

Rhodes Singers To Perform at Congregational Church of Amherst



Dr. William Skoog leads the Rhodes Singers

A concert of sacred and secular music from the Renaissance to today.

AMHERST — On Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 PM, the Congregational Church of Amherst, United Church of Christ will welcome the Rhodes Singers, from Memphis, TN, for a concert of sacred and secular music from the Renaissance to today. Led by Dr. William Skoog, the voices of these 50 young men and women of Rhodes College will fill the historic Meetinghouse with the magnificent sound of collegiate voices raised in song. The concert is free and open to the public.

Among the singers will be Jocelyn Labomarde, of Bedford, NH, a member of the Amherst Congregational Church, a 2013 graduate of Cushing Academy and a sophomore at Rhodes College.

Dr. William Skoog joined the Rhodes faculty in 2009 as Professor of Music, the Elizabeth Daugh-

drill Endowed Chair of the Department of Music, and Director of Choral Studies. At Rhodes he conducts the Rhodes Singers, the Master Singers Chorale with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and teaches conducting. He previously served as Director of Choral Activities at Bowling Green State University (OH), directing the University Men's Chorus, University Choral Society and the Collegiate Chorale.

Rhodes College, founded in 1848, is one of the premier small private liberal arts colleges in the South. Located in Memphis, it is renowned for its academic rigor, its honor code, and its stunning Collegiate English Gothic architecture. It is consistently ranked among the most beautiful college campuses in the country.

Overnight housing is needed for the students on the night of March 11 — please call the church office at 673-3231 or Peter Labomarde at 714-2322 if you can help.

Amherst Garden Club

Boston Flower Show Trip March 11

The Boston Flower Show on Wednesday, March 11, by The Amherst Garden Club. Leaving at 2pm and arriving during the late afternoon is a less crowded time to view the show. This year's theme for the flower show will be "Season of Enchantment" and it promises to explore the mystical joys of the spring garden. The shows lush and inspiring landscapes will get you excited for the coming season. It is a great opportunity to learn more about garden design as each display is critiqued by judges. Also available to answer your questions are the garden designers. Each garden display will be labeled with latin and common names.

You will not want to miss the floral arrangements which are also judged. This year the professional florists will conjure up "Wizards Hats and Wands" in celebration of the theme and the container Garden Invitational will offer dozens of ideas for creating your next potted

masterpiece. Venders are prolific and always fun to see what is new in gardening!

There is the opportunity this year to get in on one of the lectures. At 3:30 Andi Ross, a landscape designer and Garden Coach will speak on Hydrangeas for those who are interested.

The Amherst Garden Club will be arranging for a limo bus to do all the driving. The cost which includes the trip, ticket to the flower show and gratuity for the bus driver is \$53.00 (please make check payable to Amherst Garden Club).

Email Marti Warren (martiwarr@comcast.net) to sign up. Only a few seats are left.

This is open to anyone to attend, why not invite a friend. We leave from the Meeting Place at 2pm and return at 7pm. Everyone will be on their own for dinner. You can eat on site, or wander across the street to the Seaport Aura Restaurant and enjoy a light dinner.

Amherst Town Library Events

Feast Of Words Celebration

AMHERST — The Amherst Town Library is getting ready for a feast of words during the month of March! With the grant funded New Hampshire Humanities Council programs, "Evolving English: From Beowulf and Chaucer to Texts and Tweets," and, "Family Stories: How and Why to Remember and Tell Them," starring as centerpieces, there is a buffet of March events library-wide with the theme of **It's All About the Words**. The public is invited to sample and savor the offerings. Enjoy the visual delight of the Amherst Garden Club's imaginative floral arrangements inspired by books the weekend of February 27th to March 1st and take in a wonderful concert, "The Gateway Trio: Music as Language" on Sunday, March 1st from 4 to 5 p.m. View the Friends of the Library's display case filled with international visual artist Susan K. Gaylord's intimate book creation and join Susan

for a workshop. Explore how words are the building blocks of meaning with local scholar Nancy Baker. Learn how words do matter with New Hampshire author-illustrator Mary Ann Cocca-Leffler, with her daughters, Kristin and Janine, in a presentation called, "Stand Up, Inspire, Include, and Invite." Take a walk in the woods in your mind as Stephen Collins presents, "An Evening with Robert Frost." Get motivated to write your own words down as two New Hampshire authors offer a do-it-yourself self-publishing class.

For a full calendar of March events at the Library to take your thoughts off snow and fire your imagination, go to the Amherst Town Library homepage <http://www.amherstlibrary.org/> and click on the "full calendar" tab or give us a call at 673-2288. Registration is required for all adult programs, so please sign-up early!

