



# The Monadnock

# SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 68th Year of Community Service / December 17-23, 2025

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## An Irish Christmas Comes Home to Peterborough



Ishna

The Peterborough Concert Series has announced the return of An Irish Christmas with Ishna to the Peterborough Town House on Saturday, December 20th, at 7 p.m. A beloved annual tradition, this show has become one of the region’s most anticipated holiday events, drawing audiences with its vibrant mix of Irish music, dance, and storytelling.

Founded in Dublin in 2009 by Ciaran Nagle, a founding member of The Three Irish Tenors, and Tara Novak, former Riverdance violinist, Ishna offers an holiday performance rooted in Irish culture and festive spirit. This year’s event carries an especially meaningful connection to the community, as both Nagle and Novak now make Peterborough their home.

IRISH, page 8

## SuperHero SpotLight Recognizes Monadnock Peer Support

Stark Level Solutions and The Monadnock Shopper News congratulate Monadnock Peer Support. On the back page of this issue, Stark Level Solutions’ SuperHero SpotLight recognizes their work.

Monadnock Peer Support provides free mental health support for adults seeking wellness through a mutually supportive peer community. Serving individuals ages 18 and older across 23 towns in the region, the organization offers a wide range of no-cost services designed to foster connection, stability, and personal growth. These include support groups, crisis respite, transitional living for 90 to 120 days, life skills classes, cooking groups, transportation to and from the center, shopping trips, field trips, and more.

This month, Monadnock Peer Support spotlights

Frank White, one of the agency’s Program Support Specialists. White has been a member of the team for many years. He facilitates groups, provides rides for members, conducts outreach, and jumps in as a handyman when needed. A veteran himself, White will also be launching a new Veterans’ Breakfast Group in the new year, creating a welcoming space for veterans to connect and support one another.

For more details about Monadnock Peer Support, whether it’s about services, volunteering, or supporting the organization, call 603-352-5093 or visit [www.MonadnockPSA.org](http://www.MonadnockPSA.org).

To nominate a Stark Level Solutions’ SuperHero, complete the form submission at [www.starklevelsolutions.com/about-5](http://www.starklevelsolutions.com/about-5).

## Durling Cleaning Offers New Service

*Grease Trap Cleaning For Restaurants, Cafeterias, And Other Commercial Kitchens*



Cleaning a grease trap might be a messy job, but that doesn’t stop Thomas Hubbard of Durling Cleaning from keeping a smile on his face!

By Lori Catozzi Cook

A grease trap (aka grease interceptor) is a device designed to capture fats, oils, and grease (FOG) before they enter the wastewater system. FOG accumulates from products in commercial kitchens – deep-fried foods, meats, sauces, gravies, butter, and more. And if not properly managed, these can accumulate in plumbing systems, causing messy blockages, repugnant odors, and costly repairs.

Cities and states have requirements for grease traps and the maintenance of

these traps. An unannounced inspection can result in a hefty daily fine if the business or municipality is in violation of its local ordinance.

Locally owned and operated, Durling Cleaning has been professionally cleaning commercial kitchen exhaust systems for years. Neglecting a kitchen’s exhaust system isn’t just a cleanliness issue; it’s a fire hazard and a compliance restaurant risk, as many fires start in cooking areas where there is a grease build-up.

DURLING, page 12

## Kulick’s Holiday Meat Bundle Raffle Planned

In the spirit of holiday giving, Kulick’s Supermarket is raffling off three coolers packed with meat bundles. The longstanding meat-bundle program has become a community favorite and includes such items as chicken breasts, thighs, and drumsticks; New York sirloin steak; London Broil; chuck roast; sirloin pork cutlets; boneless pork spare ribs; ham steaks; ground chuck; bacon; breakfast sausage; and hot dogs.

From now until December 23rd, for every \$200 spent, customers will receive a Lucky Draw coupon that will enter them in the giveaway. “This is a fun holiday promotion that benefits the entire family,” says Kool Patel, owner of Kulick’s Supermarket. There’s no limit on the number of times customers can enter, and the three winning names will be drawn on December 23rd.

Kulick’s Supermarket is located at 30-08 Warwick Road in Winchester. For more details about the meat bundle raffle, call 603-239-4843.



Harry and Dhara Patel of Kulick’s Supermarket

## Early Deadlines For December 24th, 31st

Due to printing schedules, *The Monadnock Shopper News* has early deadlines for the issues of December 24th and 31st.

For the issue of December 24th, all

ads and news must be in our office by 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 18th.

For the issue of December 31st, all news and ads must be in our hands by Tuesday, December 23rd at 4 p.m.

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## Last Minute Gift Guide ... 2-15

BIRTHDAYS ..... 18  
CLASSIFIEDS ..... 18-19  
COOKING ..... 15

ENTERTAINMENT ..... 16-17  
FAMILY ..... 13  
GARDEN ..... 11

GREEN ..... 7  
HEALING ..... 14  
MONEY ..... 10

MYSTERY PHOTO ..... 17  
PETS ..... 6  
REAL ESTATE ..... 19

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## Open Messiah Sing At United Church Of Christ In Keene

The United Church of Christ in Keene at 23 Central Square invites the public to its 34th annual Messiah Sing on Sunday, December 21st at 7 p.m. with a string quartet, organ, professional soloists, and singer attendees as the chorus.

The church sanctuary is handicapped accessible, with entrance by the rear door accessed via Vernon Street. A suggested donation of \$10 will help defray the expenses. Scores will be available to borrow. The singers (usually about 100) sit in the balcony, and the audience sits in the pews below. A reception follows the performance.

This year's director is Dr. Sandra Howard, Professor of Music at Keene State College, who has served as conductor of the KSC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, and is Artistic Director of the Monadnock Chorus in Peterborough.

The musicians for 2025 include: Gregory Flower, bass; Brittney Redler, soprano; Pamela Stevens, mezzo-soprano; and Kirk Bobkowski, tenor. Instrumentalists are Alex Stewart, organ; Kathy Andrew and Michelle Liechti, violinists; Linda Hecker, viola; and Sabine Rhyne, cello.

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**Holiday Magic Returns: MoCo Arts Presents *The Nutcracker* At Redfern Arts Center**

MoCo Arts School of Dance will perform *The Nutcracker* at the Redfern Arts Center at 90 Wyman Way at Keene State College from Friday, December 19th through Sunday, December 21st. Fridays performance begins at 7 p.m., Saturdays performance is at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m., and Sundays performance is at 2 p.m.

Set on Christmas Eve, *The Nutcracker* follows young Clara as she receives a mysterious gift from her godfather, Drosselmeyer. This wooden nutcracker doll unlocks a night of wonder and transformation. Together, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince journey through swirling snow to the Kingdom of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy welcomes them with a celebration of dance and imagination.

