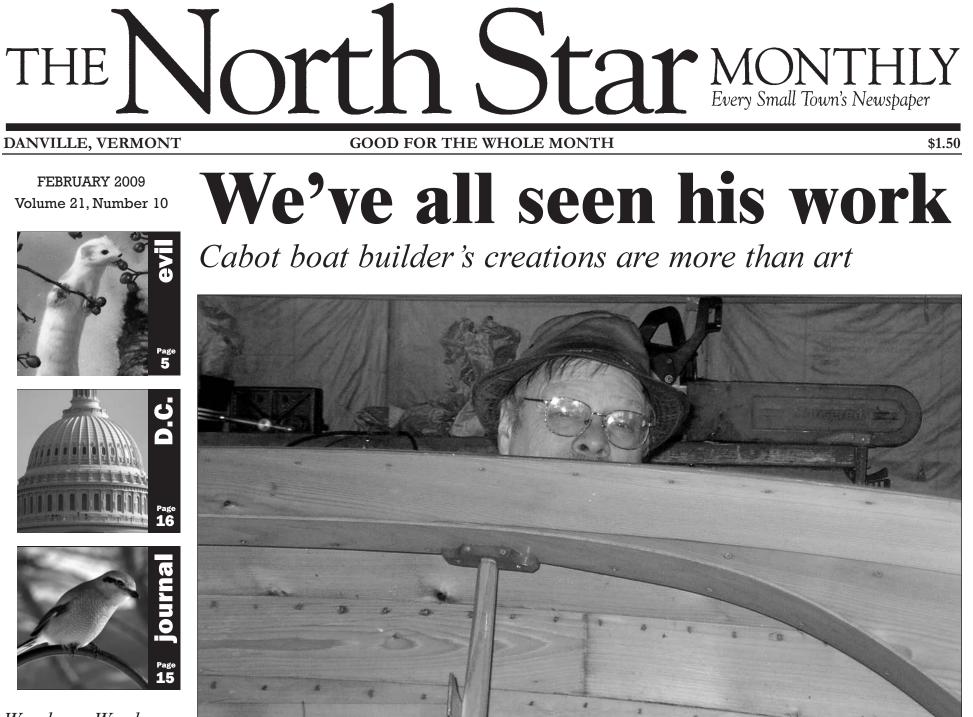
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Woody on Words

Naming names

By Woody Starkweather

ermont means green mountains, right? In French, green mountains is "les monts verts." So why isn't our state called Montver, aside from the obvious reason that it sounds vaguely ridiculous? Googling, I discover that Dr. Thomas Young, a Pennsylvanian, thought the name Vermont would perpetuate the memory of Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys. His notion prevailed, and our state was named officially on June 30, 1777. Dr. Young apparently had his doctorate in some field other than French. Never mind. The website "Virtual Vermont" says it was indeed the unhappy sound of Montver, or the too, too Frenchness of Les Monts

Curt Holden peaks over one of the boats in his Cabot workshop, above, while his 13'7" MacGregor sailing canoe graces the wall at Caplan's Army Store in St. Johnsbury. Holden says the MacGregor model handles well in rougher water and can carry two weeks' worth of gear.

By Dan Williams

urt Holden warns parents to keep their children away from the water – not because it's unsafe, but because they risk developing a life-long obsession with all things nautical.

"I was three years old on Lake Michigan and a yacht came sailing by," Holden recalls. "It was the most spectacular thing you could imagine. I just never forgot it."

Fast-forward more than half a century, and



Continued on Page 30

Robert Renaud's Income Tax Service Tax Preparation, Payroll & Consulting Reasonable Rates/Fast Service Robert Renaud E.A. (802) 748-9072 787 Concord Ave St. Jonhsbury, VT 05819 Danville Chamber of

Commerce Annual Meeting Danville Town Hall Social: 1:30 p.m. Meeting: 2 p.m. Sunday, February 8 EVERYONE IS INVITED Holden has a dozen hand-built wooden boats to his credit, including a sailing canoe displayed on a wall at Caplan's Army Store in St. Johnsbury.

But he could never devote as much time as he wanted to his craft – "I had to get insurance and a steady income. Various things conspired to get me back into the job market."

Until now.

Holden figures it's time to turn passion into profit and start building boats in earnest. He's converting a large garage into a workshop. A Web site is up and running. He's eyeing a design for a roomy rowing boat that will be pointed at both ends. Give him three months, he says, and he'll have one to take around to area lakes: "They seem to attract attention."

Despite the Lake Michigan revelation, Holden's early life did not give many outward hints that he would become a serious boat builder. He majored in music at college and studied violin for 25 years. But he was mechanically inclined.

"I've always built things," Holden says. "Things that move and



things that work fascinate me. I started out at an early age – taking things apart."

That talent for tinkering led him to the photography business – first repairing cameras at a large company in New York, then designing enlargers and processors at a St. Johnsbury company founded by his father. The firm did a lot of work for the U.S. military and developed a process for microfilming copies of X-rays of welds for the nuclear industry.

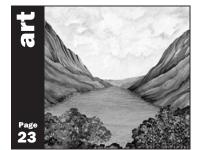
"Unfortunately, we were overwhelmed by the digital tide. The pho-Continued on Page 17

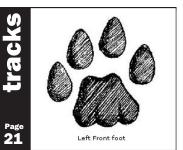


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by Carla Occaso







Guest**Editorial** Musing our new president

A little over four years ago, Illinois State Senator Barack Obama was invited to give the keynote address at the Democratic national convention. He delivered an amazing and memorable speech. His eloquence, coupled with anecdotal references to his past and the future needs of the country, captivated his audience. Hardly anyone had known him before that; he was a nonentity to the rest of the world.

Written this first day after the inauguration, many random thoughts about President Obama and his administration come to mind:

• After spirited primary campaigns, a hotly contested general election, and eight years of President Bush's administration, voters were willing to accept President Obama on faith, for he had little or no practical experience in running a government.

■ Barack's and Michelle's lovely young daughters will soon be scampering around a White House that will never be quite so white again. Michele's mother is leaving Chicago to join the family and will continue to be the cooperative mother hen. With new schools to attend, new friends to make, and a new dog to find, the girls will need the support of a close family.

Several members of Obama's administration team will have further opportunities to make memorable contributions to the well-being of the country. Among them are Senator Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State; Lawrence Summers as National Economic Council Director, he was a former president of Harvard University and Secretary of the Treasury; and Leon Panetta as head of the CIA, he was Chief of Staff under President Clinton. Their considerable experiences in government positions and non-ideological approaches to problem-solving are needed and will be more than welcome. ■ It seems to me that there has never been a time in history when so many serious problems simultaneously faced us at home and around the world. Two ongoing wars, a trillion- dollar deficit, a deteriorating environment, diminishing energy sources to supply the needs of hungry nations, and endless fighting among minorities. ■ Now is the time for a courageous and indefatigable president to succeed as he grapples with major problems. Obama promises to use the tools of government for the benefit of the people first, rather than for the benefit of self-serving individuals, corporations and political parties.

• What will the total effect of this black family be on improving race relations by the time Obama has served two terms? The black community is understandably proud of Obama, and its cooperation and assistance will be necessary to assure permanency in improved race relations.

■ "Dreams of My Father" was written before he became a well-known politician. It is number three on the New York Times paper-back list, and has been on it for 128 weeks. As if writing one bestseller wasn't enough, his "Audacity to Hope" has been on the hardcover list for 53 weeks.

■ Harvard Law School Professor Lawrence Tribe is one of the nation's leading constitutional law authorities. Obama was president of the Harvard Law Review and a research assistant for Professor Tribe. Tribe had taught about 4,000 students before Obama came along, and about 4,000 afterwards. He recalls that no student excelled more than Obama did.

One criticism of President Bush is that he per-sonified the imperial president who was a power unto himself, one who basically ignored other constitutional branches of government. Although Obama says that he will not become an imperialist, I wonder how he can avoid acting like one, at least temporarily, with all the urgent problems requiring his attention. And if he becomes one, will he ultimately share power with other branches of government as the constitution mandates? Would Obama be president today if he were white? I conducted a mini-poll to find out. Of the four people I interviewed, three said "yes", and one was doubtful. My opinion is that he would not be president and perhaps not even a senator from Illinois. He was invited to speak at the 2004 Democratic presidential nominating convention because he was an up-and-coming black politician. His career took off after that. I don't think he would have been invited to speak if he had been just another up-and- coming white politician. Perhaps he might not even be a senator from Illinois today.

NTHLY	EDITORIAL OFFIC P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Danville, VT 05828-03 (802) 684-1056	l Street
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Postmaster: Send address changes to **The North Star Monthly**, P.O. Box 319, Danville, VT 05828-0319. Periodical postage paid at Danville, VT.

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LETTERS: Write to *The North Star*, and let us know what's on your mind. Your point of view or observation is important to us. Letters must be signed.

ARTICLES: We don't have a big staff of writ-

As the reader can tell, I am truly concerned about many things related to our new president and the future of our country. But I believe essentially in the basic goodness of the people, and that Obama is the man of destiny for this hour. If the country supports him and his policies, he will be remembered as one of our few great presidents. - John Downs





ers. So we look forward to you sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.

PHOTOS: We'd like to see your photos and welcome them with a story or without. They can be black-and-white or color, but they must be clear.

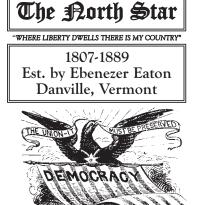
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The legend of Davey Crockett grows in Tennessee while the presidential inauguration of Ruthorford B. Hayes draws thousands



THE NORTH STAR

February 2, 1877 Crockett's Bear Hunt - In 1822, that eccentric genius Col. David Crockett was living on the banks of the Ohio River in the Northwestern part of Tennessee. A freshet had previously swept away all his earthly possessions, and he had come to this new section in order to begin life anew. His nearest neighbor was just nigh enough for the faint crack of his rifle to be heard as he brought down the game that swarmed him. With his matchless skill with his rifle, there was no danger of his family suffering for the want of food. Whenever he returned from his day's hunt, he was sure to be loaded down with elk, deer, turkeys and partridges. The faces of his children were ever shiny with the rich grease of his game, and the physical condition of him as well as them, could not be surpassed. But Crockett's great delight was to hunt bears. He would leave

game, if he caught a glimpse of a bear track. He would follow the trail hour after hour and when overtaken by night kindle his fire, lie down and sleep till daylight when he would resume his hunt. No matter whence it led him, thro' tangled swamps, across swollen streams, or over wide prairies, he would follow with a perseverance that would not be denied, and eventually capture his pray by pure persistency.

any employment or resign any

In December 1822, Crockett found himself reduced to his last charge of powder. The weather was intensely cold and he saw that he must procure more to prevent his family from suffering for the want of food. His nearest neighbor was his brother-in-law, who lived six miles distant, on opposite side of a fork of the Ohio. He undoubtedly had an abundance of ammunition and Crockett resolved to visit him and resupply. Unfortunately, there had been a storm of several days duration and the rivers had risen to a very unusual height. Several inches of snow lay upon the ground, the air was keen and harsh, and he had gone only a short distance when he caught sight of the river overthrowing its banks to such a degree that it spread out like an open sea before him, There was a thin crust of ice broken into patches and floating rapidly by. The current surged so swiftly that almost any man would have been

affrighted and turned back. But Crockett had come after ammunition and was bound to have it. As he stepped into the water and it filled his shoes, it was of icy chilliness, but he never quailed. He walked carefully forward until he reached the channel, where he found a fallen tree upon, which he crossed. This brought him to a deep slough, where there had formerly been a log to cross, but it was now submerged. If he could pass the slough there would be comparatively but slight trouble in reaching the other side. In ordinary times, the slough was a small island and a sapling grew beside the log he wished to cross. He first cut a forked sapling with which he reached across the surging current and fastened into the young swaying tree. With the help of this, he gradually worked his way forward until he found the crossing log three feet below him. He now went back and got his rifle. Carefully climbing up the tree he succeeded in placing his feet upon the submerged log and began crossing. The water beneath the log was a dozen feet deep. The most delicate poise was needed to keep his place on the log.

Finally, after a long time,. He found himself across and staring at another slough with a log across it. This log was floating and the lack of stability would become a problem. Half way across, the log began to turn and with a gasp, he went down into the icy waters. With his usual presence of mind, he retained his hold upon the log and never let his rifle fall from his grasp. After much time and work, he was able to reach the other side where he changed his clothes. He then ran at his highest speed to keep from freezing and reached his friend's house, who was astonished to see him.

"All this distance for powder?" inquired his brother-in-law.

"Well, you see, it is good weather for bears and I must have a hunt while it lasts."

"But I should consider you in more danger than the bears."

"We'll soon fix that affair."

February 9, 1877

School System - Wendell Phillips thinks the public school system of our country is very faulty. At the American Social Sciences meeting the other day he said the fact is many of our young people, graduates of our public schools, are not capable of doing any work for which anyone should pay a dollar. Thousands of our public school graduates can't write a decent letter at 15, nor even read a newspaper well. The old New England system, which made a boy work six months by his father's side on the farm or in the workshop after he had been six months in school, was better than the present one.

> February 23, 1877 West Danville - Geo. W.

Farrington of West Danville proposes to sell a lot of valuable stock at auction next week Thursday. The winter school, which has been a decided success, will close on Friday of this week, and in the evening of that day there will be an exhibition at the scholars at Farrington's hall. A good thing is expected, and a small admission fee will be charged to cover the necessary expenses. D.C. Farrington has purchased of his father the goods in the store on his own account. He proposes to sell very low and only for cash.

February 30, 1877 The Inauguration - On Monday the formal inauguration of President Hayes took place. The display was very large and imposing. A long military and civic procession was formed, made up of noted personages and citizens and marched to a place appointed where thousands of spectators were in attendance. When everything was properly arranged, Chief Justice Waite administered the oath of office. The president then stepped forward and delivered his inaugural address. In its general tone and sentiment, the Inaugural is commendable. It will disappoint the radicals and extremists.





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Letterstothe**Editor**

Dear Editor.

My neighbor, to whom I loan my "North Star Monthly," was pleased to find your publication mentioned in Eric Sloane's "Look at the Sky." In that book, the author considers the influence of weather on several employments and activities. The chapter about driving turkeys to market lets a modern turkey shipper say that he trusts almanac weather predictions, as did his grandfather who had to choose a proper day for "droving" turkeys on foot to Boston. He goes on to tell about the year 1816, the year with no summer. The chapter includes this entry:

Ephram will show you a tattered copy of the Danville North Star dated June 15, 1816. "On the night of June 6th," it reads, "water froze an inch thick, and on the night of the 7th and morning of the 8th a kind of sleet or exceedingly cold snow fell, attended by a high wind, and measured in places where it drifted 18 to 20 inches in depth."

That gives us some perspective on the bone chilling month just past. The calendar says that we are half way through winter. Happy ground hog's day!

Bruce Hoyt



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Gardens & community

By Isobel P. Swartz

t is mid-winter, not an old or new blade of grass to be seen, and no way to put a spade in the earth, but seed catalogs are in the mail it must be January in Vermont! Those beautifully photographed vegetables and fruit, so unlike the ones I manage to produce, entice the reader into flights of fancy and my mind wanders back to my last season's garden.

As I picked string beans last summer, I listened to my neighbor from over the fence, chat all about the harvest with the next neighbor over

his fence. He was picking gooseripening early. Such conversation from the home front, close to the earth.

Gardening brings people together. It's all about two basic things essential to life and sanity — food and beauty. No matter our political differences, we can discuss, without coming to blows, the merits of different varieties of vegetables, or bemoan the invasion of marauding insects and plant diseases.

Though we may not support war, or cruel and unusual punishment of enemy combatants, we cheerfully unite to wage our own war on animal and insect insurgents. We trade Havahart traps to catch woodchucks, raccoons and skunks (and also recipes for de-skunking pets and people!) We consult on pest and weed control, united as allies against the foe.

At the level of the garden many controversial issues can be rationally discussed. Climate change? Well, I planted my peas fully ten days earlier than usual last spring, but the beans were late, maybe because rain and cool weather delayed pollination. Shrubs that I never expected to survive the winter did so and bloomed profusely. Japanese beetles and Rose chaffers seem to be spreading into areas of the Northeast Kingdom where they never were seen in earlier times. Such observations related to climate are seen in a different light through the lens of the garden, perhaps to be scoffed at in formal meetings.

I was raised in England, the land of gardeners, where even the smallest garden plot can be productive and lovely. My father had an allotment during W.W. II — what Americans called a Victory garden. In wartime Britain, the growing

of food meant health and survival, the equivalent of victory, because imported food was almost unavailable. People grew as many varieties of food crops as they could in that cool and soggy climate. Allotments also fostered community strength and togetherness. I am sure that the war-time gardeners would have been a powerful resistance to any military invasion. "Stay out of my cabbage patch, you foreign devils!"

I believe that gardening is a uniting force for good. It is inspiring to see community gardens

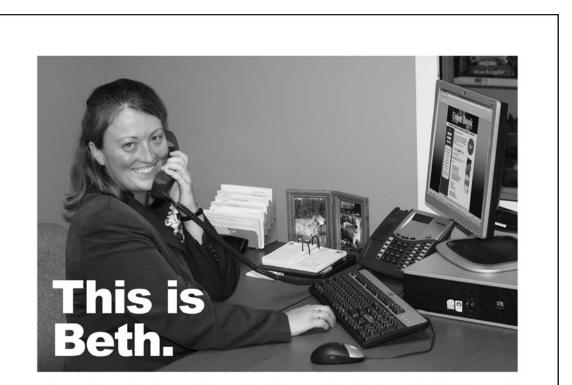
berries commenting that they were **"I think this will be quite an eye opener for** flowed up and down Main Street many consumers," Isobel P. Swartz

> and farmers' markets flourishing in Vermont. These have long been a staple of life in Europe where fresh, locally grown food is fully appreciated. Even sophisticated European city dwellers take pride in their rural roots and seem more concerned about where their food comes from than do most Americans.

> New concerns about increasing food prices, the cost of travel to the store - and, more importantly, the actual safety of store-bought, imported foods — are raising consciousness about our food supply. I have been checking more carefully the country of origin of many canned goods in the supermarket, and I am finding that many cheaper brands either do not give the information, or come from China. I find this alarming when I read of the lack of inspection and control over food processing in that country.

> During the next six months a new Food and Drug Administration regulation will come into effect in the U.S. that will require produce to be labeled with its country of origin. I think this will be quite an eye-opener for many consumers. If only we could have such a regulation for meat and fish it would bring us closer to the level of European awareness about food supplies. At that point maybe more people will begin to contemplate becoming gardeners, supporting local producers and appreciating good, locally grown food.

> For the next two snowy months I shall browse the seed catalogs and plan my vegetable garden. On a sunny day in late March I shall go out into the garden, prune the raspberries and welcome spring. I can hardly wait!



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"If evil does exist, than the weasel and I share it equally."

