



## News from the Selectboard

*Erik Spitzbarth, Chairman for the Selectboard*

**APPOINTMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS:** The BOS appointed Bob Fogg Jr. (replacing Bob Fogg Sr.) to the position of *Agent of the Town Clock*, effective January 1, 2016.

Bob Fogg Sr., “Caretaker of the Clock” as portrayed by town resident, Howard Mansfield, in his 2012 article for Yankee Magazine, has marked his **50th year** of service to the town. Bob “has wound the clock through wars, moon-landings, assassinations, riots, a presidential impeachment, inflation, stagflation, recessions, the Cold War, terrorist attacks, and all the rest”... In that time, he has overseen the repair of stuck weights, a bent shaft and loose screws sometimes resulting in jams – all with his unrelenting commitment to community service. He has even been known to use a personal *atomic watch* to assure its accuracy. The next time you hear the bell ring, think of Bob and check your cell phone to make sure it is the right time – your cell phone that is!

Bob Fogg Jr. was once quoted as asking: “when you retire, when you give up the job, I’ll take over...” We express many thanks to Bob Jr. for stepping up and volunteering. Additionally, there is no need to add another set of initials in the tower. They are already there. :)

AS 2015 COMES TO A CLOSE, the BOS would like to also take a moment in recognition and remembrance of two individuals who left us this year. Their personal contributions and tireless commitments to our community left us with lasting memories of their endeavors in civic duty and their volunteering efforts.

Both veterans in times of armed conflict, they honorably served their country as well.

Tax Collector will be open on Thursday December 3rd 9:00AM-2:00PM, and Monday, December 7th from 3:30PM-6:30PM.

**Edward J. Coughlin** (1947 – 2015): After graduating from the NH Police Academy, “Ed” served, for over 22 years on the Hancock Police Department - rising to the position of Chief of Police. As a town resident, he still found time (25 years) to volunteer with the Hancock Fire Department (HFD) and was one of their Deputy Wardens. As a lover of sports, he could often be seen coaching and umpiring baseball and basketball games.

**Richard E. Amidon** (1927 – 2015) “Dick” was an active participant in the Hancock community. He served in the elected positions of Selectmen and later as Town Moderator. He also served 16 years with the HFD. He was instrumental in preserving the historic railroad depot and the adjacent Camp Guild property. He served on the building committee for ConVal High School, he was a trustee of the Peterborough Savings Bank, and he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

Ed & Dick; rest in peace.

OUR TAX RATE for this year is \$22.19. This represents a *reduction* of .93%\* (\$0.21/\$22.40) which is largely due to the budgeting decision made at the 2015 Town Meeting. The Warrant Article that was passed at that meeting paid off the Prospect Hill loan from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This reduced the 2015 Budget by \$146,803.00.

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON upon us, let us remember the many blessings of friends and family.

Happy Holidays

\*.93% represents a correction from the erroneous 9.3% in the original printed version (*Dec. 16, 2015*)

Public Forums to discuss the Conval School District's Strategic Plan will be held on Dec 8th at the Great Brook School Cafeteria in Antrim and Dec 10th at the South Meadow School Library in Peterborough. The Forms start at 6:30 PM.

### Hancock Happenings Mission Statement

Hancock Happenings is the monthly newsletter of the Town of Hancock, established in 1999 for the purpose of publishing news articles by Town Departments and local organizations. The publication is self-supported through the sale of block and classified advertising. Hancock Happenings is not a forum for opinion pieces of any nature, political advertising and political columns; any such submissions will be edited or rejected.

### Hancock Fire & Rescue

*Nevan Cassidy, Chief, Hancock Fire Department*

#### It's Raffle time

If you are a Hancock homeowner, you should have received a copy of our newsletter, Firelines recently. Thanks to Eric Aldrich for writing and editing most of it. As always, we included two raffle tickets for our year-long drawings, held at our monthly meetings. If you have not yet done so, please consider mailing them in to us. This is our biggest fund raiser, and allows the fire department association to purchase equipment without dipping into town tax dollars. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in raffle tickets- good luck to you!

We have recently trained on, and put into service, a new 12 lead cardiac monitor and defibrillator. Despite being no bigger than a toaster, it's a busy little machine. It can display and print out all sorts of vitals- heart rate and rhythm, blood oxygen levels, even exhaled carbon dioxide. Spence Thompson has been guiding our EMTs through the use of this monitor; we still have more to learn. I think if you push enough buttons, it can give you a weather report or the latest Dow Jones average. It might be toaster sized, but it costs roughly 10,000 toasters. We were lucky to be able to use the Helen Brown trust to make this purchase.

We hope you had a good Thanksgiving and didn't get trampled at Walmart on Black Friday. Now it's on to Christmas and the holidays. As I've said before, be cautious with candles! Don't leave them burning if nobody is in the room, and keep them away from kids and pets. Be careful setting up Christmas lights..... use decent extension cords, and make sure they aren't a trip hazard or run under carpets.

And, as always, Don't burn wrapping paper in your fireplace or woodstove!

Happy Holidays from all of us at HFD.

November Raffle Winners:

Jane Hill, \$40; Don Klug, \$20;  
\$10 each to :

Richard Warner, Mary Kita, Marlene Tomaszewski  
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## Hancock Elementary School

*Amy B Janoch, Principal & District Literacy Coach*

### Ten Minutes at Hancock Elementary School

I read an article in the Ledger- Transcript last week called ten minutes. In the article, a high school teacher considers what can be accomplished in ten minutes. Here is what HES teachers and students accomplish in ten minutes.

Ten minutes of morning recess is enough time to score a goal in soccer, swing and slide on the playground, chat with a friend, or play a game of tag. It is also enough time to have breakfast, tell or hear a tale of no sleep or hear woes of an argument with a sister, brother, or friend.

Once in classroom, you can't imagine what is accomplished in ten minutes. Morning greeting, folder work, attendance, and lunch count is stealthily completed in ten minutes. A reteach of the misunderstood lesson from the day before, a new lesson, a quick write, or extra practice with a skill is often done in ten minutes. Two or three turn and talks or lean and listens are accomplished in ten

minutes and students record, define, and illustrate one or two new vocabulary words in ten minutes.

