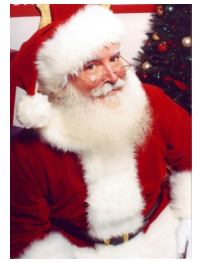




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Whitefield News

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Holiday Events




**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM
&
TREE LIGHTING
DEC. 4TH
KINGS MILLS UNION
HALL
3 - 5pm
(Santa arrives at 4:00 pm)**

Welcome to the Amish

By Robin Chase and Tony Marple

Pat and Robin Chase first came in contact with the Amish when they sold their dairy herd to an Amish community in northern Maine in 2008. They have kept in touch throughout the years, and they heard that a group in Depeyster, New York was interested in moving to Maine. Pat and Robin wrote to the group encouraging them to come look at the Whitefield community. They also made a trip to Depeyster last April to meet the Amish families living there. After that first visit, Pat and Robin hosted a large group made up of different families who came and looked at several communities in our region. Whitefield was where they chose to settle. Since that visit, Pat and Robin have hosted over 75 members from their community in their home.

Mose and Anna Yoder and family have purchased land just south of David Jackson's on the east side of Rt. 218. They spent two weeks here in November building a shop for selling their wares and temporary living quarters until their house is built. The building was built



Photo courtesy Tony Marple

from logs cut and milled in their hometown, and the tin came from an Amish dealer in Easton, Maine. They plan to move here in the spring, and a barn raising will take place then.

Dennis and Amelia Hostetler and family of Sonora, Kentucky have signed an agreement to purchase the Verne Bradford property on Rt. 218; just up the road from the Yoder's. They will be moving here in the spring with their family.

Mose and Clara Miller and family have purchased the Noyes place, which straddles Jefferson and Whitefield across from JC Stone on Rt. 17. Mose and family members have been staying with Jane Chase while they have been renovating and laying cement for their shop.

There are likely to be more Amish families moving to the area, but the numbers and timing are uncertain at this point. They will be traveling by horse and buggy around town and as far *Continued on page 2*

Series on Volunteering Kings Mills Union Hall - Keeping a grand old landmark alive

By Lucy Martin

It takes people to bring a building to life – first to raise the walls and roof beams, then to light up the rooms with talk and laughter.

And it takes people to keep a building alive.

Never is Whitefield's Union Hall more alive than when hungry people from far and wide queue up, as they did in October, for the annual chicken pie supper with its array of harvest vegetables and assortment of yummy dessert pies. The money raised from this event and others is poured into repairs of one of the town's most outstanding landmarks, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the hall was built in 1901, originally as a home for the Whitefield Fish and Game Club and Whitefield Grange, it has undergone physical changes: the addition of an ell; the installation (twice) of a metal roof; foundation work 25 years ago to raise the building on precast reinforced concrete posts; construction of a

Erik Ekholm (on ladder) installs the new Kings Mills Union Hall sign, which he built in October. It's a replica of the one dating from the 1930s. Bill McKeen (below) created a digital stencil of the lettering and painted it (Lucy Martin photo).

replica of the original front door; a fresh coat of paint outside as well as inside, where the previously dark wainscoting and drab walls were brightened with lighter-hued paint; and replicating the sign built 80 years ago that hung over the front door. Donations and volunteer labor have played a large role in furthering the life of the hall. *Continued on Pg. 2*



Amish Cont. from page 1
as Gardiner, so please be aware and cautious when sharing the roads with them. The town will be erecting horse and buggy signs, and will be requesting that the DOT do so as well on the state roads in the area.



Photo courtesy Dan Joslyn

Like many other folks in our community, the Amish are self-sufficient. They raise their own meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. They also make use of salvaged material. For example, they razed a portion of the chicken barn owned by the How-ell's on the Townhouse road for the reusable lumber. When they settle in the spring, you are more than welcome to stop by and introduce yourself to your new neighbor. They prefer not to be photographed except at a distance, but they understand our curiosity and welcome our hospitality. We wish to welcome these new families to Whitefield as well, and we look forward to Spring.

An inspiration in our Sheepscot Valley

By Cheryle Joslyn

Marie Sacks has been a strong community voice for 42 years in Whitefield. She could be heard at Whitefield School volunteering in a number of classrooms over the years; particularly in the Science lab and the Library. From all sorts of community events and gatherings, to giving hours upon hours of time and talent to the Whitefield Historical Society, Marie's voice has become recognizable in our midst.

Marie and Julian moved with their three teenage children to Whitefield in 1974. Marie has worn many hats since her high school days in Milford, Massachusetts; including wife, mother, grandmother, biology teacher, Doctor of Philosophy with her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a resourceful town historian with a Master of Arts degree in American History, and a vocal civic-minded advocate for a wide variety of causes and concerns. The word "senior" has its own definition for Marie Sacks. Her "spunkiness" is contagious and becomes so evident with just one conversation. It is hard to "keep up" with Marie.

