

TRENDY TIMES

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JANUARY 24, 2012 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 8

January Is National Hobby Month

The Alleged Quilter

By Janice Scruton



I met my husband 9+years ago and until very recently, every time he heard me tell someone that I'm a quilter, he would respond with "she's an alleged quilter" as he had never seen me sewing anything. As Gary says, those wonderful quilts we sleep under every night could have been made by someone else. Makes me feel like the 60's Clairol

advertisement, "only her quilter knows for sure". But deep down inside, I know that I have a quilter's heart and spirit. I seldom see fabric without drooling just a little over the wonderful colors and textures. I live the bumper stickers "I'm a quilter, therefore my life is always in pieces" and "Love me, love my quilts". As I am slowly getting back into piecing quilts, I am rejoicing in the relaxation and peace that surrounds me as I stitch away. Lucky for me, it's all coming back to me, just like riding a bicycle.

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Zentangle (ing?)

By
Natalie DeSantis



Once upon a time I was a quilter. Then graduate school, divorce, losing my job, surviving a couple of bad boyfriends, etc happened. My response to this was to avoid myself, until I was forced by the powers that be to sit still.

One of my several jobs was working in a jail. I had quickly earned the respect of the inmates, so had very little to do for eight hours a day. First, I started writing to keep myself occupied. I wrote about the traumas that the previous few years had dished out to me. Free writes, lists, rants and raves, poetry and letters that were never sent (for good reason).

Eventually, I started to doodle. I don't have what is commonly recognized as artistic talent. But what I discovered was that as therapeutic as quilting and writing had been for me in the past, doodling was ten times that. Turns out that what I was doing was something called Zentangle. Zentangle is advertised as meditative and therapeutic. It's the process, not the product, that counts.

This has become my hobby. It is portable, can be done anywhere and for any length of time. Start in the middle and work your way out. No erasers allowed. You can't do it wrong. If you are thinking and feeling and quiet, you are doing it right. No experience needed.



Joel Godston (left) speaking with Gen. Chuck Yeager (right)

Choices...

"When Did You Know"

By Joel Godston

I was born on July 4, 1934, living on Staten Island, when at the age of 9, I knew I wanted to be involved in aviation. My parents helped me purchase a Thor model airplane motor... really wasn't much good... wouldn't run very well even on the motor stand I built... built u-control model 'high speed' model airplanes... went to RPI to become an Aeronautical Engineer... was in Air Force ROTC... graduated... was in the Air Force pilot training class of 57-H, and became a pilot after almost being 'washed out'... flew B-47's with an Aircraft Commander who had flown B-17's in WWII... flew F-86H's and F-84's in the Mass. Air National Guard... worked at Pratt & Whitney, a division of United Technologies, Inc. for about 40 years... now retired mentoring and 'teaching' aviation related subjects with elementary, junior, and senior high school youngsters, and adults in Dart-

mouth's ILEAD program, received the EAA Leadership Award in 2006, and in 2010 The Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" Award from FAA "In recognition of your contributions to building and maintaining the safest aviation system in the world, through practicing and promoting safe flight operations for 50 consecutive years"... Have organized Airport Awareness Day and Young Eagle Rally at Lebanon Airport for four years and Dean Memorial Airport for fourteen years...continue flying in our 1976 Cessna 182 to travel, and fly youngsters to become a Young Eagle, an EAA program chaired by Sully & Jeff, pilots of the now-famous US Airways Flight 1549 ditching in the Hudson River-January 2009... My being involved in the Young Eagles program, flying almost 400 youngsters so far, has been and continues to be a very rewarding experience.

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A Walk In The Woods January 2012

By David Falkenham, UNH Cooperative Extension Grafton County Forester

The winter logging season has begun. Most of you have probably noticed a sudden flurry of log truck activity on the roads lately and wondered where it all is coming from. The answer is simple; during the months of late October through early December, it is very difficult to do any logging due to the wet and un-frozen conditions. As a result of no logging, the sawmills start to run low on saw logs, with no replenishment from the loggers who are effectively unemployed during the late fall.

The fall mud-season is a long time of no work for the loggers, and they are anxiously waiting for the first hard freezes of late December and the New Year. When these freezes suddenly happen, the loggers are ready to jump back to work in the woods and start sending timber to the mills again. This results in a sudden increase in trucking activity which is what we are all

noticing lately. In the Haverhill/Pike area there are two large timber sales taking place on the national forest so that has added to the activity we have seen.

Landowners often ask me when the best time to cut timber is, and the answer is always "it depends", and it depends on a lot of factors. The number one factor that determines when to cut timber on a certain parcel is the wetness of the soil. If you own 100 acres and the soil is wet for most of the year, then a winter cut is probably your only option. If your land is high and dry than a summer or fall cut will work fine, depending on access and the desired outcome of the timber cut. Some places are reasonably dry, but are too difficult to access during a snowy winter.

However the decision does not end here. If you want to do single tree selection cutting, then late summer/early fall, or the dead of

winter is best. This is because you want to minimize the damage to the trees that you don't cut. Single tree selection cutting in the spring, early summer or a weak winter will result in potential root and bark damage to the remaining trees which will affect their growth and quality for the next cut in 15 years.

Patch cutting or clear cutting can be done any time of year as long as the soils will sustain it. However, if you are trying to regenerate young spruce, pine or oak it is best to cut in the fall when the seeds of these trees are falling to the ground. The scarification of the logging action will help these seeds to germinate the following spring. If you want a quick flush of hardwood regeneration then winter cutting is best because all the energy from the tree is in the roots during winter. Cutting hardwoods then will result in a sudden flush of hardwood regeneration the following two to three springs.

The answer to the question of when to cut wood involves many things to think about, so my very basic rule of thumb is that if the soil on your land can sustain a summer or fall cut, you should cut during the summer or fall. If not you should cut during the winter. If you are lucky enough to own land that is very dry then you might be able to cut in the spring, right after the road bans come off. If this is the case then I would recommend cutting in the spring. This is a very basic rule of thumb. For a thorough explanation of when the best time to cut the timber on your land is I highly recommend contacting me at 787-6944 or dave.falkenham@unh.edu. I will come to your property, take a walk with you and give you my personal recommendation. It is a free service to all landowners in New Hampshire so why not take advantage of it. I promise it will be the most informative walk in the woods you ever take.

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Merging Worlds

By Rebecca Bailey Ladd

The smell of smoke from the cook fire wafts past my nose, as I watch Cecilia weave. From ninety degree, dust laden heat I am taken back to a memory of eight snowy winters ago. Those many winters ago I spent one morning a week at an old three story white farm house in Lyme, NH, where I was learning to braid wool rugs. We sat, 4-6 of us, cozy in over stuffed chairs, talking of life, crafting, and the weather. The sound of a crackling wood fire mingled in the background with the clinking of knitting needles. An under tone of wood smoke mixed in with the smell of baked goods and coffee.

On my first trip to Haiti after the January 12, 2009 earthquake, I stayed with a friend's family. Getting to their home is a challenge. One can drive a truck or motorcycle until you come to a stream. Streams in Haiti, at least in the areas where I have been, are enclosed in concrete. I would liken them to a channel, about 2 feet wide. People use these

streams for everything! Washing clothes, themselves and for cooking. At any given time you come to the crossing place and find someone taking a bath or washing their clothes. I spent a week bathing in that water, (after it had been carried up the hill), having a skin reaction to the water that had who knows what in it. We would ride the motorcycle to the channel, then on foot we would push it across the channel and then push the motorcycle up the hill. We passed by many small houses, constructed of sticks, rocks and mud. Some with blue tarps covering outside areas. The tarps provide shade, protection from rain and provides further shelter. As we passed surprised looks came my way, children would stop playing with their home made toys and stare at me. After a lung bursting climb about halfway up the hill, we arrived at a two room home, built in the same style as the others we passed. In a cleared area a tent was set

up, as the other house had been destroyed in the quake. The family of 10 were now living in a 8 man tent and a two room home, with only 1 bed to their name. I brought my own tent and we pitched it next to theirs. The sun beat down on the clearing all day long, no shade was available with the exception of along the house walls and a small area outside the door of the house.

It is in this area outside the door, that Cecilia, my friends 100 year old grandmother, sat hour after hour weaving mats out of dried palm fronds. She sat on the already woven parts, her stick like dark legs jutting out from underneath her thin well worn dress. Her gnarled hands working tirelessly with the fronds, weaving 6 inch sections about 10 feet long, that later would be woven together, and sold. Everyone stepped over and around her to go in and out of the house, she clearly has been stationed in that location for many a year. She rarely spoke and when she did it

was usually to one of the young children. On occasion she would lay down on the already woven mats and sleep. I watched her from a distance for a couple of days, and then moved in closer, trying to understand how she was weaving them together. Watch I did,

and never figured out how she was moving those fronds into the weave. Over, under, and adding fronds. she is an artist, an unseen, uncelebrated artist. The fronds are all the same wheat color, the pattern is the beauty, the lines, and the intricate detail.



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What's The Good Word?

