Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

People in the News

Father and daughter Greg and Erin Earley of Amherst

Greg and Erin Earley Recognized for Boston Marathon Fundraising Efforts

AMHERST – Greg and Erin Earley, members of the Melanoma Foundation of New England's Running for Cover team will receive the Keeper of the Hope Award on November 22 along with Marathon Monday team-mates

Shades of Hope is an evening to honor and celebrate those touched by melanoma. The event will feature Joyce Kulhawik, Emmy Award Winning Arts & Entertainment Critic/JoycesChoices.com and three-time cancer survivor, as the evening's Emcee. Over 600 attendees from Boston's social, political and philanthropic communities will be in attendance for this annual fundraising event. Top level sponsors of Shades of Hope include Premier Hope Sponsor StrataDX Dermatopathology and Platinum Hope Sponsor KCG Holdings, Inc. Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and First Lady Angela Menino are Honorary Co-chairs of Shades of Hope.

This annual fundraising event is dedicated to those who inspire MFNE to continue their mission. This year's program will honor members of MFNE's Boston Marathon® team Running for Cover for their perseverance and courage in the wake of the tragic events on Marathon Monday. They never wavered in their dedication to the team's mission and their commitment to MFNE.

The Suzanne Donahue Keeper of the Hope Award is presented each year to individuals touched by melanoma who are inspirational, who demonstrate the importance of giving back, and who define hope for those in the darkest days. This year MFNE honors the members of their Boston Marathon Running for Cover team for their dedication to the team's mission and their commitment to the cause. This remarkable group of individuals came together to take on the challenge of the marathon and raise money for a cause they are passionate about, and never let the tragic events of Marathon Monday deter them from their united goal: to outrun melanoma.

Deck the Halls... 'Tis Time for the Christmas House Tour

BY CLIFF ANN WALES

Amherst loves its antique homes. The homes in Amherst village remind us that the pulse of time is always present. How fortunate we are to be able to visit some of these 18th and 19th century homes decorated for the Christmas season. Again, the Congregational Church of Amherst has organized a tour of six village homes decorated for the season on Saturday, December 14th. These Christmas house tours started in 2003 with the very successful "Enchanted Parsonage." Over the ensuing years, 36 homes have been featured on the tours. After a brief hiatus and beseeched with requests to revive the house tours, the 6th Christmas in Amherst House Tour returns this year with renewed enthusiasm and a bevy of beautiful homes to visit.

Carolyn Quinn and Sandy Fraser review final plans for House Tour

A recently completed renovation of the David McGregor Means house at 6 Courthouse Road is described as a home in the Georgian style with "many Federal finishes and Greek Revival updates." Today it is the home of James and Carolyn Quinn who purchased it in 2010 and since then have carefully made updates to accommodate their family needs. Carolyn who said she "wanted to make this house my own" had long admired this home for its style and beautiful setting.

There is no doubt that the house reflects the style of the homeowners from the friendly and comfortable family room to the richness and exquisite taste on display in the dining room and front parlor. Carolyn's decorating shows her keen interest in period furniture, paintings and fine porcelain collections. Her love of animals is on display. In every room she has tucked in an animal motif. Sometimes it is barely discernible, but it's there.

There are beautiful views of the historic village from each room – Town Hall, the Congregational Church, the grand common, the historic Old Burying Ground and the Robert Means House. However, it has a quiet country setting as it sits high overlooking Beaver Brook and Belden's Mill.

When Carolyn was approached to put her house on the tour, the first thing that came to mind was the meetinghouse. "Like most people in town, we have visited the building for many activities and meetings. It's a gathering spot for a broad range of community activities. Jim and I want to support this historic building." It must be noted that Carolyn knew what she was getting into since her home on Old Milford Road was on the tour several years ago. At a time of the year when we are faced with so much to do, these homeowners shine, polish and decorate their homes to share with others and support a good cause. On tour day their homes will sparkle and we will be charmed.

For the house tour, Carolyn will be assisted by floral designer Betsy Deasy from Rodney C. Woodman Florist Inc., Milford. Carolyn expects to use many of her own seasonal collections along with Christmas trees, flowers and greens. "Some of the rooms will be formal and others will have a more relaxed décor. Her four-season porch which is bright and sunny and visible from the kitchen and dining room will be brimming with flowers. This home is a gem to begin with and at Christmastime it will glow with true spirit.

All proceeds from the tour support the preservation of the historic meetinghouse on the town common.

Professional florists include the Amherst Garden Center & Flower Shop, Inc., The Garden Party (Milford), PJ's Flowers and Antiques (Bedford), and Rodney C. Woodman Florist Inc. (Milford).

