

# Holiday Celebrations

## Amherst Congregational Church Church School Students Create A Dialogue for Dessert



Abby and Ian van Ham, Bea Poliquin.

Many seem to agree that one of the best parts of a Thanksgiving feast is a hefty serving of rich conversation! As the family cooks chat while scraping, chopping, cooking and baking, they are preparing more than good food. They are preparing an event that brings together two or twenty, young and old.

The Church School of the Congregational Church of Amherst-UCC turns into a culinary test

kitchen for the traditional Turkey Soup mission project. Each grade, starting with the very little ones, has an assignment. Three-, four- and five-year-olds provide decorated placemats, napkin rings and prayer cards. Then, each class from grade 2 to grade 7 makes a part of the meal. On the menu: finger sandwiches, applesauce, cranberry muffins, turkey soup, brownies and cookies. Next, the fourth graders and their

families transport the spread to the Milford Mill Apartments where residents of the retirement community welcome them.

Here is where the casserole of conversation makes the food taste even better. The fourth graders are groomed in holiday etiquette. They prepare discussion starters that tell the residents about their hobbies, pets, siblings and school. They also prepare questions such as, "Do you have any grandchildren?" or "What do you like best about living

here?" Many residents have family at a great distance and haven't seen grandchildren in some time. They enjoy the banter. In some cases, the children have gotten the questions mixed up and the residents have chuckled when asked, "Do you have any siblings?" or "Do you play a sport?"

Many depart from the Mill feeling that the exchange is the tastiest part of the meal!



Omar Leith enjoys conversation with Nick Freud and Bryce Regan.

## Decking The Halls with The Amherst Area Newcomers

The Amherst Area Newcomers Club recently held a wreath-making class led by Kem Vassallo of Amherst. The finished product - beautiful wreaths adorned with a variety of fresh greens, berries, apples, pinecones & native vegetation.

The AANC offers a variety of events each year as well as "Special Interest" groups such as "Bunco", a book group and an "Out to Lunch" group. If you would like further information on any of the activities or would like to join us, please visit our website [www.nhnewcomers.com](http://www.nhnewcomers.com)



Susan Wheatley, Helen Uurtamo, Kay May, Irene Pyle, Patti Juntwait, Kathie Nunley, Colleen Lynch, Karen Osborn & Kathy Freitas proudly display their finished wreaths.

## Project Linus and Brownie Troop 20910



Back row: Susie Wason, Kelly Sileo, Libby Manz, Simonne Dodge, Katie Rosse; Front row: Alexa Leary, Rebecca Sileo, Evmorfia Alton, Rebecca Benjamin, Amanda Jordan, Alison Daniel; Leaders: Irene Raissis Alton, Dorothea Daniel & Patti Benjamin

COURTESY PHOTO

Brownie Troop 20910 decided on their Holiday Service Project. They wanted to make something tangible to help others, so we looked into different projects and found Project Linus. Project Linus is comprised of hundreds of local chapter and thousands of volunteers across the United States. Everyone works to-

gether to help achieve the Project Linus mission which is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers". Since 1995, Project Linus

has provided over 3 million blankets to children in need.

Brownie Troop 20910 (2nd graders) made 8 Fringed Fleece Blankets with loving care to send to Project Linus in NH!

Visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org) for more information.

## Amherst Garden Club



COURTESY PHOTOS

Julie Livingston puts the finishing touches on her wreath.

## December Meeting: Wreath Theme Workshop

The December meeting of the Amherst Garden Club featured a themed wreath workshop organized by Vice President Denise Wilson. Members came together at the Amherst Congregational Church to make wreaths or cranberry pine-

apple door decorations and share refreshments provided by hospitality committee members. Christmas decoration workshops have been an enjoyable feature of the December meetings for the last several years.



Mary Salmon, Edith Gambee, and Lori Henry offer suggestions for a wreath.

## Two Amherst Troops to Hold Cookie Rally



Elizabeth Greenwood, Cassandra Jillson, Anna Schulte, Kelly Merrifield, Morgan Daniel, Olivia Costolo, Emma Farris, Caroline Jillson, Avery Smith and Madeleine Daniel.

COURTESY PHOTO

A two-troop cookie rally will be held in the Amherst Town Library to gear up for Cookie Sale 2010, which begins January 1st.

Girls from Junior Troop #20709 and Daisy Troop #22752 attended the cookie rally. The older girls shared past cookie sale experiences and lessons learned with the younger girls, who delighted them with a cookie fashion show. They participated in team-building exercises

and sampled this year's new cookie, "Thank U Berry Munch!", a cranberry and white chocolate treat.

Look for the girls in March, when their troops conduct cookie booth sales at the Annual Town Election in Souhegan High School.