



THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

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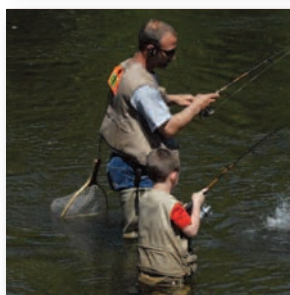
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Of Crows and Men

By NATHANIEL TRIPP

One spring long ago an old woman visited here, and among her childhood memories of the place was one of a great gathering of crows which took place here.

It was in the early spring, and it took place on what she called the "second flat," which was all open then, but is thick forest now. She was still excited by the memory of it, clearly it represented some sort of epiphany for her, although I'm not sure whether it was horror as in Hitchcock's "The Birds" or something happier. In general, we are not sure we really like crows at all. Perhaps they resemble us a bit too much.

Crows, varying only slightly, are plentiful on every continent and are particularly well adapted to agricultural areas where they enjoy the fruits of our labor. Sometimes,

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Lessons from the Bass Fiddlerman

By Justin Lavelly

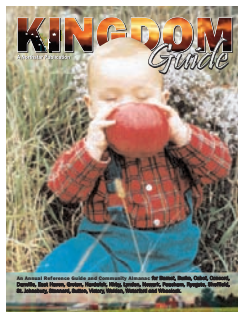


Mr. Gittleman's 'experience makes the education'

According to his song, Joe Gittleman has never had to knock on wood, but whether he's Mr. Gittleman to students at Lyndon State College or "The Bass Fiddlerman" to fans of the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, this music master makes the grade.

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FROM THE EDITOR

It's never black and white

The echoes from town meeting can still be heard as we go into April. You don't have to look far to find communities with residual budget problems stemming from both their schools and municipal services. This is the time of year when hyperbole reigns supreme and we hear common complaints like "At this rate, no one is going to be able to afford to live here" and "taxes are driving people away." While many believe the problem of rising tax bills is a contemporary problem, many statistics point to the contrary.

It would seem while it's true we're paying high taxes in Vermont, it's also true we have been for a long time.

According to information from taxfoundation.org, Vermont's state and local per capita taxes paid increased 4 percent from 1977 to 1978. Per capita income increased 9 percent during the same time period. From 2007 to 2008, the state's total per capita tax burden increased only .5%, while income rose 3 percent during the same time period. Since the 90s, Vermonters appear to have done a fine job holding the line on taxes, including a few instances when the total tax burden decreased.

Of course, this doesn't mean all com-

plaints are unwarranted. As of 2007, Vermont ranked fifth in the nation in total tax burden. There are many Northeastern states in the top ten, including New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey.

It would seem while it's true we're paying high taxes in Vermont, it's also true we have been for a long time. The issue of affordable housing has just as much to do with rising property values and access to high paying jobs as it does with growing property tax bills.

Town and school budgets tend to get the bulk of scrutiny this time of year, and rightly so, but the issues their grappling with have significant implications. If we look at the town of St. Johnsbury as an example, we see a town in the midst of cutting hundreds of thousands of dollars from a budget that was defeated at town meeting. According to town officials, the cuts will save the average taxpayer around \$35 on their tax bill. It's hard to know for sure whether those cuts are simply one step in a new direction, or purely symbolic in nature. St. Johnsbury is in the unfortunate position of having to manage and maintain a municipal infrastructure that was built for a much larger population.

Local governments across the state, region and country are dealing with a similar problem; how to plan for the future in the midst of an uncertain economy. While some believe the prudent path is to trim our government and our spending to reflect the difficult period we are in, others say it would be wise to keep the same infrastructure in place so we're ready for good economic times.

These issues are never black and white.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES:
P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Street
Danville, VT 05828-0319
(802) 684-1056

PUBLISHERS/OWNERS: Justin Lavelly
Ginni Lavelly

EDITOR: Justin Lavelly

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Lyn Bixby

ADVERTISING / CIRCULATION: Vicki Moore
Angie Knost

ART DIRECTOR/ PRODUCTION: Tina Keach

PROOFREADERS: Woody Starkweather
Ginni Lavelly
Judy Lavelly

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Vanessa Bean

OFFICE MASCOT: Lynsey Lavelly

ADVISORY BOARD: John Hall
Sharon Lakey
Sue Coppenrath
Alan Boye
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Postmaster: Send address changes to **The North Star Monthly**, P.O. Box 319, Danville, VT 05828-0319. Periodical postage paid at Danville, VT.