By Sheila Asselin

I have always been an avid reader even as a child. Would read just about anything, the cereal box if nothing else was available. I quickly exhausted the children's section of our local library and headed for the adult section. Marching right over I selected Bulwer-Lynton's "The Last Days of Pompeii". Little did I know it is one of the most boring books ever written. In fact there is such a thing as the Bulwer-Lynton Prize awarded each year for the most outrageous opening line for a novel. The purplest of purple prose is declared the winner. "It was a dark and stormy night" on steroids.

But I soon discovered sea stories and eagerly devoured them. Horatio Hornblower, Nelson at Trafalgar, Captain Kidd, and John Paul Jones peopled my imagination. I read about various ships and learned that a brigantine was a type of sailing ship. So when I encountered the word "libertine" I naturally figured that was a kind of ship too. Some adult concepts flew right over my head!

This lead to even more confusion. A panacea must have something to do with the pancreas. And anything

clandestine obviously was related to candles. Made logical sense to my preadolescent brain.

Fortunately the third graders in Mrs. Bailey's, Brown's and Leete's classes at the Woodsville Elementary school will not have that problem thanks to Pomona Grange and the North Haverhill Girls' Club. In what has become a yearly tradition each third grader was recently presented with a dictionary donated by these organizations. Not only does it offer definitions but serves

as a gazetteer with much other useful information. Everyone's favorite is the world's longest word which takes up several lines of small print. To everyone's relief there will not be a spelling test later!

The Pomona Grange and the North Haverhill Girls' Club proudly sponsor this program because they believe education is important and money spent on our children is well spent. It is hoped that this gift of a dictionary will spark young minds to continue learning.



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BUSINESS OWNERS INVITED TO FREE BUSINESS RESOURCES ROUNDTABLE

Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank And Cohase Chamber Of Commerce Team Up To Host Event

Woodsville, NH – January 17, 2012. Local business owners looking to energize their business performance are encouraged to attend a special free event coming up later this month and connect with the people and organizations that can help them make it happen.

The Haverhill Area Business Resources Roundtable takes place Tuesday, January 31, 7:30AM to 9:00AM at the James R. Morrill Municipal Building in North Haverhill. The 90-minute program will feature a series of brief presentations by participating agencies, followed by a thirty minute question and answer period. During the presenta-

tions, providers will summarize specific services that they provide to local business, as well as how business owners can access those services to support their own business goals.

Participating organizations include: Grafton County Economic Development Council, NH Small Business Development Center, NH Small Business Administration, Northern Community Investment Corporation, Vermont Economic Development Authority, NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, White Mountains Community College, and NH Employment Security.

The Haverhill Area Business Resources Roundtable is being presented by Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank and the Cohase Chamber of Commerce, and is open to any person who operates a business or wants to start a business in northern New Hampshire or Vermont. Presenters representing programs restricted by state or county boundaries will be able to offer referrals to similar services within the business' location.

"The last few years have been very challenging for local businesses, but I believe 2012 holds opportunity for those that are well prepared," said Jim Graham,

President of Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank. "It is my hope that business owners who attend this event will leave with a contact or two, and an action plan to address specific business needs and to fine-tune their business' performance and options."

For more information about the Business Resources Roundtable, contact Jan Carver at 603-747-2735 or by email to jcarver@theguarantybank.com.

Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank is a New Hampshire state-chartered savings bank headquartered in Woodsville, with nine banking offices in the communities of Woodsville, Piermont, Lis-

bon, Littleton, Lancaster, Plymouth, and Franconia. For more information, call 1-800-564-2735, visit the bank's website at www.theguarantybank.com, or find them on Facebook.

The Cohase Chamber of Commerce is committed to fostering a vibrant economic climate by encouraging cooperation and communication among the region's communities. The chamber serves the towns of Haverhill and Piermont in New Hampshire and Newbury and Bradford in Vermont. For more information, call 802-757-2549 or visit their website at www.cohase.org.

January 24, 2012 Volume 3 Number 8

Not all Times are Trendy but there will always be Trendy Times

details
INTERIOR FASHIONS

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Employee Embezzlement & Fraud: Detection And Prevention

There will be a three-hour seminar entitled Employee Embezzlement and Fraud: Detection and Prevention. It will provide useful information about how businesses can protect themselves from fraud and abuse, and how the recovery process works if embezzle-

ment does occur.

The seminar will feature a panel consisting of: Thomas Salmon, Vermont State Auditor, Lela McCaffrey CPA & Sheila Valley CPA, Fothergill Segale & Valley plus Det. Sgt. Walter Smith, Vermont State Police and Robert Starr, President

CEO RadianTec. The session will be moderated by Christopher D'Elia, President Vermont Bankers' Association.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Charles Carter Business Center in the St. Johnsbury-Lyndonville Industrial Park.

It is requested that those wishing to attend to please contact Lorna Higgs, Project Manager at Northeastern Vermont Development Association.

You may email lhiggs@nvda.net or write to 36 Eastern Ave., Suite 1, P.O. Box 630, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. You may also call (802) 748-5181

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From The Desk Of NH State Senator

Jeanie
FORRESTER

Dear Constituents,

While it's been just over a year since I've had the honor of serving 31 communities in District 2, it's been closer to two years that I have developed relationships and friends that make me feel like District 2 is a second home. From Monroe to Sanbornton, Campton to Holderness, and all the towns in between, I have been welcomed, through meetings with constituents and public officials, spaghetti dinners, parades, Old Home Days, and ribbon-cuttings. So it is with great disappointment that, with the new Senate redistricting plan it is quite probable I will be losing some of my towns.

To fulfill the Supreme Court's principle of "one man one vote," redistricting is the process that ensures every citizen's vote is as nearly equal to the vote of other citizens. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census be taken every ten years and based on new population numbers, districts for the Congress are changed by the state legislatures every decade. The legislatures also redistrict their House and Senate boundaries and that process has been going on in Concord since the census numbers became available last spring.

In creating a new map for state Senate districts, our first priority was to meet the legal standards required by the U.S. and New Hampshire Constitutions. They are as follows:

- Twenty-four, single-member districts (one Senator for each district)
- Districts that consist of contiguous towns and city wards
- Districts that are within a ten percent population deviation range consistent with the "one man, one vote" principle. (Currently, the deviation range between Senate districts in 18.25%. The redistricting plan reduces the range to 9.68%)

Unique to my area included the need, based on population shifts, for District 1 (the sparsely populated north country), to shift south,

and thus some of my communities had to go into District 1. Additionally, the desire to create a district that preserves the communities of interest along the Connecticut River/Vermont border, as well as changes that were necessary in the Nashua area, basically pushed, pulled, and squeezed District 2 away from the border and south towards the center of the state.

The final proposal impacted most of the districts (six current districts do not change: 14, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22). While I disappointed with changes to my district, there were other districts that were much more negatively impacted and in the end, compromise (for everyone) was necessary. With the new plan, I will go from representing 57,095 constituents to 53,513. (The ideal Senate district would include 54,853 citizens.) I lost 10 communities and picked up 6 new ones. My new district takes away Monroe, Bath, Landaff, Easton, Benton, Woodstock, and Thornton from the north, and Lyme and Canaan from the west, and Holderness from the east. I picked up Grafton, Danbury, Hill, An-

dover, Salisbury, and Tilton.

There were dozens and dozens of possible combinations of cities and towns, but this plan has majority support, meets the constitutional test of contiguity and compactness; and the deviation range is below 10%, which complies with the one man one vote principle.

Even Senate Democrats were complimentary of the plan. Minority Leader Senator Silvia Larsen (D-Concord), noted the compactness of the districts and said she didn't see the "salamander districts" that exist in the current map as drawn by the courts. Senator Matt Houde (D-Plainfield) told the Concord Monitor he did not see evidence of gerrymandering in the Republican plan and noted the combination of communities of interest, specifically mentioning Claremont and Charlestown.

The Senate redistricting plan (Senate Bill 201), having been heard in Internal Affairs this past week, will now go to the full Senate on January 25th for a vote. The plan must be approved by both the Senate and the House and then it goes to the Governor. If he vetoes the plan, it will come back for a veto override. Should it become law, it may very well have one more step to go as redistricting plans across the country are frequently challenged in the courts.

When finalized, these new districts will be in place by the September primary election and the November general election. Senators

winning in those elections will serve their new districts effective on December 5, 2012 when newly elected Senators are sworn in. Until then, I will continue to serve my constituents in District 2.

As always, I want to hear from you. If you have a concern you'd like to share, an event you'd like me to attend, or a problem you think I might be of assistance—

please call or email. If you'd like to get more frequent updates of what is happening in Concord or in the District, please subscribe to my e-newsletter by completing the subscription form on the home page of my website at www.jeanieforrester.com.

Your Senator from District 2,
Jeanie Forrester



**CONGRESSMAN
CHARLES F. BASS**
Representing New Hampshire's
Second Congressional District

Bass Announces January 26th Town Hall Meeting In Bath

BATH, NH – Congressman Charles F. Bass (NH-02) announced today that he will be holding a town hall meeting in Bathon Thursday, January 26, 2012 with special guest Executive Councilor Ray Burton. Bass will give an update about his activities in Washington and New Hampshire and take questions from constituents about pressing national and state issues.

