



REPORTER

FREE



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Bringing a taste of Asia to Buxton

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

On Route 112 in Buxton, about halfway from the junction of Routes 22 and 25, you'll find Panda Market. At first glance, you might think that it's just your average gas station and convenience store. But soon you'll see that it's anything but average! Panda Market is also a Chinese Restaurant.

When you first pull up to the pumps, you might be disappointed as you can't pay at the pump, but have to go into the store and prepay for your gas. But when you walk into the store, your disappointment will turn into awe and wonder.

Chinese lanterns hang from the ceiling, and bamboo plants

fill the window sills (they are for sale, by the way). In addition to your usual chips and drinks, you'll spot some Asian snacks in the aisle in front of you. As you approach the counter, you'll also be greeted by a Money Cat, waving at you. There are a couple of screens on the wall in the corner by the counter, where you'll see pictures of various dishes.

Brothers Joe Yang and Steve Zheng bought the building in June of 2017, a former gas station/convenience store, intending to create a restaurant and convenience store. According to Zheng's son Kelvin, the place was, "bland, boring, and didn't have a welcoming atmosphere." So they closed the building and began

renovations.

What they thought would take 3-5 months, ended up taking just about a year. They repainted the walls a green, brightening the place up. Out back, they began to work on the kitchen, and found several issues that took longer than expected to take care of and bring up to code and meet inspection. They extended the back to add a Chinese kitchen, so that they could offer Chinese Food. They intended on taking out the gas pumps, but that proved to be cost prohibitive. So, they embraced them instead. "We try to be competitive with gas prices," said Kelvin, "as well as cigarettes and alcohol."

(Continued on page 5)



Bamboo plants and Asian snacks are some of the unique items that can be found at the Panda Market, a Chinese Restaurant and convenience store in Buxton. COURTESY PHOTO



Athletes college bound

Two Massabesic seniors recently signed letters of intent to play Division 2 college sports next Fall. Kenzie Ouellette, left, will play basketball at Saint Anselm College and Skylar Renaud will play lacrosse at Southern New Hampshire University.

PHOTO BY ZOEY DEANGELIS

BUY THE BOOK

with Stacy Layburn & Taylor Lewis

Abigail Rice Meets her Mice Down on Sycamore Street (Book One)

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

Local author Stacy Layburn of Limerick held her first book signing at her home town library, the Limerick Public Library, with illustrator Taylor Lewis on Saturday, Nov. 17. The two ladies set up a cozy and festive little nook in the corner of the Children's Room: festive table cloths on the tables, felt mice holding labels for the treats (crackers and cheese, of course, as well as mouse shaped cookies, and little cherry chocolate mice!), drinks (hot chocolate to warm you up), and a little mouse house with a raffle! Both ladies were on hand to answer questions and sign books.



Author Stacy Layburn, left, and illustrator Taylor Lewis at their book signing in Limerick on Nov. 17. PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

To Layburn: Q: Can you tell our readers a little bit about the story, "Abigail Rice Meets Her Mice"?

A: It is a story of friendship between an old widow woman who becomes friends with a family of mice during holiday time. She takes them in, and they celebrate the holidays together, becoming a family!

Q: What inspired you to write this particular story?

A: Holiday time is nostalgic for me. Dec. 13 [the day that Abigail Rice met her mice!] is my brother Joshua's birthday. It was a wintry day when he was born. In my four year old mind, on the day he came along, my parents and I were looking out in the woods for

a Christmas tree and it was a cold, snowy day... Abigail was real from the start. And the mice? I have always loved mice. I think that goes back to Cinderella!

Q: How long did it take you to write?

