



St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Linda Blanchard, Conductor • Sean Fleming, Accompanist

Ceremony of Lessons & Carols 2016

Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Second Congregational Church
Newcastle, Maine

Saturday, Dec. 10, 4:00 p.m.

Bowdoin College Chapel
Brunswick, Maine



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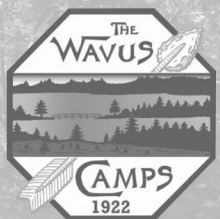


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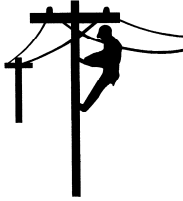
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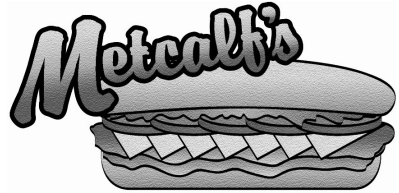
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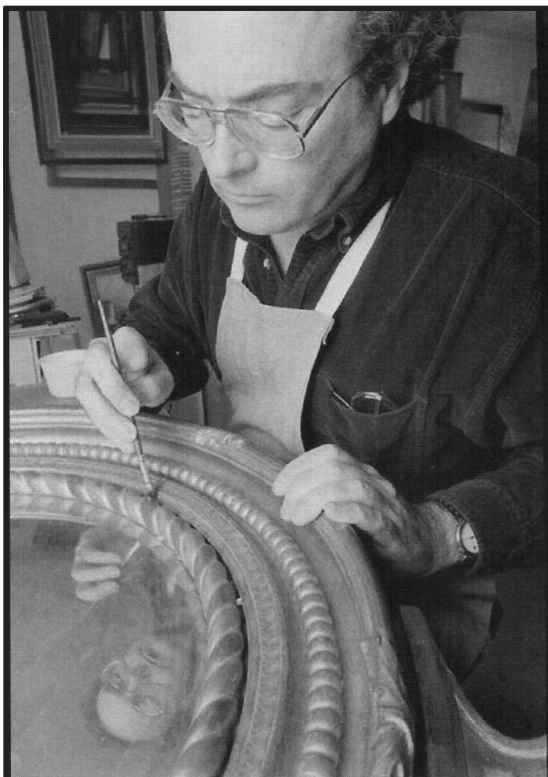
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A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols 2016

- Reading: John 1:1-5
- Carols: Advent Kathryn Rose
b. 1980
Aspiciens a longe Christopher Upton
b. 1979
- Reading: Isaiah 2:2, 4-5
- Carols: People, Look East Richard Francis
b. 1969
O Come, All Ye Faithful John Francis Wade,
arr. Sir David Willcocks
(1919-2015)
- Reading: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Carol: Salvation Is Created Pavel Chesnokov
(1877-1944)
- Reading: Luke 1:26-31
- Carol: Gaude Virgo, Mater Christi Josquin des Prez
(c. 1450/1455-1521)
- Reading: Luke 2:1, 3-7
- Carols: Joseph Lieber, Joseph Mein Hieronymus Praetorius
(1560-1629)
Ding Dong! Merrily on High Charles Wood
(1866-1926)
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Felix Mendelssohn,
arr. Willcocks

~ Intermission ~

- Carol: Gaudete Anonymous 16th century
Danny Evarts, Molly Pitcher, Del Merritt & Mary Benner, soloists
- Reading: "Ceremonies for Christmas" — Robert Herrick
- Carol: Sing We to This Merry Company Sir John Rutter
b. 1945
- Carol: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen trad. arr. Willcocks
- Reading: "The Lamb" — William Blake

Carol: Coventry Carol trad. English, arr. Ola Gjeilo
b. 1978

Carol: The Holly And The Ivy trad English., arr. Gjeilo

Reading: “Christmas Bells” — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Carol: Sussex Carol arr. Willcocks

Carol: Wassail Song trad., arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Reading: “Christmas Hath Darkness” — Christina Rossetti

Carol: Silent Night Franz Gruber
(1787-1863)

Hermione Blanchard-Fleming & Elizabeth Wallace, soloists

St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Director

Linda Blanchard

Accompanist

Sean Fleming

Sopranos

Cally Aldrich
Maya Bailey *
Mary L. Benner
Ann Creamer
Helen Newell *
Anna D. Shaw

Altos

Cheryl Dilts
Sidney L. Harvey
Cathy Johnson
Molly Pitcher
Nadine Raley
Arden G. Thompson