The town hall meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the community meeting room at the Bath Congregational Church, located on West Bath Road (off of

Route 302). Constituents with questions, comments, or those in need of assistance with a federal agency are welcome to attend.

Bass said:
"I'm very pleased to be hosting another town hall meeting in the North Country. I look forward to meeting with constituents next Thursday and hope they will join me and Councilor Burton in Bath to talk about the issues facing our state and nation."

Constituents with questions about the town hall meeting should contact Bass' Concord Office at (603) 226-0064.

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Calendar of Events

This is a full page of Calendar of Events for local non-profits. Courtesy of Trendy Times.
Put **YOUR FREE** listing here!

SUNDAYS

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

1:00 PM
American Legion Post #83, Lincoln

OPEN GYM

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

MONDAYS/THURSDAYS

NORTH COUNTRY YMCA AEROBIC FITNESS CLASS

6:30 PM
Woodsville Elementary School

WEDNESDAYS

BINGO

6:30 PM
Haverhill Memorial VFW Post #5245
North Haverhill

THURSDAYS

JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 23

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ST. J PLAYERS AUDITIONS FOR
"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS"
5:00 PM
St. J School Auditorium, Western Ave.,
St. Johnsbury

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

TWIN STATE HUMANE SOCIETY
CAT SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC
Limited number clinic
Stonecliff Animal Clinic, Bradford

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

1:00 PM
Horse Meadow Senior Center

EARLY LITERACY CLASSES

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Fairlee Public Library

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES BASS TOWN HALL MEETING

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Bath Congregational Church
See article on page 5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE RACE
10:00 AM
Rte 302 - North of Lisbon
See ad on page 5

S.A. WALL BOOK SIGNING

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
John Stark Coffee House, Lisbon
See article on page 9

WINTER FARMERS MARKET

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Bradford Elementary School Cafeteria

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
St. Johnsbury House, 1207 Main Street

HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

6:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

FREE BUSINESS RESOURCES
ROUNDTABLE
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill
See article on page 4

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

3 RIVERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY MEETING
8:00 AM
Wells River Savings Bank

EMPLOYEE EMBEZZLEMENT AND FRAUD: DETECTION AND PREVENTION

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Charles Carter Business Center,
St. Johnsbury-Lyndonville Industrial Park
See article on page 4

WOODSVILLE/WELLS RIVER 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE MEETING

7:00 PM
Woodsville Emergency Services Building

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT
1:00 PM
Horse Meadow Senior Center

EARLY LITERACY CLASSES

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Fairlee Public Library

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

GOOD OLE BOYS MEETING
12:00 Noon
Happy Hour Restaurant, Wells River

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

NH STATE VETERANS COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Woodsville American Legion Post #20

CONNECTICUT VALLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

7:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

FRIENDS OF LINCOLN LIBRARY FREE CONCERT

7:00 PM
Father Roger Bilodeau Community Center,
Pollard Road, Lincoln
See article on page 8

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

MONTHLY MEETING -
ROSS-WOOD POST #20 AMERICAN LEGION
6:00 PM
American Legion Home, Woodsville

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT
1:00 PM
Horse Meadow Senior Center

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

RUSTY DEWEES, THE LOGGER
8:00 PM
Alumni Hall, Haverhill
See ad on page 2

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

FOURTH ANNUAL VALENTINE DINNER
5:00 PM Doors Open
6:00 PM Dinner
Orange East Senior Center, Bradford

RUSTY DEWEES, THE LOGGER

8:00 PM
Alumni Hall, Haverhill
See ad on page 2

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

ROSS-WOOD AUXILIARY UNIT 20
MONTHLY MEETING
6:00 PM
American Legion Home, Woodsville

HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

6:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT
1:00 PM
Horse Meadow Senior Center

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

CT VALLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB RADAR RUN
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Across From Aldrich's Store, North Haverhill

GROTON GROWERS COMMUNITY MARKET

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Groton Town Hall Gym

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Wells River Congregational Church

NH STATE VETERANS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Woodsville American Legion Post #20

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING
6:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

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Deadline for submissions is Thursday, February 2nd for our February 7th issue.

My Hobby: Getting To Know My Ancestors

By Rhonda Marsh

I've had many and varied hobbies over the years from Cross Stitch to Cake Decorating, but probably the most enduring and satisfying has been my foray into the complexities of genealogical research. If you enjoy solving mysteries, or fancy yourself a CSI "wannabe", genealogy has all the twists, turns, and variables you could ever hope for.

My late Uncle Armand is really to blame for my obsession to know as much as possible about my forbears. Back in the early 1980's, I visited him to pick his brain about computers, as I needed to find



out about them for work, and he was the ONLY person I knew at the time who had one, or had even operated one. He showed me his computer, but more importantly, he showed me the research he was doing on our family tree, which he kept organized on his desktop. I was instantly fascinated, and he was more than happy to share what he had discovered with me. In those days, genealogy was a pretty daunting and time consuming task. It required going to Town Clerk's offices to research birth and death certificates, and trips to far-flung cemeteries to locate often obscure or unreadable gravestones.

Oh how times have changed! With the inception of the internet, much of what the researcher is seeking can be obtained almost instantaneously, and often with no cost involved. My favorite website for locating information is www.familysearch.org. This site, which is a massively extensive depository for genealogical information, is maintained by the Mormons, who have always been avid keepers of these types of

records. Unlike some other sites, which charge a fee, it is free, and in many instances you can even view a picture of the original document. Of note is the fact that more and more records are being made available all the time, including old census and military records, so if you fail to find what you're looking for today, don't give up; just try it again in a few weeks. Once you start to accumulate information, you need a way to maintain and sort the info. My family uses the Personal Ancestral Family File, a free download available through Ancestry.com. It keeps everything very ordered, accessible, and is easy to navigate.

After my Uncle's death in 1997, his son, Roger, took up the gauntlet, and together, we have become known as the history buffs in the family. Between us, we have uncovered some pretty interesting stuff. For instance, among our forbears were explorers, fur merchants, and even a woman accused as an accomplice to her husband's murder!

Building upon the extensive foundation of information

Armand had provided, I have also discovered living relatives I heretofore didn't know existed, and who also enjoy genealogy. Just a few months ago, I responded to a posting on Ancestry.com from a person who turned out to be a 4th cousin living in New Zealand, looking for info on his great-great grandfather's brothers and their descendants, of whom he knew very little. Seems while his 2-great's granddad sailed off from the family home in Scotland to New Zealand to seek his fortune, mine ventured to Canada. As was common in those times, neither brother ever had contact again. My long-lost cousin and I exchanged information which filled in big genealogical gaps for both of us, and have struck up a friendship, to boot. When he travels to the United States this summer to visit his brother (who, in a twist of irony, lives comparatively close to me in Albany, NY), we are planning to meet. It will be the first face-to-face encounter between the two branches of the same family since the early 1800's!



Exploring into the lives of those who came before me, I have discovered a very personal familial connection to the stories of how my predecessor's lived and died. Despite the hundreds of years and often thousands of miles that separate us, we share more than a commonality of genetics. In our own way, we are all explorers; searching for a better life than our parent's before us, and striving to pave the way toward a better tomorrow for those who will come after. Moreover, I have learned that the thread that runs from generation to generation is a strong, viable connection that although it may appear broken beyond repair, with a little time and effort can be transformed into a seamless continuum from the past into the future.

Hobbies Help Beat Winter Blues

By Marianne L. Kelly

The holidays are a distant memory as Christmas trees ornaments, holiday decorations find their way into family histories, and we settle into winter. It's January...dull, boring, cold, stormy January. The landscape is barren and spring seems an eternity away.

Take heart everyone! January is National Hobby Month and what better time of year to enjoy a favorite hobby or start something new, pleasurable and exciting to alleviate the monotony of winter.

Hobbyists have many faces and personalities. Those who enjoy being active can get out and take advantage of winter sports, while the more sedentary can enjoy sitting in front of a blazing fire with a good book, needlework or one of many board games for companions. Flipping through seed catalogs, dreaming of that first warm day that seems so far away when you can finally plant those tender seedlings is not only a favorite past time, but gardening is one of the most popular hobbies in America.

Hobbies are great for stress management as they give you a chance to escape the daily grind and nourish

your soul. Hobbies bring a sense of pleasure to life, are a great mood lifter, and maintaining them can bring give you an overall sense of well-being by putting you in an almost meditative state where you lose track of time. Recent studies indicate that taking time to enjoy hobbies helps avoid burnout by bringing gratification that comes with being immersed in something enjoyable.

Hobbies can also lead to a part time business that during the current economic climate can spell additional income.

WHAT'S MY HOBBY?

National Hobby Month is a great time to discover exactly what sparks your imagination and creativity. Do you have an artsy, creative flair? Canvas and decorative painting, scrap booking, jewelry making, wood burning, ceramics, and pottery are a few past times you might consider.