Contributing Writers

Isobel Swartz	Vanna Guldenschuh	Bruce Hoyt
Lorna Quimby	Bets Parker Albright	Van Parker
Nathaniel Tripp	John Downs	Dee Palmer
Rachel Siegel	Bill Amos	Jim Ashley
Lynn Bonfield	Donna Garfield	
Jeff Gold	Dwayne Langmaid	
Ellen Gold	Marvin Minkler	

e-mail: info@northstarmonthly.com

www.northstarmonthly.com

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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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DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to publication.

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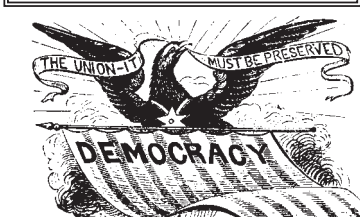


Success predicted for Edison's electric light, a scientific experiment proves linseed oil preserves eggs best

The North Star

"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"

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THE NORTH STAR

April 4, 1879

Singular Case - Mrs. Hiram Perkins recently lost a good cow, the symptoms of which none of the farriers could understand. This led to a thorough examination, which resulted in finding a hairpin four inches long piercing the heart to the depth of half its length. Further search easily showed the course it had taken, by means of a black streak through the stomach, along the backbone to the lung, thence to the heart.

Dividend - The Caledonia National Bank pays a semi-annual dividend of 3 percent on April 1.

Scale - The Fairbanks Company has just finished up a beautiful platform scale which they are about to send to the Marquis of Lorne, the new Governor General of Canada, at his order. The scale is known as a platform #12 and its elegantly painted and embellished, bearing the coat of arms of Canada and the United

States with round plate, nickel and plated beam and weights. It will be an indispensable item in the Governor General's household.

Seven to seven - The annual school meeting in the Stanton District (North Danville) was a dead lock the whole evening and night, standing seven to seven, on all questions until 4 p.m. Wednesday morning, when the Stanton party, who had the books and the warrant, gave up the job and went home. The Sprague party then elected a moderator and the other officers and went home.

April 11, 1879

Preserving eggs - In this cold climate, it is difficult to keep hens in such condition that they will produce as many eggs in the winter as they do in the summer. This being a fact, any process that can be taken to preserve eggs in a fresh condition for months will be hailed with delight by all who keep hens for the purposes of having fresh eggs. One who has experience with preserving eggs says the sure and simple method of keeping eggs sound by smearing the shells with linseed oil has long been practiced. The oil forms a sort of film over the shell, thereby preventing the two main causes of decomposition - evaporation from and penetration of air into the egg. A recent experiment in point deserves notice. A dozen new laid eggs were rubbed over with linseed oil applied with

the tip of the finger, another dozen were coated in the same manner with poppy oil, while two other eggs were left in their natural state. All the eggs were then laid in rows on dry sand on top of a shelf where they were left undisturbed. At the end of three months they were weighed, and again at the end of six months, when they were opened. The two eggs left on their own for three months had lost 11 percent of their weight and 18 percent at the end of six months. They were half empty and rotten. The eggs coated with poppy oil in three months lost 2 percent and 4 percent in six months. The eggs were still full and devoid of any rotten smell. The eggs rubbed in linseed oil lost 2 percent in three months and 3 percent in six months. When they were opened, they were found full of the smell of fresh eggs.

Electric light - The first practical illustration of Edison's electric light has been given at his laboratory in New Jersey, and only two minor improvements remain to be made. Arrangements for lighting Menlo Park, N.J. will begin soon. The public has been hoping for any new progress of any new mode of public and private lighting that would relieve poor, civilized humanity from the despotic, and not always just, rule of the gas meter man. Mr. Edison has now, it is claimed, practically succeeded in his mission to divide the current to finish a number of electric lights each equal to

18 or 20 candle power on one circuit and in proportion six lights per horse power in generating the current. These are remarkable results, even if they exhaust his powers of invention. They represent only the first developments of a system of lighting destined to replace gas, as the latter has already replaced candles. Edison's success will inspire other inventors to rival and surpass him, and the world will be benefited, although some established interests may temporarily suffer.

April 18, 1879

Uncle Tom's Cabin - The above named celebrated dramatic play (founded on Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's wonderful book of the same name) is to be presented by the Amy Stone Dramatic Alliance at the Town Hall in this village Saturday evening. The play has been witnessed by all classes, including clergy and Christian people of all creeds. It has received the endorsement of all for being a realistic picture of life in the South 30 years ago.

