

#### **FOOTLOOSE AND CHILD-FREE!**



By Kristina Schram

My husband and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary, which, judging by our youthful appearance, would suggest we got married in grade school. (Spoiler: We didn't.) Part of that celebration included a trip to Florida, land of free sunburns and home of the wackadoodles (no offense to any Floridian transplants - you can still be considered a wackadoodle if you'd like). We stayed in St. Augustine for a week, and while we were gone it was about as warm or warmer here in NH, which, frankly, is kind of annoying.

While in St. Augustine, we visited a torture museum, which wasn't nearly as fun as it sounds. We also made the trek out to the Fountain of Youth, which isn't even a fountain and certainly not anything in which one could frolic (believe me, I tried), and whose water does not seem to be making me any younger. Total scam. We met some very vocal peacocks and fast-running salamanders, and encountered a couple interesting signs on our perambulations: "Happy Pappys Glowing Balls" and "No Fishing. Dangerous Wildlife. Do Not Feed Alligators." Yikes. On the drive back to the airport we came across this gem: "Watch For Bug Swarms." Florida never disappoints.

It was just the two of us on our trip, and for those of you who have children, you can attest to how rare and lovely that can be. The only people we had to please were ourselves. If we wanted to sit around in our underwear, we could! If we wanted to eat chocolate chip cookies for supper, we could! If we wanted to do both at the same time, we could! And we did! We were footloose and child-free for seven delightful days. It was awesome. (For my children who are undoubtedly reading this - it wasn't awesome without your presence. I'm just trying to be brave.)

Unfortunately, in that short week my brain entered summer mode and now doesn't want to go back. I'm ready for shorts and flip-flops, the smell of cut grass and barbecues, swimming and biking. Instead I'm wearing pants and warm, sensible shoes, and the only smells I can discern are mud and discontent. What's more, if I attempted to swim right now, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't survive the experience. Especially if I have to break through the ice to do it.

So for now I'm going to retreat into my house, crank up the heat, and pretend I'm back in Florida, without cares or worries. Where I don't have to fix supper or make my bed or clean mud off my shoes or remove the one million broken branches littering my lawn after all those winter storms. Denial is a lovely thing. Too bad it can't cook or clean.

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

The Banner needs you!

Our monthly publication depends on articles, event submissions and ads from readers like you. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at:

danielle@oscarfoss.org or visit our website at www.oscarfoss.org/thebarnstead-banner



### May Events at Oscar Foss Memorial Library

Children's Story Time at the Library is the happening event to attend every Wednesday at 10:30. There will be stories, crafts, and singing to your heart's content. You can even dance if you want to! Afterwards you can hang out and chat with other caregivers while your children are otherwise occupied with Legos, trains, coloring books, and more!

All Library Yoga classes are now on Mondays only. Gentle Hatha-Flow, a low-impact yoga class for all levels, starts off the day at 10:15 (and ends at 11:40). Senior/Beginner/Chair Yoga will take place from 12:00-1:00. Intermediate Hatha-Flow rounds out the day, going from 5:30-6:50. Classes are by donation (suggested \$8). All are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of ability to donate. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. You may also bring blocks and straps.

On Wednesday, May 3, the Mead and Read Book Club (ages 18+) will be discussing The Midnight Library. We'll be meeting at our usual place, Over the Moon Farmstead in Pittsfield (and not in the library at midnight, which, admittedly, would be cool), starting at 6:00. For June, we will be reading The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

Friday, May 5, from 5:00-7:00, we are hosting a Teen Mushroom Plant Stakes maker event! Life is busy this time of year, so take a break at the library with some snacks and the movie Over the Garden Wall. While snacking and watching, we will be making mushroom garden stakes, then personalizing them with paint. Registration required.

Cooking and Table Setting is on the agenda for our monthly Homeschool Event on Tuesday, May 9, from 12:30-2:00. Homeschool students will enjoy prepping and making a simple meal, setting the table properly, using different utensils, then cleaning up together. Registration is required.

Tween DnD will be happening Thursday, May 11, from 4:00-6:00. Our heroes are leveling up! They're ready to take the next step in their adventure, but what will they encounter? Anyone can join the campaign at any point. Light refreshments provided.

Teen DnD is also happening Thursday, May 11, but from 6:00-8:00. Our heroes will continue past the dinosaurs in the Underdark. But why is there a child down here? Where did she come from? Are those voices they hear? Anyone can join the campaign at any time. Light refreshments provided.

On Saturday, May 13, from 11:00-12:00, we are hosting Ma'ams and Muffins. Kids, you provide the Ma'am (grandmothers, moms, sisters, aunts, friends... all are welcome) and we'll provide the entertainment: Stories, music and movement, and crafts. Plus muffins, of course!

Teen Advisory is canceled for this month, but will be happening in June.

Special OFML Kids Club Event! Friday, May 19, from 3:30-5:00. This event is for the whole family. Ranger Briana from the US Army Corps of Engineers is coming to talk about adaptations of local predators, which help them survive. She will be bringing an osprey and coyote mount for the presentation. There will be stories and crafts to follow. Light refreshments provided.

