

# Letters to the Beacon

The Andover After School Program (AASP) and the Andover Five Alive Program (AFAP) need our help! Both programs are currently housed in the Hamp House next to AE/MS, and this is the last year of the programs' 10-year lease on the Hamp House.

Ten years ago, Sheree Miller and I worked with the Andover School Board (which owns the Hamp House) to establish AASP in the Hamp House. We knew at the time that the Hamp House would not be its permanent home and that the school district would some day need the land that they had acquired with the house.

The School Board has not yet voted whether to renew the lease for the short term or the long term. The house is in need of repairs, but without a guaranteed future there, it seems unwise to spend the money.

The AASP is an important service to Andover families, and our community needs to start thinking about a long-term solution for finding space for community programs like this. Organizations throughout Andover are in need of meeting and activity space. In the meantime, where can the AASP be housed if they have to vacate the Hamp House come June?

If you are one of the many families

who has benefited from this program, or you just have an interest, I'm sure Bonnie Morris and the folks at the AASP would welcome ideas.

*Vicky Mishcon and  
Sheree Miller*

Math Night at AE/MS was very successful! Among all the other activities, we had ski sign up and the Harvest Table, both of which I'm told were the most successful ever. AE/MS is very fortunate to have such caring people who support and volunteer for all of our kids.

The Harvest Table monies went to the fourth grade over-night trip to the Boston Museum of Science, which takes place at the end of the year. The teachers told me, "We have never had such a successful fundraiser of this type," and "It's so nice to teach in a town with such supportive parents!"

Congratulations to all, and thank you.

*Dee Marshall-Benjamin*

This is not to diminish the accomplishments of the publisher of *The Andover Beacon*, Charlie Darling. He has done a spectacular job of researching what is essential in publishing a newspaper; training volunteers in electronic publishing, such as how to use a word



On a recent trip to Guatemala, Robin Powell had her group's guide, Carlos Vivar, pose in front of the pyramids at Tikal holding a copy of the November issue of *The Andover Beacon*.

If you're taking a trip, whether it's to Boston or Borneo, take along a copy of the *Beacon* and get someone to take your picture holding it!

processing software program and how to attach documents and photographs to an e-mail and send it; obtaining software, computers, and an office that best meet the needs of electronic publishing; and, once finances and publishing methods were in place, mobilizing the community to produce interesting and informative articles each month, keeping accurate records, and mailing the paper to all residents for free. Amazing what one person can do in a small town!

However, we should not forget the forerunners. Julie Mayo first envisioned the need for a monthly newspaper and *The Andover Star* was born. Next, Paul Fenton, Jr. took on the challenge to keep the paper going as *The Andover Beacon*. Both had the support of the community, but the time and amount of work involved and maintaining volunteers who could work together as a team proved difficult to maintain.

We need to keep Charlie motivated to keep up the outstanding job of producing *The Andover Beacon* each month by cooperating with him in meeting deadlines, donating toward the cost of production,

and answering any and all appeals for help that he requests of us. (He is an excellent and patient tutor in teaching new skills you can apply elsewhere.)

Otherwise, *The Andover Beacon* may follow the way of the New London and Franklin papers. Subscribers paid for those subscriptions, whereas all of us are able to receive *The Andover Beacon* for whatever we can afford of time and money.

Get a Round Tuit!

*Tina Cotton*

Our hearts are heavy with the news of the recent passing of our dear friend and colleague, David Huntoon.

David faithfully helped our antique shoppers every Saturday at the Constant Quilter. He was knowledgeable and ethical about antiques, and willing to teach and entertain us with his passion for history. His generosity and sense of caring was appreciated by all. In fact, many folks would stop by on Saturdays just to visit and "chat" with David.

Our lives, our shop, and our community. See Letters on page 5

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