



# BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN EVENT OR CLASSIFIED FOR THE BARNSTEAD BANNER, PLEASE EMAIL [DANIELLE@OSCARFOSS.ORG](mailto:DANIELLE@OSCARFOSS.ORG) WITH THE DETAILS.

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## Holiday Shopping for Dummies

by Kristina Schram

No, this is not a shopping guide for bad shoppers. This is a plea for help. I need a how-to guide on being a successful shopper. Full disclosure: I don't like shopping in general. Not grocery shopping, clothes shopping, bra shopping, husband shopping, or-big shudder-car shopping. But the hardest shopping for me is when I have to buy people holiday gifts. To be clear, it's not the giving, it's the finding, and for so many people at once! I have four males to shop for, and now a couple of their girlfriends, and when I press my sons for ideas or details on their significant other's likes and dislikes, I get a blank look, or a "I'll get back to you" and then they never do. You can add my mother to the hard-to-shop-for list, because she doesn't want any more stuff (but is apparently quite happy to give me the stuff she no longer wants, and which I don't want, either).

Then there's my youngest sister, who lives far away and for whom paying for shipping requires taking out a second mortgage, leaving no money for the gift. The struggle is real, people.

I know there are nutters humans out there who actually enjoy shopping, but I don't get why. Do they look at it as a treasure hunt? A challenge? I see it as an exercise in futility. Because this is how it usually goes down when I go shopping for others...I get something I think the person will like, only to discover they: a. already bought it for themselves; b. are no longer interested in that sort of thing (since, like, forever, Mom! read: last week); c. are not the person I was thinking of when I selected the item; or d. the item was actually something I wanted for myself. Sigh.

This is why I prefer to do stuff for people as my way of acknowledging how much they mean to me. Something special. You can probably guess what this means for my husband. Wait, what? No! I'm talking about making him his favorite Beanie Weenies dish, which I refuse to prepare more than twice a year (Father's Day and his birthday) because it's basically a heart attack in a pot (and probably why it's so dang delicious). For my kids, well, I did give them the gift of life and my presence in that life, so that should be enough. They probably wouldn't agree with that statement, but they would be wrong.

I know what some of you are going to say...just don't do a gift exchange anymore. Spending time with your loved ones should be gift enough. Ha, ha, ha! Problem solved! Ha, ha, ha! No! Problem not solved! Because I really like getting presents. Especially ones I selected myself, then hand to my husband to give me months later for my birthday/Mother's Day/holidays, so it's a surprise (and since my memory is but a distant memory, it really is a surprise). So yeah. I guess what it comes down to is that I do like shopping, but only for fun stuff for myself. Hmm. I'm not sure what that says about me. However, using this system is a win-win for both me and my husband, so I'm not going to delve too deeply into my character flaws.

If anyone has suggestions on how to be a better shopper for others, which don't involve actually having to shop, I am all ears. Until then, I guess I'll have to keep trying to find that perfect gift for others. Or better yet, maybe I'll just give everyone on my list a big ol' pot of Beanie Weenies.

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## My Mother's Christmas Memory

Denise Adjutant, President, Barnstead Historical Society

My mother was born in 1939. My grandfather had left the horrors of Europe to follow my grandmother to Boston. They married and bought the property I now call home—a farm with a rich history in this part of town. My grandmother knew very little about farming life, having been raised in the city. She had a music degree from Boston University and ration stamps that provided fuel for her to teach music in four towns.

My grandfather's English was not easily understood by many, and his farming skills—other than a love for all animals—were also limited. Times were tough for many, coming out of the Great Depression. Buying this property just months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor must have been more than daunting.

Christmas in those days was not like it is now. Gifts were sparse. My mother often told of one Christmas when her gift was two packing crates my grandfather had obtained from Pittsfield Box, where he worked when he could. He nailed the two crates together, painted them a rather odd shade of pink (and trust me, I love my pink, but this one—not so much). That, along with a stocking containing one orange, a pair of mittens knitted by my grandmother, and a handful of nuts, was Christmas that year. I still have those nailed-together crates and use them to store my own treasures—hummingbird feeders these days—just like my mother did all those years ago.

