# 2012 Amherst Tree Lighting Festival

## A 3-Day Weekend, December 7, 8 & 9

**All Events held within the Historical District of Amherst, New Hampshire**

***FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2012 ~ KICKOFF - TREE LIGHT-UP NIGHT!***

**6:30 Tree Lighting Ceremony**
- on the WW I Common across from Moulton's, By the ATLF.
~ Boy Scouts of Troop 22 serve their annual cocoa and chestnuts roasted on an open fire; accepting donations.
~ Amherst First Baptist Church offers popcorn.
~ Celebrating the December Holidays of Amherst Residents ~
Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, The First Snow, Winter Solstice and more!

**Then Walk On Over To The Amherst Town Supper**
**At The Village Congregational Church ~ On The Common!**

**7:00-8:30 Spaghetti Supper**
- at the Amherst Congregational Church, By the Lions Club, Desserts by Sr. High Youth Group , Come one, Come All! Donations Accepted.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 2012 ~ SANTA SATURDAY!**

**9:00-11:00 Breakfast with Santa**
- at the Village Congregational Church, By the Newcomer's Club, Advance Ticket Sales Only! NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR, For Tickets Contact: Jess Steele at 603-672-2252, $6.00 per person.

**9:00-5:00 Girl Scout Craft Fair**
- at the Amherst Fire Station (Meeting Room), By the Girl Scouts: jewelry, fleece blankets, decorated pencils, and ornaments. Several free crafts/activities: Make your own bracelets, ornaments, and face painting. Cookie Swap - purchase a plate and select 12 cookies.

**9:00-5:00 Amherst Historical Society Booth**
- at the Amherst Fire Station, By the AHS, Selling Amherst merchandise -sweatshirts, t-shirts, mugs, ornaments and books.

**3:00-5:00 Santa Arrives By Fire Truck**
- at the Amherst Fire Station, By the AFD. Bring Your Own Camera.

**3:00-5:00 Cocoa and Cookies**
- at the Amherst Fire Station, By Team Earley.

**~ AND WALK OVER TO THE~**

**3:00-5:00 APD Open House**
- at the Amherst Police Station Child-Protective IDs and Fingerprinting, By the Amherst Police Dept. Meet your APD officers.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 2012 ~ CONCERTS SUNDAY!**

**8:00-11:00 Pancake Breakfast with Mrs. Claus**
- at the AFD, By the AFD. Donations accepted, No reservations needed.
~Stroll The Colonial Village Of Amherst To See Our Charming Homes And Buildings~
~Village Church Services Are Held At 10:00 Am In Village Churches~

**1:00-2:00 Town Band Concert**
- at the Amherst Congregational Church, By the Amherst Town Band and SHS Acappella Singers

**2:00-3:00 Refreshments 'Tween Concerts**
- at the Village Congregational Church Community Room, By the Nellie W. Perkins Doll and Miniature Society of New Hampshire.

**3:00-4:30 Choirs Concert**
- at the Amherst Congregational Church, By Congregational Church Choirs' Concert.

**6:00 Christmas Around the World ~ A Concert**
- at Souhegan High School, By the Souhegan Valley Chorus, Tickets at Door: Adults $15; Seniors/Students $10; Under 12, Free.

**All Weekend ~ Project Warmth!**
Collecting New Bought or Homemade kids' hats, mittens, scarves, socks, as well as new coats, snow/ski pants and blankets for the needy. Collection Bins at AFD, Cong'l Church, and Library, placed by Lions Club.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE, OR ACCEPT DONATIONS, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

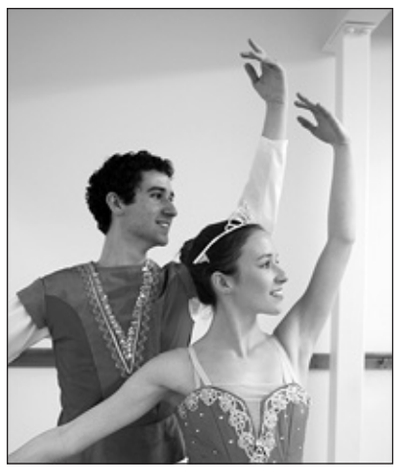
# Andrew Harris returns home to Amherst from Harvard to perform in Ballet Misha's *The Nutcracker*

Andrew Harris, 21, of Amherst will be rushing up to New Hampshire as soon as he finishes his final exams at Harvard University on December 14th for dress rehearsal of Ballet Misha's The Nutcracker. Harris, who is dancing the role of Sugarplum Cavalier is one of over a hundred dancers that travel from all over NH and MA to rehearse at Dimensions in Dance, Ballet Misha's affiliate school in Manchester.

Harris is a junior engineering student at Harvard University who commutes from Cambridge to rehearse each week without complaint because he is enthused about dancing the Sugarplum Pas de Deux with UNH junior Isabelle Poulin,21, from Merrimack.

"I'm so thrilled to be performing in Ballet Misha's Nutcracker this December. Eight years ago, I was a party boy in my first Nutcracker, and I am very excited to be returning this year as the Cavalier," reminisces Harris.