April 25, 1879

Russian Czar - Last week, it was the Czar of Russia's turn to be shot at by some crack brained hater of tyrants. While walking in the park early in the morning, he met a man who, after advancing within two paces, drew a revolver and fired four shots at him, retreating after the first. An officer pursued with a drawn

sword and he was shot in the right cheek by the assassin. Finally the man was knocked down and captured and he gave his name as Skoloff, a retired functionary 30 years old. It is not known whether the man had any connection with Nihilists, though his crime will likely be laid at the feet of that organization. There are also rumors that the Czar's relationship with women had something to do with it. This is third time the Emperor's life has been threatened since he took office.

Butter Market - The old plan of packing butter through the summer, and sending the whole summer's make into market in one lot, in the fall or winter, is a thing of the past. Many who have tried it over the past two seasons have been sadly disappointed at the prices realized, they being frequently below what the butter would have sold for at the time of manufacture. City consumers now demand fresh made butter, and the western states now being in competition with the eastern states in furnishing New England cities with gilt edged butter, makes it necessary for the Vermont farmer who would derive the best results from his dairy to dispose of the same as fast as its manufactured. Otherwise, the market is filled all year long with western-made butter, which excludes almost entirely all New England butter that has been kept through the summer.

THE North Star MONTHLY

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April with Promise

By Gordon Tallman, Hyde Park

Then along comes April
With promise extended
Promising hope
That winter has ended

We revel in
Anticipation
Of freedom from
Long Hibernation

Suseptable
To April's spell
Winter worn
We're an easy sell

Then an ominoious feeling
Fills the air
Shed not the robe
Buyer beware

On the face of it

BY ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

A baby is born and, after taking its first breaths, its eyes open and search for a face. This fundamental, spontaneous reaction is an innate trait of our species. Newborn infants will choose to focus on the pattern of light and dark shapes of the human face over all other patterns presented to them.

This amazing behavior encourages a bonding response by the parents that fosters their nurturing instincts. For the mother, this moment of recognition and acknowledgement is particularly significant — the meeting of an intimate stranger, felt but not seen for nine months. This bonding response has fostered the survival of our species whose young are so dependent for a comparatively long period of time.

For most of us, the human face and voice are the earliest ways we recognize our family and friends. We learn to read moods and unspoken messages by changes in their facial expressions. As we grow older, we study our own faces in a mirror and observe the changes as we mature. In Western society, so much emphasis is placed on the appearance of the face that major industries have grown up to provide enhancing beauty techniques, make-up, or plastic surgery to re-form parts of a face that the owner may consider ugly. The human face and body have become commodities in the fashion and film industries.

The disguising of the face provided titillating entertainment in the masked balls of the 17th and 18th centuries. Costumes and masks have been used by many human societies in religious and ritualistic ceremonies. Children know the delight and power of putting on a mask at Halloween and temporarily changing into someone or something scary, funny or powerful. Masks and facial disguises are often used in violent crimes and espionage. Even reflective sunglasses can act like a mask, intimidating and providing a barrier to direct communication.

A recent Public Television program about surgery gave me another view of the importance of the human face. Reconstructive surgery on the human face has been practiced since the 1700s. The first attempts were used to combat the ravages of venereal disease on the noses of affected people. Various types of implants were used to support the nasal area. Most of these were not very successful and were short lasting. Later, wax injections were used to enhance the facial appearance of some society ladies. These were unsuccessful in the long term as the wax migrated from the injection sites, causing painful conditions that were irreversible.

Facial reconstruction became very important after World War I. Many soldiers suffered horrific damage from shrapnel and gas attacks. Many of these men were completely unrecognizable and the resulting rejection by others led to terrible depression. This encouraged the development of modern facial reconstructive surgery. Today, this medical art has progressed to cases where complete facial grafts can be made from a brain-dead donor to a person whose face has been destroyed by a major accident. The first successful facial graft of this type was performed in 2005 in France on a woman whose face had been devastated through the attack of a vicious dog.

The English language demonstrates the importance of the face in our lives. There are many common phrases that mention the face: let's face it; face up to it; on the face of it; face to face; put on a happy face; in your face. Hymns, poems, musical plays all speak to the significance of the face. Oscar Wilde's novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, centers on a man who, having sold his soul to the devil in order to preserve his good looks, sees his portrait change as his real life becomes increasingly depraved.