MoCo's dancers tell this timeless tale through ballet, pointe, modern, hip hop, tap, and jazz – blending classical storytelling with fresh, contemporary energy. The result is a performance that captures the magic of *The Nutcracker* while reflecting the creativity and spirit of today's young artists.

Aspen Downey, who will dance the role of Clara, shares her excitement: "Being Clara has been one of the most amazing experiences, and I'm so excited to perform it!"

Adding to the magic, MoCo Arts welcomes guest artists Harry Warshaw and Phoebe Magna, both company dancers with Ballet Memphis. Warshaw, a Keene native, first discovered his love for dance at a young age by training under MoCo's Executive Director and Artistic Director of Dance, Reagan Messer. He has gone on to perform with The Washington Ballet and Ballet Memphis, dancing leading roles in works by George Balanchine, Steven McMahon, Jessica Lang, and Silas Farley. Their artistry and professional experience will enrich MoCo's *Nutcracker*, offering audiences a performance that bridges community tradition with world-class talent. For tickets, visit [www.moco.org/the-nutcracker](http://www.moco.org/the-nutcracker).

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## Tara Greenblatt Trio Performs In Dublin This Saturday

A Coffee House and Open Mic will take place at the DubHub, featuring the Tara Greenblatt Trio, on Saturday, December 20th from 6 to 9 p.m. DubHub is located at 1123 Main Street in Dublin. Coffee and snacks are available. Attendees are also welcome to BYOB and dinner/snacks. A featured performance takes place for about 60 minutes, with open mic slots available both prior and after.

This month will feature the Tara Greenblatt Trio, with Tara Greenblatt on percussion and lead vocals, Ramsay Thomas on bass guitar, and Richard Doherty on electric and acoustic gui-

tar, dobro, and supporting vocals. Greenblatt writes contemporary folk originals laced with stunning strings and jazzy harmony arrangements. Her music and energy emanate wildness, a love affair with nature, its reflections, and its creative power.

Email [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org) to reserve a spot on the open mic sign-up, or just show up that evening to try finding an available spot on the list. A suggested donation of \$5 or more can be given at the door to help offset costs, and a hat will be passed during the performance for contributions for the featured performers.



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## United Church Of Christ Christmas Eve Services, Music

The United Church of Christ in Keene, at 23 Central Square, will hold Christmas Eve services. These will be December 24th in the sanctuary: the 5 p.m. family service that includes carol singing, handbells, and soloist; and the 9 p.m. traditional candlelight service of lessons and carols. A musical prelude starts at 8:30 p.m. prior to the 9 p.m. service and will feature The Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet, the organ, choir, and handbells.

The United Church of Christ is handicapped accessible at the rear double entrance (near the Bank of America ATM drive thru). All are welcome. For more details, visit [www.ucckeene.org](http://www.ucckeene.org).

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# Free Fuel

I was introduced to solar energy when I moved to the Phoenix area, nicknamed “the valley of the sun.” As I explored this desert world, I kept stumbling across people tinkering with capturing this abundant free fuel.

Some of the techniques and contraptions I saw worked, others not so much. This instilled a sense of skepticism of new ideas and appreciation for the systems and projects that worked. Over the past few decades, I’ve enjoyed passive solar heating as the sun pours in on cold days and I don’t need to burn fuel. Solar water heating has served up countless hot showers, though it’s now rarely installed in northern climates due to cheaper and more efficient photovoltaics (PV) combined with heat pump water heaters. The PV industry transitioned from satellite applications to uses here on earth in the 1980s, but struggled due to the high costs. As a semiconductor it has benefited from great strides in innovations and scaling up. Today, PV is cheaper than many thought possible back in the 1980s, and is the most cost-effective new source of energy in most of the world.

For an apples-to-apples comparison of different energy costs, the levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) is the best tool. It measures the average total cost to build and operate a power plant over its lifetime divided by its total electricity output.

In the US for 2024, the LCOE for utility-scale solar PV was around \$46/MWh, and for onshore wind it was around \$40-\$50/MWh, though costs vary significantly depending on the source and whether subsidies are included. Without subsidies, solar PV costs have ranged from \$29 to \$92/MWh, and onshore wind from \$27 to \$73/MWh. The LCOE for natural gas was \$45 to \$208/MWh (Peaker plants are at the upper end) and coal was \$69 to \$168/MWh.

In 2024, the US added approximately 62.8 gigawatts of new utility-scale electricity-generating capacity, a 55% increase from 2023. So, it’s no surprise that the majority of new capacity was from solar and battery storage, which together accounted for

81% of the new additions, with solar making up the largest share. Other sources included wind and natural gas. In spite of this, the US is not leading in the free fuel race.



Recently, the Australian government announced that, beginning next year in much of the country and spreading to the rest by 2027, residents will get three free hours of electricity every afternoon. This Solar Sharer plan is possible because Australia has built so much solar power. Next, they need to balance this surplus of energy with electricity use, batteries, or other storage options to soak it up. This saves money by charging batteries during the day and then using that electricity during peak hours when electricity costs are higher. This approach benefits all ratepayers and the utility grid by lowering peak demand in the evening, which will save the utility system from the high costs of peak power supply.

Batteries are the key to resolving these times when free solar energy exceeds demand for electricity by storing it and then supplying it when demand peaks. Green Mountain Power is doing this in Vermont – showing how a balanced approach makes the grid stronger, while saving ratepayers money. Hopefully New Hampshire will see the light. After all, free, local fuel fits our state motto’s value placed on independence and freedom. What are we waiting for?

*John Kondos has been harvesting free fuel from the sun for five decades and enjoys the freedom, performance, and ease of ownership of an electric vehicle (EV).*

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## Keene Community Education Announces Gas Service Technician Apprenticeship Course

Keene Community Education will be offering a Gas Service Technician apprenticeship course beginning in January 2026. "In New Hampshire there are three sections of gas technician training required to become licensed: Gas Piping Installer, Gas Installation Technician, and Gas Service Technician," says Heather Jasmin, director of Keene Community Education. "These three courses build upon each other, covering the skills needed for proper installation, including piping, equipment, and service, and require a combination of 140 classroom hours and 2000 hours of on-the-job field experience."

Following the new PEP/CETP curriculum, the course will be delivered around a combination of lecture, demonstration, and relevant application. Classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays, starting January 3, 2026, at Keene Community Education, located in the Jonathan Daniels Building, Door B2, at 227 Maple Avenue in Keene. Spots are limited so early registration is suggested. Interested participants can learn more and register online at <https://keenecommunityed.org/gas-service-technician-course>. Registration can also be done over the phone by calling 603-357-0088, Ext. 303.

