



# THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

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JANUARY 2009  
Volume 21, Number 9

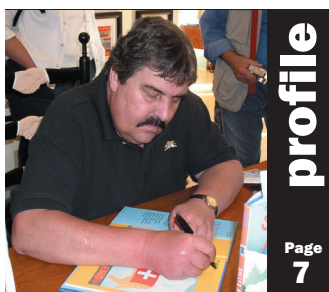
## Gabi & Lauren go to D.C.

Two Danville students to attend historic inauguration



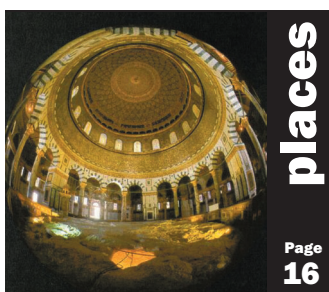
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Gabi Potts, senior, and Lauren Peterson, freshman, are preparing for their trip to the inauguration.

Photos & Story By Sharon Lakey

## Fire & Ice

By Nat Tripp

The less said about January the better, or to put it differently, if you can't say anything good, don't say anything at all. Yet still, there are some redeeming values to be found in January.

At the least, the month serves as a rite of passage. Bills must be paid, both literal and spiritual, and we emerge at the other end somehow purified. We count the days, count the nights especially when we pause briefly outside. Smoke rises straight towards the vast, starry universe and it seems, on these coldest of nights, as though the earth has broken its tether to the sun and is drifting ever farther into eternal darkness. How much longer can we last? A few days? A Few weeks?

A warm fire awaits us inside. Even on the coldest nights I use the fireplace, along with wood stoves and a furnace. I like to see the flames. They remind me of our origins. It was fire, after all, which brought us down from the trees and set us free to explore. Each log is sunshine, indeed starshine, captured and bottled by a tree, uncorked by me on this darkest of nights. A few panes of glass, a thin wall, a sweater and this are all that separate us from a swift and certain death. Covered with a thick layer of ash and the damper nearly closed,

Continued on Page 22

On Jan. 20, 2009, the world's eyes will be turned on Washington D.C. as Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States. Two Danville high school students will be there. Gabi Potts, senior, and Lauren Peterson, freshman, have been planning this adventure long before they knew the historic magnitude of the event.

Gabi came to it through a program called The Presidential Classroom. Its mission has been to provide outstanding high school students with a first-class civic education using Washington D.C. as a classroom. The program was created in 1968 when a strong youth voice surfaced in America. Having attended one of the program's weeklong institutes in Washington, Gabi received a postcard in July that listed the inauguration as one of the upcoming events. She applied online and was selected.

Lauren came to it through another door – the National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC). This group's goal is to foster and inspire young leaders. It was founded 23 years ago and tailors programs to specific age groups. Having been through that program's training in Cambridge Mass., Lauren received a letter in June telling her of the inauguration opportunity. Like

Gabi, she jumped at the idea.

The girls have a joint fund-raising event planned for January to help cover their expenses, but interestingly they come from opposite sides of the political spectrum. Gabi, though a stated independent, tends toward the more liberal, Democratic point of view; Lauren comes from the Republican perspective. After graduation, Gabi hopes to major in aerospace engineering and minor in politics and has her fingers crossed on acceptance into a major university. Lauren, with three years left in high school, is focused on building her skills as a student leader.

Last summer, as part of her senior project, Gabi received an education in door-to-door politicking when she helped Jane Kitchell and Kitty Toll with their re-election bids. "I personally knocked on 100 doors," she said. She was more in tune with Hillary Clinton's campaign at that time, as she is especially con-

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THE North Star MONTHLY

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## From the Editor

### Hope for silver lining

A year ago, Terry Hoffer used this space for a little foreshadowing. Whether his intention was to predict current events or not, the irony of his words rings loudly.

His editorial, perhaps sarcastically, called for a little convertible station wagon that could claw through snow like a wolverine and get 40 miles per gallon. Last I checked, the roof on Terry's Subaru wagon was firmly attached and his gas mileage was a little shy of 40 miles per gallon.

Many of us like the cars we drive, but, like Terry, we have to scratch our heads at the lack of ingenuity on the part of auto makers. In case you didn't notice, I grouped all car manufacturers into a collective and avoided throwing just the American company's under the proverbial gas guzzling bus. The American companies are unfairly saddled with the "lack of ingenuity" label. No auto maker, despite how many hybrids they sell, can honestly claim to have foreseen or acted upon the energy revolution the world is embarking on.

True, fuel conservationists and efficiency crusaders are a little quieter now that gasoline can again be paid for without taking out a second mortgage, but we all know it won't last. We also know that \$2 a gallon only seems like a deal because \$5 a gallon felt like physical pain. I think the people who control oil profits know this, too.

As a result, the outrage we used to cut our consumption has, naturally, waned a bit. But I think many of us remember where we were in July, especially those who pre-bought fuel oil north of \$4 a gallon. We're now looking for easy areas to improve

our efficiency, whether it is home improvements or our next vehicle purchase. Subconsciously, people are starting to put themselves in a position to withstand the next spike in prices. Thousands of us turned to wood heat this winter when we thought we couldn't afford oil. Maybe a few of those people have turned back to oil now that it's less expensive, but your wood stove or furnace is still there. It's ready to fire back up at a speculator's notice. That, I believe, is progress.

Like Terry a year ago, I also like my vehicle, or truck to be specific. It has all the features I need: four doors, a defroster drive and the best fuel efficiency I have seen in a truck. That may sound like a paradox, but trust me; 20 miles per gallon out of a four wheel drive truck is nothing to sneeze at. My wife, who also likes her vehicle very much, drives a small SUV that gets slightly worse mileage. My truck is foreign and her SUV is domestic.

Like Terry a year ago, we also are not necessarily in the market for new vehicles. However, if truck makers competed in the fuel efficiency class the way they compete in the "who can tow 10 steel beams to the edge of a cliff while jumping over an enormous fireball faster" class, many consumers would take a long look at their next vehicle purchase.

Perhaps this latest downturn in the demand for vehicles will prompt, if not force, a foreign or domestic company to speed up their ingenuity. If anyone is looking for silver lining, that would be it.

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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 writers. 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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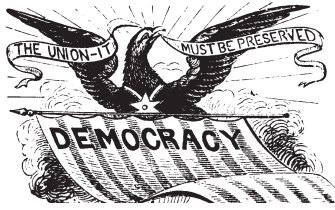
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# Henry Fairbank's heater receives local acclaim, a Cabot robber is unsuccessful at incriminating a West Danville man

## The North Star

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## THE NORTH STAR

December 28, 1877

**Magoon Heater** - From the secretary of the Heater Company, Mr. Whittier, who is stopping here for a few days, we learn that the heater, as reconstructed and improved by the manager, Mr. Henry Fairbanks, of St. Johnsbury, to avoid the effects of the sudden expansion and contraction of the steam on the coil of the Heater, thereby causing a strain, is meeting with great success. By recent examination of the Heaters on the International Railroad in Canada and Maine Central, the Heaters, so long in use there, have been found to be in perfect order, and showing an unusual large saving of fuel, steaming freely, and keeping up easily the requisite maximum power. The attachment of the so called "Injector" has been recently made in connection with the Heater, on the locomotive "Noah Wood's," of the Maine Central, by which the water is supplied

through the Heater to the boiler of the locomotive in an equal flow. This attachment was made in very short time, and is working with perfect satisfaction.

January 3, 1878

**North Danville** - The insinuations in the last Union, relative to the Gadipe girl, are very personal and severe upon Mr. Alfred Gile - and if unjust and untrue, as Mr. Gile informs us they are, the authors should suffer smartly for apparently trying to injure an innocent man. Mr. Gile informs us that the girl left his house on foot one morning and supposedly she had started for home. The girl was seen at a neighbor's during the day, (so we are informed) and instead of going home, it is supposed she voluntarily took the train to down country, where she had some friends, and perhaps does not wish to let her parents know where she is, for fear they will bring her back. We do not learn that the girl has yet been heard from. She is now in her 18th year.

**West Danville** - Last Tuesday evening, there was a necktie party at Rankin Hall, under the auspices of the Reform Club. Quite a number of gentlemen and ladies were present, and it proved to be very pleasant entertainment.

**Divorces** - Six divorces were granted at the late term of the Washington County Court. The Montpelier Journal says, "This has been the most remarkable

term of the court for filthy divorce cases since the law was passed allowing oral testimony in the county court. Outrageous as the testimony was, three married women, residents of the town, remained in the gallery as spectators during the entire trial, and, in fact, during the trial of every divorce case, displayed a hardness of forehead and brassiness of cheek which even the most hardened of the male sex might have envied.

January 11, 1878

**Liquor Licenses** - The United States Government receives license fees from one wholesale liquor establishment, two breweries and 433 saloons in Vermont, and yet the State officials can't find one of these places. It is proposed in the next Legislature to make the payment of a license to the General Government or receipt therefor prima facie evidence of the manufacture or the sale of liquor. Such a law would have increased Vermont's revenue the past year \$20,000.

**Coventry** - It is reported in the papers that there is a company of Methodists in Coventry, the members of which believe the time for miracles has not passed. Some time ago, one of their members, while getting lumber for a church, was caught under a falling tree. Since then, although severely injured he refuses medical attention, but has two of the brethren come in and pray with

him each day. After their prayers they exhort him to "arise and walk," which he always tries to do, but so far without success.

**Lyndon Center** - On Tuesday last, Mrs. Clifford, who lives on the Quimby Farm on Pudding Hill, displayed her skill as a marksman with excellent success. C.H. Hopkins and a few others with a hound were in pursuit of a fox, when Mrs. Clifford, hearing the barking and thinking the fox might come within shooting distance of the house, took the fuse and stood in readiness. It so happened that in a few minutes Reynard put in his appearance at the corner of the barn, and seeing the woman stopped to exchange compliments with her. Mrs. Clifford raised the blunderbuss, shut her eyes and let fly a shot, killing the fox as it ran.

January 25, 1877

**Waterford** - Mr. James Hurlburt and his infant son both died on Wednesday night two weeks ago, within three hours of each other and were buried on Friday in one casket. Mr. Hurlburt's older son had been sick of diphtheria, and he had taken care of him. When the boy got better, Mr. Hurlburt and his other son, an infant of 14 months, were taken with the same disease and lived but a few days. There had been no other cases of diphtheria in that area before, and at our last information but one case since. Physicians from both Waterford

and Littleton attended the Hurlburt cases.

**Robbery in Cabot** - A correspondent from Cabot, in the last Caledonian, gives the following:

On Saturday evening last, John Bolton returned from Boston. The same night John Daily - a Frenchman in Bolton's employ - stole his money. Next morning the money was missed, Daily suspected, the officer Damon sent for. Daily stoutly denied all knowledge of the matter for hours. Later in the day he escaped and after a spirited ramble, was taken back to Bolton's and was pressed so closely that he gave up, and in company with the others went to the rear of the barn to a post in the shed, and took out \$240, claiming he had an accomplice in one Linneus Fisher of West Danville - that Fisher came to Bolton's Saturday noon and they made the plan to take the money. Fisher was to return that night and divide up the loot. The officer proceeded to Danville, and after thorough investigation, became satisfied that Fisher was quietly at work chopping wood Friday and Saturday, staying both nights with Benjamin Woodward. So he decided the last story was a lie.

# THE North Star MONTHLY



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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

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Sincerely,  
Ollie Wolfson  
Open Door

# Real people

By Isobel P. Swartz

An article featuring Michelle Obama, in U.S.A. Today, June 30, 2008, and her speech at the Democratic Convention in August, aroused comments among the public that made me realize how much we have lost touch with real people. What we see on network television or read in magazines has little relevance to the neighbors we knew when our children were little, or the kind of people they have become.

We are distracted from reality by much of network television entertainment that features extremes and caricatures of real life: "Survivor" type shows; emergency room drama; fame and fortune seekers of "American Idol"; pseudo science and police forensics, and the crude and ignorant cartoon characters of "The Simpsons".

Michelle Obama is a breath of fresh air. Whether or not you agree with her politics, she is an example of what we wanted for our own children: a good education opening the door to a meaningful career (with benefits); a solid family behind and beside her, and a caring attitude towards her community and the world. She is an authentic human being! Her outspokenness mirrors what I hear when our family gets together. There is no "pie in the sky" nonsense, but concern for the realities of today, and hope that we can all do something to improve life for our families and communities.

If this sounds too unrealistic think back to the students who were in school with you and your children. Think about what they are doing now. I believe that there are few rock stars or millionaires among them, but there are farmers, teachers, doctors, lawyers and other professionals, business people, craftspeople and artists. Many of them are parents. These are the people who are working, thinking, innovating and creating, and by doing so they keep life in America moving forward. These are the people of the middle class — a dying breed according to wealth distribution studies. These are the people who are mirrored by the Obama family. That is why Barack Obama, more than any other candidate for the presidency, touched the lives and minds of so many younger voters, and older ones too!

As a woman I would have been happy to see a woman elected as president, but I did not want that just for the sake of breaking a historic barrier. Being President at this time will take the support and work of all who care about the future of this country. The majority of the electorate chose Obama because he is a man of the 21st century,

intelligent, not afraid of hard work, and not afraid to speak out when confronted with mud-slinging and disinformation. Many who chose him as their President are young (over 35% of his supporters), and many of them were involved in politics for the first time. This is good for our country.

Life in the world is changing fast. New global environmental problems; new relationships with other countries; new needs within the United States — all require modern skills and a fresh way of looking at the changing world. Not from a position of wealth and privilege, but from the position of those who see a \$150,000 wardrobe for a hockey mom as an affront to families barely able to feed their children, or to students who have to forgo an education because they cannot afford tuition. Although Obama is now wealthy by some standards, and has the privilege of being an elected official, he was not born into such a situation. I am happy to see a family that resembles families I know preparing to lead this country. They are real people who understand everyday life and its challenges, as lived by the vast majority of Americans.

The other major presidential candidate offered a paternalistic approach to governance, "I know how to do that, I have done that." This kind of approach, does not work well with young folks who are ready to try new ways of doing things, as all parents know. Experience can be very useful when it is integrated into a system that fits the times. The art of governance is to use the skills of those who are experienced where and when they can be most helpful; the art of the experienced is to see where their skills can be used and to offer them freely. This is a time when those two facets of governance need to be skillfully coordinated to bring this country back to its position as a true and equal partner in the global community.

Every aspect of American life today that is becoming more costly, or seemingly beyond control, dramatically affects the lives of those who are underprivileged: the wars; housing issues; cost of food and utilities; medical care; education at all levels. In this situation people from diverse backgrounds, who have worked their way through adversity, are better equipped to comprehend the issues of everyday life and realize what has to be done to move forward. I am happy to support this new presidential family that, like your children and mine, is smart, savvy and hard-working, mirroring the culture of the United States of today.

## Sunday School



North Star Monthly Photo

From left, Ashlynn Royce, 6th grade, Tammara Royce, 2nd grade, Kalyn Briggs, 8th grade and Shaunna Royce, 8th grade, stand behind more than \$600 worth of food shelf baskets that were donated during the holiday season. An additional \$200 was also spent on Christmas gifts for area residents. The fundraiser was a project of the North Danville Baptist Church Sunday School Program. Also participating, but not pictured, are Teagan and Dawson Carpenter.



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*Life, much like quilting,  
is about setting goals and working hard*

## A life of quilting

Story & Photos By Bennet H. Leon

As a youngster growing up on her family's homestead in Bethel, Nola Forbes was exposed to many traditional skills that are still very important in her life today. Quilting was one of those skills. She has been sewing since she was a child and completed her first quilt in high school. With an aptitude for mathematics, she tackled complex patterns and later became a teacher of math and computer science at St. Johnsbury Academy where she works today. Her passion for quilting reflects her attention to detail and satisfaction in creating a useful and artistic piece of work.

Forbes, now of East St. Johnsbury, demonstrated quilting techniques during the Festival of Traditional Crafts held in September at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. In an interview at the museum last July, she shared her interest in quilting and its place in her life.

Quilting is a productive use of scraps of fabric to make blankets or pillow covers, among other items. Traditionally, many scraps were left over from sewing clothes or other household linens. "In our household there were seven children, and my mother and father and grandmother all lived in the same house, so for normal school clothes or play clothes, almost all those, except for slacks for the boys, were handmade. The sewing machines were always threaded up," said Forbes.

In high school, when Forbes noticed her own scrap bag had been growing she decided it was time to make a quilt. "We'd been raised not to throw anything away if it still had another life," she said.

"I'd been active in Girl Scouts and thumbing through our handbook there was a little section on American quilts. I looked at the patterns and of course I chose one that had lots of triangles and rectangles, and I think even trapezoids. I enjoyed math so that didn't bother me, I just decided to go ahead and tackle it," said Forbes.

Her grandmother started her first quilt when she was three and finished it when she was eight. "In her household you had to do some of your piecing before you could go out to play, so it helped develop the work ethic," Forbes said. "It amazes people to think that...someone that young can actually complete something of that size. So if you set a goal for yourself, you

can accomplish great things. Her second quilt only took her three years to finish."

Forbes was forced to set a goal for herself when her husband was injured in a bad car accident. As a young woman attending Lyndon State and pregnant with their first child, she saw that she needed to be able to support the family and set her mind to completing school. Luckily her husband recovered and was able to work, but Forbes graduated from Lyndon State, giving birth to their second child in her senior year, and started her career in math education. She later attended St. Michaels College, studied computer programming, and earned a Masters in Education. She has been teaching at St. Johnsbury Academy since 1980.

"Perseverance and patience, I think, are part of the hallmark of Vermonters, and others that grew up with a good work ethic. I think that's part of the stock of New England that comes through in a lot of people that have roots that go back a number of generations," said Forbes. "When I have students in school who feel they are facing adversity and are thinking about giving up or wondering if something is worth it, sometimes I'll share individually some of [my] stories and let them know if you have something in mind for a goal, don't let anything get in your way; you can do it."



**"Perseverance and patience, I think, are part of the hallmark of Vermonters, and others that grew up with a good work ethic. I think that's part of the stock of New England that comes through in a lot of people that have roots that go back a number of generations"**

The next generation, Forbes' children, picked up many of their mother's skills while going along with her to the Kirby Quilters meetings. "Growing up, both my children did attend the quilt meetings and they each learned how to sew and how to make quilt blocks...I think it's important to pass along some of the skills to the next generation whether they're in your own household or not."

Past generations of Forbes' family are immortalized by their signatures on a quilt in Forbes' possession. She is her family's chosen caretaker of a "signature quilt" passed down through the generations since it was made in 1905. The signatures of some of her Eastman ancestors of Washington, VT who were alive at the time are embroidered onto it. The quilt inspired Forbes to research her family's past, as well as continue the quilting tradition.

Forbes uses similar skills in quilting as she does in her vocation. "Applied geometry is really what I'm doing in the quilt making, so I try to sneak some quilt ideas into my math classes and whenever I teach quilt classes I try to sneak some of the math ideas into there," she said. "[I] try to get people more comfortable and confident with their work. I think [quilting and mathematics] are very complimentary to each other."

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**Moving Forward by Justin Lavelly**

By Justin Lavelly

# A new northstarmonthly.com?

*A small town publication dips its toe in murky online waters*

Trying to blend the warm, home-spun feel of a North Star Monthly printed page with the efficient and convenient delivery of the Internet is no small task. The North Star has the feel of a Northeast Kingdom magazine, and readers often tell us they look forward to seeing it in their mailboxes and at the newsstand every month. The question we, as young owners, have to grapple with is, "How do we ensure the future success of this treasured publication while the delivery devices for media are changing around us?" Despite what you may read on the Internet, hear on the radio or view on TV, there will always be a need for writing, and we believe there will always be an important familiarity and comfort with the printed page.

After all, Ginni and I bought the North Star because it was different than other publications. It was encouraging to hear people say how informative it was or how good it made them feel to read about people they know, their neighbors, their friends. That's the North Star's formula, first mixed in 1807, then remixed in 1989 and 1998. Now in 2008, we are going to try and update the formula once again and hope for the same success.

Technology is changing. That's not hard to see. I will turn 27 this month, making me the right age to have witnessed the birth, growth and continued development of the Internet. I can remember listening to the screech of a dial-up modem connecting to the Internet when I was a kid. I can remember how mad everyone was when I tied up the phone line all night to download three music tracks. My parents, both in their 50s, seem to be just as comfortable as I when it comes to using the Web to find information, shop or read the news. My 10-year-old stepdaughter spends the same amount of time on the Internet as Ginni and I, and we both work in offices. In fact, she seems genuinely annoyed with anything less than a high-speed, wireless connection. I can only imagine how much time they will spend and in what ways they will be "plugged in."

Our President-elect is fighting with the Secret Service to maintain control of his Blackberry and his constituents are communicating with each other in ways that simply didn't exist a decade ago, i.e. YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Flickr and Twitter.

It's clear the Internet is going to continue to grow and print publications have to grapple with how to use it. It's not an easy dilemma to solve. We've spent six months thinking about it and discussing it with others in the business. Sometimes the rush to be on the Internet leads to unfinished sites with less-than-productive features. The most important thing for Ginni and

**There are two primary functions for the new site****Give a detailed sample of the publication  
Make payment more convenient**

I was to make sure the character and voice of the North Star remained intact. From that foundation, we hope to acquire local advertisements, as well as links to local blogs, journals and personal sites.

Despite the uncertainty, on Jan. 1, after months of development, the North Star will unveil its new site. Much like the printed North Star, www.north-

starmonthly.com was born from the grassroots initiative of a small group of people. When she wasn't tending to her Alpacas on her Snowshoe Farm in Peacham, freelance web designer Terry Miller worked with us to set up a site that made sense for our small endeavor. Her ability to translate what we were asking for into tangible and functional Web elements was the key to the project. Ginni and I thought it was important to have someone small and local, who could give us the personal attention we try to give our customers. We could not have been more impressed with Terry.

The new site also includes the calendar of community and regional events, information about upcoming films, advertising information, photo reprints, archives and contact information. All current and future subscribers to our print Business Directory will also be listed on the Web site in a similar fashion for no extra charge (\$75). Other advertising space is also available for a reasonable price (\$25-\$50) through July 2009.

A few times a month, we receive calls from current and future subscribers who would like to set up their subscription and pay for it with a credit card. Until now, the North Star was too small to make a credit card sales cost effective. On Jan. 1, Web surfers will have access to the North Star's online shopping cart, through which they will be able to purchase new and renew subscriptions using a reputable and secure payment system. Likewise, our faithful advertisers will be able to pay their printed invoices the same way. For those who don't have credit cards, the payment system also allows customers to set up their own accounts with authorized debits directly from individual checking accounts.

The best part of this change may actually be the lack thereof. For our subscribers and customers who have no interest in using these features, nothing will change. Need to change an address? Give us a call. Have a question about something? Give us a call. Need to pay for a subscription or an ad? Mail us a check.