So why do some cultures hide the face, especially the female face? We are told that religious laws require this and yet, for example, neither the Bible nor the Koran demands it. In the Bible several Old Testament books refer to women wearing or putting on veils, often to conceal themselves, but not by religious demand. The Koran does not require veiling in everyday dress by religious law. It does provide guidelines for modest dressing that can include covering the head and avoiding low cut or revealing dress, but wearing head covering in a hot, desert climate is normal practice, predating the Koran by thousands of years. Moslem women and men are both expected to dress modestly, but modesty has been pushed to the limit for women in some fundamentalist Moslem countries where complete veiling is enforced by law. In other Moslem countries this is not the case. The issue of veiling becomes significant where old customs and dress collide with modern ways of life, as in France, the adopted home of many Moslem immigrants.


Recently the French government began formulating a law, due to be enacted by the end of this year, banning the wearing of the niqab, or full body veil, on public transportation, in hospitals, universities, job centers, post offices, banks and other public offices. In truth the reasons for banning this dress are many, some political, some nationalistic, but some are practical. Clothing that impedes face-to-face contact in a business or professional transaction can present difficulties for all involved. Heavy veiling also impedes peripheral vision in busy traffic and is a safety issue for veiled women pedestrians and drivers.

A well-known French Moslem entertainer remarked, in criticizing the controversial new law, "People going down this street are racists... It disgusts me that they are laying down who are good French and who are bad French. France has a new face which strangely resembles my own..." The irony of this remark is that his face, open for all to see, clearly demonstrates his point, unlike the invisible faces of his veiled, female friends and family!

Our face is how we greet the world, wrinkles and smiles, eyes wide open, ready to interact and enjoy new experiences. No wonder that, from birth to death, face to face interactions are those we remember most of all.

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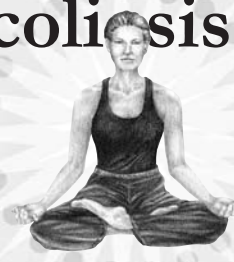

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A memorable getaway

By JOHN DOWNS

Perhaps for the only time in our lives, Virginia and I lived for two weeks with no television, newspaper, radio, or computer available. We told ourselves we wouldn't miss much news of importance, and we were right.

It was wonderful, and maybe we'll repeat the pleasure here at home once in a while. The only surprise was to come home to no snow.

Where to go for a vacation in February to keep warm and enjoy the sun and sea? Our dilemma was resolved by Barbara and Brendon Bernard from England, the daughter and son-in law of our very good friends, Bill and Anne Allen of Wheelock. They were taking Bill and Anne to Puerto Rico for

During the first several days there were at least three more temporary power outages, with all the inconveniences associated with a dysfunctional air conditioner, microwave oven, refrigerator, and three large fans. To offset this irritation, there was excellent swimming in the very warm ocean at the public beach, and we found a nearby resort hotel for a delightful Sunday dinner.

One day we took a ferry ride out to a small island filled with mangrove trees and small beaches. There were many small birds hopping around, reminiscent of beaches in Florida.

One never knows whom you might meet on a trip like ours. A retired doctor and his wife from England were on a trip around the world in a 50-foot sailboat. They will do it in stages, and probably take at least five years to complete circling the globe. When Brendon was talking with the doctor, he learned that they lived within a mile of each other in London!

Most people living on the island have a Spanish background, and many do not speak English. We couldn't have a conversation with several of the men working at Mary Lee's. Road signs are in Spanish, and all mileage signposts are in kilometers.

We visited several cities. San Germain was particularly beautiful with its old churches. Ponce, sometimes called the Paris of the south, was large enough so that it operated a small bus line to drive tourists around the city. A highlight was an area with many small red houses built by the city in which firemen lived many years ago. Imagine my surprise when I saw a Payless shoe store like the one at the Green Mountain Mall. Burger Kings were everywhere, but only a few McDonalds.

It was very hot much of the time, but it did cool off at night. In the middle of one afternoon I took a half-mile walk to see some gorgeous flowers that lined a highway. I was not tempted to walk again. This land at sea level is literally a dry and arid desert with the plant growth associated with one. However, a drive up into the nearby mountains provided a cooler environment with many sharply curved roads and stunning views. Even though Brendon had done most of his driving in England on the left-hand side of the road, he was a skillful operator of our six-passenger Kia vehicle under very challenging conditions.

We enjoyed the accommodations and people at Mary Lee's. We didn't let the events of the first few days spoil our vacation. After all, we were there to enjoy each other, the ever-present sun, sea, and swimming, and we really did!

Imagine my surprise when I saw a Payless shoe store like the one at the Green Mountain Mall.

two weeks, and encouraged us to tag along.