## An Irish Christmas Comes Home to Peterborough

IRISH, Continued from page 1

The family-friendly performance showcases Novak's expressive fiddle tunes, Nagle's powerful vocals and warm stage presence, and the graceful harp playing of Gráinne Hambly. They are joined by an ensemble of musicians and dancers, including Irish dance duo Maureen and Kevin Doyle, whose old-style step dancing brings exhilarating energy to the stage.

An Irish Christmas with Ishna features traditional

holiday ballads, lively instrumental sets, dynamic step dancing, and humorous, heartfelt stories from Irish tradition. Led by Novak and Nagle, the 2025 cast includes Dan Meyers on Uilleann Pipes, Bjorn Wennas on guitar, Brian O'Neill on bodhran and percussion, David McGrory on piano/keyboards, and dancers Kevin Doyle and Kieran Jordan – all working together to create an authentic and uplifting Irish holiday experience.

Tickets begin at \$34. To order tickets and for more details, visit [peterboroughconcertseries.com](http://peterboroughconcertseries.com).



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The Kiwanis Club of Keene would like to thank everyone who made our 13th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration on the Square a great success!

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# Golden Rod Grange Hall Designated One Of “Seven To Save”



L to R: Joanne Stroshine, Wayne Goodwin, Alan Gross, Anna Tilton, Pru Fraser, Mike Chirichella, Steve Lindsay, and Greg Johnson.

In the heart of Swanzey stands the Golden Rod Grange Hall, built in 1916, listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, and once the center of community life for close to a century.

On October 2nd of this year, the NH Preservation Alliance designated the Grange Hall as one of the “Seven to Save” structures in the state. This designation raises awareness, draws resources, and ensures that one day the Grange Hall can serve the community. Although the building remains structurally intact, it has suffered decades of deferred maintenance. The Swanzey Preservation Society (SPS) hopes to see it restored as a community center.

The SPS is reviving events that involve community members. Every Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m., Senior Coffee Connections offers conversation, breakfast treats, and presentations. The SPS served refreshments at Old Home Day, sold hot dogs to concert goers, and hosted a motorcycle tour. For more details, <http://swanzeyps.wixsite.com/historyisthekey>.

The building stands in the center of an historic area. When asked what the Grange Hall could be used for, residents suggested meeting space for town hall and non-profit organizations, town recreation department, coordination with Mt. Caesar Library for programming, performance space for local groups, scouts, summer camps, after-school programs, a visitor’s center, emergency shelter space, training, and workshop space for the police, EMT, and fire departments.

A new roof was approved, and repairs, scraping and painting will take place in the spring. A much-needed repair to the foundation is the next project. The SPS needs help to preserve the Grange Hall. Donations can be mailed to: Golden Rod Grange Fund, Swanzey Preservation Society, P.O. Box 10323, Swanzey, NH 03446. For in-kind donations, contact: Eileen Longe at [longeeileen1@gmail.com](mailto:longeeileen1@gmail.com).

# A Gift Of Harmony Event At Keene Library



The Keene Cheshiremen Chorus

The Cheshiremen Chorus will sing favorite holiday classics in their unique style in a festive informal atmosphere hosted by the Keene Public Library Saturday, December 20th at 3 p.m.

The Cheshiremen offer four-part barbershop harmony of holidays in this free concert, complete with a sing-along and refreshments. The event will be held at Heberton Hall and will feature the Cheshiremen Chorus and quartet UpGray’d. Attendees will be treated to a program of favorite secular music, some with that famous barbershop harmony twist. The Cheshiremen often engage their audiences; the “house” sing-along is always a favorite. The event is free; donations are welcome.

The Cheshiremen Chorus is the Keene chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a worldwide organization of men and women singing a cappella barbershop harmony. They meet every week on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Keene. Men of all ages are always welcome. Watch for open-sing guest nights in early January. View weekly updates online at the web site.

For more event details, contact the library at 603-352-0157 or Amy Kraemer at [akraemer@keenenh.gov](mailto:akraemer@keenenh.gov). Information about the Cheshiremen Chorus can be found at <https://www.cheshiremen.org>.

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*Classes will be held at Keene Community Education (in the Jonathan Daniels Building, Door B2) at 227 Maple Ave., Keene, NH from 8am to 2:30pm on Saturdays starting January 3, 2026*

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Honeywell (Allied Signal)	193.66	2.33	Danaher Corp. (Kollmorgen)	226.33	0.08
Becton Dickinson (C.R. Bard)	200.89	6.93	Merck (Hubbard Farms)	100.30	0.58
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	91.42	3.10	Deluxe (NEBS)	22.29	1.40
PC Connection	60.28	2.02	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	126.88	6.38
Bank Of America (Fleet)	55.14	1.19	Timken (MPB Corp.)	87.38	4.17
Corning Inc.	88.32	2.35	M&T Bank Corp. (People's United)	203.84	8.73
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	201.74	1.94	Dover Corp. (Markem)	199.12	8.03
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	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
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## Monadnock Community Hospital Welcomes Nurse Practitioner Carolyn Fernandes To Antrim Medical Group Practice

Monadnock Community Hospital has welcomed Carolyn Fernandes, MSN, FNP-BC, to the team as Antrim Medical Group's newest Family Nurse Practitioner.

Fernandes brings over three years of nurse practitioner experience and an extensive background in patient care across hospital, outpatient, and community health settings.

Most recently, she served as a Family Nurse Practitioner with CMC-WSIH Healthcare for the Homeless in New Hampshire, where she provided comprehensive care to a diverse patient population including pediatric, adult, immigrant, and refugee communities. Prior to that, she practiced at Keady Family Practice managing chronic and acute conditions and supporting patients with complex healthcare needs.

Her career also includes leadership in emergency care management, perioperative nursing, bariatric surgery coordination, hospice care, and critical surgical settings. Fernandes is certified in ACLS, PALS, BLS, and holds licensure as an RN, APRN, and FNP. She is skilled in a wide range of procedures including wound care, biopsies, suturing, trigger point injections, and chronic disease management.

Fernandes is passionate about building trust with patients through compassionate, collaborative care and has worked extensively with vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness, addiction, and chronic illness.

For those looking for a new provider, call the MCH Provider Connection Line at 603-924-4699, Ext. 1600.



Carolyn Fernandes  
(Photo by Mark Corliss Photography)

## Anna Dase-Kanatas Is Treasury And Business Services Officer Mascoma Bank

Mascoma Bank welcomes Anna Dase-Kanatas to her new role as treasury and business services officer. Dase-Kanatas has been working for local business clients through Mascoma Bank since 2023. Moving to the Treasury Services department is a natural fit for her experience in delivering tailored financial solutions that support businesses' operational needs.

"I'm thrilled to join Treasury Services at Mascoma," she says. "The services we provide are a crucial part of steering businesses toward stability and longevity. I truly feel like an integral part of the successes my clients achieve."

