

Town News

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
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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.

Get the Smartest Card @ your library®

September is Library Card Sign-up Month and the Amherst Town Library wants to make sure that all children in Amherst have the smartest card of all – a library card. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

Getting a library card is easy. Just visit the library (children under age 12 should come with a parent) and present your student ID. Non-residents attending Amherst schools are also eligible for a student card, valid year-round until graduation.

Of course, library cards aren't just for kids. In fact, 68 percent of American adults have a library card. Now more than ever, Americans turn to – and depend on – their libraries and librarians financial information, computer and Internet access, and, of course, books, movies and more.

Library cards are available to anyone living, working or owning property in Amherst. Residents and property owners should present a photo ID and printed verification of address when applying for a card. Employees working in Amherst should bring a letter verifying employment signed by their employer. For more information on how to sign up for a library card, visit the library, call 673-2288 or visit the library website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us.

Great Stone Face Reviewer's Club

Come and join Miss Sarah in reading and reviewing books that are under consideration for next year's statewide reading list, the Great Stone Face Award List. Your reviews will help shape the list for middle school readers around the state! We'll be reading the newest books, giving our opinions about what we've read, and snacking while we talk--what could be more fun? The club meets the first Wednesday of every month. Grades 5 and 6. For details and registration, please call Miss Sarah at 673-2288.

Junior Book Club

On the second Wednesday of each month, parents and kids gather for our Junior Book Club. In preparation for our next meeting, we are reading a wonderful book by Betty Birney, *The Seven Wonders of Sassafra Springs*. Like the main character in this book, we'll all



be looking for the hidden wonders of our own community. Then, club members will forward me photos of their discoveries, and we'll all enjoy a slide show at our next meeting--I'm really looking forward to getting to know my new community of Amherst through the eyes of club members! Grades 2-4. For more details, and registration, please call Miss Sarah at 673-2288.

Storytimes

Our traditional story times begin the week of September 13 and run for six weeks. Drop in as your schedule permits, no registration is required. We would love to see you!

Babies to 24 months- Tuesdays at 10AM with Miss Sarah

2s & 3s - Thursdays at 10AM with Miss Sarah

4 & Up - Wednesdays at 11:30AM with Miss Sue

Open Play Time

Everyone is welcome to join in in Open Play Time on Friday, Sept. 17, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29 from 10-11AM. We will have lots of toys out. This is a great way to socialize and meet some other families in town!

Friday Afternoon Book Club

AMHERST - The Friday Afternoon Book Club, organized by the Friends of the Amherst Town Library, cordially invites potential members and visitors to the first meeting of the new season, Friday, September 10th, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Johnson Meeting Room downstairs at the Library. The Club will discuss *Eat, Pray, Love*, a travel memoir by Elizabeth Gilbert. Visitors are welcome to join in the conversation or just come in and listen to the discussion.

Eat, Pray, Love is the author's account of travels in Italy, India, and Indonesia; a memoir written with wit and candor about her search for worldly pleasure, spiritual devotion and balance in her life. *Eat, Pray, Love* tops best seller lists and a movie version starring Julia Roberts is playing in local theatres.

The Friday Afternoon Book Club was begun last fall by Friends of the Amherst Town Library and is sponsored by the Library Friends. Members gather at the Library to talk about books on the second Friday afternoon of each month—September through June. They read and discuss a different book at each meeting. Books chosen for discussion at upcoming meetings include *People of the Book* in October, *Cutting for Stone* in November, *Bread Alone* in December, *Sarah's Key* in January, *The Help* in February, *an Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* in March. Books for April, May and June will be chosen later. Anyone wishing more information may contact Beth Blodgett at 673-2506.

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Outer Landscape / Inner Likeness

AMHERST - The Canadian writer Margaret Atwood has said, "No one knows what causes an outer landscape to become an inner one." The Amherst Town Library is offering an inspiring, thought-provoking four part series that will explore the difference between the environment that nature offers us and the settings we create for ourselves. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 29, October 13, October 27, and November 10 from 1-2:30 p.m. as recently retired Souhegan High School teacher Nancy Baker leads this series in the Johnson Meeting Room. You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

This is an interdisciplinary experience, drawing on literature, philosophy, mythology, music and art to look deeper at the ways landscape shapes us. Major elements include

Margaret Atwood's short story *Death by Landscape*, some pastoral poetry, the mythology and philosophy that contrasts the natural and the civilized, Beethoven's 6th Symphony (*Pastoral*), the critical concept of the sublime, and the history of landscape painting. The format is interactive, being both informative and a sharing of ideas. No previous study of any of the disciplines or specific works is expected, and all in-class and follow up materials are provided.

Back by popular demand to offer more of her excellent and raved about presentations, Nancy Baker, one of the Founding Faculty at Souhegan High School, was runner up as New Hampshire Teacher of the Year in 2004. During her time at the school, Nancy taught Mythology, History of Ideas, Philosophy,

Ancient History and Latin. A Classical Languages major at Harpur College, SUNY at Binghamton, Nancy continued graduate work in Egyptology at Brown University. She also worked in the Research Department at Colonial Williamsburg, was Director of Research at the Historic Annapolis Foundation, and is the author of several articles on early Annapolis, Maryland, silversmiths in the 18th century, and colonial ship chandlery. This series is sure to be engaging and full of fascinating explorations in literature, philosophy, mythology, music and art!

