

# TOURIST & TOWN

FREE

Volume 65 Issue 23

November 23, 2023



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# TOURIST & TOWN

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Hrehovcik

Thank you to these talented individuals and all of our many contributors who make Tourist & Town what it is!



## Publisher's Note

*Sniff sniff....*

*It's the final newspaper of 2023...and though I'm definitely feeling the need for a long winter's nap, it's also bittersweet to see the publishing year come to a close. But at least I know what to expect.*

*I know I will feel off-beat and out of step for a while, as the predictable rhythm of publishing shifts to a quieter winter rhythm for a couple months. I know it will take a while to adjust my pace. And almost immediately after I send off this final issue, and get a couple good nights of sleep, I know I'll start getting excited for the next publishing year.*

*One thing I always look forward to, however, is the annual routine of curling up in front of a fire with a big stack of the past year's newspaper issues. It's a chance to enjoy them in a way I'm not sure any of us on Team T&T really can when we are always turning right around to focus on the next issue...and the next...and the next...*

*It's a chance to savor the glorious words of the talented writers you see at left – and to appreciate the hard work of our sales, distribution and graphics professionals you also see here.*

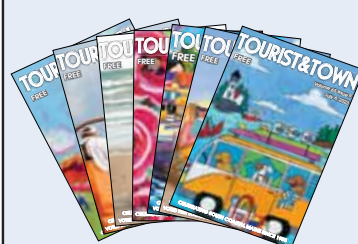
*Together, we cover a heck of a lot in a year. Together, we tell endless stories, celebrate countless small businesses, showcase numerous good deeds and spread all sorts of good will. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this team. I couldn't feel more privileged to be able to do what we do. I am emotional just thinking about it. In fact, I think I need the annual breathers just to take it all in.*

*Thank you to our advertisers. Thank you to those whose stories we have been privileged to tell. And thank you, thank you, thank you to our loyal readers.*

*See you in 2024!*

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# Piper Castles' original artwork fills just-released fundraising calendar

On the cover of this final *Tourist & Town* of 2023 is an original by local artist Piper Castles. This painting also appears in a just-released 2024 calendar. The calendar is a fundraiser and educational tool for the Kennebunkport, Kennebunk and Arundel Land Trusts and the Center for Wildlife. The art showcases local scenery and wildlife.

Piper Castles is a Maine-based artist and nature enthusiast. Walking in the woods or along a beach fills her with peace and happiness. That's what she wants to capture in her paintings and share with the world. Her work is a joyful celebration of nature and color. Castles graduated from Pratt Institute and has worked with many amazing clients over the years, including the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Wells Reserve, Gary Pike House, Blacksmith's

Winery, New Hampshire State Parks and Maine Land Trusts. Her work can be viewed at [fireflyfield-prints.etsy.com](http://fireflyfield-prints.etsy.com)

Permaculture Designer Julie McLeod has written information on protecting our wild areas and wildlife within the calendar. McLeod practices ecological landscape design for

Larkspur Design based in Portland.

The calendar will be available at the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick in their gift shop, at the Kennebunk Land Trust headquarters FMI visit [www.thecenterforwildlife.org](http://www.thecenterforwildlife.org), [ww.kennebunklandtrust.org/shop-klt](http://ww.kennebunklandtrust.org/shop-klt) and [www.kporttrust.org](http://www.kporttrust.org).



Above left: Piper Castles. Courtesy photo. Above right: two of Castles' wonderful originals that fill the 2024 fundraising calendar. Courtesy photos

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- Consolidated School Craft Fair - Dec 9
- Maine Art Hill - Nov 24 thru Dec 10

See website for more details.

## Barn & Mill Gallery

[www.barnandmillgallery.com](http://www.barnandmillgallery.com)



Get prepared for Prelude fun by picking up a copy of the Official Christmas Prelude Guide, published by Prelude Media Sponsor Tourist & Town. The guide is available at businesses throughout the Kennebunks and at the Kennebunk Kennebunkport Arundel Chamber of Commerce. Get equipped for some serious holiday fun!



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# The Retro Roadtrip Report: Star Theater and Kittery Community Center

by Joshua Hrehovcik and Geraldine Aikman

In this this edition of The Retro Roadtrip Report, we'll be heading to Maine's first town, Kittery (settled 1623), to visit the

Star Theater and the Kittery Community Center (opened 2012).

Originally built as the Frisbee Elementary School in 1941, the building has been repurposed into a vi-

brant center. Here you can enjoy a variety of fitness programs, arts and crafts classes, many cultural activities and their famous pickleball league.

The Kittery Community Center always has a wide range of programs for residents and non-residents, as well as multiple office and classroom spaces for nonprofits and civic groups to use as meeting space. Function rooms are also available for wedding receptions and parties.

The Star Theatre offers a year-round schedule of live theater, lectures, workshops and movies. Stay in the loop by subscribing to their newsletter.

When you visit the Kittery Community Center, be sure to check out the Seacoast Fridge located just outside the main entrance. This is a community resource that is open 24/7, and is open

to everyone. Much of the food is donated by local businesses but anything you can give is always appreciated.

Community fridges address the issue of food waste, and are a communal way of distributing surplus food items. So, next time you make dinner, consider making some extra portions and take them to the community fridge nearest you. Seacoast Fridge even has its own Facebook page with the motto, "Take what you need and leave what you can."

The Kittery Community Center and Star Theater are located at 120 Rogers Road, Kittery, Maine. FMI visit [kitterycommunitycenter.org](http://kitterycommunitycenter.org). FMI on community fridges, visit [www.changex.org/us/communityfridge](http://www.changex.org/us/communityfridge).

Follow The Retro Roadtripper on Instagram @retroroadtripper65



The Star Theatre



Take what you need and leave what you can at the Seacoast Fridge

## "Prelude Poetry"

### An afternoon of original poetry

On Tuesday, December 5, WePoets & Verse will present "Prelude Poetry," featuring dynamic original poetry read by poets from the Kennebunks and beyond. The event will run from 2 to 3:30 PM at Mornings in Paris Cafe, 21 Western Avenue, Lower Village Kennebunk.

Your \$3 per person donation includes a cup of hot chocolate to benefit the COS (Community Outreach Services) local food bank.

All are welcome to attend this truly special Prelude event. FMI email [poetryawakenings@gmail.com](mailto:poetryawakenings@gmail.com).



Daisy Fine, an artist and 10th grader at The New School in Kennebunk, has designed a T-shirt to raise funds for the victims and families of the Lewiston tragedy. Order your \$28 T-shirt today by emailing [publisher@touristandtown.com](mailto:publisher@touristandtown.com). With your order, you will also receive a large complimentary sticker with the above design. The first round of orders will be taken through November 30. Proceeds will go to the City of Lewiston Support Fund.



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## Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush coming to Graves Library December 9

Twin sisters, daughters of President George W. Bush and his wife Laura, will be at Kennebunkport's Louis T. Graves Memorial Library at 10 AM on December 9 to sign copies of their new book, *Love Comes First*.

"This book is a celebration of growing families," Library Director Mary-Lou Boucouvalas said. "In this story, two sisters wish upon a star for a sibling. Not only does their wish come true, but they also get a new baby cousin. Although the wish doesn't turn out quite the way the sisters imagined, they soon

learn that love does indeed conquer all."

In addition to co-authoring this delightful book, both Bush daughters lead busy and productive lives. Jenna Bush Hager is the co-host of *Today with Hoda and Jenna*, the fourth hour of NBC's morning news program *Today*. She also features prominently on the show



as a correspondent and contributor.

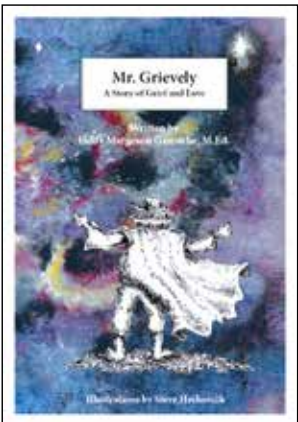
Barbara Pierce Bush is an American activist. She co-founded and now chairs Global Health Corps, a non-profit organization offering competitive fellowships to support emerging global health leaders. Global Health Corps selects young professionals for paid

13-month fellowships with organizations promoting health equity in East Africa, Southern Africa, and the United States.

Copies of *Love Comes First* will be available for sale and signing but pre-registration is required to attend (see details below). Parking is available at the Village Fire Station on North Street and the Consolidated School on Route 9.

Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library is located at 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport. To register for this exciting event, call 967-2778.

## Wells author writes book about loss and recovery



the poignant rhythm of this personal and universal experience. The character, Mr. Grievely, becomes a powerful metaphor for navigating and processing grief. Mr. Grievely creates an imaginary presence amidst the darkness as he takes the reader by the hand to reveal an illuminated and hopeful pathway to solace.

A resident of Wells, Gamache has 40 years of experience as an educator. She said, "We all, at one time or another, must inevitably face loss in our lives. Each person grieves uniquely. I wrote the book to honor my parents, and to provide a measure of hope and reassurance that we are never alone."

The emotional pain and confusion caused by loss can create unbearable sadness. In her new book *Mr. Grievely - A Story of Grief and Love*, Holly Margeson Gamache provides a perceptive look at this difficult and heartbreaking time.

Inspired by her own experiences with grief, Gamache has written about the feelings that follow such a life-changing moment. Gamache expresses her ideas in verse to heighten

years. When she asked me to illustrate her book, I was moved and motivated by her sensitive descriptions of the journey we all take. To create a graphic expression of her ideas has been a great honor and privilege."

Hrehovcik lives in Kennebunk and has illustrated more than a dozen children's books.

*Mr. Grievely - A Story of Grief and Love* is available on Amazon and at [Hollyhockinnovations.com](http://Hollyhockinnovations.com).

# LADIES NIGHT

# NIGHT

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Nov 25-26: Early Elf Holiday Market 10-4
- Dec 4 & 6: Prelude Craft Event @ Alisson's
- Dec 16-17: St. 'Nick of Time' Holiday Market 10-4
- Reach out or go to our website for more info!

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**Merry Makers Market on Maine Art Hill**

Once again, Maine Art Hill is transforming into a Merry Makers Market for the holiday season. Each year, Maine Art Hill's galleries embrace the holiday with a blend of arts, community, charity and fun for children and children at heart.

