

Farm Museum

Continued from Page E4

like The Cottage Hearth and Godey's Lady's Book, which offered women tips on holiday home decorating.

Dried flowers and "pyramids of fruit" would adorn the dinner table in the 19th century, and the possibilities were endless.

"This was a particularly well-loved kind of decoration for the dining table. I have done in the past pyramids, triangular shaped pyramids of fresh apples. I have done oranges. I have done lemons — any kind of fruit that you could form into a pyramid. I've done a cone of all dried fruits. I've done them with two or three colors of grapes formed into a cone and frosted. We've decorated with all kinds of dried flowers, which children have dried during the summer," Chase said.

And the food would be plentiful. The Jones dinner table would have also featured a small woodland creature, in a way. "The dining room table is set with all kinds of food. We have a hedgehog made of cheese. It's a hedgehog and it's actually made of cheese. It has almonds in it to look like a hedgehog."

Homemade gifts, games

Chase said making and giving homemade Christmas gifts was another popular activity. Some are considered eccentric in today's world, such as handy items like a cloth broom cover.

"It has fringe on it. And you cover your broom with it and use it to dust cobwebs. But it's convenient because you can remove the cover and wash it," she said, laughing.

Other gifts were also considered "useful."

"Useful things like a pen wiper. I mean everyone needs a pen wiper. The kids (on the tour), they don't have any idea what you're talking about. So we have a little pen wiper shaped like a glove. It's with an old

"This was a particularly well-loved kind of decoration for the dining table. I have done in the past pyramids, triangular shaped pyramids of fresh apples. I have done oranges. I have done lemons — any kind of fruit that you could form into a pyramid."

CAROLYN CHASE
N.H. Farm Museum role player

Victorian pen and a bottle of ink. They're odd kinds of things. We wouldn't think of them as being anything wonderful today, but people made their gifts for each other."

And other gifts were more quaint and nostalgic, such as things made from old Christmas postcards.

Playing Victorian parlor games, children's crafts, and snacking on homemade goodies like gingerbread and hot cider, made in the farmhouse kitchen, was another Christmas activity replicated on the farm.

"There are lots of special foods and traditions we share with people. We play a kind of game that was typical to play at Christmas. We do these charades and riddles."

A relatively "modern" kitchen at the farm will resemble Christmas in the 1940s.

"When they get out to the newer kitchen, which is actually from the 1940s, they will be frosting Christmas cookies and eating them, of course, with cider. So they'll also learn a little bit about how Christmas was celebrated in the 1940s when the family was still living there."

Chase said the Jones Farm Christmas tree has special significance.

"We're proud of our tree because the first President to ever have a Christmas

tree in the White House was Franklin Pierce from New Hampshire. Most of the ornaments are homemade," said.

And it's lit with candles, as it would have been in before the age of electricity.

"The tree is of course lit by candles, and in case anyone is concerned, we always keep a pail of water and a broom near the tree in case it catches fire," she said.

Hotchkiss, who started at the museum as a volunteer and role player, said new to the farm this year are tractor-drawn rides from May through November.

"We have several tractors that were donated to the farm. We added wagons to them, so we give tractor drawn rides throughout the farm, from the Jones to the Plummer homestead, so that they can see the cows, pigs the sheep, the goats, the chickens and so on."

Another new addition is the John York apple cider mill, now open for tours and interpretations.

"A Victorian Christmas" at the New Hampshire Farm Museum is Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The New Hampshire Farm Museum is at 1305 White Mountain Highway, Milton. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children, and museum members can get in for free. For more information, visit www.farmmuseum.org, or call 652-7840.



COURTESY

New Hampshire guitarist Ed Gerhard (center of photo) posted this picture on his Facebook page on Nov. 7 after finishing up a concert tour in Japan.

Feel restored, comforted at Christmas Guitar Concert

■ **Ed Gerhard:** New Hampshire guitarist will perform 35th annual concerts on Dec. 2 in Laconia and Dec. 15-16 in Portsmouth.

By **ROB LEVEY**
Special to the Union Leader

For Grammy Award-winning guitarist Ed Gerhard, music possesses a raw power to convey emotions that might otherwise be difficult to express in words, which makes his annual Christmas Guitar Concerts so special.

"There really is something so special about this time of year that does make us soften up a little bit," he said.

Performing in Laconia on Dec. 2 and Portsmouth on Dec. 15 and 16, Gerhard will use a variety of different instruments, which range from a 6-string, 12-string and slide guitar to an acoustic Hawaiian lap slide. Noting he will mostly play holiday music along with some of his own arrangements to provide "a little bit of contrast," his hope is that people who attend his concerts feel restored. To achieve this goal, he lets his instruments speak for themselves.

"With any instrument, I try to focus on what I feel is essential and what will directly communicate musical value," he said. "I focus on the tone and phrasing and some of the more persuasive communicative elements rather than a million notes. The sound of the instruments are very important."

He said people are generally mesmerized by the sound(s) produced by his acoustic Hawaiian lap slide.

"It has a haunting sound — people go crazy over it," he said. "It has a very expressive sound. You don't have to do much. The sound of the instrument conveys a whole lot."

A resident of Strafford who performs all over the world, Gerhard said any concert — whether in Portsmouth or Tokyo, Japan — represents an intimate experi-

ence, one in which he considers himself a servant. It is a philosophy that has evolved over the decades when his initial focus as a young man was to define his guitar and his role.