The event is free and open to the public. You can register 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

Islands of Silence

By BRUCE B. BECKLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Staccato motorcycles, invasive Good Humor loonie tunes, low-flying Southwest flights, truck tires on 101 – we live in a noisy world. Offices sometimes pipe in so-called white sound to mask other intrusions to workers' thoughts. The noises of the mechanical world blend and (unfortunately) are so common today that they become a white noise at 30-40 decibels, enwrapping us 24/7.

Crickets, breezes in the aspens, water running around streambed rocks become the white sound of the natural world. Sometimes a woodpecker's foraging on a dead tree or a raptor's shrill whistle grabs our ears like the Good Humor loudspeaker – yet, not like it at all. Nature's white sound is to be sought after. It acts as a stage setting does, framing the action and drawing our minds into the play before us and away from the non-fiction world outside.

Complete islands of silence need to be built within the swirling sea of competing clamor we navigate. I find Nature, given the opportunity, can be a catalyst in the island building. She proved her ability recently as we visited two fertile, mind-clearing building areas.

The first was the Hollis Town Forest. The sounds of vehicles soon fell away as we walked trails along eskers and beside ponds. This area testifies to the benefits of long-term, consistent forest management. For many years, former ACC Commissioner, Howard Parkhurst, selectively logged the forest, creating for us today a magnificent mixed stand of

white pine and other tree species. Now the logging roads are again trails under a canopy acoustically rich with Nature's white sound.

On the second venture in island building we were literally surrounded by water. We put our kayaks onto the Nashua River in Groton at the Groton CC launch site. Turning downstream and leaving the noises of Route 119 behind, we travelled next to cornfields, past relaxed Holsteins, and beside mature riverine forests. Many former ox-bows invited exploration and marsh perimeters were lush with buttonbush, goldenrod, and cardinal flower. Surprisingly, there was very little purple loosestrife.

Flocks of cedar waxwings gathered above and great blue herons fished the shoreline. Rounding a bend, many white shapes rose above the water in the distance. Swans, eight in all, carried on as we coasted past on still waters. In two hours we reached the canoe launch maintained by the Pepperell CC, just above the dam AND ice cream shop.

Many ACC trails are places to create islands of silence. It all depends on the visitor to recognize them. The Revised Amherst Walk Book gives suggestions on finding many such places. Like the sign at the railroad crossing, all you have to do is Stop – Look – Listen.



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Mountains And Tundra: Alaska Travel Experience

AMHERST - A new fall evening series for adults, entitled *The American Connection*, begins at the Amherst Town Library on Tuesday, September 21st at 7:00PM when Susan Kierstead presents "Mountains and Tundra: Alaska Travel Experience." Enjoy adventure travel in amazing Alaska, the largest and northernmost state of the United States. It contains the highest mountain, the largest glaciers, and the largest number of active volcanoes in the United States. Its fishing grounds are the richest in the country. Hiking, biking, animal watching, fishing, kayaking are all part of this journey.

Susan Kierstead, Amherst resident, says that once you have been to Alaska, you must go back. The trip of 2009 for Susan was her third trip to Alaska, the first being a 3 week backpacking trip when her children were teenagers, then again in 2006 for 6 weeks. But, Alaska is so big, you cannot begin to see it in a 6 week trip. The 2009 trip was for two and a half months. Her travel was during the autumn season in Alaska and the colors offered a spectacular foliage show! Traveling in their 34 foot motor home on this third trip, they managed to get far off the beaten path. There were no RV parks, just bare spots off the road where they camped. Being held captive by a grizzly, flying over Denali (Mt. McKinley) is such a small plane that they needed oxygen masks, are a few of the stories to



Animal watching is part of Alaska journey.

be told along with an array of beautiful photos.

Susan needs to be outside, and sitting still is not an option. Travel, gardening, and sports are the mix that holds life together. She started her business, *Perennials from Susan*, as a way to stay outdoors and also to be home with her children. She has taught windsurfing, and still spends about 6 weeks a year in North Carolina flying on the water. Add a month mountain biking in Utah and teaching skiing in Colorado. Major travel is interspersed and the Alaska trip was a highlight.

The American Connection series continues on Tuesdays in the fall on September 28th with "Wildlife

from Yellowstone National Park"; October 19th with "New Taste Traditions for Thanksgiving" (cooking and tasting demonstration); October 26th with "Lizzie Borden and the 40 Whacks" (a live interactive theater production); and, November 9th with "Picturing America: Art and American Identity."

The event is free and open to the public. You can register for this event and all the upcoming year's events 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."

Tell Joe you saw his ad in *The Amherst Citizen*!

Joe Casey's Back at Sunnyside!



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— Joe Casey, Sales Associate
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