In kindergarten, ten minutes is enough time for a student to be a policeman, fairy, store keeper, and chef. It is also enough time for two children to share their most coveted treasure, record the day in the month, mark a new birthday in their calendar book and greet one another.

So much is accomplished at Hancock Elementary School in ten minutes. Both students and teachers work together to make the most of their time. Ten minutes of fun + ten minutes of business + ten minutes of work + ten minutes of teaching + ten minutes of movement + ten minutes of talking = success!



*Hill Top Farm  
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9:00 am to Dusk*

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We will have goodies in the cabin for sale, along with the Boy Scout wreaths.

*Jeff and Mary*



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December 4th, 4-6 pm**

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and specialty foods  
that will tempt the palate!

Hancock authors signing and selling  
their books to be enjoyed as well!

Mon-Fri 7-7 - Sat 8-7 - Sun 8-6

Suggestions encouraged @  
[hancockmarket@hotmail.com](mailto:hancockmarket@hotmail.com)

## Hancock Congregational Church

Step back, slow down and re-discover a deeper meaning in Christmas with the Hancock Congregational Church



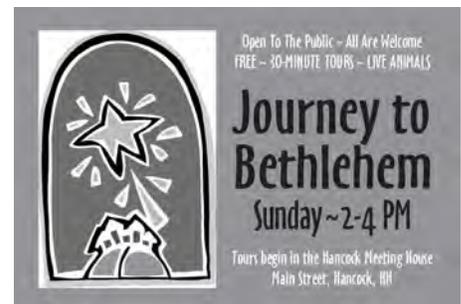
**Advent**, begins Sunday Nov. 29th: In the Sundays leading up to Christmas we will light the Advent wreath and reflect on the themes of Joy, Love, Hope and Peace. Join us from 9:45 -11 am each Sunday. Refreshments and fellowship follow worship. Child care provided. Hancock Meeting House Sanctuary.

**Children’s Sunday School**, Sundays, Nov. and Dec., 9:45am-10:45am: Give the gift of discovery; allow your children time to discover a deeper meaning in Christmas through cooking, crafts and science projects that will share the story of Advent and Christ’s birth. Hancock Meeting House Sanctuary.

**Monday Moments**, Mon Nov. 30th- Mon. Dec. 28th, 4:30pm: No time for church? Or wanting something extra? Let us provide you with a moment just to sit, take a deep breath and re-focus on what’s important to you. Rev. Judith Copeland will lead a brief, alternative Advent reflection (no more than half an hour) and send you home with a poem, article, piece of artwork, or quote to inspire you during the week ahead.

**Bible Study**, Sunday, Dec. 13th and 20th, 8:45am The story of Jesus’ birth is spread over two Gospels. We’ll spend a week on each, looking at the specifics of the story as it is told in Matthew and Luke.

**Journey to Bethlehem**, Sunday Dec. 6th, 2-4 pm: Journey with the Wise Men on a 30-minute guided outdoor tour through historic Main Street as it transforms into Bethlehem, and the story of Christ’s birth is revealed. Step back in time with costumed actors, traditional Christmas carols, wandering minstrels, live animals and the wonderment of the first Christmas. Tour begins in the Hancock Meeting House. Enjoy refreshments after your journey at the Hancock Inn Christmas Open House.



**A Currier and Ives/ Charles Dickens/ Norman Rockwell Old fashion Christmas Eve Service**, Thurs. Dec 24th 7pm: There is nothing more Old New England Christmas than a historic Meeting House, with bells tolling, calling neighbors and families to church on Christmas Eve. The grand pipe organ plays the music that connects us back in time over 240 years of consecutive services. Listen to the story from Luke’s gospel, hear Rev. Judy’s Christmas message, and savor the candlelight as we gather to celebrate the eve of Christ’s birth.

For more information contact the church office 525.4626, email: [hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Hancock Congregational Church

Hancock Happenings  
If you would like to submit an article or place an ad, email to [happenings@hancocknh.org](mailto:happenings@hancocknh.org) or call 525.9459  
Jaime Donovan, Editor

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# BULLETIN BOARD



## Community Supper

Due to the holidays, we are moving the Community Supper to Thursday, December 10th at 5:30pm at the Vestry. The Friends of The Community Supper will be hosting. Join us!



Another "Tale From Home" at [www.herb-gardner.com](http://www.herb-gardner.com)

A friend of Abbie's came to a night concert at the High School and came in the back way only to be confronted by an angry teacher on guard duty.

"How did you get in here?" she demanded.

"Through the back door." He answered.

"You're supposed to use the front door."

"I like the back door."

"Listen, Sonny, I'm a teacher in this school. DON'T GET SMART WITH ME!"

(Sounds like there's not much danger of that...)

**American Red Cross Transfers Medical Transportation Program to Contoocook Valley Transportation Company**

For many years the American Red Cross has provided medical transportation in the Monadnock Region for people who've needed help getting to doctors' appointments and treatments. As the Red Cross core mission is to focus on preparedness, response and recovery in disaster, a transportation partner in the community has been identified to continue this valuable service. Contoocook Valley Transportation Company (CVTC) has been providing transportation in the region since 2009, and will absorb the client base of the current Red Cross transportation program.

This shift will take place over the course of the next several months to ensure that all clients and medical centers have time to understand how the change will work and to make preparations for new processes.

Phase one of transfer:  
Eastern Monadnock Region Jan 1, 2016

The American Red Cross has been providing medical transportation to residents of the Monadnock region because there was a need that was not being met. With this shift, the Red Cross will continue to support the program by making referrals to CVTC. Last year, the Red Cross assisted 440 people with 8000 medical rides.

CVTC, based in Peterborough, NH, operates a medical transportation program that serves the 13 towns in the eastern Monadnock region. The organization currently relies on 35 volunteers who use their own vehicles to provide this service. People interested in volunteering or who need assistance with medical transportation should contact CVTC at 1-877-428-2882 ext. 5.