Tenors

Laurie Asche
Richard Bates
Charles Blauvelt
Del Merritt
Stephen Wallace
John Ward

Basses

David Blanchard
Tommy Davis
Danny Everts
Mark Freese
Andy Sherrill
David Wright

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Linda Blanchard
Cheryl Dilts
Sean Fleming
David Wright

Music Director **Linda Blanchard** earned her MA in Choral Conducting from University of Michigan School of Music, Ann Arbor, and her BA in Music from Bowdoin College. She is recipient of the Susan Winchell Burnett Music Prize, the Abraham Goldberg Prize for theatrical directing and the St. Botolph Emerging Artist Award. She studied orchestral conducting with Gustav Meier and Zae Munn, and choral conducting with Theodore Morrison, Jerry Blackstone, and Robert Greenlee. Ms. Blanchard is founding director of St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, directs the Sheepscot Valley Chorus and is Director of Choirs at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newcastle. She has worked as a festival adjudicator and clinician, directed the Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, University of Michigan Residential College Choirs and Orpheus



Singers, worked in Maine and Michigan as a church organist and choir director, taught junior high and high school chorus in Maine, taught voice at Bowdoin College, and worked extensively as a musical theater director.

Sean Fleming performs regularly with the Bowdoin Chorus, Coastal Chorale, Down East Singers, Lincoln Academy Lincolnaires, Lincoln Festival Chorus, Maine Friends of Music, St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, Sheepscot Valley Chorus, and Tapestry Singers. He is the assistant director of Midcoast Community Chorus, and is the music director for the Hearts

Ever Young Chorus. He regularly accompanies many high school and junior high festivals. He has worked with Ann Arbor Camerata, Bowdoin Chamber Choir, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Chorus, Colby College Chorale, Maine Pro Musica, Oratorio Chorale, Renaissance Voices, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, University of Southern Maine Chorale, University of Southern Maine Chamber Singers, and Vox Nova Chamber Choir.

Sean has directed or accompanied over sixty-five musical theater productions nationwide. Most recently he was the music director and orchestral conductor for "Fiddler on the Roof," "Godspell," "Jekyll and Hyde," "The Legend of Jim Cullen," and "Sunday in the Park with George" with Heartwood Regional Theater Company, "Shrek," "Aida," and "Little Shop of Horrors" at The Waldo Theater, and "The Music Man" with the Watts Hall Community Players.

An organ recitalist who has performed throughout the United States, Sean studied organ and piano with Ray Cornils, John Doney, Michael Lindsey, and Gerald McGee. For the past twenty-two years he has served as organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Newcastle.

He was the recipient of a 2009 St. Botolph Club Foundation grant award in recognition of his achievements in music.

Readings, Texts and Translations

Reading: John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Carol: Advent — Kathryn Rose

‘Come,’ Thou dost say to Angels,
To blessed Spirits, ‘Come’:
‘Come,’ to the lambs of Thine own flock,
Thy little ones, ‘Come home.’

‘Come,’ from the many-mansioned house
The gracious word is sent;
‘Come,’ from the ivory palaces
Unto the Penitent.

O Lord, restore us deaf and blind,
Unclose our lips though dumb:
Then say to us, ‘I will come with speed,’
And we will answer, ‘Come.’

— Christina Rossetti, 12 December 1851

Carol: *Aspiciens a longe* — Christopher Upton

I look from afar, and lo!
I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep.
Tell us: art thou he that should come?
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

— After the Roman Breviary

Reading: Isaiah 2:2, 4-5

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

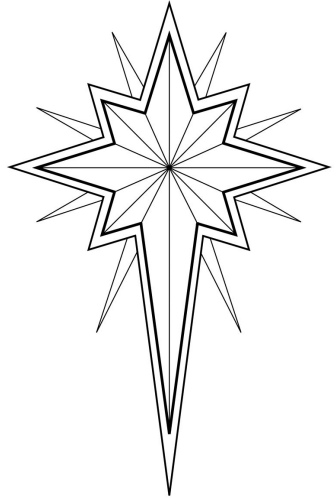
Carol: People, Look East — Richard Francis

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.



Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

— Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful — arr. Sir David Willcocks

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

— English text following Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-2

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Carol: Salvation Is Created — Pavel Chesnokov

Spaséniye, sodélal yesí posredé ziemi, Bózhe. Allilúiya.

Salvation is created, in midst of the earth, O God, O our God. Alleluia.