The Quinn's house is sponsored by Boyd & Bouffard Insurance. Other sponsors include Accurate Title, Coldwell Banker, Dovetail Dental, My Feathered Nest, and TD Bank.

For more information on tickets, luncheon and raffle visit website: ccamherst.org/cav/

Gable end of Quinn house faces Courthouse Rd.

"Harvest of Song" Concert to Benefit Tracker Organ Restoration Project

BY CLIFF ANN WALES

AMHERST – On Sunday, November 24th, "A Harvest of Song" Concert will be held as part of the organ restoration project at 4:00 pm in the Congregational Church of Amherst sanctuary. Musicians to be featured at the concert include The Nashua Flute Choir with 25 players under the direction of Eileen Yarrington; Michael Havay, church organist, playing the Johnson Tracker organ; and Sara Phelps, soprano and church music director.

Admission to the concert is free, but donations to the organ fund will be accepted. The contact email for more information is: nhorganist@gmail.com

At the Congregational Church of Amherst, history speaks out to the community in different ways. Not only is the building a landmark structure with its own remarkable history but one of its often missed treasures is the Johnson tracker organ, most of which is hidden behind the altar but announces its presence when called on with a loud booming voice or a warm rich sound.

Organist Michael Havay and Music Director Sara Phelps

The organ was built in 1871 by William Johnson and was first used in the First Baptist Church in Brattleboro, Vermont. It was later moved to a Methodist Church in Melrose, N.Y. Amherst purchased the organ and hired the Andover Organ Company to dismantle and transport it to Amherst. It was formally dedicated in 1963 and is one of fewer than 200 Johnson tracker organs in use today.

Organ keyboard

The tracker is a showcase instrument that produces sound by driving pressurized air (wind) through pipes via a keyboard. The pipe organ is both a keyboard and wind instrument. The tracker action means that all the connections are mechanical not electrical. Trackers are slender rods which connect the keys to the valves under the pipes.

In the spring of 2014, the Andover Organ Company will begin a restoration of the church organ.

Director of music, Sara Phelps who oversees four choirs, Chancel Choir, Voices of Creation, Youth Choir and Junior Choir, says, "The organ sounds fine but needs work to be maintained."

Michael Havay, church organist explains that the pathways for the wind to get to the pedal stop have caused problems with pitch and stability of sound throughout the organ. The air is no longer sufficient for the pipes especially in the low notes. In addition to these repairs, Andover Organ will replace the pedal keyboard which will increase the range from 27 to 30 notes and make it easier to play. "I came here because of the tracker organ. It's difficult to play and takes a lot of strength. It's very durable but it must be cared for," says Havay.

Over the years, the organ provides the music that accompanies so many special moments in a community, baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmations, memorial services, and Christmas concerts. All music sounds great on the organ, "but my favorite is anything by Bach," says Havay.

Phelps says, "The tracker organ is an orchestra at your fingertips. All of these stops create different sounds. This is a large organ for a church this size. It's very unique for churches now to have an organ."

"For the past 50 years this instrument has been an essential element in our worship services and music program, and an asset to the community. With our continued care and financial support, we will preserve it for many future generations to enjoy," says Havay.

The work will be done in place and will take four to six weeks. The organ will be playable during the work. The campaign to raise $48,000 is half way to the goal.

"The history of the organ is a great story," says Phelps, "and we are committed to its restoration."

Make your primary care provider a regular part of your life.

Year in and year out, your primary care provider sees the changes that happen in you. There's value in that consistency: a strong relationship with a primary care provider can act as a foundation for treatment should you develop a health-related issue. See your primary care provider regularly and enjoy greater support for a healthy life. Foundation Medical Partners has primary care practices in Amherst, Hudson, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua, Pelham and Pepperell, MA.

Foundation Medical Partners
PRIMARY CARE
Proudly affiliated with Southern New Hampshire Medical Center

Need a doctor? Call HEALTHMATCH at 603-577-CALL (2255).

FINAL CLOSING WEEKS
During our Holiday Remodeling Sale

Caspian
Oriental Rug Importers
(603) 673-1799
50-75% Off
Hundreds of Handmade Rugs from 2x3 to 12x24
6x9 Handmade Tabriz $399
8x10 Handmade Gabbah $799
9x12 Handmade Persian $899
335 Rte. 13 | Brookline, NH
5 minutes from the Milford Oval – Minutes from Amherst
Store Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-4
caspianhandmaderugs.com