Puerto Rico is part of the United States and is a self-designated democratic commonwealth, as are Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Its residents are American citizens, but they have no vote and pay no United States taxes. We were told that there would soon be another national vote on whether it should become a state.

We were very fortunate. Brendon and Barbara had made all the plans, including our lodgings, and transportation. All we had to do was sit back and enjoy whatever they wanted to do, and pay our share of the expenses. We had two weeks with no responsibilities, and plenty of time to sightsee, swim, drink, and relax. We even played bridge for the first time in many years.

We had been in San Juan, Puerto Rico's capitol, about 45 years ago when we were en route to the Virgin Islands with our four small children. From what we could see of the city then, it seemed to be poor and untidy. We were relieved to take the small airplane over to St. Thomas. Today San Juan is a thriving city with many high-rise buildings, shopping centers, and all the services of an industrial and vacation metropolis.

It was dusk when we finally left for Mary Lee's by the Sea, a small ocean side resort in the southwest about 80 miles from San Juan. After shopping at a super market we finally arrived at about 10 p.m. Unfortunately, we were greeted with a temporary power outage, so we had to unload and unpack as best we could with the help of a flashlight.

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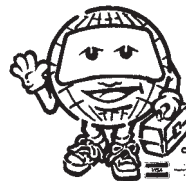
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VISA/MC/DISCOVER

Mountain engineers and headhunters

By Bill Amos

A Bontoc warrior patriarch sits in front of his badges of honor, the five skulls he took long before in combat with neighboring tribes. A young man could neither marry, nor be accepted, in his tribe without taking a head.



Trolling the Internet, I came across a picture of an Igorot dressed in T-shirt and blue jeans and wearing lightning-slashed Nike sneakers. He was talking on a cell phone. Stunned, I realized I'm a lifetime away from the world of my youth. For me, an American youngster living in the Philippines in the late 1920s and 30s, mountain-dwelling Igorots were a sturdy, headhunting warrior people largely unaffected by Western intrusion. Their inborn dignity and reserve made them much more interesting neighbors than iconoclastic lowland Ilocanos and Tagalogs, who populated our town.

But Igorots couldn't be missed on market days as they straggled down from the surrounding hills — bare-skinned men wearing scarlet G-strings, knotted and hanging knee-length front and back. Some sported pill-box caps of woven fiber, decorated according to the wearer's marital status. An occasional dandy wore an unbuttoned military jacket discarded long before by a Spanish-American War soldier hurrying home. A young blade, conscious of his warrior role, might spurn adornment and carry spear, shield and perhaps a shining head axe gracefully curved to fit a trophy victim's neck.

Women's finery consisted of a dark-colored striped

skirt and, rarely, a matching blouse wide open in front. Shell necklace and brass bracelets added to their charm.

They came rain or shine. Igorots never seemed to care about the constant downpour of the rainy season, shielding themselves with capes of spread-out cane leaves.

They were true mountain people, tough, resilient and able to trot up and down precipitous slopes, never out of breath. Splayed toes of their broad feet gripped every hostile surface. I wondered if their soles were as tough as shoe leather—probably tougher, I decided.

In 1927, we came to live in the remote, small mountain town of Luzon's Baguio, established not long before as the American Governor General's summer capitol. It is now Baguio City with an unbelievable population of 300,000, an airport, university, industry and tourist hotels. Perhaps some Igorots still attend today's Sunday market, now held in a huge mall-like building. They are likely clad in Western attire as the web photo showed. But I bet they won't be smoking crudely wrapped, ferociously rank, foot-long cigars kept going for a week, cached between smokes in sheltered tree crotches. Nor would they bring dogs to market held at length on bamboo poles, dismal animals destined for the barbecue pit.

Such scenes were uncomfortable to a Western boy, yet they were so time-honored among indigenous peo-

ple that my concerns were short-lived. Not my mother's, however. As a militant member of the Humane Society of the United States, she routinely stopped Igorots on the trail to berate them for carrying squealing, trussed-upside-down pigs and dragging those brown, skinny, woebegone dogs. Her official enameled HSUS badge sufficiently impressed the native folk to avoid being trussed up herself and taken away. The effect of her efforts lasted only until she was out of sight, after which pigs and dogs were quickly roped and taken to market.

I attended Brent School on the outskirts of Baguio, an American institution with a maintenance workforce of Ilocano and Tagalog lowlanders, and a few Igorots serving as gardeners.