Words: The Choicest Of Relics — A Word Play Event

AMHERST — Scholar Nancy Baker presents, "Words: The Choicest of Relics—A Word Play Event," at the Amherst Town Library on Monday afternoon, March 16 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. In this program we will explore how words are made and how they grow and why words are the building blocks of meaning that expands and changes subtly from generation to generation. We will connect with the places where words intersect with other forms of expression in art, music, myth, and philosophy.

There will be an opportunity to play with words as well, as we enjoy the quirky ways that English amuses and serves us. As Henry David Thoreau said, "A written word is the choicest of relics. It is the work of art nearest to life itself." So, we will have a little fun with this art that all of us use every day!

Presenter Nancy Baker was one of the Founding Faculty at SHS. Recently retired, during her time at the school, Nancy taught Mythology, History of Ideas, Philosophy, Ancient History, and Latin.

Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

surrounding towns

Who: 7 & 8 yr old girls
What: Instructional softball
When: Tentative start date of 42015
Fee: \$45R; \$70NR

9-12 year olds: Minor/Major League

Team placement will be based on screening. All players will screen. Games will be played with surrounding towns

Who: 9-12 yr old girls
What: Minors/Majors
When: Tentative start date of 42015
Fee: \$90R; \$117NR

13-15 year olds: Juniors
Play games with surrounding towns. Games generally play on Wednesdays and Saturdays, not to conflict with the Middle School Schedule.

Who: 13-15 yr old girls
What: Junior League
When: Tentative start date of 42015
Fee: \$90R; \$117NR

Softball Clinic at AMS

Come get a jump on the Softball Season with a 4 week skills, drills and activities program geared to develop your softball abilities. This program runs Mondays through March at the Amherst Middle School. Be prepared each week to participate for an hour and a half of softball.

Who: 5th-8th grade
Where: Amherst Middle School Gym
When: Mondays March 9th -30th from 6-7:30pm (see website for more details)
Fee: \$25R; \$35NR

Who: Children ages 3-4
What: Start Smart Baseball
Where: Front of Clark School
Fee: \$45R; \$55NR

Volleyball for Middle School Girls

This 5th through 8th grade program for girls is designed to develop basic volleyball skills for beginners, while reinforcing fundamentals and introducing positional play for those who demonstrate mastery of the basics.

Who: 5th-8th Grade Girls
When: Mondays and Wednesdays 4/6-5/20 @6:45pm-8pm
Where: AMS Gym
Fee: \$55R; \$65NR

Track and Field

The Amherst Track and Field program helps athletes develop age-appropriate skills and overall conditioning, including strength and flexibility, which are essential to performance in all athletic fields.

Participants receive expert training in individual events.

Practices will be held on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday starting 4/20

10 and under: 6-7pm
11 and up: 6-8pm
Who: Ages 6-18
Where: Practices will be held at the SHS track
When: Practices start 4/20 from 6-8pm
Fee: 10 and under: \$45R; \$55NR
11 and up: \$60R; \$70NR

Pre-School Programming

Tiny Toes Dance

Lets get groovy!
Our Tiny Toes Dance program is for girls and boys ages 3-5. In this 4 week program, students will get an intro to dance. During each 45 minute class Our dance instructor, Amber Ciarcia, will guide the dancers through fun, creative movement.

Who: Boys and Girls ages 3-5
What: Tiny Toes Dance
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center
When: 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3 from 10:15-11am
Fee: \$25R; \$30NR

Start Smart Baseball

We are excited to offer Start Smart Baseball for boys and girls ages 3-4 again this year!

This once a week program is an opportunity for children to be introduced to the game with the support and presence of a parent. Sessions will last one hour for six weeks.
Season runs from 52015-62015

Pre-school Playgroup

We would like to offer a brand new program to the town of Amherst! This FREE program will give pre school students and parents a chance to get out of the house and play together. This is a great way to get preschoolers out and engaging with children their own age.

Who: Preschoolers and parents (ages 3-5, younger siblings with parents are welcome!)
What: Pre-school Playgroup
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center
When: 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3 @11am-Noon
Fee: FREE

Toddler Trails and Tails

During this 4 week program we will explore a nature based theme through a story, a simple craft, movement and song, and an outside adventure! Instructor Nicole Col-

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vin-Griffin brings 20+ years of experience in creating programs and teaching children of diverse ages.

This program needs a minimum of 4 participants to run.

Who: 3-5 yr olds
What: Toddler Trails and Tails
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center
When: March 3, 10, 17, 24 from 10:30-11:30am
Fee: \$35R; \$40NR

Exploring Nature Together

Join us for a parent/caretaker and child (ages 3-6) adventure! This is a hands-on class with seasonal themes will be followed by outside fun, with themes that will include: NH Animals and Plants, Habitats, Animal Tracks, and more!