A: I've been writing since I was a little girl. I have notebooks full! But I'd get to a certain point and lose interest. I always doodle and jot things down. I might write a description of a place, some-

(Continued on page 4)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING AND SANTA'S ARRIVAL at the Massabesic Lions Regional Medical Center, 813 Main Street, Waterboro on Friday, Nov. 23. Santa arrives promptly at 7 p.m. and will light the tree. After, join in downstairs in the Lion's Den where the kiddos can meet Santa and share their Christmas wishes with him. There will be complimentary cookies, bars, hot cocoa, cider and coffee for everyone. Bring the kiddos, parents, grandparents and don't forget your camera. Chat with neighbors, have some fun. Handicapped accessible.

ERICA BROWN AND THE BLUEGRASS CONNECTION-Saturday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Tickets: \$20 General Admission, \$18 Seniors/Students. For reservations call 929-6472 or www.sacorivertheatre.org. Fiddle prodigy Erica was competing at seven, touring at nine

and recording at fifteen, when she made her SRT debut with the Old Time Radio Gang. Now her own five piece Bluegrass Band is enjoying great popularity and returns for their annual Bluegrass-Country-Folk hoedown! With Matt Shipman on guitar and vocals, Ken Taylor on bass, Steve Roy on Mandolin and vocals and Read McNamara on Banjo.

CALLING ALL QUILTERS! The Evergreen Quilt Guild will meet on Monday, Nov. 26, from 6-9 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, Route 1, two miles south of Kennebunk Village. Evergreen Quilters usually meet the 4th Monday of each month except July and December. Newcomers are always welcome.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeside Community Church, 1248 Sokokis Trail North Waterboro. Free Popcorn, Candy, Drinks. Showing "The Star."

CHRISTMAS MARKET-PLACE at the Bar Mills Community Church, Friday, Nov. 30 from 4 to 7

p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brunch will be served at 9:30 am on Saturday. FMI visit www.barmillscommunitychurch.org or find them on facebook. Bar Mills Community Church, 13 Hermit Thrush Drive, Buxton.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE Join the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society on Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The store will be open, members receive a 10 percent on all purchases. The library and the Bar Mills exhibit will also be open. Light refreshments for all to enjoy.

WATERBORO PTO HOLIDAY FAIR Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Waterboro Elementary School, 340 Sokokis Trail, East Waterboro.

RECYCLE AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP! Buxton Garden Club is collecting all INK-JET cartridges and any working or broken CELL PHONES to fund a scholarship for a Bonny Eagle High School senior. Collection boxes

in the town of Buxton are located at the Buxton Recycling Center, Buxton Town Hall, West Buxton Library, and the Bar Mills Post Office. Boxes in Hollis are at the Salmon Falls Library, Hollis Town Hall and Hollis Center Library. We also have "Clynk" bags available for recycling returnables upon request by contacting Linda at 929-5531 or buxtongc@gmail.com.

POETRY WORKSHOP, Limerick Public Library, 2nd Thurs. of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All poets from beginners to advanced are invited to bring an original poem to discuss.

KNOTTY KNITTERS CHRISTMAS CRAFTS SALE Made right here in Hiram! Best prices in town. Sales during Library hours. Weekly Scrabble, Tues 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Knotty Knitters weekly Thurs. 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Library Hrs.: Tues., 2-5; Wed & Thurs 10-5, Sat. 9:30-12:30. Call 625-4650 or visit www.soldiers.lib.me.us. Soldiers Memorial Library, 85 Main St., Hiram.

BRIEFS

Christmas in Limerick

The annual Christmas in Limerick will be held from Saturday, Nov. 24 to Sunday, Dec. 2, at various locations around town. The festivities kick off tomorrow with cookie decorating, karaoke, and a Magic of Christmas talent show on Sunday, Nov. 25.

Other things that will be going on during the week are music and poetry at the Limerick Library on Wednesday, Nov. 28, with guest musician Michael Greenham and poet Robert Burns.

Boy Scout Troop 329 will host Breakfast with Santa at the Scout Hall at 7 School Street on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 8 to 10 a.m.; and will be marching in the parade afterwards.

Other activities on Dec. 1 are the craft fair, which will be held at the Brick Town Hall at 19 Main Street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and is sponsored by the Limerick/Newfield Lions Club.

