

Events Calendar

Competition at December Meeting

Photographers Forum camera club's next meeting is Monday, Dec. 19 at 7:15 at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua. We are an informal club offering educational programs for all ability levels and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. This black and white only competition meeting has three categories: Assigned: "Industrial", Challenge: "Portrait", and Open. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Be our guest for your first meeting. Dues are \$30/year therefore. For more information go to www.photographersforum.org.

Beginner's Photography Course Starting!

It's time to be thinking of fun Stocking Stuffers. That's why we wanted to give you a heads up about the beginner's photography course at C1M Photography in Amherst, NH. Our last courses sold out completely. So, due to popular demand, we'll be starting another Photography The Basics course on Thursday January 19th, from 6:30—8:30. This six week course is for folks who want to get the most out of their camera (including the care and feeding of the little critters!). "What's an f-stop—and should I use that term in mixed company? How does the shutter control light and motion? Composition? I thought that was something we did in English class! Does listening to Mozart make you more creative?" Both digital and film cameras will be covered in this class. There will be weekly class assignments and photo critiques. Class size is limited to 20 students and the cost of the course is only \$270. The course always sells out quickly so it's not too early to book your spot now. Call 673-8200 for more information or to book your spot go to <http://nh-photography-classes.com/>

Amherst MOMS Club

The Amherst MOMS Club holds a monthly business meeting open to residents every third Tuesday at The First Baptist Church, 25 1/2 Middle Street in the Town of Amherst. The International MOMS Club is a non-profit organization supporting moms who are home with their children. Members can be stay-at-home, work-at-home, or work part-time outside the home, but most activities take place during the weekday to support these moms without taking away from family time in the evenings and weekends. The exception to this rule is MOMS Night Out, a once-a-month chance for moms to get out and have some me-time with friends. Other activities include play dates, outings, get-togethers, and community service projects. For more information please e-mail amherstmomsclubnh@gmail.com

Photo Exhibit continued from page 1

A few of the places where Neil has received special recognition and awards are from Life Magazine, The Federation International de l'Arte Photographique, The Photographic Society of America, The Copley Society of Boston along with The Auckland Photographic Society, Inc. of New Zealand. Neil

was also one of 15 members of the PSA invited to represent the Society in the Seventh Color Biannual held in Athens, Greece sponsored by the FIAP. He has exhibited more than 1000 photographs in International Exhibitions in over 30 countries and in over 40 states receiving over 50 awards.

Moulton's Market Cares for SHARE!

Stopping into Moulton's for a quick pick up before work, after school or on your way home? You can one-stop shop to support the SHARE food pantry. The team at Moulton's Market has devised a unique food pantry drive to help fill the pantry at SHARE. There are "bags" of prepacked grocery's you can choose from: Teen Snacks, Fam-

ily Night, School Treats, Senior Sundries, Lotsa-Pasta etc.. Your support will go directly to SHARE. Give the gift that everyone needs! 100% of all collected goods and donations goes directly to SHARE and this food drive will run until the end of December! Thank you for supporting SHARE at Moulton's Market.

Amherst Garden Club January Meeting

New Hampshire Master Gardeners Christy Belvin and Martha Coutts-Eisenberg will speak on gardening in small spaces and giving your garden the personal touch at the January 5 meeting of the Amherst Garden Club. Through a power point presentation they will be looking at color, texture, plant se-

lection and placement to enhance your small garden. The meeting, held at the Amherst Congregational Church, will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a social time followed by a short business meeting. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome.

Remembering Love Ones

2011 MEMORY TREE

The special tree located across the street from town hall on the Amherst Green, with its little white lights during the holidays, is the Amherst Gardeners "Memory Tree". For a small donation, anyone may have a loved one remembered on the "Memory Tree". It's pretty special when passing by it in the evening to be reminded of your loved one.

Each year the donations from the tree have supported a number of community efforts. This year the donations will be going to the Sustainable Garden Program at the Amherst Middle School and garden projects at Souhegan High School. The Amherst Gardeners are pleased to be able to help in this worthy Amherst endeavor and thank everyone who donated to the 2011 Memory Tree.

