

Enjoy some winter family fun activities in Sandwich

By **DIANE COOK JOHNSON**
Sandwich Correspondent

Game Night

Bring your favorite game, chess board, cribbage board, playing cards for bridge or hearts to the Benz Center at 6 p.m. In Friday evening. Snacks will be provided.

There is no charge to attend and everyone is welcome to come enjoy and evening of games fun and friendship. This is a purely social event to get people out and together on a winter evening. The Board of Deacons at the Federated Church of Sandwich is sponsoring this event.

Call Bill Borrebach (284-6516) or Cindy Handford (284-7066) with questions.

Winter Fun Spaghetti Supper

The 4-H Sewing Group is sponsoring their annual Civil Rights Weekend Spaghetti Supper on Saturday evening, Jan. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sandwich Fire Station.

These suppers are always delicious and the service is efficient, smiling and friendly.

The kids and leaders -Doty Burrows, Joan Wright, and Annette Kelly- work all afternoon cooking homemade sauce, preparing fresh salad, and baking rolls, and desserts.

The supper will benefit the Sandwich Super Sewers 4-H Sewing Club.

2012 International Dinner Series

The 2012 series of International Dinners at the Doris L. Benz Community Center, 18 Heard Road, Center Sandwich, will begin next week. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, Jan. 20: "Iceland-

Along the Ring Road from Keflavik to Vatnajokull"

Presenter, Joan Merri-man. Friday, Feb. 3, "Ireland-Breath-Taking Scenery, Quaint Villages, Haunting Ruins, Splendid Private Homes" Presenter: Debbie Plimmer (Photographer Extraordinaire).

Friday, Feb. 17, "Nepal-Trekking the Beautiful, Remote and Seldom Visited Mustang and Dolpo Wild Areas," presenter-Helen Gingras.

Friday, March 2, "Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula-Rising from the Ruins: Mayan Culture Yesterday and Today," presenters-Betsy Leiper and Nancy Baker.

Social time runs from 6-6:30, appetizers will be served and you are welcome to BYOB.

The programs will run from 6:30-7:15; and dinner will be served at 7:15. Reservations are required! Call early (dinners fill fast and there is often a waiting list) or email: Pam Elliott, Coordinator 284-6623 pelrel61@gmail.com.

Make checks out and mail to: Benz Community Center, PO Box 52, Ctr. Sandwich, NH 03227, or make arrangements to pay at the Door. Payment must be made for all dinners reserved unless a 24-hour cancellation has been received.

These evenings are catered by Don Brown of the Corner House. Meals include delicious Appetizers, dinner and dessert. The Food served will be in keeping with the travel destination of the evening.

Books Sandwiched-In

The Books Sandwiched-In Committee of the Friends of the S.H. Wentworth Library is once again running their winter book review program.

Reviews are every other Monday at noon in the Library's Meeting Room.

The series schedule, which features book reviews presented by local readers, is as follows:

Jan. 16: "The King's Speech: How one Man Saved the British Monar-

chy", by Mark Logue and Peter Conrad. Mark Logue, grandson of the man who helped King George VI overcome a debilitating stutter, had access to his grandfather's scrapbooks, letters and diaries. It is an interesting read and a great piece of history. Reviewer: Mary Mailand.

Jan. 30: "The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson who humanizes history, giving it emotional and psychological depth. She gets inside the heads of people ... and gives readers a penetrating sense of what it felt like to be part of the vast move north. Reviewer: Martha Nichols.

Feb. 13: "People and Places; Connections between the Inner and Outer Landscapes", by John and Margaret Myer who retired to Tamworth in 1996. John, the architect who taught at MIT and Marti, child psychologist, collaborated on this beautifully illustrated book that touches the hearts and minds of readers as it explores the connections between people and places—a ground breaking idea. Reviewer: Peter Wobber.

Feb. 27: "Emperor of All Maladies," by Siddhartha Mukherjee. A physician, oncologist, scientist and writer describes decades of painstaking laboratory investigations with the suspense of a mystery novel and urgency of a thriller. Reviewer: Richard Knox.

March 12, "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention", by Martha Marable. This biography is worth reading as it describes how Malcolm became a world-wide advocate for the oppressed as he pursued his lifelong quest to discern the meaning and substance of faith. Reviewer: Jan Goldman.

