



Photo by Ann Paulson

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LET THE SEASON BEGIN

"Withstanding the cold develops vigor for the relaxing days of spring and summer. Besides, in this matter as in many others, it is evident that nature abhors a quitter." Arthur C. Crandall, *New England Joke Lore: The Tonic of Yankee Humor*

And so it is, winter in New England, and it is December.

No matter how prepared one is mentally, those first few days of freezing temperatures catch one unaware. Hats, gloves, boots; everything takes more time in the winter.

Being mindful to take extra time to walk slowly and carefully can prevent a fall.

The penguin walk (taking small shuffling steps), using walking polls, adding cleats to boots, are all fine strategies.

When pacing ourselves, we are then given the opportunity to admire the stark beauty of the season. We can express gratitude for all we

have, what we have accomplished and overcome, for our loved ones near and far, and for those we have lost.

May we pause a moment this December, with the joy of the season before us , for the folks at HPCA to wish and express our thanks, our gratitude, and our warmest wishes to Jean, Linda, Ann, Chris, Kevin, and Josh for all work that was done for us during the year.



HILLTOP EVENTS

Hot off THE press from Linda Colby: **DECK HALLS!** The elves at Hilltop are busy planning two functions for December.

The annual HOLIDAY GALA will be held on Saturday Dec. 11th with the festivities starting at 5 PM.

A holiday beverage and soda will be provided, or bring a libation of your choice. SANTA, who has been dieting all year, will be sitting in his sleigh, so bring an appetizer to help him on his way!

Please help the Committee be prepared by using the sign-up sheet located on the Desk in the Hilltop Lobby. We ask for your response by Thursday December 9th. Holiday attire suggested.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The AULD LANG SYNE GATHERING will take place in Hilltop House on December 31st from 5-7 PM

Complimentary Egg Nog and soda will be available for your pleasure or bring a beverage of your choice. A simple appetizer is also greatly appreciated.

This event has become a popular way for Hilltop folks to get together and look forward to the new year. As other gatherings are going on as well, we hope you stop by for a quick visit or stay as you are able.

Again please help us to plan by using the sign up sheet in the lobby.—One year we made an emergency egg nog run, but we had a great time!

Our Hilltop neighbors on the House Committee wish to thank you for your participation at our past events and are looking forward to sponsoring a variety of new programs in the coming year. We appreciate your ideas and input. See you next year!!





The holiday season is a good time to think about the past and share some memories that may resonate with book lovers.

I discovered the public library in my town at an early age, impressed by its outward stone solidity, then lured by the anticipation of reading countless books. It was here that I discovered Sherlock Holmes, reading the complete series during one summer vacation. But don't think it was easy for a ten year old to navigate the process of taking out a library card. I can best describe the atmosphere by asking you to imagine that you are walking into Tracy Memorial Library to an unnerved silence. No warm greetings, no offers of help. One tight-lipped librarian stands guard behind her desk, ready to silence any stray conversation. The books were hidden from view in the stacks behind her desk, frustrating young book lovers eager for a new reading adventure.

But that's past history. Time to look to a future chock full of books, books, and more books! Hopefully Santa will fill your stocking with several. Happy Holidays! And a blessed healthy New Year to you, Fay!

Fay loves to share her enthusiasm for interesting books you have read. Please leave any interesting information in her cubby #36.

Through The Year