And in keeping with the Christmas spirit, music will be played all day. The annual parade starts at 1 p.m., and then cookies with Santa, coloring contest, hay rides, a gingerbread house workshop, and many other exciting things.

The annual tree lighting and caroling will be held at 6 p.m. with Santa, Rudolf and Frosty at the Main Street Gazebo.

The Limerick Congregational Church will have their Blizzard Bazaar and luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the church at 57 Main Street, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More activities are scheduled for Dec. 2, with a Christmas market at Gneiss Brewery from noon to 4 p.m., and there will be yoga and zumba classes.

There is something going on every day for kids and adults; a brochure is available at local businesses with everything listed, including times, and dates.

- By C.J. Pike

Holiday & Christmas tree BUYING GUIDE

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Local food drive

Students from Waterboro Elementary School held a food drive for the Waterboro Community Pantry and collected 1,500 pieces of dry goods and canned goods, then helped sort and stock the shelves at the pantry. COURTESY PHOTO

BUY THE BOOK

(Continued from page 1)

thing about nature, spaces out in the back of my house, the guinea pigs ["Shenanigans" Lewis added], a title... Everything is handwritten first. Then I rewrite it, then I type it. This book just happened to be a children's book. The story came to me in about 5 minutes. It was a spark!

Q: What are the challenges of writing a children's book, especially a rhyming children's book?

A: I've always been a poet at heart, so rhyming the story came easy to me. The "Down on Sycamore Street" series will all be rhyming stories. But, for future books, I'm not sure. I will probably not use that style.

Q: There's a song in the book, to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Do you write music, too?

A: I sometimes put together silly songs. But I think that this comes from loving poetry and music.

Q: What was the most difficult part of writing this book?

A: I'd say the most difficult thing about writing the book was to not nitpick my writing. And sometimes, punctuation is tedious.

Q: How did you and artist Taylor Lewis become collaborators on this project?

A: Actually, I met Taylor's family at a craft fair in November of 2017. They were there selling her work. I noticed that she had postcards of a bird, done with watercolors. I liked her style, the "fuzziness" of the bird. So, I asked her family, "Do you think your daughter might like to illustrate my children's book?"

To Lewis:

Q: How did you become involved in this project?

A: I have always loved art. I love pastels, and draw in my free-time. My Mom loves birds, and has birdfeeders. She says that the birds are 'loved ones coming to visit.' So I started to do birds for her. My Mom names all my pictures. I work as an OT assistant at a nursing home and they had a craft fair. I thought, why not start small. And on a whim, I got a table. I had several glossy postcards printed of one particular bird my Mom liked to sell at the fair. But I was sick that day, so my family went for me. I had always wanted to do illustrations. When my parents came home and told me about Stacy's offer, it was very exciting, and a little overwhelming. But it was an easy transition from birds to mice. They all have their own personalities. From feathers to fuzzy fur, there are different techniques, but they are both cute and soft.

Q: Layburn lives in Limerick, and you live in Belgrade. How do you two collaborate?

A: We've met 4 of 5 times. I put my thoughts and ideas on paper with colored pencils and send them over to Stacy to look at.

Q: What is your artistic process?

A: I do most of my drawing on the weekends. I cozy up and get in my groove.

To Layburn:

Q: What was your path to publication of this book?

In March, my friends, Vickie Charity and Jim Contardo took me out to dinner. Vickie has been my friend forever and knows I love to write. Jim is a children's story author, who has published his own books using Create Space on Amazon. He said to me, "Here's what I did, and here's a copy for you!" It has been a learning pro-

cess, high tech with a digital printer, etc. It's taken us eight months to get to this point. But, it's a great way to get a book out!

Q: Do you have any new projects you are working on?

A: Oh yes! I really wanted to do a series, finding a character and connecting to the audience. The next book in the Down on Sycamore Street series is called "Tea Party Shenanigans," which will be out in the spring.