IN MEMORY OF:

Lee Andreano
Vincent Andreano
Alison Werner Barton
Helen Bergman
Dennis Bishop
Dorothy Boettcher
Jane Boyle
Dick Brams
Jan Brams
Joyce Brooks
Sharon Burgess
Don Carper
Jackson Bryce Clemens
Gavin Coffee
Earl Coffee
Jenny Coffee
L. James Daily
Windows Daily
Merritt Dilley
Doris Dobbins
Blair Dobbins
Larry Dobbins
Mary Donovan
John Doster
Pat Duval
Walter Dzenis
Gert Dzenis
Elsa Finke
William Finke
Walton Fraser
Alda Fraser
Scott Gambee
William Gambee
Cameron Gilligan
Ruth Goldberg
Michael Goodwill
Helen Hadden
Tom Head
Millie Hoch
John Hoch
Mabel Holschuh

Merrill Holschuh
Roger Hooper, Sr.
Helen Hoye
Jim Hoye
Mary Iaquinto
Greg Iaquinto
Barbara Z. Johnson
Melvin T. Johnson
Mary Julian
William Julian
Richard Kraham
Meghan Kraham
Marie Krosch
Otto Krosch
Bradford Lambert
David Lamont
Ruth Lamont
Barbara Landry
Mary Lodes
Bill Lodes
Jack Logan
Eileen Logan
Bob Marley
Mark Melle
Eleanor Merrell
Elisabeth Michaelis
William Michaelis
Adele Moecking
Jonathan Morin
Jim Murray
Helen Murray
Dorothy Nakamura
Ryan Nicholas
Mary Samango Nolan
Peter Oldham
Wilma Oldham
Cicero Parran
Kitty Pauselius
Rex Peace
Roberta Peace
Luisa Perricelli
Michael Perricelli

Frederick Porter
Robert H. Prew
Julia E. Prew
Gene Pringle
Mildred Provasoli
Dr. Cedric Robinson
Nancy Robinson
Charles Rossi
Mario Rossi
Charlotte Rossi
Eleanor Rossi
Elfriede Schmidt
Herman Schmidt
Richard Schulz
Lucille Schulz
Terry Shields
Odette Smith
Perry Smith
Hartley Smith
Dr. Christopher Smith
Vilma Smith
Judy Stubbs
Don Stubbs
Dr. Emerson Sylvester
Lorraine Vierno
Ilse Warmund
Sheila Warner
Patience Webb
Maureen Zimmer

In Memory of loved ones from :
The Dokmo Family
The Gambee Family
The Johnston Family
The Livingston Family
The Madigan Family
The Spiess Family
The James Quinn Family

Town News

Historic Amherst

Fund Raising 150 Years Ago for Civil War Soldiers

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

This year marks a sad anniversary for America: its civil war – or War of the Rebellion as it was called by Yankees – began 150 years ago. On April 23, 1861, after first rallying around the flag on the flagstaff in the center of the Common, the citizens of Amherst marched to the stirring beat of a drum into Town Hall where they held an enthusiastic meeting to respond to the President's call for troops. The initial call for volunteers was for a mere three months, but by the end of the year enlistments were for three years – and already three local lads in uniform were dead. The Amherst ladies held a "social levee" as a fundraiser for the boys in blue, billed as a "Christmas Festival at the Town Hall, Amherst, Thursday Eve., December 26th, 1861: For the Benefit of the Loyal Soldiers!" Admission was 15 cents, the doors opened at 6:00, entertainment to commence at 7 o'clock.