As you are making your Christmas memories this year, remember that sometimes, simpler is better.

### 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.*

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH BARNSTEAD - UCC

504 N. Barnstead Rd. Center, Barnstead, NH  
[ccnorthbarnstead.com](http://ccnorthbarnstead.com)

**Worship with us in-person  
or join on Zoom at 10am**

### BARNSTEAD PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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

## The Thrill of Hope

by Sam McKeen

Hope—a simple word yet filled with profound meaning. Hope is powerful, shaping the way we see the world and the choices we make. It is an essential part of every person's life. But what do you place your hope in?

Relationships? Family? Your career? Your health? Your wealth?

These arenas of hope can bring great joy and fulfillment, yet they can also lead to heartache and despair. A broken relationship. The death of a loved one. The loss of a job. A cancer diagnosis. A bad financial investment. These moments remind us that many of the things we place our hope in are fragile, temporary, and not guaranteed.

When we speak of hope, we often mean it as a desire or a wish. We hope our favorite team wins the game. We hope for health and healing. A child hopes to find a special gift under the Christmas tree.

But have you considered another kind of hope? A hope that isn't a fleeting wish but a certainty, a promise that transforms how we endure life's challenges. This is the hope of Christmas—a hope anchored in the timeless story of God's love for humanity.

One of the most beloved Christmas carols, O Holy Night, beautifully captures this deeper hope. The line "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices" specifically reminds us of the profound joy that true hope can bring.

Composed in France in 1847 and later translated into English by John Sullivan Dwight in 1855, O Holy Night became more than just a Christmas song—it became an anthem of hope. Dwight, a music critic, Unitarian minister and passionate abolitionist, emphasized the themes of freedom and divine love in his translation, making the carol a rallying cry for the abolitionist movement during the era of the Civil War.

This song's beautiful melody, powerful lyrics, and message of hope continued to inspire as it became the first song ever broadcast on the radio. On Christmas Eve in 1906, Reginald Fessenden read the nativity story from the Gospel of Luke and played O Holy Night on his violin, sharing its message of hope with those listening.

The hope described in O Holy Night isn't fleeting or conditional. It points to the Christmas story—the birth of Jesus Christ in a humble manger in Bethlehem. His arrival brought hope that endures. The hope of Christmas is rooted in God's love for the world, demonstrated through Jesus Christ's sacrificial act.

This is a hope independent of circumstances, wealth, or relationships. It withstands loss, pain, and uncertainty. "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices," invites us all to share in that hope—a hope that offers peace and joy regardless of life's storms.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us take a moment to reflect on where we place our hope. The hope of Christmas is a certainty we can count on, a thrill that causes the weary world to rejoice. No matter what this year has brought, may the hope of Christmas fill our hearts with peace, joy, and love.



**CENTER BARNSTEAD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

[www.centerbarnsteadcc.org](http://www.centerbarnsteadcc.org)



*Barnstead Historical Society*

**Christmas Sale**

Saturday, December 7, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Barnstead Town Hall  
108 South Barnstead Road

*Twisted Pines Farm  
MJ Michael Photography  
Sew-Fly's Unique Boutique  
Mary Locke's Baked Goods & Crafts  
Savannah Fijfield Crafts  
JLF Embroidery  
Ann Watson's Bows & Crafts  
Mary Conton's Hand-Sewn Crafts  
Congregational Church of North Barnstead  
Barnstead Old Home Day  
Tiede Farms Smokehouse*

*Historical Society Books  
Soup & Chowder  
Raffle Prizes*



# December Library Happenings



**Good to Know Info:** We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (12/12). We will also be closed Tuesday, 12/24, and Wednesday, 12/25, for Christmas, and the following Tuesday, 12/31, and Wednesday, 1/1/25, for New Year's. Last but not least, there will be a special Storytime with Santa on 12/18!

