

## People in the News



Jean Rogers with her mentor and advisor Dr. Diane Levin

### Amherst Native Graduates From Wheelock College

BOSTON, MA – Jean Rogers, an Amherst native, and accomplished writer with a drive for making the world a safer, happier place for children and families, graduated from Wheelock College on May 16, 2014. At Wheelock, Rogers found an institution whose mission to improve the lives of children and families aligns with her professional and personal goals.

Rogers graduated from Wheelock with a Master of Science in Educational Studies and a Certificate in Parenting Education.

Rogers learned about Wheelock from Early Childhood Professor Diane Levin, who is a well-known researcher and author in the field of children, play and media. Levin and Wheelock endorsed Rogers's book Kids Under Fire, a handbook for families to manage technology and

media in children's lives in 2010. Two years later, she was accepted to Wheelock's graduate program in Educational Studies with Dr. Levin as her academic advisor and mentor.

Through her studies, Rogers became an expert at creating timely, meaningful, developmentally appropriate parenting workshops, which she delivers at sites such as the South End Community Health Center in Boston. Additionally, she developed a curriculum for Media Literacy Education, a series of classroom magazines and online tools called Shazam! For her senior capstone project, Rogers designed a graduate level course called Parenting in the Digital Age, which is being considered for offering at the College.

#### ► Community Development continued from page 1

tion is taken. Teaching about regulations is also part of my job," she says.

The Community Development office oversees economic development, planning and zoning. "I have no intent of coming into Amherst and changing zoning areas. Amherst has great regulations in place and compliance will keep the town a great community to live in and do business," she says.

This summer the office has been very busy with building permits. The activity in permits comes from home improvements, additions, pools and not new single-family

home construction.

She sees the challenge in New Hampshire as planning around sensitive issues, wetlands, storm water and invasive plants. "We need to protect the water resources while allowing development," she says.

Colleen sees her position as one of customer service. "I love the interaction with residents. The Town Hall is a very friendly place. We are all here to serve the community."

Working with Colleen are Deb Butcher, the Community Development secretary and Rick Keyes, building inspector.



### Friends of MaryAnne Conaway Donate over \$1,100 to SHARE

AMHERST – Over 20 friends of MaryAnne Conaway, who died after a courageous battle with cancer in 2012, gathered recently for an afternoon tea at the Fells in Amherst to honor her memory. The group collected over \$1,100 which was donated to SHARE Outreach, where MaryAnne spent much time volunteering. In addition to SHARE, MaryAnne Conaway was known for her dedication to beautifying Amherst through her work with the Amherst Garden Club.

The donation will be used to support SHARE's food pantry. The summer months are particularly

busy for the pantry since children who receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch during the school year, lose that benefit during the summer. "The donation will be used to purchase snacks and other kid-friendly food that will help parents make sure their children are fed all summer," according to Christine Janson, Executive Director of SHARE, "and we are honored to accept this gift in MaryAnne's memory."

SHARE Outreach is a 501(c)3 agency serving those in need in Amherst, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Brookline. www.sharenh.org.

#### ► Medal of Honor: Ryan Pitts continued from page 1

said Maj. Matthew Myer, who was the Chosen Company commander at the time.

Pitts said he's also bonded with other Medal of Honor recipients. He said he first learned about his Medal of Honor from another MOH-recipient, Sgt. Kyle White, who texted him. They still stay in contact.

"It's a great comfort to lean on them and pick up the phone if I need to," he said, regarding the Soldiers he served with, and the other MOH recipients.

Brian Hissong and Mike Denton, two other Soldiers who served with Pitts on that July day, added that they all stay in contact and it's a bond they'll always have.

Pitts is the ninth living recipient to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. Pitts served with 2nd Platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade. The White House notes that Pitts' person-

al awards include the Bronze Star Medal w/ "V" Device, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal w/ three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasp and two Loops, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral "4", NATO Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, Combat Action Badge, Pathfinder Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Sgt. Ryan Pitts of Mont Vernon is a graduate of Souhegan High School, class of 2003. He lives in Nashua with his wife and young son.

For the full account of the July 13, 2008 battle, please go to http://www.army.mil/ARNEWS.

### Amherst Residents Ride in 35th Annual Pan-Mass Challenge

AMHERST – On August 2 and 3, two residents from Amherst, Rick Brenner and Tom Mercurio will participate in the 35th annual Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), the largest single athletic fundraising event in the country. They will be among 5,800 cyclists who will ride with the collective goal of raising \$40 million to support adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund.

During PMC weekend, individual cyclists unite to become one extended family. The camaraderie shared by thousands of cyclists, spectators and volunteers, is one reason cyclists from 36 states and five countries return to Massachusetts each August to participate in the PMC.

Cyclists range in age from 13 to 90. Some are seasoned tri-athletes while others are weekend warriors having trained for this event alone. Many participants ride in honor of a family member or friend lost to, or being treated for, cancer. All share a passion and desire to one day find a cure for the disease. The average cyclist trains for three months, solicits 40 sponsors, and raises more than \$6,500. Doctors ride alongside their patients; grandparents ride with their grandchildren; and others show support from the sidelines in the form of donations and cheers. More than 300 riders are cancer

survivors or current patients.

No other single athletic event raises or contributes more money to charity than the PMC. Since 1980, the PMC has raised more than \$414 million. In 2013, the PMC was Dana-Farber's largest single contributor and the event raises more than 50 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. More than 230,000 individual contributions were made to last year's PMC fundraising campaign, allowing the PMC to contribute 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly to the Jimmy Fund.

The PMC is a fully supported bike-a-thon — with food and water stops, mechanical and medical assistance, luggage transportation, and lodging — that runs through 46 towns across Massachusetts. Cyclists choose from 12 routes of varying mileage designed to cater to all levels of cycling strength and time availability. There are six two-day routes that range from 132 to 190 miles and six one-day rides that range from 25 to 111 miles. In 2014, cyclists are required to raise between \$500 and \$4,300 to ride in the PMC.

To become a virtual rider, or make a financial contribution to a rider from your town, visit www.pmc.org, or call (800) WE-CYCLE. Connect with #PMC2014 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn.





Carolyn Hornor, Hilary Hubbard and Charlotte Rohlfis

### Lemons to Lemonade Bronze Award Project

BY CAROLYN HORNOR AND CHARLOTTE ROHLFS

Our Girl Scout Bronze Award was to raise money to buy Life Specialists toy supplies to give patients at CHaD children's hospital. We knew we couldn't do a lemonade stand in the middle of winter so we made lemonade notecards to raise all the money. With many generous donations we were able to raise over a \$1000 to buy supplies. With the money, we purchased an iPad, lots of Play-Doh, nail polish, craft

supplies, board games and bracelet making kits. We were very excited to see how much money we were able to raise and how far the money would go to buy supplies. We were so happy to bring all the supplies to CHaD on June 18th. We met up with our Project Advisor Hilary Hubbard who told us about CHaD and its important history. We are very proud of the success of this project and thank everyone who supported it. We look forward to hopefully expanding our Bronze Award into a Silver Award project.




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