

Region

NH Reads To Kill a Mockingbird in March

Libraries, schools, bookstores and other organizations throughout New Hampshire will be holding events during March 2010 as part of “The Big Read: New Hampshire Reads To Kill a Mockingbird,” a statewide program organized by the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that gives communities all over the United States the opportunity to come together and read, discuss and celebrate one of 30 great works of literature.

The Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library received a grant from the NEA to coordinate this statewide project. The Center for the Book chose to focus on To Kill a Mockingbird not only because it is a great coming of age story but also because of the many

topics of discussion it inspires: who is a hero, the importance of standing up for what is right, the role of defense attorneys in society, relationships between the races, courage, justice and more.

Scheduled events include film screenings, book discussions, a panel discussion on adapting literature to film, presentations by local attorneys and appearances by Atticus Finch himself. Events will take place across the state, in cities and small towns, at 100 different venues.

For more information about “The Big Read: New Hampshire Reads To Kill a Mockingbird,” including the calendar of events taking place throughout the state, links to follow the project on Twitter and Facebook, information about the many project partners and links to the National Endowment for the Arts’

Red Cross Blood Drive in Milford

The American Red Cross is asking eligible blood donors in the Milford area to make a special effort to attend the upcoming blood drive at the Milford VFW Post located at 1 VFW Way on Thursday, February 11th. Donor hours are 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm and all blood types are needed at this time.

Winter weather conditions often affect blood drive attendance and, ultimately, blood inventories at local hospitals. According to Tom Houle, Account Executive, “Each and every blood drive scheduled during the winter months needs to come in on target or better. The goals set for

these drives are not just numbers. They are based on projected patient need. We must ensure that blood is readily available for patients whenever and wherever it is needed. It is the blood on the shelves, ready and waiting, that saves lives.”

Potential donors must be at least 16 years of age (with parental consent), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health on the day of donation.

Please visit our website redcross-blood.org for donor eligibility requirements or call the Red Cross Blood Center at 1-800-262-2660.

Hilltop Circus Presents: Out of the Blue

Circus past and circus present collide “out of the blue” in this year’s Hilltop Circus at Pine Hill Waldorf School. Come join the Pine Hill middle school circus troupe as they take you from the fanfare of a medieval court to the circus of corporate America. Juggling jesters dueling with acrobatic executives pose the question: “Are love and laughter alive in the year 2010?” Enjoy the show as they work out the answer through stilt-walking, tightrope, clown acts and more.

Performances will be held Thursday, February 25 at 7pm, Friday, February 26 at 10 a.m. and 7pm, and Saturday, February 27 at 2pm. The Friday morning performance is a special show intended for families on winter break and includes free popcorn and lemonade! Tickets are available starting February 9 at the school and the Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. The price is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (3 – 12 years old). Children 2 and under, are free if sitting on a lap. Schools and organizations may qualify for a special group rate for the Friday morning performance. Tickets

often sell out, so stop by during school hours or call 654-6003 to get your tickets. MC/VISA accepted at Pine Hill only.

This year the Hilltop Circus celebrates its fifteenth year and the return of director Jacqueline Davis, longtime circus arts teacher at Pine Hill Waldorf School. Davis, former professional performer and mime at Walt Disney World, earned her Master’s in Education in Human Development and Psychology last year from Harvard. She was awarded the Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year in 2007 by the New Hampshire Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Davis is pleased to be joined again this year by local musician Leslie Vogel, who recently released a new folk CD for families and children. Vogel will lead the Youth and Community Fiddle Orchestra together with the Hilltop Circus Band in performing original pieces composed and arranged by Vogel.

For more information about Pine Hill Waldorf School and the Hilltop Circus, visit www.pinehill.org.

Interfaith Environment Concern – Film and Discussion – February 19th


Please join us on Friday evening, February 19th, 7:00 PM at the Milford Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 20 Elm Street, Milford for a showing and discussion of “RENEWAL”, a 90 minute documentary film which captures the vitality and diversity of the emerging religious environmental movement. From within their Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Muslim traditions, people of faith are standing up for the environment. The leaders of all major world religions have spoken out on the urgency of protecting sacred creation and reversing the damage we have done to it. According to environmentalist and author Bill McKibben, “it may well be that people of faith will be the strongest force in moving world leaders to take effective action to avert climate catastrophe.”

The award-winning documentary, praised by noted environmental

scholars and activists, The Forum on Religion and Ecology of Yale University and The Boston Globe, features stories of people whose passion and willingness to act out their faith are making a difference in a time of grave ecological threat. A discussion period, along with refreshments, will follow the film. Admission is free.

This event is sponsored by the Souhegan Valley Interfaith Council (SVIC), whose mission is to provide a tangible religious witness on matters of humanitarian and moral concern, through promotion of understanding and cooperation among area congregations and individuals. For more information on the work of the SVIC, email: svinterfaith@hotmail.com. For more information about the film, including comments by Bill Moyers, Bill McKibben and others, visit <http://renewalproject.net>.

Civic groups, clubs and organizations, please submit news of your events to: new@amherstcitizen.com.



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And the winner is...