Do you like animals? Especially cute ones? Well, look no further. "Pets of OFML" calendars are now available at the library for the low, low price of \$14. You can buy one for yourself, but they would also make a great gift for your pet loving friends and family! Extra bonus: Proceeds from our calendar sales go to fund library programs.

**NEW! Home School Group:** Join us Fridays from 10:30-12:00 for a mix of stories, simple science/learning activities, and a creative art/craft activity that all go along with a theme for the week. The activities are geared towards kids ages 4 and up, and younger siblings are welcome to come along. There will be an event posted ahead of time on our Facebook group for each weekly meet-up, so you'll always know what to expect and if you need to bring anything.

**Music and Movement Storytime, aka Littles Love to Learn!** Join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 for an interactive storytime filled with stories, songs, and loads of sensory play designed specifically for toddlers.

Every Wednesday at 10:30 is **Children's Storytime**. Yes, you heard that right. Every Wednesday! Visit us at the library for stories, crafts, and singing. Then experience the cozy ambience in the children's area, which has all sorts of neat things to do. Make new friends. Set up playdates. Check out books, movies, and games, play with the trains, Legos, and puppets. Come for the learning, stay for the fun!

Start your week off with **Yoga Monday!** Gentle Hatha-Flow runs from 10:15-11:40, Senior/Beginner/Chair Yoga is 12:00-1:00, and Intermediate Hatha-Flow lasts from 5:30-6:50. Classes are by donation (suggested \$8). All are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of ability to donate.



Our Meet and Read Book Club (ages 18+) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (12/4, from 6:00-7:30), in the library's Meeting Room. This month's book will be "Yellowface" by R.F. Kuang. Next month's book will be "The Art Forger" by Barbara Shapiro. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend! Please Note: Due to the holiday, there will be a temporary change of dates for January's meeting to Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Want to frost cookies like a pro? Thursday, Dec. 5, from 4:00-5:30, join Leah Whitney from Cookie Bear Baking LLC for a festive and fun hands-on workshop where you'll learn the art of decorating holiday-themed cookies! We'll start with the basics of frosting and then dive into decorating your own cookies with festive designs. Whether you're a newbie or a cookie decorating expert, you'll leave with skills and cookies that look (and taste) amazing! This is a popular one, folks, so registration is required.

Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 5:00-7:00, we are hosting a Holiday Card-Making Workshop! 'Tis the season for getting crafty. Get into the festive spirit and unleash your creativity by crafting your own unique holiday cards to share with your loved ones. We'll provide all the supplies—paper, embellishments, stamps, and more!

On Friday, Dec. 13, from 5:00-7:00, Oscar's Elves are in the house! We are here to help with all of your holiday wrapping needs. We will have wrapping paper, tags, bags, and ribbon for all of your presents. Bring in your gifts to have them wrapped while you check out what the library has to offer. The wrapping (and rapping) is free, but you're more than welcome to give a donation to the library to be used to fund future programming (and maybe singing lessons).

Join the Senior Social Club, a program designed to provide 65+ adults with fun and engaging activities that foster community and relationship building. Each session will focus on different activities, including arts and crafts, storytelling, and technology workshops. The club will meet the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00 (12/17). Light refreshments will be served.

**NEW!** The Tight-Knit Knitting and Crocheting Circle is here. Knitters and crocheters come together to work on your projects, discuss any technical difficulties you're having, and support one another. The group typically meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 in the library meeting room, but with Christmas this month, the date has been rescheduled to Tuesday, Dec. 17.

The OFML Sewcial Club meets the 3rd Wednesday (12/18) of the month from 12:30-3:30. Guests can bring any sewing or quilting project they are working on (along with their sewing machines and supplies) to the library to socialize and share tips while they sew.