The same small business customer service will still be available now and in the future, for that will contribute more to our success than new technology.

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# Who is the dog man?

*Stephen Huneck's personality has made him a successful artist in St. Johnsbury and a topic of curiosity for locals*

Photos & Story  
By Carla Occaso

Who is St. Johnsbury artist Stephen Huneck? He is part businessman, woodcarver, marketing genius, artist, philosopher, theme-park entrepreneur, writer, neighbor, husband and dog lover.

Huneck has achieved local fame and an international following since the 1980s when an influential art dealer discovered his first simple woodcarving of a dog with angel wings. It sold. Huneck soon stopped being an antique dealer and started his art career carving dogs. He parlayed early success into building a network of galleries throughout the U.S., an online business and a tourist attraction he named "Dog Mountain" located on the east side of St. Johnsbury on a re-purposed hillside dairy farm. Now, instead of raising livestock and growing crops as the farm was originally used, Huneck uses the property to host "dog parties," with a dog chapel, gallery, art studio and nature walk.

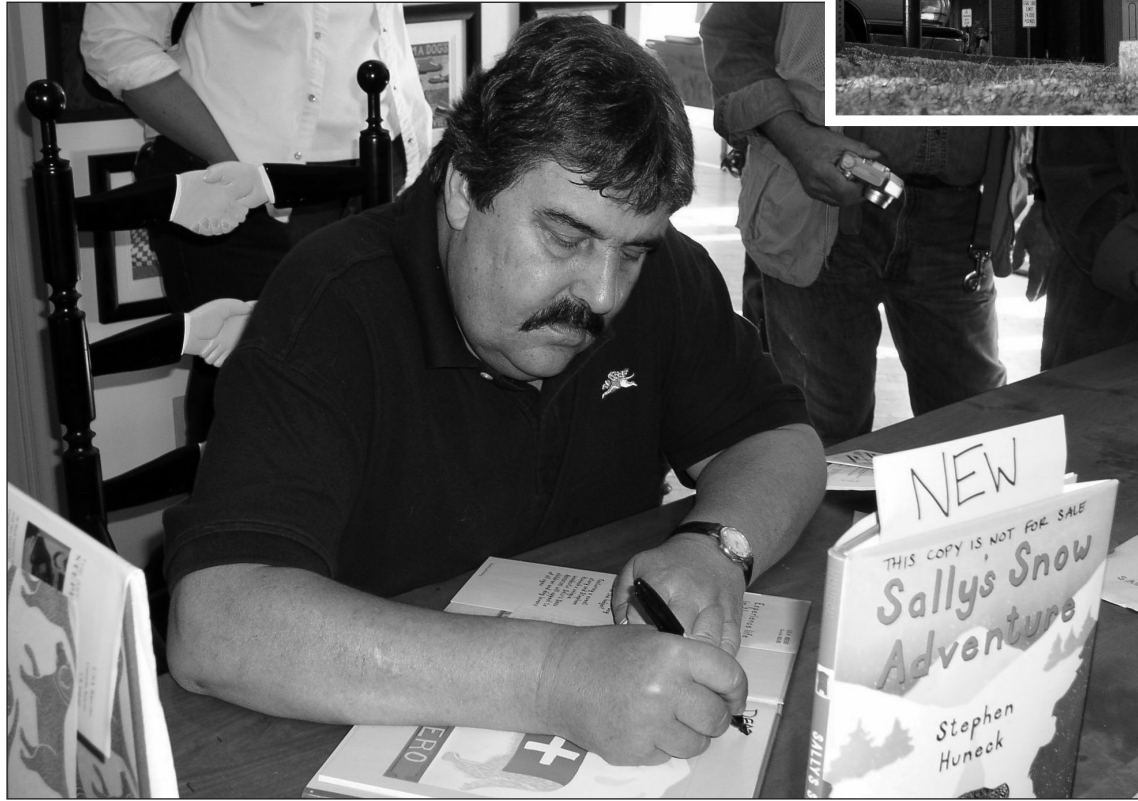
**A few facts:**

His Dog Mountain gallery and chapel attract the most Internet searches in the Northeast Kingdom, according to statistics from the local Chamber of Commerce.

His books and woodcuts depicting dogs generate interest all over the U.S., Europe and Asia – especially Japan.

He donates art to raise money for causes like children's cancer funds, animal rescue and children's hospitals. He says he gives to at least one charity a day.

He is married to Gwen, the woman he met over 30 years ago at the Massachusetts College of Art. He calls her his "boss" and says he loves her more than ever. He credits her with organizing



Stephen Huneck signs copies of his children's books for a line of waiting fans at his Dog Mountain gallery in St. Johnsbury.



the business and marketing.

He spent eight days in a coma at Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington last year suffering from Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome after being exposed to toxic air particles released when the sewer exploded in his Woodstock, Vt., gallery. This was

his second coma. His first lasted two months in 1994 caused by the same syndrome. After the first one, he had to relearn basic skills from how to walk to how to write.

Huneck has had what many consider extraordinary success in the art world, which he freely acknowledges is amazing luck.



Huneck donated a statue of Sally the black Lab to the town of St. Johnsbury. It has been placed in front of the Welcome Center near the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Railroad Street.

to the Beach" and "Sally Goes to the Mountains." Huneck also has a recent contract with Simon and Schuster for books aimed at grown-up readers. One is about all the dogs he has ever owned, titled "The Dogs That Made Me the Man I am." Another is about the dog chapel – the centerpiece at Dog Mountain.

Dog Chapel is a reproduction of a little white New England-style clapboard structure with a steeple topped by a carved dog sculpture. Huneck says he and a few other guys built the chapel by hand, mostly from wood they logged from the property. The floors, though, were made from imported sassafras wood, a fragrant wood that he said is unusual to find.

"I, like, designed this chapel, right? Without knowing how," he said. "It took us three years to build. It is really amazing."

The chapel attracts visitors from all over the world and recently caught the attention of a top editor at Architectural Digest magazine. It looks like a miniature dog-themed church. Huneck built it for people and dogs to reflect and to mourn lost pets. The main room has long wooden pews and stained glass windows decorated with... you guessed it, canines. Huneck invites visitors to leave photos of their deceased pups along with a written para-

*Continued on Page 23*

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# Holiday season comfort

By John Downs

The Christmas holiday season should be a time for joy and happiness, but with the political and military turmoil at home and abroad this year, my happiness will probably be limited to pleasures shared with family and friends. Barack Obama's election adds a bit more comfort.

But is that enough? Not for me, when the human element in our world is so out of kilter as it is today. My spirit needs nourishment from other sources. Fortunately, there is much that makes me comfortable when I look beyond the confines of my usual daily life.

I belong to a Great Books group that introduced me to Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself." It is a refreshing and stimulating reminder of the miracle of the universe and all that is in it. He writes about animals, birds, land, trees, ocean, wind and sky, and the sun and moon. But let Whitman speak for himself about grass, for example:

"A child said, "What is the grass?" fetching it to me with full hands,

"How could I answer the child? I do not know what it is any more than he.

"Or I guess it is the handkerchief of the Lord,  
 "Or I guess the grass is itself a child, the produced babe of the vegetation."

Thanks to Walt Whitman, now a blade of grass is wondrous to observe. Much of nature that I have taken for granted now adds a new dimension to my comfort for the holiday season and beyond.

Today I replenished the large bird feeder outside our kitchen window. The chickadees invariably flit away from the feeder when they catch me looking out at their comings and goings. When I first filled the feeder standing on a ladder, I lingered motionless. Several birds ignored me, but came within a foot or two of my face. Although they were perpetually moving, I appreciated their colors and whirlwind antics as never before. Apparently, they learned not to fear me.

I have mentioned our various cats over the past 25 years. Whitman has made me look at Lily (sometimes known as Muffin), our beautiful barn cat, from a different perspective. My wife and I have chortled for years over her many humorous mannerisms. But until recently I have not thought much about how completely she controls our household. She goes in and out on

demand, gets fed on her schedule; and dictates her menu. She sleeps as much as she wants, which is most of the day now that she is older, and we disturb her at our peril!

We have decided that we don't have much choice but to tolerate her dominance. Having made that deci-

**"My father was virtually penniless during the Great Depression and found that by watching our fireplace fires, made with logs brought from our old farm in Maine, he could forget his misery for a time and be comfortable."**

sion, we laugh more than ever, and wish we had her amazing talent for making people do as we want. But she adds to our comfort as we pat her, and apparently likes us as much as we like her.


Do you remember the movie "Horse Whisperer"? It reminded me of how I like to talk to the trees on my morning walks. It is easy to convince myself that they are listening. There is one small tree on a side path that is growing out of a 30-year old stump. As far as I can observe, it grows fast and produces healthy branches as does its companions growing in the ground. I congratulate all of them and encourage them to carry on. Lest I be considered somewhat peculiar, (as some may already think) I don't call them "she" or "he."

To be comfortable on harsh winter days – and there will be several in December and January – it helps to have something in the house that brings comfort, too. Back in the 1930s, my father and I read about an Indian legend that intrigued us: one could see in a log fire, from the time it was set on fire until its embers died out, every color that the tree saw in its life.

My father was virtually penniless during the Great Depression and found that by watching our fireplace fires, made with logs brought from our old farm in Maine, he could forget his misery for a time and be comfortable. We often watched a fire together, and I, too, found comfort. It is now about 70 years later and the fires Virginia and I burn many winter nights produce the same colorful comfort. The problems of the world do disappear for a while.

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## \$ Follow the Money by Rachel Seigel

# Economics in the time of Cholera

When we speak of “contagion” in economics, we do so metaphorically, referring to the interdependence of global markets. This time, it’s the real thing. The “great, gray-green, greasy” Limpopo River is now contaminated with cholera. The cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe has so far infected thousands and killed hundreds, and will spread to neighboring populations as it creates refugees.

After independence from Britain in 1965 and then from white minority rule in 1980, the former colony of Rhodesia was actually one of the more promising new nations in Africa. For years, however, Zimbabwe has been a textbook case of how not to manage an economy; its policies are now its horror.

Blessed with fertile land and cooperative climate, the nation was reaching agricultural self-sufficiency until ideology demanded the dispossession of the landowning class. Those former colonists were the knowledgeable and well-capitalized farmers who could produce a sustainable and abundant harvest. In their absence, land has been divided according to political cronyism, and at best lies fallow. Severe food shortages will mean international aid or starvation for Zimbabwe’s remaining 8-9 million people.

Unlike other former British colonies that have successfully built upon the colonial legacy of literacy and legal systems, Zimbabwe has devolved into chaos. Rather than invest in human capital, Zimbabwe has neglected its education, legal, and health care systems, encouraging its educated class to flee rather than suffer degradation and deprivation. Professionals of any stripe - and anyone else of any means - have fled. As a result, the country’s schools and hospitals are no longer functioning.

There is no stable currency, making any investment impossible. The latest official inflation data, from July 2008, puts the Zimbabwean inflation rate at 231,000,000%, and it has certainly accelerated since. Money becomes worthless before it circulates, like raindrops evaporating before they reach the ground. Trade, where there are any goods at all, is done through barter.

Investment, by definition, is a long-term transaction, and investors need to be able to foresee return in foreseeable circumstances. Government policies and regulations need to be at least economically rational within a sustainable political system. Authoritarian regimes can be as predictable as democracies, but aging and unstable dictatorships cannot.

Economies that cannot produce capital must attract it from elsewhere, and need

to have capital markets through which that capital can flow. They need to be able to trade currency in order to trade goods and to participate in the world economy. A currency in the death throes of inflation and a country committed to irrationally destructive policies do not allow for any sort of capital market.

Without capital, capital markets, or investors, there is no way to finance the necessary infrastructure that supports any kind of economic activity, or, for that matter, any sort of living.

Cholera is the result of a bacteria thought to have evolved centuries ago on the Indian subcontinent and been spread over trade routes. Urbanization and trade brought increasingly common epidemics in the 19th century, claiming tens of thousands of lives. In 1854, London physician John Snow found that the bacteria were transmitted through contaminated water, tracing an outbreak of the disease to a single city well - one of the first proven links between bacteria and disease.

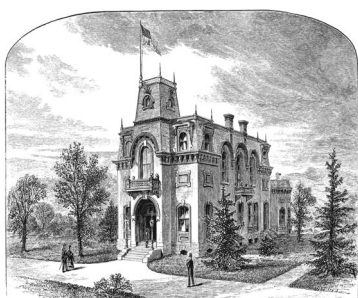
As governments installed water and sewage treatments, cholera outbreaks disappeared in 20th century Europe and North America. Cholera became a disease of the deprived in the less-developed world.

There is a water shortage in Zimbabwe now not because, as in so much of sub-Saharan Africa, there is chronic drought or a conspiracy of the gods, but because the water and sewer systems have been allowed to deteriorate by a bankrupt government. People drill shallow wells to get water, but because the wells are shallow, they are exposed to contaminants from sewage. Hence, cholera.

Throughout human history, bacteria have hunted us equally, undeterred by social hierarchy or wealth, indulged by medical ignorance or religious myth in place of knowledge. But we know bacteria now. We know cholera. We know its cause, and we know its prevention.

Zimbabwe was not too poor to have water and sewage systems in its developing but not un-developed economy, but now that economy is too far dismembered to maintain them. We have seen societies choose to evolve their economies in ways different from capitalism as we know it, but we have rarely seen such destructive regress, one that seems to lead only “into the heart of an immense darkness.”

*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.*



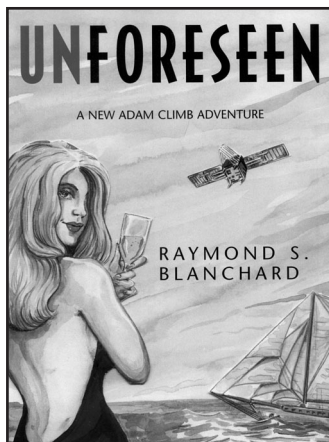
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*Raymond S. Blanchard was raised in Peacham where his ancestors settled in 1777. He is a writer of poetry in addition to writing and producing television series on health care.*

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Acrylic Painting I - N  
Digital Photography I - J  
Drawing I - N

### BUSINESS

Principles of Management - J  
Small Business Management - N

### COMMUNICATION

Intercultural Communication - J  
Interpersonal & Small Group Communication - N

### COMPUTERS

Microcomputer Applications I & II - N

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Introduction to Criminal Justice - J

### EDUCATION

Assessment of Prior Learning - J  
Introduction to Exceptional Populations - J, N  
Management of the Classroom - N

### ENGLISH

Effective Speaking - N  
English Composition I - J, N  
English Composition II - N  
Global Issues in the Media - J  
Introduction to Research Methods - N

### FRENCH

French II - N

### HUMANITIES

Dimensions of Freedom - J, N  
Seminar in Educational Inquiry - N

### MATHEMATICS

Basic Algebra - J, N  
Basic Mathematics - J  
Mathematical Concepts - J, N  
Statistics I - N

### MUSIC

Guitar I - N

### PSYCHOLOGY

Child Development - N  
Human Growth & Development - N  
Theories of Personality - J

### SCIENCES

Human Anatomy & Physiology II - N  
Introduction to Nutrition - J, N  
Introductory Chemistry - N  
Moving Toward Sustainability - N

### SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ethnicity & Diversity in the United States - N  
Human Behavior in the Social Environment - J, N  
Introduction to Sociology - J



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## Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



The other day, my hair dresser and another gal talked about cars and what they expected. My hairdresser likes a Cadillac, with leather seats and automatic window openers. Comfort and weight matter. A big car makes her feel safe. Inwardly I heaved a sigh. Once again, I was reminded that I came from a different generation, a completely different one.

Any new car seems comfortable to me. They are so far ahead of Dad's old Plymouth. And the Plymouth was better than Alvin's old flivver he drove to the creamery with his few cans of milk.

Topping the list the things I like about newer models is an automatic choke. Although I could get along without one, it is reassuring to have a choke that adjusts itself and doesn't flood the motor if one gets things a little off. The old doodle-bug was tetchy. I learned the precise angle for the

choke the hard way.

Whoever hears of double-clutching these days? In the old cars, one needed to double-clutch, but it was a skill I never quite mastered. At the best of times, I clashed gears. Shifting levers moved from the floor to the steering column and back down on the floor. The Ford coupe Dad and Maw drove after the Plymouth died had the shift on the steering column and so, I think, did the Ford "Woody" my cousin sold me. No matter where the shifting lever, gears mesh easier and more quietly in the cheapest and lightest as well as the more expensive and heavy cars.

One real improvement, in my opinion, is the light/dimmer and the windshield wiper switch location. These controls have moved all over the front of the car, from the dash to the steering column and, in the case of the light/dimmer switch, even to a button that

you had to press with your toe. One was located near the clutch pedal and required some fancy footwork to activate when you met another car at night.

Another improvement I call real instead of only window dressing is the turn signals. Many of you, I am sure, will remember cranking down the window and sticking an arm out in the cold to hand signal a turn or a stop. Directional lights are so easy to use that I wonder why some people ignore them entirely when they cut in front of me and turn off to the interstate.

And how about the windshield wipers? Time was when the wipers were activated by something that ran off the car's engine. This time of year I think of those dark afternoons when, coming up the back road from Groton in a snow storm, the wipers slowed down drastically. Snow would pile up on the windshield until I could hardly see the road. I'd have to back off on the gas just a little, so the wipers could clear before I started to feed the gas again. A separate motor for the wipers was a clever idea, as was the windshield washer. Both items make driving safer.

However, some additions the salesmen tout as great advantages don't add much except to the final cost of a car. For example, I wouldn't pay extra for button-

activated window cranks. I still have the use of my arms and could manage to turn a crank handle. The benefit is minor, in my estimation, and the whole system presents the potential for an electronic mishap. Chips do malfunction and what do you do if the window is stuck open? Especially at twenty below. So, as a selling point, those handy window-activating buttons don't make the grade.

Leather interiors do not have much appeal to one who remembers the artificial leather coverings on the old tin Lizzies. When I rode in the old cars or played in an abandoned one, the "nice" leather seats were cracked with age and smelled of mildew and rot. And on a cold, cold morning, sitting on a leather seat in a car that had stood outdoors all night meant you were cold most of the way to work. It took most of the morning for your butt to thaw. I'll take fabric any day.

I'd vote for the new heaters and defrosters, though. The road from the old Farm to Groton, when I worked at Luce's, led mostly downhill. That meant at night it was uphill, obviously. The defroster in Dad's Ford slowly, slowly cleared most of the windshield. The heater would be beginning to throw out some warmth by the time I drove into Luce's parking lot. And that

defroster was better than the one in Dad's Plymouth. The one in the Plymouth was a fan, attached to the steering column (if I remember correctly) and blew air I doubt it was warm on a small section in front of the driver. You leaned forward and peered through a small hole in the frost-covered windshield. It helped that there weren't many other drivers on the road and they had a similar problem and gave you plenty of room.

How I feel about big cars is shown by my preference for the Volkswagen Beetles we drove before the girls' legs grew too long for them to sit comfortably behind the front seats. To my mind, those vehicles had everything one needed; beautiful traction, excellent gas mileage, and parked liked a dream. Steering a big boat into a parking spot is not high on my list of things I enjoy doing. But I realize that, to some people, big is better. After all, some of my relatives drive big gas-guzzlers and, when Ed Mackay and Ralph Roy ran the West Barnet Garage, it seemed as if the whole hamlet drove big cars or wanted to. I think the appeal was similar to that of the McMansions some people now build. "Bigger is better and I have one and you don't." If you worry about safety on the roads, perhaps you should buy a tank! (Just remember what happened to the dinosaurs!)

# Happy New Year



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Thursday, Jan. 15 • 6:30 p.m.  
**Miranda Bag**

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## Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

Lynn A Bonfield



The residents of St. Johnsbury could choose from a variety of lively and entertaining civic attractions in the nineteenth century. Among their choices were political rallies, serenades, caucuses, lecturers, exhibitions, promenade concerts, parades, torchlight processions, and dramatic productions. One of the most popular of these was the Brass Band founded in 1830. Through the years, it had various names including Serenade Band and Coronet Band, but the name that stuck by the turn of the century and continues today is the St. Johnsbury Band. Historian Peter Benes claims the popularity of the band movement was spurred by two influences: the touring bands of Patrick Gilmore and John Philip Sousa, and the availability of inexpensive band instruments.

The St. Johnsbury Band played for Civil War rallies to recruit Union soldiers, Memorial Day and Christmas concerts, Old Home Day celebrations, parades, fairs, and fall foliage events. During World War II, the band opened membership to women, and today the band features high school students alongside professional musicians during its Monday evening concerts at the

Courthouse lawn in July and August.

The St. Johnsbury Band is the third oldest band in continuous existence in the United States, and the oldest nonprofessional town band. For more than one hundred years, it has received an annual allotment from the town. To enjoy this living piece of history, check the newspapers for an announcement of the upcoming spring concert. Don't miss the chance to enjoy the St. Johnsbury Band in its handsome uniforms of forest green and gold.

The following letter, preserved on microfilm at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, was written by a visitor identified simply as being from Boston and appeared in the January 25, 1867 issue of the Caledonian under the headline "A STRANGER'S VIEWS."

**Mr. Editor:**

It was my good fortune to be cast among the good people of your village a few days since, for a day or two, and, as oft before, to be entertained with preaching, or good Sabbath school exercises, or good cheer at your hotel, the St. Johnsbury House. But upon the last visit, to which I refer now, I was treated to an

extra entertainment, and one worthy of more than a passing notice. I refer to the promenade concert, given by your very efficient band, under the direction of J. H. Paddock, Esq.

I wish to express my hearty approval of this mode of spending an evening at home for it was more like home than home itself. The band played much better than I anticipated, and their selections were admirable. They show a great degree of native talent, besides an acquired proficiency, under their very efficient director. I can fully appreciate the labor and expense of carrying on such an enterprise, having been a pioneer in the same business in one of the towns in

Vermont, years ago. I only wonder at one thing, and that is, why the fathers and mothers in your village do not see the beauties of such an entertainment, and go every night with their children, and train the young ones to catch the sounds of good music and perfect harmony. How pleasant and happy the young people looked when the band played some piece to which they could step the time. How quick the ear caught the measure; and with chosen friends, how pleasant it was to spend the evening, when there was not a sound or a word to mar the most refined ear. . . .

Although I was among entire strangers, I felt a degree of fellowship with those present, and

certainly left the village with regret, but with a higher opinion of the morals of the place than before. Let me simply say to the good people of St. Johnsbury: Go and see and hear for yourselves, take the children along, and make them happy let them keep step to the music, and in a few years they will be better fitted to keep step of the "Union!"

*The editor is grateful for help from Shara McCaffrey of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Pat Swartz of the Fairbanks Museum, and Gary Aubin, director of the Band. Words missing are indicated by ellipses.*



Photograph of the St. Johnsbury Band, courtesy of director Gary Aubin.

