

Manchester Signature Chefs Auction



Mrs. New Hampshire International 2008, Irene Raissis Alton and March of Dimes, NH State Director, Karen Dennis

An Elegant Food Tasting Event To benefit the March of Dimes

The 11th Annual Manchester Signature Chefs Auction took place on Monday, November 10, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at The Executive Court Banquet & Conference Center in Manchester. Over 150 people attended this exciting food-tasting event, featuring food samples from over 10 local restaurants and other food purveyors. The presenting Sponsors were Fair Point Communications and MVP Healthcare. The following is a list of some of the organizations that participated: T-Bones & Cactus Jaks, Alphorn Bistro, Harts Turkey Farm, Piccola Italia, 3 C's Cozy Culinary Café, Smuttynose Brewing Co, Pasquales Ristorante, The Granite Restaurant and Bar, Hanaford Supermarket, Magic Hat Brewing Company, Edible Arrangements, The Yard, Uno's Chicago Bar and Grill, Van Otis Chocolates and Frederick's Pastries.

The dollars raised through this event not only help fund March of Dimes research but also help support local communities through the community grants program and the newest initiative, the NICU Family Support Program at Children's Hospital of Dartmouth. The evening included menu samplings from many of the area's most creative chefs and wine tasting provided by Southern NH Wine and Spirits. Music played for everyone's listening pleasure, while both live and silent auctions helped everyone get a head start on holiday shopping! Attendees were also able to participate in exciting raffles and door prizes including 150 gallons of heating oil or propane courtesy of Rymes Propane and Oil. In addition to the volunteers that made this event possible, Miss New Hampshire 2008, Natalie Shaw and Mrs. New Hampshire International 2008, Irene Raissis Alton were also in attendance lending a hand to help raise awareness, support and funds for the March of Dimes.

House Tour on December 6:

Early Occupants of Amherst's Historic Houses

The oldest person in Town – a wife who was 21 years older than her husband & outlived him by 17 years.

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

Step inside the second-period Colonial cape on the Christmas in Amherst Village tour and you get a true sense of the scale of houses typical of the early 1800s, because the tiny entry hall with its steep narrow turning stair and the left front parlor retain their original dimensions and low ceiling. Although still cozy, it no longer is a small house – but that's another story.

Who was Isaiah Bacon and why is this cute old cape named after him?

Antique houses are generally named either for the first owner-occupant or for the most well-known resident. When the early occupants were neither famous nor infamous, their names have often been forgotten. This is particularly true for smaller houses. So local history buffs consult the 1858 map of Amherst Village, which shows each house labeled with owner/occupant name. This house is labeled "I. Bacon" and indeed local author Emma B. Locke (1916) notes it "was known for many years as the Bacon house" though she says nary a word about who Bacon was, nor does local historian Isaac Scoble (1883).

Isaiah Bacon (1802-1860), a cabinetmaker, bought this "cottage

house" with about 3/4 acre for \$525 in 1856 and lived here with his wife Naamah Farrington (1780-1876), who had been a school teacher in Boston before they wed. He was already 31 and she 21 years older, and both residents of Boston, when they married in her hometown of Wilton in 1834. His first tax bill in Amherst in 1857 was \$4.37 for state, county & town taxes; \$1.00 for highway tax; \$1.52 for school tax; and an additional wallop of \$2.67 for School House tax (probably to pay off the new brick school house built in the center of the Village just a few years prior). He is buried in Meadow View Cemetery. His funeral cost \$24.03.

At his death, the inventory of Isaiah's personal estate was valued at \$34.60 and included one pine table for \$.50 (yes, 50 cents) with 2 chairs \$.20; another chair and rocking chair \$1.00; bureau \$.75; clock \$2.00; 6 silver spoons \$1.50; bedstead, bed and bedding \$5.00; and carpet \$1.50. They also had a "stove in parlor" valued at \$1.75 – just one. That would explain the shallow fireplace in the parlor. I guess they heated only one of the front rooms in the winter.

Ten years after her husband's death Naamah Bacon had become a "pauper", living with other paupers at the Poor Farm. This may have been due to "the blindness, deafness and paralysis" with which she was afflicted the last ten years of her life, rather than lack of funds. There



Isaiah Bacon House

KATRINA HOLMAN COURTESY PHOTO

were three other inmates listed in the 1870 census living on public charity at the Town Farm: another woman in her 80s who just like Naamah had lived independently alone 10 years earlier; a 75-year-old man labeled idiotic who had already been an invalid in his own home ten years prior so probably was suffering from old-age dementia; and an "insane" man of 52. The Town took care of its infirm elderly and mentally ill in those days.

When Widow Bacon died in December 1876 "at the extraordinary age of 96, [she] was much the oldest

person in town", noted the Farmers' Cabinet (1/9/1877). She received a rather long obituary, a whole paragraph, whereas Isaiah had gotten the standard two-line death notice. She ended her days "ministered to by Christian friends", and despite her poor health "maintained Christian cheerfulness under all."

More information about other early occupants of this house – the farmer who lived here before the Bacons and the harnessmaker who lived here later – can be found in the tour booklet.

► Christmas in the Isaiah Bacon House continued from page 1

the walls, joining her mother's antique furniture in these two-hundred year old rooms. While Martha cherishes antiques, she is not a purist. She likes to "jazz things up" and so has artfully combined heirlooms with today's comforts. A Shaker cabinet and framed cross stitch mix easily with overstuffed chairs and a small flat screen television in the living room. At the far end of the room next to the wall of bookcases Doug built is the perfect spot for Martha to sit and read, sew, quilt and knit.

In a cozy room that was once an old shed in the back of the house, there is another reading corner with built-in bookcases. They are flanked by her great grandmother's table and her grandmother's chair. Martha's navy and white feathered star quilt is showcased on one wall.