Family Crafternoon is a family-focused event that happens every third Friday of the month (12/20). Join us for a special time of 1:00 (due to early release at BES) as we make a holiday treat and watch a movie. Materials will be provided and light refreshments served.

On Friday, Dec. 20, from 6:30-8:00, join us for Books & Banter! This lively book club is open to everyone and invites you to share and explore a wide range of genres—everything from non-fiction to horror to romantasy! Feel free to come ready to discuss up to three books you've recently read, giving a brief synopsis to spark conversation. It's a fantastic way to discover new titles and engage with fellow book lovers. Whether you're a seasoned reader or just looking to explore new genres, there's a place for you here. Don't miss out on the fun—come share your thoughts, learn about new books, and enjoy a cozy evening of discussion. We can't wait to see you!

Let's Write a Novel! Join us in the library's meeting room for a series of structured classes on the how-to's of writing a book. NOTE: We typically meet from 6:00-7:30 on the last Friday of the month, but due to the holiday, we will meet on Friday, Dec. 20, instead. Budding writers, 16 and older, ignite your passion for storytelling, discover how to build your hero's journey, and take your novel from concept to can-do! This structured course includes sessions on creating: Chapter Cheat Sheets, Character Cards, and a Tracking the Timeline graph. We welcome all genres from Fantasy to Action Adventure to Romance, focusing on a target audience of Middle School and above.

On Friday, Dec. 27, from 3:00-5:00, we are having a Teen/Tween Friendship Bracelets & Bead Animals Crafting event! Join us for a cozy afternoon of friendship bracelet making and bead animal crafting while we watch the classic holiday movie, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." Whether you're a bracelet pro or a crafting newbie, come hang out with friends, create something awesome, and enjoy some holiday cheer!

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



PUBLIC NOTICE  
 OSCAR FOSS MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
 DECEMBER 11, 2024 6:00PM - 7:00PM  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 202-A:4-C BY THE OSCAR FOSS MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES.  
 THE PURPOSE OF THIS HEARING IS TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE RECEIPT OF, AND TO ACCEPT, A DONATION OF \$5,000 FROM THE ESTATE OF GRACE MERRILL. THE FUNDS WILL BE USED TOWARDS SUMMER READING PROGRAMS AND TO BUILD STORAGE SHELVES IN THE MEETING ROOM TO HOLD THE SUPPLIES FOR OUR MAKER SPACE AND CRAFT ITEMS.

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**Barnstead Community Transportation Needs Survey**

The Barnstead Helpers are looking for solutions to help meet the transportation needs of our community. To better understand what the specific needs are, we are asking anyone who has unmet transportation needs or is interested in helping to solve this issue to please complete to the survey using the link or QR code below. If you would rather complete a paper version you can do so at Oscar Foss Memorial Library.

<https://tinyurl.com/Transportation-Needs>



**Barnstead Elementary School Volunteer Opportunity and Warm Clothing Drive**

Barnstead Elementary School is excited to welcome volunteers back into the school! We are looking for individuals who would like to support our teachers during the school day. Volunteer opportunities include helping in the classroom or assisting with tasks outside the classroom, such as making photocopies, sitting with students in the lunchroom, or supervising outdoor recess. To volunteer, you must complete the Volunteer Registration Form at BES and undergo a background check. Please visit the school to begin this process.

We are also hosting a Warm Clothing Drive from November 15 through December 3, 2024. We are collecting new or gently used coats, snow pants, and boots in both youth and adult sizes. Donations can be dropped off at the main office.

For any questions about volunteering or the clothing drive, please contact Barnstead Elementary School's social worker, Caitlin Cormier, at (603) 269-5161 ext. 4216 or [ccormier@mybes.org](mailto:ccormier@mybes.org).