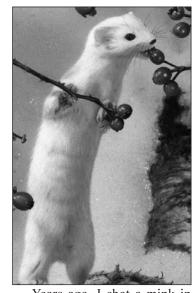
A touch of evil

By Nathaniel Tripp

like to think, after thirtyfive years of raising food and livestock here, that nature is my friend, that rather than taming the wilderness I have learned to let it tame me. It is, therefore, as much of a personal affront as anything else when nature seems to have other ideas, as was the case recently. I saw it coming, too, saw that as usual the balance of nature was out of balance. Some years, there may be a lot of butterflies, other years a shortage of toads. This year, it was the shortage of mice that set it off. The usual autumn the hen house, and flush with migration of mice from the barn to the warmth of the house never took place. My little offerings of poisoned blue cereal went untouched. In years past our household bouquet of dead mice and air fresheners could give the impression there was a dead prostitute in the basement.

Then I saw the graceful, bounding and evanescent arc of an ermine by the barn foundation after we had our first heavy snow. The ermine, which is just a weasel in an elegant white coat, never allowed itself to be seen again, but I knew enough to get out the "Have a Heart" live trap and set it by the hen house. Lacking mice, it was bound to go after chickens. And a week or so later, when I made my morning visit to the hen house the trap remained empty while not just one but several dead hens lay inside, far more than it could possibly eat. It's this business of "going postal" that makes us grasp at words such as "evil," but while I believe in good, I've often wondered if evil really exists at all, even among men, not to mention creatures of the wild.

At the risk of being dismissed as a senseless liberal, I have also wondered how much fault lies with the weasel, and how much with the hens.



Years ago, I shot a mink in my victory I decided to skin it. As I peeled the black velvet pelt back I revealed a stunningly beautiful terse, tight, circuitry of function. Braided pink muscles tapering to white tendons; this creature was wired and wound tight as a clock spring, all efficiency and function. Survival, not just through the long winter, but through millions of years, depended upon it. The chicken, on the other hand, has been devolving towards total dependency for the past ten thousand years, an easy mark for predators who live on the edge and instinctively hoard food for hard times. Our own values may serve as our compass while we ply life's dark waters, but they hardly apply to the wild creatures which circle endlessly, like sharks.

All the same, I don't tolerate predators taking my stock any more than Wal-Mart tolerates shoplifters. I checked the hen house for any detectable means of entry and reset the trap inside this time. The very next night I had a weasel. I brought it into the house to show the family before taking it out for a long drive. Some remarked it looked cute, especially in such a rich and velvety white coat. It was doing a good job of feigning innocence, too, as though this whole thing had been a huge mistake, but I've seen it all before. I let it go in the moonlight and snow a dozen miles away, and it seemed to simply evaporate as though it had never been real in the first place.

I reset the trap, knowing that weasels come in pairs. The next morning the trap was empty and there was another dead chicken. I searched for any little mouse holes, stapled more hardware cloth to the corners, got on a ladder and checked the ceiling. Next morning, dead chicken, empty trap. My liberal heart was facing a serious trial. I sprinkled flour all around the inside and the outside of the hen house, hoping for tracks. I set rat traps baited with anchovy paste. Next morning, same story, empty traps, no tracks, two dead hens. So I consulted a trapper, searched the Internet, and decided upon a system which relied upon the creature's innate curiosity and the cruelty of the leg hold trap. I built two boxes with entrance holes on the outside and traps on the inside. The next morning they remained empty and there was another dead chicken.

Desperate, I was preparing to move the surviving chickens to temporary cages in our own house until the situation was resolved. I reset the traps in the twilight. But when I went out to snag a chicken after dark, I saw that I had trapped the weasel. It had been waiting for me to leave and now it writhed on the floor like a long white sock in a clothes dryer. Our eves finally met. Then I shot it. As it died, I felt a curious combination of elation and grief. Surely, if evil does exist, then the weasel and I share it equally. The chickens, on the other hand, were ecstatic.

book review by Marvin Minkler

'The Darkness Under the Water'

By Beth Kanell, Candlewick Press November 2008 (302 pages)

Beth Kanell, who with her husband, Dave are coowner's of Kingdom Books here in Waterford, VT, has written her first young-adult novel, "The Darkness Under the Water," and a rich, historical novel it is.

The book is an engrossing, emotional, and beautifully written one, about a young Abenaki-French Canadian girl, named Molly, in 1920s Vermont, that touches on a dark period in our Green Mountain heritage; that of the Vermont Eugenics Project. The unconscionable government effort to rid the fine citizens of the state of it's "poor folk," like French Canadian, Abenaki, and the mentally ill.

The dark, flowing waters of the Connecticut River, as it flows by Waterford, figures largely in this novel, both in reality and in dreams. Molly not only is faced with discrimination, but also with the ghost of her sister, Gratia, who drowned years before in the raging currents, and with a new dam being built, that will wash

away, her family home, their land, and all the homes nearby it.

A fine, coming of age novel, Molly learns the old ways from her grandmother, longs for her father, long gone on a logging run, and contends with a pregnant, still-grieving mother. With hesitant, conflicted feelings about her roots and traditions, she is drawn to an Abenaki boy, Henry Paporte, who's bonding with the natural world, help her to find comfort, and the beginnings of self-discovery, after a terrible thing happens to her mother, the event changes the family forever.

Beth Kanell's beautiful use of language and the reader's genuine affection for the resilient Molly, makes this a wonderful addition to the genre.

The Darkness Under the Water, can be found at Boxcar and Caboose, in St. Johnsbury, Galaxy Bookshop in Hardwick, Green Mountain Books, in Lyndonville, and most independent bookstores in the state.

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Moving Forward by Justin Lavely

North Star debuts a new *user-driven* calendar *Users can upload events directly*

This article is the first of many that will spotlight and explain the features of the North Star Monthly's new Web site. These new online features are designed to augment the content of the North Star's print edition. We hope our explanations will draw more users and clear up any uncertainties. We have received great feedback from our readers regarding the site and how 'user friendly" it is. That's the reaction we were hoping for.

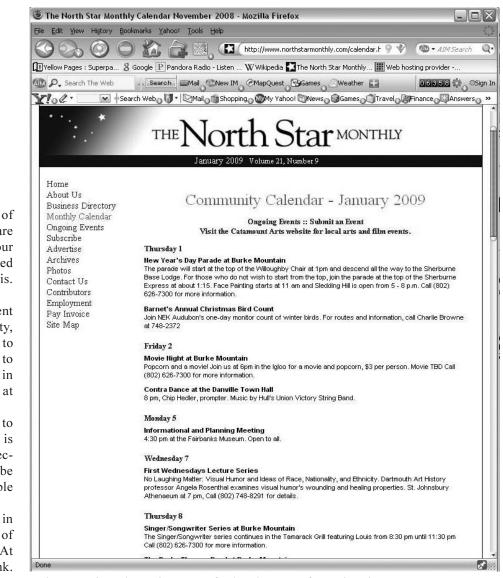
As a monthly publication, our printed calendar is somewhat limited. It's efficient at giving our readers a broad scope of upcoming events, which are, by necessity, weeks or even months away. What it lacks is the ability to publicize and adapt to changing schedules, last minute events and even inclement weather. In response to this problem, the North Star staff and Terry Miller, of Tmiller Web Design in Peacham, have created an interactive calendar feature at www.northstarmonthly.com.

Our publicized events, both ongoing and monthly, will be posted every month to the Web site after the North Star's print edition has been distributed. What's new is the ability of our Web site users to freely and easily submit their own events electronically throughout the month. These events, once reviewed by the staff, will be posted as soon as possible to the online calendar. Once posted, they will be available to anyone who checks our site regularly for updated information.

The process is quite simple. When you arrive at our homepage, there are links in the table of contents for "Ongoing Events" and "Monthly Calendar." When either of these links are clicked, the reader is directed to the corresponding calendar page. At the top of the page, underneath the North Star banner, is a "Submit Your Event" link. When this is clicked, the reader is presented with a submission form that can be easily filled out. When finished, the "Submit" option at the bottom of the page will send the listing to the North Star's general email box for review. If there are no problems with the listing, it will be uploaded within 24 hours.

Most of the benefits of this feature are straightforward, but there is one in particular we would like to point out. Our printed calendar is published on or around the first of each month, which leaves a lot of time for events to be cancelled, as well as times, dates and locations to change. Now users have the ability to adjust an event, even if it's already been printed and distributed in the North Star.

The interactive calendar feature has already been utilized by a few readers and we're hoping this number continues to grow. Down the road, we'd like to see the cal-



endar grow into the main source for local events, from church suppers to concerts to theater performances.

Though it seems this feature may drive people to the Web and, ultimately, away from the print publication, we're hoping for the opposite. One concept we kept in mind during the development of all of our Web features was to use the Internet to expand the North Star's content. We have tried to avoid simply having a print publication and an online publication that, in many ways, mirror each other.

As some print publications, large and small, try to figure out how to best use the Internet and others try to ignore it altogether, the North Star is continuing its voyage down the information super highway. We welcome any suggestions from our readers regarding how we can improve both our print publication and Web site.



Peacham's **Raymond S. Blanchard** announces new book Unforeseen describes what may happen as one event, without knowledge or intent of another can change the UNFORESEEN lives of many people; much like a pebble thrown into a pond creates a ripple effect that may have an "Unforeseen" effect on some foreign shore. In this story, the feature character is led to human emotions of curiosity and greed. Hopefully his travels and trials will, vicariously, create a sense of curiosity, anticiation and mystery in the mind of the reader Raymond S. Blanchard was raised in Peacham where his ancestors settled in 1777. He is a writer of poetry in addition to writing and producing a television series on health care. Available at the North Star office.



S Follow the Money by Rachel Siegel

Accounting in Wonderland

Change" would have been at least au courant, but given that since its creation in the wake of the last great despairing, the Securities and Exchange Commission has been

mocked as the fox that ardently watches the henhouse, its 211-page report of December 31, 2008 was no less dramatic. The SEC recommended that a rule not change: constancy that we can believe in.

Mark-to-market accounting was instituted after the savings and loan crisis of the early 1980s. Simply put, it is the idea that short term assets should be revalued at the end of every accounting or fiscal period, and thus the values listed on the balance sheet should be assets' most current market values.

This was a departure from classic accounting theory, which for over 500 years had held that valuation occurs only in the process of trade, because a known and verifiable value is placed on something only when it is actually traded in the open market, where its ultimate price is the consensus of all buyers and sellers. Therefore, assets must be valued at their purchase price, regardless of how outdated that may seem, because that is the last, objective, known market value. Until the asset actually changes hands again, there is only speculation.

Mark-to-market was proposed as a way of showing a more timely or relevant asset value; in an era when values could change quickly, balance sheets could keep pace. That seemed to make sense for assets with a readily identifiable and liquid market and therefore with a market price, especially for derivatives, whose value was abstract and ethereal at best. It seemed to give potential investors or lenders one more arrow in their analytic quiver, making it harder to hide "real" asset value. It respected the primacy of the market as the judge of value, the ultimate wisdom of crowds over the questionable appraisals of a few.

When markets climbed fairly steadily, no one objected. As long as asset values grew, mark-to-market accounting resulted in balance sheets seeming ever more valuable. The plumped, "unrealized" gains it produced were the silicon implants of income statements, enhancing the appeal of earnings and corporations. In turn, executive compensation based on performance grew, and shareholder delight grew, and forecasts of earnings grew, and no one said a word.

Now that there is a falling market - and indeed, in many cases no market at all - markto-market accounting is blamed for bank failures and the credit freeze and corporate bankruptcies and investor fears. After all, if banks weren't forced by accounting rules to write down assets, then no one would see how bad things were, and we could keep trading on our illusions of value.

The latest congressional bailout bill included a recommendation to the SEC to suspend mark-to-market. It seems banks - and their lobbyists - made a convincing case against their oppression by arcane accounting rules and their subjugation to the tyranny of cyclical markets.

Did they suggest a return to historic cost, which may be dated but is at least identifiable? No, the new law specified that the SEC look into some sort of conditional value, a projection of what the asset would be worth if traded in a functioning market, that is, if a market found it valuable.

But if there is no market, there is no value. If there is no market because there are no buyers, if no one is willing to sacrifice anything for something, then it has no objective value - and derivatives certainly have no subjective, that is sentimental or aesthetic, value, nor any usefulness outside the markets they hedge. Mark-to-market may not have had the log-

ical elegance of valuing assets at cost, but at least it was tied to some real market value existing at some real point in time.

Abandoning mark-to-market, we would truly enter the ether, drifting away from all moorings of reason in the hope of finding value somehow conditional on dreams of rebounding markets or memories of happier times.

This seemingly small rule is a matter of no small principle. After more than 500 years, we would be making accounting the servant of our vanities, rather than respecting it as a mirror of our reality.

Therein lies a deception we can no longer afford. We've had bubble after bubble (tech stocks, real estate, commodities, credit) and bust after bust, based on new "definitions" of value. Value is – and always has been — a measure of sacrifice; it is not the stuff of dreams.

Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy, and on accounting dilemmas. She is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College.





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When the family dealership in St. Johnsbury fell on hard times, it was all hands on deck for the Gilmour Family, including, from left, John, Doug Jr., Allan and Doug Sr.

The Gilmours have a long history with Ford and the Northeast Kingdom National problem, family touch

By Justin Lavely

hese days, the auto industry is a place of great uncertainty. One of the toughest economic years in U.S. history forced carmakers to ask for billion dollar loans and many local dealerships have seen their monthly sales volumes plunge.

The Gilmour family, owners and operators of Gilmour Ford in St. Johnsbury for the past decade, are in the midst of an overhaul intended to adapt the dealership to the current market. In addition to abandoning one of their franchises, the family also wants to restore the small town family feel that has been lost along the way.

A difficult project?

The task certainly isn't insurmountable for a dealership that is owned and operated by a family that includes Allan Gilmour, a former top executive of Ford Motor Company, and his nephews - Doug Gilmour Jr., an Iraq War veteran who has an M.B.A. and corporate experience at Ford, and Doug's brother John, a career car salesman with a solid track record.

The Gilmours have a history of dealing cattle in the Northeast Kingdom going back seven generations, but now the family has its sights set on reinvigorating a struggling local business.

Allan Gilmour began his career at Ford Motor Company in 1960 as a financial analyst. During his first stint at Ford, Gilmour served at various times as president of Ford Motor Credit Co., chief financial officer, executive vice president of International Automotive Operations, president of the Ford Automotive Group, and vice chairman. He retired in 1995 and joined a number of corporate boards and charities, including Whirlpool, Dow Chemical, Prudential, US West, and the Henry Ford Health System, where he served as chairman.

In 2002, Gilmour was persuaded to return to Ford as CFO and vice chairman by Bill Ford, a great-grandson of the legendary Henry Ford. Then in 2005, he retired for the second time. Currently he serves on the boards of DTE Energy, Universal Technical Institute, St. Johnsbury Academy, and as chairman of the board for the

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. He also serves as a healthcare advisor to the Rand Corporation and often gives talks on diversity and business.

Six months ago, Doug Gilmour Jr. took over as Gilmour Ford's general manager, moving his brother, John, to sales manager. After graduating from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1996, Doug Jr. attended Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. where he graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in classic literature.

After graduation, he made an unusual choice.

"Everything I read about people like Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great drew me to military service," he says, sitting in his small, simple office inside the Memorial Drive dealership. "I thought back on my time in high school and college and realized how blessed my life had been to that point. I wanted to give back. I wanted to experience the world and its diversity. I wanted military and political experience."

In 2000, Doug Jr. was on his way to basic training with the U.S. Marine Corps.



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From left: Cindy White, Donna Percy, John Blackmore, Joan Field, George Coppenrath, Betsy McKay, Sam Kempton, Darlene Pilbin, Sue Coppenrath and Cindy Hastings.

includes Dodge and Jeep, was the hardest hit of all the

cles, down from 2.51 million in 2007. By comparison,

General Motors' light-vehicle sales in 2008 totaled 2.95

Chrysler-branded vehicles dropped 60 percent, while Jeep

For the year, Ford U.S. sales totaled 1.99 million vehi-

major manufacturers as its sales plunged 53 percent.

fell 48 percent and Dodge declined 52 percent.

Why the Marines? "Because I wanted the biggest challenge and that was it," he says. At the time, he was considering a future as a teacher. "I think one thing many of my teachers were missing was real life experience and I wanted to have that."

munications specialist, his quest for a real life experience was taken to

dow, shaking it violently. After being evacuated onto the street, he looked at the gaping hole left in the side of the

Pentagon by the terrorist attack using a commercial air-

craft. He helped victims running from the building find

"Every time I drove to work in the following weeks, it

Not long after, he was transferred to Camp Pendleton

was like driving through a maze of checkpoints and into a

near San Diego, Calif., and shipped out to Kuwait, where

he waited with the initial force that would invade Iraq. As

After a nine-month stint, he returned home for some

a company operations officer, he managed over 100

serious soul searching. With his commitment to the

telecommunications Marines and \$30 million of equip-

Marines drawing to an end, he had to decide whether to

stay in the military, probably for 20 years, or walk away in

favor of starting a family with longtime girlfriend, Joelle,

Once he decided to leave the Marines, the couple

moved to Michigan where he, like his uncle Allan, went to

work for the Ford Motor Company as a network engineer,

working with the Ford global telecommunications organi-

zation on Information Technology (IT) networks and large

with European managers and engineers, working on devel-

oping a telecommunications project involving 17 countries. Corporate life appealed to him and he entered the

University of Michigan's M.B.A. program in 2006, which

His short but impressive career in corporate America

has left him with no shortage of opinions concerning many

U.S. companies. He considers Toyota, Apple and Dell to

be the gold standard because of their relationships with

their suppliers. He goes as far as calling Dell's founder,

Michael Dell, the Henry Ford of the computer age because

of his company's ability to build affordable, custom com-

Doug Jr. says he began to resent the amount of time he

It didn't take long for corporate life to lose its appeal.

resulted in an internship with Boston Scientific in

scale IT projects. He spent considerable time in Europe

refuge in nearby Arlington National Cemetery.

giant cloud of smoke," he recalls.

whom he met back at Skidmore.

Minneapolis, Minn.

puters for millions of consumers.

another level. Working in an annex building a quarter mile

ment.

In 2001, stationed at the Pentagon as a satellite com-

back to the Northeast Kingdom to help his family run the St. Johnsbury dealership they purchased in the late '90s and Wells River Chevrolet, which they purchased a few years ago.

was spending in a cubicle and the lack of challenges. As he

challenges and hold himself responsible for the outcome of

"I never saw the customers," he says. "I wanted some-

"I never saw the customers. I wanted something more tangible... in a community sense," Doug Gilmour Jr.

Soon his bags were packed and he was on his way

puts it, his career in the military taught him to seek out

"Small business has forced me to use all of my education," he says with a bit of a surprised smile, "You have to use marketing, sales and management skills in order to make it."

The situation Doug Jr. was walking into at the dealership was dicey. Although the business was strong financially, customer satisfaction had begun to erode. The family made plans for a management shift. John Gilmour, Doug Jr.'s brother, had been general manager, but he wanted to move back to the sales department, where he was more comfortable.

A few years ago, John was the top rated salesperson in the region and he often sold upwards of 30 vehicles a month, a decent level for a small dealership. As general manager, John missed the interaction with customers. He gladly handed the reins over to his younger brother, who had no auto retail experience.