Bring a sandwich to eat after the presentation. Hot beverages are provided.

Bad winter weather will postpone programs to the following Monday.

For more information, call Pat Russell at 284-6328 or Angie Morton at 284-7237

Senior Housing Committee Meeting

Members of the community are invited to attend the annual meeting for the Sandwich Senior Housing Committee, Inc., to be held at the Doris L. Benz Community Center on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.

Paul Stewart of Stewart Property Management will present the annual report

for the Village Apartments. The next Quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m.

In addition, the annual meeting for the Doris L. Benz Community Center will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. The first quarterly meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. Election of board members and officers will take place. The annual budget will be approved.

All interested community members are welcome. Questions may be directed to Pam Elliott, Coordinator; at 284-7211, Doris L. Benz Community Center, 18 Heard Road, Center Sandwich, NH.

Fiber Arts Group

Join the Lupine Blossoms Fiber Arts Group every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. to work on your fiber arts projects. All ages and abilities welcome - knitting, crocheting, needle felting, spinning, rug hooking, embroidery, crewel, etc.

Jen Elliott will have her Lupine Blossoms Fiber Arts Shop open for the winter with expanded inventory and opportunities in the front room of Mocha Rizing each Saturday from 10-4.

For questions, call Jen at 603-244-8050.

Federated Church

The Sunday Morning Worship Service of the Federated Church is at 10am at the Methodist Meetinghouse, 6 Main Street, Center Sandwich.

All welcome to listen to an inspiring message and wonderful music.

Rev. Marshall Davis will lead the service and deliver the sermon. Edna Von Saun is the organist and choir director.

Friends Meeting

Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. the North Sandwich Friends gather at the Quaker Meetinghouse which is located at the convergence of Quaker-Whiteface, Fellows Hill, and Stevenson Hill Roads about a half mile up the road from the Durgin Covered Bridge.

Children are welcome and child care is provided.

Sandwich Sidehillers

Winter is here and there

are many ways to get involved.

For information, contact President Adam Peaslee at 651-8091 or secretary Julie Dolan at 284-6206.

Sidehillers Snowshoe Race

The 2012 Sidehillers Snowshoe Race, will be held in conjunction with the Sandwich Winter Carnival, on Jan. 28, 11 a.m.

The race is part of the Granite State and Western Mass Athletic Club series, as well as a qualifier for the National Championships, but don't be intimidated. It is a fun race for snowshoers at all levels.

A limited number of racing snowshoes are available for loan; call to reserve a pair (367-8676). You can register at <http://whitemountainmilers.com/sidehiller/>, or on race day.

If you have questions, contact Paul Kirsch at pkirsch2@gmail.com or 367-8676. In the event of insufficient snow, the race will be a trail run.

Volunteers are needed for the Jan. 28 snowshoe race. People are needed to work the road crossing, keeping the snow on the road in good shape for the racers and managing traffic. The time period is, roughly, 10:15 to 12:45. The race itself will start at 11 a.m. If shoveling snow is not appealing, you can help at registration and the start line, direct runners out on the course, serve soup, or direct people to parking.

Contact Leland Yee at lyee4062@gmail.com or 284-727 if you want to help.

Senior Meals Program Volunteers

Once again the Senior Meals Program is looking for volunteer drivers for the Sandwich Route. Some of the committed volunteers headed south for the winter.

This is a rewarding and much appreciated task. One needs to be at the Moultonboro Lions Club at 10:30 to load up meals and deliver to homes around Sandwich.

The route is about 40 miles, and it finishes up with the return of the insulated carriers to either the Lions Club or the porch at the Benz Center. You are usually finished the route shortly after noon. You will get a complementary meal to enjoy at home.

Sign up for one day a

month or more often.

Contact Donna Grow at the meals site - 476-5110.

A reminder also that Seniors are always welcome at the noontime meal at the Benz Center in Sandwich on Wednesdays. It's an opportunity to socialize as well as experience some good cookin'.

Sandwich Business Group

The annual meeting of the Sandwich Business Group is scheduled for the evening of Jan. 18 at the Corner House. Anyone interested is welcome.

Make reservations by calling Don Brown at 284-6219.

Community Food Center

Soon it will be a new year and there are many in our midst who are struggling with food and heat expenses.