This year's events run from November 24 to December 26, with many special happenings. Maine Art Hill has invited sixteen Maine artists and artisans to fill two of the 5 Chase Hill Road galleries beginning November 24 and running a week beyond Prelude. An outdoor fire pit and refreshments are provided daily for a warm welcome.

During Prelude, from November 30 to Decem-

ber 10, this will change a bit. The Gallery at the Grand Hotel (1 Chase Hill Road) will join in the fun, hosting several artists.

Some of the special Prelude events include:

A Holiday Photo Booth to benefit the COS Food Pantry: With a suggested \$10 Donation and 100% of proceeds going to COS (Community Outreach Services) of the Kennebunks, pose for photos with the provided hats, props and lifesize Grinch against a festive backdrop. This will run November 30 through December 10, Thursday to Monday, 10 AM to 4:30 PM at the show galleries at 5 Chase Hill Rd.

A Kids Crafts and Scavenger Hunt: Spon-

sored by Portside Real Estate Group, The Gallery at the Grand will offer fun-filled holiday activities designed especially for kids. Let your child's imagination run wild while making a holiday craft of their choice. On your way out the door, grab a Prelude-inspired scavenger hunt to complete as you explore the town. This is a donation-based event, and 100% of the proceeds will benefit Grahamtastic Connections. This will run Friday through Sunday, December 1 through 3. On Friday, hours will be 12 to 5 PM. Over the weekend, hours will be 10 AM to 2 PM.

Free Crafts for Kids with the Common Roots

Mobile Art Bus: Parked outside the Grand Hotel on December 9 and 10, from 11 AM to 3 PM, this fantastic Biddeford-based bus will entertain kiddos with crafts and craziness.

DeLeo Group Toys for Tots Drive: On Saturday, December 9, from 10 AM to 1 PM, stop by 5 Chase Hill Road for coffee, cider, doughnuts and merriment with guest appearances from some lively holiday characters.

Come experience a wide array of art and fun, thanks to numerous artists and artisans. The Gallery at 14 Western Avenue is open 7 days a week, 10 AM to 5 PM and the Shows buildings are open Thursday through Monday 10 AM to 5 PM.

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Ed Majkowski Studio will be open for walk-ins from November 15 through December 15. Whether you're an art collector, a seasoned critic, or just someone who appreciates being surrounded by

paintings, you will find that Majkowski's paintings to be a testament to the power of nature to heal and inspire.

Ed Majkowski Studio is located on the second floor of Lafayette Center in Kennebunk (2 Storer Street). Enter at the Duffy's entrance on Storer Street, go to the second floor and you will find signs there to direct you. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11 AM to 6 PM, and Sunday, 10 AM to 1 PM. FMI call 553-8277.

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## Kennebunk Free Library announces "Hearing Nature's Song"

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents the exhibit "Hearing Nature's Song" by Rhonda Miller. The exhibit runs December 2-28, and the public is invited to an opening reception on Tuesday, December 5 from 5-7 PM.

Rhonda Miller creates with mixed media and has developed and collaborated on numerous exhibits, as well as shown solo, around New England over the past 20+ years. According to Rhonda, "we live in a gorgeous natural landscape. There are wonders everywhere we look." Her work is an homage to the environment around us. The fauna and flora of our region is a constant source of inspiration for her. Rhonda is inspired by the elements that sing together, rocks, trees, and water. Her pieces are created using various media - the palette and techniques are expansive and encourage her to play. Both the subjects and Rhonda's way of working embody movement and growth. The landscapes are a place where she can marry the media with the scene, and the results are always a bit surprising. Experimenting keeps Rhonda interested and encourages her to stay focused on the process.

When not out hiking and observing, you can find Rhonda in her studio in her house in South Berwick. Her husband and dog Lucy quietly encourage the process of sinking into the work. On hikes her husband often points out mushrooms or plants he knows she will appreciate. Lucy lays next to her in the studio, reminding her to take it slow and steady.

View the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from December 2-28



Acadia Stream by Rhonda Miller

at 112 Main Street, Kennebunk. Please check the library website for hours and gallery access, [www.kennebunklibrary.org](http://www.kennebunklibrary.org).

**HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**  
 Saturday, November 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
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**FREE CRAFTS FOR KIDS DEC. 9 + 10: 11AM-3PM**  
 FROM COMMON ROOTS STUDIO'S MOBILE ART BUS



The articles that people share on their Facebook posts are simply astounding. For example, I've learned why 488 golden retrievers gathered in Scotland this past sum-

mer; that up until 1956, French schoolchildren were served wine on their lunch breaks; and that Ingrid Bergman regretted turning down the role of Zira in *Planet of the Apes*.

Speaking of classic films, I read a piece of Hollywood history online the other day concerning the practice of location filming. The piece focused on the advantages film

crews have in shooting on sets, where a controlled environment allows for few surprises and makes it far more likely for the cast and crew to make it home for dinner every night.

To help make his point, the person who wrote the article mentioned several legendary movies that were shot on soundstages rather than on location, including *Casablanca*, *Citizen Kane*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

With the first film, even if they had wanted to, it would have been impossible for Michael Curtiz and company to go to Morocco at the height of World War II to shoot their movie. With *Citizen Kane*, Orson Welles and cinematographer Gregg Toland were following the convention of the day by shooting on sets, which they probably would have preferred anyway, so that they could have complete control over the film's complex and revolutionary camerawork.

The reason *The Wizard of Oz* wasn't filmed on location, come to find, is far more complicated. With a little bit of digging, I first learned that cost alone was not the reason MGM decided not to shoot on location, which admittedly would have been exorbitant. Studio chief Louis B. Mayer was willing to pay whatever it would cost to bring L. Frank Baum's

beloved classic to the silver screen, and would eventually shell out \$2.7 million (about \$60 million today) for the production, making it MGM's most costly film to date.

That being said, the cost would have skyrocketed had Mayer agreed to shoot on location, for two major reasons. For one thing, to get to Oz, all personnel and equipment would have had to be shipped via hot air balloon, and in order to avoid the time-consuming process of sending whatever could fit into the hot air balloon one round-trip at a time, MGM would have had to build an entire fleet of them.

Secondly, there was the sticky situation involving the unions. MGM insisted on using the cameramen, electricians, make-up artists, sound technicians, and other crew that they were accustomed to working with. However, the Mayor of Munchkinland, through an intermediary who proved an intractable negotiator, would not budge on the matter, demanding that Munchkinland's film community, which was still basking in the glow of its 1937 Academy Award-winning documentary *Searching for Sally: The Untold Story of the Mediocre Witch of the South*, should provide the entire staff for the production.

The mayor's edict ex-

tended to the casting of the Munchkins, which he understandably felt should be played by actual Munchkins. Louis B. Mayer, also a shrewd and headstrong negotiator, refused to accede to that stipulation, if only to stay in the good graces of SAG.

Then there was the role of the Technicolor color consultant, which the Mayor of Munchkinland dismissed as being "redundant." In a letter dated August 28, 1938, and sent to Victor Fleming (who would direct most of *Oz*), the mayor noted with a mixture of condescension and hubris: "What you don't seem to understand is that Munchkinland is freakishly bright and colorful already and doesn't require any special cameras or lighting or any other cinematic enhancements. Our land is so overabundantly and overwhelmingly colorful that I am confident our people could capture its glory even with Kodak Super X pan [the most popular black-and-white film stock of the 1930s]."

But it wasn't just troublesome negotiations with the Mayor of Munchkinland that led to the shooting of *The Wizard of Oz* on MGM soundstages. There was also the matter of coming to an agreement with representatives from Oz itself, which proved

an exercise in frustration. It seemed that every time the MGM rep arrived at a scheduled appointment in the Emerald City, the Oz rep would either tell him to go away and come back another day, or he'd pawn him off on another Oz rep who bore a striking resemblance to the first Oz rep. After two weeks of this merry-go-round, Mayer cabled his frustrated employee and told him to take the next hot air balloon to LA.

Though location shooting did not come to fruition for *The Wizard of Oz*, the results are inarguably brilliant, making it one of the most beloved films of all time. Still, one can't help but wonder how the finished product would have looked if it had been shot in Oz and Munchkinland (it was always understood that the Haunted Forest scenes, for obvious reasons, would be filmed on sets).

But it was never meant to be. As the Mayor of Munchkinland, driven by frustration to hyperbole, noted in his posthumously published diary on September 14, 1938, "I am saddened to record here that the deal with MGM is morally, ethically, spiritually, physically, positively, absolutely, undeniably and reliably dead."

*dana@touristandtown.com*

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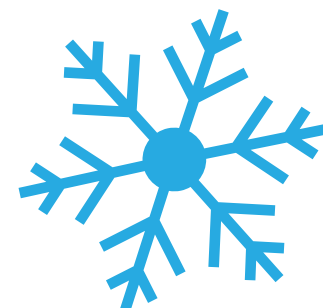
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# CALENDAR

## Going on Now

**Antiques on Nine Closing Sale**, 81 Western Avenue, Kennebunk. 50-70% off everything in the store. Store closing permanently December 10. FMI call 967-0626.

**Ed Majkowski Open Studio**, 2nd Floor, Lafayette Building, 2 Storer Street, Kennebunk. The studio will be open through December 15. Hours are: Mondays 11-6, Wednesdays 11-6, Fridays 11-6, Saturdays 11-6 and Sundays 10-1. Closed Tuesdays and Thursdays. FMI call 553-8277.

## Thursday, November 23

**Sea Change Yoga Benefit Class**, The Daily Sweat, 9:45-10:45 AM. This donation-based class will benefit Sea Change Yoga, the mission of which is to increase access to yoga for people living in systemic oppression. FMI and to sign up, email [thedailysweatkennebunk@gmail.com](mailto:thedailysweatkennebunk@gmail.com) or go to [thedailysweatkennebunk.com](http://thedailysweatkennebunk.com)

## Hurlbutt Designs presents "Holiday Table Tops with Festive Flair" during first Prelude weekend

by Valerie Marier

Kathy Oberman Tracy's culinary credentials are considerable. As the former food stylist for Martha Stewart, private chef/caterer for the late Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, and currently craft instructor and curator at Kennebunk's fabled White Barn Inn, Oberman's talents will be on local display December 2 at Hurlbutt Designs in Kennebunk.