— Psalm 74(73):12

Reading: Luke 1:26-31

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

Carol: Gaude Virgo, Mater — Josquin des Prez

Gaude, virgo mater Christi,
Quae per aurem concepisti,
Gabriele nuntio.

Rejoice, virgin mother of Christ,
who hast conceived by ear,
with Gabriel as messenger.

Gaude, quia Deo plena
Peperisti sine poena,
Cum pudoris lilio.

Rejoice, for full of God
thou gavest birth without pain,
with the lily of purity.

Gaude, quia tui nati
Quem dolebas mortem pati,
Fulget resurrectio.

Rejoice, for the resurrection
of thy Son now shines,
whose death thou mourned,

Gaude Christo ascendente,
Et in coelum te vidente,
Motu fertur proprio.

Rejoice, as Christ ascends,
and, in thy sight, is carried
into heaven by his own strength.

Gaude que post ipsum scandis,
Et est honor tibi grandis,
In caeli palatio.

Rejoice, thou who riseth after him
and to whom great honor is due
in the palace of heaven,

Ubi fructus ventris tui,
Nobis detur per te frui,
In perenni gaudio.
Alleluia.

Where the fruit of thy womb
is granted us, through thee, to enjoy
in eternal rejoicing.
Alleluia.

Reading: Luke 2:1, 3-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol: Gaudete — Anonymous 16th century

Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ has born
(Out) Of the Virgin Mary – rejoice!

Tempus adest gratiæ
Hoc quod optabamus,
Carmina lætitiæ
Devote reddamus.

The time of grace has come—
what we have wished for,
songs of joy
Let us give back faithfully.

Deus homo factus est
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.

God has become man,
(With) nature marvelling,
The world has been renewed
By Christ (who is) reigning.

Ezechielis porta
Clausā pertransitur,
Unde lux est orta
Salus invenitur.

The closed gate of Ezekiel
Is passed through,
Whence the light is raised,
Salvation is found.

Ergo nostra concio
Psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino:
Salus Regi nostro.

Therefore, let our preaching
Now sing in brightness
Let it give praise to the Lord:
Greeting to our King.

Reading: “Ceremonies for Christmas” — Robert Herrick

Come, bring with a noise,
My merry, merry boys,
The Christmas Log to the firing;
While my good Dame, she
Bids ye all be free;
And drink to your heart’s desiring.

With the last year’s brand
Light the new block, and
For good success in his spending,
On your Psalties play,
That sweet luck may
Come while the log is a-tinding.

Drink now the strong beer,
Cut the white loaf here,
The while the meat is a-shredding;
For the rare mince-pie
And the plums stand by
To fill the paste that’s a-kneading.

Carol: Sing We to This Merry Company — Sir John Rutter

:: Synge we to thys mery cumpane:
Regina celi, letare.::

Holy maide, blessyd thou be;
Godys sone is born of the,
The fader of heven, thus lyve we:
Regina celi, letare.

Thow art emperesse of heaven, fre;
Now art thou moder in mageste,
Y-knytte in the blessed trinite;
 Regina celi, letare.

Hayl wyf, hayl maide, bright of ble!
Hayl doughter, hail suster ful of pite!
Hayl cosyng to the persones thre!
 Regina celi, letare.

Lo, this curteys Kyng of degre
Wole be thy sone with solempnite:
Mylde Mary, this ys thy fee.
 Regina celi, letare.

Ther fore knele we on oure kne;
Thy blysfyl berthe now worshype we
With this songe of melode:
 Regina celi, letare.

— Medieval Carol

Carol: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen — trad., arr. Willcocks

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings ...

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface:
O tidings ...

— English traditional, this version from “Carols for Choirs” OUP 1961

Reading: “The Lamb”

Little Lamb who made thee
 Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o’er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
 Little Lamb who made thee
 Dost thou know who made thee

 Little Lamb I’ll tell thee,
 Little Lamb I’ll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
 Little Lamb God bless thee.
 Little Lamb God bless thee.

— William Blake (1757-1827)



Carol: The Holly And The Ivy — trad., arr. Gjeilo

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.
The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.



The holly bears a blossom,
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour.
The rising of the sun, etc.

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to do us sinners good.
The rising of the sun, etc.

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.
The rising of the sun, etc.

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.
The rising of the sun, etc.

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.
The rising of the sun, etc.