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# Despite disability

## Sculptor plies his art in the Sheffield hills

By Virginia Downs

“You’ve got to meet this incredible artist,” a Sheffield friend told me fifteen years ago,” when I was writing features for the now-defunct Lyndon Independent weekly. Those words were the introduction to one of the most unique people I have ever met in the Northeast Kingdom. Recently, I learned that he had joined the community effort to save the ridges nearby from the intrusion of wind towers. I telephoned and asked if I could come up for a visit again and was warmly welcomed.

Don Rodenhaven had arrived in Sheffield from Wellfleet, Mass., in 1987, a 50-year-old artist who had become a mythical figure in his community; “Zap” was the name he was known by in Wellfleet where he had a one-man welding business for 20 years. The Wellfleet Public Library had done a half-hour testimonial video of the man who is described as “a complex, lov-

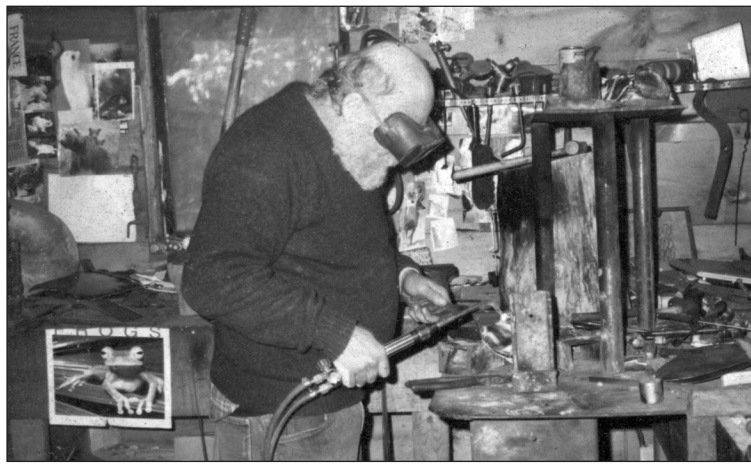


Photo by Mary Lou Bard

Welder turned sculptor, Rodenhaven works at his bench, creating works of art from sheet metal.

able man who was both a unique and valuable presence in the town.”

He had made sculptures from sheet metal parts of old automobiles and trucks into bear, moose, roosters, fish, pigs and owls.

Among the admirers of the

artist was world-famous novelist Norman Mailer.

A picture of Rodenhaven and Mailer is attached to the wall of the sculptor’s work shed, showing the two arm-wrestling in a popular restaurant.

“Then the town’s zoning cracked down on businesses in its residential areas,” the sculptor told me, “and it became

more and more difficult to work there.

They were charging a fine of one hundred dollars a day just to live there if you owned a business. Within about four years they chased out the tradespeople, carpenters, anybody who had trucks in their driveways, and a junkyard which would make property values drop.”

He and his companion, artist and teacher Mary Lou Bard, packed up and headed for Vermont. “We were looking for a little open land for our eight horses and privacy,” Rodenhaven explains. “We just kept moving north and came up to Sheffield where the land fit the pocketbook.” The distant view of Cannon Mountain capped their dream of rustic

Rodenhaven had changed very little, except for a pronounced limp. Ten years ago, on a January day his 10-month-old Newfoundland puppy Igor had lurched suddenly toward him, resulting in a violent fall that shattered his leg. The couple was sad to have to find another home for their beloved dog. It was the beginning of a drastic change for the sculptor’s typical routine of working with his metal parts six hours in a row. “Now I’m lucky if I can work two hours in a row.”

Bard understands how important her companion’s artwork is to him, having spent many years herself developing as a fabric artist. During the 20 years she lived in Wellfleet, she had her own gallery with partners, made large batik wall

“...she gives me encouragement, like a boot out the door to get to work,” Don Rodenhaven

surroundings.

There are no horses now up on their hillside and no pet goose, which I remembered from my first visit. A tricolored Maine Coon cat named Harriet greeted me from the porch step and sleek black “Catty” perched warily on the grill nearby.

With his salt-and-pepper beard and burly build,

hangings in the abstract mode, featuring landscapes, among them purple mountains and green velvet pine forests. Her devotion to art makes her determined to help Rodenhaven any way she can, “such as hauling tools, all those menial practical things,” she says.

“When I’m trying not to go in the shop,” he retorts, “she gives me encouragement, like a boot out the door to get to work.”

Rodenhaven considers himself lucky the state of Vermont offers funding for artists with disabilities to help them continue their work. “I’ve been able to fix up the shed where I work where it used to have a dirt

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floor, now there's a real one and I could pay a carpenter to put a tin roof on it and to insulate it with a wood stove for heat."

The accident meant a drastic change from hauling old cars and trucks to the hilltop to be used for sheet metal parts in his sculptures. "Now a friend stops by with his pickup truck once or twice a year and we drive to Montpelier where I can buy four by eight sheets of twenty-gauge metal from 'Capital Steel.'"

A Weston customer recently bought a great blue heron sculpture. "A great blue heron has four thousand feathers," he explained. "Even the teensy weensy feathers are hand cut and each one individually welded to the armature."

His doctor recently commissioned him to make a snowy egret.

He explained his family history in his typical, jovial manner, "I was born in Boston and incarcerated for the first eighteen months. I was in an orphanage, a warden of the state. I don't think I was in solitary." Their adoptive parents, the Rodenhavens took him to live in Needham, and later adopted a girl, Nancy, who now lives in Yarmouth, Maine. His father, who worked for Ciba Pharmaceuticals, wanted him to go into the sciences, his mother, a public stenographer and a public stunt flyer, entertaining at carnivals, liked the fact that he was a naturalist and an artist. "I got a paint-by-numbers kit when I was a little boy. I started out doing it as you're supposed to, then started blending the colors, then changed the artwork in the book and stopped doing the numbers. That got me started. I did comic strips, too." All his friends and relatives get cartoons for special occasions.

"I like wild life and animals – dogs, octopuses, turtles, squids, snakes, frogs, owls. I've done lots of fish. The only thing I haven't really done is an amoeba" he said, looking at me with a grin. "I could do that by dropping an egg on the floor."

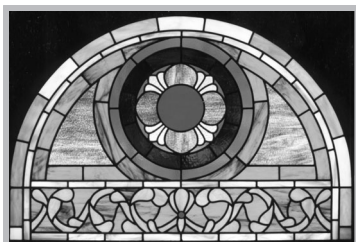
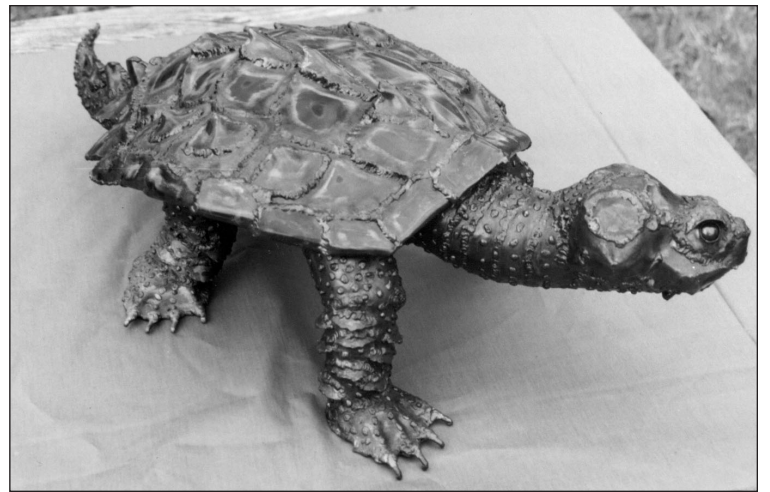
Rodenhaven ran a welding shop, and "I was two kinds of fishermen. When the wind blew, I cohogged and shell-fished. When the wind was not blowing I took my commercial boat out after cod, haddock, hake and cusk." Cowboy years were part of his life out west in Monterey, California. "I rode the fence lines, mending them, and at every gate I would stop and repaint the black and white lines. I did tree surgery – many people don't realize a wealthy person might object to leaves in the swimming pool, so I'd go up a tree, hang by a rope and cut down all the branches that might send down leaves."

I asked him about the concerns he and Bard have about wind towers on the ridges near Sheffield, knowing they had gone to all the community meetings and expressed their thoughts against the idea.

He turned to Bard and asked, "We're not big cause people, are we?" She gave a "no" nod. "She and I agree they wouldn't work here. I think there is an underlying bad thing with companies that are putting them up and don't go to places like Stowe, Woodstock and Jay Peak that have higher mountains. The wind tower thing has been a battle for many years. On the Cape they wanted to take prime fishing grounds to put them up. In places like Iowa, the farmers can still do their million-acre fields. It doesn't hurt agriculture – in a way it's kind of pretty."



As a previous horse owner, this commissioned piece was a joy to work on for Rodenhaver, as was the turtle sculpture to the right.



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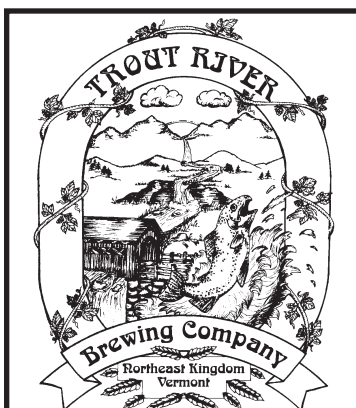
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# Got art?

*A small hill town celebrates eclectic artists*

By Martha Evangelista

Step inside the Peacham Library and feast your eyes on some of the most exquisite and diverse art to be found anywhere. The Horace Gilmore Gallery is located within one of Peacham's greatest amenities and hosts artists and craftspeople from Peacham and surrounding towns. Works in the library's permanent collection consist of several prominent area artists including Eloise Miller, William L. Marsh, Louis Lamoureaux, Charles K. Wallace, Horace and Helen Gilmore, and G. Dawson. In addition to an outstanding permanent collection, the Horace Gilmore Gallery exhibits regional artists work on a rotating basis.

On display through January is the work of Peacham resident and illustrious artist Muffin Ray. The

drawings on exhibit at the Gallery were created by Ms. Ray in the late 80s in Provincetown, Mass. and have been reproduced by NOW Women's Calendar, the New Yorker Magazine, and several other publications over the years. Although artists do not sell their work through the library, people interested in seeing more of the artist's work or buying a piece displayed in the gallery are welcome to contact the artist. Artists can note that a piece is for sale and display the price while it is on exhibit. Volunteer library staff and the gallery coordinator can be available to assist the artist in hanging their work. In the past, the library has shown the work of local craftspeople, including potters, furniture makers, jewelry artists, painters, sketchers, photographers, and local students. These community

exhibits are enjoyable and enlightening. Oftentimes people viewing the displays will comment that they had no idea that their neighbors possessed such talent. The Horace Gilmore Gallery is just one more way in which friends in this small hill town learn about each other and tighten the bonds between neighbors.

The Peacham Library was established in 1810 and serves the public as an incorporated library. While not a municipal library, there is no charge to be a library patron for the general public. The addition which holds the Horace Gilmore Gallery was completed in 2000 with a ribbon cutting ceremony in 2001. A substantial amount of money for the library addition project was willed to the Peacham Library by Horace H. Gilmore, a renowned illustrator, painter, and commercial artist. Mr. Gilmore's family roots in Peacham date back to 1798 and paintings from his Mack Mtn. Road home evoke sensitivity to the natural surroundings and an appreciation of the rural



Vermont landscape. With additional monies acquired by fundraising, the library's board of directors brought Mr. Gilmore's vision to fruition.

This spring the gallery coordinator is hoping to present shows by area students, a fiber art exhibit, a stained glass show, a photography display, and other diverse work by area locals. If you are interested in showing your talent at the Horace Gilmore Gallery, please contact the library at 592-3216. Any type of art or craft is acceptable, including art by novices and experimental art.

The Peacham Library staff is looking toward the future with the possibility of artists teaching classes in the spacious lower level. These classes could be anything from oil painting, to fiber art, to pottery, jewelry making, to photography.

Step in to the Horace Gilmore Gallery in the Peacham Library and see what your talented friends neighbors have been up to. Library and Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

# A new year, a new page

By Susan Bowen

A new page, a hopeful outlook, isn't that what we expect at the turning of the year? A brand new calendar page, usually with a cheerful, colorful picture at the top? But I had an unwelcome surprise when I made my first start at writing this January piece. All the fancy words and phrases meaning a hoped-for change for the better turned into pessimism. The 'new leaf' turned brown and dry, the 'new page' looked all too much like the old one, but drier and dustier. Why, especially in this

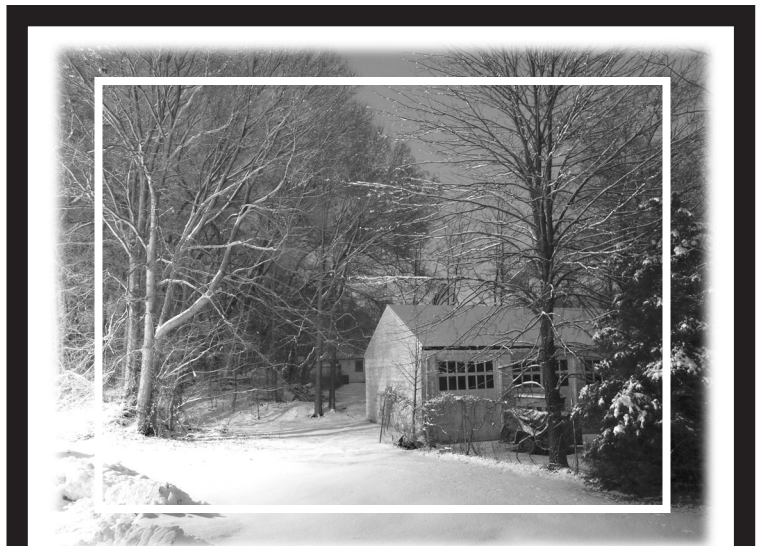
day when, after the recent election, the word "change" should be ringing loud and clear, was my word-processor not singing a happy tune?

Perhaps because I find the study of history so meaningful, I was aware of unhappy examples of past changes that became collapses. The notorious Fall of Rome, for example. It took a long time to fall, and according to some historians, even longer for a new social order to arise, but look what was developing in the meantime. Two new forms of religion, Christianity and Islam,

both of which could be seen as an advance over the past. Hellenism spread the wisdom of the Greek philosophers over the Near East and Egypt, keeping it alive for the future.

Meanwhile, Northern Europe, hitherto lost at the cold edge of civilization, came into its own. New trade routes were developed, the Christian church spread northward, and with it, the Latin language of churchmen and scholars. The medieval scholars, part of both the church and governmental worlds, became aware

*Continued on Page 35*



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 Melvin McFarland.....Leon & Anna McFarland  
 Diana Couture.....Jerry & Doris Randall  
 Ann Langmaid.....Hugh Langmaid  
 Dot & Gil Gilfillan.....Diane, Frank, Jen, Jack,  
 David & Ben  
 Laine Vance.....Eleanor Vance  
 Beverly Hamilton Jenks.....Her Family  
 Pearl Gadapee.....The Gadapee Family  
 Howard Byron.....Freda Byron  
 Michael Guertin.....Mother  
 George & Barbara Randall.....The Randall Family  
 Arlene Swett.....Harry & Claudette Swett  
 Ruth Cousins.....Jerry & Robert Boardman  
 Reg Smith.....The Family  
 Nathan Morrill.....Janice Morrill  
 Lyman & Florence Morrill;  
 Israel & Burniece Farrow;  
 I. John Farrow; Howard & Margaret Farrow;  
 Malvern & Marilyn Blodgett; and  
 Friends and Neighbors.....Janice Morrill  
 Reg, Olive, Ron & Doug Smith.....Their Families  
 Patricia (McFarland) Smith; Melvin McFarland.....Leon & Anna McFarland  
 Barb & George Randall; Mary Pitkat  
 and Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Root Sr.....Lorraine & Walter  
 Dodge & Family  
 Aunt Barbara & Uncle George Randall.....Donald, Dale,  
 Dwayne, Dennis &  
 Ann Ovitt  
 Sherman Simpson.....Damon Lodge #16  
 In Memory of Pythian Brothers & Pythian Sisters.....Knights of Pythias Danville  
 Michael Guertin.....Evangeline Guertin  
 Ida & Phil Langmaid; Ann & Forrest Langmaid;  
 Harold & Jean Hutchins.....The Bennett Family  
 Phil Bennett.....The Bennett Family  
 Harold Beattie.....Catherine Beattie & Occie Beattie  
 Grandfather Beattie;  
 Grandfather & Grandmother Mills.....Jacob  
 "Beattie"; Ike & Dorothy Stanton.....Nathaniel Kitchel  
 Aaron Michael Root.....Mom - Alana Langmaid  
 Pop and Mem; John Pal.....Alana, Ed & Girls  
 Jerry & Virginia Jarrosak.....Ed Jarrosak  
 John Pal; Ida Langmaid; Phil Langmaid.....Jennifer, Bryan, Kate-Lynn  
 & Samantha  
 Grammy Margaret.....Kate & Margaret Toll  
 Gloria Morse.....Kitty, Kate, Margaret & Abel Toll  
 Roland Carson; Jim Isham; Larry Royston;  
 Ken Bess; Dickie Vance; Sylvia Drummond.....Kitty Toll  
 Grampa Beattie.....Kate & Margaret Toll  
 Plyn McCondonald; Joe Swett; Carrie Thresher;  
 Jeff Ziter & Bob Hill.....Plyn Beattie  
 Jonathan Jewell; Darwin LaCross;  
 Nick Ferris; Phil & Ida Langmaid & Bob Hill.....Philip Beattie  
 Forrest Langmaid; Phil Bennett;  
 Howard Penniman; Ann Langmaid;  
 "Beattie"; Burl & Ethel Langmaid;  
 "Pop" & "Mem"; Kenneth & Aurora Dwyer;  
 Darwin LaCross and Bob Hill.....Lee, & Plyn Beattie  
 My Dad & My Mom.....Lee  
 Mem & Pop; Steve Stanley; Ann Langmaid;  
 Departed Loved Ones & Friends.....Alan, Susan, Jeff & Kelly  
 John Villeneuve; Ralph Page; Rachel Harvey.....Alan & Susan Langmaid  
 Dickie Vance; Laine C. Vance; David J. Kirker  
 & John S. Kirker.....Dick & Ann Vance  
 Dickie Vance; Laine C. Vance; David J. Kirker  
 & John S. Kirker.....J.P. & Kelly Sinclair  
 Gladys & Delmer Smith;  
 Beulah, Tip, Dick, Myles &  
 Zoe-Ann (Cortese) Wakefield;  
 Sarah & Claude Keen.....Janet Wakefield & Family  
 Sherman Simpson.....Charlotte Simpson  
 Deceased Members of the  
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 Hap & Mary Dresser;  
 George & Barbara Randall;  
 Vernon & Luella Webster;  
 Roland Carson; and  
 Helena Carson.....Paul & Mary Randall & Family  
 Velma Paquin Webster; Gertrude Dunbar;  
 Ephraim Salls; Mary Montgomery;  
 Milton Montgomery, Jr. and  
 Elwin Brown ("Brownie").....Erlene Loura  
 Earl McReynolds; Stewart & Elva Coates;  
 Ranauld & Madelyn Davis; Henry Patoine;  
 Billy Kennedy; Darwin LaCross  
 and Bob Hill.....Jeff, Mary, Justin & Jacob  
 Kenneth & Aurora Dwyer.....Rosie Chaloux; Diana  
 Chaloux; Maria Chaloux;  
 Linda Mosse;  
 & Wynter Aurora Mosse  
 Friends and Neighbors  
 Ronnie Bumps.....Diane Gilfillan; Jen, Frank,  
 Jack, David & Ben  
 Dot & Gil Gilfillan; Bill & Dora Conly;  
 Rodger Boyle.....Diane Gilfillan; Jen, Frank,  
 Jack, David & Ben  
 Walter & Ruth Blodgett; Burl & Ethel Langmaid;  
 Malvern & Marilyn Blodgett;  
 Bill Stanton.....Arnold & Shirley Langmaid  
 George & Barbara Randall.....Jerry & Doris Randall  
 Gaston & Diana Couture; Alice Couture.....Jerry & Doris Randall  
 Persis & Henry McReynolds; Merton & Eliza Hall;  
 Earl McReynolds.....Evelyn; Earlene & Jimmy  
 Grampa Machell; Don & Dot Colby; Ralph & Annie Briggs;  
 Nancy Briggs; Great Grampa & Grammy Ward;  
 Grammy Ward; Uncle Basil & Aunt Mabel;  
 Uncle Wes; Matt Clancy; and All loved ones no longer with us.....Bobby, Denise & Kalyn  
 Ted & Robella Legendre;  
 Beulah Couture; John Joyce.....Rodger & Joan Legendre  
 Curtis Vance.....Derek & Alysia Vance  
 Florence Ward.....Eleanor Vance & family  
 Laine Vance; and many relatives & friends.....Eleanor Vance & family  
 Bee & Steve Waterman.....Molly  
 Duane Ingalls; Paul Hamilton;  
 Demmy Devenger and Dick Wakefield.....Bev (Ingalls) Lynch  
 Lucien Desrochers; Alice Calkins; Sarah Keen.....Tom & Bev Lynch  
 David Currier; Martin Maynard and Florence Ward.....Alice Hafner  
 Amos Hafner.....Aggie Boswell  
 Carolyn Hafner Sullivan and Amos Hafner.....Ginny Sullivan  
 Rodger Boyle.....Virginia Boyle  
 Fran Lamothe Chaloux; Fransis & Hazel Boyle;  
 Walter & Gladys Hubbard; Carl & Regina Hubbard.....Virginia Boyle  
 Jack Parker; John Parker; Chris Parker.....Mike - Judy & family  
 All Departed Loved Ones & Friends.....The McGill family  
 Jim, Sam & Blanche Daniels.....Daniels Family  
 All departed friends & neighbors.....Freda Byron  
 Mom and Dad, Grampa and Grammie;  
 Kenneth and Roberta; and Laine Vance.....Judy Garland  
 Departed Loved Ones.....Shirley Langmaid "2"  
 Kenneth Dwyer; Aurora Dwyer.....Kermit & Marilyn Dwyer  
 Florence Ward.....Kermit & Marilyn Dwyer