And here's your early Christmas gift from Hurlbutt Designs: a cordial invitation to come learn a variety of holiday-themed table top decorations at this "free seminar" being held December 2 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Complimentary refreshments will be served during the event.

"I'll be working with fresh greens, woodland cuttings, seaside finds and festive Christmas accents to beautify table tops and to suggest ideas for surrounding home decor," Tracy said. "Christmas is my favorite holiday. I love sharing new and unique ways to create that special yuletide feeling."

The classically trained chef with a Masters in Culinary Arts from the New School in New York City has been part of the culinary world for nearly 30 years. She adds, "When beautiful decorations enhance the delicious meal you're serving, that's the best."

"Holiday Table Tops with Festive Flair" presentation will be December 2, 11 AM to 1 PM at Hurlbutt Designs, 51 Western Avenue, Kennebunk. FMI call 967-4110.

## Friday, November 24

**Black Friday at Bell Farm Shops**, 244 US Route 1, York, 9 AM-6 PM. Discounts all day!

**Festival of Trees**, Dyer Library and Saco Museum, 371 Main Street, Saco. Dozens of dazzlingly decorated trees based upon this year's theme, Joy of the Holidays, adorn the museum's galleries. Other highlights include a raffle for designer trees and other gift items, concluding on December 14; Tea with Mrs. Claus; visits with Santa; and Children's Crafts Day. The festival runs through Saturday, December 30. Make the Festival of Trees a part of your annual Holiday Tradition!

## Friday & Saturday, November 24 & 25

**Society of Southern Maine Craftsmen Home for the Holidays Craft Show**, Scarborough High School, 11 Municipal Drive, Scarborough. A 90-vendor event. Friday, 10 AM-4 PM, and Saturday, 9 AM-4 PM. FMI visit [www.societyofsouthernmainecraftsmen.org](http://www.societyofsouthernmainecraftsmen.org) or follow on Facebook or Instagram.

## Saturday, November 25

**4th Annual Holiday Fair**, American Legion Hall, 102 Main Street, Kennebunkport 9 AM-2 PM. Visit 32+ amazing holiday crafters for exceptional seasonal gifts, food raffles and a ho, ho, whole lotta of fun. FMI: contact Jo O'Connor at [jfboconnor@gmail.com](mailto:jfboconnor@gmail.com) or call (617) 372-3042

**Dasher Can't Wait for Christmas Book Reading with Illustrator Matt Tavares**, Brick Store Museum, 117 Main Street, Kennebunk, 10 AM. FMI call 985-4802 or visit [www.brickstoremuseum.org](http://www.brickstoremuseum.org).

**Tree Lighting Open House**, Brick Store Museum, 117 Main Street, Kennebunk, 10 AM-5 PM. Free admission all day to the museum, plus Holiday Market. FMI call 985-4802 or visit [www.brickstoremuseum.org](http://www.brickstoremuseum.org).

## Sunday, November 26

**"Prelude" to Prelude Holiday Concert**. See ad below.

## Monday, November 27

**Full Moon Walk**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 3:30-5:30 PM. Children who can be quiet are welcome. \$8/\$6. Registration required at [linda@wellsnerr.org](mailto:linda@wellsnerr.org) or 207-646-1555 x128. FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**SMAA Medicare Info Sessions**, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 10 AM-1 PM. FMI call SMAA at 207-396-6524.

## Tuesday, November 28

**Cribbage Game Night**, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 6 PM. Players of all ages and abilities are welcome to come and play, watch others play, learn the game, or just kibbitz. FMI [sclaydon@wellstown.org](mailto:sclaydon@wellstown.org) or 207-646-8181.

## Wednesday, November 29

**Wednesday Walk**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 10:30 AM-12 PM.

Docent Norma Fox will choose a route for exploring and finding inspiration. For ages 12 and up. Free. Registration required at 207-646-1555 x110 or [caryn@wellsnerr.org](mailto:caryn@wellsnerr.org). FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**Wreath Making Workshop**, Brick Store Museum, 117 Main Street, Kennebunk, 5:30-7:30 PM. Workshop will be taught by local artist and wreath maker Elizabeth Winter. Feel free to bring a beverage of your choice to enjoy while you create. Registration: \$65/\$60 for Members. FMI call 985-4802 or visit [www.brickstoremuseum.org](http://www.brickstoremuseum.org).

**Virtual Talk: Naomi Aldernam**, York Public Library, 15 Long Sands Road, York, 3-4 PM. Bestselling and award-winning author Naomi Alderman will talk about her new book *The Future*. FMI visit [yorkpubliclibrary.org](http://yorkpubliclibrary.org).

## Thursday, November 30

**Weekly Conversational French Language Group**, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 4 PM. FMI contact Cindy Appleby at [cappleby@wellstown.org](mailto:cappleby@wellstown.org) or call 207-646-8181.

## Friday & Saturday, December 1 & 2

**Annual Christmas Marketplace**, Bar Mills Community Church, 13 Hermit Thrush Drive, Buxton. Friday, 4-7 PM, and Saturday, 9 AM-1 PM. Fresh greens to decorate your home, baked goods-cookies, breads, pies and candy. Cash and checks only. FMI visit [www.barmillscommunitychurch.org](http://www.barmillscommunitychurch.org), see Facebook or contact Judy at 929-5555.

## Friday, December 1

**Opening of Festival of Traditions**, Brick Store Museum, 117 Main Street, Kennebunk. Festival runs through December 22. See opposite page for more details.

**Opening Day of Eyephoria's Holiday Sale**, Eyephoria, 2178 Post Road, Wells. See ad on page 22 for more information.

**Fiber Arts**, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 10:30 AM. All ages and levels of ability are encouraged to join us for ideas, inspiration and lively conversation. FMI contact Stefanie Claydon at [sclaydon@wellstown.org](mailto:sclaydon@wellstown.org) or call 207-646-8181.

**Lego and Rubik's Cube Club**, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 3 PM. All ages welcome. FMI contact Kayla Sawyer at [ksawyer@wellstown.org](mailto:ksawyer@wellstown.org) or call 207-646-8181.

**Opening of Elf: The Musical**, City Theater, Main Street, Biddeford. City Theater is thrilled to bring *Elf the Musical* to their stage December 1-17; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. There is no performance on Sunday, December 3. Tickets are \$25 & \$30 (All fees included) and are available at [www.citytheater.org/buy\\_tickets](http://www.citytheater.org/buy_tickets) or 207-282-0849

**The Astronomical Society of Northern New England (ASNNE) Monthly Meeting**, The New School, 38 York Street, Kennebunk 6:45 PM. This is both the a meeting and a Christmas potluck supper. Members and guests meet to celebrate the holiday season, socialize and discuss astronomy. All members and guests are welcome and are asked to contribute to the supper, either with a dish or

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**"Prelude" to Prelude  
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a dessert. FMI about ASNNE, including directions and events, or to contact the Club, please visit us at [www.ASNNE.org](http://www.ASNNE.org).

**Heart of Biddeford's Downtown Holiday Festival**, 5:30-7:30 PM. The evening features a visit from Santa, tree lighting, fun holiday performances and game and lots of great food in City Square next to City Hall on Adams Street. FMI visit [www.heartofbiddeford.org](http://www.heartofbiddeford.org) and n Heart of Biddeford's Facebook page.

**Saturday, December 2 & Saturday, December 9 Prelude Craft Fair**, Kennebunkport Consolidated School, School Street, Kennebunkport. The fair will be held from 9 AM-3 PM both Saturdays. Over 75 crafters will be there selling crafts, bakery, art and more. Suggested door donation of \$2 to benefit the Kennebunk High School Freshman and Senior classes and the Recreation Scholarship Fund.

**Saturday & Sunday, December 2 & 3 Holiday Open House at Bell Farm Shops**, 244 US Route 1, York. Saturday, 9 AM-6 PM. Sunday, 10 AM-5 PM.

**Adopt-a-Tree Festival**, Vinegar Hill Music Theatre, Arundel. Saturday, 10 AM-6 PM; Sunday, 10 AM-2 PM.

**Saturday, December 2 Microchip and Rabies Vaccine Clinic**, Animal Welfare Society Community Veterinary Clinic, 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 9 AM-12 PM. Please RSVP: <https://animalwelfaresociety.org/event/microchip-rabies-vaccine-clinic-dec-2023/#rsvp-now>

**Sunday, December 3 Yuletide Youngsters: Puppy Learn & Play**, AWS Training Classroom 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 2 PM. Open to puppies 5 months and under. Learn and Play is a series of one-time sessions that tackle the basics of raising a puppy. \$29 per session. Attend one, or take them all! Pre-registration is required: [animalwelfaresociety.org](http://animalwelfaresociety.org)

**Tuesday, December 5 "Prelude Poetry,"** Mornings in Paris, 21 Western Avenue, Kennebunk, 2-3 PM. WePoets & Verse invites you to listen to original poetry read by poets from the Kennebunks and beyond. \$3 per person donation includes cup of hot chocolate to benefit Community Outreach Services. FMI email [poetryawakenings@gmail.com](mailto:poetryawakenings@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, December 6 Teen Collaborative Crafting: Fantasy Mapping with Rice**, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 1 PM. Let rice serve as inspiration in the creation of a fantasy map from your wildest imagination. For students in grade 5 and up. FMI contact Kayla Sawyer at [ksawyer@wellstown.org](mailto:ksawyer@wellstown.org) or call 207-646-8181.

**Mid-Week Music's Christmas Concert**, Town House School, 135 North Street, Kennebunkport, 5 PM. (Also, Sunday, December 10, 1 PM). Keyboardist Mark Gunter (with his vintage 1960s Hammond organ), bassist John Kumnick, and guitarist Dana Pearson will join together again to play an eclectic mix of Christmas music, ranging from the religious ("O Holy Night," "The First Noel") to the not-so-religious ("Santa Got a Sunburn," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"). The Wednesday evening concert is BYOB and only for people 21 and older; the Sunday matinee encore is alcohol-free and is open to everybody. FMI and tickets: [kporths.com/buy-tickets](http://kporths.com/buy-tickets), [info@kporths.com](mailto:info@kporths.com), or 967-2751.