Meanwhile, Allan started making frequent trips from his home in Michigan to the dealership and offering his assistance, while Allan's brother, Doug Sr., a cattle dealer in Monroe, N.H., started spending time at the Wells River dealership.

The group began to whittle down the size of the staff at both dealerships, which in most cases, involved not replacing employees when they left. The business is now running \$100,000 leaner in operating expenses, according to Doug Jr. With fewer employees, the Gilmours felt they could offer a more intimate and team-oriented car buying experience, while lowering their overhead in a difficult economy.

Now, it's not uncommon to walk in the dealership and see the brothers out back washing cars, riding along with customers on test drives and staying after hours to accommodate people.

With a new management structure and strategy in place, it seemed the sky was the limit.

And then the bottom fell out.

Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company and Chrysler all reported steep drops in U.S. vehicle sales in 2008, one of the toughest years the domestic auto industry has ever seen. In December alone, Chrysler, which

million units, down 23 percent from 2007.

The American carmakers weren't alone in their struggles. Toyota sales in all of 2008 totaled 2.22 million, down from 2.62 million vehicles in 2007, Honda's sales dropped 8.2 percent in 2008 and Nissan fell almost 11 percent.

"This is the worst period in the last 70 years," says Doug Jr. "Since U.S. auto sales were so profitable since the early 1900s and so easy, it created a sense of entitlement."

In response to the crisis, the Gilmours decided in January to cancel their Chrysler franchise, allowing them to focus their attention on promoting the Ford line.

While Chrysler vehicles once accounted for the majority of the dealership's sales, the Gilmours began phasing out their Chrysler inventory in preparation for the loss of the franchise. Doug Jr. says the uncertainty of Chrysler's future made it hard to believe in the quality of its vehicles or service warranties.

In no uncertain terms, the Gilmour's are putting there stock in Ford.

Gilmour acknowledges the quality gap between Ford and other companies that was created when Ford tried to please all demographics and spread itself too thin. But the gap has been closed for some time, he says, and Ford, the only domestic automaker that has yet to ask for government loans, is in a position to be successful. He points to the company's focus on redesigning the look and fuel efficiency of its fleet of small cars, as well as the quality small cars Ford sells in Europe and the high level of customer satisfaction.

"At one point, Ford tried to introduce those cars in the U.S. and it was a major flop," he says. "No one wanted to pay a premium price for a small car. That has changed."

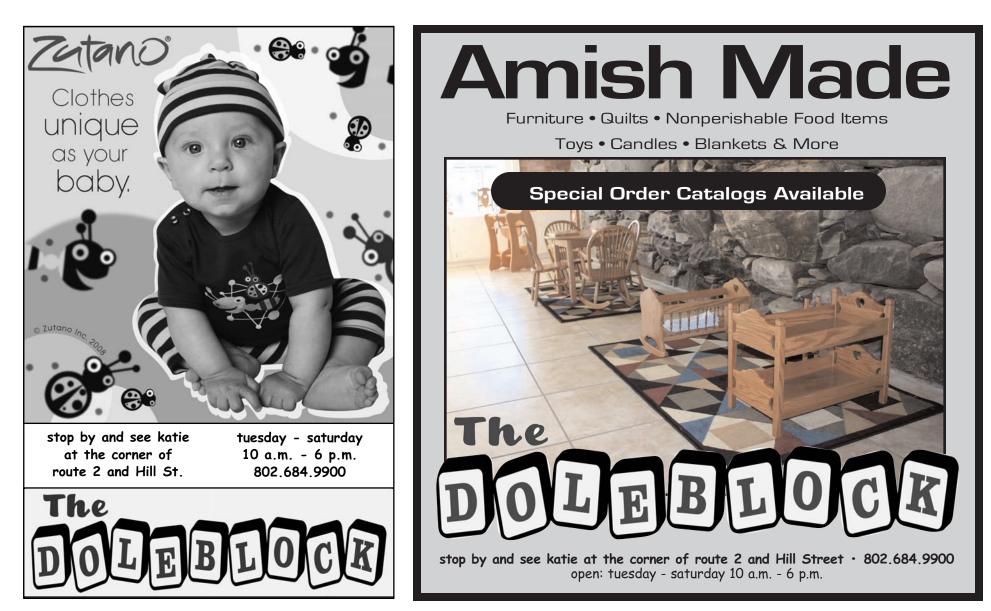
"Unlike a lot of consumers," he adds, "Ford has not forgotten what happened to gas prices."

Actually, many consumers seem to be remembering, according to Ford's chief sales analyst, who reported passenger cars outsold light trucks and SUVs for the first time since 2000.

"Ford wants to be the leader in gas mileage in every vehicle category," according to Doug Jr.

A tough task.

Perhaps the Ford family will again call the Gilmours for help.



down the road from the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, Doug Jr. heard what sounded like a rocket flying past his win-

thing more tangible... in a community sense."

his work. He needed a change.



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Lorna Quimby

ast Sunday, Jan. 11, our minister, Robert Potter, gave a sermon titled "Let It Snow." How appropriate! We drove to church through deep snow that had fallen earlier and the snow continued during the service. During coffee hour, the clouds finally rolled away and the sun came out. One of our choir members said Bob was to blame for the snow, for look what he'd called his sermon!

The song, "Let It Snow," came out during the 40s. You know how it goes:

Oh! The weather outside is frightful, But the fire is so delightful, And since we've no place to go, Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

That winter, too, it snowed and snowed. I think I was a senior at Lyndon Institute at the time. The year before, five of us, my three older sisters, my nephew and I, stayed in an apartment in Lyndonville. Mimi's husband was in the navy, Deedee's fiance was in the army, and June taught the fifth grade. Now only June and I remained, for Mimi and George had left to join her husband in Florida and Deedee was at the farm, taking care of Maw. I walked to to school. I greatly appreciated the hot lunch program. When I came home in the afternoon or on the weekends, I'd clear the snow from the clothes yard behind and the drive beside the house. I threw the snow in the drive into the hedge between our drive and that of the neighboring house. The pile around the clothes yard grew higher and higher.

It doesn't show signs of stopping, But I brought some corn for popping. The lights are turned down low. Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

Hanging washing on a line during the winter, whether it snowed or not, was a bonechilling experience, especially to your fingers. Wet sheets and towels froze "stiff as boards" and could stand alone when you brought them in. Your fingers would be numb, and you had to force them straight. How they tingled and stung as they thawed!

We washed on Saturdays, moving the washing machine (I think it was Mimi's) to the sink and filling it with hot water. Then, in strict order, we washed the white things, the towels and after those, the colored things. We didn't have to do barn clothes, so we finished much sooner than Maw did at the farm. Everything went through the wringer in to the rinse water and back through the wringer again. I'm sure we bleached and blued. After all, we'd read all those ads and didn't want the neighbors to see our "tattle-tale gray wash." Our last chore was to hang everything on the outside lines. We hung up the sheets and pillow cases while the towels were being agitated in the soapy water. In the winter, how good the warm rinse water felt to our chilled hands.

When we finally say goodnight, How I hate going out in the storm. But if you'll really hold me tight, All the way home I'll be warm.

In the kitchen we had bars to hold the clothes while they dried. How good the house smelled while the frozen laundry thawed—fresh and clean. If we gauged the time well, we could do the ironing before the pillowcases and blouses got completely dry. The hot iron and the steam made another good smell.

It was cold that winter, too. In the evenings, June and I sat close to the pot burner in the living room to keep warm. The outer edges were frigid. No storm windows, no heated cellar. We pulled down the window shades in the afternoon. They shut us in and gave privacy-but did little to help keep us cozy. I was knitting Patty a pair of socks for her Christmas present. It took forever, it seemed, for I was still knitting right-handed. The wool, however, was warm on my hands and lap. June was knitting Sibley a pair of Argyle socks. She didn't have any bobbins, so she had the different colored yarns wound up in balls, which she placed in sections in a cardboard box. It was a labor of love, for the yarn tangled easily, and his socks took longer than she'd planned for.

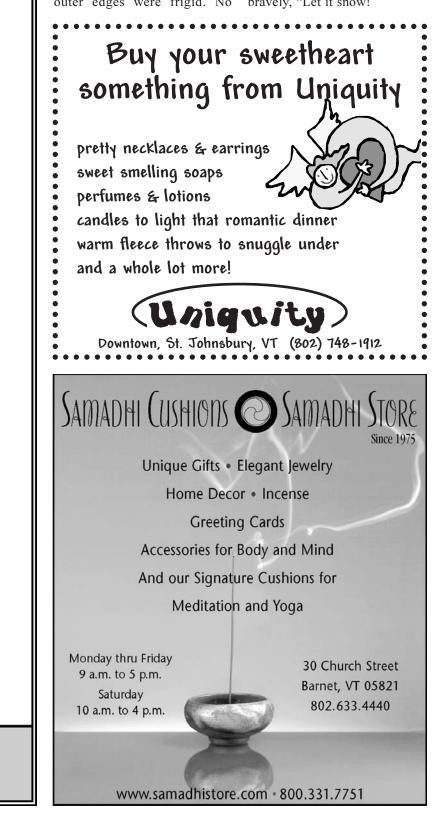
The fire is slowly dying, And, my dear, we're still goodbying, But as long as you love me so, Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

(At least that's how I remember the song.) How innocuous those lyrics sound to our ears! A cuddle and a kiss before the fire don't compare with the steamy words some singers belt out in this Brave New World.

Before the winter was over, we were heartily tired of cold and snow. We didn't actually blame the song but, as on this past Sunday, it seemed either prophetic or pathetic to say so bravely, "Let it snow!



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Lynn A Bonfield

uther Jewett, a long time resident of St. Johnsbury, began his medical practice there in 1800 after graduating from Dartmouth. In 1817 he represented the northeastern district of Vermont in the U.S. Congress where he sat side by side with Daniel Webster then in his second term. When the distinguished statesman visited Caledonia County in May 1830, according to a report in the Caledonian, he stopped "to pay his respects to his old companion in public life. They had not met for many a long year and the greeting was marked by the cordiality of old friendships still cherished by each." Upon his retirement from medicine in 1829, Jewett went on to take the role of pastor in Newbury, to edit the Farmer's Herald in St. Johnsbury, and to serve as a member of the Vermont Constitutional Convention in 1836.

Aging was the main theme of his 1850 letter to his son, also named Luther, in Lafayette, Indiana, and he did not hesitate give the particulars. to Especially endearing is his postscript, written with a traditional quill, where he admitted his difficulties using the newer style metal pen. When Luther Jewett

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died in 1860 at the age of eightseven, he was the oldest man in St. Johnsbury.

> St. Johnsbury Vt. Jan 17 1850

Dear Son Luther,

Yours of Dec. 24 came duly. I was much gratified to find that amidst all your cares we were still remembered. . . . As you say, time rolls on. A year, a month, or a minute gone is gone forever, tho its influence may never end - good or evil may come from the manner in which it has been spent unless on our being. The seed is rapidly sown, but eternity itself will be yielding the harvest. And whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap.

If you have grown etc since we saw each other, so have I. It thus is evident in your whitening hair & increased bulk, it has probably been more evident in me in all the various changes in which old age is want to show its effect. Among all the changes, however, I am nearly

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I.B. Colta

L

saw me. Tho the old tabernacle's in every part decaying, yet the process goes on so silently & gradually that no rude shock is felt. As for my old affliction, the asthma, tho I am seldom a day wholly free from it, yet it is only a few times in the year that it materially interferes with my rest. My sight better than is most common at my age. My hearing better than when you treated my acoustic organs. My memory has more sensibly parted than sight or hearing. I relish my food well, but the quantity I eat is small and plain. I have no toothache and still my teeth tho looseness & mismatching make chewing very difficult. Several have become so loose as to be removed with a thread and I probably should eat quite as well if none were left. My nights are commonly more uncomfortable than my days, not thru want of sleep but threw fatiguing dreams. My strength is slowly but steadily declining. When good roads and everything is favorable I can walk 50 or 60 rods; but five sixths of the day, I scarcely go out of the house. As for business or labor, it is out of the question. I can write and occasionally, tho not often, write a will or a deed. I read considerably; less however, _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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as comfortable as when you last

than formerly except the Bible that I have studied it so little. On the whole, I am more surprised that I am sliding down into the grave so comfortably in body & mind. I take a deep interest in every thing which concerns my children, and not less in your welfare than in any other one of them. I was gratified by the information your letter gave me respecting your business property &c. I hope your prosperity may increase & continue to a grand old age; and that your prospects and future for the endless picture may be bright and well founded.

Mother tho old and rather feeble is in more comfortable health than she was two years ago. She regards you with deep interest and as I also do anticipates with lively interest taking you by hand next June. Samuel [their other son] and wife have come from Barton to live with us...

Our village is growing fast enough, tho not equal to some

out West. It is healthy and I should think a prosperous time in Vermont generally. We have had great sleighing and mild winter weather for a month or more. Am glad Martha [granddaughter] is so near you. Our love to her & husband.

Your affectionate Father Luther Jewett

Writing with a metal pen as I have done above is rather new business to me, and I take a quill to explain why my handwriting is so difficult from any you have seen heretofore.

The original of this letter is preserved in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Editor's additions are in brackets; words missing are indicated by ellipses.



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People & Places A Funny Thing Happened ... on the Way to Cairo Part ||: Cairo Caper

By Dick Boera

[Since the esteemed editor of the North Star prefers that contributions to his publication be limited to a thousand words...and I far exceeded that in the January article, a couple of paragraphs that would have provided the "segue" into the ongoing adventure ended up on the "cutting room floor." This was not intended as a suspenseful whodunit, but it was admittedly an enjoyable whodidit. We continue the journey with the following condensation of my 15-page trip log.]

n leaving the Old City of Jerusalem, I had summarized the experience with these random observations: Streets are swept regularly and garbage is picked up by mini-tractor throughthe marketplace each out evening...Kids selling postcards are "in your face" and get to be pests...Every vendor offers a "special deal," then lowers the price again and again (nothing unique about that in traveling the globe)...The bread from the street vendors here (in the shape of a large circular pretzel coated with

sesame seeds) is a real treat...good to munch on just walking around. Other delights are the glazed dried pineapple slices available at delimarkets type around town...Weather couldn't be better...All in all, this unplanned visit - a serendipitous experience on the way to a different destination - has been overwhelming to the senses and emotions.

The timeline is still early October, 1997, and I'm now off to Cairo in a small, but plush, air-conditioned coach along with a Chinese backpacker from Hong Kong, several couples from Colombia and one black student from Canada. It's just 21/2 hours to the Egyptian border. It takes a scant ten minutes for clearance on the Israeli side, but it's all downhill from there! An entrance tax requires an immediate exchange of currency at non-advantageous rates. Acceptance of Customs forms requires visa verification at a series of checkpoints and rubber stamps, taking an interminable time. We then find that we have to transfer to an Egyptian van (sans air conditioning), which has three

fewer seats than there are passengers, including seats that fold down in the aisles. One passenger has "disappeared," and the two others share seats. It takes another half hour to strap all the luggage onto

the roof, and then our new driver "extorts" another 44 pounds (about \$13) as a "payoff' for a police escort to Cairo. By now, everyone is not only but just plain incredi-

bly hot. We drive across the Godforsaken, infamous Sinai Desert for many hours - sand, cotton fields, sand, power lines, sand, an occasional oasis (with little water), sand, sparse palms, sand, camels and hovels, sand, debris and relics of the Six-Day War, sand, Bedouins and their goats, and more sand. The dunes have to be shoveled off the highway regularly – a bit weightier project than snow removal.

After an interminable ride, we come to a ferry crossing of the Suez Canal, as a red ball of fire sets in the west and a crescent moon

alongside brilliant rises Venus...resembling a Turkish flag in the sky. Approaching Cairo, we cross the Nile and work our way downtown through bustling, then chaotic, Parisian-like traffic.

We're left off at the "hotel" which we're told has reasonable rates and is centrally located. After climbing four flights of stairs along with my fellow passengers, we find that the rates are reasonable...for a mattress on the floor of the lobby! The others agree to the conditions, but I slip out, take off through the darkened (but still crowded) streets and find comfortable accommodations at a small hotel where the friendly manager arranges a pering for me early in the a.m. and we head out into the (insane) traffic, crossing the Nile again on our way to Giza. A three-lane highway becomes five since everyone treats the white lines as additional space to be straddled by the wheels. Pedestrians deftly cross the five lanes of fast-moving traffic with impunity. A miscalculation or a moment's hesitation would surely cause a wipeout...and no one would look back. Most cars have dents or missing parts; many vehicles-for-hire have signs crudely painted on the sides of the hood, "TAX-C." Mohammed is a good driver, but I have to ask him to turn down the volume of rap music

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the things you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. hot under the collar, Explore, Dream. Discover." Mark Twain

> sonal taxi tour for me tomorrow...to the Pyramids, Sphinx, Saqquara, Memphis, Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, etc. @ 80 pounds (\$24) for the full day. Venture out on the "main drag" once more and have a tasty cheeseburger (camel?...goat?) with a Pepsi chaser. On the way back, stop for an ouzo nightcap at a smokefilled café, where nearly every table has an ongoing game of chess or shesh-besh (backgammon) amid loud kibitzing by the coffee- (or mint-flavored tea-) drinking onlookers.

Taxi driver Mohammed is wait-

which he favors; perhaps he considers it the only way to drown out the horns which everyone seems to have locked into the "on" mode in the futile hope of nudging the vehicle immediately ahead.

We reach the discrete border of the city, about seven miles from its center, where beyond is nothing but sand, and the Pyramids are now in sight, rising in the distance above suburban tenements. the Mohammed pulls up at a camel drivers' "corral." After the expected ritual of haggling over price - my skills have been honed in Turkey, Greece and Israel - I negotiate for



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Getting on is fun. (Getting off is another matter. The camel suddenly bends down on both front knees, and it's a strain holding onto the saddle without being propelled over it head first.) The ride is bumpy, but by relaxing and bouncing along with it, you can get into a rhythm (almost) synchronized with this taxi-of-the-desert. The first full panoramic view of the Pyramids is magnificent...with the Sphinx an impressive distraction in the foreground. We amble out into the desert to view these wonders from every angle, near and far, a perfect place for using many of my panoramic camera exposures. Abdul advises that it's not worth the price of admission to venture inside the pyramids since the chambers are now empty; you pay for a long walk into the claustrophobic (not his word) interior. Climbing the slopes is no longer allowed.

The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the sole survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It is 450 feet high and measures 754 feet along each side. Walking along close to the base and considering the size and number of the stone blocks which comprise it (nearly 2.5 million), you start to feel pretty insignificant...as well as awed. The two other main Giza Pyramids are Chephren and Mycerinus, son and grandson of Cheops. Chephren is only slightly smaller than the Great Pyramid and is the best preserved of the three; the top part still retains the original facing of smoothly finished stone, giving an idea of how the pyramids would have appeared when completed about 4,500 years ago. Three smaller pyramids, one of which was designated to be the tomb for Mycerinus' wife, were built nearby. A fence encloses the Sphinx, keeping visitors at a distance, while restoration work continues to protect it against further erosion...a project of several years.