Ice Cream & Oysters
"The tables [were] provided with Ice Creams, Oysters, Coffee, &c." and there was an "illuminated" Christmas tree. (Remember, this was before electric lights, so folks in those days did not see continuously "lit" trees indoors and outdoors, in public and private spaces, as we do now.) Contributions for the tree (probably in the form of gifts for the soldiers) and tables were solicited. The program consisted of tableaux, charades, instrumental music from the Milford Cornet Band and Orchestra, and vocal music from an amateur club. Here's the list of tableaux: 1) Our Father who art in Heaven; 2) scenes from the Rebellion, present and future; 3) Goddess of Day and Night; 4) execution of Joan of Arc; 5) Washington's dream of liberty; 6) the fairy grotto or birth of the fairy queen; 7) Queen of Sheba before King Solomon; 8) Ruth gleaning; and 9) Christmas scene. The tableaux were viewed by "colored lights." We can get a sense of what kind of lights those were by what happened on the next Fourth of July, when the ladies held a similar event, again in Town Hall, to raise funds to cover the expenses of the day. On that occasion, during the patriotic final scene utilizing forty characters, there was an "explosion of one of the colored lights by which the piece was exhibited, causing the breaking of two kerosene foot lights and suffocating smoke" but no other harm.

The Christmas 1861 event, according to newspaper editor-publisher E. D. Boylston,

was a complete success, "realizing a handsome sum" for the Soldiers' Aid Society, and largely owed its brilliancy and success to the skill, excellent taste, and zeal of Miss Harriet J. Nutt. The tableaux performed at the 4th of July 1862 fundraiser were arranged by the same young lady and were "original, elegant and instructive, far surpassing any former exhibition of the kind in the place."

Hattie Nutt & Her Sisters
Hattie Nutt (c.1838-1879) and her siblings grew up in a tavern-inn. Their father Samuel Nutt (1787-1845), born in Fracestown, had kept a tavern in Tyngsborough, Mass., before he moved to Amherst with his family of newlywed second wife and three sons and two daughters by his recently deceased first wife. Five more daughters were born in Amherst (the two youngest, as well as their eldest half-sister, missing from Secomb's History), probably in his hotel at 101 Boston Post Road in the Village, which he bought in Dec. 1826. Hattie was the youngest. Her mother died when she was two or three years old. Eldest brother George, who had taken over as innkeeper, leasing the hotel from his father, died at age 30, just five months after Samuel. So the five remaining sisters, ranging in age from 24 to 6 in 1845, lost their home too. Next-oldest brother, Charles, was a successful merchant in Nashua and he became guardian of the three minors, but the sisters stayed in Amherst. Their father's will left \$500 each to the older daughters and \$300 each to the younger ones. Hannah/Anna (1822-1856) briefly kept a millinery and dressmaking shop (vacated in summer 1850) and perhaps the sisters earned a bit by such work. By the time of the Civil War, only the eldest sister Mary (1820-1893) and the youngest were left in town, renting a place in the Village, probably somewhere on Church Street. In Nov. 1861, the Ladies' Soldiers Sewing Circle met at the residence of the Misses Nutt on a Thursday.

When the new fire engine company of Amherst appeared for the first time in their uniform of red jacket with blue collar and front and blue belt and cap, in Oct. 1859, it was Miss Harriet J. Nutt (probably aged 21 at that time) who presented them with a beautiful banner in behalf of the ladies of Amherst.

The conflagration on the south side of the Common on December 2, 1863 burned the town's flag, as well as a large quantity of clothing collected for the "freedmen," which had been stored in Mr. H. E. Abbott's store. At this time of patriotic fervor, women of



Amherst Town Hall was the venue for a fundraiser by the ladies held on the second day of Christmas 150 years ago to benefit local soldiers. The young ladies of Amherst presented a similar program of music and tableaux again two years later, on Christmas eve and evening 1863, to raise funds to replace the town flag destroyed by fire. Admission 15 cents.

the town acted quickly to remedy the situation. They formed the Ladies Banner Club to raise money to purchase a replacement. Their grand Christmas festival, held on Dec. 24 and 25, 1863 in the court room, netted \$83 after paying all expenses. Miss Hattie J. Nutt as president of the Banner Club presented the gift of a new American flag for the town to the Republican Club on Valentine's day 1864. The dedication ceremony held on the Common was a big to-do with many speakers of toasts and responses. One of those speakers was Edward A. Richardson (1843-1885), a Dartmouth College student whose parents lived in Amherst Village. Less than a year later, in January 1865 in Boston, Hattie

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