Mascoma Bank Treasury Services serves as a key resource for banking operations and questions about long-term cash management strategies. "Some of the most important functions of our department are making sure businesses have fast access to receivables, solid protection from fraud, and the ability to secure competitive earnings for idle cash," said Dase-Kanatas. "The best solutions are built on relationships rooted in trust, collaboration, and clarity. It is critical for us to work closely with business owners to understand their priorities and provide clear, effective guidance to reach their goals."

"Our whole department is focused on providing efficient solutions to challenges that businesses face in a world that is defined by rapid change. We work proactively to help make each business' financial operations more efficient and to give clients more autonomy over their banking processes."

Dase-Kanatas is also committed to supporting local economic development as a member of the Enfield Village Association's board of directors. Mascoma Bank has always cultivated a culture of community, and Dase-Kanatas' work on the board reflects that commitment to fostering change for the benefit of all, both businesses and community members.

Mascoma Bank is a \$2.9 billion mutual community bank with 26 branches and two loan production offices located throughout Northern New England. The bank has a 126-year history of serving communities and businesses primarily in rural and minor-urban areas. Certified B Corporation and member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values. It is an FDIC member and Equal Housing Lender. For more details, visit <https://mascoma.bank>.



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# Crafty Winter Fun And Gift Ideas For Everyone

Here are some enjoyable ways to pass the coming winter months. Some may like looking through flower and seed catalogs with a favorite cup of tea on a cold, dreary winter day. What could be more fun? How about starting seeds for spring indoors or try winter sowing in covered containers; grow microgreens, herbs like basil and garlic, or regrow green onions in water. The possibilities are endless.

**Woods and Gardens**  
with Rose Kowaliw



Have the kids join in by making a simple bird feeder with a pinecone, some peanut butter, and wild bird seeds. Putting peanut butter in the grooves of the pinecone and then roll or sprinkle it with bird seed. They can use twine or a soft pipe cleaner to hang them on a tree outside a window and watch the birds enjoy their snack. Keeping them, and your pet cat, entertained for a while.

You can make all kinds of wonderful things from the summer garden like homemade seasonings or tea blends with dried herbs, balms; or dried flower arrangements, wreaths, and garlands by using dried vines and branches; or make lavender-infused oil.

Take advantage of the darker days of winter and learn something new from books and magazines about making your own gifts. You can read up on the benefits of learning how to make something new and unique. If you don't have any magazines around, the library may have just what you're looking for.

Have you ever tried building a bird house or an owl box? Look online and find a video that will show you just how to do what you're looking for. I've watched how-to videos for a number of projects that came out great. It was surprising to see how easy it was. Consider building an owl box. In return for providing them with shelter, these majestic birds of prey can offer excellent natural rodent control for your garden and yard. You can find plans online from trusted bird experts.

Decorate your flower pots or make custom plant markers, signs, or stepping stones for your gardens. Discover new ways to exhibit your talents. Create miniature self-contained gardens in jars or force blooms by bringing cut branches like forsythia or pussy willows indoors to bloom.

Pressed flower art can be made into various crafts like framed art and bookmarks. Common methods include adhering flowers to items like glass or clay with decoupage glue, or using them in floating frames by placing pressed flowers between two pieces of glass to create a "blooming" display. Make a suncatcher by gluing pressed flowers onto clear plastic or glass and hang in a window to catch the light. You can also use them to decorate gift tags, cards, and ornaments.

Make mosaics with rice by dyeing rice with food coloring and vinegar, spreading glue on a design (drawn on paper/board), sprinkling the colored rice over it, letting it dry, then shaking off the excess, creating colorful, textured art perfect for kids or adults. Start simple, work in sections, and protect the finished piece with a sealer or varnish for durability.

Spray paint leftover patterned tiles,

recycled T-shirts, and thrifted teacups, which are all inexpensive items you can use to craft your own special planters. Several of these project ideas are quick and simple, which means you can spiff up your indoor or outdoor space in the span of a single afternoon.

Paint pretty pastel shades on mason jars to use for planters. Add the perfect pop of color and life to your home. Color or paint your favorite flowers on cardstock and write a small poem for someone special. It would also be fun to find out how to dry orange slices for holiday decorations, which will add a lovely scent to any room. Any one of these ideas can be made for family members or friends and neighbors, after spending a fun day at home.

*Rose Kowaliw has enjoyed gardening for over 40 years and also has a variety of houseplants, including a few she's had for over 20 years.*

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— Don Woodhouse, Antrim

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## Durling Cleaning Offers New Service Grease Trap Cleaning For Restaurants, Cafeterias, And Other Commercial Kitchens

DURLING,  
Continued from page 1

During this time, Durling saw an apparent need in the region for maintenance on grease interceptors as well, and the new grease trap cleaning service was added.

This professional grease trap cleaning service is for restaurants, cafeterias, and other commercial kitchens, to ensure that grease traps run smoothly. A pump truck – a specialized vacuum truck with powerful pumps – is used to safely transport FOG waste away for proper disposal. This crew also uses a portable equipment system which is extremely versatile to reach places that other systems might not be able to, and can easily be moved throughout a building on an elevator.

"Kitchen sanitation is a priority for us," says owner Matt Durling. "We employ portable vacuum extraction equipment exclusively for grease trap cleaning. Our sanitary cleaning system caters to areas beneath sinks, within floor spaces, and in box-type grease traps."

He goes on to say that routine cleaning can help prevent clogs and back-ups. "Neglecting your grease trap can result in a buildup of fat, oil, and grease. A clogged grease trap can result in foul odors, toxic gas buildup, slow drainage, and clogged pipes."

Technicians from Durling Cleaning remove accumulated fats, oils, and grease; clean internal components; and help to keep the kitchen running efficiently and in compliance with local regulations.

Every kitchen has unique needs, which is why Durling offers customizable solutions to fit your specific requirements. Whether routine maintenance or emergency services are needed, they have the expertise and equipment to get the job done right.

Durling continues by saying that the average restaurant needs maintenance once a month, but that the exact frequency depends on the kitchen's usage and the size of the trap. A high-traffic commercial kitchen may need



Coty Hale of Durling Cleaning cleans the grease trap of a local establishment to avoid a blockage, odors, and costly repairs, as well as to be in compliance with local ordinances.

bi-monthly cleanings, while a smaller establishment might be able to go longer between cleanings.

"Maintaining clean grease traps is essential for not only the hygiene of your establishment, but also for compliance with local regulations. Clogged traps can lead to serious plumbing issues and costly fines," Durling adds.

Besides needing to register the work truck with the NH Department of Environmental Services, Durling also had to apply for a license to transport the wastes to the closest transfer station for commercial jobs such as these, in Allenstown, NH.

