

Dinner And Tales At Tilton's 1875 Inn **Andover Libraries**

By **Lauretta Phillips**
Beacon staff

The 1875 Inn of Tilton will be offering dinner and stories every Wednesday evening until the end of May (except during the holidays). A different teller will be featured each Wednesday. Many local storytellers will be featured as well as storytellers from all the New England states. The new chef at the inn is excellent, so not only do you get some pretty good stories, but first you get a fine meal.

I opened the storytelling season at the 1875 Inn of Tilton on October 27 to a sell-out crowd. The theme was ghost stories, with the highlight being the story of Laura, the ghost that reportedly resides at the 1875 Inn. The story goes that Laura, a 12-year-old girl who was a resident of the inn during the time the fire destroyed most of that area of Tilton, died in the fire.

There were three fires that consumed part or all of the buildings that later became the inn. As I research the fires in Tilton and the 1875 Inn, I learn more about Laura, and so with the telling her story changes. I will be telling her story periodically during the season.

On November 7 the featured teller was Peter Brodner of Elkins. Peter tells American Indian stories. Peter started telling stories at the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum about 1992 as part of the tours he gave. Peter says, "Indian stories are connections to the land." He tells stories of the northeast Indians be-

cause that is where he is from. Although his heritage is only part American Indian, he has been encouraged by many Indian storytellers to share the stories. His name, Bearded Turtle, was given to him by Gary Whitewolf, a Cherokee.

Peter shared stories of the area and kept us all so interested that we wanted to ask for an encore when he finished. The food was delicious, and Peter's stories had wisdom and humor. His stories are filled with animals, people, spirits, and even some ghosts.

In December the Inn will be hosting a Victorian Christmas. On December 5, Franklin's very own storyteller, Roberta Burke, will be telling holiday tales. Her quiet, direct style and sense of humor will have us all wondering where the time went and wishing we could hear more.

On December 12 Uncle George Radcliffe from Webster will be spinning tales that will take us to many places, and he is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face and maybe a tear to your eye.

On December 19 Cora Ciampi will be coming up from Weare to share some of her touching and often humorous stories. Cora's stories may take you back to the days of your grandparents or shoot you forward in a Lamborghini made from a zucchini; you just are never sure 'til you hear it, and then often she leaves you laughing and wondering.

You can learn more about dinner and storytelling at the 1875 Inn by contacting owner Joanna Oliver at 286-7774.

By **Ray Mitchell**
Beacon staff

Time of darkness.
Time of hope.
The days are shorter, the time of darkness grows.

We long for more light, hope for it.
One does not hope for that which he possesses.

In these dark times there are occasions to focus our hope. Families gather to affirm their bonds of love. Some go to church and pray for the light; for Christians, that is Jesus. Many make resolutions for a new year, showing their desire to live in the light.

In these dark December days, we may find hope in family and community relationships. Then there is the witness of the past. The writings of our culture tell of the search for light when surrounded by darkness. Visit the library for the thoughts and stories of those who have found hope in the midst of darkness.

And now you can visit the library online.

The Andover Libraries now have a blog at AndoverPL.blogspot.com. A blog is a mini Web site, user-generated and

interactive. Here are some of the things you will find on the blog now.

Both libraries, Andover and Bachelder, have listings of new books. Click "Library Things" and you will see a picture of the book cover with the title, author, and publication date. If you would like to reserve one of the new books, you may call the library and have the book put aside for you.

There are schedules and announcements. This area is just developing, but we expect it to grow.

Should you have a question or comment, there is a box where you may write to the librarian. Click on "Comments" and type your message in the box.

Finally there is registration information. Our librarians are in the process of updating the card system. Some card holders have moved away or are deceased, yet the card is still in our system. Beginning next year all interested residents will be asked to sign up and get a new card number or re-register the old number.

All this work by our librarians is to bring our libraries up to date. Your questions and comments are welcome.

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Andover Lions Club News

By **Joan Holleran**
Andover Lions Club

Once again, members of the Andover Lions Club took up residence at the Andover Elementary/Middle School and the Danbury Elementary School to provide vision screening for area children. Screenings took place at both schools in October.

In the spirit of the season, some height-loving members of the Andover Lions Club decked the evergreen tree at the Town Hall with holiday lights which will add to Andover's charm this holiday season.

Proctor Academy's Head of School, Mike Henriques was the guest speaker at the club's November 12 meeting. He

shared with the club the exciting physical plant changes that are happening on the Proctor campus, as well as information on the school's impressive academic programs. It was apparent that the relationship of Proctor Academy with the town of Andover is one of positive partnership and collaboration.

Sincere appreciation goes to Proctor Academy for, once again, allowing the annual Andover Lions Club Christmas Party to be held at the Proctor dining hall. This year's event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, December 15. Members and guests are looking forward to the appetizers and dinner provided by Arthur Makechnie and staff. The culinary delights they present enhance the event.

Blackwater Grange #152

The Blackwater Grange #152 met on November 8 with 11 members. The club received thank-you notes from the third graders at Andover Elementary/Middle School, Kearsarge Regional Elementary School, and Hill for the dictionaries.

The club made the following donations:

- Andover One Wheelers: \$100
- Andover Rescue Squad: \$300
- Wilmot Rescue Squad: \$300
- Kearsarge Council on Aging: \$50
- Andover Fourth of July: \$300
- *The Andover Beacon*, to send the

- paper every month to all of the club's out-of-town members: \$500
- Kearsarge Masonic Associates, in place of rent: \$500
- Franklin Food Pantry: \$50
- Wilmot Food Pantry: \$50
- Andover Fire Department: \$250
- Wilmot Fire Department: \$250

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 13, at the Masonic Hall in Potter Place. Club members will exchange gifts (\$5 limit).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

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