

The **Andover Beacon**
Our Hometown Newspaper

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Priscilla Poulin, Andover Town Librarian, and volunteer Joanne Jones had fun creating scarecrows for Halloween 2019 in front of the Town Hall.
Photo: Beacon staff



Tom Barber's untitled 36"x48" oil painting from 1988 is on permanent display at the Vet Center in White River Junction, 802 295-2908.

Andover Artist Publishes Story of Hope for Veterans

There's help on the path to healing

Charlie Darling, Beacon staff

Andover author and illustrator Tom Barber begins his powerful new book with a telling epigraph:

"Stories help satisfy our hunger for understanding by allowing us to see ourselves in the lives of others. They

"Finally, a way out of the quicksand of darkness I stepped into when my foot hit the ground of a distant, desert land."

show us that this hunger is universal. Stories show us that we are not alone."

The story that Tom tells centers around Eric, a Purple-Heart, Bronze-Star veteran returned from an unnamed desert war to the streets of Boston. Even

after years back home, Eric still feels himself "a stranger in my own country ... Scared. Desperate. Hopeless. And losing ground fast."

But in this story, Eric is not alone. Enter Mitchell, a grizzled, empathetic Vietnam vet with a metal hook for a left hand. Mitchell has fought off post-combat demons of his own and now keeps a simple storefront hangout, a "safe place where veterans – any war, any age, men and women – can hang out, talk, and support each other."

Eric's path back to sobriety and serenity, to "true healing," is a tortuous one, with many setbacks and many dashed hopes along the way. And Tom's blunt, almost impressionistic prose is unrelenting in channeling directly into the reader's heart the pain that Eric is suffering:

"Moral injury. A wound to the soul. An assault on the heart waged by grief, guilt, shame, and anger – *normal human reactions* when our basic understanding of right and wrong has been

See Barber on page 2

President Expands Eligibility for Joining the American Legion

Local Legion post seeks new members

Press release

The American Legion Crosby/Gilbert Post 101 of Andover, is seeking new members.

On July 30, President Trump signed a new bill labeled *The Legion Act*. This bill now allows veterans who were not previously eligible to join the American Legion.

All veterans who were honorably

discharged are now urged to become an American Legion member. It is required to present a copy of your DD Form 214 (separation paper) at the time of applying for membership.

The American Legion Crosby/Gilbert Post 101 meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Andover Fire Station on Main Street.

Contacts for more information about the new *Legion Act* are William Leber at 735-5144 or Donald Clendenen at 735-5032.

Andover Lions Club Celebrates 65 Years of Service

Join them November 23 at The Refinery

Press release

The Andover Lions Is celebrating 65 years of service! Please come join us in the celebration of our 65th Anniversary at The Refinery at 4 Mill Road in Andover on Saturday, November 23.

Social hour begins at 6 PM with a cash bar; dinner begins at 7 PM. The Master of Ceremonies will be Charlie Vars.

Cost per person \$46.44, which includes tax and gratuity. Seating is limited to 80, so RSVP by November 9 to Virginia Edwards at 768-3443 or ZinnTheWhiteXmas@aol.com. Make your check payable to Andover Lions and mail it to PO Box 311, Danbury NH

03230.

The evening's menu begins with hors d'oeuvres: a choice of Bruschetta with Sundried Tomato Pesto and Basil, or French Chicken Salad in Profiteroles. The buffet includes:

- Green Salad with Fresh Baby Greens, Cucumbers, Grape Tomatoes, Italian and Ranch Dressing
- Seared Breast of Chicken with Lemon Butter Sauce
- Baked Haddock with a Fresh Citrus Vinaigrette
- Baked Potato with Butter and Sour Cream, Shredded Cheese and Green Onion
- Julienne Carrots and French Green Beans

Dessert will be Cobbler and coffee.

AARP Urgently Needs Tax Prep Volunteers in Andover

Basic tax prep experience and computer skills

Ron Koron, AARP

We need an additional volunteer for income tax preparation in Andover. Presently we have one volunteer. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. You don't need to be an AARP member or a retiree to volunteer.

"The AARP Tax-Aide program is a wonderful resource for the American taxpayer," said Ron Koron, local coordinator. "AARP Tax-Aide volunteers get a great deal of satisfaction from helping people deal with the challenges of preparing their tax forms. If you want to help others with their tax returns, this is the program for you."

See Tax Prep on page 2

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