Of all the happenings in Whitefield that you might remember Marie by, perhaps there is one hidden talent that you did not know about her. Besides her strong civic voice, Marie has a singing voice that she uses to bring joy to the larger community here in Lincoln County. She didn't reveal her voice until a few years ago even though as a young child she loved music. She recalled when the family gathered she would happily stand on the dining table and sing while her uncle played the accordion. And later...in Whitefield, a piano sat in her living room for her three children to practice on and today for Marie to find the right pitch when she begins to sing.

It was Bob and Martha Johanson who opened Marie's door to singing publicly. They invited her to bring her alto voice to join them in the Augusta Symphony Chorus. She took part in the 'Living Christmas Tree Concert' at the Augusta State Armory. She officially became one of the "B.O.M.B.S." (Bank of Maine Bicentennial Singers). It was that avocation that led her to what she is enjoying today...singing! That warm alto "Mama Cass" voice is one of the 30 adult members of the Sheepscot Valley Chorus. They perform two concerts per year, Christmas and spring, and "the best part is", as Marie joked, "there are no auditions in joining". It is a commitment, but one that she thoroughly enjoys.



Marie Sacks
Photo courtesy SVC

Hall Cont. from Pg. 1 Today's Kings Mills Union Hall Association members are working to broaden its purpose as a community center. The wild game dinners, the "glamour girl" suppers when firemen showed up in dresses to serve the meal, old-time dances upstairs, the queen contests, school plays, minstrel shows, beano games and summer smorgasbord survive only in memory.

Thanks, however, to a small, dedicated group of volunteers who have carried on - maintaining and reviving other hall traditions, such as the chicken pie supper, Christmas party and 4th of July "white elephant" sale - improvements continue. There are plans to upgrade the plumbing and revamp the kitchen.

All this to preserve a place that, since its inception, has performed a basic human function and provided a basic human need: community. It's a place to catch up with neighbors over a home-style meal and to meet new folks sitting across the table; a place to find locally made crafts for the home or gift-giving; a place to sing holiday songs and bring the kids to tell Santa what they'd like for Christmas.

And there are laughs, a spirit of camaraderie and a sense of effort generously repaid among the volunteer helpers, too, when the last dish is washed and dried; when the last happy, well-fed diner heads home; the last holiday-maker leaves the party.

To succeed, the association needs people. Meeting monthly, KMU-HA directors and members toss around ideas for making the hall more useful and accessible. Newcomers are always welcome and very much needed if the group is to remain active and keep Union Hall a living presence in our town.

To find out how you can get involved, contact president/ treasurer Judy Maldovan, 549-5664. Other officers are vice president Earl Lemieux and secretary Judi Ekholm.

The Sheepscot Valley Chorus is a thriving Community Chorus. Directed by Linda Blanchard, as well as accompanied by Sean Fleming, they present programs with professional chamber orchestras, sing for community events, and showcase talented local students from area schools in their concerts. They annually award scholarship students from Lincoln Academy, Wiscasset High School, and Boothbay Regional School who are identified as excelling in their musical studies and/or contributing the most to their school's music program. SVC's door is always "wide" to welcome in new members, and there you'll discover are people like Marie who "just love to sing"! As she says, "It isn't all just fun and games...we do some serious music", but we know Marie takes a "fun" spirit with her whatever she decides to do.



Photo courtesy SVC

The Chorus is rehearsing for their December 4th concert that will be held at the Boothbay Harbor Congregational Church at 3:00 pm. The featured work this season will be the highly lyrical Respighi's "Laud to the Nativity". This piece is lightly orchestrated and features several solo voices in addition to the chorus. There will be four other pieces featured, as well as Anton Bruckner's "Ave Maria". This year's performance promises to be quite a treat and a rewarding culmination of many Tuesday night rehearsals for both Marie and her chorus colleagues. You are warmly invited to attend the December 4th performance and observe this yourself.

As for Marie, we know her busy life does not just slow down after December 4th. She has many interesting "next's" already filling her calendar. She is grateful for her healthy genes and recognizes that age is only a number. As long as we are still able to get up in the morning, it's not too late to do activities that inspire us and make us vibrant, and it certainly never is too late to have fun. If you have a chance, to hear Marie sing, that will be a lot of fun.



Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Christmas Card sent in 1881 courtesy of the Whitefield Historical Society

Classic Children's Books for a Winter Day

by Andrea Lani

Nothing beats curling up with a cup of cocoa and a good book after coming in from an adventure in the snow. It's especially fun to read books that bring the winter magic inside and get you excited to suit up and head back out again. Consider adding a few of these timeless tales to your winter reading list.



Photo courtesy Andrea Lani

In Mama Do You Love Me? a little girl tests the limits of her mother's love as she imagines turning into wild animals and traveling through a gorgeously illustrated Arctic landscape. By Barbara M. Joosse, illustrated by Barbara Lavallee

The Snowy Day captures the magic a child experiences traveling through a snow-filled world. By Ezra Jack Keats.