This program needs a minimum of 4 participants to run.

Who: ages 3-6
What: Exploring Nature Together; A Parent Child Class
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center
When: March 3, 10, 24; 1-2pm
Fee: \$25

Adult Programming

Zumba Gold® (Low Impact for Beginners)

If you have ever enjoyed any kind of dance in your life...ballet, tap, swing, ballroom, folk dance, country line dance or Jazzercise...you'll pick this up in no time!

Class Format: 45 minutes of dance including: 10 min. warm-up, 20 min. moderate intensity aerobic dance, 10 min. cool-down and a 5 min. standing stretch.

Please visit www.amherstrec.org for schedule/pricing options

Weekly Walks in Amherst

Let's get out and explore some of Amherst's best kept secrets. The Amherst Parks and Recreation Staff will meet you at the selected trailhead on Tuesdays at 10am. Please call the Recreation Office Beforehand.

Who: General Public
When: Tuesdays @ 10am
Fee: Free

Adult Basketball and Adult Volleyball
Pick up games at AMS have begun. The registration fee covers the entire school year. See our website for details and to register.

Game Days

Amherst Recreation offers a fun afternoon of table or card games for adults.

Thursdays 1:00-3:30pm @ the Amherst Fire Department Training Room.

No registration required. It's free!

Family Programming

Birthday Parties at PMEC!

Create amazing birthday memories this year with a Birthday Party for your child age 3-12 at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center!

We have several themes to choose from or we can work together to tailor one just for your Birthday Girl or Boy. Please visit www.amherstrec.org for more details.

Snowshoeing at PMEC

The snow is here! Head on up to PMEC for a fun-filled afternoon of snowshoeing. Snow shoe rentals will be available Saturdays, starting December 6, 2014 from Noon to 4pm.
Fee: \$6R; \$8NR

Trips

Irish Cabaret

Join Best of Times in 2015 for one of our hallmark programs...our St. Patrick's day celebration program. A show not to be missed!

Who: Adults 18+
What: Tony Kenny's Irish Cabaret day trip

When: Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Arrival time 11:30am; departure time TBA

Where: Venus De Milo Swansea, MA. Pickup location TBA
Fee: \$85 per person (includes transportation, show, and luncheon)

Cherry Blossom Festival & Washington D.C. Sightseeing Trip (April 9-12)

Join the Amherst, Merrimack, and Milford Recreation Departments for a trip of a lifetime! Experience the history and attractions of this great American City.

Trip Includes:
5 meals
Coach Bus transportation
Native Washington D.C. tour guide
Overnight stay at the embassy Suites

Who: Amherst, Merrimack, & Milford Residents

What: Sightseeing Trip

Where: Washington D.C.

When: April 9-12, 2015

Fee: \$559 pp Double

\$549 pp Triple

\$689 pp Single

\$459 Child w/ 2 Adults

We add programs weekly, so check our website often...

And make time in your life for Recreation!

Native Sons of Amherst Who Became Merchants in Boston

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founded the early mills on Souhegan River in Souhegan West, now Milford.

Jonathan Shepard and Thomas Means, both of Milford with Amherst roots, attempted to sell the "grist and saw mill known as Shepard's Mills on Souhegan River" in Milford in July 1808, and again in Oct. 1809, at which point Thos. Means owned half of the mills and two-thirds of the carding machines, but to no avail. In 1810 a bill to incorporate Jonathan Shepard, Thomas Means and others as Milford Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Corporation passed the legislature. Shepard must have been over-extended because he lost a sizable property, the mills in Milford and 400+ acres in Amherst with houses, to foreclosure that same year. In June 1812 Jonathan Howard purchased all that property, grist and saw mills and carding machine in Milford plus the Amherst real estate, for \$4500, repaired the mills and advertised "grinding, carding and sawing" in the Amherst newspaper. Around the same time, Jonathan Howard helped another former neighbor, Nathan Kendall (3d, 1755-1846), limp along financially when in Dec. 1810 he supplied \$3000 as a mortgage for 6 Mack Hill Road, which Kendall had bought in 1790, keeping a store next door. Nathan 3d was born on the Souhegan River farm of his father, Nathan (Jr., 1726-1791), probably at 382 Boston Post Road, where brother Timothy subsequently (around 1802) built a big tavern, which still stands across the road from Howard's boyhood home. Ten years later, Kendall still had not paid it off and quitclaimed the former Mack Hill tavern to Howard for \$2875. Howard didn't manage to sell it until 1839, for \$1200, having first split off the store lot.