The home is also filled with special Christmas memories for the Chabinskys. Her mother's ornaments adorn the tree in the dining

room and complement the antique pine trestle table. Many other ornaments made by Martha, her sister and her mother are displayed every year. Complementing Martha's style and decorations, Ponemah Farms will add their own floral touches.

Shannon Turcotte, owner of Ponemah Farms, is excited about participating in the house tour. She says the "best part...is meeting the homeowners who have graciously offered their houses to help the Church. Initially it can be a bit overwhelming to decorate their entire home for public viewing. But as we visit and they describe their preferences, we start to visualize and it all comes together beautifully. Happily, Martha's home is warm and beautiful to start and our taste and natural materials will easily highlight her sophisticated but comfortable style."

For Martha and Doug, Christmas is a time of sharing and having their

house on the tour is a way of sharing their love of Christmas with others. This time of year is "all about sharing," she says, and "about the connections we have with other people and what we have in our hearts."

Strolling through Amherst Village during the house tour is an opportunity to step back, slow down and share the holiday spirit and connect with friends and family. None of the six houses has been on the previous four tours. Tickets for this special event are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the tour. Tickets for the delicious luncheon, prepared by Moulton's and served in the Community Room of the Congregational Church, are \$10 in advance only. Courtesy vans supplied

by the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club are available between houses, the church and the parking lots at Clark and Wilkins Schools. For tickets, visit the church office at 11 Church Street or call 673-3231. For more information, visit www.camherst.org/cav_2008.htm

This year the Congregational Church is selling four unique ornaments depicting Amherst landmarks that tour goers will pass as they visit the six houses. They are ideal gifts for tour goers, for residents and former residents of town, and for history lovers. The ornaments will be available for \$20 each during the tour and at the church office during the week.

**ATTENTION SENIORS!!!
OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, November 29 • 10-2
PARKHURST PLACE**

11 Veterans Road, Amherst, NH 03031

- Features:**
- Beautiful Country setting
 - Non-profit independent living community for Seniors
 - Large function and activity rooms
 - Library with fireplace
 - Community garden
 - Scenic walking trails
 - Screened gazebo
 - Carports with storage

- Services:**
- Regular health screenings and clinics
 - Planned social activities and functions
 - Wellness and exercise programs

Come Visit Us!
From Wal-Mart in Amherst, head west on 101A (Amherst St) 1 mile. Take right on Veterans Rd. 1/4 mile on right.

One bedroom apartments available, only \$1,100 a month, heat and hot water included.

For more information and current special incentives, contact Vera at Stewart Property Management, P. O. Box 10540, Bedford, NH 03110 (603) 641-2163



TDD Access



Discover Beautiful Flooring at Affordable Prices!

- ~ Unfinished ~ Pre-finished ~
- ~ Engineered ~ Solids ~ Laminates ~
- ~ Locks ~ Cleaning Products ~

Professional Installations
Professional Finishing • Professional Service



4 Pine Rd. - Amherst (off Rt. 101 - behind Salzberg Square) 672-4174 - Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 10-5 • Sat. 9-2

Quality • Service • Value



Retail Store • Rte 101A
Lumber Yard • Rte 122
Amherst, NH • 673-3130

The Isle at LEDGEWOOD
An Exciting Senior Living Community

603-673-5037 x104
43 Ledgewood Drive • Milford, NH
www.emeritus.com

DUMP THE DUMP!

Weekly Trash \$9 Pick-Up

SAVE GAS! We come to you. We Recycle!

732-0961

www.byebyedump.com

HO Waste Disposal Services, LLC
Milford, NH

VISA MasterCard



In 1738, the finest craftsmen built your home by hand. Will your insurance company pay to restore it?

Probably not, unless you have the Restorationist policy from Middlesex Mutual. Call us today for a brochure and competitive quote for your antique home.



Peter C. Camello
350 Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060
(603) 883-1587 F (603) 881-8506
peter.camello@foyinsurance.com
www.foyinsurance.com



We're with you.

HOT TUBS

The absolute finest selection of hot tubs and home spa equipment. Complete service, parts and repairs by factory trained technicians.

LOWEST PRICES guaranteed in writing



See this week's specials at
www.seasonalstores.com/whatsnew.



Open 7 Days

120 Route 101A, Amherst, NH • 1/2 mile east of Wal-Mart
www.seasonalstores.com (603) 880-8471 TV5HT

www.thenorwoodgroup.com

The Norwood Group Residential Real Estate

46 Route 101A Amherst, NH
603-673-1775

Affiliated with NAI Norwood Group

New!

MERRIMACK \$369,000
Charming Colonial located on 4+ flat acres w/frontage on Baboosic Brook.
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, custom cherry kitchen, screened porch, attached garage
MLS#2751037

AMHERST \$370,000
Fabulous Opportunity! Be in your new home in time for the holidays. Situated on over 4+ private acres, close to village.
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, this home is a true must see!
MLS#2739120

New!

BEDFORD \$499,900
Spacious 5 bedroom, 4 bath Brick Colonial located on large 3+ acre lot
3 car garage in great cul-de-sac location
MLS#2752676

LAND

Amherst \$179,900 3.68 acres, vacant lot in 3 lot sub-division, close to Amherst village.
Amherst \$199,900 4.42 acres, vacant lot in 3 lot sub-division, close to Amherst village.
Hollis \$234,900 4.17 acres, beautiful wooded lot, level plateau for home site
Amherst \$299,000 14.14 acres, lovely estate lot in desirable Jasper Valley, treed, natural ponds.
Mont Vernon \$299,000 Excellent value! 3 approved lots, 2.2 acres, 2.5 acres, 5 acres with pond.

Visit our state-of-the-art website to view all our featured properties and other Real Estate listings!