## In memory of ..... Given By

Mom-Shirley Lamothe; Dad-Jerry Lamothe;  
 Aunt Irene Merchant Hubbard & Uncle Bill;  
 Uncle Reg Lamothe; Aunt Fran Lamothe-Chaloux;  
 Aunt Bernice Merchant Johnston & Uncle Francis;  
 Great Uncle Allen Sanborn & Great Aunt Lettie;  
 Great Aunt Addie Sanborn & Great Uncle Author Sanborn;  
 Lillian Sanborn Gadapee & Uncle John;  
 Grammie Jessie Sanborn Merchant & Grampa Shirl;  
 Uncle Leroy & Aunt Millicent Merchant;  
 Uncle Camille Lamothe and Paul & Karen;  
 Aunt Irene Lamothe Moony & Uncle Ted;  
 Uncle Theoron Merchant; Grandma Mary Lamothe  
 & Grandpa Napoleon; Uncle August Lang;  
 Uncle George Lamothe; Aunt Yvette &  
 Uncle Maurice Morey & Julie;  
 Uncle Ernest Hevey; Cousin Donald Beer;  
 Cousin Sandra; and Dear Friends Virginia Butterfield,  
 Dot Gilfillan; Doris Gadapee; Rodger Boyle, Bill Stanton;  
 Margaret Pollard and Veva Zimmerman.....Gerard Lamothe  
 Jerry Peck.....Deb & Family  
 Florence Ward.....Ken Ward Family - Andy Ward;  
 Barb & Dave Machell;  
 Ida & Art Rainville  
 Roy & Linda Vance  
 Reginald M. Vance; Charles Vance & Curtis Vance.....  
 Norman Maiden; Reg Smith; Ted Perrigard; Forrest  
 Langmaid; Laine Vance; Curtis Vance and  
 Arnold (Jim) Hutchinson....."The Huntin' Camp"  
 Forrest Langmaid; Clara McGill Langmaid;  
 Harry Drew; Howard & Williamina Penniman;  
 Flora & Willis Pierce; Grammie Tennie; Grandpa Burl &  
 Grammie Ethel; Mrs. Clarke; Mrs. Hall; Mrs. Bailey;  
 Norman Maiden; Charles Vance; Clair Vance; Laine Vance;  
 Curtis Vance Maurice & Susan Prior; Ann Langmaid;  
 Phil & Ida Langmaid.....Hollis & Mary Prior; Kim Prior;  
 Dwayne & Susan Lynaugh;  
 Roy & Linda Vance;  
 Jane Langmaid & Clif Langmaid  
 The Ottinger Family; The O'Neil Family;  
 Maureen Mooney; Grace O'Neil; Genie Cooke;.....Carol & Bill Ottinger  
 Aire Lindsey; Anne Coulter.....  
 George & Barb Randall; Earl J. McReynolds;  
 Stewart & Elva Coates; Darwin LaCross.....Everett & Martha McReynolds  
 Mel McFarland; Eugene Charron; Pat Smith.....Donna & Julie  
 Ida Langmaid; Vicki Campbell-Ber; Theda Williams.....Donna  
 Cathy Potvin.....3rd Daughter - Donna  
 Gram.....Casey, Crystal & Taylor;  
 Brett, Asa, Meredith,  
 Meriah, Megan, David,  
 William, Emily, & Travis  
 Leonard; Janet;  
 Roxanne and Bud;  
 Ellen and Ozzie  
 Leonard Carson  
 Carson Family  
 Rodger Boyle.....  
 Rodger Boyle.....  
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 David Locke and Hazen & Jerry Livingston.....Roland & Betty Heath & family  
 Clarence Hubbard;  
 Rufus & Lottie Hubbard;  
 Wendall Tillotson;  
 Ila Spaulding; Earl Tillotson;  
 Maude & Carl Ailes; Homer Ailes;  
 Glenn & Martha;  
 Kenneth & Bea.....Arlene Hubbard;  
 Mike & Gloria Tillotson & family  
 Louise Legendre Lessard  
 The Daniels Family  
 Alice Blair  
 Bob Dole.....Martha  
 Beulah & Joe Couture; Johnny Joyce.....Ray and Leah LaBounty & Family  
 Ann Langmaid; Dot Walsh; Alan & Natalie Amadon;  
 Robert & Hazel Hill; Joan Davis; and Bob Hill.....Scott & Laurie Langmaid  
 & boys  
 Mom & family  
 Wayne R. Bassett.....  
 Percy & Gladys Rowell; Emile & Dot Berard;  
 Marion Murray; Helena Carson.....Billy & Sue Murray  
 Florence Ward.....Lois Ward  
 "Aunt Fran"-Fran Lamothe; "Dad"-Rodger Boyle;  
 "Mum"-Virginia Foster.....Stacey & Ember  
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 George & Margaret Pollard;  
 Roger Pollard and Marian Ward.....Constance Dimock  
 Fran & Everett Tucker;  
 Ruth & Leonard Freed.....Mark Tucker &  
 Cathy Dellinger  
 Mark Tucker &  
 Cathy Dellinger  
 Charlotte Potok.....  
 Benjamin Sundance;  
 Ray Sundance;  
 Michele Byrd and  
 Christopher McDonough.....Cathy Dellinger  
 David Dellinger.....Cathy Dellinger  
 Dan Dellinger.....Cathy Dellinger  
 Our loved ones.....Matt & Marcia Pettigrew  
 Darwin LaCross.....Sheila Otis  
 Darwin LaCross.....Larry & Ann Filby  
 Dale N. & Marion Wallace.....Sue & Chuck Longchamps  
 Aunt Florence.....Pam and Brill Williams  
 Shelby Noyes; Florence Ward.....The Henry Stuart's  
 Florence Ward.....Ethel Lunnie  
 Aunt Florence.....Cathy and Tom Conte  
 Wes Ward.....Cathy, Pam, Deb,  
 Wes, Melissa and Rob  
 Dan & Mary Swainbank  
 Deb & Vince  
 Richard & Margaret Ide.....  
 Nate Morrill; Alice Couture.....  
 1990 Nate Morrill.....North Danville Community Club  
 1991 Reg Smith.....North Danville Community Club  
 1992 Ruth Cousins.....North Danville Community Club  
 1993 Arlene Swett.....North Danville Community Club  
 1994 George & Barbara Randall.....North Danville Community Club  
 1995 Mike Guertin.....North Danville Community Club  
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 2006 Ruth Bailey.....North Danville Community Club  
 2007 Rodger Boyle.....North Danville Community Club  
 2008 Florence S. Ward.....North Danville Community Club

## People &amp; Places

# A Funny Thing Happened... on the Way to Cairo

Photos and story  
By Dick Boera

Last year I was given the bestseller "1,000 Places To See Before You Die." How discouraging to find that I will have missed over 90 percent of those places before that dreaded deadline, but not to worry.

Not long before retiring some 20 years back, I made my own long list of places I wanted to see and things I wanted to do in the years ahead. Fortunately, I've been able to put check marks alongside 90 percent of those entries; the places include 80 countries on seven continents. (The requisite of being able to fly to distant destinations on military planes on a 'space available basis' - as a military reserve retiree - provided many of the magic carpet opportunities; commercial transportation filled in the gaps.) I never did learn to fly or play the piano; I haven't yet been to Petra, Madagascar, Tibet, Kilimanjaro, Easter Island or

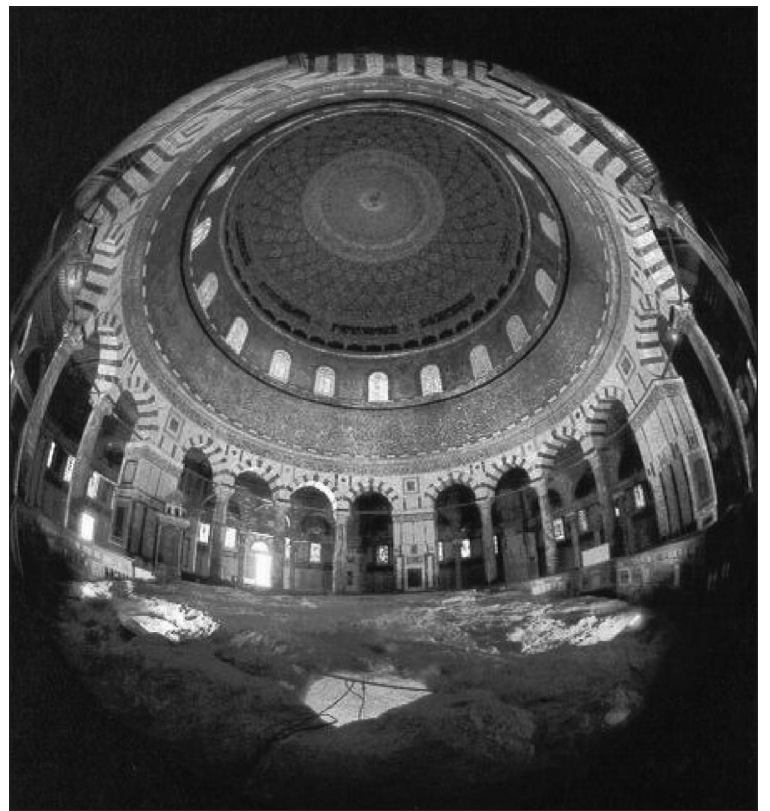
the street"...Anonymous), followed by a charter flight to Incirlik AFB in Turkey where I was able to surprise my son Michael (in command of a fighter squadron deployed there at the time). The visit was only for a day (I'd explored Turkey a bit on previous trips), but we were able to get in some golf with borrowed clubs...before being deluged and soaked through when the heavens opened up on the back nine.

A C-141 Starlifter took me to Ramstein AFB in Germany. That night I learned that even with an Egyptian visa (which I had obtained before leaving the States), direct flights on military planes require a sponsor and special approval of the USDOA (U.S. Defense Office of the Attaché) which I then tried to obtain via telephone and fax...to no avail. But an unexpected opportunity for me to get to Cairo - via Israel - turned up, and there just happened to be a roll call for

to take me to the Old City, asking the driver's recommendation for an inexpensive, clean hostel or guest house. Driving through the Jaffa Gate, he pointed out a youth hostel (incidentally, not just for youths, but open to all ages) that turned out to be the right price and fairly clean, but the only lodging available was a dorm room on the third floor...off the roof. Its saving grace was the spectacular panoramic view of the entire Old City with the sparkling golden Dome of the Rock and Tower of David dominating the skyline. The Western ("Wailing") Wall was barely visible near the Dome and the Mount of Olives was the backdrop beyond the City.

I have included descriptions from my travel journal:

*"Jerusalem sits on the ridge of the Judean Mountains and overlooks the Judean Desert. It is the cradle of the three great faiths - Judaism, Christianity*



The Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount - the oldest extant Islamic building in the world - dominates the landscape inside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. The two domes of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre - the holiest site in all Christendom, commemorating the hill of crucifixion and the tomb of Christ's burial - is visible off to the left. In the far distance, outside the walls, loom some of the skyscrapers of the modern New City, home to the Knesset and other government buildings.

*prising the market/bazaar of the walled city. Have supper at the Loaves and Fishes Coffee Shop, across the street from the site of Herod's Palace. The 'shofar' (ram's horn) blares forth over the city-wide sound system amplifier, signaling the start of the high holidays, Rosh Hashanah. The*

*giously significant sites, as well as a tour of the Roman ruins at the Bet-She'an National Park and a kibbutz (one of the collective farm communities).*

*I'm impressed/shocked to note in the hotel's brochure that it is the oldest in the Old City and numbers among its past guests Mark Twain, Herman Melville and General Allenby; they must have been very desperate...or else it really was once elegant?*

*I meet my roommates, Ben and Robert - Brits - and a German lad, Tobias. They are characters right out of Michener's The Drifters, young nomads of the Middle East...picking up odd jobs for room, board, and money for drugs...then moving on, part of the drug culture, getting a liberal education by seeing the world on a shoestring. Tobias is a serious reader, philosopher, wood carver, guitarist and pot smoker; he's just come from a hitchhiking tour of Egypt and Jordan, intriguing*

## "Tobias is a serious reader, philosopher, woodcarver, guitarist and pot smoker," Dick Boera

Greenland, but maybe there's time...

One of those entries was the desire to see the Pyramids and the Sphinx. The opportunity arose in 1997, but it came to pass in a (very) roundabout way.

I was manifested on a C-5 Galaxy mission to Ramstein AFB in Germany from Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts, then a hop on a KC-135 Stratotanker to Aviano AFB in Italy (and a quick visit to nearby Venice - "The only place where you can get seasick by crossing

a mission to Tel Aviv early the next day. Though there was a 12-hour delay, the C-17 Globemaster touched down at Ben Gurion International Airport by midday. On the advice of a Jewish fellow passenger, I asked for my clearance/entry stamp on a separate piece of paper, instead of having my passport stamped, to preclude delays when passing across the borders of Arab countries.

I was now on my own and found public bus transportation to Jerusalem where I hailed a taxi

*and Islam - as well as the capital of the sovereign state of Israel. The Knesset, Supreme Court, President's House and government offices are all in the New City. Last year, the 3,000th anniversary of the city was celebrated." I'm reading these facts from a Jerusalem guide book while seated at a local café sipping a glass of arak...the local version of ouzo, sambuca, or anisette.*

*Spend the rest of the afternoon shopping/browsing in the maze of shops and stalls com-*

*shops close early at 6:00 p.m. and will be shut tight for two days.*

*Returning to the Petra Hotel, I pick up my blanket and sheets in exchange for the 20-shekel room fee and sign up for an all-day tour tomorrow to Nazareth (the Church of the Annunciation), the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of the Beatitudes overlooking it, Tabgha - where the Lord fed the multitude of 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fishes, the River Jordan where Christ was baptized, and other reli-*



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



me with his description of hiking into Petra – the jewel of Jordan. Robert is also “old for his age;” given a shave and a new suit of clothes he has the manners and charisma to fit into the best circles of society. At the moment, he is a penniless rogue...but optimistic that his fortunes will take a turn for the better “any day now.”

I’m awakened very early the next morning when a gorgeous young Israeli comes looking for Tobias to have him join her for a guitar practice session. He grunts, “Not now,” and rolls over to go back to sleep. Robert opens one eye, spots the exotic little lady and moans, “Ay-ieee,” a sound of envious anguish that seems to signify that he would have liked to be a guitarist at that moment. A short time later, both young men are up and working on roof repairs (for their keep.)

The day after the exhausting tour by van through the desolate countryside – on a very hot day – I’m up early planning to take a guided walking tour, but none are available (all tour offices are closed also) so I pull out my map and plot my own walk. Find my way down through the market stalls and maze of passageways to the Western Wall. To Jews all over the world, it is recognized as the holiest of sites; they believe that this is where they must come in order that God may listen to their prayers. I don a paper yarmulke (the skullcap is provided as a condition of entrance into the “inner sanctum”) and take my turn “wailing” with hand pressed to the wall. “The crevices in the wall are filled with petitions from worshippers asking for good fortune, recovery from an illness, a



Inside the ornate Dome, the mosaics, marble and gilt carvings shield the massive slab of Rock from which Mohammed is said to have ascended to heaven and where Isaac was spared from being sacrificed by Abraham.

good marriage partner for a son or daughter, the gift of a child...Several Jewish services are taking place simultaneously, conducted by groups of varying ethnic backgrounds and degrees of belief. A partition divides the men’s section from the women’s...Many Jewish families from abroad come here for their bar mitzvah celebrations; Israeli families who cannot afford the expense of a lavish bar mitzvah also choose the Western Wall as their venue.” The area is crowded with holiday pilgrims and tourists; most at the Wall are Orthodox Jews with distinctive black suits, hats and side curls...but many are Reformed, just as devout. No photos are allowed because of the high holy day. There is a great deal of wailing, chanting and clapping as the Torah is paraded around.

Just a short walk away, through side streets and tunnel, is the entrance to the Muslim section of the City. As I nonchalantly walk through the gateway, I’m hauled back forcibly by one of the heavily armed Arab guards

since it’s apparent that I’m a “non-believer.” Today the area around the mosque is open to Muslims only.

I remain close to the gate for awhile observing as other tourists make the same mistake I did...with the same results. The guards seem to have an unerring instinct for spotting those who don’t “pass muster.” I can’t help but wonder if some dark-skinned, non-Arab types, e.g. Greek or Spanish, might occasionally slip by.

(Following my return here from Cairo, I am able to visit the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Islamic Museum and the Dome of the Rock. The Mosque and Museum are worth a look, but the real attraction – the jewel of Jerusalem – is the magnificent Dome, the splendid blue-tiled octagonal building with its glistening gilded dome, sacred to both Muslims and Jews. Mohammed is said to have ascended to heaven from the massive slab of rock above which the dome rises; built in AD 69, it is also alleged to be the site

where Isaac was spared from being sacrificed by Abraham and, much later, the locale of Solomon’s Temple. Its interior must surely be the most ornate in the world, with its gilt carvings and exquisite stained glass windows. Shoes and packages are left unattended near the entrance to the sacred edifice with no fear of loss; prayer rugs completely cover the spacious corridor surrounding the Rock.)

I find my way to the Via Dolorosa – the Way of Sorrow following the Stations of the Cross – and join up (at the Fifth Station) with a group of Catholic pilgrims led by their priest – Philippine-Americans from a parish in California I later learn – as they wend their way up the centuries-worn steps, stopping at each station for a reading from the scriptures. They take turns bearing a cross – much lighter than that borne by Christ and without the additional imposition of a crown of thorns. The final five of the fourteen Stations are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the sites of the Crucifixion and Entombment – the holiest site in all

Christendom. The Thirteenth Station, where the Lord was laid down and anointed after being taken from the Cross, is marked by a rectangular slab of red limestone (the Stone of Unction), worn smooth by the millions of fingers that have touched it reverently. I take my turn to enter the tomb and kneel beside the Sepulchre itself, then climb the stairway to a second level of the Church where pilgrims are gathered before an altar to kiss the stone said to mark the locale of the Crucifixion itself.

I left the Church to tour the jammed marketplaces, bazaars, stalls, past beggars of all descriptions and infirmities, leaving the walled city through the Damascus Gate and walking through a small portion of the New City. Return to “my neighborhood” through the Jaffa Gate.

During my travels, I’m often reminded of the following quote from James A. Michener:

“If you reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion and avoid the people, you might better stay home.”



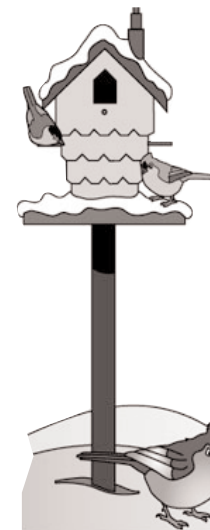
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## Terms

### Photovoltaic (PV) panels

PV panels are made of silicon (sand). Photons of light strike the silicon and stir up and excite the electrons in the panel. Trillions of photons hit the PV panel each second creating a steady stream of electrons flowing from the panel into a wire. This steady stream is direct current (DC).

### Array disconnect

This allows you to shut off and stop the electricity from the PV panels from entering the rest of the system in case the system needs work. They also can contain a fuse for over current protection.

### Lightning arrester

It's best to put a lightning arrester on the wire from the PVs. It will stop a bolt of lightning that might hit near your PVs from entering your house and frying your system.

### Charge controller

Used with battery banks, they don't allow the batteries to be over-charged on sunny, snow covered days. They also stop the electricity from flowing from the batteries back to the PVs at night.

### Fuse or circuit breaker

Sized to fit the system, they protect against overloads or short circuits.

### Battery

Batteries take the DC electricity and store it chemically for use when there is no sun or your electrical use is greater than the electricity your PVs are producing. Batteries are the only components that need attention, and then it's only minimal.

### DC disconnect

This allows you to shut off the flow of electricity from the batteries.

### Inverter

Because most of the appliances we use every day run on alternating current (AC), the inverter changes the DC electricity from the PVs or from the batteries into AC electricity. Rated in watts, a larger inverter allows you to use more electrical appliances at the same time.

### Balance of system components:

Heavy gauge battery cables and wires.

### Optional components

Depending on your system, some components to consider are: a combiner box; AC disconnect; water-tight connections; system monitors; back up propane generator; battery charger; 120/240-240/120 auto transformer; battery anti-corrosion rings or spray; roof or ground mounts for PVs; battery box; battery box power vent.



Casey Fletcher (above), of Wentworth, N.H., installs a solar roof panel for the Solar Store. While roof models are popular, some residents prefer the stand-alone design (right).



# The Sun Sells

*Groton duo work to promote solar energy*

By Justin Lavelly

Newbury's Brad Veitje, a self-proclaimed "science nerd," is passionate when he speaks about America's energy problems. The issue is so important, he decided to leave behind separate careers as an astronomy teacher and book salesman to open the Green Works Solar Store in Groton, a retail outlet for anyone looking to design and install a solar energy system in their home or business.

As difficult as it is to think about the sun in January, Veitje believes solar energy gets a bad rap, especially in the Northeast Kingdom.

Solar power refers to electricity generated from solar radiation. People, using a range of technologies since the ancient times, have harnessed the power of the sun for their use.

Veitje's store is dedicated to renewable energy and sustainable living and has been open for more than a year now. With the help of retail point man Paul Berlejung, the store offers customers in northeastern Vermont and northern New Hampshire the products, design and installation services they need to become less dependant on purchased energy. Some of the items available are solar panels to create electricity, solar hot water systems, high-efficiency household appliances, pellet stoves, lots of books and magazines, and many other items to help people learn about and use renewable energy.

Back in October, when Veitje was first interviewed, he spoke about the energy crisis. At that point, fuel prices were approaching \$5 per gallon and crude oil was nearly \$150/barrel. Many local residents, fearful of what the prices would do to their budgets, were willing and motivated to try "alternative energy."

Fast forward a few months. Gasoline is under \$2 per gallon and crude oil is less than \$50/barrel. While people's desire for alternative energy may be intact, their momentum has slowed.

Even so, Veitje was mindful back in October, of what a decrease in fuel prices would do to the "green" movement, though he hoped consumers would remember the crisis because it will happen again.

The Green Works Solar Store is part of the national network of USA Solar Stores, started by Wethersfield's Dave Bonta. Nearly a decade ago, Bonta and his wife decided to rededicate their livelihoods by breaking the energy dependence paradigm that carries with it so many social, economic, and environmental problems. The first USA Solar Store was established in Vermont with dreams for a 100-store national chain. The primary goal is to bring renewable energy and sustainable living to Main Street and wean people away from fossil fuel addiction, by assisting in the development of cottage style industries and services and to provide training as necessary.

Bonta, who has been working in the renewable energy industry in Vermont since 2001, has a business and home completely powered by solar energy and drives biodiesel powered vehicles. Since 2001 he has helped launch 15 successful entrepreneurial based solar stores. Bonta was one of the founders of Vermont's first biodiesel distribution company, Global E Industries and has since launched another biofuels company, BioQuantum. He has also become a shareholder in another business opportunity related to Solar/Human/Hybrid Transportation, Run About Cycles, Inc. and has sponsored and supported other business start-ups in sync with his business vision and values. He serves on the board of the Vermont Biofuels Association as vice president and as president of the Sustainable Valley Group based in Springfield, Vermont.