"We offer professional grease trap cleaning services, ensuring your system operates efficiently and safely. Trust us to help you keep your business running smoothly," summarizes Durling.

Other services offered by Durling Cleaning include dryer vent cleaning, hood cleaning, oven cleaning, pressure (and soft) washing, and window cleaning.

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# Extending December’s Holiday Magic

In my last column, I discussed various holidays to extend the holiday magic beyond the more well-known holiday experiences.

One of the days that stuck in my head from that column is the Exceptional Work Team Recognition Day on December 4th, because I am thankful to work with a crew of exceptional team members. I shared this with my supervisor, as our behavioral health team meets on the first Friday of the month,

One of my favorite days is Answer the Telephone Like Buddy the Elf Day on December 18th. I love the spirited enthusiasm for the holiday displayed by Will Ferrell’s character throughout the hilarious holiday movie *Elf*. This would be a fun way to spread cheer by answering the phone in a fun and festive manner.

National Heroes and Heroines Day is on December 19th. This is a great day to celebrate people within the community who make a positive impact – whether it is the extra attentive wait staff at your favorite restaurant, a dedicated teacher at your child’s school, or a family member who shows kindness to others. This is the perfect day to acknowledge others for their positive impact.

December 19th is National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day. As it happens, my sister is hosting our family Christmas party that day, so I’ll have to make sure to wear something to celebrate. Host your own holiday celebration with an ugly sweater contest for your friends and family. It’s a fun way to celebrate the season. Find your tackiest, festive outfit and wear it proudly.

The Winter Solstice on December 21st is the shortest day of the year, and it is often celebrated with candles, bonfires, and gathering of friends and family. Since it is the shortest day of the year, it also reminds us that the light will soon be returning, with the days starting to grow longer by small increments each day.

Celebrate your young mathematicians on December 22nd for Mathematics Days. Play some number games, challenge your kids to some math challenges, and have fun exploring how math is involved in our daily lives.

December 23rd is National Christmas Movie Marathon Day. Break out the PJs and cozy blankets and cuddle up watching your family’s favorite holiday films.

After Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on December 24th and 25th, Kwanzaa, a week-long celebration of African heritage and culture begins on December 26th. Also Boxing Day is celebrated December 26th, dedicated to giving donations to less fortunate in many commonwealth countries. It was initially a day when homeowners gave gifts and leftovers to servants who had worked through the Christmas holiday.

December 26th and 27th are National Leftovers Days. Be creative using the remains of the holiday meal. I love making cheesy potato patties with leftover mashed potatoes.

Reach out to friends on December 28th in honor of National Call a Friend Day. Reconnect with people you may have not seen in a while. A phone call to check in can brighten someone’s day and will strengthen your relationships.

On December 29th, Still Need To Do Day, is a day devoted to completing some of those unfinished tasks that may have gotten away from you in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. It’s a perfect opportunity to tackle those projects that you hoped to complete before the end of the year.

December 30th is National Resolution Planning Day. If you struggle with wanting to make some goals for the year, this day is dedicated to making those decisions so you can jump into the new year with a clear plan for your goals.

Finally, New Year’s Eve is also Make Up Your Mind Day. Since this day celebrates the end of the old year and start of the new year, it provides opportunity to make up your mind about how you want to enter the coming year.

Throughout the final weeks of December, try out some new celebrations using these fun holidays to take a break from the typical and enjoy each day.

It’s almost time



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# The Lantern Of Grief

The winter holidays are rich with the beautiful symbolism of light in the darkness. These images shine with expressions of hope, guidance, renewal, restoration, rebirth.

The atmosphere of the holiday season is one of celebration and joy, warmth and good cheer. This is a time when family and friends and even strangers come together, sharing meals and gifts, when traditions and memories are brought alive.

For many people, this season can stir the pain of loneliness, loss, and grief in a very deep way. There is never an easy time to experience grief, but the winter holidays can be especially hard as we move through this time while carrying grief in our heart, mind, and body.

The painful sorrow of loss can sometimes leave us feeling lost in the wilderness, unsure of how to go forward with our living. We may feel as if there is no place for the suffering of grief during this time of light, and that we need to hide the hard emotions that arise in the holiday season, from ourselves and from others.

The loss that brought such deep grief into my life – the death of my son – often does feel like a dark forest. My experience of grief is a mysterious, richly textured territory that seems to stretch endlessly be-

fore me. There are emotions and thoughts, some right before me and some hidden in the shadows, some tender that bring me a smile, some that are frightening to touch into and accept. As I move through the days of the holiday season, I miss him in ways that go far beyond words. But just as night and day live side by side, so does my sorrow live alongside the light in my life.

Healing Perspectives

with Nadine Laughlin



We often think of grief as darkness. But I sometimes like to reflect on it differently. Maybe within my experience of grief I can find the lantern that brings light to the path I am on. The loss is dark and painful, yes. And in an unexpected way, it is my grief itself that helps to light the way. Sometimes grief shines a light on my pain, on questions I do not have an answer to, on fears, on regrets. This is not at all easy to feel; but if I am gentle with myself, and have courage, and allow myself to be supported, I can bring loving kindness to the part of myself that feels these things. Breath by breath, the wounds are tended, and bit by bit, healing takes place. Some light comes into the darkness.

My grief inspires me to light a candle, to kindle the memory of a loving moment, to share a story about him with family and friends, to close my eyes and feel the ways I love him and treasure him, even though he is not here in person anymore. I have found that within my grief lives the light of enduring love. That light lives alongside the darkness of sorrow, the way stars shine in the night sky. I often think of the ancient ocean sailors who navigated by the stars. The holiness of my grief is a guiding star. And that is most certainly the spirit of the holiday season.

Nadine Laughlin, MSN, APRN, can be found at Monadnock Mind Body Medicine, where she focuses on integrative approaches for mental health care.

Christmas

During this sacred season of silence, joy, watchful waiting, and interior preparation, may you be blessed!  
Remember, this season is about a deep prayerful immersion into the mystery of God.  
Inhale the divine, exhale the mundane.  
Coram Deo

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## Aloha Celebrating The Winter Solstice

On the Yule, Sunday, December 21st, Aloha will offer a celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. This is the first day of winter. Arielle Wylie will offer an opening cacao ceremony followed by sacred feminine movement, enchanted charm making, and guided meditation. Each participant leaves with a Sacred Aromatherapy blend custom to the season. Aloha is located on court street in keene. To register, visit [vagarog.com/alohakeene](http://vagarog.com/alohakeene).