Do you love working with textiles? Knitting, crocheting, needlework and quilting might be calling you while the more mechanically inclined enjoy building model airplanes or ships. Those who admire the many woodcrafts at farmers

markets and craft fairs might try their hand at one or more of the many varieties of wood-working.

Hobbies don't have to be something you do alone, as there are many like-minded people who participate in the same activities as you. Why not start or join a group? Those who are especially proficient in their craft can teach it to those desiring to learn something new, or improve on skills they already have.

Food is another great hobby that brings people together. The next time you feel the walls of winter closing in, invite people to your home for a potluck food tasting, stipulating that each person bring something they rarely or never prepare. Good food, friends, and lively conversation do wonders to chase away the winter blues. You can start a group and decide how often you will hold this type of event and each member can take a turn at hosting a moveable feast.

Don't forget our great friend the Internet for connecting with people whose hobbies are similar to yours. Internet videos that teach various skills abound and are free, and you can order many

of your supplies online.

You don't have to be artistic to enjoy hobbies. Many people enjoy collecting, attending local events or simply enjoying a good book. Gathering a few friends, reading the same book, and hosting a group discussion in your home is another way to ward off the winter blues. Borrow books from your local library, and if enough copies are not available, Booked Solid in Bradford will order them for you at a reduced price. When you are finished, keep the book, pass it on or donate it to your library.

In addition to providing you with an escape from the stresses of everyday life, a hobby might unearth a talent or passion you didn't know you had, and give you a reason to set aside time from your daily routine to celebrate your inner kindred spirit.

Hobbies should reflect your interests, skills and personality, and can be a great tool for self-discovery, so go ahead, indulge or discover a favorite pastime. January is after all, National Hobby Month!

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Friends of Lincoln Library Present Free Concert 'Pressure's On' Plays Bluegrass & More

LINCOLN — Ready to tap your toes and stomp your feet? Come prepared for a rousing evening of bluegrass — with some New England and Irish sounds mixed in — as Pressure's On performs at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Lincoln Library on Tuesday, February 7, at 7 p.m. The program at Father Roger Bilodeau Community Center, Pollard Road, Lincoln, is free and open to all.

Pressure's On is a Seacoast-based four-piece string band best known for their bluegrass, Irish, and traditional New England music. Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki plays the fiddle,

mandolin and guitar, David Moore is on upright bass and accordion, Gemini Meeh plays the banjo and guitar, and Dave Talmage plays all of the above.

Jordan and Gemini are originally from Canterbury, David is from Bedford and Dave hails from Merrimack, Mass. (but his band-mates don't hold that against him). Their music is up-beat and enlivening, punctuated with the occasional waltz or slow tune.

The evening will begin with a brief business meeting, which will include election of 2012 board members and a review of the programs and events sponsored by

FOLL during the past year. Non-members will have the opportunity to join FOLL and a new season of programs will be introduced. Refreshments will be served.

"Our members and friends have come to expect a great evening out at this annual event," said FOLL president Joanne Nichols. "The food and music are always really good, and everyone has a wonderful time. We hope to see even more people this year!"

The Pressure's On performance is presented in cooperation with the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire's Classroom & Community Concerts pro-



Enjoy a free concert by the bluegrass band Pressure's On during the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Lincoln Library, Tuesday, February 7, at 7 p.m.

gram, which brings outstanding musicians to school and community sites throughout the North Country.

For additional information about the annual meeting or Friends of the Library, please call 745-8159. For in-

formation about the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, a regional network for arts, culture, and heritage, call 323-7302, emailinfo@aannh.org, or visit www.aannh.org.

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Mentoring Project

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" It was with that thought in mind that members of The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley sought and found service projects to commemorate Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 16th.

At the request of "The Back Room" in West Newbury, VT, TMP members Alison Kidder, Katie Kearney, Ceil Furlong, Cindy Clemence

and Braley Dorr filled buckets with salted sand. They delivered them to the homes of elderly and shut-in residents of West Newbury for them to use on their walkways and reduce their risk of falling on the ice.

TMP Mentors and Mentees - Marvin Harrison, Josh Streeter, Ceil Furlong and Madison Pryer helped to clean and organize the Bradford Area Food Shelf in the old Bradford Academy Building. They broke down empty boxes, stocked and organized shelves and did some general cleaning.

The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley matches adult community volunteers with kids who have requested to have a mentor. Its mission is: To encourage self-confidence and academic growth among children and adolescents by creating mutually beneficial relationships with responsible adult volunteers, based on trust and respect.



TMP Mentor Cindy Clemence and Mentee Braley Dorr



TMP Mentee Josh Streeter and Mentor Marvin Harrison

"One of the basic tenets of TMP", according to its coordinator Nancy Jones, "is to instill the value of community service and helping others. We

believe that good citizenship involves helping out in the community where needed. Our volunteer mentors are a perfect example of that."

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N.H. Author Fights Back During Cervical Health Awareness Month

To help increase awareness of cancer prevention, the release of author S.A. Wall's newest romance novel, *A Flame Burns Inside*, coincides with Cervical Health Awareness

Month. The book was released for Kindle on January 11 and will be available in paperback on January 17.

A Flame Burns Inside is the story of roller derby diva Ma-

linda Locke's battle with cervical cancer and the romance that ensues as she relies on fellow skater, Declan Hall.

"Malinda is reluctant to fall in love because her future is uncertain. Her brother died of cancer after he was initially cured, and that weighs heavily on Malinda," explains S.A. Wall of this fictional love story. "She's also reluctant to tell her lifelong best friend, Hannah, who is also her brother's widow. Malinda thinks she needs to protect her friend and her family, rather than see them struggle through another harrowing battle."

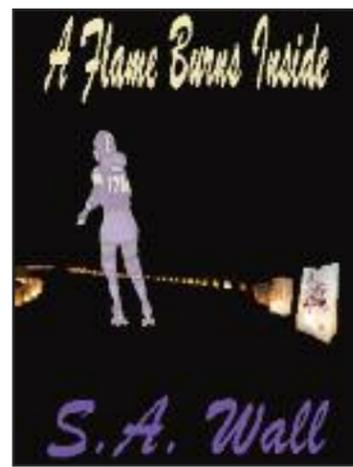
The heroine, Malinda, is diagnosed with Stage IIb cervical cancer. Wall chose cervical cancer for this novel after talking to several survivors, doctors, and doing extensive reading on the subject. She felt a fictional character struggling with her past, present, and future because of the diagnosis was a good way to increase awareness of prevention. "The HPV (Human Papillomavirus)

vaccination is available now, but regular pap smears can also prevent this disease from becoming terminal or requiring life-altering treatments, such as a hysterectomy, chemotherapy, and/or radiation."

This is Wall's second novel; the first, *Relay For Love*, featured Hannah's story as a widowed caregiver who finds love again five years after losing her husband to testicular cancer. Readers who enjoyed Hannah and Aaron's story, set in the North Country, will be happy to see their relationship continue to develop in this novel.

Wall is an avid Relayer, currently a team captain, and previously a member of the planning committee for *Relay For Life of North Country* in Littleton, NH. "I'm very passionate about increasing awareness regarding cancer and Relay. Writing stories like these allows me additional voices to channel awareness and hopefully broaden the audience and reach."

A percentage of the sales



from both novels benefit Relay For Life. Wall admits it is an unconventional fundraiser. "Lots of teams hold bake sales, yard sales, and dinners. I don't like to slave over the oven, but I love to write, so this is the perfect fundraiser for my team."

S.A. Wall will be holding a book signing at the John Stark Coffee House in Lisbon on January 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She was also scheduled to participate in Author's Night at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, NH, on January 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Visit the author's website, www.susanannwall.com, for more information.

Both novels are available at Amazon.com in paperback and for Kindle, or through the author's website.

Rotary Basketball Tournament

Woodsville – Wells River Rotary Club Basketball Tournament First Weekend Results

The Oxbow Lady Olympians and the St Johnsbury Catamounts boys were champions in the first round of the Woodsville – Wells River Rotary Club's 45th annual junior high basketball tournament. The first round of the tournament was held last weekend at Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River last weekend. The Olympians beat the Haverhill Hawks, 31-13 to win the girls championship and the Catamounts beat the Lyndon Bulldogs, 38-21 to win the boys championship.

Named to the girls All-Tournament Team were Danielle Martin and Tori Clough from Haverhill, Oxbow's Jamie Stevens, Lyndon's Morgan Hall and St Johnsbury's Britani Buck. The girls' MVP was Lexie Hamilton from Oxbow.

Selected for the boys All-Tournament Team were JJ Mesics and Collin Deluca from Lyndon, St Johnsbury's KC Lee, Haverhill's Nick Stokes and Oxbow's Joseph Wood.

St Johnsbury's Amer Macedonci was named the boys' MVP.

The Rotary Club congratulates all the players and sincerely thanks everyone who helped make the first round of the tournament such a success. Funds raised from the tournament support scholar-



Oxbow's Lexie Hamilton shoots for two points against the Haverhill Hawks in the Sunday, January 15, girls championship game in the Woodsville – Wells River Rotary Club's 45th annual basketball tournament. Haverhill's Tori Clough, in the background, was named to the All-Tournament Team. Hamilton was named Girls MVP. The Olympians won the championship, 31-13.

ships for local students. Photos from the games are posted online at www.Upper-ValleyPhotos.com, with all profits donated to the Rotary Club's scholarship fund.