"Great Decisions - 2016"  
Begins in January

Are you in the mood for a rousing discussion of major international issues and crises?? If you like to stay on top of the news, in a totally non-partisan way, and if you like to chat with friends and neighbors, perhaps you would consider joining the discussion at Great Decisions in January. Developed by the America Foreign Policy Association whose goal is to inspire learning about the world, Great Decisions takes you behind the headlines to look at 8 of the year's most significant and far-reaching challenges facing the world. Topics for discussion this year include: Middle East Alliances, The Rise of ISIS, The Future of Kurdistan, Migration, The Koreas, The UN, Climate Change, Cuba and the US. The discussions are always interesting and informative, even when the topics are a challenge for us! And we have snacks!

We will be meeting at the Library for eight Monday afternoons beginning on January 4th from 2:00-4:00pm. The book of background materials costs \$25 and will be available to pick up at the Library after Christmas. Please call to register by December 10th so we will know how many books to order: Jane Richards-Jones at 525.4485. New participants are most welcome!

*Submitted by Jane Richards-Jones*



## Hancock Town Library Events

*Amy Markus, Hancock Library Director*

<http://hancocktownlibrary.blogspot.com>

*Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00pm*

*Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 7:00pm*

*Saturdays 10:00am to 4:00pm*

Remember! You can drop off food for the food pantry in Peterborough here at the Hancock Town Library. The items they seek include: peanut butter, jelly, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned items such as vegetables, fruits, tuna/chicken/salmon, beef stew, chili, & soups, jello (including sugar-free), rice and rice mixes, macaroni and cheese. Please, NO outdated items. We have a volunteer who delivers the donations on a regular basis so please feel free to drop off food anytime the library is open.

### **Sunday December 6th from 1:00 – 3:00pm**

#### **Artist Reception for Michael Miller**

Stop by to meet the artist and see his photography exhibit, *Natural Light*. The exhibit will be here through December 30th.

### **Monday December 7th at 7:00pm**

#### **State Representative Jon Manley**

Rep. Manley (Hillsborough County District 3: Bennington, Greenfield, Hancock) will report on the special session on drugs in New Hampshire recently held by the state legislature. Bring your questions! Free and open to all.

### **Tuesday December 8th at 7:00pm**

#### **An Evening of Story & Song with Nanette Perrotte & Sebastian Lockwood**

Join storyteller Sebastian Lockwood and vocalist Nanette Perrotte for an evening of holiday song and story. The evening begins with Nanette leading us in carols, then Sebastian will read "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. We bring in the next story "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote with another hearty round of carols and sing our way out into the evening filled with classic images and classic melodies. Free & open to all. Don't miss this festive event!

### **Thursday December 17th at 12:30pm**

#### **Books Sandwiched In**

Join us as we discuss this month's book, *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury. Copies will be available at the front desk starting Saturday December 5th. Open to all at any time. Feel free to drop in and out of the book club as your schedule and/or predilection permits.

#### **From the Children's Room**

#### **Callie Faucher, Children's Librarian**

### **Saturday December 5th from 10 to 11am**

#### **The Small World of Mice**

Come join the Harris Center's Naturalist Susie Spikol Faber and Children's Librarian Callie Faucher for a morning of mice. Hear stories from around the world of mischievous mice, make your own mouse to keep, and find out how these tiny creatures survive the winter. We'll look for their tracks around the library and play mouse and cat games. Don't miss this squeaky mousey adventure. For kids ages 4 and up. 10am to 11am at the Hancock Town Library.

### **Wednesday, December 9th from 3:30 to 4:30pm**

#### **Holiday "Crafter-noon" with Miss Melody**

Join Hancock's own experienced art educator Melody Russell for an afternoon of Holiday crafting in the Children's Room at the Hancock Town Library. Kids will make a garland, an ornament, and more at fun crafting stations! Children of all ages are welcome. Sign up at the Library today!

### **Tuesdays December 1st & December 15th from**

#### **3:30 to 4:30pm**

#### **LEGO Club!**

Due to its popularity, LEGO Club is now held twice a month, on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Come to the library after school to work on your Lego creations or try a Lego building challenge. Bring your friends! Held in the Children's Room of the Hancock Town Library.

#### **Make-and-Take Bookmark Craft – throughout**

#### **December during open Library hours**

Drop into the Children's Room anytime the Library is open to make a bookmark from a recycled greeting card. Many beautiful cards and ribbons have been donated for this project, so come by and make one for yourself and one to give to a friend (*while supplies last*).

—continued on page 8

*Hancock Happenings* is available online at

<http://www.hancocknh.org/hancock-happenings>

**Mondays December 7th & December 21st from 3:30 to 4:30pm**

**Paws to Read with Coffee**

Come by the library after school and practice your reading with Coffee the Chihuahua! Coffee, a registered reading therapy dog, loves when kids practice their reading with him or tell him stories. Also, if you bring 3 non-perishable items for the Food Pantry, you get to choose a free stuffed animal graciously donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys!

**Saturday December 19th from 11am to 12pm**

**Paws to Read with Toven**

Come read to Toven, a gentle Great Pyrenees dog! Toven, a registered reading therapy dog, comes to the library one Saturday a month and loves when kids read to him! Reading to a therapy dog is great for children who want to improve their out-loud reading skills. Come meet Toven, you will love him!

**Story Time – Every Thursday at 10:30am**

We always have fun at Story Time! Each Thursday morning we sing songs, read stories, dance with scarves, play, and do crafts! For preschoolers and their parents and caregivers. Held in the Children’s Room No need to sign up, just drop in when you can.

# Hancock Depot Association

**Annual Meeting Update**

Members of the Hancock Depot Association held their annual meeting on Wednesday, October 28th and elected the following new officers:

- President: David Young
- Secretary: Nancy Adams
- Treasurer: Kristen Bernier

At the meeting, members of the Association also finalized the annual donation letters, which were mailed the week of November 9th. A heartfelt thanks to those of you who have contributed! And, for those who have not yet donated, remember, it’s not too late to make your tax-deductible contributions for 2015!

