about the people of Antrim. It does not receive any town funds and is entirely supported by subscriptions and advertising revenue.

The Grapevine

Melissa Gallagher, Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As 2018 draws to a close, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for. Our thanks to all who donated and participated in our 2018 Online Auction in November. We are able to provide our many programs and resources because of local, individual support. As always, we truly value your feedback. Please email me directly with your thoughts and ideas at melissag@grapevინeh.org. And if you haven't already, please consider supporting us this holiday season with a financial contribution. Thank you for your continued support!

TWO VERY SPECIAL THANK YOUs:

We bid a bittersweet farewell to our beloved Board of Directors Chairperson, **Marcia Ullman** of Antrim. Marcia joined The Grapevine board in 2013, soon took on the role of Vice-Chair and assumed the role of Chair in 2015. Marcia has been a dedicated, passionate leader of our Board and provided invaluable leadership, especially during a time of transition at The Grapevine. Marcia's love for the organization is clear from the moment you meet her. She doesn't miss an opportunity to talk about The Grapevine and how proud she is of its staff and programs. We will truly miss her in this role, but we are grateful for her continued leadership in the community including as Chair of the HOPE Initiative and as a member of the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club. Thank you, Marcia, for all the ways you have supported our community and the Grapevine!

To **Bantam Grill** of Peterborough. For the fourth year in a row, Bantam has hosted the Beast Master's Classic dinner, with 100 percent of the proceeds to benefit The Grapevine. Owner Harris Welden and his entire staff—especially Russell Novotny and Morgan Jadis, worked for many months to prepare for this October event, which raised **\$8,000!** We are incredibly grateful and honored to receive this gift. Special thanks also to **Vinilandia Wines** and musicians **Brad Faucher and Jeff Costello** for their contributions to this event.

WELCOME

Please join us in welcoming two staff members to the Grapevine! Over the summer, **Sarah Beaumont** accepted a role in administrative support in addition to her current position in our Before & After School Club. In October, **Danielle Grandmaison** joined as a staff member of our Learning Vine Preschool and Before & After School Club. Each of these women has been a wonderful addition to our team and we are very fortunate to have them!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Free Tax Preparation

IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Monday afternoons

by appointment from January 21–April 15. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now to schedule your appointment as slots fill quickly.

ONGOING PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES

Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren

If you are parenting your grandchildren, you are not alone. "Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren" meets monthly and is free. Grapevine parenting educator Carol Lunan and River Center parenting educator Wendy Hill co-facilitate discussions on topics of interest to participants. Recent discussions have focused on advocacy, legal issues, supporting children who have experienced trauma and speaking on behalf of all children. Call 588–2620 and ask for Carol for more information.

Weekly Child & Parent Programs

The Grapevine welcomes all children from birth to 5 years of age and their parents to our weekly children's programs.

- Better Beginnings playgroups and parent groups: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30–11:30.
- The Learning Vine parent co-op preschool: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9–11:30, for children 3 to 5 years old—call for details.
- Better Beginnings for Babies: Parents and their little ones meet on Wednesdays, 10–11:30. Expectant parents are always welcome.
- Better Beginnings Playgroups in Hillsborough (at the Dubben House on Main Street): Tuesdays, 1–2:30 and Fridays, 10–11:30.

Please call Carol at 588–2620 to sign up for programs or for more information.

Community Wood Bank is open and we need WOOD!

The purpose of our community wood bank is to act as a temporary resource in emergency situations for those who use wood as their primary heat source. Our supply is low this year—we really need donations of wood! In October, we opened our wood bank early to assist people who were already cold and waiting for fuel assistance. We are looking for anyone who can contribute cut, split and seasoned (or green) hardwood at this time. A donation of just a small truckload would help! If you are able to help us deliver to a neighbor who finds themselves suddenly in need, give us a call at 588–2620.

