

Town News

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
14 Main St., Amherst NH
Phone 673-2288 Fax 672-6063
email: library@amherst.lib.nh.us
web http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us
Mon-Thu, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri & Sat, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Children's Room Programs:

Winter Craft & Storytime
Wednesdays, December 16
3:45pm to 4:30pm

Join Miss Sue and Miss Jennie for some fun holiday stories and nifty crafts, such as stained glass mittens, felt Christmas tree ornaments and seasonal cards. There will be plenty of glitter, sparkly doodads, and stickers to make your crafts extra special. Please remember to sign up by calling the children's room at 672-2288 or by visiting the Calendar of Events section of the library's website (http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us/).

Holiday Film Fest

Get cozy at the library with some popcorn and a good movie. No registration is necessary. We will be watching the following movies in the Johnson Meeting Room:
The Muppet Christmas Carol on December 10, 2009, 4pm to 5:30pm
The Forgotten Toys and Madeline's Christmas on December 17, 2009, 4pm to 5pm



Open Play Time

Tuesdays, December 15, & 29
10am to 12pm

Drop in on our open play time. Meet other moms, dads, babies, kids, nannies and nanas. This is a great way to get out of the house and have some fun. We will have all kinds of puzzles, puppets and blocks to play with. No registration is required.

Here's a small sample of upcoming 2010 programs:

- Family Game Night
- Toddler Dance Party
- Babymouse Extravaganza
- Dolly Tea Party
- Make Your Own Comics Workshop

Please come in and check out some of the new book and video games that we've added to the collection. We also have a box full of fun math games that kids can play with their families, such as Blokus, Battleship, and Mancala.

Amherst Town Library

Ten Hours Until Dawn: A Blizzard Of '78 Tale Of Heroism And Tragedy

As part of the "It's All About Winter" adult evening series at the Amherst Town Library this January, lecturer and award-winning author Michael Tougias presents the program, "Ten Hours Until Dawn: A Blizzard of '78 Tale of Heroism and Tragedy" on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. During the height of the Blizzard of 1978 the pilot boat Can Do, with five men onboard, set out from Gloucester to assist a lost Coast Guard boat and an oil tanker that was in a Mayday situation. Ten Hours Until Dawn, the book and the presentation, tells the story of what happened on that awful night when the seas were producing monstrous waves of 40 feet and the wind was screaming at 100 miles per hour.

Michael Tougias is the author of 19 books including Ten Hours Until Dawn. Using slides of the boats, the men involved, and photos of the storm, Tougias will take the viewer on a narrated gripping slide presentation through this incredible night where many lives hung in the balance. With the aid of maps, Tougias lets the audience see the progression and location of these boats off the Massachusetts coast, and explains what happened and why.

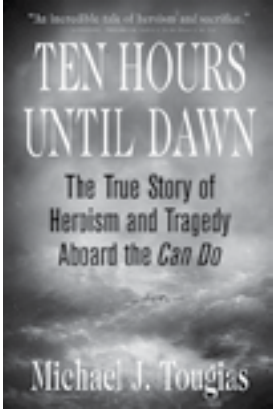
This is one of the few ocean tragedies where we know exactly what happened due to the existence of audio recordings which were taped



Award-winning Author Michael Tougias

the night of the storm and feature both the voices of men of the Coast Guard and the Can Do. The tapes span a ten hour period during the men's fight for survival. Tougias will play some of the tapes at the presentation.

Praise for the book Ten Hours Until Dawn includes a Booklist review which said: "The best story of peril at sea since Sebastian Junger's Perfect Storm. Superb! And from former Governor Michael Dukakis: What a story! Tougias' research



and writing make the reader feel as if they were on board the Can Do during the Blizzard of '78. Ten Hours Until Dawn is a gripping book about a fascinating event of courage and tragedy." And, Nathaniel Philbrick, National Book Award Winner, says "the book is an incredible tale of heroism and sacrifice."

Tougias explains his interest in survival stories, "Researching history and true stories is similar to being a detective who must solve a mystery...I'm particularly interested in how an individual manages to keep going in the face of overwhelming odds. I think all readers want to know mindsets and techniques that survivors used, and in many instances those techniques can be used by any individual when they are faced with a difficult challenge."

This program is made possible by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council and is free and open to the public. You can register for this special evening by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and selecting "Calendar of Events."

It's About Conservation

Elusive Quiet

By BRUCE B. BECKLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Old Poets of China

Wherever I am, the world comes after me. It offers me its busyness. It does not believe that I do not want it. Now I understand why the old poets of China went so far and high into the mountains, then crept into the pale mist.

— Mary Oliver

Not only is quiet itself elusive, but the components, the quality of quiet, may be also. What are the components of your recipe for quiet? Maybe: birds at the feeder, a mountain top, the woods across town, music, an inner sanctuary? A few thoughts on each:

Feeder Birds – What have you seen? The Cornell Ornithological Laboratory annual tally of bird visitors to 6,120 backyard feeders in the Northeast places chickadees, dark-eyed juncos and mourning doves in the top three. These sightings are followed by #6 blue jays, # 10 tufted titmice. Cardinals jumped up to #7 and red-bellied woodpeckers to #12.