While a retail store for solar energy products is unusual, Veitje says his business is doing just fine. Inquiries increased substantially earlier this year when fuel prices nearly doubled. The "sticker shock," according to Veitje, provided the impetus for homeowners to look elsewhere for their energy. The largest hurdle for Veitje and Berlejung is to correct

*Continued on Page 22*



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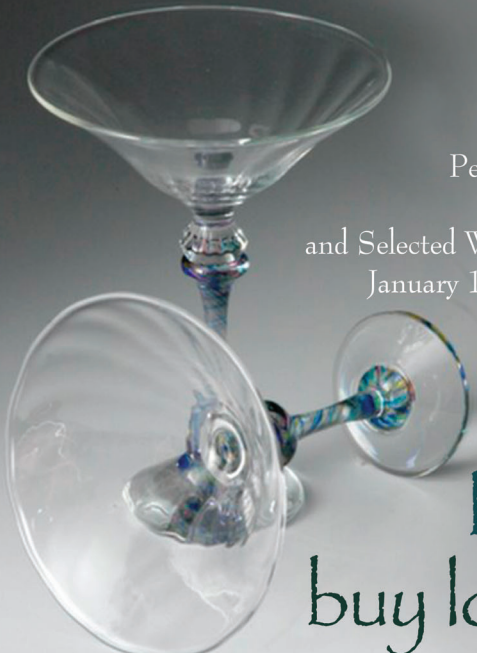
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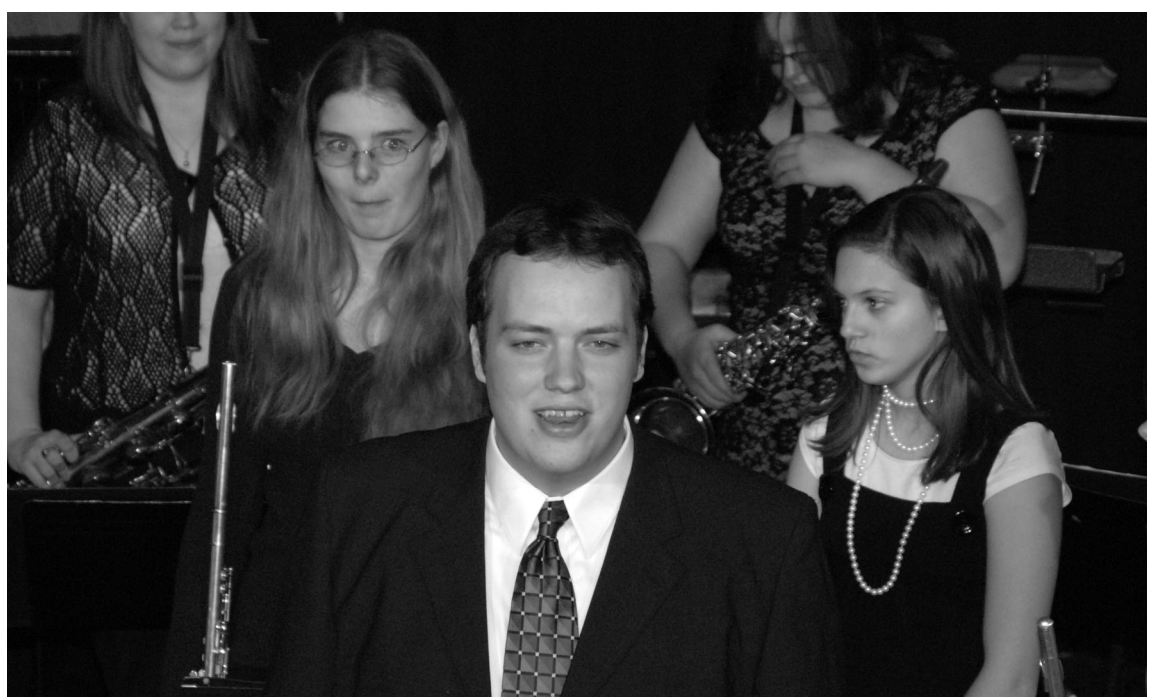
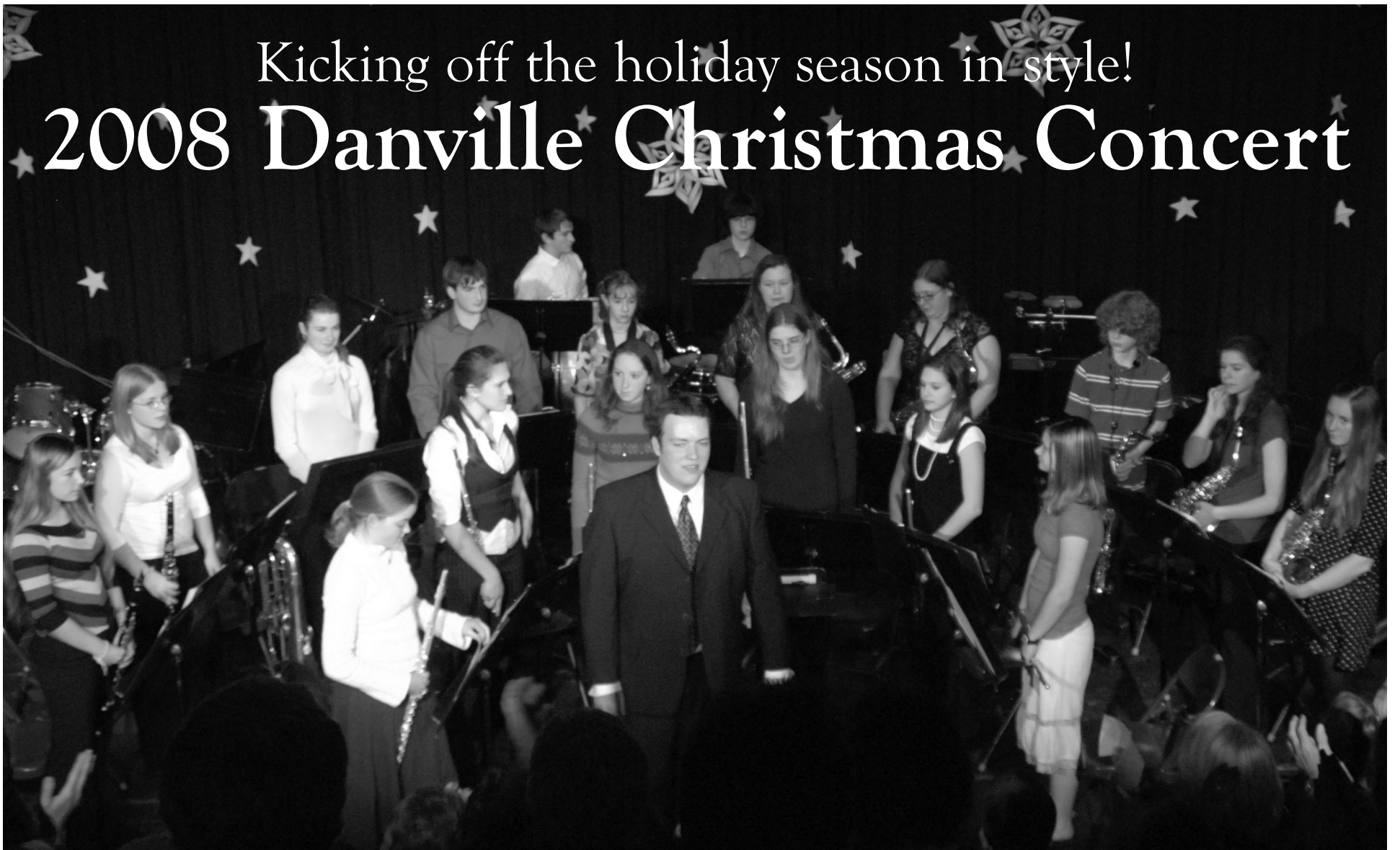
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# Kicking off the holiday season in style! 2008 Danville Christmas Concert



# The fate of the forest

## Conservation Commission will hold Jan. 19 meeting

By Evangelyn Morse

As the newest member of the Danville Conservation Commission (DCC) it was first my duty to get hopelessly lost looking for one of the two town forests of Danville. Driving up and down Penny Lane and Trestle Road, I finally saw a tiny little sign that said Town Forest. Braving the rutted out road in my small sedan, I arrived in a small cheery clearing just beginning to burst with the signs of spring. This forest is approximately 120 acres of mostly wooded property, interspersed with trails and a Boy Scout meeting area. From the field it was easy to find a trail that wound up the hill under a canopy of pine trees and a floor of needles and I enjoyed my first hike on Pumpkin Hill.

The other town forest I had already found; it's where the stump dump is, on the North Danville Road. The stump dump is just a tiny portion of this nice 130 acre property which has so much more to offer. Later, I would get the opportunity to really get to know the forest bushwhacking with other adventurous DCC members looking for the property boundaries. One of the first tasks of the DCC was to discover exactly what comprises the town forests, so that we can begin to make a comprehensive plan about how to use them in the future.

To help us do this, the DCC was lucky enough to receive a

"Trees for Local Communities" grant from Vermont's Urban and Community Forest Program to be used for the resource mapping of the town forests. Using the grant money the DCC hired Brett Engstrom, a consulting botanist, to map the natural resources in both town forests. We are very excited to see the results of his work, and find out what ecological features and diversity exists in Danville's public lands. His work should be completed by January and you are ALL invited! Come see what Danville's forests have to offer on Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Conservation Commission meeting at the Danville Town Hall where Brett will be presenting his data.

Not only is the DCC collecting on-the-ground data about the Danville Town Forests, but we are also collecting data about how residents would like to see those forests managed and used for the future. One of the most important jobs of the DCC is to create a Management Plan for these areas, and we want your ideas and feedback. Town Forests belong to all of us in Danville, and the DCC doesn't want to be the only ones giving input as to how they should be utilized. Please be on the lookout for a survey in the mail where you can put down all your ideas and drop it off at the Town Hall or a location listed on the survey. We encourage all ages of survey participants, and if you need an extra

survey they can be downloaded at our website, [www.danvillevt.com/conservationComm.htm](http://www.danvillevt.com/conservationComm.htm) or picked up at the Town Hall.

Please do not miss out on this opportunity for your input on Danville's Town Forests!

In addition to mapping and creating management plans for our town forests, the DCC is also in the process of creating a Conservation Fund to handle contributions, grants, and/or any income-generating activity tied to conserved property in Danville.

Creating this fund is important so there are guidelines in place for the use of such monies that may be available in the future. The Danville Conservation Fund was drafted after consulting with other towns' conservation commissions who have funds already in place, and with input from the Danville Planning Commission and Select Board. The implementation of the Conservation Fund will be voted upon at the next town meeting on March 3, 2009. Feel free to look over the proposed Danville Conservation Fund available at our website and bring your questions or comments to our meeting on Jan. 19.

We look forward to all your help and input for the drafting of the Management Plan for our town forests. Come one, come all, and let's make our town forests great resources for future generations!



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January  
5 Lyndon @ Spaulding, 5:30/7  
7 Randolph @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
9 Montpelier @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
12 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30/7  
16 Lyndon @ MVU, 6/7:30  
21 Lyndon @ U-32, 5:30/7  
23 Lyndon @ Oxbow, 6/7:30  
28 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
30 Lyndon @ Randolph, 6/7:30  
February  
4 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 6/7:30  
6 Harwood @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
11 Hazen @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
13 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:30/7

#### FROSH BASKETBALL Boys

January  
8 Lyndon @ St Johnsbury, 6:30  
12 Lyndon @ MMU, 7:00  
16 Lyndon @ U-32, 7:00  
19 St. Johnsbury @ Lyndon, 7:00  
24 Lyndon @ Randolph, 2:30  
26 North Country @ Lyndon, 7:00  
29 Lake Region @ Lyndon, 7:00  
February  
4 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 7:00  
December  
2 Lyndon @ NC Tourney vs. SJA, 5:30  
3 Lyndon @ NC Tourney, TBA  
7 vs. MSJ at Rutland, 5:00  
10 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:00  
14 Middlebury @ Lyndon, 6:00  
17 Lyndon @ Peoples, 5:00  
28 Milton @ Lyndon, 6:00  
31 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:00  
January  
4 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 8:00  
7 Lyndon @ Northfield, 11:00  
11 St. Johnsbury @ Lyndon, 6:00  
14 North Country @ Lyndon, 7:00

January  
4 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 8:00  
7 Lyndon @ Northfield, 11:00  
11 St. Johnsbury @ Lyndon, 6:00  
14 North Country @ Lyndon, 7:00

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL (JV/V)

January  
3 Lyndon @ Lake Region, 1/2:30  
6 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30/7  
8 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
10 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 1/2:30  
15 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6/7:30  
20 Oxbow @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
27 Randolph @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
February  
3 Harwood @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
5 Lyndon @ U-32, 5:30/7  
10 Montpelier @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
12 Lyndon @ Oxbow, 6/7:30  
17 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30/7  
19 Lyndon @ Randolph, 6/7:30

#### FROSH BASKETBALL Girls

January  
8 Lyndon @ St. Johnsbury, 5:00  
12 Lyndon @ MMU, 5:30  
16 Lyndon @ U-32, 5:30  
19 St. Johnsbury @ Lyndon, 5:30  
24 Lyndon @ Randolph, 1:00  
26 North Country @ Lyndon, 5:30  
29 Lake Region @ Lyndon, 5:30  
February  
4 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30

#### NORDIC SKIING

January  
3 Lyndon @ U-32, 10:00  
6 Lyndon @ Montpelier Relays, 4:00  
9 Lyndon @ Trapp's, 3:00  
13 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 3:00  
17 Lyndon @ S. Burlington, 10:00  
23 Lyndon @ Underhill, 4:00  
28 Lyndon @ Peoples, 4:00  
30 Burke Trails @ Lyndon, 1:30  
February  
5 Lyndon @ Colchester, 5:00  
11 Lyndon @ Crosse Br., 2:30  
17 Lyndon @ N. Country, 4:30  
19 Lyndon @ Morris Fm., 4:00  
25 Lyndon @ Sleepy Holl., 10:00

#### ALPINE SKIING

January  
5 Lyndon @ Burke Mtn., 10:00  
10 Lyndon @ Sugarbush, 10:00  
13 Lyndon @ Smugg's, 10:00  
16 Lyndon @ Bromley, 10:00  
21 Lyndon @ Jay Peak, 10:00  
30 Lyndon @ Burke Mtn., 10:00  
February  
6 Lyndon @ Smugg's (Essex), 10:00  
7 Lyndon @ Smugg's (Essex), 10:00  
12 Lyndon @ Stowe, 10:00  
17 Lyndon @ Sugarbush, 9:30  
20 Lyndon @ Smugg's, 9:30  
March  
2 Lyndon @ Stowe, 9:30  
4 TBA, 9:30

GO  
VIKINGS!

# Fire and ice

*Continued from Page 1*

my fire will easily keep all night and well into the next day. I re-open it as the first rays of sunshine are reaching over the hills and feel a blast of heat from the glowing coals. So the fire is a good thing, but what about the ice?

Ice comes on those other January days. It comes as sleet, or freezing rain, but most often as snow, snow by the bucket full, drifting and blowing or silently falling on and on. It is beautiful if you don't have to drive in it, but most of us do. It is also welcome

if we like to play in it but a lot of us don't, at least don't any more, and shoveling a path to the barn, or putting chains on the tractor isn't fun at all. Still, there are lessons to be learned while the smothering snow sifts down, the hills recede behind a curtain of white, and the limbs of the pines bow lower. This, too, is a giver of life though in more subtle ways than fire.

Farmers sometimes called snow a poor man's fertilizer but that's not it, and while it is good insulation that's not what I find myself thinking about while

watching great waves of snow parade across the distant fields. I'm thinking about glaciers, which are what happens when not all the snow melts in the summer. There may only be a little drift of snow left on the north side of a mountain when the winter returns, but that is enough. You have a glacier in the making and this even happened here a hundred millennia ago, and happens at the poles and on mountain tops all the time. Only it isn't happening as much as it used to. It seems we've been playing with fire a bit too much.

Our New England rivers don't depend upon replenishment from glaciers the way such great rivers as the Nile, the Ganges and the Mekong do, where civilizations have grown dependent upon the reliable late summer flow. We're blessed with an abundance of precipitation and prone to forget just how precious it is, this one fresh drop in a great salty bucket of water. Celebrate the snow. Go outside in the snow and catch a flake on your tongue. Feel its tingly purity. This is the distillate of what gives our planet life. It's getting rarer all the time.

I suppose we should go ahead and celebrate the bitter cold, too, and hope it stays a while longer, for this is what has made us more pure too. At least it did until recently anyway, by keeping out invasive species such as ticks and poison ivy and, well, more of us for that matter. But I think I've been charitable enough towards this season.

Given a few more weeks of this and I'll have more words for snow, and ice and cold too, than the Eskimos do, and none of them will be printable.

# Sun sells

*Continued from Page 18*

what they feel are misconceptions about solar power, mainly that it is cost prohibitive and does not generate enough power.

"The misconception is that off-grid means you're shivering in a cold, dripping cave," Veitje says. "Education is part of our mission."

The typical Solar Store system costs between \$9,000 and \$16,000, including installation. This moderately sized system can store a week's worth of power for a small camp or cottage.

This setup works extremely well for a getaway retreat, but what about a permanent residence?

Veitje says it depends on the buyer's lifestyle. Major solar systems can cost more than \$20,000 and create plenty of electricity, even if the house is off the grid completely.

A smaller system can serve in conjunction with an "on grid" system, which lowers the need for purchased energy. Most people would be surprised by the high number of "off the grid" residents. Their decision is more complicated. Veitje says an American family would need a very large and

expensive system to enjoy the typical American lifestyle. He has worked on a few of those projects that can cost over \$20,000.

In the end, it becomes a question of "consumption," according to Veitje. "There's a lot of waste in the typical American family. Our houses are too big and they're not energy efficient. We're reaching a critical moment in the history of the planet. "If everyone in the world starts living like us, we're in big trouble."

The major problem for solar power users in the Northeast Kingdom is the availability of sunlight, especially during the cold winter months.

"When you need the most heat, you have the least amount of sunlight," says Veitje. Again depending on levels of consumption, Veitje says current batteries can store up to a week's worth of energy and they last anywhere from seven to 10 years. What would really help the popularity is improving battery technology to hold more power for longer. Veitje said scientists are working on the problem and the answer may come in the form of an insulated, underground storage tank, but that innovation is still a few



Paul Berlejung and Brad Veitje attach a solar panel to an emergency portable power system.

years away.

Eventually, Veitje is hoping the United States can mirror the efforts of Spain and Germany, the worldwide leaders in the usage of solar power. Strong demand for solar cells by German farmers and homeowners resulted in another record year for the installation of solar systems in the country, according to data from the German Solar Association. An astounding 100,000 solar systems

were installed in Germany in 2006, representing 750 MW of solar-electric generation. Germans invested nearly \$5 billion in new solar photovoltaic systems and in doing so employed nearly 35,000 in the solar industry. Germany now operates a solar-electric generating capacity of about 2,500 MW. Even with this tremendous growth, analysts estimate that solar cells in Germany now generate about one-half of one percent of German electricity consumption.

In the end, Veitje believes the answer to the United States' energy woes is the use of renewable energy on a community scale,

whereas small and large towns could manage their own networks of hydro, solar and wind power. He calls the theory "community-empowered energy use."

While he admits the idea is ambitious and even a bit utopian, its appeal may in fact rest on a future energy crisis. If and when that happens, Northeast Kingdom residents will have a place and a face to visit if they want to talk about the sun.

Green Works Solar Store is located on Route 302 in the center of Groton, Vermont, seven miles west of the Wells River/Woodsville I-91 exit.

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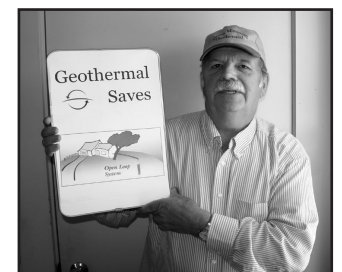
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# Who is the dog man

Continued from Page 7

graph. Such photos and paragraphs now line the chapel floor to ceiling in an outpouring of appreciation and grief for man's best friend.

The popularity of his work and chapel are an unexpected phenomenon.

"A lot of it is really spiritual," Huneck said. "I have a certain look to my work and people recognize it. I don't copy anybody."

However, his popularity with locals, at times, has been strained.

Most who are aware of Huneck are supportive of him, but there are detractors who seem baffled by his popularity. His success has generated grumblings by a handful of people that perhaps amount to the feelings of envy of the struggling Salieri toward the wildly successful Mozart.

"He came in and has taken over completely," said neighbor Deborah Bengston, who lives at the foot of Dog Mountain. She said some of the landscaping work has been a nuisance. For instance, when Huneck cleared some trees, it caused mud to run onto her property. But, she said she likes the dogs and appreciates the jobs he created.

Huneck said people who say nasty things about him are just jealous. "I don't bother anybody," he said. "People can say what they want to. What I do benefits everybody. I don't take anything from anybody. We have added a whole new dimension to St. Johnsbury."

Of his own religious affiliations, Huneck said no religion would have him. But he speaks in spiritual terms through his work. He has a sign on the property welcoming "all breeds and all creeds but no dogma." That philosophy is also his mantra to live by, he said.

His interest in carving and art started when he was growing up in Sudbury, Mass.

"I had a big family, seven children [one brother and five sisters], it was very chaotic," he said. "I used to go out in the woods and just chop on trees. I had this one oak tree I used to work on a lot. It really relaxed me."

He said his busy mother considered herself an artist and would stay up at night making puppets to entertain her children. He would stay up and help her sometimes. Little did he know he would one day earn money from art.

He learned from his father about working with machinery. His father also introduced him to

his future home. Huneck first saw St. Johnsbury when traveling with his father to the now defunct Fairbanks Scales foundry. His father fixed hydraulic machinery, and it was a fateful day in the late 1960s when he dragged his son Stephen with him to work on machines Fairbanks Scales.

"It blew me away. I said to myself, 'this is where I want to live,'" Huneck said. "I really loved the hilly town."

He moved to Vermont at age 17 and got a job working for David Hatch at Hatch's Health Food Store, located downtown near Brightlook Hospital where he lugged bags of beans and nuts. He then worked fixing up and selling antiques until a Madison Avenue art dealer happened to

eye his first carved dog.

Now Huneck employs about 10 people who reproduce items from his original carved images. He said he could live anywhere, but loves his home in St. Johnsbury with Gwen and three dogs – two black Labs, Sally and Daisy, and a golden retriever, Molly.

"I spend most of my time alone in the studio," he said. "I've been lucky. It is always hard when people depend on you." He said some of his employees have been with him a long time and enjoy the freedom he gives them.

Despite dealing with an exhausting schedule, Huneck sounds enthusiastic about his work going forward. The success

of dog chapel might require an addition. Publishers are clamoring for more installments of Sally's adventures. The public flocks to Dog Mountain, especially in summer.