Arielle Wylie in ceremony at Aloha for the Fall equinox

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# Hosting A Holiday Party

*"Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality." – Washington Irving*

Whether you're celebrating Christmas or Hanukkah season, appetizers or hors d'oeuvres are always welcome. Throwing a holiday party can be fun and easy if you choose foods that are simple to prepare or that can be made in advance and refrigerated. Just follow a few guidelines to make your party easy and fun. Keep appetizers easy to eat, generally finger foods that are no more than a mouthful. Serve hot appetizers on large platters or in chafing dishes and dips in pretty bowls on large plates surrounded by crackers or crudités; provide plenty of napkins. Set up your table and get out serving platters and dishes the day before your party. Make as many appetizers in advance as possible and freeze them. Provide plenty of space around your table or tables for guests to mingle while they eat. And above all, enjoy your own party!

## Cooking Corner

with Nancy Adams



### Classic Eggnog

I know you can purchase eggnog, but this homemade version is worth the extra effort. Amounts can easily be increased if you'll need more than 12 servings.

#### Ingredients:

6 large eggs  
3/4 cup superfine XX sugar  
3 cups whole milk, divided  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup whipping cream  
3/4 cup rum or bourbon (or 2 teaspoons rum extract if non-alcoholic version preferred)  
freshly grated nutmeg

In medium bowl, beat eggs and sugar together. In medium saucepan, heat two cups of the milk over medium low heat until just hot. Slowly whisk milk into egg mixture. Return egg-milk mixture to saucepan; cook over low heat, stirring constantly, about 15 to 20 minutes, until slightly thickened. (Thermometer should register 160 degrees F if you want to be exact.) Remove from heat; stir in remaining one cup of milk and vanilla. Refrigerate in clean bowl, covered, until thoroughly chilled, several hours or overnight. When ready to serve, beat whipping cream until soft peaks form. Pour eggnog into punch bowl. With wire whisk, stir in rum; fold in whipped cream. Garnish with grated nutmeg as desired.

### Lobster Puffs

Pass a tray of these as they are best served when they come out of the oven.

#### Ingredients:

2 large egg whites (save yolks for another use)  
1/4 cup instant nonfat dry milk  
1 cup finely chopped cooked lobster (or shrimp)  
1 scallion, minced  
1 tablespoon chopped parsley leaves  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon grated Parmesan cheese  
small pinch cayenne pepper

In medium bowl, beat egg whites until frothy. Gradually add dry milk and beat until stiff but not dry. Fold in lobster, scallion, parsley, salt, Parmesan cheese and cayenne. Drop tablespoons of mixture onto a greased baking sheet. Bake in preheated 375 degree oven for 10 minutes, or until puffed and lightly browned. Makes 25 puffs.

### Sausage-Nut Pate

Guests will appreciate the subtle flavors of this pate made with sausage, nuts and herbs. Serve at room temperature with assorted crackers.

#### Ingredients:

1/2 lb. lean bulk pork sausage  
1 lb. button mushrooms chopped  
3/4 cup finely chopped onions  
1 garlic clove, minced  
1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted  
1/3 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped  
1 tablespoon light olive oil  
1/2 teaspoon dried sage, crumbled  
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled

1/8 each teaspoon salt and cayenne pepper  
assorted crackers

Cook sausage in heavy medium saucepan over medium high heat until well browned, stirring frequently; drain well and transfer to food processor. Sauté mushrooms, onions and garlic in same skillet, cooking over medium heat until all liquid evaporates, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Transfer to processor with sausage. Add almonds and walnuts and mix using five or six on/off turns. Add oil, sage, thyme, salt and cayenne. Process continually until smooth, about three minutes. Transfer to two-cup crock or bowl. Cover and chill overnight. Serve at room temperature.

### Pastry-Wrapped Olives

People still keep coming back for more of these warm, cheesy puffs, reminiscent of cocktail parties held in the 1970-80s. Makes 48 appetizers.

#### Ingredients:

1 cup cheese, grated (Cheddar or Jack are nice)  
3 tablespoons butter, softened  
1/2 cup flour, sifted  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon paprika  
48 pimiento-stuffed olives, drained and patted dry

In a blender or by hand, blend cheese with butter; stir in flour, salt, and paprika. Wrap small amount of cheese dough around each olive. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake in 400 degree oven for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Serve hot or warm.

### Smoked Trout with Red Onion

Amounts are not given as this is one of those hors d'oeuvres you assemble according to the number of people served. This is a good match with most cocktails or beer. If preferred, use smoked salmon instead of the trout.

#### Ingredients:

thinly sliced red onion; kosher salt; butter at room temperature; thin slices party breads (like Pepperidge Farm pumpernickel or rye rounds); smoked trout.

Directions: Sprinkle thin onion slices with salt and let sit for a few minutes to remove any 'bite'. Rinse onion and dry on paper towels. Spread butter on bread rounds, lay on slivers of smoked trout and top with a small swirl of red onion.

### Apricot Wraps

A nice complement to a variety of savory appetizers. Makes four and a half dozen.

#### Ingredients:

1 (14 oz.) package dried apricots  
1/2 cup whole almonds  
1 lb. lean sliced bacon  
1/4 cup plum or apple jelly  
2 tablespoons soy sauce

Fold each apricot around an almond. Cut bacon strips into thirds; wrap a strip around each apricot and secure with a toothpick. Place on two ungreased 15x10x1-inch baking pans. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, or until bacon is crisp, turning once. For dipping sauce, in small saucepan, combine jelly and soy sauce; cook and stir over low heat five minutes until warmed and smooth. Remove apricots to paper towels; drain and serve with dipping sauce.

*Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. She has been featured as one of Yankee Magazine's great New England cooks. Nancy welcomes suggestions – send them to: Nancy P. Adams, 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.*

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and DINING

**Zoom Class Added To Pam Bernard's Writing Workshop Schedule**

New sessions of this popular eight-week workshop are beginning the first weeks of January. Start days and times vary from class to class.

This session, a Zoom workshop is being added to the two existing workshops, both of which have limited openings. Reach out for more details about the process of these well-known and respected writing workshops. Queries of any kind are welcome.

The governing philosophy that makes Bernard's teaching of memoir so effective is that the struggle must be to nurture a healthy relationship with the past, in order to get beyond the authorized version of oneself.

The central paradox of this kind of writing is that a memoirist must rely on memory, though, at best, memory is mutable and utterly fallible. Memoirists learn to honor artful leaps of dramatic presentation in order to create a narrative nimble enough to fully and convincingly reveal a life.

Retired judge, Patti Whalen, of Putney, VT, explains how the workshop has helped her process and eventually find a way into difficult material. "Pam's workshop is the highlight of my week," she said. "Pam leads each session with skill and warmth bringing the process of memoir writing alive with support and creativity. As I began to write and to identify the deeper themes, I realized with great relief that I had a way to shape hard truths into a story I could share. I could only have done this with Pam's caring but rigorous guidance, and within the supportive and generous community of writers she has created."