On a table at the book signing was a model mouse house that Layburn made a year ago while writing the story out of a cardboard box, scrapbook papers, her felt mice and other things around the house. She asked kids to enter a raffle by answering the question: "What's your favorite book?" for a chance to have one of Abigail's mice named after them in Book Two, "Tea Party Shenanigans." The winner is 'Scooter'!

I also want to do a Young Adult book, something bigger. I have a title, "In Search of a Unicorn." There's always a little girl, a part of myself. Writing is my passion, it's just a glimpse into my world.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?

A: Each book will have a significance to the date mentioned. The next book will take place beginning on March 27, which was my Nana's birthday.

Q: Where can people buy your book?

A: You can buy it on Amazon. Or you can contact me at stacy.layburn@gmail.com. It is \$12 plus shipping. I can sign it for you, too, if you'd like.

At the end of our interview, Layburn turned to Lewis and said, "Being able to use your gift, that's it!" Lewis responded, "And when you're doing it, you're loving it more!" to which Layburn added, "And sharing it, that's IT!"

Employment Opportunities

City of Sanford, Maine

Sanford is a growing and progressive City of 23,000 people. It is a preferred employer in York County with competitive salaries and is a leader in employee benefits.

Sanford has the following openings:

Code Enforcement Officer/

Constable

Police Officer

SRCC Public Safety Dispatcher

Equipment Operator 1

Mechanic Helper/Parts Person

Mechanic II

"On Call" Snow Plow Operators

Deadline: Friday, December 28th, 2018 4:30 pm

Application and Instruction packets must be obtained from Human Resources Employment Opportunities rack located on the 1st floor of Sanford City Hall.

You may also obtain applications and instruction packets Online by going to:

www.sanfordmaine.org

and returned to:

Human Resources Director

City of Sanford, Maine

919 Main Street, Sanford, ME 04073

Interviews will be granted as applications are received. **EOE M/C**



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COURTESY PHOTO

PANDA MARKET

(Continued from page 1)

“We want to be different from other convenience stores,” said Kelvin. “We offer Asian food that people can take home and prepare themselves, and explore Asian cuisine.” If you wander through the aisles, you’ll find exactly that – three rows of Asian food choices – a variety of rice, rice noodles, soy sauce, sesame oil, canned fruits, sauces, spring roll wrappers, seaweed, chopsticks, and more.

In addition to American chips and snacks, you can find Asian chips (shrimp flavor, taro chips), senbei rice crackers, Pocky sticks (with flavored chocolate at the end), mochi soft flavored rice ball sweet snacks, green tea, and more. “We’re trying to switch up items, adding more things to the shelves,” Kelvin said. “Customers may be surprised by what we might have.” It’s a little Asian Market in our neck of the woods!

“We want to know what the community wants,” Kelvin continued. “We’re looking for customer input and want to hear from the community.” He explained that this is a big learning curve for them, as they get to know the community and what they like. That is also true of the kitchen and the foods they serve from there. Their menu is rather large right now, and includes sandwiches, pizza, and a wide range of Chinese food. “We’re trying to

incorporate the seasons,” Kelvin explained. “In the summer, we offered dumplings, and for the winter, duck.” They even have some gluten-free options.

There is a waiting area by the counter for you to wait for your take-out order, but there is also a seating area in the opposite corner, with four small tables and chairs, if you want to sit in. Ellen Dore was enjoying a sandwich while this reporter was there. “The food is very good,” she reported. Dore is renovating a house down the street, and said she eats her often. She has enjoyed American and Chinese food here. “Come and give it a try!” said Kelvin.

The Panda Market is located at 651 Parker Farm Rd (Rte 112) in Buxton. They are open Mon.-Thurs., 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Their menu is on their website at www.pandamarketme.com and can call in your order at 727-3333. You can also find them on Facebook at Panda Market Buxton.

So, community members, “What are you looking for?” Let the Panda Market know!