Yet, this had once been native Igorot land. By the time we arrived, most of them lived out of town, their generally unaffected tribes stretching back into the hills. The entire cordillera region was their ancestral homeland, hence the name "Igorot," meaning "mountain people."

Malays were among the first to arrive in the Philippine archipelago around 10,000 years ago, long after the much earlier Negritos had occupied the islands. Successive waves of Malays pushed previous ones inland, eventually into steep mountains where agriculture was difficult if not impossible. They became the Igorots.

Like all Malays, Igorots were primarily rice-eaters, but

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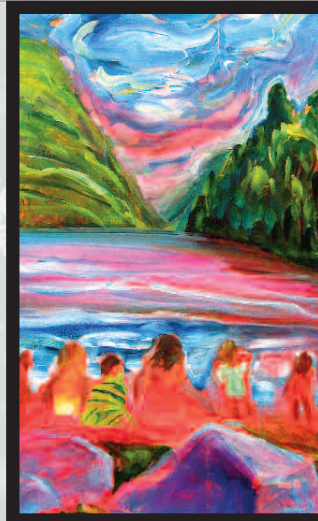
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Top left, a Bontoc warrior with head axe, war spear and shield. The disk on his waist is a large shell and his armbands are boars' tusks and tail bristles. Top right, Kalingas were the most formidable of all Igorot tribes. These young warriors are only carrying bolos (large knives), but clearly they are men you would not want to offend. Below left, an Ifugao warrior with distinctive turban, tasseled g-string and brass wire leg ornaments. Below right, a Veteran Bontoc warrior with long-bladed war spear. Hunting spears have short barbed blades.



rice is normally grown in low-land paddies. With almost no level places in the cordillera where they now lived, over 2,000 years ago these resourceful people began constructing horizontal rice terraces on precipitous mountainsides. It was a formidable undertaking that required leveling entire mountaintops to collect enough rainwater to channel down the layered steps from one flooded terrace to the next. The scope of the terracing grew over many centuries until its grandeur now awes jaded travelers who have visited Egyptian pyramids and other wonders. When I first saw how entire mountains had been sculpted, I could not believe it had been done by hand and not with heavy machines.

A number of tribes constructed rice terraces, none more impressive than those of the Ifugao in Banauw. Modern hydraulic engineers are astonished by their methods of regulating flow, their practical use of fluid dynamics and effective erosion control. Each mountainside drainage system allowed a thousand vertical feet of rice terraces to receive a regulated amount of water in which the staple aquatic grass could grow. That some terraces have been in use for over a thousand years reveals an efficiency rivaling anything in the Western world.

I remember looking across a deep valley at the opposite mountain wall with its rank upon rank of stepped terraces, each at a different elevation from others. I'd watch tiny ant-like figures of Igorots, men and women, moving along those narrow paths from one level to another. They attended not only the planting and harvesting of rice, but constantly maintained precise water levels by increas-

ing or damming the flow from one terrace to another.

Inevitably, cultural differences emerged. Separate Igorot tribes not only developed different ways and distinct dialects, but hostilities arose. Warfare was not a matter of gaining territory, nor did it have much to do with capturing individuals and property. Instead it was a matter of pride, of righting a wrong, almost an impulsive "need" to enter periodic combat. The taking of a head was the climax of action, and a warrior acquiring such a trophy immediately became an important figure in his tribal community.

Certain tribes engaged in headhunting more than others; the Kalinga were prominent in this—I have a Kalinga head axe given me by a supposedly reformed headhunter, its decapitating edge still razor-sharp. I learned to identify tribes by the shape of their head axes: Kalinga's were long and narrow, almost surgical in appearance, whereas Bontoc axes were broad and business-like. All had a long spur to the rear that I understood was to fix the axe blade upright in the ground.

Several major tribes could be reached on horseback from Baguio. Most were very isolated, some not yet accustomed to Western intervention, a couple hostile and warlike. We chose our trips with care, my father going places I was not allowed—but I managed pretty well.

We were privileged to attend an occasional Igorot cañao (festivity) that might last for days. Each tribe had its own ceremony and special dances, a few of which I learned well enough to repeat with steps and symbolic gestures.

We lived in Benguet coun-

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try, not far from the Bontoc border. Benguet dances might involve a hundred men and women performing their separate steps in large rings. They danced to the rich-throated sounds of ganzas, large hammered brass gongs. Nose flutes provided a gentle inter-dance reprise. (I still play my nose flute a little, but lacking flared nostrils cannot bring out its full haunting sound.)