We have been out in the desert for over two hours, stopping only for Cokes at the tent of a dune vendor and, at various vantage points, for a few photos. Moses doesn't appear tired, and I'm not either, but the sun is scorching and my eyes have soaked up all the wonder and beauty they can handle for one day, so we make one more diversion to a hillside overlooking the panorama for a final snapshot and return to the corral. Abdul and Ali don't seem thrilled with their tips (hard to know what's appropriate in this economy), but I buy them beers and now they're happy. Abdul (two wives; more affluent older brother can afford four) tries to get me to buy perfume at his "cousin's" emporium, but it's getting late and Mohammed is back with his taxi (a timely excuse for a graceful exit) to take me on to Saggara - more pyramids, a walking tour this time.

We skip Memphis – with regret at having to miss out on the recumbent statue of Ramses and an alabaster sphinx – to come back to Cairo in time to take in the Egyptian Museum...where, two weeks ago, a bus was blown up by a terrorist bomb, killing eight German tourists. The scorched pavement bears witness to the incendiary event.

The visit here is certainly a highlight of the trip. The treasures of Tutankhamen, many of which are recently returned from a heralded world tour, are breathtaking beyond description. Seeing these originals of the priceless objects yielded up by the tomb of this Pharaoh - already familiar from reproductions in art and history books as well as TV documentaries - is a numbing experience. The solid gold mask, which covered the head of the boy-king, outside its linen wrappings, is the focus of the dazzling exhibit; there are two more equally rich masks displayed from the three-fold nest of coffins (the innermost being solid gold). The other treasures fill a second floor wing of the Museum. The god Anubis, the (Doberman) dog-like god of mummification, which stands guard at the entrance – as it originally stood guard over the tomb —- is an intriguing attraction and one of the few valuable objects which was not entrusted to the tour. The beautiful limestone bust of Queen Nefertiti, recognizable the world over, is the one treasure missing from the collection; it rests in the Berlin Museum. However, an almost identical unfinished head of the queen is on display here.

I count over forty mummy cases on the lower (main) level of the building. The massive highceilinged central hall is dominated by twin statues of the famous Pharaoh Ramses II (builder of the rock temples at Abu Simbel), which rise up to the third level of the building. His mummy is among those displayed. The privilege of seeing all these exhibits of centuries-old Egyptian art, jewelry, weaponry, woven fabrics, pottery, mummies, statuary, and other cultural icons, is well worth the trouble of getting here. Considering the bad publicity generated by the event that so recently took place here (the bombing), the Museum is surprisingly crowded with tour groups.

(Other sightseeing in Cairo is hardly memorable enough to recount in the limited space here.) The late night return across the Sinai to Jerusalem is almost a repeat (miserable) experience of the earlier trip. Five miles short of the Israeli border we each fork over 16 pounds (\$5) extortion money in addition to the regular fare before our van driver will proceed further. The delay on the Egyptian side of the border is expected...and still intolerable. On the Israeli side, I ask that my passport be stamped this time, recalling that it felt cowardly (however prudent) to have asked for the stamp on a separate piece of paper coming into Tel Aviv. We're all glad to get back to Israel where even the money changers are more honest and all operations are considerably more efficient. We also have a real bus, spacious and comfortable, and I'm able to get a good rest stretched out across the rear row of seats.

I've exceeded my space quota again and haven't covered the further sightseeing in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, meeting up with "The Drifters" Robert and Tobias again, the military flight back to Germany from Tel Aviv, the ongoing hop to Souda Bay Naval Air Station for my third visit to Crete (three more have followed with many side trips to Santorini, Mykonos, and others of the smaller picturesque Greek islands in the Aegean), for swimming and a memorable ten-mile hike through the Samaria Gorge.

The return flight to Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts via Germany is uneventful. I had decided to forego the original and primary plan to put to use my Eurail Pass – still valid until the following spring – to get back to Julie who has been most understanding of my whimsical travel ventures over the years. I may also be in time to catch the last stages of the foliage in the Northeast Kingdom...and rake leaves! ★







No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

Rebruary is the month for lovers and what is more dear to a lovers heart than chocolate. The following recipes are the ultimate in chocolateness and certainly the way to your Valentine's heart.

Awesome Chocolate Cake with Bittersweet Chocolate Ganache and Mocha Buttercream

This is the perfect cake for your Valentine.

It is sinfully rich and chocolaty but not overly sweet with a hint of coffee in the middle. It is by nature an adult cake but children with a sophisticated sweet tooth appreciate this moist and flavorful cake.

Make the ganache frosting at least a day ahead. Leave it overnight at room temperature to achieve a wonderful texture for spreading.

Make the Bittersweet Chocolate Ganache

12 oz. bittersweet chocolate – chopped (can use bitter-

sweet bits)

1 pint heavy cream – do not substitute any other type of cream

Place the chocolate in a mixing bowl. I use a little bit less than a package of chocolate chips.

In a large saucepan, bring

the cream to a rolling boil on high heat. Use at least a 4 quart saucepan and watch the pot to avoid a boil over. It has a tendency to do this and creates quite a mess. Turn to medium heat and boil quietly for a few minutes.

Immediately pour the hot cream over the chocolate and stir or whisk softly until the two are combined. It should be a milk chocolate color.

It will be too soft to spread at this point but will continue to set until it is completely cooled. I suggest cooling it at room temperature - at least 8 hours but overnight is best. If you are making it a few days ahead you can cool it in the refrigerator, but make sure to bring it to room temperature before use. It will take a few hours and sometimes requires adding a little more hot cream. Do not put this in the microwave to get to the right temperature. It does not react well to this heating method.

Set aside to use on the cake.

Make the Mocha Buttercream

There are no eggs in this buttercream, but it is magically smooth and has a deep mocha flavor. I use it for many cakes and flavor it accordingly.

It keeps very well and can be made a day ahead and stored at room temperature overnight. Like the ganache it needs to be at soft room temperature for use. If you have refrigerated it do not use the microwave to bring it to the proper temperature. Just let it sit out for a few hours – even overnight.

³/₄ lb. butter at room temperature

- 1 lb confectioners sugar 1/4 cup espresso or strong
- coffee cooled ¹/₂ cup cocoa dissolved in the
- coffee

Place the butter in the large bowl of an electric mixer. Beat at high speed until fluffy. Add the confectioners sugar and cocoa flavored coffee alternately at low speed (you don't want to spray the sugar all over the kitchen.) When you have incorporated this mix into the butter, beat at high speed until light and airy.

You may eliminate the coffee if you wish, but dissolve the cocoa in either warm water or cream with a little vanilla. Make sure it is cool before you use it.

Make the Cake

3 cups all purpose flour (do not use cake flour for this cake) 1½ cups sifted cocoa powder 3 teaspoons baking powder 2 teaspoons baking soda 1 teaspoon salt 2¼ cups sugar 1 lb butter – room temperature 6 eggs 3 cups buttermilk (or regular milk)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour two 9" cake

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Whisk together the flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl and set aside.

Beat the butter and sugar in the large bowl of an electric mixer on high speed until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each egg. Beat until smooth and airy.

At low speed add the flour mix alternately with the milk until well combined. Make sure the batter is mixed, but do not beat it up too much.

Fill the cake pans to ³/₄ and set in the center of the oven for 35 minutes. Check for doneness by inserting a toothpick in the center of the cake. It should come out clean. If the cakes are not done, cook in 5 minute intervals, checking for doneness each time.

When they are done let them cool in the pans for about 10 minutes. Then invert them on a plate and put them back on their bottoms on a cooling rack.

Let them cool completely before frosting.

Putting the cake together

Put one layer on the platter you will be using for service. Cover the top with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the buttercream. If you have three layers put the second layer on top of the first and frost it with the buttercream. Put the top layer on and spread the ganache liberally over the entire cake. These frostings will spread with ease if they are at a warm room temperature. Place a generous amount of the mocha buttercream in a pastry bag fitted with your favorite tip and decorate around the top edges of the cake and around the bottom. If you are serving this cake to your Valentine decorate the top with some red roses.

Chocolate Shortbread

This is a simple shortbread recipe with the addition of cocoa. The heady aroma of

chocolate will fill your kitchen when you make them and draw whatever crowd happens to be around. They are the essence of chocolate and make a great Valentines dessert.

1 1/2 cups flour -

unbleached, all purpose 1/2 cup sieved good quality cocoa

1 cup confectioners sugar 2 sticks butter – slightly

softened

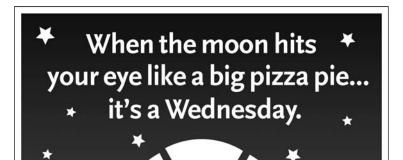
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.

Whisk the flour, sugar and cocoa together in a large bowl. Cut the butter into the dry ingredients with a food processor, pastry blender or with your hands. Blend until the mix is homogeneous and smooth. If it is too buttery, add a little bit of flour – If it is to dry add a little butter to soften it. Try not to work it too much.

Work the dough into a ball and flatten it out on a floured surface. With a floured rolling pin, roll out the dough to a one half inch thick piece. It is important to have them the same thickness for cooking purposes. I always use a 1½" heart shaped cutter, but the same size round one will do. Put the cut shortbreads on an ungreased cookie sheet about half an inch apart.

Bake for about 15 minutes and then check on the cookies. When done they should have lost their sheen and be just firm to the touch. Check on them in 5 minute intervals.

Turn theses simple shortbreads into a gourmet Valentines treat by buttering the flat side of one shortbread with chocolate ganache from the above recipe and making a sandwich cookie with another shortbread. Serve two on a plate with a small dollop of whipped cream and 3 or 4 raspberries on the plate.



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Walden Hill Journal

The long short month

Feb. 1, 2008

storm this after-

noon to help February live up to its dire reputation. Chickadees

were taking advantage of the morning calm to stock up at the feeder with a brief respite when a northern shrike appeared. I beat out the storm as well with a prelunch snowshoe. In addition to a plethora of snowshoe hare tracks, I found the distinctive paired tracks of a fisher cat making its way through the lower swamp and out to the road. There were skunk tracks as well, just at the edge of the woods that were more identifiable by the prevailing odor than by the visual tracks.

Feb. 2, 2008

Freezing rain and heavy winds had us locked in tight this morning. Neither the garage nor mudroom doors would budge. Fortunately our neighbors came to the rescue and chiseled from the outside while we pushed from inside to finally open the door enough to squeeze out and finish the job. Jeff then headed down to the garage door to do the same. Of course, there was a mound of ice piled in front of the door that had to be chopped up for the snowthrower to handle. Sand and wood ash cover our stairs, walkway and porch in the hope that the sun will heat up the dark surface and melt off the remaining ice. It's a beautiful, glistening scene which can at least be appreciated from an aesthetic viewpoint. Neighbors further down the hill had to throw buckets of hot water on their car doors to gain entry. It's not the great ice storm we experienced in '98, but it's enough of a nuisance in its own right.

Feb. 6, 2008

Snow, snow and more snow. We have quite a layer cake of ice

and snow. Fortunately the top February: the longest short layer for now is nice and fluffy. month of winter. We have a snow It's taken some heavy duty shoveling and snow

this

blowing to cut By Ellen Gold through Photos By Jeff Gold winter cake. The

patio doors are covered to the top with what's accumulated from the roof. We'll need to start shoveling that down a bit soon. But for now, we're busy enough just keeping the stairs and drives open. Our lullaby last night was the roaring freight train sliding down the back roof. Temperatures rose to 37° and must have held long enough to finally dislodge the ice and snow that clung to the shady side of the house. Snow on the south side has been cascading down daily, leaving an impressive wall of snow blocking the garage door. It's quite amazing to watch the doors slowly rising with no daylight visible for five feet or more. Pine grosbeaks have been flocking to the feeder along with redpolls and chickadees. It must be pretty bleak up north to send the grosbeaks down our way.

Feb. 11, 2008

A rare appearance of the muted sun on this 3° morning. It's been another weekend of continuous shoveling and snow blowing. Our culvert railings have disappeared as has the ash can. Only the tops of the medium sized evergreen seedlings punctuate the white field. Whatever dried grass and flower seeds remain, are now buried under the snow. Chickadees will have to make do with seeds from the suet and feeder. They proclaim that February has arrived by the occasional hint of a trill among their usual tuneless chatter.

Feb. 14, 2008

Happy Valentine's Day! The morning sun is trying to break through, highlighting very gentle snow flurries. This has definitely been the winter for snow. We're



only halfway through February and we're already on record for the greatest winter snowfall. To date, we're over 3 feet above normal. Our snow drifts are nearly up to window level. I had to tramp down the snow around the compost bin to find the lid. No time or energy left to get out on the snowshoes except to beat down a path to the bird feeder, compost bin and to the front porch to shovel down that mound of snow. Jeff is having a hard time blowing the snow past the existing mounds and shoveling presents a similar problem. It certainly is beautiful, though.

Feb. 18, 2008

50° and climbing. Rain last night and subsequent warmer weather today is bringing down the massive snow pack a bit. More importantly, recent roof snow that hung on the north side of the house finally came cascading down. It's very misty with all that moisture evaporating off the snow, but the sun is managing to find a hole here and there to shine through. Our snowshoe trail is finally established after several attempts by us and the neighbors to pack down that extra foot of snow. Foxes are out looking for mates. We saw a very handsome one cross I-91 and romp around a bit on the median snow banks.

Feb. 20, 2008

Beautiful full moonrise on this chilly clear night. It promises to be good viewing for the total lunar eclipse. 8:45 and the bright moon is showing just a bit of "8 o'clock" shadow. 9:00 and more of the moon is being eaten away by the earth. Half moon, quarter moon and finally just a sliver within an hour's time. I braved the 9° temps to step outside for the final minutes until the eclipse was total and only a bronze disc remained, small and obscured in

\$**25**⁰⁰

\$**30**00

the star-sparkling sky. As the moon became more muted, the stars greatly increased in brightness, reclaiming the night sky. By 11:00 I could go to bed, knowing that the bottom sliver of the moon was regaining full illumination.

Feb. 24, 2008

5:45 PM and it's still light out. That's a sure sign that we're moving away from the early darkness of winter. The fluffy snowfall on Friday gave just the right cover and cushion to make snowshowing more enjoyable. Grouse and snowshoe hare have been out and about and it looks like we might have had a fox stop by the bird feeder last night. He was no doubt attracted to the signs and smells of red squirrels and moles that have burrows leading straight to the feeder. He's more than welcomed to take as many of both as he likes. I've been hesitant to fill the feeder because of the squirrels, but the chickadees need to eat too.

Feb. 29, 2008

The final day of February brings record-breaking subzero weather. It's worth the extra day to be able to include another day of sunshine in this cloudy month. Fortunately it's not another day of snow. We've seen way too much of that already this winter. The storm earlier in the week didn't create as much new snow as predicted but still added another 8 inches or so to the existing several feet on the ground. Our beautifully groomed snowshoe trails will need to be packed down once again. Today's bitter cold but bright sunshine and clear blue sky is more typical of February weather. Leap year allows us to post today in February where it belongs.

(To view an extended version of this month's Journal with additional photos, go to www.jeffgoldgraphics.com and click on "The *View from Vermont")*



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n the morning of the swearing in of the 44th President of the United States, Danville senior Gabi Conference Center in Washington D.C. At 4:30, she arrived the lawns, not even staying to hear President Obama's at Union Station. She felt safe, but intimidated by the four speech. They had come for one reason—to watch with their Secret Service agents standing there with their assault rifles. At 5:30, she walked to a designated Silver Gate on 3rd Street land of opportunity for all. and presented her ticket.

Once inside the Mall Standing Area, she was nearly knocked over by Jesse Jackson, who was bustling to the

ABC broad-Article By Sharon Lakey casting booth. At 6:30 she Photos by Gabi Potts and Lauren Peterson had made her

way to the front, near the right side of the Reflecting Pool. She elected to stand against a concrete barricade where she felt protected from the pressure of the crowd that was already tripped, skinned her knee, and lost and recovered a shoe.

from her bed at the Best Western in Tysons Corner, Virginia. At 6:30, she boarded a shuttle bus with other students in her point near the National Museum of the American Indian. After going through a security checkpoint at the Museum, similar to what airline passengers are sent through, they less time in the classroom," she said. There was more tourattended a hot chocolate reception.

But, as the time neared for the ceremony, her group of Jefferson Memorial and the Capital Building. A trip down five decided they wanted to go into the crowd. Once more the Potomac on a dinner cruise was an outstanding moment they cleared security and worked their way toward one of the Silver Gates. Having no tickets, they waited near the fence, the boat was crawling with guards," she said. Her speakers surprisingly close to where Gabi was waiting. Lauren included such luminaries as Colin Powell, Archbishop remembers feeling a strong sense of anxiety about what Desmond Tutu and former Vice President Al Gore. On the could happen; all the show of force in Washington made that Lincoln Memorial steps she saw a performance that includpossibility obvious. She could see where Barack Obama was ed Stevie Wonder, U2, Garth Brooks, Sheryl Crow, Bruce

The girls arrived in Washington on Jan. 17, Lauren by air and Gabi by land, to participate in the activities planned by each of their respective student groups. Gabi's group, The Presidential Classroom consisting of 350 students, was housed in the city; Lauren's group, The National Young Leaders Student Conference consisting of 7,300 students, was housed outside the city.

Gabi's agenda included student caucuses, tours to Mount Vernon, the Jefferson Memorial and the Pentagon Memorial, which honors the 184 dead from 9/11. It also included speakbeginning to flow into the area. During that walk, she had ing appearances by two well-known men: Dr. Ed Smith and former President Clinton. "For three days we were surround-At 5:30 a.m., Danville freshman Lauren Peterson arose ed by Secret Service agents and didn't even know it," she said. "It was all in preparation for President Clinton." After the inauguration, a celebratory ball helped her group relax group and was brought into the city. They were dropped at a and enjoy each other's company in lovely clothes and a feeling of multicultural good will.

Danville students witness historic inauguration



Gabi and Lauren hold a picture from The New York Post of the inauguration ceremony. The gray arrows, which are on the right side of the image and near the Capital Building, represent approximately where each of them stood. Below, the image has been enhanced and the arrows are white ..







event impossible. Wanting to see and hear the ceremony, her tory ball was held at the Smithsonian National Air and Space group returned to the Museum to watch it on the Jumbo Museum where she enjoyed dinner and was treated to a per-Tron.

Gabi felt a frightening surge in the crowd behind her as the ceremony neared. The fence and lack of tickets were no Steps, a group who bills themselves as "the Washingtonlonger an impediment; the people simply moved forward, based troupe of Congressional staffers turned songwriters. and the fence was gone. But she stood her ground, one of two We put the MOCK in Democracy." "I bought all three of million who were there to personally witness the swearing in their CDs," said Gabi with a mischievous smile. of America's first African-American President. "I could see his silhouette from that distance, his hand raised for the Lauren's mother. It was a long 10-hour trek that inched them oath," she said.

ping, a collective holding of the breath. "A perfect moment," ture. she said. "All of our history of division was behind us, and we were looking into the future. And there was hope."

Gabi describes the sound that followed after his hand dropped. "People cried and screamed. Words like, 'finally' and 'yes we can' and 'thank you.' It was a passionate and nat- him. I worry about that." ural outpouring of emotion that rose all around me." "We felt like one family, not separated," said Lauren.