A retired professor of writing, Bernard is an author, editor, writing mentor, and instructor. She



Pam Bernard

(Photo by David Perry)

works also one on one with writers of non-fiction and poetry in a variety of ways.

Workshops are hybrid, using the Owl meeting device, to accommodate those who must attend remotely. The Owl makes the experience for the participant much more realistic. For more details, including days and times, visit [www.pambernard.com](http://www.pambernard.com), or email [www.pambernardwriter@gmail.com](mailto:www.pambernardwriter@gmail.com), call 603-439-1809.**CHESHIRE COUNTY SHOOTING  
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SCHEDULED EVENTS!**[www.ccssef.org](http://www.ccssef.org)19 Ferry Brook Rd., Keene  
603-352-8563**Wednesday, Dec. 17****FAMILY FUN****Jane Austen Birthday Tea Party** 6pm. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday with a family-friendly tea party. There will be tea and treats, as well as games and crafts such as painting your own fan, and create your own "Darcy Letter". Regency style dress encouraged! Reservation recommended. **603-239-4331**.**Thursday, Dec. 18****ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER****Keene Church of the Nazarene and Monadnock Covenant Church Combined Choir: Christmas Cantata "A Child Is Born...All Is Well"** 6pm. Keene Church of the Nazarene, 55 Maple Ave. Celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season. Admission is free/open to the public, and all are welcome. Light Refreshments will be served following the presentation.**LECTURES & WORKSHOPS****Laser Engraved Coaster Workshop** 6:30-7:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Come use epilog laser engraver and learn how to make custom designed coasters out of either wood, cork or slate. Each participant will leave with 4 coasters. To participate in this workshop you must complete the online tutorial: Introduction to the Makerspace and the Epilog Laser Engraver Certification Tutorial. Both tutorials can be found at <https://my.nicheacademy.com/makerspacetutorials>. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. [akraemer@keenenh.gov](mailto:akraemer@keenenh.gov).**MISCELLANEOUS****Infinite Worlds Book Club: "To Whom It May Concern..."** 6-7:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. A non-traditional book club for adults focusing on speculative fiction! Members are encouraged to pack a dinner to munch during discussion, and the library will provide dessert. Katelyn McStravick: **603-352-0157**. [kmcstravick@keenenh.gov](mailto:kmcstravick@keenenh.gov).**Friday, Dec. 19****FAMILY FUN****Homeschool Library Day** 11am. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. A time for homeschool families to meet together, enjoy a craft and story, find educational resources, and have fun! Meeting every other Friday, this event is open to all homeschoolers. **603-239-4331**.**LECTURES & WORKSHOPS****Celebration of Jane Austen's 250th Birthday: Literary Book Club** 11am. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Books are available to check out at the Help Desk. All are welcome to the discussions. **603-924-8040**. [www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org](http://www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org).**GUITAR LESSONS**Lessons online via Zoom, Skype  
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603.762.9378 • [www.taddreis.com](http://www.taddreis.com)**MISCELLANEOUS****Gallery Talk: Rosti and Jeani Eismont** 4-6pm. Jaffrey Civic Center, Cunningham Gallery, 40 Main St., Jaffrey. This intimate event invites the public to join the Eismonts for a conversation exploring the collection of artwork by Rosti, Jeani, and their children featured in the current exhibit, A Family Retrospective: Six Ways of Seeing. Laura Adams: **603-532-6527**. [info@jaffreyciviccenter.com](mailto:info@jaffreyciviccenter.com).**Saturday, Dec. 20****DINING PLEASURES****Arlington Grange: Pancake Breakfast** 8-10am. United Church of Winchester, 99 Main St., Winchester. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, coffee or tea. Donation.**FAIRS & SALES****Rabbit Ridge Artisans Holiday Marketplace & Workshops** 4:30-7pm. Summit Winery, 719 Rt. 12, Westmoreland. Marketplace open Thursday, 4:30-7 and Friday-Sunday 12-5 thru Dec. 28th. Enjoy wine tasting & handmade gifts by local artisans. View workshop schedule at [www.RRA-DIY.com](http://www.RRA-DIY.com).**FAMILY FUN****Santa Party** 1pm. Richmond Public Library, 19 Winchester Rd. Celebrate all things Santa with a Santa scavenger hunt, cookie decorating, and crafts. There might even be a visit from the jolly old elf himself. Richmond Public Library: **603-239-6164**.**Children's Story Time and Craft** 11am. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. A reading of "How to Catch a Gingerbread Man" by Adam Wallace & Andy Elkerton. Crafts afterwards. **603-239-4331**.**MISCELLANEOUS****Coffee House & Open Mic** 6-9pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. Featuring Tara Greenblatt Trio. **603-563-8080**. [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org). [www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar](http://www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar).**Sunday, Dec. 21****ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER****Open Messiah Sing** 7pm. United Church of Christ, 23 Central Square, Keene. You are the chorus. Suggested donation \$10. Scores available to borrow. Celebration reception afterwards. Call for more info. **603-352-4136**.**MISCELLANEOUS****Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony** 4pm. The Chapel by the Lake, 529 Granite Lake Rd., Munsonville. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome.**Winter Solstice Celebration: Arielle Wylie** 5-7pm. Aloha Keene Yoga Studio, 83 Court St., Keene. Cacao Ceremony, followed by Sacred Feminine Movement, Enchanted Charm Making, and Guided Meditation. Each participant leaves with a Sacred Aromatherapy blend custom to the season. Register at [www.vagaro.com/alohakeene](http://www.vagaro.com/alohakeene).**RELIGIOUS****Worship With Us** 10am. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. **603-352-6689**. [office@swanzeyucc.org](mailto:office@swanzeyucc.org). [www.swanzeyucc.org](http://www.swanzeyucc.org).**Monday, Dec. 22****MISCELLANEOUS****Red Cross Blood Drive** 9am-1:30pm. Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Rd., Rindge. **800-733-2767**. [www.Red-CrossBlood.org](http://www.Red-CrossBlood.org).**Christmas Dinners To Go!****Choice of  
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# MYSTERY PHOTO

from **THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY**

The first person to answer the question correctly at 9:30 a.m. or after on Friday will receive a certificate for \$25 to The Pub. Call The Monadnock Shopper News at 603-352-5296. You may win only one contest every three months.

(Prepared by the Historical Society of Cheshire County)



On what street in what community was this store located in the 1950s?

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



The winner of last week's Mystery Photo contest was Sharon Rhoades of Keene. The MacKenzie family operated the well-known local ice cream bar.

## Homeschool Library Day December 19th

The Conant Public Library will hold Homeschool Library Day on Friday, December 19th, at 11 a.m. The program offers homeschool families an opportunity to meet, enjoy a craft and story, explore educational resources, and take part in activities together. The event meets every other Friday and is open to all homeschoolers.

For more details, call 603-239-4331.