**Rent the Depot for Your Special Event**

Did you know you can rent the Depot? It’s true – the Depot is available for parties, meetings, celebrations, concerts, and other special events. If you are interested in finding out more, call 525.3085 or contact any of the officers listed above.

## Hancock Depot Cabaret

“Put down the knitting,  
the book and the broom  
It's time for a holiday  
Life is a cabaret, old chum  
So come to the cabaret...”



-- From "Cabaret" by Fred Ebb & John Kander

Sponsored by the Hancock Depot Association and the Keene Music Festival and hosted by Crazy Cowz, the Hancock Depot Cabaret is a music, arts, and function venue located in the old Hancock Train Station/Depot on Depot Road.

The Cabaret was created to provide a venue for local and regional musicians, poets, and other artisans to share their talent in a comfortable, friendly, and inspirational environment. While admission is free, we suggest a \$5 donation, which the Association will use to keep the lights on and provide general maintenance for the Depot.

The next Hancock Depot Cabaret will be Saturday, December 5th. The show begins at 8:00pm; doors open at 7:30pm if you want to sign up to play at one of several open mic spots. In addition to the music, visitors will enjoy snacks, veggies, and drinks (BYOB!). We’ll also hold a 50/50 raffle, so you just may walk away a winner! All proceeds go to help support the Depot.

If you are interested in performing as a feature performer, want to sign up for an open mic spot, rent the Depot for an event, or simply want more information:

E-mail: [hancockdepotcabaret@yahoo.com](mailto:hancockdepotcabaret@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 508-641-0076

Like us on Facebook and receive automatic notifications about upcoming shows: [www.facebook.com/hancockdepotcabaret](http://www.facebook.com/hancockdepotcabaret)

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## HANCOCK WOMAN'S CLUB

### HANCOCK WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

**December 9th** will bring our club together to enjoy a delicious Christmas Luncheon prepared by the members! All the festivities begin at **12:30pm in the Vestry**.

If you were unable to attend November's meeting to sign up as to what dish you would like to prepare, here are your options; salad – serving ready w/dressing, a vegetable, a main course, or dessert. Just contact Sonja at [sonjamucha@hotmail.com](mailto:sonjamucha@hotmail.com) or call 525.4970, or contact Edna at 525.3018 as to which category interests you the most. Once you have selected your food category, you still have plenty of time to delve into your cookbooks. We always seem to turn up with a wonderful variety of delicious dishes.

While we will be enjoying our luncheon, Louise and Bernard Watson will entertain us with some holiday music on the piano. Our hostesses Edna Drasba, Jean Harrison, Deborah Lehan, Terri Lombardi, Karen McCormack, Sonja Mucha, Marcia Schwartz and Wayan Suarni are looking forward to serving us a fantastic meal! A BIG "thank you" to them for all it takes to plan the luncheon.

Need to pick up a little item as a Holiday/Christmas gift or to adorn a package? Here's your chance!

Ethel Piotrowski will have them available for sale at the luncheon. Just \$8!

Happy Holidays to All!

*Submitted by Gertie Kanner*

### AREA SCHOLARSHIP EXTENDED

The Hancock Woman's Club announces that their annual scholarship will be open to applicants within the ConVal School District. In the past it was available only to women residing in Hancock. By extending the reach, the Club hopes to be able to provide this opportunity to more qualified women throughout our entire community.

The scholarship is provided every year to an adult woman who is in mid-career or plans to begin, change or return to a career after some years of family or other responsibilities.

The scholarship this year will be \$1000 and awarded in May 2016.

To qualify the applicant must be a current resident within the Conval School District and have lived in that area for at least two years. The applicant must be planning to attend an educational program and will be required to provide confirmation of her acceptance or enrollment. Educational program refers to a recognized college, university, technical or training school, or professional organization. The scholarship is not available for independent study, or recreational workshops.

Since its inception in 1991 the Club has award scholarships to women who have advanced their skills and positions in Nursing, Education, Child Development and many other fields.

Application Forms are available throughout the year for the 2015-2016 scholarship. Deadline for filing is March 31. Contact Joyce Perry at 525-3304 for an application or more information.



Seven Maples General Store will be filling LP tanks through the winter.  
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*The* **HANCOCK INN**



*5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Open House  
December 6<sup>th</sup>  
2:30 - 4:30pm*

Join us for a bit of cheer  
as we say thank you to our customers, Merry  
Christmas to our community and play our part in the  
Hancock Congregational Church's reenactment of the  
"Journey to Bethlehem"

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**INNKEEPERS' SUNDAY SUPPER**

**DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
Dad's Potato, Cheese and Onion Soup  
Roast Beef & vegetable cassoulet  
Rum Cake

**DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
Potato Croquettes  
Cider Brined Roast Pork Shoulder  
with vegetables & au jus  
Pecan Pie

**DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
Green Salad  
Cioppino  
Yule Log

Sunday Supper \$17.89 per person  
Excludes tax, gratuity & beverage  
Reservations Encouraged

603-525-3318      www.hancockinn.com

**HANCOCK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

The purpose of the Hancock Improvement Association is the "improvement of the appearance of the Town of Hancock and any other initiatives that may enhance the quality of life of the town residents and the enjoyment of its visitors." It is a charitable organization and donations to it are tax-exempt for the donor.

Two years ago, facing a major project to restore and improve the Meetinghouse, the Town asked HIA to raise funds to offset the cost of the project. A total of \$306,724 was pledged, two-thirds of it coming from individual donations and one-third from foundation grants. So far 85% of the pledged funds have been received, with the balance pledged for the year 2016.

HIA retains control of the funds it has raised. It has a contract with the Town to grant money to the Town for the Meetinghouse project, once the expenses are incurred and properly documented. As of this date, HIA has paid \$250,590 in grants the Town, with the rest to be granted in 2016 as pledged funds are received.

In addition—as a separate project—HIA has granted \$13,619 to the Town for the local match of a State "LCHIP" grant that is restoring and preserving the Meetinghouse windows. These funds were raised in addition to the amounts for the major Meetinghouse project.