SMHC Donates over \$3,000 to the York County Shelter Program for Thanksgiving Meals. L-R Scott Davis, YCSP Food Service Director, Mike Ouellette, YCSP Food Pantry Manager, Bob Dawber, YCSP Executive Director, Jane Foley, SMHC Hospitalist Services, Arlene Carroll, SMHC Materials Management. COURTESY PHOTO

SMHC donates over \$3,000 to the York County Shelter Program

Southern Maine Health Care donated \$3,315 to the York County Shelter Programs’ Thanksgiving Meal Program which provides 165 families in need with a Thanksgiving meal.

“The SMHC family is dedicated to giving back to the communities we care for,” said Patsy Aprile, Chief Operating Officer, Southern Maine Health Care. “This year we were able to exceed last year’s donation by over \$800

for our partners at the York County Shelter Programs.”

Funds are raised through SMHC’s annual ‘Turkey Buck\$’ program which encourages staff and physicians to donate any amount toward the cause. SMHC staff also volunteer to package the dinners for families in need.

“York County Shelter Programs is grateful for the kindness and the spirit of giving shown

by the staff and leadership of SMHC,” said Bob Dawber, YCSP Executive Director & CEO. “The generosity of this donation has had an immediate impact on the work we do to support our neighbors in need. We could not be more thrilled.”

The York County Shelter Programs provides about 1,500 turkey meals over the holiday season.

BRIEFS

Gingerbread houses

Waterboro Public Library is offering a drop in gingerbread house program on Saturday, Dec. 1, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. What a fun way for families to start the holiday sea-

son! Graham crackers and frosting will be used to build the houses and assorted candies and snacks will be available to use for decorations. Waterboro Public Library

is located at 187 Main St., East Waterboro. For more information, please call 247-3363 or visit waterborolibrary.org. Events are free and open to the public.

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NOTICE:

The Reporter will NOT be published on Friday, Dec. 21 or Friday, Dec. 28 in observance of the holidays. The Dec. 14 issue will be the LAST ISSUE of the year and has a news and advertising DEADLINE of Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Call 247-1033 or email: news@waterbororeporter.com ads@waterbororeporter.com

Classifieds

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NOTICES

Regional School Unit #57

**Public Notice
SALE OF USED VEHICLES**

Regional School Unit No. 57 (RSU #57) is accepting bids for the sale of the following vehicles:

- 2003 International/Thomas 77 passenger school bus with approximately 213,583 miles
- 2005 Freightliner FS-65/Thomas 65 + 2 wheel chair accessible passenger school bus with approximately 176,402 miles
- 2008 Thomas C2 SAF-T-Liner 78 passenger school bus with approximately 216,855 miles
- 2008 Thomas C2 SAF-T-Liner 78 passenger school bus with approximately 216,933 miles
- 2008 Thomas C2 SAF-T-Liner 78 passenger school bus with approximately 239,236 miles

All items can be viewed by appointment by contacting RSU #57 at 86 West Road, Waterboro, Maine or by calling Rebecca Ridley at 247-3221 (Ext. 2222). All vehicles will be sold in as in condition with no express or implied warranty. All purchases must be removed within thirty (30) days of being notified of winning the bid award.

Interested parties should submit written bids (a separate written bid for each vehicle) to the District's Central Office at 86 West Road, Waterboro, Maine 04087 – ATTN: Colin M. Walsh, CPA – Director of Finance & Operations. Bids will be accepted until 2:00 PM local time on December 5, 2018.

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A good turnout

Vendors for the annual craft fair on Veterans weekend reported having a good turnout for the event. From knitted mittens to artful paintings it was a room full of finely crafted gift items. Some of them were: Mary Brooks, unique jewelry; Burning Embers Pyrography by Matthew Schoff; Soul Full Silhouettes by Alissa Schoff; Charlotte Erickson's hand knit mittens by Drop Stitch Knits; paintings by Afterworks; Wanda Neville's sweaters, neck pillows, etc.; Goat milk soap by Wanda Wonson; gift baskets filled with home made items by Robin; Don Martel's wood carvings; baked goods by Little Farm Bakery; and Denise Walker's eclectic mix of decorative items.