Birds are not immune to diseases which can be transmitted at feeding stations. As with us humans, sick birds tend to be lethargic and may sit around with fluffed out feathers. That's different from humans with ruffled feathers. The four most common bird diseases affect the bird's throat and respiratory tract and may be spread from droppings mixing with food or a sick bird dropping seeds which another picks up. In our area the species that seem most susceptible to disease are finches and mourning doves. We can help prevent diseases from spreading by periodically cleaning and disinfecting feeders and birdbaths.

Mountains and Music – I enjoyed speaking recently with a fine concert violinist. He told me that after a busy summer he was going to help take care of a mountain top monastery for a few months. The complete quiet of the place was drawing him there. I commented I would want to take along classical CDs if I were to do that. The musician said he didn't need to. All the music he could want was in his head; for instance, the Brahms symphonies – note for note.



What a gift to be able to find that quiet within in this world today. Quiet is certainly hard to find or create here in the flatland. Offices use white noise, generated to mask other intrusive sounds to create the illusion of quiet. Few places exist in Amherst, at least before 1 AM, to which one could go to escape the noise of truck tires on Route 101 and aircraft above.

The conservation commission offers us its own brand of white noise, or maybe its green noise. You can find it on a bench beside Joe English Brook or on the trails of Joppa Hill Farm. The symphony of breezes sifting through trees above harmonizes with birds using no electronics twittering. This is the music of natural, soul-soothing quiet that will accompany you in the ACC-managed preserves created and still to be created by and for our town's people.

Jean Rogers, Amherst author and educator, in her new book "Kids Under Fire" discusses many techniques a family can embrace to replace the time being spent in front of the consumerism and violence on TV or a computer monitor. Jean is a strong advocate for families and kids finding and growing up with time in the out of doors. She says, "Kids need to experience their world first hand—to touch the grass, smell a skunk, listen to a bird song". Another statement she makes in her book and when on speaking engagements is that:

"Spending time with nature beats staring at a video screen every time."

That Inner Quiet

Quiet can come from within, being self-created, like the violinist's music. Especially during this season of light from menorahs and a star, find time to close the door for even a moment and shut out the glitz, glitter and commercial noise that surrounds and would steal into your quiet space. If a respite in the woods or beside flowing water may be the sanctuary in which you best find elusive silence, come, be at home in an ACC-managed space near you. Woodland visits are gifts that never wear out. We hope that the joy of the natural world, be it at a bird feeder or deep within a woodlot, is yours this season of celebrations and throughout 2010. Enjoy peace.


Pairings
Susan McNary 672.4342
Maureen Patten 494.6108
info@pairingsnh.com

*Gift Consulting
& Event Planning
Corporate & Individual*
Fresh Ideas * Creative Presentation
* Happy to Deliver *

Call *Pairings* to make your holidays special! Dedicated to supporting our "locals" creatively for you.

CHECK IT OUT!
amhersteitizen.com
CHECK IT OFTEN!

10 Questions to Ask When Insuring Your Antique Home

1. Is this policy designed exclusively for antique homes?
2. Does the policy have unlimited rebuilding cost on my home? In other words, no dollar limit or % cap?
3. Do you bring in skilled craftsmen or 'Restorationists' to restore my home?
4. Do you offer unlimited building code coverage to protect me from paying for new laws & ordinances enacted since my home was built?
5. If there is a claim, do you pay me for the complete damage up front (replacement cost) for both my home & my belongings instead of actual cash value?
6. Does the policy include unlimited additional living expenses coverage while my home is being repaired?
7. Do you include unlimited water backup coverage?
8. Do you have unlimited debris removal coverage?
9. Does the policy have a cash out option on total losses so I can buy another antique home instead of rebuilding?
10. Does your company have a testimonial in writing from a historical trust?

MiddleOak Specialty®. We can answer yes to all 10 questions. After all, we wrote the book on antique home insurance.

MiddleOak Specialty™ has been insuring homes for over 170 years and is financially rated A+ Superior by AM Best.

Call Today:
603-883-1587

350 Main St. Nashua, NH 03060
nashua@foyinsurance.com - www.foyinsurance.com


The only insurance designed exclusively for antique homes. Why cover yours with anything else?

FOY
INSURANCE

MIDDLEOAK
SPECIALTY

Statements herein are subject to the terms, conditions, and exclusions contained in the policy and applicable endorsements. Policies issued by Holyoke Mutual Insurance Company in Salem – Salem, MA and Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company – Middletown, CT.

Choose Tulley

Get Into The Ultimate Driving Machine
Choose Tulley BMW

As Low As
0.9% APR For Up To 60 Months

On Select 2006 and 2007
Certified Pre-Owned Models

Through January 4th
BMW Financial Services



And BMW will make your first two payments.



Financing starting at 0.9% APR is available on Certified Pre-Owned 2006 model year 3, 5, 7 Series, X3, and X5, also available on 2007 model year 3, 5, and 7 Series (M models excluded). BMW Financial Services will reimburse up to \$1,000 per month of your first two payments due on select in-stock Certified Pre-Owned BMW 2007 model year 3 or 5 Series vehicles. Subject to credit approval. Not all customers will qualify. See dealer for details. Offers ends 1/04/10.

TULLEY Rte. 3, Exit 2 Nashua, NH 603-888-5050 tulleybmw.com