The tournament concluded on Saturday and Sunday, January 21st & 22nd. Teams from, Barnet, Monroe, Waterford and BMU participated.



Lyndon's Collin Deluca and St Johnsbury's Carlyle Jensen fight for a rebound under the Bulldog's net in the boys championship game on Sunday January 15. Deluca was named to the All-Tournament Team. The Catamounts won the boys championship, 38-21. Photos courtesy Woodsville – Wells River Rotary Club

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NH Agriculture In The Classroom

Concord, NH – New Hampshire Agriculture in the Classroom (NHAITC) is gearing up for its annual Agriculture Literacy Program which will be launched on National Agriculture Day, March 8th. Each year volunteers visit New Hampshire elementary schools during the month of March to help children learn about the importance of agriculture. Storybooks with farm related themes are read to the students and associated programs enable them to meet farmers and learn about the production of food and fiber. This year's book, *Charlie Needs a Cloak* by award winning New Hampshire author Tomie dePaola, will provide a window into the world of sheep farming and fiber production and use.

In 2011 over 4000 children were reached with the Agriculture Literacy Program. Donations of books to school libraries and lesson plans for teachers enable children to continue to learn about these topics long after the volunteers have gone home.

Anyone interested in volunteering or scheduling a reader/farmer team to visit a school should contact Ruth Smith, NHAITC Statewide Coordinator at 603-224-1934 or nhaitc@nhfarmbureau.org.

New Hampshire Agriculture in the Classroom is a private, non-profit organization, dedicated to helping New Hampshire youth understand and appreciate the important role that agriculture plays in their daily lives. Support is provided by the New Hampshire Farm Bureau, the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food and donations from businesses, organizations and individuals. The program offers resources for educators, professional development workshops, in-school presentation, school to farm events, Ag Literacy programs, and curriculum consultation. For more information contact Coordinator Ruth Smith at nhaitc@nhfarmbureau.org, 603-224-1934, or visit the website: www.nhagintheClass.org



Wanted: An Extraordinary Candidate

Is it wrong to ask that the Presidency of the United States of America should be (must be!) reserved for an extraordinary individual?

That's the exact question I asked presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich a few weeks back after his one-on-one forum at Saint Anselm College with Charles Arlinghaus, president of the Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy.

It doesn't seem like such an outlandish request, does it? After all, the position is the biggest dang position in the whole dang world. It's not built for any old working snark or Ivy League swifty with a jacked up heritage.

Don't matter if you got 1580 on your SATs.

Don't matter if you've only bedded one woman your whole life.

Don't matter if your son has killed an Iraqi.

Don't matter if you've got the tightest chin on the planet. I'm looking for an extraordinary individual.

None of the above qualify. So, what qualifies someone as being extraordinary?

"Excellence" to start with. Excellence in all matters of human nature, someone that's better than me, better than you, better than my mother, heck, better than the Lord's mother — in all shapes and forms — morally, spiritually, economically, intellectually, politically, culturally, even sexually.

You name it. Right down to the hairline. This person should be someone that leaves us breathless. Whether standing or sitting, leaning or speaking,

this extraordinary, this exceptional individual that runs our nation must possess a volcanic amount of mojo within he or she.

But this extraordinary individual will also recognize that mojo alone smells only like snake oil. He won't offend the people's integrity by posting campaign signage that reads: "Believe in America" "Fight for America" "Take Back America".

That is the message of the non-extraordinary candidate. The extraordinary candidate knows that we don't need anyone to tell us to Believe in America. We all believe in America. Always have, always will. We just don't believe in you.

Next! Mitt Romney certainly believes he's an extraordinary individual. Since I was a teen living in the Bay State, I've heard the name "Mitt Romney" and associated it with someone that believes he is better than me, believes that his wife is better than mine, that his sons are better than my own.

Basically, he believes that you and I should be just like him.

That's exactly why Romney is not an extraordinary individual.

Ron Paul doesn't believe that he's an extraordinary individual. He believes that he's like you and me, and that is exactly why he's not extraordinary. We don't need anyone like you or me running the country. We need excellence.

Rick Santorum can't possibly be extraordinary

enough to be our next President. He doesn't look Presidential. He looks like a young boy. He wears button-down shirts and ties under a fleece coat all the time. Seems trivial, but that's the look of a Presidential candidate, not the look of the President of the United States.

Would Ronald Reagan have worn a "Black Dog" sweatshirt over his tie and shirt on that freezing November morning in 1983 when he met Gorbachev in Moscow? Certainly not. That's what separates excellence from ordinary.

So, back to Newt and what he considers to be extraordinary.

"Mr. Speaker, is it safe for me to assume that you found Ronald Reagan to be an extraordinary individual?"

"Yes, he was," said former Speaker Gingrich.

"Is it safe to assume that we need an extraordinary individual to run this country?"

"It is," he said.

"And, Mr. Speaker, with an extraordinary individual leading the free world, how quickly would the country be restored to greatness?"

"At an extraordinary speed," said the Speaker.

Excellent. Contact Rob Azevedo at onemanmanch@gmail.com.

Editors Note: As with all submitted articles in Trendy Times the opinions offered are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the publisher/editor of Trendy Times. Your responses are always welcomed and encouraged.

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“Respect For All”

Editors Note: Trendy Times is happy to give space to HPD for the following letter and response.

January 18, 2012

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Thank you for the letter expressing concern over a motor vehicle matter. We received your letter at the Haverhill Police Department via U.S. mail on January 9, 2012. I am answering your concern in a public forum; therefore the following is a copy of your letter with information redacted to protect the innocent.

January 3rd 2012

HPD,

I have a question for you concerning a vehicle that I have seen for the past month that is in violation of both registration and inspection. I noticed it at Victory Bowling Lanes 2 weeks ago. I overheard the owner of the vehicle, who had too much to drink, bragging about how they never get caught or even if they do they are never ticketed. They have friends in the Police Department who overlook things like this. She was bragging about getting pulled over on Brushwood Road a while

back doing 60 mph. She said that because her girls were good friends with and play with the officer's daughters that he let her off with just a warning. It's discouraging to see that not all citizens are treated equal. I saw their vehicle again yesterday and it still isn't registered or inspected. If I see it again in another week not done I will forward a copy of this to the New Hampshire State Police. Please treat all equal. [Vehicle description and license plate given in last sentence]

Thanks, a concerned citizen

“The Haverhill Police Department will deliver effective and responsive law enforcement to all citizens of the Town of Haverhill in a fair and equitable manner. As an integral part of the Haverhill Community we are committed to communicate with those we serve and to join with them in establishing priorities to enhance the quality of life for the entire community.”

This is our Mission Statement, and I am proud to state that it is one that we live by. I was very troubled about the above allegation and thoroughly looked into the matter, resulting in the

following finding of facts:

1. The vehicle in question was registered on January 5, 2012 and the registered owner of the vehicle has ten days from the date in which it is registered to get it inspected or be in violation of inspection laws. In this case they have until January 15, 2012 to have the vehicle inspected or get a temporary inspection until the vehicle is fixed.
2. Every motor vehicle stop, for any reason, and with any outcome (warning, ticket, citizen assist) is documented both by dispatch and by our officer. There have been no motor vehicle stops for any reason with the accused since 1996 except one which occurred in 2011.
3. The accused in this case was issued a warning for speed, but the radar speed was not anywhere near 60 miles per hour. The vehicle was both inspected and registered at the time of the stop. She was treated the same as any other citizen at that time would have been by the officer who issued the warning.
4. No Haverhill Officer has a daughter anywhere near the ages of the accused or her family nor does any contact take place between them.

The most disconcerting aspect of this complaint is the apparent lack of concern for fellow citizens. The complainant was more interested in having someone fined for an alleged motor vehicle violation than to have police respond for a potential impaired driver. Let me stress that our first priority in serving you, our community, is to keep you safe. If you witness an unsafe situation such as a publicly intoxicated individual, we would implore you to contact us immediately for the good of all.

Nothing in your letter states that the accused was served or sold alcohol at this establishment, only that they had too much to drink so we are not going to investigate the establishment.

Some have expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of motor vehicle patrols. Traffic enforcement is important, but please understand that our resources are limited. While we would like to provide more service in this area, serious Felony and Misdemeanor level criminal investigations are priorities. We do our best to address traffic enforcement through the addition of federal grants that pay off-duty officer salaries to conduct extra patrols in addition to daily pa-

trols. We anticipate expanding the use of these grants for 2012.

We also depend on your eyes and ears. If you witness an individual operating an unregistered and/or uninspected vehicle, please let us know so that we can address the problem before it becomes a safety issue.

If you wish to report this to the New Hampshire State Police then please do so. You can also contact the Grafton County Sheriff's Office if you so choose as we work well in coordination with other law enforcement agencies and additional patrols or assistance is always welcome.