Huge Boston Fire of 1825

The most destructive conflagration — in terms of number of buildings destroyed — in Boston thus far occurred on 7 April 1825: 53 buildings were consumed, most of them businesses. Among those suffering financial loss were two Amherst natives, Jonathan Howard of the firm

Howard & Gordon and Daniel F. Weston of the firm Whiting & Weston. A building on the north side of Doane Street, occupied by Howard & Gordon for the storage of goods, was destroyed, but they were fortunate that the fire halted just next to their leased store on State Street, which was opposite the building on Doane St. where the blaze started in the store of Henry Purkett, inspector general of fish. Purkett subsequently reopened his office at the store of Messrs. Howard & Gordon. A store back of Broad Street, "improved" by Whiting & Weston, and owned by S. Gore, was also destroyed; and the fire consumed "a considerable amount of paints, and a quantity of stored goods."

Son of Store & Pub Owner Weston

Daniel Franklin Weston (1801-1832) was a native of Amherst, son of Daniel Weston (1774-1818) and great-grandson of Rev. Daniel Wilkins. Daniel F. Weston's mother was a sister of David S. Eaton's first wife, and thus the younger Daniel was a nephew of Eaton. So he had a good role model for going into business in Boston.

The 90-acre Souhegan River farm at 2 Thornton Ferry Rd 2 was created in 1801 when Dr. Ebenezer Weston (Jr., 1731-1805), a physician, divided his homestead farm (which his pa, Ebenezer Sr. (b. 1702), then a cooper of Reading, had acquired in 1752 as 103 acres comprising 6 & 2 Thornton Ferry Rd 2), conveying this westerly portion to his son Daniel for \$2000. This Daniel Weston kept a store at the junction of Thornton Ferry Rd 2 and Boston Post Road, next to Timothy Kendall's tavern-inn, in which Weston ran a pub from 1803 to 1810.

Fishing Excursion Tragedy

In June 1832, "one of the most melancholy accidents" occurred in



Eber Lawrence-George W. Fletcher Farmhouse — 377 Boston Post Road. This was the childhood home of Jonathan Howard (b. 1768), who became a wholesale merchant in Boston, and Robert Read (b. 1785), who ran a general store in Amherst Village.

the outer harbor near Nahant when the pleasure boat Bunker Hill, with ten men aboard, was upset during a violent squall in the early evening, drowning eight Boston men, all merchants. Two of them had Amherst connections: Daniel F. Weston (firm of Whiting & Weston) and Robert R. Howard (firm Howard & Manning). "Mr. Howard was the youngest of the party, an amiable young man, and was to be married to a young lady next Tuesday. His father, Mr. Jonathan Howard, had just relinquished to him and his partner an extensive business. He was an only son, [because] his elder brother was killed several years ago, while a lad, by falling over the balustrade of the stair case in Faneuil Hall." Young Howard's partner, Francis Cogswell Manning (1807-1869), had worked as a clerk for Jonathan Howard and would become his son-in-law in 1839 when he was married to Abby Howard (1814-1905).

Son of Taverner French

When Ephraim French (Sr., 1751/5-1834) in Dec. 1801 bought a house at 226 Boston Post Road with 4 acres, about half-a-mile south of the Common, where he kept a tavern until 1807, his son Jr. (1778-1863, m. 1806) was already grown up. Junior was a retailer at 49 Hanover Street in Boston, when he bought

his father's homestead in Jan. 1806, probably as a way to provide his pa much needed cash. In Dec. 1806, Jr. formed a partnership of several years' duration with Benjamin French, probably his uncle, under the firm of B. & F. French, and they took store No. 12 Merchants Row where they offered an assortment of W. I. goods by wholesale or retail and also retained store No. 49 Hanover, occupied by Ephraim Jr, where he sold a general assortment of W.I. goods and groceries. In 1809, Ephraim Jr. joined the Mass. Artillery Company, becoming fourth sergeant in 1811. He retired from trade to Newton, Mass..

Notes & Sources:

This article is dedicated to folks who live in "L. A." — Lower Amherst — especially those who care for antique houses.

The first clues were found in Amherst deeds that give not only place of residence but also occupation of grantor and grantee. The Boston Athenaeum has put free digitized, searchable versions of old Boston directories online: The first Boston directory was published in 1789 (none of these Amherst men in there); the next several in 1796, 1798 (where "Howard & Eaton W.I. goods" first appears, no first names), 1800 (where not only "Howard & Eaton" firm is listed but also each partner separately with first name and house location). Copartnership notices, especially dissolution dates, and reports of fire and boat accident were published in Boston and N.H. newspapers, searchable online via America's Historical Newspapers database, which also includes the *Farmer's Cabinet* through 1879. Secomb's *History of Amherst, N.H.* connected the featured merchants (except John Shepard) to their fathers but other genealogical sources filled in the pictures.