

Bachelor Book Club

By Brandy Collette
Bachelor Book Club

We will be meeting on Saturday, September 20, at 9 AM. The book is *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield. Books are available for loan at the Bachelor Library.

I have just finished the book this weekend. I found it to be very engaging and was unable to put it down. I am looking forward to hearing what you all think.

Below are two of the discussion questions. You may find it helpful to keep them in mind when reading this novel.

It is a classic writer's axiom that a symbol must appear at least three times in a story so that the reader knows that you meant it as a symbol. In *The Thirteenth Tale*, the novel *Jane Eyre* appears several times. Discuss the appearances and allusions to *Jane Eyre* and how this novel echoes that one.

The title of this novel is taken from the title of Miss Winter's first book, *Thirteen Tales of Change and Desperation*, a collection of twelve stories with a mysterious thirteenth left out at the last minute before publication. How is this symbolic of the novel? What is the thirteenth tale?

Tracy Merriman Wins On Barbeque Circuit

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

Andover resident Tracy Merriman spent this summer competing in barbecue events all over the Northeast on the New England Barbecue Society circuit. The events are sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, which establishes rules and guidelines nationwide. For more information about these organizations, visit NEBS.org or KCBS.us.

Tracy and her friend, Rob Mongeon of Colchester, Vermont, are team Green Mountain Smoke Shack. Both are successful competitors in recipe contests and met through Cooking Contest Central at RecipeContests.com, which is a clearinghouse for all competitive cooking contests in the United States.

"Rob is a computer geek in real life," claims Tracy. "But Rob made the final round of the most prestigious cook-off in the United States, the Build a Better Burger at Sutter Homes Winery in Napa Valley, California, in 2005. He also made it to the \$100,000 National Chicken Board Cook-off. He was filmed by the Food Network for both events," she says with awe.

And even better, Rob has his own truck to cart all the equipment they need to haul in order to compete in such places as Lake Placid, Hudson Valley, and Troy, New York; Windsor, Vermont; and North Haverhill, New Hampshire. Their last venue this year will be in Harvard, Massachusetts.

Great Food, Bad Weather

These events are not for the faint-hearted. This is hard-core camping. "Most of the competitions this summer were in rain, thunderstorms, hail, wind ... tents blowing away, all while you are trying to smoke big pieces of meat,"

says Tracy. "When we arrive at the camp site, we are provided with electricity and water. That's it. We pitch our tent and set up all our equipment, then begin the process of smoking the meat. We stay up all night smoking the ribs, brisket, and pork shoulders. Then we smoke the chicken in the morning and cook off the recipes. It's hard work."

"The summer is a blur for me," sighs



Tracy Merriman, and Rob Mongeon, the Green Mountain Smoke Shack team, preparing brisket for the smoker at the Harpoon competition in Windsor, Vermont.

Tracy.

That hard work has brought rewards, however. There are 40 to 50 teams who have been competing at these events for years, according to Tracy. Nevertheless, upstart Green Mountain Smoke Shack placed second in ribs in Lake Placid and took second in chicken at Troy, winning themselves a \$300 prize.

"It isn't the money, it's the glory. Often we walk away with nothing, but we don't give up. We just keep trying," she says.

Is there a reason for their success? Hmmmm, could be.

Green Mountain Smoke Shack uses its own proprietary blend of hickory, apple, and pecan wood, which Rob gets from friends. They sometimes supplement that with a bag of wood chips from Lowe's. But beyond that, Tracy will share no trade secrets.

See BBQ on page 29

Lauretta Phillips Presents At Storytelling Conference

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon Staff

Local storyteller Lauretta Phillips just returned from Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where she attended the National Storytelling Network's 2008 Conference.

National Storytelling Network (NSN) supports and promotes storytellers and storytelling throughout the United States. Many of its members are involved in cultural exchange programs throughout the world.

The NSN Conference is held in different areas of the country each year. There are workshops offered by some of the nation's top storytellers. Concerts

are offered with local and nationally-acclaimed storytellers performing some of their favorite tales. Fringe performances and story swaps are offered as well.

While at the conference Lauretta presented a workshop/panel discussion on establishing and developing new venues.

During March 20 through 22, 2009 the North East Storytelling Conference, *Sharing the Fire*, will be held in Warwick, Rhode Island. Lauretta is the Event Manager for this important event, which is being produced by the League for the Advancement of New England Storytelling. For more information, contact Lauretta at LPhillipsTales.com.



Brian J. Prescott, V.M.D.

Elkins, New Hampshire 03233
603 526-6976

PLEASANT LAKE VETERINARY HOSPITAL



MacKENNA'S RESTAURANT

New London Shopping Center
526-9511

Monday - Tuesday: 7 AM to 2:30 PM
Wednesday - Saturday: 7 AM to 8 PM
Sunday: 8 AM to 2 PM



THE TRIO VERITAS CHAMBER PLAYERS

(formerly the Ruggieri players)
return to Andover for
a benefit performance for the
Proctor Academy Music Department

8 PM, Friday, September 26
in the Stone Chapel at
Proctor Academy
in Andover

Tickets at the door: \$15 adults, \$10 students under 18

For more information, call Everett Jones
at 735-4203 or Everett@proctornet.com



Professor
Dan Perkins
Piano



Linda Galvan
Cello

... joined by
guest violinist
Ella Gray