**Thursday, December 7 Art in Nature: Block Printing Workshop**, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 1-4 PM. Create unique cards and decorate a tote bag. For ages 16 and up. \$20/\$16. Registration required at [caryn@wellsnerr.org](mailto:caryn@wellsnerr.org) or 207-646-1555 ext 110. FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**Prancer's Petite Pooches: Small Breed Learn & Play**, AWS Training Classroom, 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 4:30 PM. Open to dogs 5 months and older, under 25 lbs, and who are either graduates of AWS Basic Training, an equivalent obedience/manners group class, or has permission from the instructor. \$29 per session. Attend one, or take them all! Pre-registration is required: <https://animalwelfaresociety.org/canine-training/learn-play/>

**Holiday Book & Art Sale**, Graves Memorial Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport, 5 PM. The Book Cellar is well stocked with new and gently used books, puzzles, note cards, mugs, hats, CDs, and more. FMI call 967-2778 or visit [www.graveslibrary.org](http://www.graveslibrary.org).

**Prelude Movie Night**, Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport, 6:45 PM. This month, the pick is a holiday classic with Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. Light refreshments will be served. FMI call 967-2778 or visit [www.graveslibrary.org](http://www.graveslibrary.org).

**Saturday, December 9 Portaling Awareness Walk**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 9:30-10:45 AM. Learn about compassion and mindfulness from author, therapist, compassion educator, and grief worker Elizabeth Straka. Free. Registration required at [growloveportalingawareness@gmail.com](mailto:growloveportalingawareness@gmail.com). FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**Book Signing with Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush**, Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport, 10 AM. See full story on page 7.

**Sunday, December 10 Historical Society of Wells and Ogunquit's Market at the Meetinghouse Craft Fair**, 938 Post Road, Wells, 9 AM-2 PM. Enjoy shopping for unique crafts while enjoying family activities, food and more. The parade begins at 2 PM. Don't miss this fun, festive event to get your holiday season started. FMI email [info@wohistory.org](mailto:info@wohistory.org) or call 207-646-4775.

**AWS Leads the Pooch Parade & Fur Tree Fundraiser**, Dock Square, Kennebunkport, 11 AM. Stop by the AWS Fur Tree, located on the lawn of the Kennebunkport Inn in Dock Square to purchase a bow for the tree. Bows can also be purchased online. All proceeds from the Fur Tree benefit AWS. FMI: [animalwelfaresociety.org](http://animalwelfaresociety.org).

**Monday, December 11 A Tale of Three Estuaries: An Emerging Story of Lobsters and Range-Expanding Species in the Gulf of Maine**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 12-1 PM. Led by research scientist Helen Cheng. Registration not required. \$5 suggested donation. FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**Wednesday, December 13 Wednesday Walk**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 10:30 AM-12 PM. Docent Norma Fox chooses a trail she thinks will be best for exploring, using the natural world as her muse. For ages 12 and up. Free. Registration required at 207-646-1555 x110 or [caryn@wellsnerr.org](mailto:caryn@wellsnerr.org). FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**Rescue Readers**, AWS Adoption Center, 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 2 PM and 2:30 PM. Rescue Readers brings together elementary/middle school students and AWS resident pets for a half hour of reading aloud. Registration is required. RSVP at [www.animalwelfaresociety.org/youth/literacy-story-hours/#rescue-readers](http://www.animalwelfaresociety.org/youth/literacy-story-hours/#rescue-readers)

**Thursday, December 14 Prancer's Petite Pooches: Small Breed Learn & Play**, AWS Training Classroom, 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 4:30 PM. See description earlier in this calendar.

**Saturday, December 16 Portaling Awareness Walk**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 9:30-10:45 AM. See description earlier in this calendar.

**Wild Wonder Forest Bathing**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road Wells, 10 AM-12 PM. This session is with Jennifer Comeau, a certified forest therapy guide who holds workshops on climate buoyancy and embodied leadership. \$20/\$16. Registration required at [suzanne@wellsnerr.org](mailto:suzanne@wellsnerr.org) or 207-646-1555 x116. FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**Sunday, December 17 Yuletide Youngsters: Puppy Learn & Play**, AWS Training Classroom, 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 2 PM. See description earlier in this calendar.

**Twilight Crescent Moon Walk**, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, 3:45-5:15 PM. Experience the magic of the Wells Reserve at twilight. For ages 10 and up. \$8/\$6. Registration required at 207-646-1555 x110 or [caryn@wellsnerr.org](mailto:caryn@wellsnerr.org). FMI [wellsreserve.org/calendar](http://wellsreserve.org/calendar).

**Wednesday December 20 Rescue Readers**, AWS Adoption Center, 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 2 PM and 2:30 PM. Rescue Readers brings together elementary/middle school students and AWS resident pets for a half hour of reading aloud. Registration is required. RSVP at [www.animalwelfaresociety.org/youth/literacy-story-hours/#rescue-readers](http://www.animalwelfaresociety.org/youth/literacy-story-hours/#rescue-readers)

**Thursday, December 21 Prancer's Petite Pooches: Small Breed Learn & Play**, AWS Training Classroom, 46 Holland Road, Kennebunk, 4:30 PM. See description earlier in this calendar.

**Ladies Night at Local Color: Holiday Sip & Shop**, Local Color, 30 Dock Square, Kennebunkport, 5-8 PM. Discounts, giveaways, karaoke and more!

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**Sunday, December 3**  
**9 AM - 2 PM**

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**BRICK STORE MUSEUM** Downtown Kennebunk  
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# Antiques on Nine wraps up 27 years – and Beverly Bangs looks ahead

by Jo O'Connor

It's time for a new chapter for antiques dealer and designer Beverly Bangs, owner of Antiques on Nine in Lower Village Kennebunk. Bangs will be closing her shop on Sunday, December 10. Until that time, Bangs is holding a 50% off sale, with deeper discounts expected. Bang's reflections on a lifelong commitment to her craft are inspiring.

Beverly Bangs is a true renaissance woman, with a history rich with Southern charm. Born in Danville, Virginia, and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Bangs moved to Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, in her teen years, where she got a taste of retail.

"As a teenager, I started by selling souvenirs for

a \$1/hour wage," said Bangs. "There were tables full of tchotchkes. I loved it."

Bangs earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Georgia. During her college summers, she worked at The Country Store in Chatham, Massachusetts, a Talbot's-like women's specialty store. Bangs simultaneously worked at The Candy Manor, also in Chatham. She travelled to Kennebunkport for occasional weekends – and the experience never left her.

"It was my first time in New England and I fell in love with it," said Bangs.

After college, Bangs joined the junior executive training program at Davidson's in Atlanta (owned by Macy's).

"I spent three years there learning the retail basics including buying for different departments, managing the floor, setting up displays and merchandising. This amounted to my formal training in retail."

Afterwards, Bangs moved to Boston to run a store called The Pot Shop, a gourmet cookware group of shops. It was there that she became exposed to many of New England's prominent coastal locations, including Back Bay, Boston, Harvard Square, Watch Hill, Rhode Island, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and again, Kennebunkport.

During her years at The Pot Shop, Bangs' boss sent her on a buying trip to Cologne, Germany for the world's largest housewares show.

"Everything changed then," said Bangs. "I was exposed to Europe and that whetted my appetite to travel and to have my own business."

At the age of 28, Bangs approached a bank for a loan. After securing the loan, she opened her own shop, Bagatelle, a gourmet cook shop in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and later, Martha's Vineyard. Then Europe beckoned.

Bangs moved to Nottingham, England, where she worked for the famed creative designer/entrepreneur Sir Terrence Conran in his fashionable shop

called Habitat, which sold upscale home goods.

"His store was so popular with a more modern twist," said Bangs. "It was a breath of fresh air to the old-fashioned dark décor of English homes at the time."

After this amazing experience, Bangs returned to Atlanta and open a massive 3,000 sq.ft. antique warehouse called Beverly Scott Ltd. Antiques.

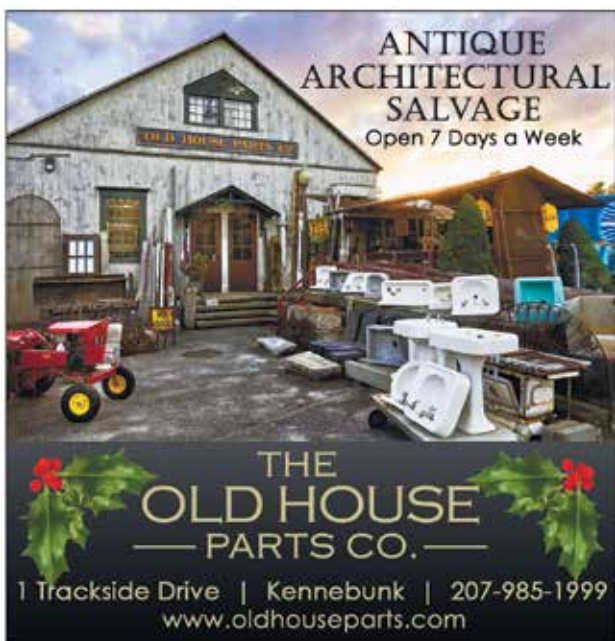
On a chance visit to visit a Boston friend, Bangs met her future husband John. The two married and moved to Boston. Three children followed. With her memories of Kennebunkport and her love of coastal New England, Bangs and her husband bought a summer house on Kennebunk Beach.

Bangs always kept her toes in the antiques world (this time as a shopper). During her summers, she visited Joyce Carlson at Antiques on Nine. She started consigning for her and in 1996, Bangs bought the store from Carlson.

"The store took on a life of its own. We transitioned from being a dealer shop to retail/designer based. I travelled to Europe on buying trips and to find things that were interesting to me in hopes that others will love the items too. It was my goal to have shoppers and designers



This photo by of Beverly Bangs by Greta Rybus can be found in Tim Harrington's book *Kennebunkport, Maine*.



find pieces in my shop that would speak to them. ...I have been so fortunate and maybe it's luck and maybe some of it resulted from the decisions I made. Part of my enjoyment of this life is the wonderful customers and staff I have worked with. It is so important to love what you do. And I don't plan to sit at home. I would love to learn to paint, do some volunteerism and enjoy

my husband, children and five grandchildren," said Bangs.