On May 24, in place of our regular storytime and in collaboration with different organizations in the area, we are holding an Early Literacy Fair to promote literacy! Starting at 10:30, there will be stories with a special guest reader, followed by crafts and games! Thanks to a generous grant from Children's Literacy Foundation, there will be free book giveaways, and local community organizations will be available to talk with parents about resources. You can also sign up for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.

Dino Canvases Teen/Tween Event: Thursday, May 25, from 5:00-7:00. Have you ever wanted to cut a dinosaur in half and put him on a canvas? Who hasn't?! You can then personalize your dino with a fresh paint job, maybe a hat! Light refreshments and tunes provided. Registration required.

Have you always wanted to be a writer? Maybe even a published author? Well, it's time to do something to make that dream come true. Every 4th Friday of the month (this month it will be 5/26), from 6:00-7:30, we have our Writers Forum - a group created and run by fellow writers to help you in your writing process, wherever that might be. This group is for ages 14- and all levels of writing experience/expertise.

For events that require registration, please contact us at 269-3900 or ofmlstaff@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

The library is looking for someone 18+ to mow our lawn this summer! If interested, please email Danielle at dhintonofml@gmail.com.

## An Evening of Art

Oscar Foss Memorial Library was delighted to host another "Evening of Art" for the Prospect Mountain High School art department. We were in awe of all the incredible talent on display!





















# Nurturing Skills for Families Positive Discipline Practices & Techniques

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For participants who attend in person, <u>dinner will be served at 6:00pm</u> and on-site childcare *may be available* if reserved at the time of registration.

This six-week series is open to anyone...

parents, caregivers, parents-to-be, extended family, professionals supporting families, etc.

All are welcome!

To register go to www.lrcs.org/parentedregistration/ or email tricia.tousignant@lrcs.org









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#### **Barnstead Historical Society News**

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTISTIC WEB BARNSTEAD'S WORLD WIDE WEAVERS



- The weaving mill was started in 1903 and incorporated on 1906 by an Austrian family named Zecha who literally carried the looms from the old country on their backs.
- The mill was located on Parade Hill Road by the dam. It was originally a large 100' x 200' wooden structure, but as the years passed, a couple of steel additions were added. The railroad ran behind the building.
- In 1903 Barnstead did not have electricity, so water power was very important to run the looms. The location of the mill relied on water, so it was built by the banks of the Suncook River where a water wheel could be used. It was said that when the water wheel ran, the whole building vibrated.
- Skylights, windows, and a kerosene lantern at each loom were the only sources of illumination. On a dark day an eerie glow filled the rooms and the looms were merely noisy outlines in the shadows. It is believed that the mill was the oldest narrow-fabric mill in the state. It was able to stay open through the Great Depression.
- The mill had a fire siren on the building and if there was a fire in town all the workers would leave to fight it (all fire fighters were volunteers).
- In 1970, the Zechas faded from the weaving industry and the mill experienced a drop in sales. However, the townspeople of Barnstead had lived with the mill all their lives. It was an integral part of the town and they were not going to let it die. Joseph Cotton, assisted by the Knirsches and the Jenisches, who had worked in the mill for years, took over the factory and ran it. All the people who had worked for the Zechas bought stock in the company and worked for nothing on split-shifts while keeping their regular jobs. They kept the mill running and helped it survive.
- The mill made beautiful trim, some of it was very fancy. The trim was used on clothing, shoes, crafts, silk for ladies corsets, etc.
- The old looms from Austria were made of wood and the newer looms were high-speed needle looms with metal parts.
- In 1976 the mill was purchased by Eugene Wheeler. Mr Wheeler and his wife Nancy decided to expand into the retail market and Heritage Trimming was created. A line of instruction books was published and Heritage Trimming Belt Accessary Shoppe became very important. The product line consisted of their own woven jacquard trims but also specialty cords and trims were purchased for resale. Heritage Trimming was very important in the Far East, Australia, Mexico and England. Their biggest customers were from Japan. Some of the looms were over 100 years old and no longer needed water to power them. The new high speed looms could only do a straight edge.
- In August 14, 1994, the four-story ribbon and lace factory that employed about 28 townspeople burned down—such a loss to the town. It was very sad to see this beautiful building gone.

Info from: The Guardian News Barnstead Historical Society



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SUBMITTED BY JEANNIE TERRY

## Ingredients

1 cup chopped onion 1 box lasagne noodles 1-2 large garlic cloves 2 1lb cottage cheese 2 TBSP Oregano 1 lb mozzarella 2 23oz cans tomato soup 1 lb Italian cheese 1 cup water grated parmesan 1 TBSP vinegar 1-2lbs ground beef



## Directions

- 1. Brown beef and cook noodles according to directions
- 2. Sautee onions and garlic. Add soup, water, oregano and vinegar
- 3. Simmer for 30 minutes, stirring periodically
- 4. Add some sauce to the bottom of a 9x13 baking dish, then alternate noodles, sauce and cheese for 3 layers.
- 5. Top with extra mozzarella cheese and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.
- 6. Allow to sit for a few minutes before cutting. Serve with a nice bread and enjoy!

## **BE THE CHURCH**

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthy and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

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Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

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## BARNSTEAD PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Worship Service 9:00 A.M. Rev. Sandy Pierson—483-2846



If you would like to submit an event or classified for the Barnstead Banner, please email danielle@oscarfoss. org with the details.

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