

The Kearsarge/Concord Connection

Looking for something new? Hop on the interstate and take a drive to the Concord area. No matter what route you take, there's a restaurant, shop or event just 30 minutes away. Here are some ideas for spring.

Concord Crew Comes Home

BY Sally L. Wright

When asked why she joined the crew team, Concord High School senior Brittany Rogers says, "I wasn't interested in crew until I went to a race last year. I hardly knew what crew was. When I saw the boats glide across the water with eight synchronized rowers swinging together, I knew I had to try it myself. My first day on the water I fell in love."

Rogers isn't alone; Concord Crew has many admirers. Starting with one boat and one part-time coach eight years ago, Concord Crew now boasts close to 90 kids and — according to Warren



Photos courtesy of the Friends of Concord Crew

The girl's novice team rows down the Merrimack River.

Billings, president of the Friends of Concord Crew — they run 12 teams: eight 8-man boats and four 4-man boats. "The board took a stand early on that they would not turn any kid away," says Billings.

Commitment goes along with a membership to Concord Crew. Originally their practice area and home meet location was in Hooksett, a 25-minute ride to the

Amoskeag Rowing Club. They shared the club with Derryfield and Manchester Central, and cramped quarters for storage and an expanding team forced Concord Crew to raise funds and build their own boathouse.

This spring, Concord Crew is rowing at home, using a new boathouse on the banks of the Merrimack at Everett

Arena. The original fundraising goal of \$250,000 was exceeded; groundbreaking and construction started in October 2008, and should be completed in time for this spring's rowing season.

"Any time we as a community can increase stewardship in a vital asset — in this case, the Merrimack River — we should," says Concord City Manager Tom Aspell. "I see Concord Crew as just such a steward."

"Having a boathouse in Concord will bring Concord Crew home. There will no longer be those after school drives down to Hooksett," says Rogers. "Most importantly having a boathouse in Concord will bring the beauty of rowing to downtown Concord for all to see."

Because no student is turned away, fundraising is a mainstay. According to Billings, new boats "cost about \$12,000



each” and registration is \$375 per season. Scholarship funds are available to those who need it. “Having been involved with this program and on the board for several years now, the one thing that has truly amazed me is that crew involvement is life long, both as a participant and a supporter,” says Friends of Concord Crew board member and Concord resident David Fox. “Some donations came from people as far away as Oregon; people who rowed for Dartmouth, Cornell, UVM, Yale, UNH; people who have an endearing passion because they were involved 10, 20 or 50 years ago in the sport. Hopefully that ‘passion’ is being transferred to our rowers.”

Home meets and regattas will be hosted at this location. The boathouse is currently 40-by-80 feet, but there are plans to add two 12-foot wings for community use. “Five years from now, we want to double the size of the building,” says Billings. There is talk about local folks starting a rowing club in Concord and “community scullers are welcome to use our dock and ramp.”

MORE INFO: Concord Crew is located at Everett Arena, Exit 14 off I-93. For more information, including a schedule of races, go to www.concordcrew.com

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Two teams — girls novice and boys novice — pause for a photo at the New Hampshire Championships.



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EAT:

Old World Baking Traditions

BY *Joya Clark*

PHOTOGRAPH BY *Mark Trottier*

Franz Andlinger, owner of Bread and Chocolate bakery, has been bringing Old World baking traditions to Concord's downtown for the past 15 years.

Andlinger was born in Austria, a country famous for its tradition of food and hospitality. "I knew my whole life that I wanted to be a baker," he says.



Franz Andlinger

"When I was a young child I would walk by the bakery and enjoy all the smells every morning. By the time I was 12, I would buy these large elephant ears every morning. They were filled with jam and covered with a caramelized sugar. I knew then that this was the direction my life would take."

Andlinger's day begins 3:30 a.m. when he preheats the ovens and starts the dough for his homemade breads. "As with any business you have to love what you do," he says. "If you don't love what you do, you will burn out."

Bread and Chocolate serves an array of tempting treats, including bread, pastries and sandwiches from early morning until early evening. Most popular with customers are the sticky buns in the morning, the tomato mozzarella sandwiches for lunch, and the fresh fruit tarts filled with homemade custard any time of day.

MORE INFO: Bread and Chocolate is open Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located on 29 South Main Street in Concord; phone is 228-3330.

EVENT:

Songweavers Celebrates 18 Years

TEXT AND PHOTO BY *Joya Clark*

Songweavers, a women's cappella chorus of the Concord Community Music School (CCMS), was created by Carolyn Parrott in the fall of 1991. She offered a basic course in women's choral singing, and 23 women gave their first performance at CCMS as part of Concord's First Night New Hampshire.

The group's overwhelming reception caused enrollment to double each semester, and, by the spring of 1993, more than 225 women had joined the chorus, with some driving from as far away as Bradford, Vt., and Saco, Maine. The one-evening-a-week sessions expanded to two evenings and one morning a week to accommodate so many women. Three separate choruses met for the first time at the dress rehearsals for their concerts. Today, Songweavers is still going strong after 18 years, though the numbers have dropped to just over 100 women and girls.

Based on the belief that everyone can sing, members learn songs by rote in the African-American tradition; music reading skills are not a prerequisite. The repertoire includes music from many ethnic traditions and singing is predominantly a cappella, although drums and other instruments are often used as accompaniment. With each inspired (and



inspiring) performance, audiences are treated to songs of peace, chants, hymns and gospel songs from many traditions and in many languages.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: This year's concert — "But Give Us Roses, Too: The Songs of Working Women" — can be enjoyed on Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m. at the South Congregational Church on 27 Pleasant Street. Tickets can be purchased through the Concord Community Music School: www.ccmschool.org or 228-1196.

HISTORY:

Old North Cemetery

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE
NH Division of Historical Resources

When you hear the word “cemetery” you may not automatically think “history.” But cemeteries provide a wealth of information about our past.



An example of 18th century carving in Concord's Old North Cemetery

Concord's Old North Cemetery was established in 1730. It remains as the city's only downtown burial ground for 130 years. Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States and the only President born in New Hampshire, is buried there, as are Revolutionary and Civil War veterans, industrialists and politicians important in Concord's history. A stroll through the marble markers and mausoleums is like reading a New Hampshire history book.

It is fitting that Concord's Old North Cemetery was recently added to the National Register for Historic Places. It joins a growing list of significant New Hampshire buildings, districts, sites, structures and objects that are important in defining the state's history and character. And it remains a welcoming, historic green space in the midst of Concord's urban fabric.

MORE INFO: Old North Cemetery is located off of North State Street, near the corner of North Main Street and Church Street.

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