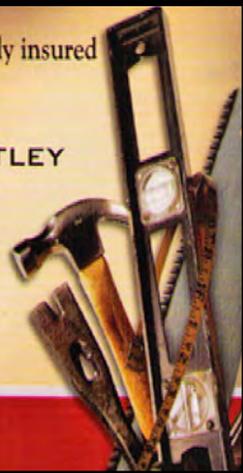
That is the financial story of the past year. A small amount of money in 2015 pledges is still outstanding—we will be grateful for these payments by the end of the year.

The Hancock Improvement Association's accomplishments are completely dependent on the generosity of residents and friends of Hancock. Thank you all.  
*Submitted by Rod Perry, Chair, Hancock Improvement Association*

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**NANCY M. DRISCOLL**  
Owner





Monadnock at Home (MaH) is very excited to have launched a new inter-generational program for our members in cooperation with the ConVal girl's and boy's basketball teams. The student volunteers along with their coaches and assistant coaches rake leaves and complete a fall clean-up of a Monadnock at Home member's yard. The clean-up is tailored to the member's needs. Coach Riley and Coach Proctor, the girl's and boys' head coach respectively, wanted to develop a program to help their players see the needs of others and feel the satisfaction of giving back to their community. Five homes (4 of them living in Hancock) have been completed over the span of two weekends. One Hancock member and former high school English teacher, Margaret Carlson really enjoyed the connection to the students, declaring that it felt like a "miracle" as she watched the students rake and move wood. MaH member, Jo Putnam was delighted to return home to not only her yard cleared of leaves, but a fallen bird feeder erected. "They went beyond expectations, it was wonderful", Jo expressed. Connecting MaH members with the younger generation has been a goal for MaH. MaH is so thankful to the members of the ConVal basketball teams. The athletes will continue to assist our members as we transition into winter time needs.

We are in the midst of planning our spring programs and trips. The January program will be "Mind over Grey Matter and the Brain Boost" and will be open to the public. Dates and location to be announced.

Monadnock at Home is a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting area seniors to live and thrive in their own homes as they grow older. For more information about Monadnock at Home, call 603.371.0809 or email [help@monadnockathome.org](mailto:help@monadnockathome.org).



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[happenings@hancocknh.org](mailto:happenings@hancocknh.org)*

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### 2015 NH Jamboree

Troop 2 has barely stopped moving this fall, beginning with the 2015 NH Jamboree, a gathering of over 5,000 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Venturers from around New England, New York and even Quebec, Canada. The event was held at NH Motor Speedway in Loudon and included hundreds of activities from rock climbing to robotics, and racing to rifle shooting. The once-every-four-years event included fireworks, a concert, and only a little amount of "liquid sunshine." Almost all of Troop 2's 19 Scouts attended, including Danny, Eddie, Ethan and Jacob from Hancock.

### Scouting for Food Sets New Record

Again, Hancock, Antrim, Bennington and Frankestown residents have been extraordinarily generous, and the Scouting for Food drive achieved a new record on Nov. 14th with 5,225 items collected that day. Well done, citizens! Troop 2 and Pack 2 would like to extend a special thanks to the Girl Scouts of Bennington and Hancock for assisting this year. Since Hancock doesn't host a food pantry, Hancock's collection was sent to the Peterborough Food Pantry, which is available to Hancock residents. Antrim, Bennington and Frankestown items were sent to the Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry at the Antrim Baptist Church. Our next drive is next spring on March 19 & 26, 2016.

### Troop 2 Wreath Sale Begins

By now, you've received your Wreath Sale mailer and have reserved your holiday wreaths. Initial pick up days for pre-orders are Nov. 28th or 29th between 9am and 4pm at either the American Legion on West Street, Antrim or at Hilltop Tree Farm on Norway Hill Road., Hancock to pick up your order. If you missed those dates, don't worry! Scouts will be in downtown Antrim on December 5th, and at Hilltop Farm weekends until Christmas Eve. If you prefer, pay just \$4 more and we will bring your wreaths to you! If you need your wreaths before Thanksgiving, please call us at 525.7096 to make arrangements.

### First Quarter Boy Scout Activities

Winter weather? No problem! Scouts will be out in the new year, including a cabin camp out at Hoge Base in Walpole in early January, Klondike Derby and winter campout in early February, and the Community Supper on February 18th at the First Presbyterian Church of Antrim, featuring free meal made from scratch by Scouts. If your boy spends more time playing video games, and not enough time outside having fun and doing community service, it's time for a change. Contact Scoutmaster Brian Beihl at 588.3014 / [beihl@comcast.net](mailto:beihl@comcast.net) for more information



### Hello Hancock Community:

The Girl Scouts have had a busy and fun start to the beginning of our year. We have a wonderful group of creative and caring children. There are 15 girls in our troop from 2nd-7th grade!

In the first few meetings we sat down to discuss with the girls what they want out of their troop experience. Then Angie and I facilitate ways to make that happen with the girls and our community!

We have met with Kin Schilling to create a healthy meal that will be planned, cooked and eaten by the girls.

Halloween was a lot of fun and we enjoyed our tradition of having a costume party with games.

The girls wanted to rake leaves for a community project and we filled 12 huge bags from the Hancock library! Thank you Don Lussier for assisting with taking them away:)

We have also created Girl Scout "sit-upons" (a girl scout seat) with a generous donation made by the Monadnock Food Co Op. We have been invited to tour their facility after the holidays!

At November's meeting we created the centerpieces for the Hancock Holiday dinner that will be held in December (this is our troop tradition). Thank you to all who donated mason jars!

Girls will be serving, singing carols and making desserts for the community supper.

We just finished our first fundraiser of the season. Thank you for all your support! Cookies are just around the corner!

The girls also had a chance to discuss gratitude and what that meant to them. We could all agree we have so much to be thankful for.

With gratitude comes opportunity to reflect how we can help others in the community that are not as fortunate as us. So for our next service project the girls have agreed to become "Hancock Sock Angels". We will be working to host a sock drive for the homeless. Did you know that socks are the #1 item needed by the homeless but the least donated?