Tracks in the Snow takes a small child on a rhyming adventure as she follows animal prints to discover who left them. By Wong Herbert Yee

The Mitten retells a Ukranian folk tale about a lost mitten and the wild animals that seek shelter inside. By Jan Brett.

In Owl Moon a young girl joins her father on a late-night search for a great-horned owl. By Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr

The Big Snow shows how different kinds of animals prepare for winter. By Berta and Elmer Hader.

In Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening, Susan Jeffers's soft pen-

Whitefield School News

Josh McNaughton, Principal

Congratulation to Hannah Jackson, Jenna Perkins and Lorelei Gilley for taking first, second and third place in the Whitefield Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest.

The school would like to thank all of our supporters who have recently purchased or attended the various fundraising events we have been doing. The money we have raised will help send our 5th grade students to Boston, our 8th grade students on their spring trip, help our PTA to bring student enrichment activities to the students, and our athletic teams with the purchasing of new items such as uniforms and entrance fees into tournaments.

Our aquaponics program has great news! We are the recipients of the 2016 STEM Education Innovation Challenge Grant. We will receive a minimum of \$2000 and be in the running for an additional \$3000 to create a "Student Renewable Energy Lab." Great job writing the grant Mr. Willigar!

Whitefield staff, Niki Mathews, Susan Peaslee, Tracy Northup and Josh McNaughton presented at the annual PBIS conference on November 4th. This is the second year in a row Whitefield as been invited to share our program with other schools in the state.

On Monday, October 24th Whitefield hosted our 13th National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony. Congratulations to our current and returning members.

Thank you to the Chelsea PTA and School for inviting Whitefield students to the Jared Campbell Anti-bullying presentation on Friday October 28th. The students and staff enjoyed the presentation.

Our school is proud to announce that we hosted an Outdoor Adventure & Learning Open House at the school November 14th. The evening started off with free mountain bike trails for kids/families to ride in the area around the school. Once the demo portion of the event was complete, the event moved into the gymnasium for pizza and a short slideshow presentation explaining the Outdoor Adventure & Learning program.

Student NWEA and DRA assessments have been completed. Soccer season has drawn to a close. We are very proud of our team for being good sportsman and representing our community with pride. Basketball is now underway. This year the school is hosting four teams, a varsity and junior varsity team for both the girls and boys.

As you can see, Whitefield School has had a very busy and productive Fall.

cil drawings illustrate Robert Frost's classic poem and capture the wonder of a fresh snow.

Over and Under the Snow (by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal) and *Under the Snow* (by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Constance R. Bergum) both give readers a window into what happens beneath the white—including animals that sleep away the winter and those that stay busy in the warm layer between ground and snow.

Snowflake Bentley tells the story of a boy who loved snow so much he taught himself to take photographs of them and became a world-renowned snow scientist, despite being a Vermont farmer. By Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Mary Azarian.

Finally, if you get tired of snow—either outdoors or in books—and are looking forward to spring, check out *Just Plain Fancy*, by Patricia Polacco. This story, about two young Amish girls and a very special egg they find, will help acquaint children (and their parents) with Whitefield's new neighbors and some of their customs.

DECEMBER 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- Nov. 30 **MT. VIEW CHAMBER SINGERS**, St. Denis Church, 7 pm
- 1st **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 2nd **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL**, gifts, crafts and food 5-8 pm
- 4th **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT KINGS MILLS UNION HALL**, join us for our annual Christmas Program and Tree Lighting at the Kings Mills Union Hall 3-5 pm. Santa arrives at 4 pm.
- 5th **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
- KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 6th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- WHITEFIELD SCHOOL CONCERT, K-5 AND WHITEFIELD BAND 5-8**, 6:00 pm
- 7th **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm
- WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 6:30 pm
- 8th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- MID-COAST CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT** from 5:30-7 pm, all members are invited to the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Night at Wavus Camp, 88 Wavus Point Road in Jefferson. Join us for drinks and appetizers with fellow members while helping us honor our wonderful volunteers, and getting an update on Midcoast Conservancy's first year. We look forward to celebrating this exciting landmark with all of you! Call or email with any questions: (207) 389-5150 or ali@midcoastconservancy.org
- RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 11th **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 12th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 13th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 15th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 16th **OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 20th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 21st **WINTER SOLSTICE HIKE AND HEARTY SOUP** Kit Pfeiffer of the Whitefield Trails Committee will lead a morning hike on the rerouted Happy Farm River Trail along the Sheepscot River, followed by a Dutch treat lunch at Sheepscot General. A great way to celebrate the official arrival of winter. Meet at the trailhead at the Recycling Center, wear sturdy shoes and layers appropriate for the weather. 10 am—12 pm
- PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 22nd **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 27th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 28th **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 29th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am



Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Central Lincoln County YMCA in Damariscotta is partnering with other community organizations on a Christmas Giving Tree for needy youth in the community. Between December 3 and 14, tags will be available to the public on the Y's tree: wrapped gifts should be returned to the Y no later than December 14. FMI, call the Y at 563-9622.



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