In the end, this writer suspects that Bangs won't be gone from the antiques scene for long. Antiques and setting trends are in her DNA.

Antiques on Nine closes December 10. The store, located at 81 Western Avenue in Kennebunk, is open seven days a week, 10 AM to 5 PM.

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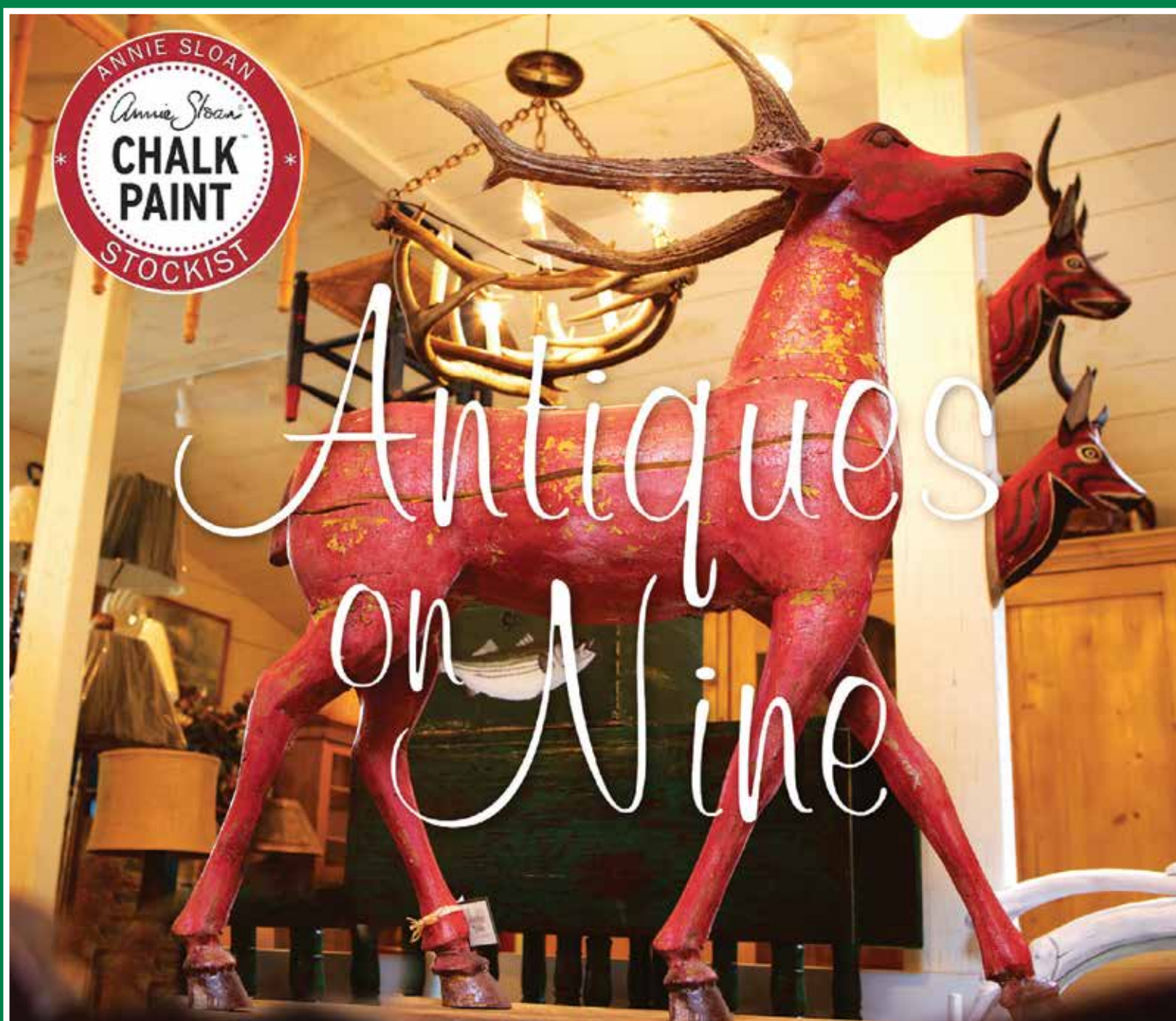
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**207-967-0626**

# Kitchen Talk

## Holiday Tips

### Mash your potatoes a day ahead & three ways to reheat

I make my mashed potatoes several hours (sometimes even a day) before the big feast. A Domestic Diva named Martha taught me these three ways to warm them up:

1. After cooking and mashing, I put potatoes in a bowl and set aside. When it's time to warm them, I place the bowl over a pot on the stove that's simmering with water, and stir. Before serving, I add more butter and a splash of milk or cream. Just don't overcook!
2. Or, I heat the oven to 350, add a little milk and butter to the potatoes, mix and heat to 165 degrees.
3. The microwave comes in handy too. Cover the cold mashed potatoes with plastic wrap or a wet towel, heat 2 minutes (stir after 1 minute), and repeat until they reach 165 degrees. If a little dry, add cream and butter.

### Val Marier's Traditional Steamed Cranberry Pudding



This recipe was given to me 40 years ago by Gael Habernickel, one of my best friends in Ridgewood, NJ. (Personal aside: My tattered recipe card has a note on the back written by my then-10-year-old son: "Mom, I went to do my paper route, then play football and be home when it gets dark. Chris" (Fortunately, he wrote this on the back of the recipe!) The front of the recipe card is splattered with drops of molasses and Karo syrup. My handwriting was more legible then too. But it's a recipe I make every December.

Important hint: Do not eat the pudding without the sauce!



#### Ingredients for pudding:

- 1/2 cup dark Karo syrup
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 cup water

Mix ingredients and put in an aluminum bowl that's covered with tin foil, then place over simmering water (or in a double boiler). Simmer 2 hours.

#### Ingredients for sauce:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup cream
- 1 cup sugar

Mix and place in a small sauce pan. Carefully bring to a boil. Pour over pudding just before serving. Diet be damned. It's the holidays!

### 'Twas the night before Thanksgiving ... so what's for dinner?

Lauren Walier, who summers at Kennebunk Beach, to the rescue! She suggests Creamy Pumpkin Pasta, a recipe she discovered in a recent *Bon Appetit*. However, being the dedicated culinarian that she is, Lauren added her own touches, making the dish hers. I served this pumpkin pasta to seriously-foodie friends for lunch recently and they raved. Below is the recipe. Farther below are Lauren's savvy suggestions.

#### Ingredients (serves 4):

- 1 lb. tube-shaped pasta (penne or rigatoni)
- Kosher salt
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium white onion, chopped finely
- 6 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (this is an important ingredient!)
- 1 15-oz. can unsweetened pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Zest of 1 large lemon
- 2 oz. Parmesan (about 1 cup)

#### Directions:

Cook pasta until al dente. Drain and reserve 2-plus cups cooking liquid.

Heat oil in large heavy pot over medium heat. Cook onion, garlic and red pepper flakes, stirring until onion softens, approximately 10-12 minutes.

Add pumpkin puree; stir and cook 5 minutes.

Add cream and 1 1/2 cups pasta cooking liquid.

Add pasta and cook 2 minutes, stirring and adding more liquid, if needed. Add lemon zest and Parmesan. Toss to combine.

#### Lauren's creative caveats:

"The original recipe left out salt, which I think is desperately needed to enhance the pumpkin. (Parm alone doesn't cut it; kosher salt brought it to a new level.) I also added fresh chopped sage when sautéing the garlic. The red pepper flakes make a difference too — don't skip them. The recipe is simple and easy, would be great also with cheese tortellini. Some sausage and roasted broccoli or broccoli rabe turns this into a delicious meal too."



Photo by Anne Clarke: Lauren Walier's Pumpkin Pasta is a perfect autumnal dinner and especially tasty the night before Thanksgiving.

### Day-After Sandwiches

Thanksgiving keeps on giving with turkey sandwiches. Everyone loves turkey breast slathered in cranberry jelly (and a hint of mayo) on multi-grain bread. But there are other options.

### Turkey Reuben (for 1)

#### Ingredients:

- 2 tsp. soft, unsalted butter
- 2 slices rye bread
- 2 tbsp. Russian dressing
- 1 oz. thinly sliced Swiss cheese
- 4 slices cooked turkey
- 3 tbsp. cole slaw
- 2 dill pickles, sliced

#### Directions:

Heat cast iron skillet over medium heat. Spread butter on 1 side of each slice of bread, then flip one slice over and slather Russian dressing on the other side. Place half the cheese on top of dressing on 1 slice. Top with turkey, cole slaw and pickles. Top with remaining cheese, then second slice of bread, buttered side up. Place in skillet and cook, pressing down occasionally with spatula, until golden brown and cheese has melted (3-4 minutes per side). Cover with a heatproof bowl to "encourage" cheese to melt. Carefully remove from skillet, slice sandwich in half and serve immediately.

### Turkey Monte Cristo

#### Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp. unsalted soft butter
- 6 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/4 cups whole milk
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup cranberry sauce (chopped if chunky)
- 8 3/4" slices of good white bread, preferably Pullman
- 12 oz. thinly sliced roast turkey
- 4 oz. sharp cheddar, grated

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a nonstick baking mat. Brush with soft butter.

Whisk eggs and milk, then pour into a 9x13" baking dish.

Season with salt and pepper.

Spread cranberry sauce on 4 slices of bread, then top with turkey and season with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle cheese over turkey, then top with remaining bread slices.

Transfer sandwiches to egg mixture and soak by pressing lightly with a spatula. Flip carefully to soak the whole sandwich.

Place sandwiches on baking sheet and bake 15 minutes. Flip and bake 7 minutes more. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.



# Before, During and After!

## Traditional Christmas Eve Desserts

### Buche de Noel

*This family recipe is both delicious and pretty!*

Louise Hurlbutt said, "I make this Buche de Noel every Christmas. It's also our traditional birthday cake. When I married Ralph, his mother insisted I learn how to make this so that the family tradition would carry on. She also gave me a beautiful antique silver tray, etched with the family initials, to serve the cake on. The recipe came from Ralph's grandmother in Dallas, and she taught her daughter Josephine, Ralph's mother, how to make it.)