Huneck recently donated a statue of Sally the black Lab to the town of St. Johnsbury, where she looks south in the park across from the Welcome Center near the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Railroad Street.

Through it all the man and his message remain uplifting. If he had one statement to make to the public, he offered, "Merry Christmas to all my friends. It is a tough time to live in, and if we all have hope, everything will be fine."

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## St. Johnsbury Academy

### Winter 2008-2009 Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game			
<b>January</b>			
3	Rutland (A)		1:00
8	Champlain Valley (A)		5:00
10	Spaulding (A)		1:00
15	Burlington (H)		5:00
20	North Country (A)		5:00
23	Essex (H)		5:00
29	So. Burlington (H)		5:00
31	Brattleboro (H)		1:00
<b>February</b>			
2	Colchester (A)		5:00
5	Rice (A)		5:00
9	Mt. Mansfield (A)		5:00
12	Spaulding (H)		5:00

Girls Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game			
<b>January</b>			
3	Rutland (H)		1:00
9	Brattleboro (A)		5:00
6	Rice (A)		5:00
13	Champlain Valley (H)		5:00
16	Burlington (H)		5:00
21	North Country (H)		5:00
27	Spaulding (H)		5:00
30	BFA St. Albans (H)		5:00
<b>February</b>			
3	Essex (H)		5:00
6	Rice (H)		5:00
10	Champlain Valley (A)		5:00
13	Spaulding (A)		5:00
17	North Country (A)		5:00
20	Burlington (A)		5:00

Girls & Boys Basketball Freshmen			
<b>January</b>			
5	Mt. Mansfield (B) (H)		5/6:30
8	Lyndonville (H)		5/6:30
10	Burlington (H)		1/2:30
12	CVU (A)		5/6:30
14	Hartford (A)		4/5:30
17	Spaulding (H)		12/1:30
19	Lyndonville (A)		5:30/7
22	North Country (H)		5/6:30
24	Rutland (H)		12/1:30
<b>February</b>			
31	Essex (A)		1/2:30
2	Hartford (H)		5/6:30
7	Rutland (A)		12/1:30

Nordic Skiing			
<b>January</b>			
3	U-32(A)		10:00
6	Montpelier(A)		4:00
9	Stowe(A)		3:00
23	Mt. Mansfield(A)		4:00
13	Lamoille(A)		3:00
17	So. Burlington(A)		10:00
23	Mt. Mansfield(A)		4:00
28	Peoples Academy(A)		4:00
30	Lyndon(A)		1:30
<b>February</b>			
7	U-32(A)		10:00
17	North Country(A)		4:30
19	Montpelier(A)		4:00
25	BFA-Fairfax(A)		12:00
<b>March</b>			
2	S. Burlington(A)		10:30
FS State Meet			
5	Randolph(A)		10:30
CL State Meet			

Alpine Skiing			
<b>January</b>			
16	Burr & Burton (A)		
21	North Country (A)		
26	Burlington (A)		
30	Winter Carnival (H)		
<b>February</b>			
6	Essex Invitational (H)		
7	Essex Invitational (H)		
12	Stowe (A)		
17	Girls NVAC (A)		
20	Boys NVAC (A)		
<b>March</b>			
2	South Burlington (A)		
4	Boys State Meet (A)		

Hockey			
<b>January</b>			
2	N. Country Tourna (A)		5:30
3	N. Country Tourna (A)		5:30/7:30
7	Mt. Mansfield (A)		6:45
10	Missisquoi (L) (H)		6:00
14	Hartford (L)(H)		8:00
17	Woodstock(A)		8:10
21	Brattleboro (L)(H)		6:00
23	Woodstock Tourna(A)		8:10
24	Woodstock Tourna(A)		6:00/8:00
31	North Country (L)(H)		7:00
4	U-32 (L)(H)		6:00
<b>February</b>			
7	Montpelier(A)		8:00
11	Lyndon (L)(A)		6:00
14	Northfield (L)(H)		5:00

Wrestling			
<b>January</b>			
9	Harwood (A)		6:00
MMU vs St. J (A)			
10	Newfound Regional HS (A)		8:30
20	Vergennes (H)		6:00
23	Essex Classic (A)		3:30
24	Essex Classic (A)		10:30
28	Mt. Abraham (A)		7:00
Essex vs St. J (A)			
31	Colchester Inv.		10:00
<b>February</b>			
2	Champlain Valley (A)		5:30
4	Enosburg (H)		6:00
Midd. vs Enosburg			
11	Middlebury (A)		5:30
18	Colchester (H)		6:00
21	JV States (A)		10:00
27	State Championships (A)		6:00
28	State Championships (A)		10:00
<b>March</b>			
6	N.E. Championships		TBA
7	N.E. Championships		TBA

Gymnastics			
<b>January</b>			
2	S. Burlington (A)		6:00
7	Essex (A)		7:00
17	Harwood (H)		3:00
23	S. Burlington (A)		6:00
30	Milton (A)		6:00
<b>February</b>			
7	Champlain Valley (H)		2:00
14	State Champ. Essex (A)		2:00

## Woman Praises Life-Saving Program

The free mammogram she received detected her breast cancer, and probably saved her life.

Mrs. Dresser has no insurance, so she hadn't had a mammogram for five years. 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.



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# Radon testing

## Keeping our homes safe from the dangerous gas

By Pat Swartz

The November issue of *The North Star* carried an article about testing homes for radon. This is a follow-up, especially for those of you who have tested and found that your home has an elevated radon level.

Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless and odorless gas that is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. (You can test your home for radon free of charge by contacting the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium.) The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that people take action when the level for radon in homes is 4 picoCuries /Liter of air (pCi/L). This radiation exposure is equivalent to having 10 chest or full body x-rays during a year. If your home test level was above 4pCi/L you need to mitigate, or lower the radon level, for your family's health, and also to make your home more attractive to a potential buyer.

The first thing to understand is how radon gets into a building. A heated home acts like a chimney. Warm air in the home rises

up and out of cracks in the walls, the attic and around windows; this is called the stack effect. Bathroom and kitchen fans, clothes dryers and open fireplaces increase this flow of air. Air enters the home through similar cracks in the lower levels, and also where the house touches the ground. Some of this air can contain radon. If the house is very "tight" air cannot move as freely up and out of the building, and the radon concentration can increase to unhealthy levels, especially in the lower areas of the home such as the basement.

Radon testing should be done preferably during the heating season to find out what the highest radon levels are in the home. If the basement is not used for normal home activities there is no need to test there, because the lowest living space is where people are actually being exposed to radon. If the basement is used for a den, a bedroom, an exercise space or play area it should be tested. Mobile homes with skirting around them can also have radon accumulation and should be tested like any other building.

Radon can be "built out" of a new home, and some of the same

methods can be used on pre-existing homes but with a little more difficulty. The best method is to install a sub-slab depressurization system. This sounds complicated but in simple terms it is a pipe that passes through the basement floor into the gravel under the slab. The pipe is 4 inches in diameter and it extends up through the house, usually through the attic, and out the roof. In some cases, the pipe may vent out through a wall, away from windows, in the upper part of the house. The pipe provides a preferred route for radon to get out from under the building and up into the outside air. Some systems are just this simple, they are called passive systems. More often, a small fan is placed in the pipe to produce a slight negative pressure to suck the air up the pipe and out. The fan runs all the time but adds little cost to the general electric bill. In new construction this system, with a little more refinement, can be put in place as the basement slab is poured, but the process can also work well for existing buildings.

In a recent survey of some of my clients who's homes had ele-

vated radon levels, I have heard of many cases where radon levels of above 10pCi/L have been reduced well below 4pCi/L by installing such a system. The cost of installing the system in an older home will vary according to the size of the home and the difficulty of the process, usually between \$1,000-1,500. It should be done by a skilled and knowledgeable contractor, preferably someone who has received mitigation training. A list of accredited radon mitigators is available on the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium's website, [www.fairbanksmuseum.org](http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org) or from the Vermont Department of Health: 1-800-439-8550 or <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/alpha.aspx>

Along with installing this type of system it is also very important to seal and caulk cracks in the basement floor and walls below grade, as well as in other parts of the home, to reduce the stack effect. In Vermont many people own old houses with dirt-floored cellars. It is a common misconception that such a house would automatically have a high radon level. My experience with radon testing over the last 13 years indicates that this is not necessarily true.

In fact newer, tightly built homes can often have higher radon levels because radon that gets in cannot easily get out! The only way to know is to test.

With special modifications, dirt floored basements can be treated to discourage radon from getting in. A membrane or layer of heavy plastic, rubberized roofing material or cross laminated polyethylene is spread over the entire dirt floor and sealed wherever there are seams, and around the edges where the membrane meets the foundation walls and other vertical structures such as posts that support the floor of the rooms above. A pipe and fan system can then be installed, passing through the membrane as through a poured basement floor.

The purpose of this article is to give a simple overview of the many possibilities for reducing radon in your home. More detailed information can be obtained from the Vermont Department of Health, or from the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium by calling 1-802-748-2372, ext 105.

*Isobel P. Swartz is the radon program coordinator for Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium.*

# Hospice singers

## Traveling Continua group brings light

Continua is a group of hospice singers in the St. Johnsbury, VT area who offer the gift and comfort of music to those who are challenged by illness or who are facing the end of life. They sing music of the spirit from a wide range of sources, both sacred and secular, including hymns, spirituals, chants and songs from several folk traditions. This music sung in an intimate setting can promote peace and restfulness and diminish anxiety, isolation and pain.

Continua began a little over two years ago, inspired by a workshop given in early 2006 by the Hallowell Singers of Brattleboro, directed by Kathy Leo (see <http://hallowellsingers.org>) and learning from the formation of Carolyn's Angel Band, the hospice singing group

in Central Vermont. Hospice singing is a growing movement, with new groups forming all across the country as people become aware that music speaks to the soul and can be healing in the very broadest sense. This rapid growth speaks to the gift it creates for both the singers and the patients.

Under the direction of Suzanne Rhodes of Peacham, Continua rehearses once a week and sings unaccompanied in small groups of two to six. They are available to sing at the bedside in private homes, hospitals, and in nursing homes around St. Johnsbury. They are also available for memorial services. Their services are free and offered to all. For more information call Suzanne at 802-592-3003.


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# She lifted our spirits

By Van Parker

She appeared as planned in front of our San Francisco hotel on a Friday afternoon. Her name is Mary and she teaches at a school near San Francisco but lives in Santa Rosa, California. Mary had agreed to take us to Santa Rosa for a two-day visit with some old and valued friends named Bill and Grace. Then on Sunday she insisted on taking us back to our motel near the San Francisco airport.

Mary is Grace's "daughter of choice" and her former music student, who was six years old when Grace started giving her piano lessons. She is now 42 and the mother of two grown children.

Mary told us that she would never have gone to college but for Grace's encouragement and support.

Bill had told us about Mary's life. Her strict, abusive father lived with her and her Costa Rican mother in Southern California. Married young, Mary

found herself with a man who was in some ways like her father. The marriage didn't last. Later, while living in Costa Rica near her mother, Mary married a young Costa Rican lawyer. Their marriage was everything the first marriage hadn't been. They were together for ten years when her husband died of cancer. Mary nursed him through his final illness. She speaks of their relationship with gratitude and without a trace of self-pity.

To be near Grace and Bill, Mary moved to Santa Rosa, where she commutes to work and where her daughter attends the local junior college. Mary, who loves the outdoors, drove the

scenic oceanside route up to Santa Rosa, helped us get registered at our hotel and brought us to the facility where Grace was living.

Bill and Grace have had a hard time lately. Bill is legally blind, though he manages to get out for small errands. Grace has had a stroke. Bill's two sons live on Long Island and in Geneva, Switzerland. They do what they can from a distance and come for visits. Bill and I talked about old times. We went to Middlebury College, hiked on the Long Trail and camped on the far reaches of Long Island. We've kept in touch over the years. Grace is an ardent feminist and, according to Mary, showed more interest in talking about issues than she had shown since she had her stroke.

Mary said that, except for a half day with a hiking group, she had cleared her calendar to be available in any way that might be helpful to us. That included driving us to a restaurant on Saturday evening and making

breakfast at Bill and Grace's place Sunday morning, then taking us back by another route, this time to our motel near the San Francisco Airport. She helped us with our suitcases and saw us up to our room. Then she went on her way.

She had been to Vermont while chauffeuring Bill and Grace a few years ago. We invited her to come again. I hope she does.

We've thought a lot about our brief visit to Santa Rosa.

Bill confessed that at times he felt a little like the biblical Job, but he soldiers on, going to visit Grace every day, retaining his sense of humor. Both Bill and Grace are profiles in courage. And what about Mary? Mary is surely a profile in resiliency. She has been through so much and has emerged such a wise and giving person.

Without consciously trying she lifted our spirits.

We feel fortunate to know her.

# Thank you Mr. Wordsmith

By Bets Parker Albright

My fourth grade teacher, Miss Jennie, loved poetry. She kept her well-worn copy of the Oxford Book of English Verse on her desk. She believed that young children should be exposed to poetry and expected to memorize poems.

She read to us in ringing tones, and then encouraged us to select poems to learn. She copied out our selections and handed us neatly-typed sheets with our chosen verses on them. She also urged us to recite clearly and with expression, rather than gabbling through them in humdrum fashion. We sat at our desks, eagerly trying to be the first to raise our hand, indicating that we were ready to read or recite a verse.

At the time, I was attending an after-school dramatics class, taught by a delightful English woman with a lovely voice and upon whom I had a terrific crush. I'm sure that I tended to declaim in a voice that annoyed my classmates, but Miss Jennie was pleased, and I held tight to the hope of becoming an actress one day!

I remember well a special poem by Wordsworth that really appealed to me:

"I wandered lonely as a cloud, that floats on high o'er vales and hills, when all at once I saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils..." (and later)

"I gazed and gazed, but little thought what wealth the show to me had brought.


For oft when on my couch I lie, in vacant or in pensive mood,

They flash across that inward eye which is the bliss of solitude."

Years later my husband and I found ourselves in Wordsworth's England, by the shores of those lovely lakes, which in spring are carpeted with daffodils. I stood and gazed, and thanked in my mind dear little Miss Jennie, for giving me the words to express my

delight in those special yellow flowers, which had brought joy to so many for so many years.

We have since planted many bulbs here on our Vermont land. In spring my heart does dance with the daffodils, and we have the joy of sharing bunches of them. This is a daydream that brings pleasure and comfort to me in the cold of winter.



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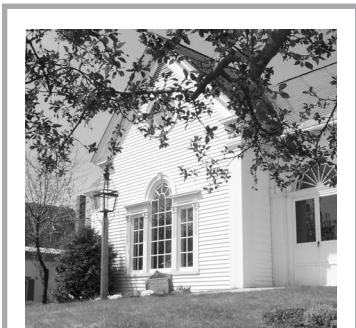
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**Boys High School Basketball**

January		
2	Friday	Danville @ Hazen 1:00/2:30
7	Wednesday	Danville @ Williamstown 6:00/7:30
9	Friday	Stowe @ Danville 6:00/7:30
16	Friday	Danville @ Northfield 6:00/7:30
21	Wednesday	Winooski @ Danville 5:30/7:00
23	Friday	Danville @ Richford 5:30/7:00
28	Wednesday	Lake Region @ Danville 6:00/7:30
30	Friday	Danville @ BFA 5:30/7:00
February		
4	Wednesday	Danville @ Peoples 6:00/7:30
6	Friday	Hazen @ Danville 6:00/7:30
11	Wednesday	Danville @ Stowe 6:00/7:30
13	Friday	Northfield @ Danville 6:00/7:30

**Girls High School Basketball**

January		
8	Thursday	Danville @ BFA 5:30/7:00
10	Saturday	Winooski @ Danville 1:00/2:30
17	Saturday	Richford @ Danville 1:00/2:30
19	Monday	Danville @ Thetford 5:30/7:00
22	Thursday	Danville @ Stowe 6:00/7:30
24	Saturday	Danville @ Williamstown 1:00/2:30
27	Tuesday	Enosburg @ Danville 5:30/7:00
29	Thursday	Danville @ Peoples 6:00/7:30
February		
3	Tuesday	Danville @ Hazen 6:00/7:30
5	Thursday	Northfield @ Danville 6:00/7:30
7	Saturday	Concord @ Danville 1:00/2:30
10	Tuesday	Lake Region @ Danville 6:00/7:30
12	Thursday	Danville @ Northfield 6:00/7:30
17	Tuesday	Stowe @ Danville 6:00/7:30
19	Thursday	Hazen @ Danville 6:00/7:30

# What's happening at town hall

## Barnet

Town Clerk: William Hoar  
 Selectboard: Ted Faris, Stanley Robinson and Jeremy Roberts

December 8, 2008

**New Garage** - Larry Ruggles discussed the construction of the new town garage. His first order of business was to discuss the newspaper article that appeared in last week's *Caledonian Record* which addressed issues that Ruggles had brought up in an interview with the paper's reporter, which he felt were taken out of context. Ruggles wanted to explain to the Selectmen that several comments he made to the reporter were left out of the article. He particularly discussed points concerning the status of the construction on the garage, the zoning problems with the cottage at the south end of Harvey's Lake, and the issue of having the Town vote on expanding the board from three to five Selectmen. He gave a written statement to reporter Sally Cook and hopes that the correct facts would be printed. Before moving on to talk about the ongoing work on the garage, Selectmen Stan Robinson made the comment that he will be going to great lengths to watch what is said because it appears in the paper in a somewhat different perspective than what is intended. The Board then went over general questions about the garage work. Treasurer William Hoar reported that we have spent \$301,544 to date on the project which includes \$70,000 for the land.

**Health Insurance** - Town Clerk

William Hoar reported that he met with a representative of the Vermont League of Cities & Towns Health Trust to gather information on the rates they charge for health insurance coverage with CIGNA. Discussion centered on pricing a comparable plan that we now have through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont. Existing coverage with Blue Cross will increase approximately 12 percent in 2009. After discussing the possible change with road department employees, it is recommended that we change to the CIGNA coverage. Using quoted rates, the cost to the Town in 2009 under Blue Cross would be about \$87,500 and the cost under CIGNA would come to approximately \$82,500. The board approved.

**Fire Chief** - The Board appointed Ronald Morse as fire chief.

**NVDA** - A letter from NVDA regarding organizing a purchasing pool of towns to collectively buy certain items was read. At this time, they would like to try and purchase culverts and are asking towns to give them an estimate of need for the coming year. They would also like to have quantity information for other various items for future bidding. The Town will have the Road Foreman prepare a list of items needed.

## Cabot

Town Clerk: Tara Rogerson  
 Selectboard: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and Ted Domey

November 19, 2008

**Appointed** - Larry Gochey moved to appoint Ken Lehoe to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The appointment was approved unanimously. Further appointments will be tabled until members meet nominees.

**Unemployment** - Vermont League of Cities and Towns unemployment insurance premiums have increased 51 percent based on claims filed during the past four years by seasonal cemetery employees, although future claims have been mitigated by contracting the

seasonal work; the Select Board asked Town Clerk Tara Rogerson to research alternatives for coverage. Health insurance rates have also increased between 6 to 20 percent based on coverage type.

**Maps** - Russell Graphics provides the parcel maps for Cabot. The new two-year contract proposal is a 10 percent increase from the previous contract amount. Rogerson expressed concerns with the accuracy of the maps, as some of the changes indicated were not made; the Board asked her to contact Russell Graphics to have all corrections made before a new contract is signed.

## Danville

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

December 17, 2008

**Resignation** - The Board accepted the resignation of long time Fire Chief Howard Gadapee. In his letter of resignation, Gadapee said, due to his continuing health problems, he can no longer continue to fulfill all the duties of chief. The Board expressed thanks and appreciation for his many years of service. Keith Gadapee and Bob Briggs were present representing the Danville Volunteer Fire Department. They recommended the Board appoint Assistant Chief Troy Cochran as the new chief of the Danville Volunteer Fire Department. They presented a letter from the Department citing Cochran's 19 years of service and the amount of time, commitment, and dedication he has given to the department. The Board approved the appointment.

**Road Naming** - The Board approved the naming of Lone Pine Lane, a private road off Route 2.

## Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett  
 Administrative Assistant Dan Hill

Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Kevin Calkins and Kermit Fisher

December 8, 2008

**Library Budget** - Librarian Cindy Karasinski presented the proposed 2009 budget of the Cobleigh Public Library and answered questions. Ellen Doyle spoke on behalf of the CPL's role in the community, particularly during hard times when more people use the services of the library, which are free.

**Policing Statistics** - Police Chief Jack Harris answered the Boards' questions. Chief Harris feels that the current workload is preventing the department from doing important patrol work. Town officials discussed possible funding mechanisms for the police department. Harris asked for a third police officer since the department now covers the entire town. Trustees asked that the cost of the third officer be build into the Town's general fund budget and not be a separate article on the warning for Town Meeting.

**Resignation** - The Board received a letter of resignation from Steve Pitman, representative to the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, due to his leaving the area in the spring.

**Veterans' Property Tax Exemption** - A request was received from a veteran living in Vermont to increase the veterans' exemption amount from the current \$10,000 to \$40,000. The request was tabled pending further information.

**Tree Replacement** - A motion was made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Kevin Calkins, to allow Sherri Hopkins-Woods to replace the tree on the front lawn of the Town House as long as there is no expense to the Town. Motion carried 3-0.

**Town Plan Adoption** - The last public hearing on the Town Plan was held on Dec. 1 and changes have been suggested. The Planning Commission will be asked to officially report on the proposed town plan. Suggested changes were reviewed and discussed. Will be brought up again at the Board's next meeting.

## St. Johnsbury

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

December 15, 2008

**Australian Ballot** - Russ Hutchins and Claude Donna presented a history of town meetings and the percentage of voter participation. Hutchins said he felt the Australian ballot would give all voters the opportunity to participate in deciding the town budget, although he

also said he did not think it would affect the ultimate outcome of the voting. Hutchins and Donna presented a petition signed by over 600 people requesting the Board put the question on the 2009 Town Meeting ballot. Donna expressed his opinion that by not having an Australian Ballot for budget items, and therefore not the option of absentee balloting, the Town discriminates against people who are not able to attend town meeting. On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Gary Reis, the Board voted (5-0) to add the question for 2009 Town Meeting. Stan Wilkins interjected that he had read some of the history of the Town and in 1891 the Town had voted to have Australian Balloting on budget issues and it had worked out very well.

**Breezy Hill** - Leonard Hychalk addressed the Board with his complaint that since the road was paved several years ago, he has had problems with his driveway being much lower than the road is now, and pot holes forming because of drainage problems. Hychalk requested the Board put the Breezy Hill Road in the 2009 budget for repairs. Chairman Quatrini agreed that the Board would look into the issues with Breezy Hill Road in the spring.