Our **Community Tool Lending Shed** is open! Do you need a special tool or piece of equipment? We may have the right one for you. Please email the Toolshed Committee at toolshed@grapevინeh.org with your request or if you would like to donate tools! *Please do not drop off any tools without contacting us first.*

Watch Me Grow—Screening Tool Available to Families

Watch Me Grow is a statewide initiative to offer families “information about children’s health and development, developmental screening questionnaires based on your child’s age, tips on how to help children grow and learn, and connections to services, supports and resources when needed.” The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) is the screening tool offered by Watch Me Grow. If you are interested in trying out an ASQ with your child, call The Grapevine and ask for Carol or visit the website *watchmegrownh.org*.

Before & After School Clubs (BASC) 2018-2019

The programs operate on the Antrim Elementary School campus on school days, with Before School running from 6:45 to 8:20 a.m. and After School from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. Clubs include social time with peers, homework help, board games, Legos, free and creative play, and activities outside and in the Town Gym. We are pleased to announce our collaboration with the ConVal School District and Pierce Elementary School this year to offer the clubs to Pierce families. If you have a Pierce Elementary student and are interested in joining BASC please contact us for more information: Lisa Hennessy, Before & After School Coordinator at *basc@grapevinenh.org* or call our office at 588-2620.

Are you 60 or older and looking for a local, affordable, friendly way to maintain and increase your strength, balance and independence? Call us about the Strong Living Senior Exercise program on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:30.

An additional “Thank You” to the many people who supported The Grapevine in so many ways over the fall, including: **Bank of New Hampshire** for sponsoring our Guiding Good Choices program this fall and **Jeanine Clark-Edmunds** for facilitating and parents who participated. The **local businesses, families, and shoppers** who gave to our 2018 Online Auction during the month of November. The **Antrim-Bennington Lions Club** members who came to box kindling. **Pete Ketchum** and **GBS students** who volunteered by organizing and stacking a large pile of wood. Our facility committee, **Ben Pratt, Rick Edmunds and Tom Badgley**, for their many efforts in addressing our building and grounds needs. Your service is priceless! Our Home and Harvest float trailer donated by **Robblee Tree Service**, driver **Tom Badgley**, the **Before & After School Club kids** for creating wonderful float decor and props, **Carl Ingelstrom** for donating hay bales for the float, and all our wonderful family & friends who joined us for the ride! We received the “Best Float” award this year! **DeeAnn Dubois** for coordinating the Terracycle Campaign. **Beth Kelly** for ongoing auction support this fall and donations of paper goods. **Brenda Hennessy** for her donations of paper goods, soaps, and more for our programs. **Shawn Hugron** for donating various useful tools to the Community Tool Shed and helping with getting the wood in the wood bank before the

never-ending rain! **Fracestown Sand & Gravel** for providing play sand for our sandbox in the children’s play yard. **Glenn Stan, John Conklin and Tool Shed Committee members** for many hours of continuing to promote and lend tools at our Community Tool-Lending Shed. **Lemire and Sons, Eversource and Harry Payne, Cheryl Riley and Sue and John Conklin** for donations of wood to our wood bank. **Girl Scout Troop 12335** for collecting and donating program and facility supplies. **Staff at Peterborough Elementary School** for a large collection of gently used children’s books. **Grapevine families** who have donated snacks and supplies to our programs. **Grapevine staff and board** who always go above and beyond their normal duties and volunteer their time for need projects such as painting, wood stacking, garden maintenance and more! **New England College students and Professor Susan Martin** for assistance with our marketing needs. See the Avenue A article on page 16 of this issue for many more volunteer recognitions!

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE GRAPEVINE...

- Information and referral to resources for food, housing, heating and other needs
- Community Wood Bank—For urgent needs
- Community Tool-Lending Shed — email *toolshed@grapevinenh.org* for requests
- Tax Preparation and Budgeting Assistance with Larry Schwartz of PHC Financial
- Child and family counseling onsite through Riverbend Community Mental Health, which serves families from the Hillsborough area.

The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located at 4 Aiken Street in Antrim, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 588-2620, or email *info@grapevinenh.org*. We gratefully accept donations, which are tax deductible. Please make your donation online at *www.grapevinenh.org* or mail a check payable to The Grapevine to PO Box 637, Antrim, NH 03440. Visit us on social media at *facebook.com/grapevinenh.org* and Instagram *@thegrapevinefrc*. *

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