We are also accepting hats, mittens, and toiletries. We will work with Hundred Nights Homeless Shelter in Keene to meet the needs of their clients.

There are several local drop offs: Hancock Market, Hancock Library or the Hancock Congregational Church. You can also bring your donations to the vestry for the community supper in December.

Questions- [Siobhancharron@comcast.net](mailto:Siobhancharron@comcast.net)

### ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

#### Natural Light

Michael Miller’s photography exhibit remains on view in the Daniels Room through December 30th, and a reception is planned for Sunday, December 6th from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

After graduating from Boston University with a degree in photojournalism, Michael and his wife, Genevieve, moved out of the city and to a farmhouse in southwestern Maine, where they lived in a commune.

“This was during the height of the anti-war movement,” said Michael, “and after three years in Maine, we migrated to New Mexico, where our two daughters were born.



*Cleome by Michael Miller*

“During this time, I was shooting both B&W and color slides as well as B&W film. I had my own darkroom and was taking lots of pictures, but I also was learning to be a carpenter, as I needed to make a living. Genevieve went to nursing school and became an RN.

“After 10 years away from New England, we moved back to the region to be closer to my recently widowed dad and to have easier access to France, where Genevieve’s family lives.

“We settled in New Hampshire, Genevieve got a job as a nurse, and I became a stay-at-home dad, doing small carpentry jobs while the kids were in school.

I gradually became busier as a carpenter and soon a building business unfolded. I always had a camera around, but working as a builder took front row center.

“I tried many different cameras, but was always a bit frustrated with the wait time and never really being able to compose. Finally, the SLR became affordable for me and I got a Nikon D80, which I upgraded to a D90 a few years later, and then to the D7000. And now a full frame D750, the cream of cream.

“I still do carpentry, but I spend every day doing some sort of photography work, be it printing, learning, or photographing. It is my passion. I enjoy the ‘sweet light,’ early

mornings and late afternoons the best. The colors are more dynamic and richer.



*Castle under the storm by Michael Miller*

“I have always been more of a rural photographer—landscapes, water-scapes, and nature subjects—although, I’ve taken my share of portraits.

“Lately, I have been very interested in isolated details in nature. I love the rich colors of flowers, reflections in streams, the fields and the forest. I’m working more with placing a subject in an empty frame and using depth of field to limit background busyness while allowing existing colors to be blurred, complementing the subject.”

Michael’s show can be seen during regular library hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 – 6:00pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 am – 7:00pm; Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00pm; closed Friday and Sunday.

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*Melissa Gallagher, Interim Executive Director*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Hancock's very own Larry Schwartz has been providing free financial services to Grapevine families for many years. His expertise has included free tax return services, financial advising, planning and more. In the past year, Larry has provided financial services to **63 individuals and families** through the Grapevine. His expertise and generosity are such a treasured resource to our organization and we are so fortunate to have his support!

## ONGOING PROGRAMMING

### Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren

If you are parenting your grandchildren, you are not alone. "Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren" meets monthly and is free. Grapevine parenting educator Carol Lunan and River Center parenting educator Wendy Hill co-facilitate discussions on topics of interest to participants. Guest speakers are invited to lead discussions in their area of expertise, for example, recently an attorney discussed issues related to custody and adoption, and a psychologist talked about trauma and related issues. Call 588-2620 and ask for Carol for more information, and to let us know you're coming and if you will need childcare.

### Our Wood Bank is Open

The wood bank is now open for individuals in need of wood as an emergency heat source. Please call or stop by the Grapevine if you would like to request wood and arrange a pick up. And we're always looking for donations of firewood and volunteers to join the Community Wood Bank Team! Call 588-2620 to inquire.

**Thank you** to the many people who supported The Grapevine in so many ways over the fall, including the following Hancock individuals and businesses:

- All Hancock donors and shoppers who gave to our Second Annual Grapevine Online Auction during the month of November. Thanks to you, we had over 400 items to post for bidding!
- **Larry Schwartz**, for his continued support providing financial expertise to our families.
- Our children and families have benefitted from the delicious crates of apples donated by **Peggy McCloud of Norway Hill Orchard**.

*The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located in Antrim at 4 Aiken Street, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 588-2620, email us at [admin@GrapevineNH.org](mailto:admin@GrapevineNH.org) or visit [www.GrapevineNH.org](http://www.GrapevineNH.org). We gratefully accept donations, which are tax deductible. No contribution is too small—or too big! Checks can be made payable to The Grapevine and mailed to PO Box 637, Antrim 03440.*

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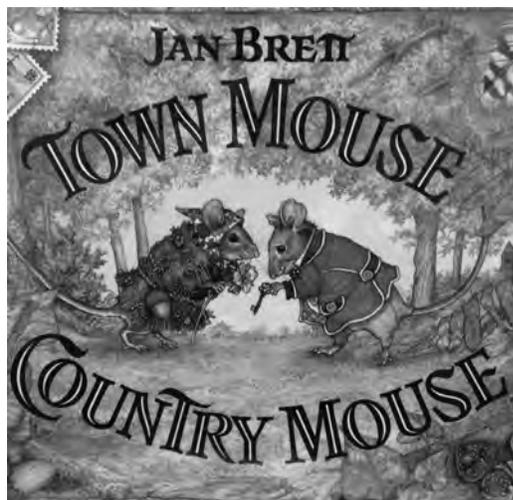
"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher." ~ Japanese proverb

**Dec 4th(Fri) Easygoing Hike in Ashby**

Join Lee Baker and Ollie Mutch for a moderately easy, 3-mile roundtrip hike through a wildlife management zone in the Mount Watatic (Ashby, MA) area, followed by lunch and dessert at Ollie's home. **Meet at 10am in the parking area beside Ocean State Job Lot in Peterborough** (at the intersection of Routes 101 and 202) to carpool. Back by 3pm. For more information, contact Lee at 603.525.5262, [snowman3137@gmail.com](mailto:snowman3137@gmail.com), or Ollie at [978.386.5318](tel:978.386.5318), [wapack@peoplepc.com](mailto:wapack@peoplepc.com).