Local and handmade are the perfect gift for Christmas this year. If anyone needs a contact on any of the above vendors, please send me an email and I will get back to you with the contact information.

Scouts fees are due

Cub Scout Pack #329 has their recharter fees due by the first week of December. They need them no later than Monday, Nov. 26. Recharter fees are \$34 for each scout. Please give to them to Gloria Lovejoy, the Bear Den leader.

Happy birthday!

The following people will celebrate this birthdays this last week of November: Gerard Harvey, Tim Bruhl, Matthew Bryant, and Kevin Lofgren.

Meetings

Northern York County Rod and Gun Club directors - Nov. 23, at Lewis Hill Road clubhouse at 7 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop #329 - Nov. 26, at Scout Hall, at 7 School Street in Limerick at 6:30 p.m. New members always welcome. Jim Dion is the Scoutmaster. Call Joe Iannazzo at 850-6237.

Cub Scout Pack #329 - Nov. 26, at Line School at 818 Water Street at 6 p.m. Anastasia Ferguson is the Cubmaster.

Newfield Firefighters training session - Nov. 27, at the Public Safety Building at 85 Water Street in West Newfield at 7 p.m. New members are welcome to attend.

Tea Time - Nov. 28, at the Newfield Village Library at 637 Water Street at 3 p.m.



Obituaries are a FREE service in the Reporter.
EMAIL TO:
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ALFRED

Allison Williams

awilliams@waterbororeporter.com
324-5823

School fair

Both sides of Route 202 were lined with cars, plus the school parking lot was full on this past Saturday morning (demonstrating the need for much more parking space) when the fair at the elementary school opened. Because the fair is only held for two days, Outside the school there was a van where students were collecting for the York County Food Pantry. Inside there were booths displaying a myriad of products - everything from doll clothes to Peruvian creations (silver jewelry) to nail and string art. At the Alfred Shaker Museum table there were caps for children-made by Mary McFadden, caps with ears, snowman caps, crowns or other appendages, handwoven scarves, boxes, and Shaker books. There were many articles of wood made by Dale Witman, beading art designs by Sylvia White, and whatever you could imagine.

Some booths were earning funds for causes, like the Girl Scouts planning a trip to Montreal, others for the artisans. The creativity of the artisans was almost unimaginable.

Free supper

The monthly free supper sponsored by Alfred Parish Church will be Nov. 26 from 5 to 6. Music will be provided by Almon Williams during the meal. The menu will include a variety of turkey dishes and vegetables. There will be a table of Christmas decorations, courtesy of a former Alfred resident, which will be free or with a donation for the church's mission committee if purchasers wish.



From left, Meda McCoy, Noella Champagne and Kylie Brochu from Girl Scout troops 426 and 1099 worked as assistants during the Alfred Elementary School Fair. The girls are working toward a trip to Montreal.

At right, Girl Scout Aliviah Gagne displays the cake she won during the cake walk at the Alfred Elementary School Fair.

PHOTOS BY ALLISON WILLIAMS



Christmas concert

On Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. "An Alfred Christmas" will be held in the Alfred Parish Church at 7 p.m. The performers will be members of the Alfred Parish Church and the New Gloucester UCC Theater Group. A suggested donation of \$10 may be made at the door. Proceeds will go toward a charitable purpose designated by the church.

Historical society

Because the library was closed with snowy weather Tuesday, the Alfred Historical Society will not be meeting this month. The next meeting will be in February, (weather permitting) when Bruce Tucker will speak on Lyman

Brown and Wilbur Emmons, the two World War I soldiers from Alfred who died (both were in the National Guard) and in whose memory the Legion Hall was built. The society does not meet in December and January.

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Sending prayers to spirits left behind

BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

As the holidays approach, tis the season for thinking of loved ones we have lost over the years. Many people are sad this time of year, missing those loved ones during these times of family gatherings.

