

~ A Wintry Tale ~

By George Arndt

Edited by Barbara Sherburne

The snow had started falling early that February morn. It came in on the nor'east wind, like blistering shards of frozen wings. Winds that spared no earthly thing, nor cared what lay in its wake. Ice-encrusted fluttering flakes...danced like glistening crystal doves. Blustery gales a-howling -- from the valleys of sprawling glaciers, bouncing from the fore-boding mountain crests...gave no hope to those who dared to smirk at its might.

The old lady and her bedraggled mate shivered alone in that creaky abode. Their only warmth was each other now - and as the dwindling embers from the hearth were slowly dying, came the deepening sense of hopelessness, and the reality of mortality.

Cry -- she dared not, indeed, for such pittance of wretched human feelings would bring not a miracle, but the show of frailty of this forsaken pair.

The strength of the roaring winter fiend rose again to claim its privileged crown of frost and ice. As if its reason was merciless hate, came again with bony fingers stretching 'cross the lonely plane... piling snow against itself, along each edge of its domain. Neither bird nor beast could be seen 'round the blanket of white that covered acres and acres of this forgotten Montana farm.

There seemed no end, not the least reprise, from winter's frigid grip...as all hope, it seemed, was surely fading fast for these two solitary folk. With what strength this creaky dame possessed, lifted her tiny frame and mate from off the bench...bashed the remaining wooden seat into splintered rays of glimmering hope. Tossed into the fire pit ever so sparingly -- piece by piece as she held tightly to her chattering man. Watched and smiled as the fire glowed red, and then too soon -- it was dead.. Praying now was all they had for any semblance of warmth...just enough to keep them from freezing there on the weathered floor.

"Luke...get over here."

Did she dare to think she heard a voice...someone's voice outside their battered door?

"I think there's someone inside."

She strained to listen...how could this be...who could be out there...out there in that frost, that bitter cold, she implored her soul?

Again came the voice.

"Come help me get this snow from off the door...I hear sobbing in there."

She was crying now...she hugged her near frozen love...cried out in a weakened fragile voice.

"Yes...we're in here...help us, help us, please...it's so cold."

With ample speed they dug...and soon...the door was cleared, and then the hikers stepped inside. The couple were bundled into one...nearly frozen, nearly dead.

"Wrap yourselves in these blankets...and here, take a sip of this warming broth."

The pair grinned and nodded as they wrapped the cozy warm blanket 'round their trembling selves. The broth was like the whispers of Heaven as each took sips from the thermoses of the daring hikers, who, by fate, stumbled upon this depleted raggedy old farmhouse.

And so a tale of bitter icy fears ended with the couple being saved from the curs'ed frigid winter's rage.

The Augusta Curtis Cultural Center

The Augusta Curtis Cultural Center, 175 East Main Street, Meriden will be hosting the following February events:

***Carabase Training's Fit Body Boot Camp

Every Tuesday & Thursday evening 6pm to 7pm

A workout program based on your own personal needs! Anyone can participate at any level...Personal Trainer Joe Carabase will be leading this fitness boot camp which is a fun alternative to the gym and is for everyone to join. If you are interested in joining call 860-918-3057 or e-mail joe@carabasetraining.com

***Augusta Curtis Concert Band Rehearsals

Rehearsal are held every Monday from 7pm-9pm except Holidays

Any age or level of playing can join us! Rehearsals held at Lincoln Middle School, Centennial Road, Meriden, CT. Just show up or call Jeff at 203-715-0855 for more info. The band will be playing on April 18th in Hubbard Park and July 1st in the Rosa Ponselle Memorial Garden outside the Center.

***Annual Appeal

We need your support! Please help us to continue to be Meriden's Arts & Cultural Center by donating to our Appeal. You can mail donations to ACCC, P.O. Box 4173 or visit our website at www.curtisculturalcenter.org home page and click on donate button to use credit card or paypal for your donation.. We appreciate your support.

2/1/2010 to 4/1/2010

Spring Luncheon

The Meriden Intermediates Club will hold a Spring Luncheon on, Wednesday, March 10. The event will be held at the North Italian Club at 43 Thorpe Avenue in Meriden from 12:00 to 3:00. Guest speakers will be Scott Haney and Kara Sundlun. Kara and Scott are co-hosts of the TV show, Better Connecticut, which airs daily on Channel 3 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased from Carol Bonaiuto at (203) 634-1855.

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The People's Press

A Special Visit



Legislator Tours Wallingford Community Day Care Center

Rep. Elizabeth Esty, who serves the 103rd District of Cheshire, Hamden and Wallingford, joined Kathy Queen, Director of the Wallingford Community Day Care Center and Ann Pratt, Executive Director of the CT Early Childhood Alliance, for a tour of the early learning program on January 20.

The tour, organized by the CT Early Childhood Alliance, a non-profit advocacy group in Hartford, gave Rep. Esty the opportunity to experience quality early learning in action and a chance to talk to the staff about challenges they face in early care and education.

Ms. Queen spoke to Rep. Esty about the on-going funding challenges facing the program and emphasized the urgent need to sustain local and state child care subsidies for parents, particularly in this economic downturn.

Wallingford Community Day Care Center serves 24 infants and toddlers, 50 preschoolers, and 30 school age kids and is open to parents and children year-round. The center is licensed by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and has earned the Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation by the National Association for the Education for Young Children (NAEYC).

Shown in photo: Rep. Esty checks in with one of the young learners, Nevaeh. Nevaeh was "feeding hungry penguins" goldfish crackers -- as part of a math activity, at Wallingford Community Day Care Center, during a Jan. 20 legislative tour. Photo courtesy of Wallingford Community Day Care Center.

YOU CAN
paint your own Winter
Scene, one stroke at a time!