#### Ingredients:

For the roll:

6 eggs, separated; 3 tbsp. unsweetened chocolate powder, 1 tbsp. flour (can use rice flour for gluten-free), 1/2 cup granulated sugar.

For the filling:

1/2 pint whipping cream, 2 tbsp. sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla

For frosting and decoration:

2 cups confectioners' sugar, 2 tbsp. cold coffee, 2-3 tbsp. softened butter, 1 pint raspberries, 1/2 cup sliced almonds, 1 sq. unsweetened chocolate

For utensils:

2 bowls, an electric mixer, 1 cookie sheet pan with sides, parchment paper, tea towel with sprinkled confectioners' sugar on it so hot roll does not stick to the towel.

#### Directions:

Separate eggs in two bowls. Whip egg whites to firm peaks. In other bowl, beat together egg yolks, chocolate powder, flour and sugar. Fold the chocolate yolk mixture into egg whites until fully mixed. Cover cookie sheet with parchment paper and gently pour in mixture (try not to lose air from egg white-chocolate mixture). Bake 350 for 20 minutes. Done when a finger pressed into cake springs back. Have tea towel (sprinkled with confectioners' sugar) laid out on counter.

Lift cake up with parchment paper and flip over on towel.

Cool for 10 minutes. Slowly remove parchment in strips from bottom of roll. Then, roll the cake lengthwise in towel to form a roll, folding towel ends to keep out air. Cool for 1 hour in towel. Can be made 24 hours ahead, then stored in rolled towel with tin foil sealed to keep it fresh.

Whip cream with confectioners' sugar and vanilla until it forms firm peaks. Unroll chocolate roll, spread with whipped cream on the flat surface of the roll. Then, with the help of the towel, roll lengthwise and place on a long narrow serving plate. (See photo of Louise's.)

Make sure seam is down so the top surface is smooth. Mix confectioners' sugar, soft butter and coffee until it's frosting texture. Then, frost roll, sprinkle sliced almonds on top, grate unsweetened chocolate to add decoration, and place raspberries on top and around the edges. "Best dessert ever!" Louise says.



Photo by Louise Hurlbutt: This Buche De Noel is the Hurlbutt's annual Christmas dessert, served on an antique silver tray given to Louise by her mother-in-law.

## Are your knives sharp?

People cook more between Thanksgiving and Christmas than almost any other time of the year. Knives can lose their edge. Currently, Mills & Co. (a well-stocked kitchen shop in Windham) is selling Wusthof Classic knives at temptingly reduced prices. Also, the 4-Star 8" Chef's Knife (top selling knife in the series for Zwilling world-wide) that normally sells for \$138 is ON SALE for \$49.99. (Mills & Co. located at 778 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, Maine, or call 893-1115.)

This page is curated by Tourist & Town's  
Val Marier

## Raisin Custard Pie

Linda Rice, my neighbor here in the Wells woods, recalls eating this delicious pie at all holiday family dinners while growing up. Over the years, Linda said that those dinners were held in Biddeford, Portland, Cape Elizabeth and Belfast, Maine.

Linda added, "My mother's recipe card states that it's from the "Old Methodist Cookbook" of Biddeford and that it was probably contributed by her great-grandmother, Frances Albertina Staples Emery O'Neil (1865-1957). But then again, it could have been contributed by Frances' mother, Anne Marsh Staples (1834-1897).

Let's be honest: it's truly time tested!

#### Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups milk

3 tbsp. flour

2/3 cup sugar (Note: Linda uses only 1/2 cup)

1/2 tsp. salt

2 eggs (Note: Linda uses 3)

1 cup raisins, chopped

1 tbsp. butter

1 tsp. vanilla

1 baked pie shell

#### Directions:

Heat milk in double boiler over simmering, not boiling, water.

Combine flour, sugar and salt. Add a small amount of the warmed milk to this, then return to pan along with raisins and butter.

Cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Remove and cool slightly, then add vanilla and pour into pie shell.

Beat egg whites until soft peaks form, then add 3 tbsp. sugar and continue to beat until peaks are stiff.

Spread on pie and bake at 350 until slightly browned, about 3-5 minutes.

## Christmas Cocktails by the Fire

Ask Alexa to play "Silver Bells," then settle in by the yule log with a Poinsettia. I tasted my first Poinsettia Champagne Cocktail several Christmases ago. (And, honestly, I literally count the days until the following Yuletide in anticipation of sipping another. It's worth the wait.)

#### Ingredients:

3 oz. cranberry juice (chilled)

1/2 oz. Cointreau or Grand Marnier

3 oz. champagne or prosecco (chilled)

Mix ingredients and pour into champagne flute. Garnish with fresh cranberries.

Hint: I've also learned that Poinsettias are popular with guests, so I frequently quintuple the recipe and have a pitcherful at the ready.

## Nibbles by the Tree: Holiday Appetizers

Nippy December nights set the stage for cozy gatherings with friends around the hearth. I like to keep things easy and one of my new favorites are Manchego and Fig Jam Crostinis. They're easy-peasy to make: toast a sliced baguette in oven on cookie sheet until crisp, top each baguette slice with a generous shaving of Manchego, dollop that with with fig jam, then place a slice of fresh fig on top and decorate that with a rosemary sprig.


Another tasty appetizer was discovered by discerning foodie Ellen Gerard. She even purchased a white marble lazy Susan for serving this Christmas Charcuterie Wreath.

Use a long toothpick to skewer different meats, cheeses and veggies. Try prosciutto, pepperoni, mortadella or Genoa salami, and for cheeses use mozzarella balls, fontina, havarti, or brie bites. Don't forget to intersperse: green and black olives, marinated artichoke hearts, mini pickles, peperoncino, cherry tomatoes, sliced cucumbers, grapes. Use what makes you happy.

Place skewers around a circular plate (or lazy Susan, like Ellen) and garnish with rosemary sprigs.



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It's no secret that this has been a tough year for our family, but despite that, I find myself moving into the holiday season with more gratitude than sadness.

I'm grateful for the years I had with my mom and the many wonderful memories we made together. I'm thankful for the holiday traditions she created for us and that will carry through to generations to come. And above all, I'm grateful for the love.

I thank God every day for my dad, who is pushing his way through this difficult year with energy and determination. I love our daily calls, our family dinners, our frequent "I love yous." His presence in our lives is truly a gift.

And speaking of gifts... It truly is one that David is more than a year out from a successful kidney transplant and that Kenneth the kidney is chugging along. This is due to two young women: Victoria Hugo Vidal, whose self-

less gift made everything happen, and a young mom in Connecticut who felt moved by God to donate her kidney at the exact right time.

The whole family just returned from an awesome trip to Disney World - something that wouldn't have been possible just 18 months ago. It's the biggest blessing our family has ever received and I will never stop thanking those young women for the way they changed our lives.

I'm grateful that both of our girls are living in homes they bought themselves, and doing it with their lifetime partners, their pups - and that they're doing it in side by side gowns in the Hudson Valley. If we can't be near the kids daily, I'm grateful that they have each other.

I thank my lucky stars for friends old and new who have pulled me through this hardest of years, and to my parents' dearest friends, Kathy and Joe, who have helped all of us find the light.

I feel incredibly lucky to have found the house we did five years ago when we needed to downsize and find a one-story place to call home. We've had so much great help (thanks June!) in making it into everything we envisioned. It's truly a joy to come home to.

Other things I'm thankful for include a job

I still love (I'll start my ninth year in January), a community that is small enough to feel like an embrace but large enough to give us room to grow and evolve, and a cozy cul de sac full of wonderful neighbors.

I'm grateful for our pups, Finn and Seamus, who make us laugh, keep us on our toes and are the world's best cuddlers.

And thank you to all of you, the readers, so many of whom have reached out, sent notes and stopped by to offer support, tell me how a column spoke to you or made you laugh. I hope you know how much that means to me.

So as we enter the season of gratitude, blessings and miracles, I hope your days are filled with all three, and that the year ahead stretches bright and new before you, filled with all good things.

Happy holidays!



Laura Dolce is Director of the Kennebunk Kennebunkport and Arundel Chamber of Commerce



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# It's time to fill the COS Holiday Food Baskets

For over 30 years, Community Outreach Services (COS) has been extending a helping hand to neighbors in the towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel who face challenges with food, fuel and specific needs. As part of its food assistance program, COS provides Holiday Food Baskets for in-need neighbors.

The Holiday Food Baskets include a turkey with all the fixings to create a festive holiday meal. The Holiday Food Baskets are delivered a few days before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

What makes the program unique is that recipients are able to prepare a holiday meal in the comfort of their own home. Creating meals at home gives families the opportunity to continue their family traditions and prepare dinner using their favorite family recipes. COS believes that no one should face the devastating effects of hunger, especially during the holidays.

The Holiday Food Basket program was started by local churches in the Kennebunks and dates back to the 1950s

and 1960s. The program evolved over the years to incorporate the General Assistance offices to help meet the growing need.

Last year, approximately 150 Holiday Food Baskets were delivered during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Holiday Food Baskets are assembled at Sea Road Church in Kennebunk by a large team of volunteers. A separate team of volunteers delivers the baskets.

Individuals sign up for the Holiday Food Baskets program through the General Assistance office in their town. COS

has set a goal to raise \$10,000 to continue to support vital programs for in-need neighbors this holiday season. You can help COS fulfill its mission to make sure that no in-need neighbor in the Kennebunks goes hungry this holiday season. Please donate by visiting [www.coskennebunks.org](http://www.coskennebunks.org).

Donations may also be mailed to: COS, P.O. 1175, Kennebunk, 04043. Please make checks payable to COS. For donations of \$50 or more, your name/family name/business name will be displayed on COS' Food Pantry walls.



