

Service Club and Libraries Present Talk On Afghanistan

Rediscovering Afghanistan: Lessons from the Home is the title of an illustrated talk on Wednesday, April 2, at 7 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. The talk, presented by the Andover Service Club and the trustees of the Andover Public Libraries, is free and open to the public.

Using still and film images, historical sources, geopolitical data, and personal anecdotes, Rachel Lehr of Rubia, Inc., will discuss what life is really like in Afghanistan today. She believes that the intimate insights garnered from her experiences of both rural and urban Afghan homes and communities are important in promoting a richer understanding of Afghanistan and in stimulating discussion and challenging stereotypes.

The program is offered through the public programming of the New Hampshire Humanities Council and is presented as part of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire's "Heart of the Silk Road" project with support from the Humanities Council, Dartmouth College, and Rubia, Inc.

As an artist, photographer, linguist, and Executive Director of Rubia, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides work, income, and education in Afghanistan, Lehr brings to the program the personal perspective of participant observation field research. She has more than 25 years' experience in Afghan cultural and academic issues and

for the past seven years has collected visual images and material artifacts of daily life among the rural Afghans with whom she works.

She has compiled this information in a variety of forms and formats for programs illustrating life in Afghanistan that have been presented to audiences throughout New England. The consistent response from viewers of Lehr's presentations, from children to college students to adults, has been to note the significant effect these images, stories, and material goods had on their understanding of Afghanistan's landscapes and people.

"We hope to provide a complex and compelling view of Afghanistan by showing how geopolitical factors influence the use of private and public space, considering development planning and resource allocation, and describing personal and cultural behaviors in reaction to security, sanctuary, and seclusion," Lehr says.

"The information about what's happening in Afghanistan presented to Americans is often either sensationalized or simplified," she adds. "We've found that Americans are really eager to know more and to go deeper. By presenting a look at real-life scenarios in Afghanistan today, and focusing on the universally familiar activities and relationships of home life, we hope to broaden the understanding of our audiences."

Wilmot Learning Place

By Anne Soule
Wilmot Learning Place

The Wilmot Learning Place (WLP) invites local artists and art owners to donate to the WLP's Art Auction to be held at the Inn at Pleasant Lake on Sunday, March 9. Brian and Linda MacKenzie, owners of the Inn, will host an elegant dinner and art auction to benefit WLP, a non-profit pre-school serving Wilmot and surrounding towns for over 35 years.

Artists, we would be honored to accept your art donation for the auction,

and we invite you to visit the classrooms for inspiration. Any medium from oil to acrylic to photographs to jewelry would be welcomed. Please contact us at 526-4569 to visit the classrooms; ask for Clare or Sue.

Please contact the Inn at 526-6271 for reservations; ask about their special room rate for the evening.

Please contact Anne Soule at 927-4806 to donate. Your donations to the Wilmot Learning Place are tax deductible.

We thank you for your support.



The Immaculate Conception Church held another successful spaghetti supper on February 23. Jack Speake from Wilmot has been coming to the dinner for 10 years. Following Jack in line were Gisela and Steve Darling.
Photo: Bob Bussey

New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family

By Judy Perreault

NH Circle of Home and Family

"Come Tie One On" at the New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family State Spring Workshop being held at AE/MS in Andover on Saturday, March 29. The fun begins at 9 AM when there will be registration, refreshments, and a get-acquainted time.

The morning activities include a program on aprons – displays, skits, and a

fashion show. Our craft of the year is dough craft, and there will be an opportunity to experiment with this medium. Lunch is from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM – bring your own brown bag. Drinks will be provided. After lunch our Andover One Wheelers will give a demonstration of their skills.

There is a \$5 donation. Please call 735-5493 by March 22 if you plan to attend.

Soo-Nipi Audubon Events

On Friday, March 14, the Soo-Nipi chapter of the Audubon Society will present *New Hampshire Wildlife and Habitats in Greatest Need of Conservation*.

Emma Carcagno, who is completing a Master's degree in Natural Resource & Wildlife Ecology from the University of New Hampshire (UNH), is the Wildlife Program Assistant for UNH Cooperative Extension, where she helps landowners create, maintain, and improve wildlife habitat on their land. She will introduce a variety of the wildlife species and critical habitats that have been identified in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan as in greatest need of conservation.

Emma will help participants learn to recognize important habitats that are on

their own property and within their communities and tell of the variety of financial assistance programs that are available to help landowners maintain and improve wildlife habitat on their land.

The program will be presented at Tracy Library in New London. Refreshments begin at 7 PM, and the program at 7:30 PM. Please call 526-6790 or 456-2480 for more information.

On Sunday, March 16, the Soo-Nipi chapter will hold a field trip to Merrimack River and Concord hot spots. Meet at Warner Park and Ride at Exit 9 of I-89 at 8 AM. Bring lunch, snacks, water, and binoculars. Call leader Robin Gray at 927-4127 for more information. Inclement weather cancels the trip.

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