**Holiday Family Concert in Barnstead on Saturday, December 7 at 4 PM**

It's getting cold, and there is frost on the pumpkins, so it must be time for Maine music luminaries Joyce Andersen and Harvey Reid to return to Barnstead and share their Christmas music with us. This is the 24th year they have presented their unique Christmas show to New England communities. Their concert for us last year was a great success, and we invite you to make it a family tradition.

Join us at the Congregational Church of North Barnstead (504 North Barnstead Road) on Saturday, December 7 at 4 PM. The suggested donation is \$15 or \$25 for families.


Joyce Andersen and Harvey Reid have been making music professionally their entire lives. Both have toured extensively across the country and abroad, earning a long list of awards and recognition for their distinctive and deeply rooted Americana music. They play folk, country, bluegrass, blues, Celtic, and even some classical music.

They will ride their musical sleigh effortlessly across genres and centuries—from banjos to blues to Beethoven, from elves to Elvis, and from wise men and camels to Willie Nelson and reindeer.

It will be a great way to start the Christmas season!



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Contact the Friends Program to see if you qualify for this unique opportunity:

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FGP@FriendsProgram.org  
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\* This program is made possible in part through funding by the NH Department of Health and Human Services.

## Community Events

**Board of Selectmen Meetings** will be Tuesday 11/12 and Tuesday 11/26 beginning at 5:00 PM at the Barnstead Town Hall.

**Barnstead Against Bullying** is a parent run and sponsored group that meets at the library on 11/5 at 6PM.

**Alcoholics Anonymous meetings** are held Tuesday evenings at 7 PM at the Center Barnstead Christian Church.

**JMA School Board Meeting** 11/19 at 6:00 PM at Prospect Mountain High School.

**Adult Game Night:** Sponsored by Barnstead Parks and Recreation on Monday 11/11 at 6PM at the Barnstead Town Hall.

**BES School Board Meeting** 11/25 at 6:00 PM at Barnstead Elementary School.

**BES PTO:** 11/14 at 6PM at Barnstead Elementary School.

**Holiday Family Concert:** December 7th, 4pm, Congregational Church of North Barnstead, 504 North Barnstead Road

**Children's Christmas Pageant:** December 15th, 10 am, Congregational Church of North Barnstead

**Christmas Candlelight Service:** Friday, December 20th from 7pm – 8pm. Center Barnstead Christian Church invites you to experience a joyful and reflective Christmas Candlelight Service.

**Christmas Origins: Thursday, December 19th from 7pm – 8pm at Oscar Foss Memorial Library.** Join us for an interactive presentation that will explore the origins of Christmas and discover how the traditions and festivities that we celebrate came about. Together we will unravel the many myths and mysteries around how Christmas began and evolved into the holiday that we are familiar with today. You may be surprised by what you discover! Presenter - Sam McKeen from Center Barnstead Christian Church.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship:** 7pm, Congregational Church of North Barnstead



# JEANNIE'S RECIPE CORNER



## MAPLE GLAZED RIBS



### Ingredients:

3 lbs pork country or spareribs  
cut into serving size pieces

1 cup maple syrup

3 Tbs orange juice  
concentrate

3 Tbs ketchup

2 tbs soy sauce

1 Tbs dijon mustard

1 Tbs worcestershire  
sauce

1 tsp curry powder

1 clove garlic, minced

2 green onions, minced

1 Tbs sesame seeds,  
toasted

### Directions:

- Place ribs, meaty side up, on a rack in a greased 13 x 9 baking dish.
- Cover pan tightly with foil and bake at 350 degrees for an hour and 14 minutes.
- Combine the rest of the ingredients (minus the sesame seeds) in a sauce pan. Bring to a boil over medium heat.
- Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Drain ribs, remove rack, and return ribs to the pan.
- Cover with sauce and bake uncovered for 35 minutes, basting occasionally.
- Sprinkle with sesame just before serving. Serves 6.
- Serve with rice or noodles, a green vegetable and fresh apple sauce.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Be happy, be healthy and be safe,

Jeannie