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Left: The back of Gabi's Silver ticket shows the area plan for the inauguration ceremony. Above, security was paramount as snipers took position on the Capital Building

The moment that had brought people of all ages and colors to the White House was over quickly. Gabi remembers Potts arose at 2:30 a.m. from her bed in the Marriott that many turned after the oath and began crossing back over own eyes the defining instant when America became truly a

> Lauren's agenda was different from Gabi's. "There was ing: the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, for her. "I guess we must have been a terrorist risk, because



standing, but the large crowd made actually viewing the Springstein, WILL.I.AM, Usher and Beyonce. Her celebraformance by Daughtry.

Both girls were thoroughly entertained by The Capital

They returned from their trip by car on Friday, driven by along the clogged highways and bridges that President Lauren remembers that moment as one of silence, a stop- Obama speaks of in his plan to rebuild America's infrastruc-

> There was the usual letdown from the shining moment they experienced firsthand, but the trip gave them time to unwind and reflect on their experiences. "A huge hurdle has been overcome," said Gabi. "There's a lot of pressure on



Curt Holden, boat builder

Continued from Page 14

tography business took a nosedive, and it wiped out my career.'

That was in the early 1990s, and it was around that same time that he linked up with a man who built boats in a shop in Kirby. "That person made wood-strip canoes," Holden says, describing a process in which strips of wood are bonded together on a form in the shape of a canoe, then coated with fiberglass and resin.

"It's a fiberglass boat with a wood core," Holden says. "I like the wood to be on the outside."

Holden's interests lean toward a technique called lapstrake, in which planks - or strakes - overlap each other to form the boat's hull, rather than butting together. This construction method stiffens the hull and allows the builder



of propelling a boat," he says. "You have that leverage working for you. You can also take people out.'

Holden says he decided on a

finance another project in which he would cobble together the frame, transmission, suspension, body and other parts from different cars to create a better MGA

"I see a need. I see a niche," Curt Holden

to use lighter-weight wood.

Take the sailing canoe at Caplan's. It is called a MacGregor and is almost 14 feet long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide but weighs a diminutive 40 pounds.

"I have one just like it I've been paddling for 10 years," Holden says. "It has a lot of interior volume. I can load it up with a couple of weeks of food, camping supplies, and the dog."

Holden says the boat excels in rougher waters than an average canoe would find comfortable. "The boat feels secure in moderately windy and wavy conditions. You can go almost anywhere in the thing. It'll go in the ocean."The boater sits in the bottom and uses a double-paddle - like a kayak's - or sets sail and uses wind power to skim the surface.

The boat Holden plans to start building will be bigger, capable of carrying up to four people, and will use oars rather than paddles.

"It's a more efficient way

rowing boat because "you don't see many around. You see a lot of kayaks, canoes and powerboats. No rowboats. If you do, it'll be an aluminum tub. People are ready to rediscover rowing boats."

Holden admits he cannot compete directly with mass-produced boats. He is banking on a relatively small group of boaters who appreciate hand-crafted quality.

"I see a need. I see a niche, a place where there is nothing. Wooden boats are not going to be cheap. That's why the niche idea is important. The boats I build will appeal to people who have money.'

Holden keeps his financial head above water with carpentry work - remodeling jobs, hardwood floors and the like. He made mahogany decks for a steamboat owned by a friend in Sutton.

He's also restoring an Austin Healey Sprite, a vintage British roadster that he's owned since the 1970s. He hopes to sell it to



roadster. "Put it in a hopper, grind it up and see what comes out" is how he describes the process.

Holden also surrounds himself with animals. Among them are Kipper the Boston terrier; a three-legged cat named Charlie; two geese named Horace and Henry; Reevers the goat; and a flock of hens presided over by a rooster named Stu or Stew, depending on Holden's mood.

Recently, Holden came across his old violin, which he hadn't played in 30 years. He sent it to the repair shop and bought a new bow. Now the man of many interests says, "I'll be sawing the old catgut before too long."

During the Great Depression: **Glenn Johnson was an innovator**

By Betty Blake

uring the years of the Great Depression, my parents had no car, which meant no means of transportation to Lyndonville stores. We grew most of our food on the farm, but there were items that had to be bought at the store. For instance, Mother's baking supplies, the flour, sugar, coffee and tea.

When the biscuits started to get smaller and the coffee weaker we knew it was time to make a trip.

At the same time, a man by the name of Glenn Johnson, who ran a small grocery store in North Danville, had a dream. He dreamed of putting a store on wheels and taking the store to the customers. He had three strong sons, Noel, David, and Homer in need of work and two lovely daughters Rebecca and Madelyn and his wife, Betty. After a great deal of thinking and planning, Glenn sold the store and moved the family over to Lyndon Corner. He invested his money in four trucks, designed them with

shelves and cupboards and a refrigerated meat department in the back. The trucks were painted blue with white lettering, which read, "The Traveling Grocery." An innovative business was born.

We didn't need to worry any more about getting groceries; they would come to us. It was a family enterprise. The boys worked on the trucks, Rebecca was the bookkeeper, Madelyn and her mother laundered the white suits the grocers wore each day, plus they made out the hand bills left with the orders for the next week.

Here is a sample:

-Oysters: \$.39/pint -20 pounds of sugar: \$.59/per dollar cash order -Fresh ground Supreme coffee: 2 pounds for \$.29 -Fresh Western Corn beef: \$.29/lb -Oranges: \$.2/piece

Each morning, the grocers donned their freshly laundered suits and started out. They traveled as far north as the



The Johnson family wortked together during the Great Depression to bring groceries to shoppers, but the start of World War II eventually made gasoline too hard to come by.

Canadian border, south to Wells River, West to Greensboro and east to the Connecticut River.

The day the truck came to our little village was a big day. We kids got up early so we would not miss it. We each were given a nickel to spend. We agonized over how to spend it. Should we buy a big five cent candy bar and as the day wore on and it became warmer, perhaps an ice cold bottle of orange soda?

our farm in the early afternoon in summer. During winter and mud season, sometimes it would be well into the evening before we saw the lights coming up the road.

It was amazing how they did it in winter during a hard snowstorm. The truck would travel as far as they could through the drifts and they would get out, put on snowshoes and walk to the houses, get the order, snowshoe back to the truck, fill the order and put The truck usually arrived at it on a toboggan and draw it back to the house.

Talk about dedication.

I would like to see Wal-Mart compete with that today.

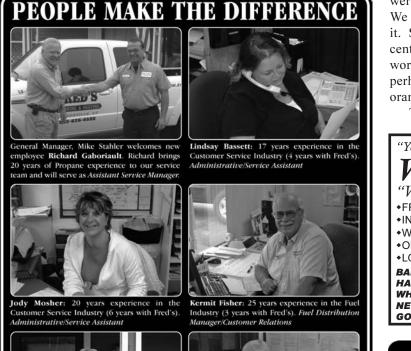
If a customer was going to be out for the day, the order was left on the kitchen table with the money, when they returned their groceries would be waiting for them.

The Johnsons continued running their trucks for ten years. I wonder if some of the bills were ever paid; it was the Great Depression, and I know we had to ask for credit many times. They probably kept some people from going hungry.

When World War II started, gas was short and tires were almost impossible to get, so the Traveling Grocery was disbanded.

Makes you wonder if we will ever see anything like that again.











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Local lawmakers reach across the aisle ...and jockey for a window seat

By Carla Occaso

he new kids in the House (of Representatives) from Southern Caledonia County face a mountain of crises, but each of the three newly elected officials sounds up for the task.

Rep. Kitty Toll, Rep. Gary Reis and Rep. Robert South make their debut appearances on the statewide political scene just in time to face a crumbling economy, impending energy crisis, and potential systemto do just that.

Toll shares Reis's feelings of responsibility to cut spending, and she vows to make the tough decisions while protecting programs that benefit children and vulnerable people who cannot take care of themselves.

"I know we are going to make some cuts," Toll said. "These cuts are going to affect people. I want to be thoughtful and make sure the cuts are not detrimental to children

improvement, but not at the expense of our children," Toll said. "Instead of returning to a system where there was inequality, we need to keep moving forward."

And while they will all vote on the big issues like budget cuts and education funding, each one has a committee assignment where they can craft specific legislation before it gets voted on by the General Assembly. Reis sits on the Institutions Committee where he

Apart from diving into the political issues, each new representative reacted to the transition from citizen to Legislator in different ways.

Toll's election to the Vermont House of Representatives follows the footsteps of her mother, Catherine Beattie of Danville, who served in the house in the early 1960s. Toll said she would often sit in on her mother's committee meetings as a young child. She also

South said he was surprised and impressed by the formal ceremony accompanying the opening of a Legislative session. For example, the honor guard, Vermont State Police and members of Vermont's Army National Guard escorted Gov. James Douglas and his family into the House chamber when Douglas took his oath of office. South was also impressed by how respectfully they treated Vermont Auditor Thomas Salmon's wife when Salmon was sworn in over the telephone because he is on military duty in Iraq. His wife got a standing ovation from Legislators, South said.

Reis said he was impressed by the sheer volume of paperwork he gets each day. His mailbox has 50 to 60 pieces of paper each day and sometimes twice a day. It's a challenge to read it all, he said.

All agreed their new responsibilities were overwhelming but that they would fight for legislation that would best protect residents of Caledonia county.

"Like most freshman, I'm sitting with my mouth closed and my ears open," Gary Reis

wide education restructuring. None professes to have a secret quick-fix, but all three sound ready to work toward finding answers.

"I don't have a solution, but I know we need to do something," Reis said. "Like most other freshmen, I'm sitting with my mouth closed and my ears open. I'm too new to have solutions, but I'm sure open to hearing solutions and seeing if we can build consensus to do something."

Reis proves his willingness to reach across the political aisle by joining in the local car pool where he is the lone Republican riding with Democrats. He meets Sen. Jane Kitchel, Toll, South (and sometimes freshman Sen. Matt Choate) in Danville to share a ride into Montpelier. But being outnumbered does not sway his opinion that the Republican way is the way to go.

"Three D's and an R," Reis says of his carpool buddies. "It is going to take me some time to get all those folks converted, but I'm working on it. The truth is, most of the people I've met seem pretty reasonable."

The economy is the biggest concern for Reis and his constituents. He acknowledges the only way to bring state spending under control is to make "painful" budget cuts. He will join the other members of the House and Senate and the elderly. I want to make sure the pain isn't felt there."

Toll said difficult choices must be made. "It is going to be felt by everybody. That's a reality," she said.

South also said the economy is the biggest issue and that he wants to protect children and vulnerable populations, but he also has been getting calls about Vermont's energy situation.

"What I'm hearing is about Vermont Yankee (nuclear power plant)," South said. "People are concerned about relicensing." Most calls are coming from people in Southern Vermont, though, and South said he would like to hear from his constituents in St. Johnsbury.

South said he also realizes education spending is an issue to be reckoned with, but he does not have a counter proposal to the existing education funding law. If you want to get rid of something, you need to have something to replace it with," South said of Act 68. "I think we need to look at everything in the economic conditions we are in."

Toll said the education system "needs work", but Vermonters cannot go back to a system fostering unequal education, where students living in wealthy areas get better educations than students from poorer towns.

"The (education) system needs



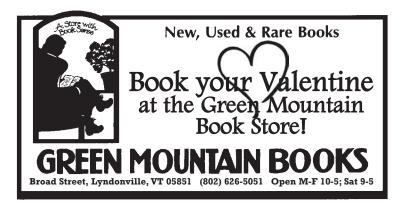
learned in initial meetings they plan to get to work on restructuring the Vermont Department of Corrections. Plans include shifting female inmates from southern Vermont to the St. Albans facility and system consolidation.

Toll sits on the Agriculture Committee along with Rep. Dick Lawrence, of Lyndon. She does not know yet which issues they will tackle, but she said their committee might get issues concerning logging to take it out of the Natural Resources Committee because Natural Resources Committee members have their plate full working on an energy plan.

South sits on the General, Housing and Military Committee where they address "any bill that doesn't fit with any other committee (such as) lottery and liquor control," South said.

served as a Legislative page when she was in the eighth grade. Since she spent so much time as a child in the State House, the building and procedures seemed familiar to her when she returned as a Legislator, but, she said, she felt an incredible sense of awe when she actually took the oath of office.

"That was life changing. It was as big as getting married," Toll said.







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A group of Lyndon-area boys, left, get ready to tackle the hill from the top of the T-Bar at The Lyndon Outing Club. Autumn Teske, a fourth grader from Lyndon, relaxes in front of the fire at the Lyndon Outing Club warming hut.

An outing at the club

Photos by Carla Occaso





Left, a load of snow over Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend attracted skiers and snow boarders to hit the slopes at the Lyndon Outing Club. Right, Lyndon Outing Club skiers and snow boarders take the T-bar to the top.



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Outdoor Adventures

Keeping track of the details

By Tony Smith

ave you ever been walking in the woods and Loome across an animal track you didn't recognize, but wanted to? You ever wondered if that track was a "dog" or a "cat" track. A coyote or a fox track (dog family) or a bobcat or lynx track (cat family). Well, by the end of this article you will be able to tell the difference between the two. Sometimes the differences are easier to look at than to explain.

Figure 1 to the right show the dog family, which are the more common tracks you will see in the woods of Vermont. Notice the difference between them. The wolf track is obviously much larger than that of all the other tracks, but I'm talking about the claws. The coyote claws are turned in, and its track is much narrower than that of a domestic dog. The opposite is the case with the fox track. Its claws face outward, and the track much smaller than the others. Notice that all four tracks have claws showing, which will not be the case with the cats. Sometimes it may be hard to tell the difference between domestic dogs and other animals, except for one clue that almost always gives them away. Domestic dogs are usually curious animals so they hardly ever walk in a strait line. They often smell things or search for things. Wild animals almost always know where they are going. They are either heading for food or shelter.

The cat family, Figure 2, has retractable claws so when they leave a print behind you will never see claw marks. Below are bobcat tracks which are two to three times that of a house cat. Notice you can not see claws present. Another difference I notice about the cat family is the track is more rounded than that of the dog. If you look above at the dog family, you will

notice that they are all longer than they are wide. Not so with the cat family. Cat tracks are just about as wide as they are long giving them a more rounded look in the snow or mud. Below are some things to consider when looking at a track in the woods.

Tracking Principles

1. Perfect tracks are rarely found in the field. 2. Look carefully at the track and the nature of the substrate holding the track impression. What is its width? (with snow, measure at the bottom not at the top of the snow). What is its length? What is its shape? round? oval? oblong? Are claw marks showing? How many? (could the ground be too hard to show claws?) Are pads showing? How many?

Are toes showing? How many?

"A Bump, Jump and Roll on opening Day"

My story this month is just as dramatic as last month's. Again, it was the opening weekend of ice fishing and Martin Luther King Day. My brother, who was still in high school, happened to be sick that day and just couldn't make it to school.

However, he was feeling well enough to get up at 3 a.m. and head to Willoughby Lake at 19 below zero. It had been warm the day before, but the temperature dropped and it snowed a couple inches over night. It was again the trio of my friend Ben, my brother and me. We had high expectations on the day of catching fish so we brought lots of bait. We had two full five-gallon buckets in the back of my mother's minivan, which we brought that day because it had all-wheel drive.

When we reached the top of the hill on the south end of the lake and started to head down (I may have been going a little fast because I was in a hurry to get to our fishing spot) I hit a huge frost heave at the bottom of the hill before a sharp corner. We started swerving out of control and launched off a 15 foot tall snow bank plowed in at the south end of the lake. As Ben and I were screaming, my brother was sleeping in the back. We landed on the frozen lake and rolled the van twice before landing right side up.

At this point, my brother began to panick. And for good reason.

The now-empty five gallon buckets of bait and water ended up all over him. Since he was wet and surrounded by fish, he was sure we had broken through the ice.

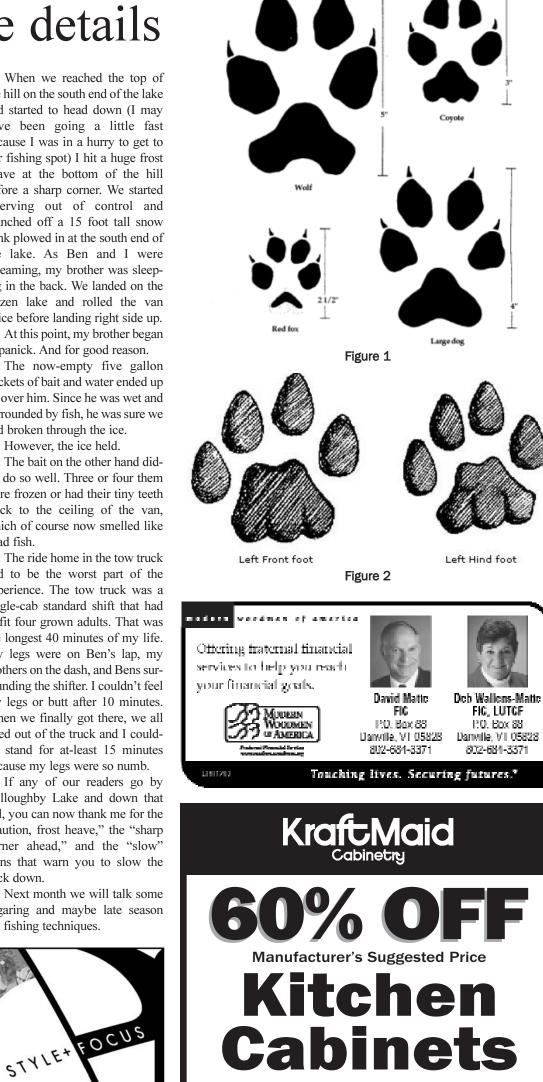
However, the ice held.

The bait on the other hand didn't do so well. Three or four them were frozen or had their tiny teeth stuck to the ceiling of the van, which of course now smelled like dead fish.

The ride home in the tow truck had to be the worst part of the experience. The tow truck was a single-cab standard shift that had to fit four grown adults. That was the longest 40 minutes of my life. My legs were on Ben's lap, my brothers on the dash, and Bens surrounding the shifter. I couldn't feel my legs or butt after 10 minutes. When we finally got there, we all piled out of the truck and I couldn't stand for at-least 15 minutes because my legs were so numb.

If any of our readers go by Willoughby Lake and down that hill, you can now thank me for the "caution, frost heave," the "sharp corner ahead," and the "slow" signs that warn you to slow the heck down.

Next month we will talk some sugaring and maybe late season ice fishing techniques.



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Traveling can be a suspension of reality

By Susan Bowen

have been fortunate enough to have done a certain amount of Ltraveling during my lifetime. In my childhood, most traveling was for short distances, to visit relatives, which meant packing a roadside lunch if the trip took all day, as money was not spent on restaurants or diners. The first great exception was in 1933, when we went to Chicago to see the World's Fair, which wouldn't have been possible if my mother's Aunt Alice hadn't lived there and invited us to stay with her. Also, my father had a brother, Uncle Clark, who lived in Buffalo, N.Y. and invited us to visit there for a few days on the way.

was sixteen, and, through my Uncle Ray's friendship with Monroe Smith, who was leading a group of young people on a trip to Germany, my cousin Lois and I were offered free or greatly reduced passage. (I still don't understand this arrangement, but happily accepted it at the time.) This trip was planned to acquaint Americans with the Youth Hostel organization, which hoped to further the cause of World Peace by making traveling inexpensive.