Reading: “Christmas Bells”

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along
 The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
 A voice, a chime,
 A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
[Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
 And with the sound
 The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
 And made forlorn
 The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!]
And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
 “For hate is strong,
 And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
 The Wrong shall fail,
 The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-188



Carol: Sussex Carol — arr. Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore, Amen!”

— traditional: Collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Carol: Wassail Song — arr. Vaughan Williams

Wassail, wassail all over the town,
Our bread it is white and our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of the green maple tree;
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

Here's a health to the ox and to his right eye,
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie;
A good Christmas pie as e'er I did see.
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

Here's a health to the ox and to his right horn,
Pray God send our master a good crop of corn,
A good crop of corn as e'er I did see.
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

Here's a health to the ox and to his long tail,
Pray God send our master a good cask of ale,
A good cask of ale as e'er I did see.
In the Wassail bowl we'll drink unto thee.

Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the best;
Then I pray that your soul in heaven may rest;
But if you do bring us a bowl of the small,
May the Devil take butler, bowl and all!

Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock,
Who tripp'd to the door and slipp'd back the lock,
Who tripp'd to the door and pull'd back the pin,
For to let these jolly Wassailers walk in.

—18th century folk carol from the Gloucestershire region of England

Reading: “Christmas Hath Darkness”

Christmas hath darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.



— Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Carol: Silent Night — Franz Gruber

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

— translation by John Freeman Young, 1859



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The Mission of the St. Cecilia Chamber Choir is:

- To present outstanding performances of the very **best choral repertoire**;
- To provide challenging musical **opportunities for gifted local youth**;
- To support our community with **outreach programs**; and
- To **support Maine composers** through the commissioning of new music.

Since the Choir's inception, **twenty-two gifted young students** have sung with us, many continuing to study music in college and beyond. In recent years the Choir has twice provided scholarship grants to young members of the Choir going on to college.

Community outreach concerts have benefited the Damariscotta Baptist Church Steeple Fund, the Great Salt Bay School lunch program, Skidompha Library, Round Top Center for the Arts, the Kennedy Leadership Center at Kieve, the historic Old German Church in Waldoboro, the historic St. John's Church in Dresden, and the Waldo Theater.

To date, we have performed **eighteen new works by Maine composers**, twelve of which were especially composed for the Choir.

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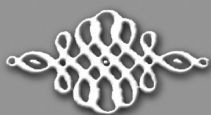
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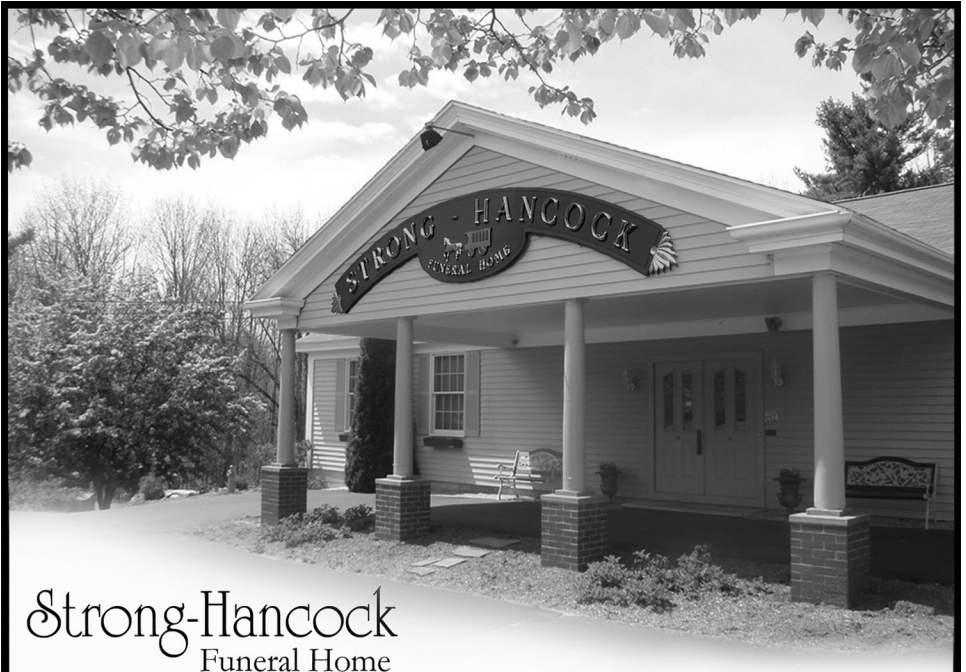


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