As part of strategic planning efforts around local community transportation, the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) and the Nashua Regional Planning Commission recently conducted a survey. Souhegan Valley residents who completed a survey form were eligible to enter a “raffle” for a \$50 gift certificate to one of four local shopping destinations on the Souhegan Valley Rides bus route. Mrs. Ruth Robinson of Lyndeborough was chosen, at random, from the nearly 200 survey participants as the raffle winner. Mrs. Robinson selected the Amherst Walmart Superstore as her shopping destination of choice. Upon hearing the news, Tony Tiner, store manager at the Walmart Superstore in Amherst, graciously donated a \$50 gift certificate to the Collaborative. Thank you Walmart and Congratulations Mrs. Robinson! For more information about Souhegan Valley Rides, the regional community transit bus service, please visit the SVTC website www.SouheganRides.org or call Marcia Nelson at 673-8482.



SVTC board member Marcia Nelson, on the left, presents raffle winner Ruth Robinson of Lyndeborough with a \$50 gift certificate donated by the Walmart Superstore in Amherst.

Compaq Big Band’s 8th Annual Valentine’s Dance on February 12th



BEDFORD - The 20-piece Compaq Big Band will present their eighth annual Valentine’s Dance on February 12, 2010 at the C.R. Sparks Event Center in Bedford. The venue has a large dance floor, and a cash bar will be available. Doors open at 6:30pm. A group-friendly dance lesson will be presented by Dance2Swing Studios (www.dance2swing.com) from 7:00pm-8:00pm. The band will play from 8:00pm-11:30pm.

Tickets are \$19 per person. Walk-ins are welcomed as space permits, but advance ticket purchase is suggested on-line at www.compaqbigband.com with any major credit using. For table reservations for groups of four or eight persons call 673-7683 after advance ticket purchase. All other seating is General Admission, but everyone will get a seat at a table.

This evening will feature different dances, from swing to foxtrot, to slow-dance ballads, with an occasional waltz or cha-cha. C.R. Sparks is located at 18 Kilton Road in Bedford, just off the intersection of 1-293 and Route 101. Dinner reservations in their restaurant can be made separately from the dance by calling C.R. Sparks is not selling dance tickets or accepting table reservations.

The Compaq Big Band is one of New England’s longest continuously operating big bands, playing a busy schedule of gigs across the region that includes swing dances, gala fundraisers for nonprofits, summer concert series, nightclub appearances, and other events. The band has toured the United Kingdom in ’06 and hosted the world’s foremost big band (Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band from Los Angeles) for concerts in ’07 and ’08.

They have sold 1,500 copies of their first album “Bandwidth”, which plays currently on New England jazz radio stations and on BBC2 in the United Kingdom, and they are currently in studio recording a second album. The Compaq Big Band has been featured in ’07 band ’08 at New Hampshire Magazine’s “Best of New Hampshire” galas and is returning to this event in ’10.

The group’s repertoire starts with the big band classics of the ’30s and ’40s and roars straight ahead to exciting, modern big band charts from icons like Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Maynard Ferguson, Stan Kenton, Gordon Goodwin, and more. They perform regularly at the Regattabar Jazz Club, Swing City Dance Club, and Dance2Swing dances in the Greater Boston area. To find out more about the band visit www.compaqbigband.com.

Lincoln Portraits On Display at NH State Library

In honor of the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s visit to New Hampshire, the New Hampshire State Library is hosting “The Mask of Lincoln,” an exhibit of portraits, facts and insights about our sixteenth president.

The 12-panel exhibit will be on display in the Map Gallery of the NH State Library in Concord from February 12 (Lincoln’s birthday) through April 15 (the anniversary of his assassination). It is open to

the public; school groups are especially invited to visit the State Library and view the exhibit.

Drawn from the unrivaled collection of Lincoln portraits at Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery, “The Mask of Lincoln” charts Lincoln’s passage from a fresh-faced Illinois congressman to a troubled visage as he led the fight for the Union, culminating in his grizzled isolation as president. The exhibit shows how Lincoln used

the new art of photography to convey his image to Americans, letting them see in him what they most desired. David Ward, historian, is the exhibition curator.

“Most of us have an image or two of Lincoln that we’re familiar with,” said Michael York, New Hampshire State Librarian. “This exhibit not only builds on those visuals, but also enhances them with descriptions of what was happening in his life when each portrait was taken.”

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VALENTINE’S EVENT - TBA!

♥ Check our website. ♥
Sat., Feb. 13, 3 p.m.

JEAN HARRIS & BOB FARQUHAR

Sat., Feb. 13, 11 a.m.
A joint presentation in conjunction with their book “Kids Under Fire”. Are you letting the media raise your kids? Learn how to break the cycle.

JOE HILL

Fri., Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
One of our favorite authors returns with his new supernatural thriller, “Horns”.

JOE SMIGA

Sat., Feb. 20, 3 p.m.
In Joe’s new thriller, Iranian submarines prepare to launch missiles at the United States. How could this happen? “Behind the Lines” is a chilling look at an all too plausible future.

ONE SHOES BLUES PARTY!!

Wed., Feb. 24, 2-3 p.m.
We’re inviting kids ages 6+ to join us in celebrating the new book and DVD from Sandra Boynton and B.B. King. Games, snacks, sock puppets!! Sign up required. A great way to spend school vacation.

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