It is discouraging to your officers when people jump to conclusions instead of checking the facts. Call us. Stop by. My door is open to you for complaints, ideas, concerns, or whatever you wish to discuss. I may be out on patrol or following up on an investigation, but I will get back to you if I'm not in. Let's continue to work together in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill for the benefit of all citizens of the Town of Haverhill.

Sincerely,
Byron Charles, Jr.
Chief of Police

Eminent Domain In The NH Senate

By Tom DeBlois & Jeanie Forrester

One of the most important votes the 24 of us in the State Senate will cast this session will occur on the Senate floor on January 25th. This will be the Senate's opportunity to defend the private property rights guaranteed in Article 12-a of the New Hampshire Constitution to every New Hampshire landowner.

Although we are on opposite sides as to whether the Northern Pass project as proposed, is good for New Hampshire, we are on the same side of the question concerning property rights. We plan to vote on January 18 to defend the constitutional rights of all New Hampshire property owners as provided for in Article 12-a.

Article 12-a was adopted as an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution largely in reaction to the 2005 US Supreme Court decision in the Kelo v. New London, Connecticut case. The effect of the Kelo decision was to allow the City of New London to

take the private home of Suzette Kelo by eminent domain for a private development that would be located on land owned by Kelo and on land owned by many of her neighbors. New Hampshire voters passed the constitutional amendment by the overwhelming margin of 85-15% in November 2006.

New Hampshire was one of more than 40 states to adopt similar amendments in reaction to the Kelo decision. The New Hampshire House voted overwhelmingly in 2006 to bring this amendment to the voters in the November election; the New Hampshire Senate voted 24-0 to place this amendment on the ballot. The New Hampshire amendment as adopted by voters is one sentence, and it says:

No part of a person's property shall be taken by eminent domain and transferred, directly or indirectly, to another person if the taking is for the purpose of private development or other private use of

the property.

Last March the House voted 317-51 to pass House Bill 648, written to make clear that private developers of electric transmission lines were prevented from access to eminent domain as provided for in Article 12-a of the Constitution. When the bill came to the Senate last June, a majority (14-10) decided to study the bill further. The two of us were on opposite sides of this vote.

The Senate Judiciary Committee decided last month to recommend to the full Senate that it replace the language of the House passed version of HB 648 with new language, language offered by our colleagues Jeb Bradley and Sharon Carson. In our view, this substitute language is an artful dodge of the core issue at stake. It creates the impression that the Senate is providing some relief to property owners, but it really enables utility companies to use eminent domain in direct

defiance of Article 12-a. If the Bradley-Carson amendment is allowed to stand, the Senate will abrogate the very oath each Senator took to defend the Constitution.

If the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, it is imperative that the New Hampshire Senate stand by the House on HB 648 and defend the liberties our constitution was writ-

ten to provide. No landowner in New Hampshire should be subjected to the explicit or implicit threat of eminent domain by a private developer or a private development project.

Senator Tom DeBlois is the Republican State Senator for District 18 and Senator Jeanie Forrester is the Republican State Senator for District 2

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NCIC Hired By Balsams Grand Resort Hotel To Develop Renovation Financing Package

North Country Owner's Team With Region's Leading Economic Development Organization

St. Johnsbury, VT – Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC), an economic development organization serving Northern Vermont and New Hampshire, has been hired by Balsams View LLC to develop and execute the financial package for the renovation of the Balsams Grand Resort Hotel. Balsams View, LLC, a partnership of New Hampshire North Country business leaders, Daniel Dagesse and Daniel Herbert, Jr., purchased the resort in early December.

"The Balsams is a historical landmark and critical employer in the North Country," said NCIC President Jon Freeman. "We look forward to helping the new owners restore this wonderful property to its full glory and securing a sustainable future for jobs in the region."

The Balsams' last renovations occurred more than forty years ago, and much work needs to be done. Since the

closing in December, Balsams View LLC has hired an architect, met with state agencies and the historic society, and is moving swiftly to secure financing needed for renovations. The renovation process is expected to take approximately 18 months.

"We understand how vital jobs are to the area and how excited our visitors are to return," said Dan Hebert. "NCIC will play a critical role in providing the financial and economic assistance required to assure the Balsams long-term prosperity."

NCIC business resource manager Ethan Swain will work closely with Dagesse and Hebert to secure the financing necessary to begin renovations. Swain and NCIC will pursue various types of financing, ranging from New Market Tax Credits and energy efficiency grants, to traditional bank financing and equity investments.

The Balsams Grand Re-

sort Hotel, located in Dixville Notch, NH, has been in operation for more than 150 years, offering guests fine dining, inviting accommodations, a Donald Ross golf course and unlimited recreational access to its nearly 8,000 acre property - in a setting surrounded by the tranquility and natural beauty of the rugged New Hampshire mountains.

ABOUT NCIC

Established in 1975, NCIC is a non-profit, certified Community Development Financial Institution working to address regional economic challenges. Today, NCIC continues to build partnerships while developing creative and effective solutions for individual businesses, communities and the region.

NCIC responds in a rapid and unique way to the needs of individual businesses and communities: expanding high-speed Internet access, finding affordable energy solutions, and offering financial and technical assistance for businesses of any size.

NCIC serves New Hampshire's Carroll, Coos and Grafton Counties and Vermont's Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties. NCIC offices are located in Plymouth and Lancaster, NH and Saint Johnsbury, VT. For more information visit: www.ncic.org.

Nominations Sought For Northeast Kingdom Chamber Citizen Of The Year

The Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 42nd Annual Citizen of the Year Award. David Keenan, a local man who has donated countless hours to the region and social causes, was honored last year for his extensive contributions to the Northeast Kingdom.

This award is presented each year to a Northeast Kingdom resident who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and extensive community involvement. Community involvement should extend beyond the candidate's normal occupation.

The Citizen of the Year honor is different from the Business Person of the Year award, which is announced at the Business Celebration event in November. The Citizen of the Year, one of the region's oldest and most distinguished honors, is chosen through a nomination process. Local civic, social and town leaders comprise the committee that selects the recipient.

Past recipients have included: Doug Kitchel, H. Stanwood Brooks, Dr. Howard Farmer, George Young, Mrs. Mildred H. Smith, Wesley Calderwood, Durward Ellis,

Joseph Sherman, Rosalie Harris, Kay Ellis, R.J. (Pete) Brisson, William T. Costa Jr., Hon. Sterry R. Waterman, George M. Crosby, Ernie Begin, William Stowe, William P. Kennedy, G. Julian Butler, Howard K. Gieselman, Bernier L. Mayo, Donald Mullally, Alfreda (Freddie) King, Barbara McKay Smith, Dr. John H. Elliott, B.J. Murphy, Dr. John A. Stetson, Doug Drown, Dr. Frederick C. Silloway, the Rev. Mel Richardson, Brent W. Beck, Paul R. Bengtson, Joan M. Wollrath, Donald E. Bostic, Richard Lawrence, Dale Wells, Fred Laferriere, Nat Tripp/Reeve Lindbergh, Elwin Cross, A. Richard Boera, Gregory MacDonald and David Keenan.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 24. The award recipient will be honored at the annual Northeast Kingdom Chamber Citizen of the Year celebration in the spring. Because the chamber is moving to new quarters soon, we ask you to contact the Northeast Kingdom Chamber at 802-748-3678 or nekinfo@nekchamber.com for a nomination form or before dropping by a candidate packet. Packets can still be mailed during this time to 51 Depot Square-Ste. 3, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.



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Cottage Hospital STORK REPORT



Cottage Hospital is pleased to announce the following births for October, November and December 2011.

Alicia & Zachary Brooks and big sister Brooke, of Pike, NH proudly introduce their son and brother, Owen Michael Brooks born October 2, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Sarah Young-Xu.

Bette & Richard Hannaford, of Lisbon, NH proudly introduce their son, Jerran James Hannaford, born October 19, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Sarah Young-Xu.

Katherine & Michael Wright and big siblings Shaunna and Tucker, of Orford, NH proudly introduce their daughter and sister, Isabella Leigh Sue Wright born October 31, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Aaron Solnit.

Crystal & Adam Larocque, of West Newbury, VT proudly introduce their daughter, Lily Makayla Larocque, born November 11, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Aaron Solnit.

Abby Fadden & Derrick O'Donnell, of North Haverhill, NH proudly introduce their son, Landyn Leo O'Donnell, born November 14, 2011. Delivering Physicians was Dr. Aaron Solnit and Dr. Jessie Reynolds.

Andrew & Jennifer Dorsett and big sisters Ayla and Elyse, of Groton, VT proudly introduce their son and brother, Isaac Cole Dorsett, born November 21, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Melanie Lawrence.

Amanda Nash & Trevor Alden and big sister Bella, of Marshfield, VT proudly introduce their daughter and sister, Lydia Grace Alden, born November 22, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Sarah Young-Xu.

Ana & Philo Marcotte and big brothers Aden and Owen, of Barnet, VT proudly introduce their daughter and sister, Abilene Parker Marcotte, born November 28, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Steven Genereaux.