Donna Kennison of Hollis felt this way. She lost her mother 25 years ago, and began questioning the existence of an afterlife. She

saw spiritual mediums and was intrigued by the paranormal. "I decided to find out for myself," she said.

Her initial questions were "Is there an afterlife?" and "What's out there? Who are they?" So, she did a lot of research online, reading about Ghost Hunting and Paranormal Investigations, and then joined a local team for a year. "You learn from other teams experiences," she said. She then began her own team about

6 years ago, called Spirits Left Behind.

Since then, she has done over 70 investigations all over the area, including Porter, Limington, Buxton, Standish, Gorham, Limerick, Parsonsfield and Waterboro.

"Not all people cross over and move on, so they get stuck here or it was their choice to stay. Many people just don't know they're there, or brush it off," she explained. A team

of 4 with video cameras, digital cameras, and digital voice recorders set up at night. "We do a quick walk through with the client, showing us where most of the activity they claim happens," Kennison said. "Anything from hearing a voice, singing, whistling, seeing an apparition, something move, drawers being opened, etc."

Most investigations are done at night as the microphones on the equipment are sensitive and there is less contamination when things are quiet. "We sit, get comfortable, and introduce ourselves [to the spirits]," said Kennison. "We explain why we are there, just to talk with them and help our clients understand what is going on. We ask questions, one at a time, and give plenty of time for them to answer." Kennison explained that the usual questions are: their name, age, how many of them are there, how they are related to the home owner, were they there before the house was built, were they married, did they have children, how they passed - what happened? etc. "We give them time to give the answers," said Kennison. "We always get more answers with the heartfelt questions, about marriage or children." She continued, "We also make it clear to them right from the get go that we respect them and mean no harm."

Most home investigations last 2-3 hours. "Sometimes it takes awhile before they answer us and figure out we're okay," Kennison said. "We always thank them for allowing us to talk with them when we are finished." Kennison emphasized that this is very important.

According to Kennison, during the first couple of years investigating, they found that they were getting a lot of "Help Me" or "Help Us" on the EVPs (Electronic Voice Phenomena - audio recordings). "That's hard to ignore," Kennison explained. "It just pulled at my heard strings, especially when it was children's voices. It was very sad." She added, "We really didn't now how we could possibly help them."

Again, Kennison began to do a lot of online research on Clearings or Soul/Spirit Rescue Work,

and found a book called, Soul Rescue. "Rescue work is praying for them [the spirits] with the intention of trying to help them move on or cross over," said Kennison. "First you talk to them, letting them know what you are going to do," she explained. "Then you tell them that they need to let go of their anger, of their hatred, before they move on." Then, you pray to God. "You pray with all your energy, asking for angels to come and help them," she said. "There is free will," she continued. "Not all spirits will go or want to go," she continued, "but at least now I don't have to ignore those that ask for help - I can actually try and help them!" Kennison said It's up to them, God and Jesus.

Growing up, Kennison said she just used prayer when it came in handy. "Not like I do now," she said. Sending prayers, more on the spiritual side of the paranormal. "Do unto others," said Kennison, "that's why I do it."

Kennison gave a presentation at the Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society on October 20 called, "Resident Ghosts in our Towns." About 30 people attended. Some came to share their own stories, some came to ask questions. Kennison explained that she is no longer doing investigations. Her Facebook page says, "We have found our answers to an afterlife and now we are ready to move on."

"Yes, there is an afterlife," said Kennison. "Your energy lives on in spirit, your soul."

"We're not going to die, we're going to move on," she continued. "I'm happy about that!"

Looking for a team? Kennison suggests doing a Google search for Paranormal Investigations, and teams are listed by states. You can also look up the National Paranormal Society.

Interested in Learning more? Visit her Facebook Page, Spirits Left Behind Paranormal Research and Investigation, Sending Prayers. She will try to answer your questions or concerns, and can refer you to other local paranormal teams near you. She continues to share any evidence of the after life that she gets there.

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