

## AASP Celebrates the Holidays

### Giving cheer for Christmas

Shawna Otis, AASP

December was a month of joy and excitement at the Andover After School Program. We learned about and celebrated Hanukkah. We ate themed snacks like cheese and pretzel dreidels. We "lit" a paper menorah each of the 8 days and received a communal gift each day.

These gifts included a pet beta fish that we named Mr. Bubbles, a chia pet, and sea monkeys. We also learned how to play dreidel, which was a huge hit with the kids, as they got to win little pieces of candy. It was a great learning experience for everyone, myself included!

Celebrating Christmas, we gave the gift of cheer instead of indulging in a million presents. We made Christmas cards for soldiers at Fort Sill in Oklahoma who could not be home this holiday season. The cards' messages were so heart-felt, I am blessed to work with these kids every day! We also made paper lanterns, per request of Mrs. Pou-

lin, over at the Andover Public Library that we visit each Thursday.

We would also like to extend a HUGE thank you to Andover Pizza Chef for working with us on a pizza day fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who supported us, as well! If you would like your child to join us in the tons of fun we have



Left to Right: Nate Bain, Ethan Dukette, Billy Jack Braley, and Logan Welch as snowmen during our Christmas party relay race.

Caption: Shawna Otis, AASP

at the Andover After School Program, contact Shawna at andoverkids@yahoo.com or 603-735-6566.



Sandra Waine, a New Hampshire native and Andover resident, with her newly published novels: Embodiment of Love and Passages Book one: Touch me from Afar. Photo: Paulette Cross

## Andover Resident Publishes First Novels

### For the Beacon

Residing in Andover for over twenty years, Sandra Waine has been writing since grammar school. As time passed the passion of realizing a lifetime dream to be published, increased

After ten years and several rejections, a promising e-mail finally arrived. It was an acceptance letter with a contract attached.

In March of 2016, her first romantic comedy, Embodiment of Love, was contracted by Dream Big Publishing. Then it all started to fall in place.

Two months later her first in a trilogy, Passages Book One: Touch me from Afar, was contracted by Solstice Publishing who has now signed her for books two and three.

This is a different romantic genre than she had been writing. When asked why she said, "I wrote Embodiment when I thought it was time to lighten things up a bit. Up until that point, I had been writing romantic suspense that stemmed from my love of history, military and strong, over the top characters.

When those were not budging with agents and publishers, I just sat down and wrote about one of my two favorite places to travel: Boston and England,

and decided to keep the story line light-hearted. I had no idea that this stand alone would launch my writing career."

Why the move from romantic comedy to romantic time travel with the Passages Trilogy? She said, "I had been in the travel industry for most of my adult life. Over twenty-five years. It occurred to me how many amazing places I had seen and people I have come to know. I twisted things around a bit and soon I had the making of not just one novel, but three. The Passages Trilogy are not about time machines. Rather, special portals on the Earth where one can discover new adventures above what is normal."

So, what is next?

Sandra is working on a new series that still involves romance, a genre she keenly loves. to write about encompassing local and international destinations.

For details about these published works as well as what is coming, news, future book signings, events and websites on where to order, visit: sandrawaine.com

Her novels are listed on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other venues. Available in paperback and e/book.

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