The once-warlike Bontocs were known for their intricate courtship rituals. Greatly intrigued, we boys were never witness to the private goings-on that took place in large residential huts. Even if what we heard from older schoolmates had been embellished, pantomime dances we watched Bontocs perform fanned our interest.

Ifugaos, also historically warriors, were the great terrace-

builders of Banaue. Proud of their extraordinary accomplishments, they preferred not to think of themselves as Igorots— hoi polloi—although that was their heritage.

Of all the Igorots I knew as a boy, I felt uneasy only with back-country Kalinga, until recently the foremost headhunters. Handsome and powerful, they seemed to look longingly at my slender neck.

Kalingas and nearby Apayaos were guided in their daily lives by spirits that also directed their headhunting forays. One of my Bontoc Igorot friends, Peter Peron, told me one could never be sure of the Kalinga. And the Apayao, it was known, were the last holdouts against the American constabulary, never having been conquered in four centuries of Spanish occupation.

Peter Peron, an educated, dignified man in his thirties, taught me how to ride and care for my horse, a native pony my father bought for 14 pesos (7 dollars). I envied, but never was able to match how Peter sat upright on his horse, seemingly detached from the galloping creature beneath him. When my horse bolted, I was all over the saddle, bouncing in rhythm.

Exploring trails far into the heavily wooded hills, I'd come across Igorots on their way to market or moving between one settlement and another, banging devil sticks against their wrists to ward off evil. They were a proud lot and seldom showed surprise at a young Westerner riding in their midst, but never resentment. I'd get smiles from the young ones and once burst out laughing when I came across a group of young men decorating mid-road carabao (water buffalo) "pies" with flowers. Because the herd of carabao had been large, those big, flower-bedecked piles of manure stretched into the distance. It was one of the few times Igorot

humor (or sense of beauty) was apparent to an interloper like myself.

My father, Harold, traveled extensively in Igorot country meeting men and women of various tribes. A few feared his camera would capture their spirit, but most submitted willingly to his friendly overtures. His hundreds of photographs recorded an unspoiled world that no longer exists.

One photo catches an old warrior resting outside his hut, the group of skulls above his head proving his eminence in the village. An Igorot youth could not marry until a head had been taken, after which he was accepted into the community. Another picture, too gruesome for publication, shows a freshly severed head on the ground in front of a celebratory barbecue—of roast dog.

The Igorots in their natural state were a proud and independent people. Rubbing up against the Western world caused consternation on both sides. On one occasion an Igorot came to town and was told it was possible to ride in one of the small Opel taxis. He did so and was taken to see the sights, after which the lowland Tagalog driver let him off in the center of town and indicated payment in sign language, since they couldn't converse in a common tongue. The Igorot had no money, so he did the only sensible thing to avoid an argument: he took out his bolo and killed the man. Later he was incredulous and saddened that the authorities took him away from his everyday life and put him behind bars.

Another event took place nearby. An elderly American veteran of the Spanish-American War had gone into the hills after the war, married an Igorot woman and lived a full and

happy life. They were blessed with several children. In his old age, he decided to return to his American birthplace to die and be buried. A tearful and affectionate farewell with his family was too much for his sons to bear. On the trail down the mountain, two of them intercepted their departing father, told him how much they loved him, and killed him so his spirit and his mummy would be with them forever.

I was once privileged to visit a remote Igorot mummy cave with fellow Boy Scouts. We were reverent in this sacred place, awed by the smoked figures sitting in fetal position in bamboo frames. Some seemed to be yawning, others singing silently. We looked and tiptoed away. Are they still there?

A town north of us, Sagada, went one better with coffins suspended like giant cocoons across rock cliffs. I was told some of them were centuries old, but I never saw one in disrepair.

Death was an integral part of life for the Igorot. For those living near Baguio with its early 20th Century technology, this oneness could be preserved. I once passed a family group of several generations dressed in trouser-less finery, affectionately surrounding a recently deceased patriarch seated in a chair, formally attired with his hair neatly combed. Baguio's lone professional Filipino photographer was recording the scene for family posterity—and never more permanently than in my memory.

The Igorots of my distant youth, emerging with pride and determination into an unfamiliar world, must be respected for their adherence to traditional values in the face of change. I hope they have fared well.

I am lucky to have known them.

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SPRING CLEANING

BY LORNA QUIMBY

April is a good time to clean house—at least, in northeastern Vermont. By then you can remove the draft excluders at the foot of your old doors. It may even be possible to wash windows.

Surely, by April you will be able to open them and, as Maw used to say, “Let in some fresh air.”