**Survey Results** - Tim Angell reviewed the results from the community survey that was available to voters in November. Mike Welch said he thought some of the responses were a little surprising - indicating the Recreation Center, Bike Path, and Water/Sewer are on peoples' priority

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**January 2009 Menu**

**West Barnet Senior Meal Site**

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.

**Jan. 2** - Buffet  
**Jan. 7** - Sweet and sour pork, rice, green beans, muffins and chocolate pudding.  
**Jan. 9** - Chicken and biscuits, gravy, potato, peas and onions, cranberry sauce and fruit.  
**Jan. 14** - Baked pork chops, mashed potato, mashed turnip, copper penny carrots, dark bread and mixed fruit.  
**Jan. 16** - Baked fish, potato, sliced beats, cole slaw, dark bread, bread pudding.  
**Jan. 21** - Shepards pie, spinach, biscuits and apricots.  
**Jan. 29** - Meatloaf, mashed potato, fresh carrots, assorted bread, peaches and cream.  
**Jan. 28** - Chopped suey, mixed veggies, tosses cald, italian bread, cake and frosting.  
**Jan. 30** - Hot roast beef sandwich, gravey, mashed potato, broccolo, three bean salad and ice cream.

# What's happening at town hall

list. Out of 927 responses, 50 percent were in favor of night parking except in case of snow or snow removal. Budgets and taxes are a major concern - and lack of communication with the public.

**Emergency Plan** - Fire Chief Troy Ruggles presented the update to the Rapid Response Plan, and explained it was important to have it in place for emergencies such as the ice storm in southern Vermont and New Hampshire. On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Daniel Kimbell, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the updated Rapid Response Plan, and it was signed by Chairman Quatrini.

**Tax Collection** - Town Clerk Sandy Grenier reported the 2008 tax collection is at 96.8 percent as compared to 97.8 percent in 2007. Grenier is encouraging all taxpayers who are delinquent at this time to come in and make an agreement to get their taxes paid. Grenier also reported the Town has always accepted a "legible post-mark" as proof of mailing tax payments on time. However, now with

electronic payments coming from bill pay sources that do not include postmarks, this is creating a problem with trying to determine when a tax payment was sent. She is compiling data from other towns to determine if the Town of St. Johnsbury should no longer accept postmarks, or come up with another solution. On the matter of installment payments, Grenier is also gathering information from other sources to determine the feasibility of setting up a quarterly pay plan. The 8 percent penalty would not be enforceable on each quarter, so there is not as much incentive to pay on time, so this option may not increase cash flow for the Town. There is also the matter of uncertainty on amounts due after the State prepares rebates, and property owners moving during the year. Questions came from the audience about paying online and Sandy said she would look into that also.

**Budget Discussion** - The members of the Board reviewed the Proposed Municipal Expenditure Budget for 2009. The Town Manager presented the Board with the following estimates for reduction in the General Fund, Highway Fund, and Special Services Fund Budget:

**General Fund** - Department Heads take a 2.5 percent pay raise (instead of 3.5 percent approved for the Fire Union) to cover increase to 12 percent employee health insurance contribution and, 1 percent employee pension contribution. The total reduction is \$8,250. The Town Manager and Town Clerk will take a 5 percent salary reduction.

**Lister's Office Clerk** - The position is currently budgeted at 30 hours per week and will be position eliminated after July 1, 2009. Work load for this position to be taken up by Town Clerk office staff, following completion of reappraisal.

**Town Clerk Office Clerk** - The position is current budgeted for 20 hours per week and will be eliminated from Town Clerk's office. Contract services of \$12,000 for cleaning of municipal building will also be eliminated.

**Merit Pay** - Merit Pay for Fire

Department employees in 2009 will be eliminated.

*Net Effect of these adjustment is \$75,400 reduction in General Fund expenditures.*

**Highway** - Water/sewer superintendent and highway superintendent will be consolidated into new public works director position effective July 1, 2009. The net reduction will be \$19,500. Department Heads will receive a 2.5 percent salary increase. Merit pay for highway workers will be eliminated. Money for highway equipment reserve accounts will be reduced by \$20,000. Contractual Services will be reduced by \$25,000. A part-time winter position will be eliminated. A full-time highway department [position will also be eliminated.

*Net effect of adjustments is a reduction of \$135,860.*

**Discussion** - Finance Committee Member David Redmond said even with these cuts, the Town is still looking at an increase in expenditure budgets, not a decrease, and the Selectboard has asked the local non-profit organizations to take a 10 percent reduction in Town appropriations. Linda Fogg said she believes there should be no increase in the municipal operating budgets - but if there is an increase - the Selectmen should develop a 3 to 5 year trend line for reduction of the municipal budget. She suggested the plan moving forward should be a 10 percent reduction in current municipal spending levels. Jim Rust suggested the Town consider taking the Recreation Fund transfer out of the municipal operating budget and have the article stand alone for consideration by the voters. Rust also recommended that we should also look at what has been added in municipal services over the last 10 years to see if there are specific service areas that can be trimmed. Redmond asked if the Town had approached the unions about accepting a higher deductible insurance plan - with the Town covering the deductibles. This

could keep the insurance coverage nearly the same - while reducing the premium. The Town Manager said that this has not been discussed, but some communities have done this - and it is something that can be investigated. Fogg asked about reopening the labor agreements that are signed. The Town Manager said that can be done by mutual consent. Daniel Kimbell asked about the status of revenue projections. The Town Manager stated that he has completed the projections and estimates for year-end fund balances. Year-end fund-balances are only an estimate and can not be finalized until after all December bills are received and the books closed in mid-January. Selectman Gary Reis said most people are concerned about the property tax impact. He asked when property tax impacts could be estimated. The Town Manager said in mid-January he could provide an esti-

mate of what tax impacts.

Town Clerk Sandy Grenier pointed out that the town employees are the same people who are struggling in the community and demand for municipal service is not going down. Grenier said the changes outlined by the Town Manager will result in service level reductions.

## Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith  
Selectboard: David Brown, Perley Greaves and Douglas Luther  
May 27, 2008

December 8, 2008

**Public Comment** - Roger Fox reported he had attended a workshop about tools and approaches for reducing energy use in town buildings. He noted there is a Web site with a tool to evaluate energy usage in a town building and rank it against the U.S. average. Selectman Dave Brown will look at this.

## January 2009 Menu

### Danville Senior Meal Site

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.

**Jan. 2** - Seafood newburg, rice, steamed carrots and broccoli, homemade rolls.

**Jan. 7** - Sausage, egg and cheese biscuits, tropical-fruit cocktail, Nollie's donuts, orange juice and clementines.

**Jan. 9** - Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, tossed salad and carrots.

**Jan. 14** - Liver, bacon, onions and peppers, biscuits, spinach salad, mandarin oranges and croustons.

**Jan. 16** - Cream of broccoli soup with saltines, chicken salad on a whole made roll with lettuce and tomato, apple crisp and peas and carrots.

**Jan. 21** - Neatloaf with tomatoes, peppers onions mashed potatoes, rolls carrots and fruit cobbler.

**Jan. 23** - Bacon, broccoli, cheddar quiche, tropical fruit salad, cranberry juice and blueberry muffins.

**Jan. 28** - Roast pork and gravy, cranberry chutney, mashed potatoes, california vegetables, apple crisp and rolls.

**Jan. 30** - Chicken, broccoli and ziti alfredo, garlic bread, winter squash and OJ.

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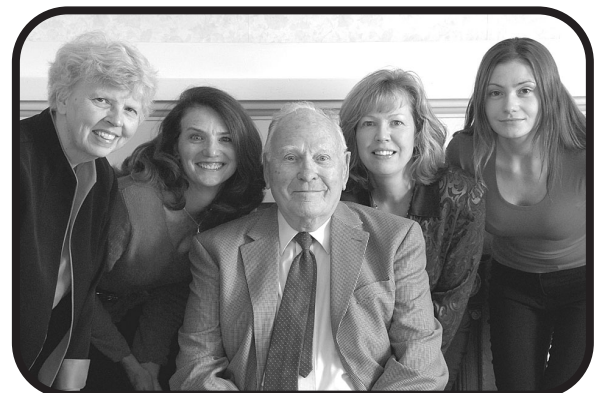
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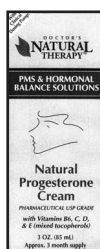
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# Words by Woody

## Gerontolinguistical Thoughts, or, What Was I Saying?

By Woody Starkweather

In this season of gratitude and miracles, I'm glad I can still communicate. The knees, the hips, and a number of other things may be, as they say of the economy, "spiraling down," but I can still talk and listen, read and write as well as I could when I was an, an, um, what's that word — it begins with "a" — you know, like a teenager, um, "adolescent." That's what I was looking for.

Will all the readers over 50 who've had this experience, please raise their right hands. No, wait, all those who haven't, raise their hands.... OK. You can raise them now.... Oh, I see. No one.

Finding words can be as frustrating as looking for the car keys that you had in your hand just a moment ago.

All of us old geezers have "senior moments" when a word we know perfectly well just won't find its way from the brain, where it apparently lives, to our mouths where we need it right now. It gets tangled up in mental underbrush or sidetracked onto a leafy spur, or bumped off the path by a 20-year-old hiker. (Sorry. Sometimes my metaphors are a little hard to control.) But it's in there, isn't it? We can sense it. It hasn't been flushed away into a semantic sewer. It's still waiting for us, arranged tidily with the other words, each in its lexical cubbyhole. We look among the categories, but we can't find it. And the harder we try, the more

elusive it becomes. It's like trying to catch a cat. It comes unbidden onto your lap, but when you want to pick it up, it runs away as if you were trying to kill it.

Linguists have done research on this problem — not the cats, the words. The results confirm just what we feel. The word is still there. Healthy older people do not lose their knowledge of word meanings. Word-retrieval, however, diminishes as we get older, and the decline starts pretty early, in the 40's or 50's, although only slowly at first. Later, in the 60's and 70's and beyond, it gets quite frustrating. This happens at around the same time that we lose some of our ability to tolerate frustration.

Fortunately, difficulty finding words is a part-time thing. Most of our words come out of their cubbyholes when we want them. As someone wittily said, we have Somezheimers.

Another linguistic function that diminishes with age is learning another language. The real geniuses at language-learning are children. It's hard to accept, but at 13 or 14, the ability to learn a second language is already declining. At 18, we're over the language hill. And for those of us who are "of a certain age," learning a new language is difficult, but retaining it is even worse. We can pick up a few new words and the requisite grammar, but neither one stays with us. I had to learn Russian at 67, when, in a moment of youthful exuber-

ance, I joined the Peace Corps. The learning part wasn't too bad, but when I stopped using it most of my Russian went into a small room somewhere in my brain, slammed the door, and wouldn't come out. This isn't surprising when you consider that some English words are also in there, clinging stubbornly to neurons, defiant to the end, thumbing their noses.

Other parts of senior language are intact — syntax (knowledge of how sentences are put together), pragmatics (knowing how to say the right thing), and phonology (our ability to sound out the words so others can hear them) — all these remain fully functional in healthy older people. So there is plenty to be grateful for.

Some functions even keep on developing. Vocabulary grows throughout life, along with our knowledge of the world. So, overall, it's just the nasty word-finding that frustrates, the cat that doesn't want to be picked up. The true miracle is that we continue to be good talkers and listeners. Well, there is often some hearing loss. I'll save that discussion for another time when I'm feeling grateful.

Alas it's too late to do anything about the loss. Doing crossword puzzles, playing word games, and writing help preserve what's already in there. I'll probably hang on to one or two terms just by writing this little article. But nothing improves word-finding, at least nothing we can do now. Linguists have found that children who learn a second language have less trouble finding words in old age. Yes, I know, this information is a bit late. But if you have any influence on your grandchildren, urge them to learn a second or third language. They'll thank you in 50 years or so.

## book review by Marvin Minkler

# Top 10 books '08

Vermont is home to some of America's greatest writers. From the rugged hills of the Northeast Kingdom, to the fertile Connecticut River valley, the voice of Vermont seems to speak to writers and poets, and it shows in their work. The Green Mountain state has always held a treasure trove of wonderful and sustaining literature.

Around the holiday season, I would like to offer the top ten books I have read this year, written by some of the state's most gifted writers. They all can be found at your local independent bookstore. Some are new, some dog-eared, but any one of them would make the perfect gift, and any one of them will stay with the reader long after it is put down.

1. *Skeletons At The Feast*, by Chris Bohjalian. The author's masterpiece thus far. An epic romance based on a true-life World War II diary. Moving, heart wrenching and a stay awake all night page-turner.

2. *Just As I Thought*, by Grace Paley. As close to an autobiography as anything we were likely to have from the late Ms. Paley. Her inimitable voice is sorely missed.

3. *The Catch*, by Archer Mayor. Archer Mayor is at the top of his game, in this first Joe Gunther thriller to be set in Maine. He just gets better and better.

4. *Letters To Jane*, by Hayden Carruth. Hayden died this fall, and though he moved from Vermont in his later years to upstate New York, he remains a Vermonter in soul and spirit. The book is a collection of eloquent, and moving letters, begun after Carruth learned that his friend and fel-

low poet, Jane Kenyon, was terminally ill. Each one beautifully reminds us of the preciousness of life, and the sustaining consolations of deep friendships. Especially poignant now that they both are gone.

5. *In The Fall*, by Jeffrey Lent. I recently re-read this extraordinary first novel. An enduring epic of three generations of an American family. Written in prose as vivid and gripping as a cold Vermont winter morning.

6. *Mountain Home. The Wilderness Poetry of Ancient China*, Translated by David Hinton. As wilderness is the heart of Chinese poetry, this collection of virtually all of China's ancient and greatest poets, as rendered by Mr. Hinton, feels contemporary, especially for those readers interested in environmental awareness or Chinese spirituality.

7. *On Kingdom Mountain*, by Howard Frank Mosher. I have loved all his books, and they remain in a special section of my library. His latest novel is a hilarious romp, set on a mountain in the Northeast Kingdom's Canadian border, it tells the story of Miss Jane Hubbell Kinneson. A tale of daring action and laughs galore. Mosher at his peak. I hope Jay Craven has cinematic plans for this Mosher gem.

8. *Forward From Here. Leaving Middle Age - And Other Unexpected Adventures*, by Reeve Lindbergh. Funny, wistful, and altogether engaging, our Northeast Kingdom neighbor writes about turning sixty. Age brings loss, but also delight. Nature, family, and persevering. A wonderful memoir that will occasionally bring tears to the eyes, while at the same time a knowing smile.

9. *The Immigrant's Contract*, by Leland Kinsey. A magnificent collection of linked poems set in the northern reaches of Vermont, in the early 1900s. A book ripe with life and sorrow. A French-Canadian immigrant's life of displacement, hard work, and transformation.

10. *Moment To Moment. Poems of a Mountain Recluse*, by David Budbill. This 1999 book, by the activist, hermit poet, was listed on Booklist's top ten books of poetry published that year. It stays on my nightstand and I frequently return to it, as needed. Imagistic and clear, sometimes cranky, the book is filled with poems of unsettlement, and with the comfort of utterly belonging to a wilderness cosmology, as a dwelling place.

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## Outdoor Adventures

## Coaxing trophy lakers through early season ice

By Tony Smith

I want you to close your eyes and imagine the fresh smells and sounds of a cool, crisp morning. The air is still bitterly cold, but it's calm so it's easier to take. It's early, too early for the weak hearted and the amateurs to even be up yet. To you, 20 degrees below zero is heaven. To them it means sleeping a couple more hours till it warms up, if it warms up. Your lines are set up before daylight. That is the difference between a fair weather and diehard ice fisherman. In my experience ice fishing, low light hours are your best hours to catch fish. I like to have my lines set up before the sun comes up and when it's going down.

In light of fall hunting and trapping seasons ending and the opening day of trout season right around the corner, I feel that it is only fair to talk about ice fishing. Not only is ice fishing a popular sport in the Northeast Kingdom, but throughout the rest of the state as well. Did you know that almost twice as many people fish Lake Champlain in the winter as they do in the summer?

We are truly blessed in the NEK with a variety of fish, but the cold-water trout species seemed to be most sought after. The three fish that seem to get targeted the most are lake and rainbow trout and landlocked salmon. I myself prefer to catch lake trout because they grow the largest, but if I want fish to eat I will try to catch a rainbow trout or salmon. I like to fish for rainbows in very shallow water. I have caught them in water less than a foot deep before. Rainbows have small mouths so I like to use small bait. Lake trout on the other hand get to be over 30 pounds, therefore I like to use much larger bait like a live or dead smelt. Salmon will bite just about anything you put on your hook. For special and "secret" techniques to catching certain species of fish, email me with questions and comments.

## "Opening Weekend Jinx"

My two horror stories I will tell this month and next are based on past opening weekends for ice fishing. For some reason, I had something bad happen to me or a vehicle for three years straight on opening day. My first story happened to three of us on Norton/Seymour Lakes a few years ago. We had actually been so excited the Friday night before opening day of ice fishing, that we left at midnight for Norton Pond to beat the diehards. It was 15 below zero and lakes hadn't been frozen for that long. On the way there, we almost hit a large moose and went off the road more than once because we were so excited just to get there. We should have taken all these instances as a sign to turn around, but of course we pressed on. So we



Ice fisherman Aaron Smith holds up a nice lake trout. The official season begins in January.

got to Norton Pond and had all our lines set up by 1 a.m. We waited.....and waited.....and waited. All our waiting in the bitter cold turned out fruitless. It turns out Northern Pike (that's what we were fishing for), don't bite at night. It finally got light and we still hadn't caught much by 1 p.m. so we picked up and left. On the way home, we decided to check out Seymour Lake. We arrived at the boat access and saw one fisherman and a couple of shanties. We decided to walk out and check with the guy to see if the fish were biting.

My brother, Aaron, was the smart one and stayed in the car because he wanted to take a short nap. So Ben and I started out across the ice and when we got about halfway to the fisherman we heard cracking. I looked at Ben to see if he heard the same thing. He did. The ice gave way and we were both swimming. Panic started to set in, but so did adrenaline. The problem was every time we both hauled ourselves out onto the ice it broke again. We must have gotten out and

broke through half a dozen times until we had a 10 x 10 hole in the ice. Finally, after what seemed like minutes we both climbed out and laid there not wanting to get up for fear that the ice would break again. After several minutes I decided to get up, more from the -10 degree temperature than anything and head back to the truck. This time we walked single file back on our tracks towards the truck not wanting to venture anywhere that had not yet been tested by somebody else first. The ice cracked the whole way back making my heart jump the whole way. We got there and my brother was sleeping, not having seen a thing. We woke him up and told him what happened and he didn't believe us until we started ringing water out of our jackets and wool pants. Ben and I rode all the way back to St. Johnsbury in our boxer shorts with the heat cranked up as high as it would go. You can about imagine what that scene looked like and the looks we got from the oncoming traffic!

I didn't get a chance to talk about winter tracking this month, so I will have to get to it next month.



## A helping hand

Students donate their time &amp; firewood

Students from St. Johnsbury Academy's Forest Resources and Land Management program and the staff of the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont recently joined forces to help two local seniors stay warm this winter.

Students under the direction of program head, Bruce Johnson, cut, loaded and delivered several cords of firewood last week as part of their studies. The wood was made available through a generous donation by the Academy and the students who contributed their labor.

AmeriCorps Neighbor to Neighbor member, Carolyn Mackay, helped to coordinate delivery times and recruited volunteers to stack the firewood when delivered at each senior's home.

The Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont and St. Johnsbury Academy encourage partnerships between people of all ages to help create a caring community. For additional information, or to volunteer your time or expertise, please call the Senior Help Line at (800) 642-5119.

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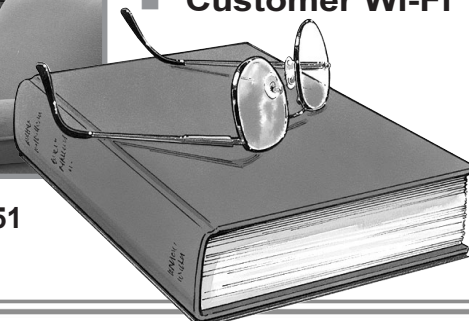
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## No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

What do we need to warm and comfort us this January? How about a delicious stew. There is nothing more heartwarming than walking into a kitchen with a kettle of stew bubbling away on the stove or scenting the room with its aroma from the oven. A good hearty stew will not only ward off the cold north winds and icy weather of January, but will also help us take a sensory break from this year's blustery news of bailouts, bankruptcies and foreclosures.

These rich and satisfying dishes make you feel better and are a lot of fun to make. I give you three different stew recipes to try in your kitchen that are incredibly delicious and won't break the bank either.

The most important step in making stew is the sautéing of the meat and/or vegetables before adding any liquid.

Searing or browning the meat seals in the juices and produces moist and tender meat even after prolonged cooking. Sautéing vegetables that are to be used in a stew helps release flavorful liquids from them and maintain their integrity.

Even if you are using a slow cooker, I recommend that you not skip this step. It really makes a difference.

### Pasta Fagioli

An Italian peasant meal that has survived the test of time. The flavors meld together to create a real taste treat. Serve this with warm focaccia bread or a baguette and a good salad. It is fast, easy, inexpensive and truly delicious – peasant food at its best.

4 tablespoons olive oil  
2 onions – chopped  
3 cloves garlic – chopped or

thinly sliced  
1 bunch scallions – chopped  
¼ cup chopped parsley  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
½ teaspoon dried oregano  
4 cups chicken stock (boxed is fine)  
3 cups (one 36 oz can) peeled tomatoes in their own juice  
2 15 oz cans of cannellini beans with liquid  
3 cups cooked mini penne or any tubular pasta  
Grated parmesan cheese

Cook the pasta and set aside. If you mix in a little olive oil with the pasta it will keep it from sticking together.

Heat the olive oil in a large deep saucepan. Add the garlic and let it brown. When it is just browned, add the onions and cook them over medium heat until they are soft and translucent. Add the celery and scallions and cook until they are soft.

Crush the tomatoes with your hands and add the tomatoes and chicken broth to the vegetables. Cook for about 5 minutes and add the beans (liquid and all). Add the parsley, basil and oregano and let simmer for about 30 minutes. This mixture (with the beans) has a tendency to stick to the bottom – so stir every five minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

When this mix has reduced and taken on a stew like consistency, add half of the pasta. Add the pasta a little at a time until you have the right amount. You want the pasta to be part of the stew, but not the main ingredient.

Serve with lots of fresh grated parmesan cheese, good bread and a salad. It's the perfect combination.

### Adobo Pork

A southwestern Native American dish with a magnificent color and an irresistible scent. It's well worth the effort of handling the chili peppers. This is not a true stew because it is cooked in the oven, but I couldn't resist including it.