Again, time passed. Ralph and I married, and after World War II, Ralph, teaching at Columbia University, was given one of the first Fulbright grants to do research in Paris. We went on a French ship,

the Liberte, as it was well before the age of air travel. I wish everyone could have this experience, at least before one's first visit to foreign countries. For me, it was both a welcome pause after packing for a year's stay, and a leisurely introduction to the strangeness of foreign ways and the sound of foreign speech. Our waiter was an enthusiastic presenter of French cuisine, disappointed if we skipped a single dish.

We made another round trip by sea with the children, in the fifties, another year working in the French Archives as well as a similar stint in a research library in Naples for Ralph, before moving to the Mediteranean shore at Positano.

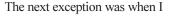
There we enjoyed a peaceful, quiet interlude, with Ralph writing, the children making friends and playing on the shore, visible from our balcony. We returned home on a ship, but our next trip to France was in a plane, finally giving in to considerations of time and cost. During this period, Ralph was a professor at the University of Nantes, in France, and wrote with a colleagues a series of books about The United States, for French students. It might well have been in this period that we treated ourselves to one last ocean voyage, before settling down to the pleasure of retiring to our native Vermont.

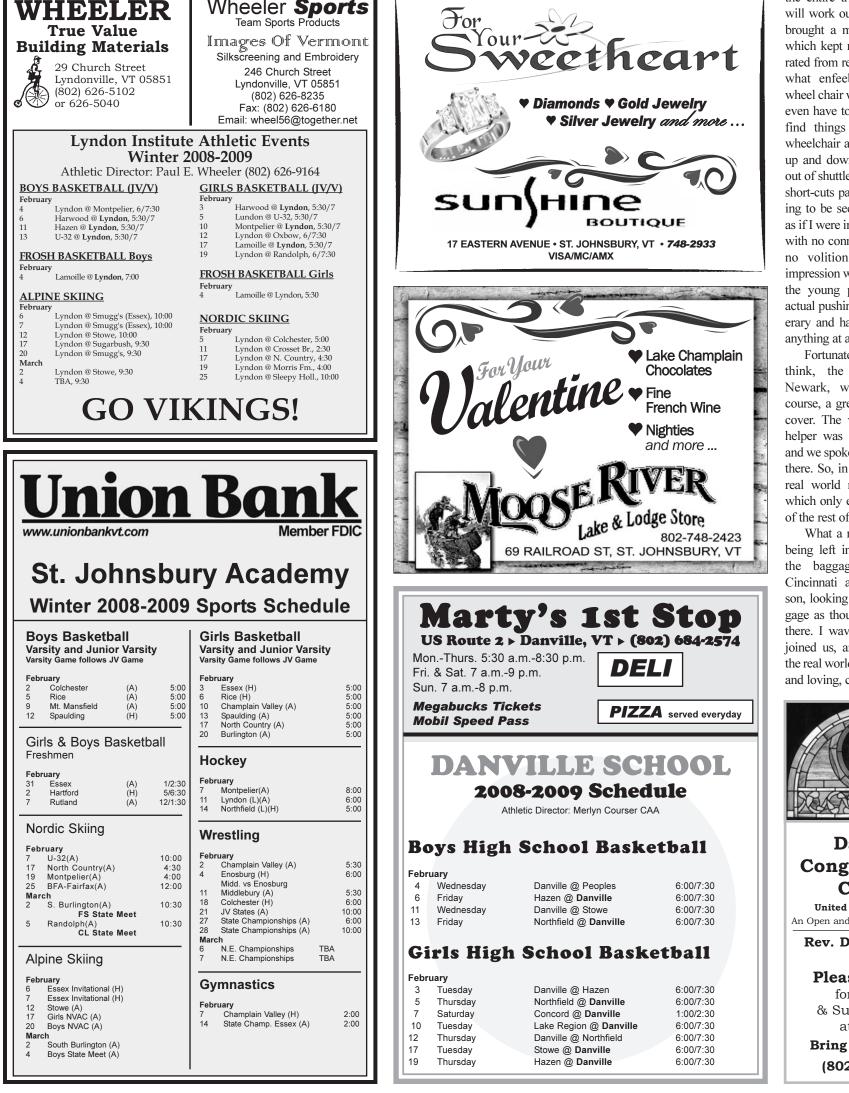
Twenty-some years later, after Ralph's death, travel does not loom large in the patterns of my daily life. A trip to St. Johnsbury or a visit to one or another of the various doctors who keep me pasted together and still able to function, seems to require as much planning and is as complicated an itinerary as a world tour.

So when my son and daughterin-law invited me for a Christmas-New Years visit, I hemmed and hawed in indecision, but of course accepted gratefully. It was about as hazardous a time of the year to travel as I can imagine. The weather was unpredictable, both for the trip to the Burlington airport (and back home for the driver) and for the return trip, as well as for the airport conditions at the transfer point. No wonder my state of mind for the entire trip was absent: things will work out or they won't. I had brought a mystery story to read, which kept my mind firmly separated from reality. Since my somewhat enfeebled age requires a wheel chair when traveling, I didn't even have to think about where to find things in the airport. The wheelchair automatically takes me up and down in elevators, in and out of shuttle trains, and even finds short-cuts past the long lines waiting to be security-checked. It was as if I were in some mythical world with no connection to reality, with no volition of my own. This impression was only heightened by the young persons who did the actual pushing, who knew my itinerary and had no need to ask me anything at all.

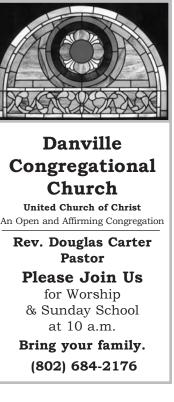
Fortunately for my sanity, I think, the exception was in Newark, where there was, of course, a great deal of distance to cover. The very pleasant woman helper was from Mombai, India, and we spoke of the recent troubles there. So, in that one moment, the real world made an appearance, which only enhanced the unreality of the rest of the trip.

What a relief it was when, on being left in the wheelchair near the baggage delivery in the Cincinnati airport, I spotted my son, looking at the circulating luggage as though he might find me there. I waved, he saw me, Judy joined us, and I happily rejoined the real world of meaningful events and loving, concerned people.





9 Mt. Mansfield	(A) 5:00 (A) 5:00 (H) 5:00	6 10 13 17 20	Rice (H) Champlain Valley (A) Spaulding (A) North Country (A) Burlington (A)		5:00 5:00 5:00 5:00 5:00
Girls & Boys Basketball Freshmen					5.00
2 Hartford	(A) 1/2:30 (H) 5/6:30 (A) 12/1:30		ruary Montpelier(A) Lyndon (L)(A)		8:00 6:00 5:00
Nordic Skiing			restling		
February 7 U-32(A) 17 North Country(A) 19 Montpelier(A) 25 BFA-Fairfax(A) March 2 S. Burlington(A) FS State Me 5 Randolph(A) CL State Me	10:30	Feb 2 4 11 18 21 27 28 Mard 6	Champlain Valley (A) Enosburg (H) Midd. vs Enosburg Middlebury (A) Colchester (H) JV States (A) State Championships (A) State Championships (A) Ch N.E. Championships	ТВА	5:30 6:00 5:30 6:00 10:00 6:00 10:00
Alpine Skiing			N.E. Championships	TBA	
February 6 Essex Invitational (H) 7 Essex Invitational (H) 12 Stowe (A) 17 Girls NVAC (A) 20 Boys NVAC (A) March 2 2 South Burlington (A) 4 Boys State Meet (A)			ruary Champlain Valley (H) State Champ. Essex (A)		2:00 2:00



NEK Artisans Guild

'Symmetries' on display at guild

A t first glance, "Symmetries," the latest show at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery, appears to be all about games. The walls are decorated with a kaleidoscope of colorful game boards and there, in the center of the room, is a chessboard with delicately sculpted figures. But, don't be deceived. Artists Ellen Dorn Levitt and Ann Young had something entirely different in mind.

Levitt's mesmerizing symmetrical designs are actually the result of her love of Islamic design and a year-long bout of insomnia. She began exploring the designs with her Book Arts and Design students at Lyndon Institute and then, for fun, she started to play with a 12-inch by 12-inch grid, a Rapidograph and liquid acrylic paints. She soon discovered the endless possibilities and filled many sleepless nights playing with shapes and layering rich colors in a variety of ways.

Of these works Levitt says, "They are purely decorative, not open to interpretation. In making art I have no agenda except to create something beautiful. Simply stated, it is important to me that the viewer responds honestly to my work."

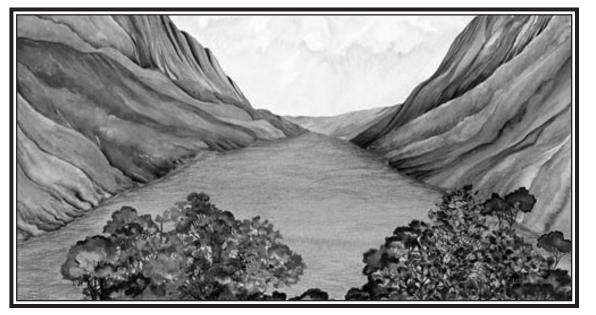
Ellen Dorn Levitt attended the Maryland Institute. She has also studied at Penland School of Crafts, St. Michael's College and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. For the past sixteen years Ellen has taught digital design, printmaking and the book arts at Lyndon Institute. She has been an adjunct professor at Lyndon State College and Johnson State College, and has taught surface design and bookmaking workshops nationally. In addition she has designed for Garnet Hill and Samii.

Two outstanding sculpted pieces by Barton sculptor and painter, Ann Young dominate the gallery. "Mirror Image" resembles a 27-inch square chess board. It is porcelain mounted on a wood base.

"The inspiration was a desire to illustrate the concept that each of us is made up of many parts that work sometimes in harmony and sometimes in conflict with each other. More than seven feet tall and six inches wide, 'She is a Tree of Life' is porcelain mounted on wood," says Young, "It is simply about the dependence of each generation upon those who came before."

Ann Young is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, and has been widely recognized as a sculptor, first sculpting fine porcelain miniatures and, for 13 years, whimsical wood figures. She then began her exploration of painting in 2001.

The "Symmetries" show at the Backroom Gallery at 430 Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury will run from Jan 17. to Feb. 18. For more information explore their website: www.nekartisansguild.com



'Paintings in Gouache'

The Backroom Gallery Presents "Paintings in Gouache," by Newbury artist Judith Lerner will open Saturday, Feb. 21 with an artist's reception at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery at 430 Railroad Street under the purple awning.

Judith Lerner is a colorist who explores the shapes formed by shadows and light, and the colors that thread their way from gaudy to refined. Her perception of the richly patterned countryside focuses on a continuing investigation of the colors in nature and on seasonal changes, always as filtered through imagination and memory.

Her medium is always gouache - an old French medium of opaque watercolor, originally ground pigment mixed with gum or even honey.

As a landscape painter, her technique in gouache presents broad vistas as well as details, using her immediate environment of the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and the White Mountains of New Hampshire and travels to the Cotswolds, the Lake District, the countryside of Umbria and Tuscany, the Greek island of Santorini.

Though best known for landscapes, she also produces paintings of botanicals each summer- a series of lotus dancing, roadside wildflowers, and garden flowers.

She has been a printmaker, an art director and designer of record album covers, and a book illustrator. She received her BFA from the University of the Arts, in Philadelphia, and completed course work for an MA in Classical Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania. Lerner's paintings are included in many private and corporate collections, on book and record covers, and are a favorite of collectors of New England. Her paintings are represented in the U.S. Department of State's Art in Embassies program, which places works by American artists in U.S. embassies throughout the world.

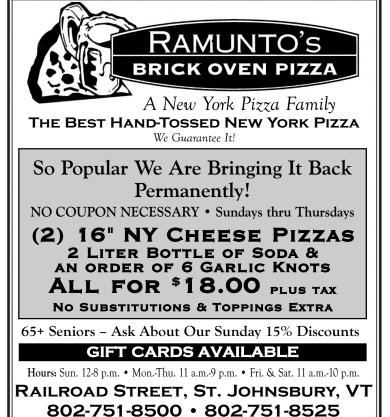
The show will run from Feb. 21 through April 3. All are welcome to attend the artist's wine and cheese reception Saturday, Feb. 21 from 3 to 5 p.m.. For more information on gallery shows, store hours, and contributing artists, visit the Guild's website: www.nekartisansguild.com.



NEK Audubon scholarships available

The Northeast Kingdom Audubon is pleased to announce that it will be providing four scholarships from the Airie Lindsay Camp Scholarship Fund for the summer of 2009. There will be three scholarships available for attendance at the Acadia Institute. understanding about climate change and renewable energy systems. The Chewonki trip includes a three day sail along the Maine Coast! The Chewonki Camp lasts 8 days and children need to be 13 to 15 years old.

For more specific information or for applications for the scholarship program please go to nekaudubon.org or call Laura at (802) 751-7671.



Young people attending the Acadia Institute programs will have the chance to be a part of a hands-on curriculum that focuses on oceanography. The Acadia Institute offers an introductory program for 10 to 12 year olds that lasts for six days. They also have a more extensive program that lasts for 14 days and is geared for youth ages 12 to 15. The scholarship recipient to Camp Chewonki will work on activities to enhance their

Pope Library Hours Monday & Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m. - noon.

t must have been August of 1945. The two big bombs L had been dropped on Japan, and the war, which had seemed interminable, was swiftly winding down. My husband Scudder had been stationed in Tennessee at a final B-24 training course before heading out to fly over Japan. Suddenly the war came to an end. Scudder was to return to Connecticut, perhaps be discharged from the Air Force - no more bombers needed!

We were stunned - a mixture of tremendous gratitude and relief with some horror at the thought of countless innocent Japanese killed or maimed by The Bomb. We packed up our belongings, fixed a backseat bed for our little son and headed north. I don't remember much about the trip, with its stops for food, bathroom and stretching. Eventually - travel was slow then - we were warmly greeted by Scudder's family

A new enterprise Gestation and rebirth

in Hartford.

We had no other home and, of course, no plans to meet this sudden, amazing change in our future. Scud was not sure whether he would be released from service or retained. As it turned out, he was free to do either. He chose discharge. He was eager to get started on a career, and discovered that he was eligible for the GI Bill to be trained for something that appealed to him.

He had for some time thought about finding a weekly newspaper in a small town where he could learn the ropes and eventually buy and run a similar paper - an exciting thought! After a short time at

By Bets Parker Albright

home to organize ourselves, he found a paper that would take him on as a trainee. We lived with his folks and he commuted to his "'learning" job.

I was restless because I so wanted to have some place that would be a home for the three of us, but I had to be patient, and my in-laws were very kind and generous. It wasn't easy for them to have a small child around full-time, but they did not complain.

It wasn't too long before Scud discovered a printing plant in a small town in Massachusetts that produced a rather scruffy little weekly paper, composed mostly of ads. The town was hardly a garden spot - a mixed assortment of Polish and French residents in a very Catholic community that did not seem too eager to welyoung come two very Protestant owners. But we plunged in, trying hard to make friends and to appeal to the interests of the community.

I was delegated to drive our jalopy around town and call on folks. I talked to mothers and their kids. Some responded and told me about their families,

PMS

Irritability

Cramping

Mood Swings

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Anxiety

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of these symptoms?

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Memory Loss

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their hopes and interests. I wrote up my experiences and took snapshots. When that issue came out, I would go back and show it to my new friends, who were delighted to read about themselves!

Scud made good connections on a somewhat more adult level, and we both sold little ads that were of interest and reported on gatherings and activities that were of local appeal. There was no consequent explosion of excitement, but there was some progress, and we found some local people who could work for us parttime for rather small wages.

We moved into the empty apartment over the print shop an unexciting, rather drab place that we brightened up with lots of paint. There was no hot water, but we learned to cope with buckets on the stove and small heaters. There was a good-sized lot that came with the plant, and my amazing father-in-law soon had it hoed up and planted to grass instead of huge weeds. Children came to play with our small son and treated him in a friendly way, so he was happy.

New faces appeared, as well as some new interest in our

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paper. We put out a special edition to celebrate the town's 100th anniversary. A friend of ours who didn't need a paying job, but was intrigued with what we were doing, came to help out. He owned a shiny black convertible and delighted in taking kids for rides.

This whole time was a tremendous learning experience that absorbed us for nearly three years. The time came when we really wanted a more inspiring and attractive environment for ourselves and our little family. I was expecting a baby, and I looked forward to having a group of friends, joining a congenial church and having a real home. We had created a situation that we hoped would have appeal for others, and we decided to sell out if we could. We were fortunate in finding without too much delay a buyer for our enterprise. This seemed to confirm our decision to move on. We had our eye on a paper in a more appealing community, near where some of our family lived. So it was farewell to Chicopee and on to new adventures!

As I think back on this episode in our lives, I realize that we were simply doing what millions of others were doing at that time. The transition from all out war to peace created vast opportunities for so many people. It was grounded in a number of things - hope, a new confidence and a new sense of mobility, that perhaps the right opportunity lay just over the horizon. It seems to me that there is a sense of anticipation abroad in the land today, a tentative hope that better days could be ahead for us and our world.







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let me show you how

A Time To Discover Connections

By Van Parker

Te celebrated this past New Year's Eve at our neighbor's home. It was a quiet celebration with a few friends.

We ate, told stories and conversed about a variety of things. Just before midnight our host invited us to express the hopes we had for the coming year. Some of the hopes were personal and for family members. Others were for our country, for the Middle East and for new beginnings everywhere.

Most of us that night felt like a burden had been lifted from our shoulders. This was surely related to the election of our first African-American president. There's still plenty of racism in our country, but we're not where we were a generation or two ago. We, collectively, have taken a step toward "a more perfect union." People, like my audiologist, are expressing pride in a country where change can happen and where mistakes can be rectified.

There's something else I'm still learning this New Year. It's that we're connected in all sorts of

ways. We're connected to our families, our friends and neighbors, to persons who just pop up and seem to say the right word at the right time. I could name a few right off the bat. So, I'm sure, could you. We're connected to people we' have never met, to those we think of as different and we're connected to the earth, which, directly or indirectly, nurtures us all.

Maybe one of our challenges in 2009 is simply to pay attention to those connections. Who are the people who, in the words of a southern preacher, "prop us up on our leaning side"? What does digging in the earth or volunteering at a shelter or rebuilding a house in Gulfport, MS. or just being with friends, do for you?

As our new President has reminded us, we are not "on our own." And we really are "our brother's and sister's keepers." The stock market just ended its worst year since 1931.

People's savings and 401 K's took a hit, as did the value of our homes. Some of us are may be feeling a little more vulnerable these

days. Could this come as a reminder that we are not self-sufficient, that we need one another?