**Dec 5th(Sat) The Small World of Mice**

Join Harris Center naturalist Susie Spikol Faber and Hancock children's librarian Callie Foucher for a morning of mice. Hear stories of mischievous mice from around the world, make your own mouse to keep, and find out how these tiny creatures survive the winter. We'll look for their tracks around the library and play mouse and cat games. Don't miss this squeaky adventure! Perfect for young children ages 4 and up. **10 to 11 am at the Hancock Town Library.** Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Hancock Town Library. For more information, contact Susie at [spikol@harriscenter.org](mailto:spikol@harriscenter.org). *Preregistration required* — Contact Sara at 603.525.3394 or [lefebvre@harriscenter.org](mailto:lefebvre@harriscenter.org)



Story and Illustration: Jan Brett

**Dec 10th(Thur) Watching the Weather: A Citizen Science Training**

Join meteorologists Chris Kimble and John Cannon of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to learn how to become a volunteer weather watcher. Chris and John will introduce the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), and explain how to take snow measurements. They'll also provide SKYWARN Storm Spotter training, which includes detailed discussions of winter storms, winter weather hazards, and specific ways that storm spotters can provide valuable information to the National Weather Service. **7 to 9pm in Room 101 of the Keene State College Science Center.** Cosponsored by the Harris Center with Keene State College and NOAA. For more information, contact Brett Amy Thelen at 603.358.2065 or [thelen@harriscenter.org](mailto:thelen@harriscenter.org).

**Dec 12th (Sat) Hike to Kulish Ledges**

Russ Daigle will lead a moderately strenuous, 3-mile roundtrip hike to Kulish Ledges, with a total elevation gain of 700 feet along a rustic forest trail, maintained by

*Continued on page 17*



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the Nelson Trails Committee. The entire hike runs through Harris Center conservation land. Bring lunch, and meet at **10am at the trailhead, located on Old Stoddard Road/Bailey Brook Road**, exactly 1.4 miles from Route 123. Back by 3pm. For more information, contact Russ at 603.477-7506.

**Dec 17th (Thur) Conservation Research Poster Sessions**

This year, seniors in the Environmental Studies Dept at Keene State College focused their two-semester capstone research projects on Harris Center lands. The students assessed road-stream crossings for fish passage and flooding potential, investigated road salt levels in plants and soils along Route 123, conducted bee surveys at our new pollinator garden, and researched both current wild-life and historic human use of the newly-conserved Hiroshi land. They'll present their findings in two poster sessions: one from 1 to 2:30pm in the Mountain View Room in the Keene State College Student Center, and a second from **4 to 5pm at the Harris Center**.

Cosponsored by the Harris Center with Keene State College. For more information, contact Renate Gebauer at 603.358-2577, [rgebauer@keene.edu](mailto:rgebauer@keene.edu), or Brett Amy Thelen at 603.358.2065, [thelen@harriscenter.org](mailto:thelen@harriscenter.org).

**Dec 19th (Sat) 42nd Annual Christmas Bird Count for Hancock, Peterborough, and Surrounding Towns**

Began locally in 1973, and compiled by Dave Rowell for the 23rd straight year. The Christmas Bird Count is the world's oldest and largest biological survey and citizen science endeavor, with thousands of participants throughout the world. No need to be an expert! Cosponsored by the Harris Center with NH Audubon. For more info and to sign up, contact Dave Rowell at 603.924.8790.

**Dec 20th(Sun) Keene Christmas Bird Count**

One of the original Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), the Keene CBC dates all the way back to 1900. The CBC is the world's oldest and largest biological survey and citizen science endeavor, with thousands of participants throughout the world. No need to be an expert! Cosponsored by the Harris Center with NH Audubon. For more information and to sign up, contact Phil Brown at 525.3499 [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org).



*The Yellow Magnolia*

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Over 50 crafters and vendors!

Homemade Hot Lunch!

Brown Bag Raffle!

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For more info:

[monadnockhumanesociety.org](http://monadnockhumanesociety.org)

**HOLISTIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CENTER**

December Quote:

"Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day." Helen Steiner Rice

**BOWENWORK DISCUSSION SERIES**

Bowenwork Discussion Series /

Bowenwork and Back Pain

When: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Where: Holistic Health Professionals Center

123 Prospect Hill Rd.

Hancock, NH

Cost: Free of charge / open to All

Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm

Bring your back pain with you. Snacks provided.

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e-mail: [rogodbo10@yahoo.com](mailto:rogodbo10@yahoo.com)

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**Christmas Open House** at 123 Prospect Hill Road, Hancock, NH. Meet with your favorite Angel Card Readers, visit with friends and enjoy light holiday refreshments. Hours: 1:00pm - 4:00pm RSVP:

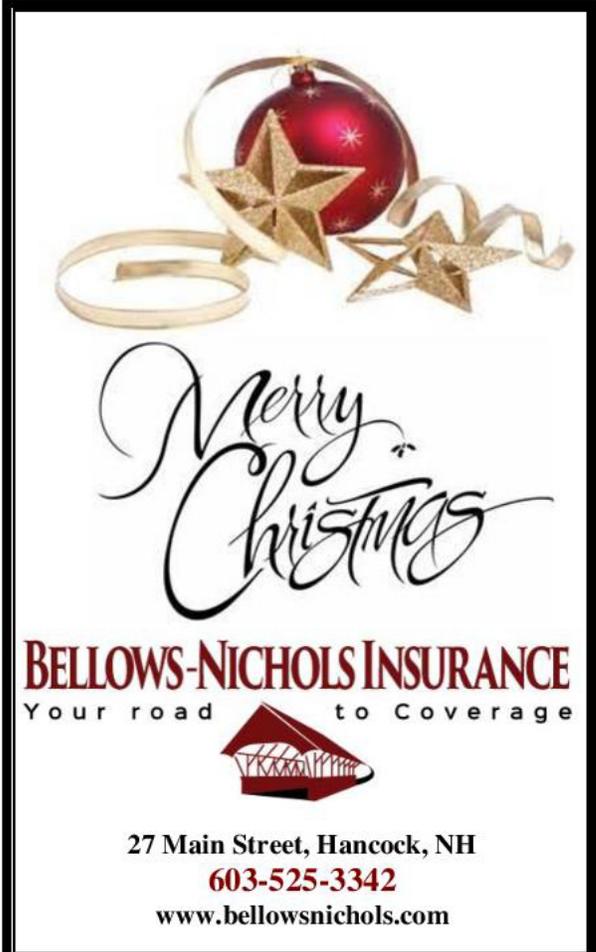
Arlene Smith, [630.933.3294](tel:630.933.3294)