Photos of some of the food provided in the baskets. Courtesy photo



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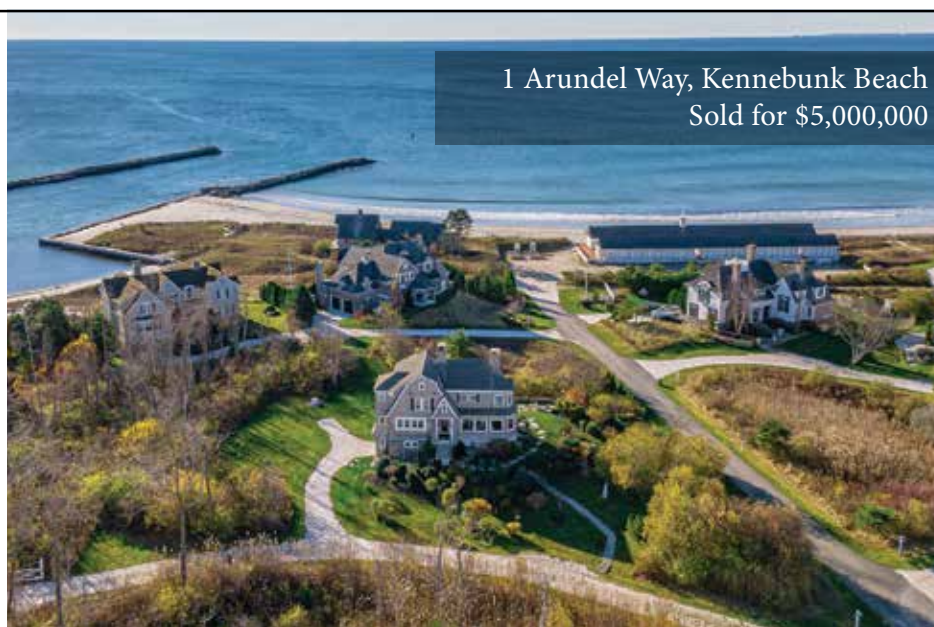


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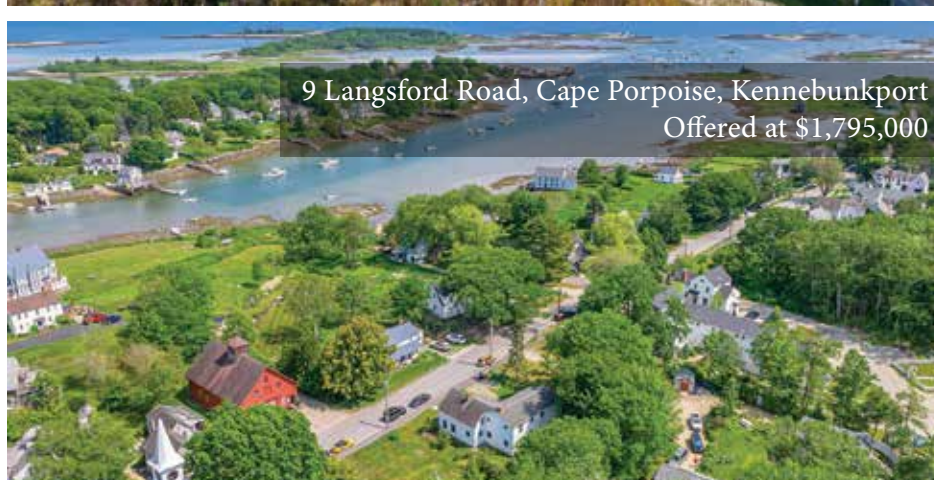
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## Retiring pastor's time at Holy Cross Lutheran a "deeply appreciated blessing"

by Faith Gillman

When Richard Horner came to Kennebunk to become pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, he hoped it would be for a significant period. As he gets ready to retire this December, Horner is grateful that his hope was fulfilled.

"During the process of getting to know [everyone], we had hopes that this was a congregation where we would feel very much at home. I can't say that we envisioned 26 years," said Horner. "But the length of my tenure has been a delightful and

deeply appreciated blessing."

Horner and wife Barbara, married for 42 years, have two sons, a daughter, granddaughter, and a grandson on the way. Born in Ohio, Horner grew up in San Diego, attended Harvard as an undergraduate and earned a Master of Divinity at The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Ordained in 1985, he served as associate pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Connecticut before becoming pastor of Grace Lutheran in Needham, Massachusetts,

servicing for nine years. His tenure at Holy Cross began in 1997.

Chris Cherry, a member of Holy Cross for more than 30 years, was on the committee that called Horner.

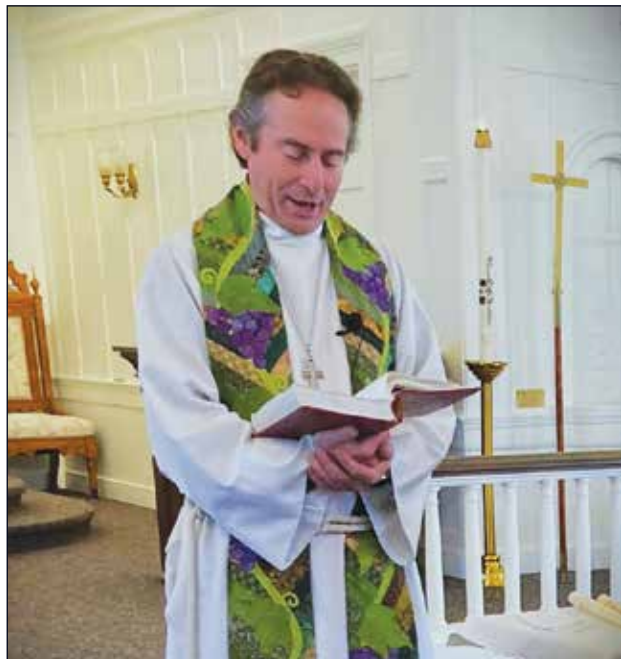
"I knew from the first interview that he was the right person. I have never been disappointed. He brought a great deal of knowledge and wisdom to Holy Cross and an enthusiasm for working with not only our youth, but also with our aging congregation," said Cherry. "I will miss his meaningful sermons, competitive spirit, and tales of being a football player at Harvard."

Chair of Church Council, Julie Clapp, first visited Holy Cross the Sunday Horner became pastor.

"Not only has he been a great preacher, comforting pastor, and solid leader but he has guided me in my faith in ways other pastors never did," said Clapp. "He was always willing to answer my questions or help research the answers, and I've always appreciated that."

Horner credits the openness of the congregation of Holy Cross to try new things with helping to keep his ministry fresh.

"It has enabled me to develop and grow," he said. "The relationships with people who have



Rev. Richard Horner will be retiring on Dec. 31 after 38 years as a Lutheran minister. The last 26 of those years were spent at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kennebunk. Photo courtesy of Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Rich and Barbara Horner pictured in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port at the beginning of the Camino de Santiago. Rev. Horner took a sabbatical to walk the 480-mile trek through northern Spain in the spring and summer of 2022. Photo by Richard Horner

been members for years have been very special. Such a strong sense of mutual trust and partnership has built up as we've worshipped, prayed, worked, and had fun together."

Long-time member Valerie Reid feels blessed for Horner's caring connection to parishioners.

"Apart from worship leadership and inspiring sermons, Rich has offered support and encouragement in difficult times. His way of calling to check in and to not only listen attentively but offer wise counsel has been a God-send to me," said Reid. "Pastor Horner's excellent mind is clear-thinking and lightning-quick, and makes instant connections that can lift the murkiest of issues into sound focus. He's one of the most diplomatic and unbiased people I've known. There is so much to admire, I'm only scratching the surface. But I will add one more: his sense of humor! It's icing on the cake. We are blessed."

For Horner, the people of Holy Cross are the greatest reward of his ministry.

"All who have given of themselves so generously - time, energy, enthusiasm, creativity - in support of the church's mission to

share God's love," he said. "The steadfast support and appreciation from so many for myself as pastor has been incredibly rewarding."

He will miss the close relationships, and special times such as baptisms, weddings, and anniversaries being celebrated. Horner said it's been "a privilege to be invited to share in important moments in people's lives."

Leading a congregation also comes with challenges, some of them unprecedented. The Covid pandemic was one.



"Central to the life of the church is spending time together. Having that taken away held tremendous potential for the life of the congregation to fade, along with the potential for people to be at odds with one another as to the extent of pandemic protocols," said Horner. "Thanks be to God that Holy Cross members were understanding of one another, and their pastor. I believe we navigated this uncharted terrain with grace and love toward one another, and with abundant trust in God."

Roger and Marilyn Anderson feel blessed to have had Horner leading Holy Cross for the past 26 years.



"With God's guidance, Rich has exemplified the compassion, caring and thoughtfulness we feel in our church community. Our family has benefited from his ability to apply the Word of God to our lives. The Logos program and Confirmation instruction led by Rich were instrumental in teaching our children foundational principles of our Christian faith. Through the crisis of September 11, Covid or on ordinary days, Pastor Horner has been steadfast in guiding our congregation. We are very grateful."

While he will miss being a pastor, Horner looks forward to spending more time with family, volunteering, developing existing hobbies, and working on projects around the house.

"My biggest hope for Holy Cross going forward is to keep doing what they've been doing," Horner said. "There are so many talented and dedicated people of faith who make up this congregation. I have high hopes that they will form an equally vibrant partnership with whomever they call to be their pastor, and that my successor will be as blessed in serving Holy Cross as I have been."

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**BOWLS OF HOPE**

Thank you to those who made "Bowls of Hope," the November 11 fundraiser for The New School and Community Outreach Services, a great success: Mill Pond Studios, Chez Rosa, Alisson's Restaurant, H.B. Provisions, Duffy's Tavern & Grille, The Nonantum Resort, Bev's Cafe, Seven High, the participating local artisans and chefs and all the volunteers. You made this event not only a success, but also a truly special experience for all.

**Elder Elves Holiday Gift Program**

The Center, a meeting place for adults 50 and older, is once again in full holiday swing, preparing for their community support program, Elder Elves. The Elder Elves are a group of volunteers who assemble gift bags for seniors in the community who are isolated during the holidays. They solicit donations from businesses and the community to ensure that everyone can have a happy holiday season. The Elder Elves have been operating for 25+ years and assemble 75+ bags each year.

Members of the community are invited to stop by the Center during their normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-4 PM) and pick up a gift tag from the Elder Elves giving tree. There are also additional Elder Elves giving trees located at Kennebunk Savings Bank in Lower Village, Kennebunk, Coffee Roasters in Lower Village and Norway Savings Kennebunk Branch. All gifts must be returned by December 5. The Center works with the general assistance programs in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Arundel as well as several other community outreach groups to determine which senior residents would benefit from this program.