A friend writes about growing up in New Hampshire in the 1930's:

"I do not recall any hardship from the Depression whatever. I do recall Dad resoling his children's shoes, cementing rubber soles to cover the holes in the leather. I also remember him coming home from Concord one day with a 100-lb. bag of oatmeal; ever since I have had a prejudice against oatmeal - except in cookies."

My friend continues:

"But the big deal was that we were together, and very much so, with our neighbors, his parishioners and all our aunts, uncles and cousins."

My hope and, honestly, my prayer, is that this New Year will be one of discovering connections, of affirming that we need and depend on one another and a higher power, which somehow sorts out the pieces and puts them together.







New arrivals at Brainerd Library

good book to snuggle in with on a wintery day. Our shelves are literally loaded with unique titles that are both old and new! If you have any New Year's resolutions in mind, you may want to check out our health and self-improvement section. Some of our newest acquisitions are "You Can Heal

We hope that you'll think of us Your Life" by Louise Hay, "The When you are searching for a Healing Power of Color" by Betty Wood, "The New Rules of Posture" by Mary Bond and "Trigger Point Therapy for Pain-Free Movement" by Donna Finando.

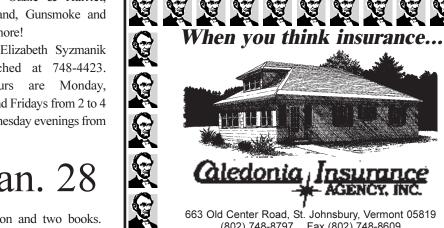
> The winners of our recent holiday book raffle are Tandra Colflesh and Toni Ruggles.

> We also want to remind everyone of our big selection of old-time

movies and sitcoms: I Love Lucy, Gomer Pyle, Ozzie & Harriet, Gilligan's Island, Gunsmoke and many, many more!

Librarian Elizabeth Syzmanik can be reached at 748-4423. Regular hours are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Preaching class begins on Jan. 28

 $R^{\mbox{ev. Henry}}$ and Karen Cheney will begin facilitating an advanced Lay Speaking course titled, "Go Preach" at the Danville United Methodist Church Parish House, 108 Peacham Road, Danville, with an introductory session on Jan. 28 at 6 p.m.

This course is designed for lay leaders and speakers, pastors,

and student pastors who have not completed formal preaching training, pastors seeking a basic refresher course, others who are called upon to preach in their pastor's absence and interested persons from any church. This will be a six session course and class time will be approximately two hours each week. The cost is \$32

gohnsbury Ballet Stud.

for registration and two books. For further information or to register please contact Rev. Cheney at (802) 684-3389.

Woman Praises Life-Saving Program

The free mammogram she received detected her breast cancer, and



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Junior Company PRESENTS

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Directed by Liliana Cubero Fernandez

Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy

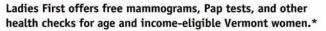
Tickets at the door • Adults \$6 • Children & Seniors \$4 For more information call (802) 684-3420.

probably saved her life.

Mrs. Dresser has no insurance, so she hadn't had a mammogram for five vears. When she saw a Ladies First commercial about free mammograms, she took action. She called the number on the screen, enrolled over the phone, and joined.

"The doctors tell me if I had waited another year it would be too late," says Beth.

"Ladies First is definitely a life-saver," Beth adds. But the real credit goes to Beth herself who took the initiative to call for information and followed up.



*Please note women with Medicaid, VHAP and Medicare Part B are not eligible for Ladies First.





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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Call Kate to see if you are eligible for free health exams

What's happening at town hall

Danville

Town Clerk: Wendy Somers Town Administrator Merton Leonard Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Denise Briggs, Doug Pastula, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

January 8, 2009

Fire Department - Members of the Fire Department were present to discuss their budget requests for 2009 of \$21,248, the same as the last three years. Keith Gadapee also presented several bills from 2008 that did not make the cutoff date for payment and requested that amount be added to this year's budget allotment for a total budget figure of \$24,274, which was agreed to by the Board of Selectmen. The Fire Deptartment also had a proposed Capital Equipment Fund they presented to the Board. They estimated the fund contains \$1,180,000 worth of equipment that will need replacement or refurbishing over the next 20 years. After some discussion, selectman Michael Walsh moved to place an article on the Municipal Warning for town meeting requesting to establish a Fire Department Capital Equipment Fund, Marion Sevigny seconded the motion which was approved. The third item was a request for approval by the Fire Department of their revised Mutual Aide Agreement with area fire departments. Bob Briggs explained the changes and answered other questions about the agreement. The Board's general consensus was in agreement with the changes.

Road Agent - Kevin Gadapee reported that again the continued rain and snow cycles in the weather pattern has been challenging and has kept the road crew very busy. The sand and salt usage has continued to be high, even with an effort to conserve. They have had to remove the snow buildup from around the Green and other intersections to improve the visibility for traffic. He noted the Department worked through the holidays including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and praised his crew for their dedication.

FEMA - Merton reported the receipt of the FEMA 2008 payment for reimbursement of the August storm damage of \$145,480, not including any repair payment for Wightman Road as that would only be reimbursed after reconstruction. The money was deposited in a FEMA account until all repairs are completed and verified. Chair Marvin Withers signed the 2007 FEMA Certification of Construction Completion form for the 2007 rain event.

Town Clerk - The Board signed the official Certificate of Appointment for Town Clerk Wendy Somers, effective Jan. 8, 2009 and is effective until the next town meeting.

Budgets - The Board reviewed the level funded budgets of the Municipal and the Highway Departments. When the new equipment item came up, Kevin Gadapee asked to order a new truck per the Highway Capital Equipment Fund, as planned for and as he has in past years. He went over the details of the International truck which is very similar to the others that have been purchased recently, and he expects it will cost about the same as last year. After some discussion, Walsh moved to allow the purchase, Marion Sevigny seconded the motion. After some further discussion, the motion passed three to one to purchase the truck. The Board continued reviewing the budgets, and decided to take them under advisement and hope to finalize them at the next Board meeting next week.

Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett Administrative Assistant Dan Hill Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Kevin Calkins and Kermit Fisher

January 5, 2009

Skateboard Park Discussion - Sue Teske, chair of the project committee, was present with committee members Taylor Bollman, Alannah Hartwell, Katie Masten, Rose Durfee, and Holly

Danville United Methodist Church "The biggest little church on the Green"

Beginning January 28 at 6 p.m. A six-session Lay Preaching Class at Parish House 108 Peacham Road. Call (802) 684-3389 or (802)748-1447 for further information.

All Interested persons are invited.

Hartwell. The committee spoke of their fundraising plans. The Select Board would like the group to create a set of operating rules for the proposed park. The group discussed whether a fence would be needed around the area. The committee will give the Board an update at the Feb. 16 meeting.

Policing Discussion - Lt. Clouatre of the Vermont State Police (VSP) answered the Board's questions and explained that when the Lyndonville police are off duty, the VSP covers the town. Bob Heath spoke against adding another officer due to the difficult economic times. Heath recommended adding a third officer be voted on by Australian ballot. Chief Harris spoke to Heath's concerns. Lt. Clouatre spoke of the good working relationship between VSP and the Lyndonville Police Department.

2009 Budgets - The Board approved the 2009 General Fund budget as presented at \$2,531,612, and to approve the 2009 Highway Fund budget as presented at \$1,342,970. The Board also approved the 2009 Wastewater Fund budget as presented at \$985,366.

Water Rates - The Board voted to raise the wastewater rates to \$72 per quarter plus \$5.94 per thousand gallons used.

Peacham

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty Selectmen: Richard Browne, Tim McKay and Gary Swenson.

January 7, 2009

Road Matters - Gary Swenson read a report from Road Foreman Mark Chase, which summarized the recent road department activities. An electrical problem on Truck #2 has been repaired with a new ignition switch. Truck #2 sander has been rebuilt by the road crew and is working fine. Town Garage oil furnace was serviced. Truck #3's clutch fan has been repaired by Clark Truck Company. Difficulties persist with the hydraulic system. The sander is not working properly and a solution is in progress. Grader wing assembly has been mounted on the grader and has been in use pushing back snow banks. The grader has also been scraping ice off of black top roads in the village where water leaks are being repaired. Tanya Chambers, Peacham's Vermont League of Cities and Towns benefits representative, met with the road crew and their families to explain the new health insurance benefits features.

ICMA Library Grant - Barry Lawson presented a proposal for a grant of \$22,000 from the ICMA's Public Library Innovation Grant Program to strengthen the capability of the Library for use by the town. Rebecca Jensen would be the library representative and Stanley Fickes would represent the Town for the ICMA grantee meetings. Browne moved that the Board approve the ICMA application and the Chairman to the Board be authorized to sign the application cover letter and that a copy of the grant application be attached to these minutes. The Board unanimously approved.

St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier Selectboard: Bryon Quatrini, Gary Reis, Daniel Kimbell, Jim Rust, and Jean Hall Wheeler.

January 5, 2009 Liquor License - The members of the Board reviewed, approved, and signed a Liquor License for Dylan's Café on Railroad Street. This application has been reviewed and approved by Fire Chief Troy Ruggles and Police Chief Richard Leighton.

St. Johnsbury Center Sidewalk - Mike O'Hara, St. Johnsbury Center, requested that the Board consider plowing the sidewalk in St. Johnsbury Center, as this is a safety hazard with people having to walk in the road. The Manager said he did discuss this with Larry Gadapee and the Town plowed the sidewalk about 15 years ago by driving the sidewalk plow the entire route of Breezy Hill. The sidewalk is a very narrow strip of asphalt along the State Road, which is plowed by the State of Vermont. Chairperson Bryon Quatrini suggested the Town contact the State of Vermont and request that they wing back the snow from this walkway as they are plowing.

Australian Ballot Voting - Russ



Baked Goods Auction Auction starts at 6:45 p.m. Australian Ballot article. Town Manager Mike Welch said Charter Amendments have different notification requirements from regular Town Meeting procedures. The Board needs to scheduled two public hearings, the first public hearing has to be at least 30 days before Town Meeting. Notification of this Public Hearing needs to be posted at least 30 days before the hearing so a notice was required to be posted on or before Jan. 2. Welch said he did not look at the municipal calendar until this morning and did not post notice of the Public Hearing until Jan. 5. The Manager said it is possible this may not be viewed as a significant flaw in the process and he would try to get confirmation from the Secretary of State. He also said it is possible that given this delay in posting, the legislature would not consider the Charter Amendment, and would require the Town to vote again. The Manager apologized for his delay in posting of the public hearing notice.

Hutchins asked about the status of the

Loan Resolution - The Board reviewed, approved and signed a Resolution for a note in the amount of \$450,000 at 1.59 percent with Passumpsic Savings Bank in anticipation of collection of delinquent taxes. Daniel Kimbell did not sign the resolution in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

CARE - The Manager stated that CARE has been linked to the Town's Web site, as requested - and information was provided to the Board relative to the Brandon Cat program.

Energy -Jim Wuertele's energy information has been forwarded for inclusion on the Town Web site.

Subdivision - The Design Review Board would consider a subdivision for the



West Barnet Senior Meal Site

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$2.50 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.

Feb. 4 – Beef stew, tossed salad, biscuit and tropical fruit.



Hudson property on Portland Street. The Town will acquire a small portion of property at this location as part of the water system improvement project.

Pedestrian Signals - Welch provided a copy of a quote from Highway Tech related to the restoration of pedestrian signals at the intersection of Concord and Portland. The Manager said that the neighborhood planning group has brought the lack of these pedestrian signals up as an issue.

Town Caucus - Daniel Kimbell asked about the status of a Town Caucus. The Manager said that if the chairpersons of the two political parties do not agree to warn a bi-partisan caucus then a bi-partisan caucus could not be scheduled. If one party or the other decides to advertise a caucus - then that would be a "party" caucus - and the Town should not be directly involved in it. Grenier said any person who wishes to run for local elected office should contact the Town Clerk's Office to get a copy of a nominating petition. Those people who wish to run for office and have their name appear on the ballot, need to have 30 registered voters sign a nomination petition, and return that to the Town Clerk's Office by Monday, Jan. 26.

January 12, 2009

Community Justice Center - Dinah Yessne and Greg MacDonald were present to discuss the Community

Danville **Senior Action** Center

November Meal Schedule Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$4 for guests 60+ (Others \$5) is appreciated.

Feb. 3 - Tuna salad on wheat bread, tomato bisque with saltines, coleslaw with pineapple peas and carrots. Feb. 5 - Meat lasagna, garlic bread, mixed veggies, melon and chocolate cake. Feb. 10 - Lemon-rosemary

chicken, brown rice pilaf, veggies, carrots, rolls and V-8 juice. Feb. 12 - Apricot and Shallot

Justice Center budget with the Select Board. MacDonald stated since 2001 the Town had been participating in the CJC budget by contributing \$4,000 toward staff expenses, in addition to providing office space. Yessne said in 2008 that \$4,000 commitment from the Town was taken out of the budget. Both said for the current year 2009 they will be able to get through without the additional local commitment from the Town. However, they want the Board to know that this local contribution is an important part of their funding plan, and they hope the \$4,000 local commitment could be restored in 2010. Daniel Kimbell asked if the Center was seeing different types of cases. They said the Justice Center is focusing more attention on St. Johnsbury issues. Yessne invited members of the Board to attend the Lincoln Street area neighborhood meeting on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Lincoln Center

(former Lincoln Street School). Welcome Center - Town Manager Mike Welch said the Welcome Center Advisory Board has revised the draft Welcome Center Agreement to include those items addressed by the Board. Welch said that he met with Nat Tripp, chair of Advisory Committee, and Town Attorney Edward Zuccaro to review the draft. Zuccaro is preparing some comments. Welch said a facility use policy is also being modeled on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) draft facility rental policy. It was moved by Gary Reis, seconded by Jim Rust, and voted (5-0) to table action on this item until comments are received from the town attorney.

2009 Budget - Welch provided updated summaries of the Municipal General Fund, Highway Fund, Special Service Fund, Parking Fund, and Recreation Fund budgets. The Manager said he had increased the county tax estimate to \$59,200 from \$57,000 following confirmation of the amount from Associate Justice Roy Vance. The proposed General Fund budget is 2.2 percent higher than last year, the proposed Highway Budget is up 4.35 percent and the Special Services budget is up more than 2 percent.

Water System - Welch told the Board he continues to work with Robert Dufresne, USDA, and Paul Giuliani to finalize wording and financial impacts for a proposed Water System Improvement Bond for consideration by the voters at Town Meeting. He said he planned to have firm proposals for consideration by the Board at their meeting. William Merrow -Board members reviewed, approved, and signed a letter of appreciation to William Merrow for his many years of service on the Planning Commission.

Sidewalk Plowing - Welch provided the Board with an e-mail correspondence from the VTRANS District Office indicating that they would not be responsible for plowing sidewalks in St. Johnsbury Center. Board Member Jim Rust said in the event that the Town does move forward with construction of a sidewalk in St. Johnsbury Center - then maintenance costs associated with plowing the sidewalk need to be considered.

Recreation Facility - Albert Dunn said he has been working with Bernier Mayo, who is willing to coordinate a fund-raising effort to raise \$3 million to construct a new Recreational Center. Dunn said if the Town is still considering the Rossi site for a Fire Station - then that makes it impossible for a new Recreation Center to be constructed there. Daniel Kimbell said if a fund-raising effort is successful for a new Recreational Center, then there is plenty of room on the Rossi site to accommodate multiple uses. Dunn said there is also a need for recreational fields and these could be sited at the land as well. Dunn asked about money budgeted in the Capital Plan for the Community Center. Welch and members of the Board, said the Capital Plan is just a "plan" and there is still a process that the Board and the residents of St. Johnsbury will need to go through before municipal funds are allocated for improvements to the Community Center.

Peacham student creates database for volunteers

St. Johnsbury Academy senior has created an **L**online database to match student volunteers with local organizations, businesses, and individuals looking for help.

Created by Zoe Schein of Peacham as part of her senior Capstone project, the database is located in the "Our Community" section of the Academy's website www.stjohnsburyacademy.org.

Throughout my experiences at Academy in Student Government, the National Honor Society, and the Community Service Resource Center, I have noticed a passion for community service within the student body, but a lack of initiative in establishing connections with local organizations," Schein said. "This drove me to establish a 'middleman' to eliminate the uncertainty of making that contact with an unfamiliar organization."

"My main hope for the project is to drive Academy students to become more active participants in both the school and outer communities," she continued. "The way I see it, community service is not something that should be unpleasant. With the right job one that matches one's interests volunteering can be one of the best and most fun ways to spend one's time."

Although the data base is "up and running," it will remain a work in progress, constantly changing, Schein emphasized.

Currently serving as president of both the Academy's student-run Community Service Resource Center and the school's National

Honor Society chapter, Schein said she "wanted to establish a lasting program that would be easy to continue and alter as necessary."

"Because of the database's dynamic nature, the page is always changing and there is no limit to what opportunities and information the site can hold," she explained. "This allows me to stay true to my original intentions of creating a database that reflects the interests and passions of the Academy student body."

"There is still much work to be done," Schein added, noting she has drafted a letter to send to more than 40 local organizations and businesses inquiring about potential student volunteer opportunities.

"These contacts include everything from cleaning up nature trails in Peacham, volunteering at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, signing songs to the elderly or shoveling snow for those who need help," she said. The database will also contain on-campus volunteer opportunities.

After she graduates, the database will be maintained by the Community Services Resource Center. Schein is also preparing a Chapel assembly presentation to introduce students to the database and show them how to use it.

Schein is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Craig Schein of Peacham.

Parties interested in listing volunteer opportunities in the database are invited to

e-mail submissions to hilltoppers@stjacademy.org.



stuffed pork loin, carrot souffle, rice and cheesecake. Feb. 17 - Corned beef hash, cheese and veggie quiche, blueberry muffins and fruit cocktail.

Feb. 19 - Open face turkey sandwich, mashed potato, peas and carrots, cranberry sauce and cherry muffins. Feb. 24 - Margarewt Ide's American Chop Suey, spinach, rolls, grapenut pudding and cranberry juice. Feb. 26 - Liver/bacon and onions and peppers, hamburgers, rolls, mashed potatoes, broccoli and carrots.

Feb. 30 - Chicken Divan, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls and rice puddiung.

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Robin Jacobs, Managing Broker Peabody & Smith Realty, Inc.

Peabody & Smith Realty of VT: Specializing in residential, land, and commercial real estate services. 357 Western Avenue, Suite 102, St.Johnsbury, VT 05819. 802-748-4407, fax 802-748-4077. See us on line at www.peabodysmith.com. One click and vou're home

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Naming names

Continued from Page 1

Verts that led to the name as we know it. In any event, I think they made the right decision.

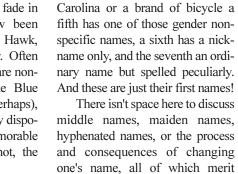
Names are funny things, important to the state or person being named, but chosen often for the oddest reasons. Parents name their children sometimes for political or religious reasons, or because the name has a nice ring, or to give the child a distinction from others. Sometimes, the baby's name is chosen to show how hip the parents are. Our Colonial ancestors preferred names expressing virtue like Prudence or Charity, or ones that could be found in the Bible, like Ezekial and Obadiah. I'm sure oth-

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ers have noticed that the long tradition of giving children names like John, David, Charles, Mary, Ethel, Janet, and Harriet began to fade in the sixties, and has now been replaced with Stone, Rip, Hawk, Kimberly, Skye, and Starr. Often too, these days, the names are nonspecific about gender, like Blue (after a favorite color perhaps), Summer (hoping for a sunny disposition), or Tulsa (after a memorable evening and, one hopes not, the place of conception).