2 cups ancho chile puree (see prepare chile section)  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon cumin  
1 teaspoon salt  
½ cup sugar  
3 cloves garlic - chopped  
2 large onions - chopped  
2 tablespoons cilantro or parsley  
2-4 cups tinned chicken stock  
4 - 5 lbs. cubed fresh pork shoulder or butt

Prepare the chile puree:

The type of dried chiles you use in this recipe is very important. They should be red colored and medium hot. I prefer ancho chiles (dried poblano peppers) but they are often hard to find in this part of the country. They are moderately hot and can be substituted by Anaheim Chile or Chile Pasilla. You can usually find them dried in the specialty section of the supermarket. Be sure not to use the small



Left to right, Noah, Mary Ann, Nick and Hope Springer reading the North Star Monthly during their annual Fenwick Island, DE beach vacation. Fenwick Island, together with the towns of Lewes, Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach, Bethany Beach, and South Bethany, comprises Delaware's beach resort area and is Sussex County's most densely-populated and fastest-growing area.

very hot chiles. You won't be able to eat the resulting dish.

After finally finding these peppers you break them open, discard the stem and take the seeds out. Take care when handling dried chiles. Even though they are not super hot, they can still burn your eyes and other sensitive areas. Wash your hands well after this step or use rubber gloves.

Cover the peppers with water in a medium saucepan and simmer for about 30 minutes. Remove from the heat and let stand about 15 minutes. Puree the mix in a food processor and strain through a sieve. It might take extra water to strain the puree. Add as much water as you need. The result will be a magnificently red chile puree. Make extra to freeze and the job will be easier next time. This puree also adds an amazing depth to any recipe you have for chili.

### Make the Adobo:

Combine all the ingredients except the pork in a large mixing bowl. Place the cubed pork in a Dutch oven or large casserole pan. Pour the adobo mix over the pork and coat it well. If necessary add more broth or water to cover the pork completely. Cover and place in a 350-degree oven for about 2 hours or until the pork is fork tender.

The resulting dish is not as hot as it looks and doesn't need a warning on the label. Serve with buttered cornbread or polenta and a tossed salad.

### Kentucky Burgoo

This is a classic American dish. I present a version made with domestic meats but it is traditionally made with game such as rabbit and/or squirrel. You better set a place for Davy Crockett or Daniel Boone at the table when you make this one.

2 lb. boneless beef chuck roast (can substitute another cut of beef - even one with bones)  
1 lb. of lamb - can be shanks or whatever you have or substitute a ham bone or venison  
1 frying chicken cut into

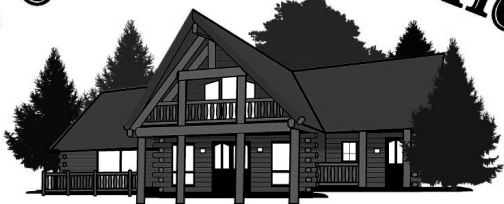
pieces

1 teaspoon dried red pepper flakes or ¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper  
¼ cup olive oil  
1 tablespoon salt  
black pepper  
2 quarts water or boxed beef stock  
4-6 potatoes - peeled and diced  
4 cloves garlic - chopped  
2 large onions - chopped  
½ cup of chopped fresh parsley (use less if it's dried)  
2 cups frozen or canned corn - drained  
2 carrots - peeled and thinly sliced  
15 oz. can tomatoes packed in their own juice (not puree)  
1-2 cans lima beans - drained  
1 green pepper - diced  
2 cups okra - diced (frozen is fine if you can't find fresh)

Heat some of the olive oil in a large skillet. Quickly sear the beef, chicken in the skillet. Put the meat, red pepper, salt and pepper in a Dutch oven or stock pot. Cover with the water or stock and bring to a boil. Let it simmer for about 30 minutes until the chicken is cooked. Let it cool a bit for ease of handling and strain the stock through a colander. Bone the chicken and set the meat aside. Remove the bones (if any) from the beef and lamb and cut into medium sized chunks. Return the strained stock, beef and lamb to the pot. Simmer the beef and lamb in the stock for about 1 hour or until it is fork tender. In a large frying pan sauté the garlic in olive oil until browned and add the onions. Cook until soft and transparent. Add the carrots, corn, green pepper and okra and sauté for about 2 or 3 minutes. Add the potatoes, parsley, tomatoes, beans and the sautéed vegetable mix to the stock and simmer until the carrots are cooked. Add the chicken meat to the burgoo at the very end. I know this sounds like a hodgepodge, but it really works.

Serve with johnnycakes or fresh made biscuits for a traditional meal.

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Walden Hill Journal

# Ring in the new year

**Jan. 1, 2007**

Old man winter must be part of a marathon team. In passing from 2007 to 2008, he just handed on the baton that's been shaking out day

after day of snow. It may be a new year but it's the same old weather. We said "good-bye" to 2007 at St. Jay's First Night, performing a 9:00 set with Pumpkin Hill Singers. Then we stayed on to enjoy the very entertaining storytelling of Willem Lange. The ease with which he spins a yarn and the great humor he imparts made for a festive and enjoyable 45 minutes. We arrived home by 11:30, ate a bit of champagne chocolate cake and watched a few distant fireworks to welcome in 2008. Today has been a slow, lazy, indoor start to the year. I was hoping to get out for a snowshoe but the snow never let up. I guess we'll be back to shoveling tomorrow.

**Jan. 3, 2007**

A low of minus 9° last night. "As the days lengthen, the cold strengthens." On the plus side of this frigid weather is bright sunshine, clear blue skies and no snow!. It's just too cold to snow. A delicate, colorful ice bow arcs on either side of the rising sun.

**Jan. 6, 2007**

A high of 41° brought on a bit of January thaw. That's great for bringing down the roof snow but not good for the weight of the compacted slush that blocked the garage door. It made for heavy snow shoeing as well. Fortunately the neighbors had been out earlier, packing down the existing trail. They made quite an entertaining entourage as their enthusiastic 6 year old nephew Joe, marched through the snow, arms swinging and their dog Maggie hitched a ride on the end of Dan's large snowshoes. Donna had an aerobic workout breaking trail through the thick, clinging snow in the field from their house to ours. Once they reached our existing trail though, it should have been smooth sailing. It continues above freezing tonight and the remaining snow on the shaded north side of the house is breaking off with a heavy thud every now and then. It's not the roaring cascade that brought down the snow on the south side. There must have been some melting power from the sun today, even though it stayed behind the clouds.

**Jan. 8, 2007**

44° this morning as the thaw continues. The rising sun spreads a soft, rosy glow across the mist-hung valley. Moisture from the melting snow rises to meet the morning sun. Although there's still plenty of snow on the ground, both drives are down to gravel

with a bit of ice. It's a welcomed reprise from the bitter cold and constant snow. 54° and climbing. The end of the day shows a record high of 60° with massive melt off. There is a flood watch throughout the state. Littleton, NH showed 65° on Main Street but then there's a lot of political hot air over there today with the presidential primaries.

**Jan. 9, 2007**

Day 4 of thawing. We're down at least a foot of snow. The stairs and railing are completely bare and green grass is actually showing through. We're enclosed in a soupy fog. The road is rutted; a muddy quagmire with slippery ice underneath the deep ruts. It's a good day to stay home. Pine grosbeaks are ground feeding, searching for seeds exposed in the melting snow. Those birds seem to be a bit more plentiful this year after several years of wintering elsewhere. Colder weather is supposed to move in, accompanied by wind gusts up to 50 mph. Along with a flood watch, we now have a wind advisory.

**Jan. 11, 2007**

Our view is obscured behind a stippled glaze of ice, coating the south facing windows. The January thaw has come and gone. Jeff had a chance to clean out the stove pipe during the warmer, sunnier days. So now we're ready to continue on with winter. The road has hardened up as well, with only frozen ruts as a reminder of the mini-mud season that seems to accompany a January thaw. It's all just a brief taste of what's to come.



**Jan. 12, 2007**

A beautiful afternoon for a crunchy snowshoe. The ice layer is firm enough to hold my weight but thin enough to let the cleats get a good grip. Icy frosting remains on some of the trees in more protected areas where frozen droplets glistened in the afternoon sun. The vernal pond near the logging road was a very picturesque combination of ice and open water. I had to skirt around the occasional bit of open ground and flowing water, but for the most part, the path had ample snow cover. Snowshoe hare and grouse had been out recently as well. There was a lot of debris on the ground from the recent high winds but no major trees downed. The only casualty so far was a large thin spruce tree that snapped off about 6 feet from the ground at the edge of the lower field. We discovered a good sized yellow birch tree near the active pond that the beaver had freshly gnawed, probably last fall. It was close to being felled before winter set in and will probably be downed by

those lumberjack rodents in the spring unless the wind finishes the job for them first.

**Jan. 17, 2007**

A sundog sunrise this chilly morning and a bright long, lingering sun flare at sunset last night. Frigid winter has a beauty all its own. Unique sounds accompany my snowshoe walks as cold temperatures freeze the snowflake crystals, creating hardened edges that squeak and whine at the touch of my ski pole. A crunchy, exhilarating walk through the quiet snow laden woods. Fresh powder has softened the path, making for easy movement atop the deep, ice encrusted snow.

**Jan. 21, 2007**

Minus 2° on the thermometer this morning after a low of minus 8° last night. Full moon brings out the bitter January cold. Fortunately the sun is shining, unobstructed as well, slowly adding some warmth to the day. It was only in the teens yesterday when Jeff and I headed out on the

snowshoes for a brisk, invigorating walk. No chance to stop for photos or observation, since we intended to try and stay warm. My tingling fingers and toes kept me on the move.

**Jan. 28, 2007**

Bright sunshine greets the day after a star-studded chilly night. The waning moon rises late, leaving the early sky show to the clearly defined constellations. I was even treated to a fiery meteor, slowing streaking across the sky, as I returned home several nights ago. Days warm up just enough for invigorating snow shoeing. It's time to extend the loop a bit and see if we can cross over to the other side of the series of ponds. It's still light by 5:00, extending our outdoor time. Late afternoon shadows and lingering sunsets add their unique beauty to this snow covered world, as the rapidly dropping thermometer reminds us that the coldest month is yet to come. A northern shrike has stationed himself by the bird feeder, looking for rodents or the incautious smaller bird. He has stopped all other activity at the feeder since the chickadees are undoubtedly aware of his menacing presence. The shrike's hawk-like bill make's this robin-sized bird a very meaningful threat to the hungry little chickadees.

**Jan. 31, 2007**

We're ending the first month of 2008 with a picture perfect winter day. Yesterday's mixed precip left a heavy coating of snow, freshening up the view. Glorious snow shoeing through a wooded winter wonderland. There were lots of fresh tracks, mostly snowshoe hare, adding interesting patterns throughout the trail. We've had some spectacular views of the Presidential Range and the White Mountains in general, especially from the NH side. Tourists coming to play in the snow won't be disappointed.

*(To view an extended version of this month's Journal with additional photos, go to [www.jeffgold-graphics.com](http://www.jeffgold-graphics.com) and click on "The View from Vermont")*

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## Electrical Service

### CG Electric

Serving the Northeast Kingdom. Your full service electrical contractor providing you with a certified workforce. Commercial and Residential. Established 1995. Charlie Gilman, PO Box 195, Danville, VT 05828. [cgelectric@msn.com](mailto:cgelectric@msn.com) (802) 684-9700.

### Matt Pettigrew Electric

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### McMath Forestry

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### Concord Health Center

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### Peter D. Watson Agency, Inc.

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### Century 21 Quatrini Real Estate

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### David A. Lussier Real Estate

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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 you're home...

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 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 3.0 acres on a country setting.

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**\$119,900**

**ML#2693895** This 24-acre commercial lot near an I-91 exit has over 1,100' frontage on Route 302 and over 500' on Leighton Hill Road. It borders I-91 and has good visibility. **\$250,000**

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**\$259,000**



**LOG HOME** - You can see the panorama of the mountains, but you can't see another house. This nearly new contemporary log home sits on 10 private acres with spectacular views, manicured flower beds and meticulously kept lawns. The floor to ceiling windows let in the whole day. Fieldstone fireplace, custom made cupboards in kitchen and baths, big wraparound porch and an open floor plan finish the picture. Want a custom built home with all the contemporary features like granite counters and stainless appliances? Want a place to get away? Want total privacy? Want to live in Danville? Losers Weepers! mls #2742255

**\$375,000**



**LITTLETON** - This unfinished house is already spectacular. The Presidentials come right in the windows and take your breath away! Located in Littleton, NH, it's right around the corner from the hospital. The price is for what is already on the lot. But the seller will finish the house for a higher price. The plans are for three bedrooms, three baths, two story fireplace, oak spiral staircase, landscaping, and circular drive. The cathedral ceilings are post and beam construction. Pics available of the builder's previous house(s). Don't hesitate. mls#2751938

**\$349,000**



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Continued from Page 1  
 cerned with women's issues. Lauren said she was focused more on McCain's policies. "Probably, I was influenced by my parents," she said candidly. "But since the election, I've been studying some of Obama's ideas." She said she likes them, but "not all of them."

Now, as President-elect Obama prepares his team for the coming term, both girls are excited about the possibilities. Gabi said his election has "opened a lot of doors, especially for minorities and women. There is new ground to explore." Lauren said she hopes "we will wake up and fix what we've done, wake up to the pollution, violence and war, and learn how to spend more wisely as a nation and individually."

Most likely, the girls will not see each other at the inauguration after they reach Washington. Their itineraries are well planned. They will travel on Jan. 17 and return on Jan. 21. Both agendas include keynote speakers, tours, debates, and will culminate in all the inaugural festivities, including attendance at one of the black tie gala inaugural balls. They have been informed of a strict dress code requirement for all the events and are planning to pack accordingly. Gabi's inaugural gown is in the making and Lauren is planning to wear the dress she wore at eighth-grade graduation.

Both girls need to raise approximately \$3,000 to cover expenses for the entire event. They have already completed some individual fundraising, but are planning to host a Mexican dinner before a basketball game sometime in early January. They wish to thank the many donors who have already given and hope to see many more at the Mexican dinner.

North Star readers are in for a treat. Look forward to the next issue to get a first-hand view and insight of one of the most historic inaugurations in America's history from two very perceptive young women.

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Continued from Page 14

of and adopted the wisdom of Greek philosophers, and the contemporary Arabic scholars, as well. The medieval period of history, long thought to be hardly worth studying, turns out to have been an active, inventive time, in machine technology, the harnessing of wind and water power, and also in theology and philosophy.

And what does all this have to do with "turning a new page," welcoming a New Year? We should not be afraid of change, change will happen in the nature of things. A new year may find something in the past to build on, or if the time is right, develop

something entirely new. Even if our period of history should later seem to some to be less interesting than others, it won't to most of us, as we will be too busy living it.

Historians of the future will recognize, as we perhaps can't, how it fits into the world pageant.

Perhaps we might think of New Year's Day as celebrating the possibility of change, the arrival of a whole fresh New Year of possibilities, of resolutions to improve in one way or another. I could also suggest an End-of-the-year resolution, to leave behind hard feelings, grudges, prejudices, so as to greet the New Year with lighter baggage. We might well feel all the more cheerful as a result.

In any case, happy new year to us all.



### Pope Library

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This c.1850 1 1/4 story farmhouse offers so much. Located conveniently just outside of downtown Lyndonville this property sits on 8.79 acres of land with a 9 stall horsebarn and fenced pastures. The home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, a 2 yr old custom built kitchen and yet offers some antique features including wide board floors. There is a 2 car attached garage as well as a detached 30 X40 garage/shop for your hobbies. There is additional land available with this property. MLS #2744111



Listed at \$350,000

### Spacious Lyndonville home

Very comfortable, spacious home on a corner lot in a quiet neighborhood. This home has had many improvements including wiring updates, vinyl siding, new windows, fenced yard and new paint throughout. Enjoy your evenings on the large, covered porch. This home offers 4+ bedrooms, 2 baths and a one car detached garage. A lot of house with tons of improvements for a great price. If you haven't seen this one, you need to! MLS #2715688



Price reduced to \$129,900



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Lyndonville, VT 05851  
(802) 626-9357  
Fax (802) 626-6913

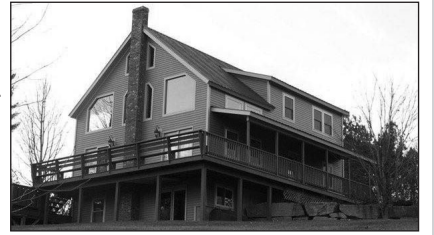


**#6965 Newark**  
Come see this Newark Pond camp! This rustic, 3 bdrm., 1 bath Gambrel sits on .75 acres with 125' of water frontage. Bring family and friends to enjoy this great seasonal property. Asking price of \$240,000 is based on a Recent appraisal.

\$240,000

### #6974 St. Johnsbury

This splendid well maintained timber frame home with views is located near all amenities yet features some privacy with beautiful landscaping, a pond, decks, a 32x36 garage with a 1/2 bath, electricity, separate water & sewer to use as a workshop or most anything else. St. J Academy School. Burke Mtn. near by & very close to VAST trails. Owner offering up to \$5,000 in FREE brand new furniture.



Offered at \$399,000



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### Brand New Home

**ML2706733** Master bedroom is upstairs with a balcony that overlooks the living room/kitchen area. 2BRs and a full bath on the first floor. Huge basement can be finished for additional rooms or a large family room. Unfinished room above the 2-car garage can be used for a mother-in-law apartment or a weight room. Great location on 5.5 acres, great price. Come see it for yourself.

\$275,000



### 1847 Brick Cape

**ML2703026** You can show off your antiques in this 1847 brick cape home in Barnet yet minutes from St. Johnsbury. Three bedrooms, 2 3/4 baths, original wide softwood floors, country kitchen with pantry, formal dining room, huge living room, detached Carriage house. High school choice.

\$169,000



### Stunning Long-Range Views

**ML2731951** Danville: 11 acres - beautiful parcel of land featuring stunning long-range views, southern exposure, open and wooded land, power on the property, very private but only minutes to town. Accessed by common ROW.

\$78,500

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### Large Parcel for Recreational Enjoyment

**ML243098** Danville: 98.5 acres - this large parcel has everything for recreational enjoyment and year-round living. Open land, beautiful views, mixed woodlands, trails, wildlife, beaver pond and brook. Make your appointment today to see all that this land has to offer.

\$252,000



### Attention Snowmobilers

**ML2752345** Great one-bedroom home, easy to heat. Can be used as a snowmobiling or hunting camp, or would make a great starter home or retirement home. VAST trail is right there. Privately located but on a town-maintained road.

Reasonably priced at \$119,000



### Classic Farmhouse w/173 acres

**ML2722751** Just 3 1/2 miles from St Johnsbury w/good access on a paved road, you will find this classic brick farmhouse, former dairy barn, and 173 acres of the most beautiful land imaginable. The house could be a showplace w/it's original woodwork, wide pine floors & large sunny rooms. The land is both open & wooded w/wide sloping fields, fenced pastures, panoramic views in all directions, & marketable timber in the two wooded areas. There is a lot to love about this property.

\$575,000

LAND

### Walden Lot

**ML2752339** 5 acres...this is a great lot to build your home on. Part of the land is open and part is wooded. Private location but on a town-maintained road. Electric is at site. Septic design in place for a mound system. You can pick up the VAST trail right there.

\$55,000

LAND

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

### JANUARY EVENTS

**THURS.1**  
**New Year's Day Parade** at Burke Mountain. The parade will start at the top of the Willoughby Chair at 1pm and descend all the way to the Sherburne Base Lodge. For those who do not wish to start from the top, join the parade at the top of the Sherburne Express at about 1:15. Face Painting starts at 11 am and

Sledding Hill is open from 5 - 8 p.m. Call (802) 626-7300 for more information.

Barnet's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Join NEK Audubon's one-day monitor count of winter birds. For routes and information, call Charlie Browne at 748-2372.

### FRI.2

**Movie Night** at Burke Mountain. Popcorn and a movie! Join us at 6pm in the Igloo for a movie and popcorn, \$3 per person. Movie TBD Call (802) 626-7300 for more information.

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

### MON.5

**Informational and planning meeting**, 4:30 p.m. at the Fairbanks Museum. Open to all.

### WED.7

**First Wednesdays Lecture Series.** No Laughing Matter: Visual Humor and Ideas of Race, Nationality, and Ethnicity. Dartmouth Art History professor Angela Rosenthal examines visual humor's wounding and healing properties. Starts at 7 p.m. Call (802) 748-8291 for details.

**No Laughing Matter:** Visual Humor and Ideas of Race. Angela Rosenthal examines visual humor's wounding and healing properties at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum at 7 p.m.

### THURS.8

**Singer/Songwriter Series** at Burke Mountain. The Singer/Songwriter series continues in the Tamarack Grill featuring Louis from 8:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. Call (802) 626-7300 for more information.

**The Racky Thomas Band** at Burke Mountain. The Burke Mountain Music Series continues with The Racky Thomas Band live in the Tamarack Grill at 8:30 pm. Call (802) 626-7300 for more information.

### FRI.9

**"O'h Anleigh,"** presented by St. Johnsbury Academy and Catamount Arts. Vermont's best traditional Irish trio at the Morse Center for the Arts at St. Johnsbury Academy, 7:30 p.m.

### SUN.13

**The Caledonia Right to Life** Committee will meet at the St. John's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1375 Main St., St. Johnsbury at 7 p.m.. All who are interested in "Right to Life," or would like to know more about it, are invited to attend. For more information you may call Donna At (802)-467-8359.

information you may call Donna At (802)-467-8359.

### SAT.17

**"Symmetry,"** pen and ink drawings by Ellen Levitt and selected works by Ann Young at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild. The show runs through Feb. 18.

### SUN.18

**NEK Snowshoe hike** along the Moose Bog Trail at the Wenlock WMA. Meet at the White's/Agway parking lot in Lyndonville, exit 23 off I-91 at 7 a.m. For more information or to register for NEK Audubon trips email or call Tom at (802) 626-9071.

### MON.19

Danville Conservation Commission meeting to discuss future plans for the town forests. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

### SUN.25

**Franklin Fairbanks Awards** from 2 - 4 p.m. celebrate the spirit of Franklin Fairbanks, at the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium. This year's Franklin Fairbanks Award winner will be honored for outstanding contributions to our communities in the areas of arts and sciences. Franklin Fairbanks's vision established northern New England's museum of natural history in St. Johnsbury.

### THURS.29

**Book Discussion:** Shirley Ann Grau's "The Keeper of the House." Part of the Pulitzer's series. What is it that makes a book worthy of a Pulitzer? Do the characteristics change over time? Led by Patricia Stuart. A Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by Cobleigh Public Library. Lyndonville, Cobleigh Public Library, 7:00 p.m. Call Cindy Karasinski, (802) 626-5475.

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

### 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. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. p.m. Call Lisa von Kann, (802) 748-8291.

### SAT.7

"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.

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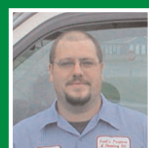
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