The Community Food Center at St. Andrews in the Valley can help a lot of these people stretch their food dollars. If you have non-perishable food items you wish to share you may leave them at the Sandwich Town Hall during office hours or call to have donations picked-up.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Connie Cunningham at cmc03227@yahoo.com or 284-7778.

Sandwich 4-H

All youths who will be 5 by Jan. 1, 2012, and not yet 19 by the same date may enroll for the 2011/2012 4-H year. You can get information on joining or helping with Club Sandwich 4-H by calling Diane Johnson at 284-7168 or emailing club-sandwich4h@hotmail.com Information on 4-H in New in New Hampshire and nationally can be found at <http://extension.unh.edu>;

Most 4-H forms and information sheets can also be downloaded from the website.

The UNH Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office contact information is as follows: UNH Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office, 73 Main St., PO Box 1480, Conway, NH 03818 Phone: 603-447-3834 or 1-800-322-4166 (NH only). Fax: 447-5192 Office Hours: 8 - 4:30, Monday - Friday. Claes Thelemarck is the 4-H Educator.

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A high regard for 'Political Suicide'

I guess I haven't done a review of a theatrical event for *The Citizen* for perhaps 25 years — probably "Wizard of Oz" by Streetcar in 1987 — but I have one for you now that you *have* to go see.

"Political Suicide," four short plays written and directed by Ernest Thompson — he also acts in three of them — is playing at Pitman's Freight Room on New Salem Street, Laconia, through Feb. 12.

Don't put it off until then. You can catch the show Fridays and Saturdays at 8 or Sundays at 2 p.m., the weekends of Jan. 13-15 and Feb. 3-5 and 10-12. You may want to go back and see it again.

This is professional theater — professionally written, professionally acted, witty, funny and poignant.

I won't go into the subject matter beyond the obvious, indicated by the title, so as not to give away any of the surprises. But I guarantee you will be captivated by each of the stories — and perhaps challenged.

Yes, there is a bit of "adult language" here and there, but I think that even your middle-schoolers can handle that, thank you very much.

Although Thompson is the only actor appearing courtesy of the Actor's Equity Association, his castmates are certainly up to that organization's high standards. Austine Howard, Pat Langille, Evan Clinton and Meredith Imbimbo (in order of appearance, of course) are also wonderful, believable, credible.

I am reminded of the days of Alton Wilkes' Lakes Region Playhouse, which entertained us so well from 1950 to the early 1980s. In fact, Thompson even makes a curtain speech reminiscent of those of Wilkes over at the old barn in Gilford.

Quite a lot of material has appeared in the press about Ernest Thompson, who "has performed on Broadway and in theatres on both coasts, starred on two TV series and appeared in numerous



Warren Huse
An Occasional Opinion*

films." And, "as a writer, his work includes the plays *On Golden Pond*, which he directed last summer in Whitebridge Farm Productions' very successful run at the Little Church Theatre in Holderness, and which has been translated into 28 languages and been produced in more than 40 countries."

Yes, I'm cribbing from the show's souvenir program which, by the way, is one of the more literate I've encountered.

Another of the actors is Evan Clinton, born in Laconia but who has lived in Moultonborough for most of his life, graduating from Moultonborough Academy in 2007. His portrayal of a student activist/demonstrator is totally convincing and the final sentence in that scene is a tour de force for Thompson, both as writer and actor.

Austine Howard, a co-founder of the Little Church Theater, shows true stage presence in her characters,

as do Meredith Imbimbo and Pat Langille. Of Imbimbo, a recent graduate of Franklin Pierce University, the program advises to "catch her daily performances at Hanaford Supermarket."

Langille has acted professionally in the New England area since 2007, including "a stint this summer playing M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse."

Hope I've convinced you that we have a real treasure in Whitebridge Farm productions. Go see "Political Suicide" now before it decamps to Broadway, off or off-off.

The box office for this show is a one-woman cell phone, 603-744-3652, which will instruct you to leave your name and phone number. My experience was a return call within a couple of minutes from co-Producer Lori Gigliotti Murphy. Couldn't ask for anything better than that.

*with apologies to the late Alfred D. Rosenblatt, whose column of the same name ran in *The Citizen* in the early 1960s. Huse compiles the weekly *Lakes History* page which appears on Saturdays.

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