FMI visit [www.seniorcenterkennebunk.org](http://www.seniorcenterkennebunk.org), follow on social media @CenterKennebunk, call 207-967-8514, or visit 175 Port Road in Kennebunk.

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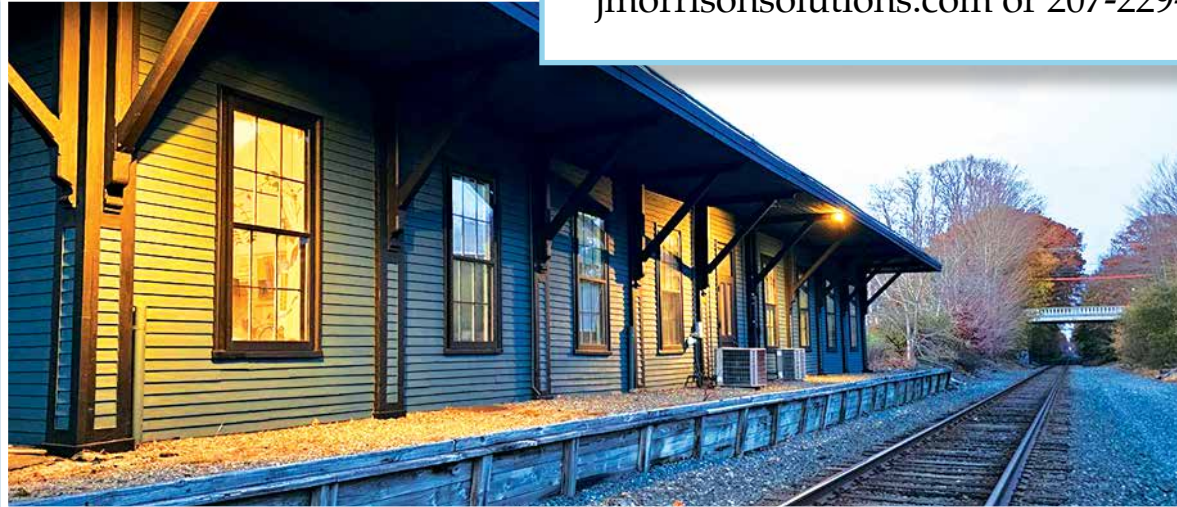
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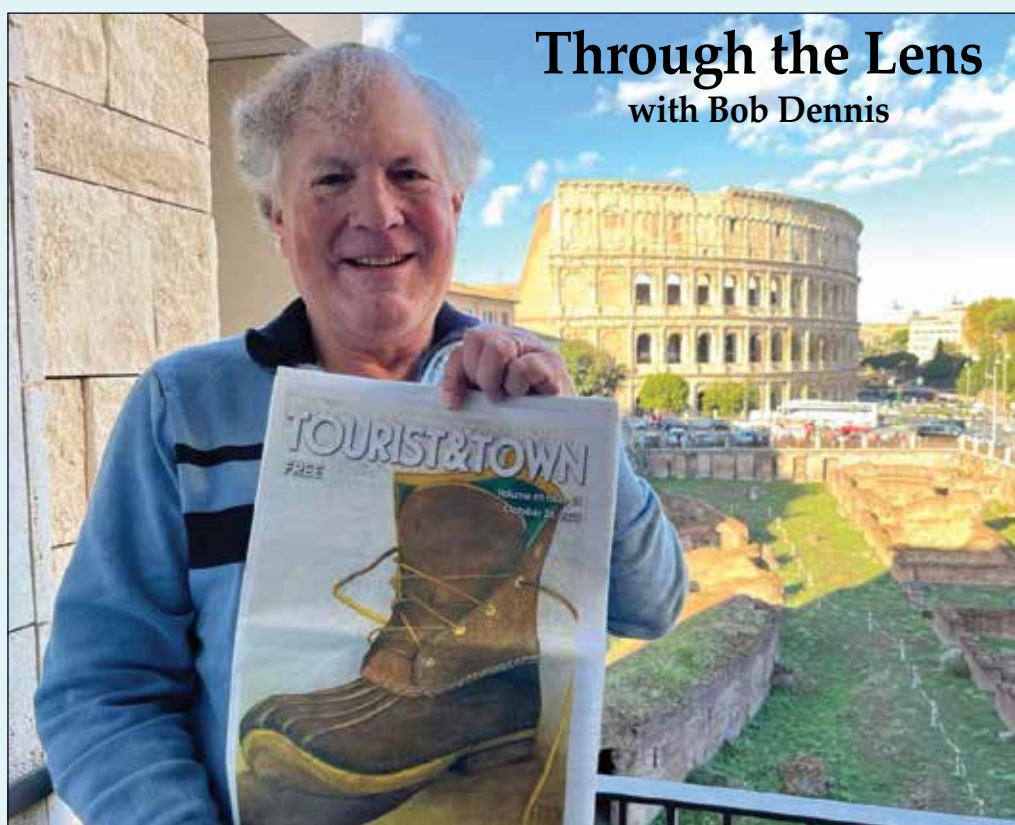
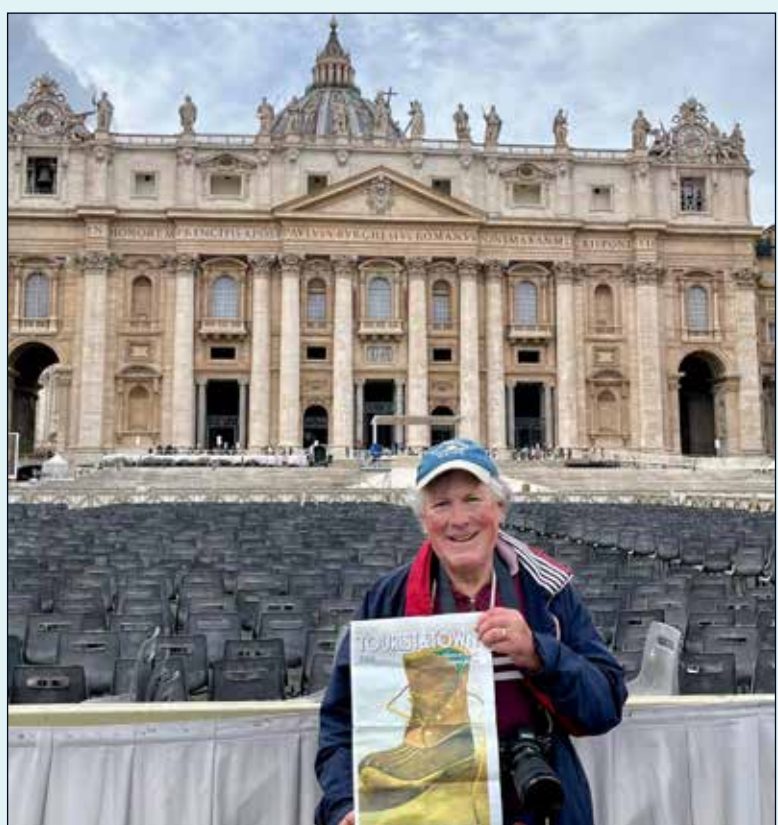


*Tourist & Town* headquarters (aka the old Kennebunk Train Depot) recently received a facelift. See the progression here, clockwise from top left, as this historic building got some much-needed TLC. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to express enthusiasm. It was touching to see the community's interest in this process. Thank you, Josh Morrison, of J. Morrison Solutions, for the amazing job, with professionalism and an ever-present smile every step of the way!

Find J. Morrison Solutions at [jmorrisonssolutions.com](http://jmorrisonssolutions.com) or 207-229-1474.

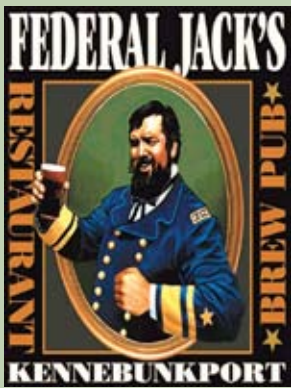


**This is our final newspaper of 2023. BUT... our Holidays/Winter Magazine is yet to come!**



**Through the Lens**  
with Bob Dennis

Since I never want to leave our home in Cape Porpoise for an extended period, I don't travel much but when I do, I'm pleased to serve as T&T's foreign correspondent. Earlier this month, my wife and I enjoyed eight days of amazing history, dazzling scenery, and delicious food in Rome and Florence. Our hotel in Rome offered a spectacular view of the Colosseum. Built in 80 AD, the Colosseum was the largest ancient amphitheater ever built and even after damage caused by earthquakes and other events over nearly two millennia, it is still the largest standing amphitheater in the world. It could hold up to 80,000 people and was used for gladiatorial contests and other public spectacles. With its distinctive renaissance and baroque architecture, St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican was completed in 1626. Its central dome dominates the Roman skyline. With its massive interior, it is the largest church in the world. Michelangelo was one of the designers of the church and his masterpiece La Pieta is perhaps the most famous of the priceless works of art in it today. ~ Bob Dennis, @portimages, kportimages.com



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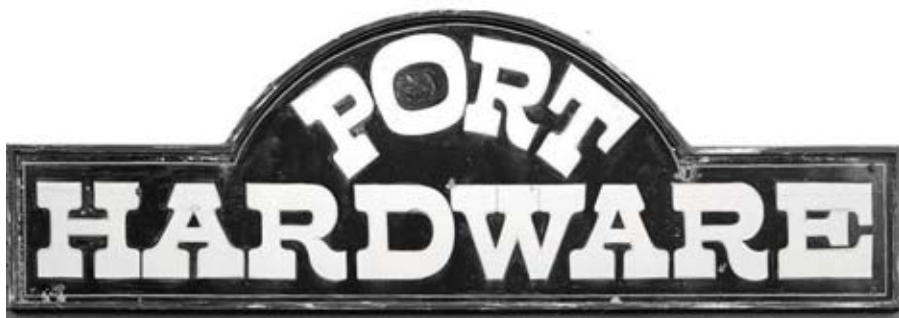


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