"You experience (concerts) as a performer and listener," he said. "Once I began focusing on the audience and paying attention to the communicative aspect, I saw myself as a performer in a service role. I'm there for the listeners."

For Gerhard, his responsibility to the audience begins the moment he walks out on stage.

"You are often taught and told to get people's attention at first," he said. "I try to honor that attention by playing something interesting and perhaps stirring that provokes some kind of emotional response. I try to create an emotional climate when I first walk out and play to draw people close."

Gerhard said he embraces the juxtaposition of playing in urban areas one day and returning to his home one mile down a dirt road the next day.

"I love the pace of things here," said Gerhard, who moved to New Hampshire in 1977. "I love playing in Tokyo one day and being surrounded by silence and wild animals the day after," he said. "They are pretty divergent concepts."

Gerhard said he hopes people feel a sense of peace and tranquility at his annual Christmas concerts.

"I hope people feel restored," he said. "I see it as we all have a comforting arm around each other's shoulders. There really is a wonderful sense of peace that happens at the show. It is a vital experience. Doing these concerts has taught me as much about music as anything else."

In the spirit of the season, people are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit Seacoast Family Food Pantry, and they will receive a \$1-off coupon for any CD available for purchase at the shows.

For concert dates, times and prices, along with information on his upcoming album, visit www.virtuerecords.com.

"I hope people feel restored. I see it as we all have a comforting arm around each other's shoulders. There really is a wonderful sense of peace that happens at the show."

ED GERHARD

Performing three Christmas Guitar Concerts in New Hampshire

Holiday events around the Granite State

Manchester Downtown Holiday Market

Shop more than 50 booths with fare from local craftsmen and artisans at Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester.

Market hours are Thursdays, Nov. 30, and Dec. 7 and 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, Dec. 9 and 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visit www.intownmanchester.com for more information.

Manchester Christmas Parade

The annual Manchester Christmas Parade will step off at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. This year's theme is "Light Up the Holidays!" Visit www.intownmanchester.com for more information.

Nashua's Winter Holiday Stroll

Nashua's 24th Annual Winter Holiday Stroll! kicks off at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 24, with a candlelit procession up Main Street from City Hall to Railroad Square where the City's official Christmas tree is lit. Much of the downtown is closed to traffic for the evening, so even after the tree lighting Strollers can enjoy the live entertainment, sample offerings from street vendors, dine in downtown's fine restaurants and Shop Small at our unique specialty shops and boutiques.

Visit downtownnashua.org to learn more.

Christmas in Wolfeboro Parade

The annual Christmas in Wolfeboro Parade departs Brewster Memorial Field, traveling North on Main Street, at 3 p.m. on

Saturday, Nov. 25.

Santa Claus travels in the parade and will use his magic to light the Community Christmas Tree after the parade, immediately followed by the opening of Santa's Hut for visits with Santa.

Visit www.wolfborochochamber.com to learn more.

Exeter Holiday House Tour

The 2017 Exeter Holiday House Tour will run from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. Enjoy touring five of Exeter's beautiful homes, all professionally decorated for the holidays by local designers. This year organizers have added a bonus stop, The Folsom Tavern at the American Independence Museum will also be decorated and open to tour. All proceeds benefit Womenade of Greater Squamscott.

Visit www.exeterareahousetour.com for more details or to purchase tickets.

Christmas at Canterbury

Christmas at Canterbury is a chance to experience the delights of Christmas in a simpler era. Join us inside the historic Shaker buildings to watch an old-time 19th Century magic show, meet Father Christmas, make Christmas crackers, decorate cookies, admire a toy train display or listen to fiddlers.

The event will run from 3 to 8 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 9 and 16, at Canterbury Shaker Village.

Visit www.shakers.org for ticket prices and more information.

* Fine Jewelry * Ornaments * Leather * Stained Glass * Calligraphy * Folk Art * Doll Clothes

The Crafters are BACK at the Castleberry Faire!

Craft Festival

A Thanksgiving Weekend Tradition

Shriner's Auditorium * Wilmington, MA

Friday November 24 9am to 5pm	Saturday November 25 10am to 5pm	Sunday November 26 10am to 5pm
--	---	---

American Made Arts, Crafts, Food & Music!

Admission \$8.00 Adult * Under 14 FREE
SAVE \$2.00 WITH THIS COUPON * Limit 6 people per coupon

One Admission Good for all 3 Days! castleberryfairs.com

GPS Location: 99 Fordham Rd., Wilmington, MA • From 93 Take Exit 39

* Herbal Dips * Quilts * Fragrance * Wearable Art * Tapestry * Dried Floral * Pewter * UL

MANCHESTER Music Mill

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

SAVE 10-60% ON EVERYTHING IN STORE!

Shop early for Best Prices & Selection!

Complete Guitar Packages

as low as **\$79!**

Guitar Stands \$5 each!
Unlimited Quantity

New Snark and D'addario tuners \$10!

Complete drum sets from Ludwig \$329!

Digital 88 Key Pianos starting at \$379!

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE! TOO MANY TO LIST!

MANCHESTER Music Mill

Sale Hours: Fri & Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 10am-5pm
329 Elm Street, Manchester, NH
manchestermusicmill.com • 603.623.8022