Carrie & Nick Bogie and big brother Brayden, of Groton, VT proudly introduce their daughter and sister, Brynn Nicholas Bogie, born November 29, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Steven Genereaux.

Theresa Peura & Dan Demaine and big siblings Max and Nora, of Haverhill, NH proudly introduce their son and brother, John Howard Peura Demaine, born December 2, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Sarah Young-Xu.

Katie & Steven Crandall, of Wells River, VT proudly introduce their daughter, Ciera Marie Crandall, born December 6, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Steven Genereaux.

Chandra Ray & David Vines, of Newbury, VT proudly introduce their son, Dean Evan – Richard Vines, born December 8, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Melanie Lawrence.

Krystle Webster & Dusty Carter, of Groton, VT proudly introduce their son, Dusty Mathew Warren Carter, born December 8, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Jessie Reynolds.

Jessica & Nathan Locke and big sister Samantha, of Bradford, VT proudly introduce their daughter and sister Britney Bryce Locke, born December 14, 2011. Delivering Physicians were Dr. Aaron Solnit and Dr. Melanie Lawrence.

Cynthia & Timothy Goslant and big siblings Joseph, Sadie, Ella and Michael of Woodsville, NH proudly introduce their son and brother, Timothy Vern Goslant, born December 24, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Aaron Solnit.

Myrrhanda Wentworth & Jason Watson, of Piermont, NH proudly introduce their son, Barrett Robert Watson, born December 29, 2011. Delivering Physician was Dr. Fay Homan.

Winter Carnival Competition Results

We had a great competition the weekend of January 7 & 8 at Winter Carnival with over 900 kids competing throughout the weekend from all 6 New England states!

The Novices and Intermediates both placed fourth for Evergreen in the Team Results for their levels. Congratulations!

You can find the results for the entire competition on the brentwoodcommons.com website. Here are our girls, which is really all that matter anyway!

Here is a list of the girls who placed in the top 4.

ROOKIES

Olivia Hudson placed 4th for the in the all-around.

Bella Cronin placed 3rd on Beam

Mersadies Meaney placed 4th on Bars.

NOVICES

Francesca Veltri was the Beam and All-around champion

Larkin Kern was the Uneven Bar Champion

Manika Druke placed 4th on Floor

INTERMEDIATES

Britney Le was the Floor and All-around Champion also placing 2nd on vault and beam and 3rd on bars

Devin Foley was the vaulting champion and placed 3rd on Beam and the all-around

Summer Bradley placed 2nd on vault, 4th on Beam, 3rd on Floor and 3rd all-around

Emma Hudson placed 4th on vault

Not all Times are Trendy but there will always be Trendy Times

January 24, 2012 Volume 3 Number 8

TRENDY TIMES STAFF

EDITOR / PUBLISHER.....GARY SCRUTON
EDITOR'S ASSISTANTJANICE SCRUTON
SALES.....LAUREN M. LOSCHIAVO,
GARY SCRUTON, BARBARA SMITH
GRAPHIC DESIGNJEANNE EMMONS
BOOKKEEPINGKATHY GOSLANT
TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATOR.....BARBARA SMITH

DISTRIBUTION SPECIALISTRICK FIDDOCK
CONTRIBUTING WRITERSSHEILA ASSELIN,
MARIANNE L. KELLY, ELINOR P. MAWSON,
MELANIE OSBORNE, ROBERT ROUDEBUSH
MOVIE SCRUTONIZERASHLEY SCRUTON
SCARED SHEETLESS.....JAMES PARADIE
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Phone 603-747-2887 • Fax 603-747-2889
gary@trendytimes.com
ads@trendytimes.com
171 Central St. • Woodsville, NH 03785
Tuesday – Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Trendy Times reserves the right to accept or reject publication of any letter to the editor or submission of any nature for any reason, of course you will need to be really out there for us to turn you down. However, we do reserve the right to make slight changes to submissions for readability purposes. Thank you for your understanding.



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14 An Interview With Elinor And Sheila About Their Hobbies

We have known each other for a few years now, and feel that we have a lot in common. We've been entertainers, worked at the jail, gone to quilting workshops together and appreciate each others' humor. We also are avid readers, knitters and quilters. And if you want to hear any Gilbert and Sullivan songs, just ask.

What is your hobby?

Elinor: Actually I have several. I knit socks, hook rugs and do wool-on-wool embroidery.

Sheila: I make baby quilts to donate to the birthing center at Cottage Hospital I write with the Vintage Voyagers at the Horsemeadow Senior Center and have broadcast several pieces on WYKR about my life.

How long have you been doing these activities?

Elinor: It seems that I have always done handwork I made all my own clothes for years, starting in high school. I knit argyle socks for my boyfriend

when I was 15. (I still can't believe it - they are very difficult to do) I have braided rugs, done needlepoint, crewel work and all kinds of embroidery. I started quilting in 1976, working with wool in the mid-nineties, and hooking about a decade ago.

Sheila: I sewed my first pinafore at 9 - back when all little girls wore pinafores. My grandmother taught me to quilt, although she used feed sacks and scraps (she would be horrified to see someone cut up perfectly good material and put it back together.) I majored in history in college and find that it came in handy while documenting quilts.

Do you have a favorite place for your hobby?

Elinor: After a lifetime of having all my materials all over the house, I now have a special room for just my favorite things. (This room also contains my most sworn-at articles; my sewing machine, my computer and the vacuum

cleaner.) This room is also the place for my TV, stereo, and my collections of sewing materials, threads for embroidery, my books on rug hooking and embroidery, and books that I am presently reading or will soon read. Needless to say, you can find me in this room most of the time, and where I am the happiest.

Sheila: I have a sewing room and I go there when the weather's warm - I call it my woman cave - and when it's cold, I find another place or use the heater. It's a good place to meditate and I can listen to my CD player. It is filled with half-done projects, but I will get them done.

Are there special tools that you need?

Elinor: I can remember not ever having the correct knitting needles for a project, or scissors that would cut anything but paper. Now I have every size needle ever made for knitting, and enough scissors for any kind of cutting. In-

stead of the cheapest embroidery threads in gaudy colors, I have beautiful shades of threads of all colors, which I treat like gold. My iron, which gets used a lot, is one which shuts itself off (now I don't have to worry if it is left on by mistake.) Then there are cutting mats and cutters, and wonderful rulers to save time and make precision a breeze.

Sheila: My husband taught me to knit - he learned during the second World War. I made him a sweater using size one and two needles - nobody told me that you weren't supposed to do that - It looked like a bullet proof vest - and when he wore it during the time he was a policeman in Laconia, it made him tired because it was so heavy. That ingrate - he didn't appreciate the obvious concern for his safety.

What do you do with all those things that you make?

Elinor: I have given away a lot of my quilts and penny rug projects, and nearly everyone I know has a pair of my socks. Unfortunately I am very prolific, and I have piles of quilts and hooked rugs, and penny rugs depicting every holiday in

the year. Every time I complete a project and put it in a pile, I wonder what is going to happen to these things when I depart this life. My sons really aren't interested, but I do know a granddaughter who appreciates my efforts. I have already warned her that she may have to move when they become hers.

Sheila: Neither one of my daughters sews - the genes skipped a generation! They can barely sew on buttons, but they are fabulous gardeners. They only give me cactus for gifts because they know Mother would kill anything else. They plant gardens for me for Mother's Day.

What do you like best about your hobby?

Elinor: I never thought of myself as creative, but I do like to create beautiful things. Having the right tools and materials make it easier to work and enjoy, and I have TV or wonderful music to accompany my efforts. My completed projects make me feel fulfilled.

Sheila: A quilt may seem a humble object but, I think all quilts are beautiful; proving you don't have to be Vermeer to create a masterpiece.

January 24, 2012 Volume 3 Number 8

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Hated The Numbers – Loved The Words Or Four-Eyes Strikes Back

By Robert Roudebush

I hid from fifth-grade math by reading books and the books became my favorite hobby as I nearly flunked the grade. Books are still my favorite thing -the only thing close to them in enjoyment is playing with rocks, good size ones. I like to build walls and rock gardens.

I will never forget sitting in class in Mrs. Leslie's fifth grade room, red-faced and stiff with embarrassment as Mike Gates to my right called out my grade and announced to the class that I had failed the arithmetic test we all had just taken. Failed another one. This was back in the days – the late fifties in the Mid-west – when teachers asked students to pass their work to the right and students would grade other student's work as she read the answers out loud to the class. It wasn't Mike's fault – it was mine.

I never passed one math test in that room. Our mom had just moved the family from one school district to another, right in the middle of the fifth grade. The district I left had progressed fifth-graders into about the middle of long-division and by the time we got to the new school, a week later in the middle of the winter, this new class had already advanced to fractions. I was lost. I stayed lost in math for the rest of my high school life, advancing into what we called "junior-high school" and then high school. I took and barely passed two "general math" courses in 9th and 10 grade (that's what we called the Freshman and Sophomore years) and got a C – in algebra my junior year. It was not until I got out into the working world and my income depended on knowing how to work with figures that I finally got a good grip on math. By then, someone had invented the hand-held calculator and I was saved.