Ballet Misha is not just a youth company like the majority of schools who put on dance performances in the area. Most of the lead roles are danced by adults who bring a poise and maturity to the roles. Over the past several years, Ballet Misha has earned a reputation for showcasing excellent dancing, having beautiful sets and costumes, and for its overall creativity, which is why so many people want to be a part of it.



Ballet Misha Director Amy Fortier says she loves giving adults an opportunity to dance and perform.

"There are so many opportunities to dance and perform before a student goes to college, but hardly any for adults," Fortier explains. "I started Ballet Misha in part to fill this void. It seemed unfair that just as dancers were reaching a high technical level and developing a stage presence, their opportunities to dance disappear when they graduate high school."

Like most universities, neither Harvard nor UNH do productions of The Nutcracker, so many college students from nearby schools audition every year.

" This has been a wonderful opportunity to perform a classical piece in one of my favorite ballets," explains Harris.

"It is fun to see Andy put his engineering skills into practice as he and Isabelle work out the mechanics of these complicated lifts," says Director Amy Fortier while explaining why she loves working with Harris and Poulin.

Ballet Misha's production of this holiday classic was voted as the Hippo's Best of Manchester 2012 "Best Art Event of the Year." Ballet Misha's The Nutcracker is at the Dana Center at St Anselm's College on Saturday, December 15th at 1pm and 7pm, and on Sunday, December 16th at 1pm. Tickets are $18 general admission and are available at 603-668-4196, at Dimensions in Dance at 84 Myrtle Street in Manchester, or at www.balletmisha.com, or for $20 at the door.

# Annual Keyes Art Exhibit at Frame Depot

MILFORD – The Keyes Art Group has their annual Holiday Show Christmas Exhibit at The Frame Depot, 227-2 Union Square, in Milford, NH

Many cards, ornaments, hand-painted gifts, prints, plus original artwork will be on display by our local artists. Their opening Reception will be held on Friday evening, November 30th from 6 to 8 PM. Several artists will be on hand to greet you. Light refreshments will be served.

Their artwork will remain on display through December 24th at 12 noon. The Frame Depot hours are Tuesday through Friday 9AM to 5 PM, and Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM.

# Souhegan Valley Chorus Concert, Sunday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.

**Souhegan Valley Chorus will present its holiday concert "Christmas Around the World" on Sunday,**

Dec. 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Souhegan High School in Amherst.

The concert will include a variety of pieces representing many countries. This is a program the whole family will enjoy. Along with the chorus you'll take a breakneck, snowy ride on a Russian sleigh, feel the rhythmic drum beats accompanying an African spiritual, enjoy a Swedish yuletide carol, and experience the energy of the traditional "Hallelujah" chorus. In addition, seacoast guitarist Brian Killough will perform with the chorus in the story of "Silent Night" and play a solo number. Vouli Anthimidou, director of Vouli Dance of Amherst, will bring dancers from her studio and choreograph singers in two numbers as well.

The chorus of 60 singers from towns throughout the Souhegan Valley, now in its 33rd season, is directed by Jennifer K. Erdody. Ms. Erdody is choral director at Milford High School, is active with theater and music at the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, and is also well known to many as director of the annual "Messiah" performances in Mont Vernon. Kimberly Vars Whitehead who accompanies the chorus is music director at area churches as well as local community productions. She will perform a solo piano number during the concert.

During the busy holidays it's important to make time for family, friends, and activities that are meaningful. The singers of Souhegan Valley Chorus hope that hearing the special music of Christmas in live performance at their December 9th concert will be one of the meaningful parts of your holidays.

Admission is $15 for adults and $10 for seniors and students. Children age 12 and under will be admitted free. Tickets are available at The Toadstool in Milford, from chorus members, or at the door. Details about the chorus and the concert are available at www.souheganvalleychorus.org

# BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

COURTESY FILE PHOTO

Santa visits with youngsters at Breakfast with Santa.

**Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Amherst Area Newcomers' Club is gearing up to host Santa Claus at a special Breakfast on Saturday, December 8th, from 9.00am to 11.00am. Santa will be having breakfast at the Amherst Congregational Church and all children, parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, and neighbors are welcome to join in the fun! Tickets are $6 each and are available ONLY in advance. Admission includes a continental breakfast, holiday crafts, games, and a photo of your child with Santa.

# Symphony NH Orchestra and Chorus POPS Concert

***Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 PM***

Keefe Memorial Auditorium
Elm Street Junior High School
117 Elm Street, Nashua
Jonathan McPhee, conductor

From "Sleigh Ride" and "White Christmas" to movie music from *Home Alone* and *The Polar Express,* celebrate the holiday "Pops"-style with Symphony NH & Chorus at this festive family event. Come ready to sing along!
$48 / $35 / $27 / $12 - Adults $43 / $30 / $22 / $12 - Seniors $12 - Students with a valid ID
Tickets available online, at the door, or by reservation at the box office 595-9156.

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