## Children's Story Time And Craft Saturday

The Conant Public Library will host Children's Story Time and Craft on Saturday, December 20th, at 11 a.m. The program features a reading of *How to Catch a Gingerbread Man* by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton, followed by a themed craft activity.

For more details, call 603-239-4331.

## Santa Party At Richmond Public Library Saturday

Come celebrate all things Santa with the Library and Parks and Recreation Commission on Saturday, December 20th at 1 p.m. at Richmond Public Library.

This event includes a Santa scavenger hunt, cookie decorating, crafts, and maybe a visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself.

## Tuesday, Dec. 23 MISCELLANEOUS

**A Nightmare Before Christmas: Film Screening & Live Drag Performance** 7pm. Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret, 82 Main St. Doors open at 5 for dinner. Experience Tim Burton's holiday classic like never before with a live drag performance by Miss Ginger Soulless and friends woven throughout the film. \$10. VIP seating includes table service and premium viewing. **603-354-3377**.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** 12-4:30pm. Courtyard Marriott, 75 Railroad St., Keene. To make an appointment to give by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCross-Blood.org or calling **800-733-2767**.

## Wednesday, Dec. 24 RELIGIOUS

**Christmas Candlelight Service** 4:30pm. Monadnock Quaker Meeting, 3 Davidson Road, Jaffrey. Fellowship, caroling, & silent worship. Christmas stories for the children will be available in the library. Bring a flashlight & wear warm clothing. Robert: **603-540-8122**.

**Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** 9: pm. United Church of Christ, Central Square, Keene. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible from rear entrance. Family worship at 5 pm. Musical prelude at 8:30 pm. **603-352-4136**. [www.ucckeene.org](http://www.ucckeene.org).

## Jane Austen Birthday Tea Party At Conant Public library

On Wednesday, December 17th at 6 p.m., there will be a family-friendly tea party in honor of Jane Austen's 250th birthday at Conant Public Library on Main Street in Winchester.

This event includes tea and treats, games, crafts, and the creation of a "Darcy Letter." such as painting your own fan, and create your own "Darcy Letter". Regency style dress is encouraged. Reservation recommended at 603-239-4331.

## Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony In Munsonville

The Chapel by the Lake in Munsonville will be having their Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, December 21st at 4 p.m. All are welcome, and there will be refreshments to follow. The event will take place at 529 Granite Lake Road Munsonville.

## Christmas Cantata At Keene Church Of The Nazarene

The Keene Nazarene Church and the Monadnock Covenant Church combined choirs to celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season at the annual Christmas Cantata, "A Child Is Born... All Is Well," on Thursday, December 18th at 6 p.m. at 55 Maple Avenue in Keene. Admission is free. Light Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Arranged and orchestrated by Russell Mauldin, A Child Is Born: All Is Well is a moving musical retelling of the birth of Jesus Christ, blending traditional carols with inspiring new melodies and heartfelt narration.

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## Christmas Eve Service



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## Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve

**Monadnock Quaker Meeting**

3 Davidson Road, Jaffrey, NH 03452

Christmas Eve at 4:30 with fellowship & caroling, followed by silent worship. Children may retire to the library for Christmas stories. Bring a flashlight. Wear warm clothing. All are welcome.

Questions? Call or text Robert at **603-540-8122**.

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# Christmas Eve

5:00 P.M. • Family Worship

8:30 P.M. • Musical Prelude featuring the Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet, as well as organ, choir, and handbells.

9:00 P.M. • Traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

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A Nightmare Before Christmas: Film Screening & Live Drag Performance At Madame Sherri's

On Tuesday, December 23rd, A *Nightmare Before Christmas*: Film Screening & Live Drag Performance will be held at 7 p.m. at Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret at 82 Main Street in Keene. Doors open at 5 p.m. for dinner. Experience Tim Burton's holiday classic like never before with a live drag performance by Miss Ginger Souless and friends woven throughout the film. This is an all ages event. Tickets start at \$10. VIP seating includes table service and premium viewing. For more details, call 603-354-3377, or for tickets, visit [www.madamesherri.com/events](http://www.madamesherri.com/events).

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**December 16, 2025**  
Finley Brow, son of Maryssa & Conor Brow, Keene, 4  
**December 18, 2025**  
Nathan Thomas, son of Michael & Kassia Thomas, Troy, 8  
Brittany Jackson, daughter of Coady & Teverly Jackson, Keene, 5

**December 21, 2025**  
Jacob Kwiatkowski, son of Mia & Steven Kwiatkowski, NH, 2  
**December 22, 2025**  
Ashton Washington, son of Sully Washington & Chynna Blair, Swanzey, 7

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Age child will be on this birthday.

Drive-Through Holiday Light Display Benefits Rescued Draft Horses

Draft Gratitude is once again hosting Holiday Hoof, a magical drive-through holiday light display that's become a beloved community tradition. The event brings festive cheer to local families while raising funds to care for the senior draft horses at this local non-profit. Open every weekend in December (Friday to Sunday from 5 to 8 p.m.), Holiday Hoof takes place at 148 Ashuelot Street in Winchester. Admission is \$20 per car. No reservations are required; donations are collected at the gate. This year, Draft Gratitude is proud to provide free family passes through local elementary schools,

ensuring that every family has the chance to enjoy the lights regardless of their ability to pay. "It means so much to see families smiling and kids filled with wonder," says Becky Roy, founder of Draft Gratitude. "The Holiday Hoof isn't just about the lights, it's about community. It's about kindness. And it's about giving back to the senior horses who gave so much of themselves through years of hard work." Guests are invited to stop by Barn Finds, the on-site gift and tack shop, to enjoy hot cocoa, holiday treats, and locally made gifts. For more details, visit [www.draftgratitude.org](http://www.draftgratitude.org).

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provides free mental health support for adults seeking wellness through a mutually supportive peer community. Serving individuals ages 18 and older across 23 towns in the Monadnock Region, the organization offers a wide range of no-cost services designed to foster connection, stability, and personal growth. These include support groups, crisis respite, transitional living for 90 to 120 days, life skills classes, cooking groups, transportation to and from the center, shopping trips, field trips, and more.

This month, Monadnock Peer Support is proud to spotlight Frank White, one of the agency's dedicated Program Support Specialists.

Frank has been a valued member of the team for many years. He facilitates groups, provides rides for members, conducts outreach, and even jumps in as a handyman when projects arise. A Veteran himself, Frank will also be launching a new Veterans' Breakfast Group in the new year, creating a welcoming space for local Veterans to connect and support one another.

For more information about Monadnock Peer Support, whether you're interested in services, becoming a member or participant, volunteering, or supporting the organization, please call 603-352-5093 or visit [www.MonadnockPSA.org](http://www.MonadnockPSA.org).



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