But there were always books, thank the gods.

Each time I flunked a test, I saw Mrs. Leslie looking at me with piteous concern from the front of the room. She was one of those great teachers who really talk "with" you, not at you.

She held you accountable and accepted no nonsense. You knew she loved you. She would draw large, multi-colored birthday cakes in chalk on the blackboard for our birthdays. So, each time I got her sorrowful look after math hell, I reached into my desk and pulled out another book and began reading again. Students in my grade were required to read 16 books during the school year – I read one hundred and 60 by borrowing and stealing books from the library and other classes, some 7th and 8th grade classes.

There was *Beautiful Joe* and the *Lassie* books, and some books about a beautiful red Irish Setter, and a whole series of small turquoise books that were biographies of some unforgettable people – Eli Whitney, Thomas Edison, Ben Franklin, George Washington Carver, Abe Lincoln, Babe Ruth, Madame Curie, F.D.R. and President Washington and Genghis Khan, and Napoleon, the first Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Jefferson. I read the stories of *Stuart Little* and *Charlotte's Web*.

One of the best things reading taught me is how history was made. It was made by men and women, who were usually not great, just regular people who happened to be in positions of greatness – kings, queens, inventors Arch Dukes and Grand Dukes, presidents, Popes, Doctors, Senators and businessmen. World changing political moves and wars and inventions came about, continued or ended, because of people who happened to be regular, flawed people, just like me and everybody else. Flawed people who just happened to hold power at a critical moment. Just like these days. And back in fifth grade, Mrs. Leslie, bless that woman, actually read aloud to us in class, each day, every day – she read us the *Little House on the Prairie* books, and as you may recall, it started with a *Little House in the Woods*. This was decades before Michael Landon got his hands on the series and watered it down for TV. What a disappointment, but

I understand it paid handsome financial dividends to the estate of author Laura Ingalls Wilder. I was luckier than I knew then. My mother read to us kids at home too – she loved words and passed that love on to me, my brother Pete and my sister Sue.

Of course I was a reader long before I got to fifth grade – I discovered Grimm's Fairy Tales and Hans Christian Anderson back in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. I wore glasses too, and in those days it meant I was called Four-eyes. I don't recall a teacher putting an end to the name calling, but I don't recall anybody jumping me and beating me up over it either.

Reading continued to pay off for me. I liked reading words so much that I began writing them for others to read. I was on my high school newspaper and have been writing for publication ever since, in one way or another, in Kansas City and New Hampshire, even earning money at the hobby that I love. I write letters to the editor at the *Union Leader* and the editors there and I have a tense but productive relationship.

I have no real formal education, a little college here and there, but not even an associate's degree in anything. But books have been my undergraduate, post-graduate and near master's level education I feel, and a tremendous amount of fun. I speak the way I do, and to a large degree, think the way I do because of books. I like good clear, concise writing, in newspapers or books – that kind of writing demands that kind of thinking, and fosters that kind of speech. I've been disappointed in recent years that, except for rare examples like the Harry Potter phenomena, kids are less encouraged to read real books. And yet, now we have these hand-held little electronics that allow folks of all ages to carry multiple books around with them and read at their leisure. Magic.

Reading is a hobby, but so much more. Read any good books lately?



My Hobby: Movies

January. One of the dreariest of months. And yet, there is a light at the end of the film reel. I have an excuse to excessively gab about movies for a whole month! Why's that you ask? National Hobby Month, that's why. I do believe I have a new favorite time of year. So, as homage to this neoteric fact (as I was only recently made aware of this), I have decided to take this opportunity to get at the excitement that is 2012's upcoming movie list. As one of my many hobbies is movies, and the stories behind them, I am able to pass this review (or rather pre-view) of movies as an article rather than my eccentric ramblings about some of the, what I hope to be, most epic movies of my day. Another obsession of mine is fairy tales. The folk lore that is found around the world and told through the generations fascinates me. So I thought that I would tie the two greatest ways to tell stories into my article disguised babbling on two of my favorite hobbies.

*As my space is limited I won't go over every movie that is coming out but please make sure to Google (assuming it stays uncensored) the full list. Officially I have dubbed this the Year Of The Fairy Tales. Starting with the re-release of *Beauty and the Beast* (but in 3D) 2012 is stacked full of those wonderful stories that we all grew up hearing. Only this time they have a bit of a twist. It seems that Hollywood has decided that in order to try to save their originality (though this is also the Year Of The Re-Makes) they are going to add more of the Grimm flavor to these childhood tales.

Kicking it off is *Mirror Mirror* (March 16th) starring Julia Roberts as every one's favourite evil stepmother/witch to hate, the Queen. With Lily Collins as Snow White this rendition seems to be a little lighter of a telling than the June 1st release of *Snow White and the Huntsman* is expected to be. Though the two movies will be contending with the same story line it will be interesting to see how they contend with the audiences. As *Mirror Mir-*

ror is the more comedic telling of the fable it is speculated that Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron, and Chris Hemsworth (*Thor*) will take the apple, so to speak, with the more action packed/war based theme of this particular telling, not to mention the full arsenal of actors. Though Julia Roberts is astounding, keeping up with those names together, just doesn't seem like a potion she will be able to swallow.

Unfortunately, in my research for dates on the other two fairy tale movies that were expected this year I have found that *Jack The Giant Killer* and *Hansel And Gretel: Witch Hunters* have moved their releases to the beginning of next year. Both promise to be wondrously dark telling however with a bit of humor thrown into Jack. Though there isn't even a teaser trailer out to give us a glimpse of the siblings all of the informational breadcrumbs lead straight to the delicious conclusion that these witch bounty hunters will be worth waiting the extra year for. As for the delay in Jack's arrival all there can be is disappointment in the anticipation. First set to be out this summer the rougher, more rouge like Jack will instead be out in January of 2013. The trailer for this intense looking tale has been made public however so please feel free to drool over the action packed two minutes.

So with all of the amazing movies coming out this year make sure to get the time to see these top picks. Though it is only the two tales of Snow White that are actually making their appearances this year it seems that Hollywood has done a little extra to make sure the box office stays packed. All in all this movie year should be one for the ages. Teaming up fairy tales, re-makes, the world's beloved Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) all grown up (*The Woman in Black* on February 3rd), and the comic book super heroes that everyone adores. Of course throwing *The Dark Knight Rises* in the mix just makes it the most anticipated year to Scrutonize the movies.



By Ronda Marsh

Spicy Baked Sweet Potato Fries

I'm not sure if I led a culinarily sheltered life, or if the fact that I am a Yankee is the reason why my experience and exposure to sweet potatoes (or yams, as they sometimes are incorrectly called) has been so limited. The majority of sweet potatoes in this country are grown in the Carolinas, and Southerners have been well versed in their merits for generations. But until a few years ago, this Northerner had only had the canned version, and even then, only at the holidays as an accompaniment to turkey. It never had occurred to me to actually make something, anything that started with a raw sweet potato. Then, all of a sudden, it seemed that every magazine or food show started featuring all kinds of recipes that incorporated that bright orange tuber. I discovered that nutritionally, the sweet potato is a much better starch alternative than the traditional white potato (to whom it's only distantly related). It's a great source of fiber, potassium, vitamins A, B6, C, and manganese. A veritable vegetable powerhouse! I decided it was definitely time for me to find ways to incorporate this veggie into my dietary repertoire. Now, I buy a few sweet potatoes every week. Sometimes I bake them; sometimes I dice them and make a casserole with other root vegetables. If I'm in a real hurry,

I've even been known to microwave them to mash with a bit of Maple Syrup and butter before serving. But I have to confess, my hands-down favorite way to cook sweet potatoes is to transform them into Sweet Potato Fries. Because they are so bland by nature, sweet potatoes can accept a good deal of flavoring from spices and herbs. You can tailor the spice blend according to your taste; I love the sweet/hot/spicy/savory combo, but feel free to use whatever flavor profile floats your boat. The first time you make them, watch the fries closely to avoid overcooking them (although, I really like the little charred ends and almost potato chip texture that results...yup, I'm weird like that). You can serve them with a dipping sauce, or you can let them stand on their own, but however you dish them out, be prepared to become addicted!



- 1 Sweet potato per person, peeled
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable or olive oil per potato

- Salt, pepper, other herbs as desired (I like a combo of seasoned salt, pepper, chipotle chili powder or paprika, and garlic powder.)

Rinse then dry each potato. Cut each potato in half, then each half into several planks, then cut the planks into several fries each, attempting to keep the cuts of uniform size. Scatter the fries on a

lightly oiled or parchment lined baking sheet. Drizzle with the oil, sprinkle with the seasonings and toss around to coat well. Do not crowd the fries or overlap. Place in a preheated 425°F oven.

Cook for about 20 minutes, until crisped on the outside and soft inside, turning after 12 minutes to keep from sticking. After removing from the oven, taste and adjust seasonings as necessary.

Not all Times are Trendy but there will always be Trendy Times January 24, 2012 Volume 3 Number 8

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