Today you can guess a person's age with some accuracy from their first name. Women named Kimberly or Kendall are not about to retire. Guys named Hank don't



inclusion. Some other time. Last names were once not even necessary. If only a handful of people occupied a village, first names were good enough. Still, you can imagine some 7th Century Briton saying "Thou sayest 'John,' yet three Johns dwelleth in our village. Of which John speakest thou?" To which the answer might be, "Forsooth, I mean John, William's son." And Williamson enters the list of surnames. Or, "It is John the Tailor I speak of." Or Miller, Tinker, Skinner, Weaver, etc.

help with the dishes. Two of my

grandchildren have biblical names,

a return to the pattern of the 1600s,

another is named after a Spanish

queen, a fourth after an Elizabethan

courtier or perhaps a city in North

A person's residence often provided the necessary distinction, so that we have Dulac (from the lake),

von Essen (from the town of Essen), Vandermeer (from the lake), Van Dyke (from the dike) and the many English place names

- Sheffield, Comstock, Essex, Guildford, Hatfield, or just Ford, Field, Hill, or Wood. Why do we not hear last names like River or Mountain? The answer may be that these words are derived from French, and the assignment of last names took place before the French influence on the English language.

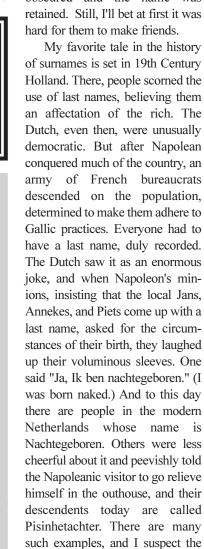
In English, the articles have been discarded, surely for linguistic efficiency. John the Weaver became John Weaver; James the Short became James Short, but in other languages, the article may remain van de Broek (Dutch), Leclerc (French), and Vandenberg (German). Fortunately, the practice of naming ourselves after our profession or residence has stopped. Else we would today encounter names like Bentley Blogger, Tiger Socialworker, or George of the Mall.

Sometimes the person's individual characteristics of appearance or personality provided the needed distinction - Brown, White, Short, Long, Strong, etc. Unsurprisingly, few last names have a derogatory meaning. Who would want to be

would change it. My own surname is an interesting case in point. The "weather" part of it did not, in the 13th Century, refer to the climate but rather to personality. So people named Merryweather, Mayweather, or Fairweather must have been relentlessly cheerful. There were also, in this ancient time, folks named Illweather, Foulweather, and Starkweather. You can only imagine what they were like, and it is not surprising that the Illweathers and Foulweathers, whose names proclaimed them as ill-behaved. moody, and unpleasant, changed them, while the Merryweathers clung merrily to theirs. The Starkweathers - having a name slightly less negative gave it up more slowly, and there was still at least one left when my ancestor made the perilous journey to the new world. The name then disappeared in Great Britain, but survived in America. Maybe in the colonies, where there were people from Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and England all mixed together, the negativity of Starkweather was obscured and the name was

called Mike the Stupid, or Ursula

Ugly. Anyone with a name like that





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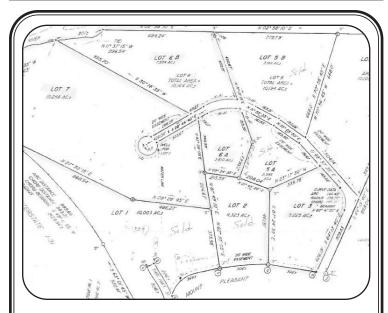
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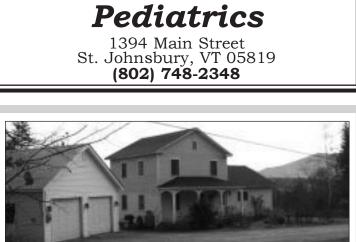
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REALTY

CABOT MLS# 27531953

Presently, this spacious home is used as a 2-family home, but could easily be converted into a one family. First floor has 2 bedrooms, bath, kitchen and living room. Upstairs you'll find an open living space with cathedral ceiling, oak floor, and brick fireplace

in living room. There are 2 bedrooms, including master w/ big walk-in closet, plus a 3rd floor loft. On 3.9 acres on a country setting.

\$179.900



descendants today are proud of their ancestors' resistance to the occupation.

Nowadays, once again too many people share the same name, both first and last, and even middle. We have to use various numbers to distinguish ourselves, at least on business cards and in documents. We also have email addresses. These are often quite fanciful, even embarrassingly personal. But we use them anyway, at least in the electronic setting. Let's hope they don't become part of our speech. I know one young man whose email handle is "sexybeast." He's always embarrassed when he gives it to an elder like me, but he doesn't change it. For some reason we say things on email - a very public place - that we would never say in person. But that's a topic for a later discussion.



Pope Notes Dee Palmer, Library Director

W^e hope you are all enjoying the winter weather. Stop in for a book to read or listen to on CD or a movie to watch on these chilly nights. We have a great selection of new DVD's and new books are arriving daily - for patrons of all ages.

Our next book discussion in the series Gastronomy: Novels About Food and Culture (Part 2) is Crescent (Persian and Arab American) by Diana Abu-Jaber. Abu-Jaber weaves the story of a love affair between a comely chef and a handsome, haunted Near Eastern Studies professor together with a fanciful tale of a mother's quest to find her wayward son in this beautifully imagined and timely novel, which explores private emotions and global politics with both grace and conviction. Green-eyed, 39-year-old Sirine cooks up Arab specialties in a bustling cafe in Los Angeles

where Arab students gather for a taste of home. When her doting uncle, who raised her after the death of her relief-worker parents 30 years ago, introduces her to his colleague Hanif, the placid surface of her life is disturbed. Their affair begins quickly and ardently, as Sirine, who has heretofore equated cooking with love, discovers the pleasures of romance, and the exiled Han struggles to feel grounded in a place far from the Baghdad he loved as a boy. This discussion will be on Wednesday, February 18 at 7pm. Suzanne Brown will lead our discussion. Books and schedules are available at the library.

Some of our latest book acquisitions are: Black Flies by Burke, A Most Wanted Man by Le Carre, Remember Me by Kinsella, Widows of Eastwick by Updike, Indignation by Roth, The English Major by

Harrison, А Mercy by Morrison, Netherland by O'Neill, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Shaffer and Barrows, The Forever War by Filkins, When Will There Be Good News by Atkinson, Trillion Dollar Meltdown: Easy Money, High Rollers, and the Great Credit Crash by Morris and Champlain's Dream by Fischer. Our newest young adult books are Audrey, Wait! by Benway, Impossible by Werlin and The Fold by An. Come in and check them out! The library will be closed on February 16 to observe President's Day. We have tax forms available both federal and state.

From the Children's Room

Story hour has resumed and it's good to have all our little friends back. Please join on Mondays at 10 a.m. for stories, songs, books and activities. Snacks too!

The YA after-school program continues on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2:30 - 5 pm.

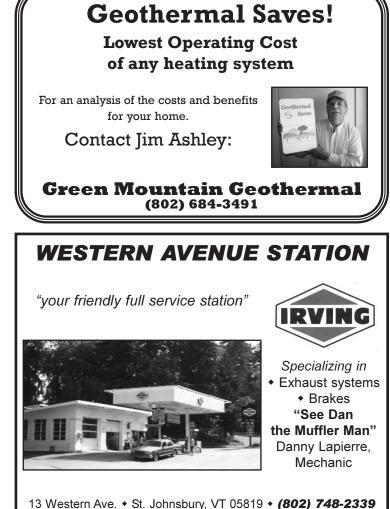


Photo reprints are available at:

www.northstarmonthly.com

Brillaner Duo Feb. 7

The Brillaner Duo clarinet and piano - a combination rarely heard in concert, will perform on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the South Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury, presented by the Northeast Kingdom Classical Series.

Native Israelis and a couple both onstage and off, the duo quickly blazed onto the international concert scene after their 1999 debut in Israel. Clarinetist Shirley Brill and pianist Jonathan Aner have solo careers as well which take them all over Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the U.S.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, von Weber and the French composer Gabriel Pierne. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information call (802) 748-8012, (802) 748-5451, (802) 626-9204 or visit www.nekclassicalseries.org.



\$349,000 will purchase what's here now. This experienced local builder will finish this future mansion for a higher price. Come on over to Littleton and look at this work in progress. The house is already spectacular. Post and beam construction, future two story fireplace, views to die for, total privacy. Opportunities such as this are few. See you soon!

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\$225.000



Take a look at my website. I have other listings posted there. Also, if you're in need of senior apartment, the Colonial Apartments in St. Johnsbury has three apartments available. Secure entry, on site laundry, close to all Main Street amenities. Or, if you are in need of a property manager. Leaving the area and want to rent the house? Please consider Aikencrest. At the same phone number

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ML2745708 This camp is situated on 18.90 acres and has open and wooded land. There is no water, no sewer, no electricity but all could be developed. Enjoy a small porch, and the peace and quiet of this Peacham property. Great for hunting camp or your own little getaway.

\$74,900

Move-In Condition

ML2745343 Beautiful 3-bedroom home in move-in condition sitting on 3.2 acres in Danville. Open floor concept with large living room, kitchen and dining room. Two storage sheds on the property plus a fenced in back yard. It's close to the interstate but in a private location.

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Penthouse Condo ML2754756 This condo is ready to move into and offers a sunroom with pri-vate deck, dining room with built in china cabinet, cherry wood floors and cabinets, built-in bookshelves. whirlpool tub, walk-in closet in master bedroom. Indoor heated pool. Storage unit.

\$247,500

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Aroundthe**Town Community**Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

Mondays: Story Time, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Youth Library, 10:30 a.m. (802) 748-8291

Mondays: Story Time, Pope Library, Danville, 10 a.m. (802) 684-2256.

Mondays: Just Parents meet with concerns for drugs and kids, Parent Child Center, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. (802) 748-6040.

Wednesdays: St. John the Evangelist Church in St. Johnsbury will conduct an ongoing series called "Catholics Returning Home" on six consecutive Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 8 and con-tinuing through Feb. 12.

Fridays: Friday Afternoon Tea Room from 2 to 4 p.m. through the end of March at the North Danville Baptist Church.

1st Monday: North Danville Community Club, Meeting, 6 p.m. North Danville Community Center. (802) 748-9415.

1st & 3rd Mondays: "Six O'clock Prompt," Writers' Support Group, 6 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 633-2617.

2nd Monday: Cancer Support Group, NVRH Conference Room A, 4 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Last Monday: Alzheimer's Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Tuesdays: Cribbage

Tournaments, 6 p.m. Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 684-3386.

2nd & 4th Tuesday:

Bereavement Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 5:30 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

2nd & 4th Tuesday: Drop-in quilting at 1 p.m. at the Cobleigh Public Library, (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays: Read 'n' Stuff, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays: Ordinary Magic. Meditation for Life, St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Avenue, 6-7 p.m.

3rd Wednesday: Cardiac Support Group, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7401.

Thursdays: Introduction to Computers, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475

Thursdays: Danville Town Band Rehearsal, 7 p.m. Danville School auditorium. (802) 684-1180.

Thursdays: Live Music at Parker Pie in Glover. Check website,

1st & 2nd Saturdays: Dance in the Kingdom at the Good Shephard School - Latin & Ballroom dance: Lessons at 7p.m. followed by open dance, 8 to 10 p.m. (802) 748-3044

3rd Saturday: Breast Cancer Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury, 10 a.m. (802) 748-8116.

FEBRUARY EVENTS SUN.1

Sunday Shred Series at Burke, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Join the Sunday Afternoon Freestyle League on a different spot of the Mountain each week. Register from 9 - 10 am. Fun for all ages! Burke Mountain Ski Area, (802) 626-7395.

Lace up the skates! Public Skating at Fenton Chester Arena from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (802) 626-9361. www.chesterarena.com

TUES.3

Kindermusik with Kristen Langlais and Cobleigh Library, in collaboration with Lyndonville Headstart, presents this wonderful program geared towards those from birth through age five. Join us from 5:30-6 p.m. for a healthy snack and enjoy Kindermusik from 6 - 6:30 p.m.

WED.4

Mr. and Mrs. Prince. Part of the First Wednesdays series. Dartmouth professor Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina tells the story of Lucy Terry and Abijah Prince, an accomplished African American couple in pre-Civil War New England, whose lives embodied the paradoxes of slavery in our region. A Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. <u>S</u>t. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. p.m. Call Lisa von Kann, (802) 748-8291.

THURS.5

Book Discussion of The Darkness Under the Water led by local Author Beth Kanell at 7 p.m. at the Davies Memorial Library. Refreshments will be

served. Please join us! Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium presents The Four Seasons Nature Program. Session 1 is an evening presen-tation by Susan Morse. This stimulating presentation will prepare for field days and is open to the public. For information or to register call Tara at (802)748-2372, or e-mail at tholt@fairbanksmuseum.org

Parent-Teacher Meetings at St. Johnsbury Academy from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Free skiing at Highland Lodge -group ski followed by lunch at the Inn. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (802) 533-2647 highland.lodge@verizon.net

lead in the body caused by environmental exposures at the St. Johnsbury Food Cooperative.

The Brillaner Duo, clarinet and piano, perform works of Brahms, Mendelssohn and others at the South Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury at 7:30 p.m. presented by the Northeast Kingdom Classical Series. Visit nekclassicalseries.org for more information.

"Vermont All Stars," presented by Lyndon State College and Catamount Arts with Colin McCaffrey, Patti Casey and Bob Amos at 8 p.m. at the Alexander Twilight Theater, Lyndon State College.

The Davies Memorial Library in Lower Waterford presents Scott Eldridge, the director of "Two Coyotes Wilderness Survival School" on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon. Scott will present a one-hour illustrated talk on tracking followed by an hour "in the field" actually tracking. Come dressed for the trail. Any questions, please call Jim Eldridge, (802) 748-6812.

Nick Kaiser performs at The Music Box in Craftsbury from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. www.themusicboxvt.org

Comedy Night returns to Burke Mountain, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m., in the Kingdom Cafe.

Singer/Songwriter Matt Tellier Mountain. 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. (802) 626-7300. www.skiburke.com

FRI.13

Last day of the Davies Memorial Library and Waterford School 2009 Winter Reading Challenge! Read a book, fill out a postcard (available at www.waterfordschoolvt.com), and drop it off at the Davies Library or the Waterford School. For more information call 748-4609. There will be a celebration of reading on Feb. 16 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) at the Waterford School featuring Beth Kanell, our renowned local author of The Darkness Under the Water.

Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium presents The Four Seasons Nature program at Wolf Run, Jericho. We will learn to recognize signs of animal scent markings from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information or to register call Tara at (802)748-2372, or e-mail àt thólt@fair-

Localvore Potluck, meet likeminded eaters and share localvore recipes. Call the St. Johnsbury Food Cooperative at (802) 748-9498 for details.

Snowflake Festival 2009, two weeks of family fun and activi-

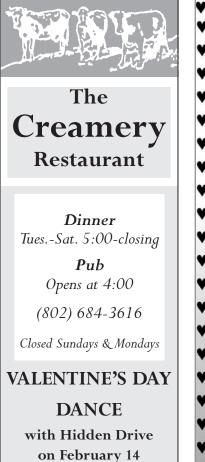




Photo Courtesy of Joyce Knights

Joyce Knights, formerly of Waterford and Lyndonville and now a resident of Northfield, Vt., reads The North Star on Grand Cayman Island between Jamaica and Cuba. Joyce and others took a cruise to the Caribbean last year where their winter spirits were lifted by warm weather and Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville. The Cayman Islands were first seen by European eyes when Christopher Columbus found them on his last voyage to the New World in 1503. Columbus named them Las Tortugas in honor of the sea turtles there. In 1586 Sir Francis Drake changed the name to the Cayman Islands after the caimans or crocodiles of Central and South America.

ties in Lyndon through March 2. (802) 626-9696. www.lyndonvermont.com

Snowmobile Drag Races in East Burke, noon to 12 p.m. Partnering with NEK Drag Racing to bring you head to head racing on a brand new 660' track located on Rte 114N in Lyndonville. E-mail lyndonsnocruisers@hotmail.com, or visit

www.lyndonsnocruisers.com **TUES.17**

Origami for the Seasons - in the Cobleigh children's room from 3 to 3:30 p.m. (Geared towards fourth graders)

THURS.19

Book Discussion: All the Kings Men by Robert Penn Warren at the Cobleigh Library. Discussion led by Suzanne Brown at 7 p.m. WED.21

Roast Pork Dinner, North Danville Baptist Church; reserved seatings at 5 and 6 p.m. Call 684-2183, or 748-8519.

"Paintings in Gouache," by Newbury artist Judith Lerner will open Saturday, Feb. 21 with an artist's reception at the

Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery at 430 Railroad Street under the purple awning.

Field trip to the Lake Champlain Valley sponsored by the NEK Audubon Society. Hike the causeway out from South Hero looking for wintering waterfowl. This is an all day trip that starts at 6 a.m. Meet at the Joe's Pond park and ride, intersection of Routes 2 and 15 in Danville. (802)626-9071, visit www.nekaudubon.org.

MARCH EVENTS SAT.7

Singer Siongwriter Tom Rush, presented by Lyndon State College and Catamount Arts at 8 p.m. at Lyndon State College's Alexander Twighlight Theatre.

WED.18

Tommy Sands, Ireland's favorite Celtic son, at St. Johnsbury Academy's Morse Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m. **SAT.28**

"The Trio Solisti," Piano, Violen and Cello at 7:30 p.m. at the South Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury.



banksmuseum.org **SAT.14**

www.parkerpie.com for details or call (80) 525-3366.

2nd Thursday: Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.

3rd Thursday: Caregivers Support Group, Riverside Life Enrichment Center, 10 a.m. (802) 626-3900.

Thursdays: Read and Weed Book Club, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Saturday & Sunday:

Planetarium Show 1:30 p.m. Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2372.

Saturdays: Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 12:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

1st Saturday: Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.

1st Saturday: Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m. (802) 748-8291. www.highlandlodge.com

FRI.6

First Fridays: Health & Wellness Series from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the St. Johnsbury Food Cooperative. Susan Sanders, Reiki Practitioner.Fri, February 6 - Mon, February 9, 2009

Contra Dance at the Danville Town Hall at 8 p.m. Chip Hedler, prompter, Music by Hull's Union Victory String Band.

Island Pond Winter Carnival.

Snow sculptures, skating, fish-ing derby, sled races...fun for everyone awaits! Call (802) 723-9889.

Fairbanks Museum Inventor's Fair. Kids from local schools have been competing and collaborating on a wide variety of clever contraptions. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (802) 748-2372

SAT.7

Get the Lead Out, William Rasmussen, Holistic Health researcher, practitioner and author. Learn how to reduce lead absorption and eliminate