On going during December our practitioners are available by appointment:

Bowenwork - body healing sessions - Rose Bochicchio, RN - [603.831.2027](tel:603.831.2027)

Spiritual & Angel Card readings - Annmarie Will, CST, RM - [845.800.3764](tel:845.800.3764)

Sound Therapy sessions available with Annmarie Will, CST, RM - [845.800.3764](tel:845.800.3764)



*Merry Christmas*

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Visit [projectshakespeare.org](http://projectshakespeare.org) for complete performance schedule

## Hancock Hours and Meetings

*Please review your listings  
and correct as needed by emailing  
happenings@hancocknh.org.*

**Tax Collector** - Monday 3:30 to 6:30 pm;

**OPEN THURSDAY DECEMBER 3RD 9am-2pm  
and MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH 3:30-6:30pm**

**Town Clerk** – Monday 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

Wednesday 3:00 to 6:00 pm;

**Town Dump and Demolition Hours** – Wednesday 3:00  
to 7:00pm; Saturday 8:00am to 5:00pm;

**Selectboard** – First three Mondays at 4:00pm; Fourth  
Monday at 7:00 pm, Barbara E Caverly Meeting Room

**Planning Board** - On the 1st Wednesday of every month  
at 7:00pm: may hold working sessions for planning pur-  
poses. On the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm:  
meets to process subdivisions, site plans and other  
applications which may legally come before the Board.  
Appointments can be made by calling the Town Office at  
525.4441. Applications must be received prior to the  
end of the preceding month to be included in the schedule  
and satisfy notification requirements. The Planning Board  
may hold working sessions for planning purposes the first  
Wednesday of every month; Barbara E Caverly Meeting  
Room

**Zoning Board** –2nd and 4th Wednesdays as needed at  
7:00pm, Barbara E Caverly Meeting Room, meetings will  
be noticed;

**Advisory Committee** – as noticed, Town Office;

**Conservation Commission** – 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm,  
Town Office 2nd floor;

**HEAT Committee** – 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm,  
Barbara E Caverly Meeting Room;

**Historic District Commission** – 4th Tuesday at  
7:00pm, Barbara Caverly Meeting Room;

**Hancock Library Trustees** – 4th Wednesday at 1:00 pm  
in the Daniels Room;

**Recreation Committee** – 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm.,  
Town Office;

**Town Archives Committee** – as noticed, Town Office  
Archives Room;

**Water Commissioners** – 4th Wednesday at 4:30 pm,  
DPW;

**Dump Committee** –3rd Tuesday at 4:00pm, DPW

**Trustees of Trust Funds** – as needed, Town Office;

**Cemetery Trustees** – as needed, Town Office

**Common Commission** – every other 3rd Thursday of the  
month at 7:00pm, Town Office.

**Meetinghouse Restoration Committee** – as noticed,  
Meetinghouse

**School Board** – 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Board Room



## Publishing Information

Editor and Publisher Jaime Donovan

Submit articles to Editor, at [happenings@hancocknh.org](mailto:happenings@hancocknh.org)  
or call 525.9459 for information and rates.

For advertisement sizes and rates please go to :  
[www.hancocknh.org/hancock-happenings/pages/block-  
advertising-rates](http://www.hancocknh.org/hancock-happenings/pages/block-advertising-rates) All submissions must be in text or PDF  
format; PDF or JPG of scanned text will not be accepted  
unless for ad copy. Call if you do not have access to a  
computer.

Deadline for submissions, advertising and payment for  
advertising: 5pm on the 22nd of each month. Checks  
should be payable to Town of Hancock (memo line  
“Hancock Happenings”) and mailed to the Town at PO  
Box 6, Hancock, NH 03449. Inserts are not accepted.

Refer to the Hancock Happenings Mission Statement on  
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### How It All Got Started

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants  
and trees that remained green all year had a  
special meaning for people in the winter. Just  
as people today decorate their homes during the  
festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees,  
ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over  
their doors and windows. In many countries it  
was believed that evergreens would keep away  
witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

# HANCOCK FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



featuring

**Norway Pond Festival Singers  
Norway Pond Junior Minstrels  
Village Ringers**

*And special guests Lorraine & Bennett Hammond*

**Saturday, December 19  
4:00 pm  
at The Hancock Meetinghouse**

*No admission charge but donations gladly accepted.*

## MUSIC ON NORWAY POND..... CALLING ALL SINGERS!

It is time to gather one of the most effective, amusing and timely ensembles that our Monadnock Region will ever encounter!

*Of Thee I Sing* is a musical with a score by [George Gershwin](#) and lyrics by his brother Ira. It is a clever lampoon of American politics; the story concerns John P. Wintergreen, who runs for President of the United States on the "love" platform. When he falls in love with the sensible Mary Turner instead of Diana Devereaux, the beautiful pageant winner selected for him, he gets into political hot water.

There are lots of great choral sections (which is why this is so perfect for us) and includes Supreme Court judges, French suitors, a Committee, and many small, juicy roles. I imagine that as our nation's upcoming election really heats up, we will all need a little comic relief, performers and audience alike. This will be just the thing.

We will do it in "concert style...simple blocking, minimal costumes, maximum direct audience impact! The main characters - there are three - will be coming up from Boston but there are 9 or 10 smaller roles that will be played by you all.

We are hoping that you will decide to make this January/early February project part of your 2016 New Year's resolution. Most of the rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons in January and early February. The performance is on Sunday, February 14th at 4pm.

Contact Jody Simpson [jhspals@aol.com](mailto:jhspals@aol.com) or 525.9303 to get more details.