



John Luttman's Joke of the Week

A. Because their father is in the pen!

Question on page 20

Arts

WESTMINSTER 2008

Once again, in celebration of the 132nd running of America's most beloved dog show, New York City will be ablaze in purple and gold on Monday and Tuesday nights, from the lights on the top of the Empire State Building to the colored M&Ms handed out on the floor of Madison Square Garden.

At your house, shards of popcorn and chips are probably still lurking between the sofa cushions from Super Bowl Sunday, and already it's time to settle in for another major contest. Put on your comfy cozies and get ready for 6 hours of exciting and educational television as the best of the best in the canine world strut their stuff. The show begins on Monday night, February 11, from 8:00-11:00pm, followed on Tuesday night, February 12, for the final three hours, culminating in the Best in Show award.

The only live-broadcast dog show in this country, the USA Network televises directly from Madison Square Garden. Long time co-host David Frei, Communications Director for the American Kennel Club (AKC) who competitively bred Afghan Hounds and Brittany Spaniels, will be joined by NBC's Lester Holt. Non-practicing veterinarian Dr. Debbye Turner, a former Miss America, will be reporting from the floor throughout the broadcast and Basset breeder, Michael LaFave, who has announced for the past seven shows, will return to provide the ongoing commentary.

This year, the order of presentation will vary slightly. The Hound and Herding Groups have flip-flopped with Working and Toy, so on Monday night, the Hound, Terrier, Non-Sporting and Herding Groups will compete, followed by Sporting, Working



and Toy, and the coveted Best In Show on Tuesday.

This year the entry limit was met quickly with a total number of 2,500 registrants from 48 states, the District of Columbia and at least six foreign countries. Within the breeds, Labrador Retrievers (51) led the pack, followed by German Shorthair Pointers (40), Pugs (37), Golden Retrievers (36), and four breeds locked in at 35 each, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, French Bulldog and Australian Shepherds. It is interesting to contrast those numbers of such popular breeds with the newest AKC-recognized breeds that will be competing for the first time, the Plott (7), Tibetan Mastiff (13), Beauceron (7) and Swedish Vallhund (9).

While we're looking at numbers, the competition within certain groups is fierce. During the daytime competitions, which are not televised, a dog has to win its Best of Breed to compete against the other breeds in its Group that night. The largest group is Sporting, with a total of 478 dogs entered, followed by Working with 405. Trailing closely is the Toy Group, with a total of 397 dogs, Hound with 364, Herding at 290 and Non-Sporting at 285. Ironically, the Group with the most wins historically, the Terrier, has the fewest entries at 281.

Several winners from the AKC/Eukanuba Championship will be participating at Westminster, and it will be interesting to see if their recent win will give them an edge in this week's competition. David Frei, Westminster co-host, was asked for his predictions, and, with one exception, he pretty much stuck to the AKC/Eukanuba lineup. His one exception is in the Sporting Group. Frei likes a Pointer, Ch. Cookieland Seasyde Hollyberry, which he considers an "underdog"

choice. The Pointer is the original breed and official dog of the Westminster Kennel Club.

In the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, atypically, the females, or bitches, dominated the Group wins. Showing themselves to good advantage on the blue carpet, rather than the signature green of Westminster, were Marge, Ch. Colside Seavbreeze Perfect Fit, a Weimaraner, taking first place in the Sporting Group. Uno, a Beagle (over 13 inches), Ch. K-Rin's Park Me In First, almost three years old, gained top honors in the Hound Group.

The Akita, Macey, Ch Redwitch Reason To Believe, the #1 Akita and the #2 winning dog in this country, easily prevailed in her Working Group. The winner of the Terrier Group was Charmin, Ch. Efbe's Hidalgo at Goodspice, a soon-to-be four-year old Sealyham Terrier who is the #1 Terrier in the country. Charmin was named Best in Show, and in addition to the title, he took home \$50,000 in prize money.

The very competitive Toy Group was won by Vikki, Ch. Smash JP Win a Victory, a white Toy Poodle, the #1 winning dog in the country and winner of her Group at Westminster last year. Another Poodle, an elegant black Standard called Yes, Ch. Randenn Tristar Affirmation, won the Non-Sporting Group. The last group, Herding, was won by Geneva, Ch. Kaleef's Geneva Aeval-Achtung, a German Shepherd Dog. ■

Jan Jaeger is owner of Geronimo's, Ltd., Nantucket's pet supply and gift shop, and is a member of DWAA and CWA (Dog and Cat Writer's Associations of America). Her pets at home are Junior, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever and three cats. At the shop are the cats, Messrs. Fish and Chips, Flower bunny, Willie guinea pig and two budgies. Send e-mail to jan@geronimos.com.

MARIA MITCHELL ASSOCIATION

Open Nights at Loines Observatory

Sample the sights of the distant heavens with MMA astronomers, weather permitting. No reservations required. 508-228-9198. \$5 for adults, \$3 per child (members); \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (non-members). Loines Observatory, 59 Milk St. Extension, across from the cemetery. **Friday** (8th), 8 - 9:30 pm.

Eureka Lab "Weather Watchers"

Hands-on science program for children in grades 1 - 6 and their parents. \$6 per child and adult pair for members; \$8 non-members. MMA Natural Science Museum, Hinchman House. **Saturday** (9th), 12 - 3 pm.

MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE

NHS Chorus and Band Concert

High School Auditorium, 2 Surfside Rd. **Thursday** (7th) at 7:30 pm.

NHS Musical: "Music Man"

High School Auditorium, 2 Surfside Rd. **Friday and Saturday** (8th and 9th) at 7:30 pm, **Sunday** (10th) at 2 pm.

The Women's Chorus of Nantucket

Rehearsal at the Unitarian Church on **Thursdays** from 7 to 8:30 pm. The chorus sings jazz, pop, gospel, country and world music. Conducted by Marcia Hempel, 508-228-3802.

NANTUCKET HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Acquisitions Night

Robyn and John Davis, Curator of Collections Ben Simons, Librarian and Archivist Georgen Charnes, and Collections Manager Tony Dumitru present highlights of recent additions to the NHA collections. Free for NHA members. Gosnold Support Center, 89 Bartlett Rd. **Wednesday** (6th), 7 to 8 pm.

In Search of Giant Squid

Giant squid specimens, tentacles, the myths and legends of the giant squid, comparison to other squids and mollusks, how they hunt, move, and defend themselves, and their anatomy and behavior. Exhibition by the National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, in partnership with the Discovery Channel. Supported in part by the Egan Maritime Foundation and Novation Media. Peter Foulger Gallery, 13 Broad St. February 1 through April 20. Open Fridays and Saturdays, 11 am to 4 pm; **Sundays**, noon to 4 pm.

Food For Thought: The African American Meeting House

See 'Film And Video.'

Hours

•Whaling Museum: Friday through Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm through April 24. Also Martin Luther King Day, January 21, and Presidents Day, February 18, 10 am - 4 pm. •NHA Research Library: Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, and Tuesday, 11 am - 4 pm.

POLITICS

Democratic Town Committee Caucus

To elect delegates to the 2008 Massachusetts Democratic Convention. All registered Nantucket Democrats welcome. 508-228-5104. Atheneum Gallery downstairs. **Saturday** (9th), 10 am.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Listings are printed only when changes have been made. Complete listings when space permits.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

20 Fair St., 228-0916. The Rev. William Eddy, Interim Priest. Sunday Holy Eucharist: 8 and 10 am; Wednesday Mid-Week Eucharist: 8:30 am; Church School: Sunday at 10 am during the service. *Continuing throughout Lent (until Sunday, March 19), there will be one service*

at 9 am. Church school will begin at 9 am in the Parish House with the children returning to the service before the Eucharist. Events for Epiphany 2008: Lectionary Group (On-going weekly) - Tuesdays at 9:30 am at the Parish House. Women's Bible Study (4 week session) - Parish House, Friday, 8, 15 at 9:00 am.

United Methodist Church

Thursday Bible Study: Thursdays at 6 pm. Come for any session. Beginning and ending with prayer, with study, lively discussion and fellowship in between. All welcome. Downstairs at the Methodist Church, 2 Centre St. Sunday worship and Sunday School at 10 am; handicapped accessible. *Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday (6th) at noon - entrance on Rose Lane. All welcome, traditionalists or non.*

THEATER

Armchair Theatre

Phyllis Perelman hosts, Grace Noyes directs A. R. Gurney's *Ancestral Voices*. Bring a beverage, main dish, salad, or dessert to share; coffee provided. Theatre Workshop of Nantucket. Information: Grace Noyes, 508-228-5485, or Peter Greenhalgh, 508-228-2807. Sherburne Commons, 21 South Shore Rd. **Sunday** (10th). Potluck at 6; reading at 7.

TOWN GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

This is neither a comprehensive nor legal posting of meetings, but for informational purposes only. Meetings are subject to change of time, venue and date. Please check the meeting board for official postings at the Town Building, 16 Broad Street.

AIRPORT COMMISSION: 2nd Tuesday (12th) Airport's SRE Building, 5 pm.

BEACH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Land Bank Conference Room. Every Thursday at 4 pm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Courtroom. Wednesday (6th and 13th) at 6 pm. (Televised on

Comcast PlumTV Channel 22 beginning at 7 pm same night.)

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY: 1st Wednesday of February (6th), March, May, June, September, and November. Nantucket Cottage Hospital Conference Room, 4:30 pm.

COUNCIL ON AGING: 1st Wednesday (6th) of the month. Saltmarsh Senior Center. 1:30 pm

ENERGY STUDY COMMITTEE: 2 Fairgrounds Rd Conference Rm. Thursday (7th) at 5 pm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR FY 2009 BUDGET; 2008 ATM WARRANT: NHS Cafeteria. Thursday (7th) and Tuesday (12th) at 4 pm. Also Wednesday (13th) at 6 pm with Selectmen.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION: Cyrus Peirce Cafeteria. Tuesday (12th) at 5 pm.

MADDAQUET ADVISORY BOARD: 37 Washington St. Wednesday (13th), 2 pm.

PLANNING BOARD: 2 Fairgrounds garage. Monday (11th) at 7 pm.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: 2 Fairgrounds Rd. Conference Rm. Friday (8th), 1 pm.

WALKS & TOURS

Nantucket Bird Club Walk

Free. Information: Edie Ray, 228-1693. High School, 10 Surfside Road. **Sunday** (10th), 8 - 10 am.

Please e-mail your event listings to: events@nantucketindependent.com or fax to 508-228-1079 by Friday at 5 pm for the 8 days beginning on the following Wednesday.

Compiled and designed by Gene Mahon