I recently read an article on spring cleaning by our Pilgrim mothers. Graphic description of the accumulated filth and stench of their spartan households made Maw’s house seem spotless in comparison. But by spring Maw had had enough of wood and pipe smoke, being confined to the two small rooms heated by the furnace and the kitchen when the cook stove was going. There was the dirt tracked in from outdoors. And on the stairs, the one out in the shed in the ell and the other from the upstairs bedrooms to the front hall, were piles of stuff either to go up or down “when we get around to it.” In other words, it was time to “hoe out.”

“Hoeing out” was what girls were good for. We took magazines up to the hired man’s room, squirreled away our own goodies, put empty syrup cans on the stair shelf beside Dad’s Westerns, and moved outgrown clothing to the rag box in the hall closet. All kinds of goodies came to light, sometimes even the

Christmas ornaments. We opened the hall door and swept down the stairs for the first time in months. We’d mop the stairs when warmer weather came, we told ourselves at the end of a day of “hoeing out.”

Our Pilgrim mothers “hoed out” dirt-packed straw and swept a sand pattern over their floors, which were not boarded in the earliest times. Their stairs were ladders to a loft. Curtains and windows were luxuries yet to come. After a hard day’s cleaning, Dick’s grandmother, Mary Craig, once said, “Blessed be nothing!”

A lot of chores had to wait for warm weather. Washing curtains, especially Maw’s lace ones in the living room, required a good drying day. Some years those days never came, and the curtains had to wait until fall. Maw cleaned house on top of her other chores, and as the years went by, she had less and less energy for any extras.

Maw cooked and heated water for laundry on a wood burning stove, not over fires in a fire place. Maw remembered what it was to scrub floors with soft soap and how the lye took the skin off a

woman’s hands. And she appreciated not having to make soap. She could buy what she needed. Rinso and good old Fels Naptha took care of most soiled clothes and greasy floors.

Dad was thoughtful about taking off his boots in the shed, outside the kitchen door, so he didn’t track manure into the house as some farmers did. Maw said our house didn’t have to smell like a barn. Dad also hung his barn clothes in the shed except in the coldest of weather. If the eau de cow and little girls became too loud, Maw could always put some cloves on an ash shovel full of coals and walk about downstairs. But still, when Maw could open the win-

dows and doors, wipe down the wall paper, wash the woodwork and sometimes even the wide uneven floor boards, the downstairs smelled and looked better.

We girls were supposed to do our own rooms, and I usually spent most of spring vacation rearranging my furniture—the small commode, my bookcase, and a wooden box full of games and scrapbooks—sweeping down cobwebs and trying to scrub creosote off the floor by my door. The stub chimney for the furnace stood in my room. There were a couple of enameled basins, too chipped for any other use, to catch the creosote that dripped from the chimney. No matter how many waters I used, there was al-

ways a lingering acrid odor. (In another week or so, I’d shift my bits of furniture back to their original spot.)

I never realized how lucky I was compared to a small Pilgrim girl. She had to share a corn-husk filled pad on a trundle bed with her sisters and brothers or pallet in a loft. My room was warmed by the heated air that rose through a stove-pipe hole in the floor. I, in my flannel pajamas, could keep warm all by myself, under the quilts and blankets on my firm cotton-stuffed mattress. But we both, after a rigorous spring-cleaning day, would nestle down in our clean beds, in a good-smelling room and enjoy the virtuous feeling that a New England spring cleaning brings.

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Walden Hill Journal *with Jeff & Ellen Gold*

Apr. 2, 2009

A muddy, wet start to April. Our road is losing its frosty, stiff covering and turning to liquid, rutted ooze. The town is out grading, but it'll be a while before the road settles in again. The sun is playing hide and seek with the morning mist that thickens and thins, as clashing warm air rises up against the cold packed snow. Meanwhile robins are out spreading the good word that spring is in the making. A downy woodpecker is enjoying seeds from the suet. Hopefully the birds will finish off that cake before the hungry bears come out of hibernation. That'll be the last of the suet until next winter. Crocuses are in bloom in the receding snow by the Pope Library. Our vernal stream is gushing and glistening in the afternoon sun. The thermometer shows 60°. A few day lily shoots have ventured above ground, responding to the warming soil.

Apr. 5, 2009

We had some very white April showers overnight, covering all those bare patches with a blanket of snow. Globby white "blossoms" cling to the trees. A russet tint on the tops of the branches is the only hint that this is a spring snowfall and not the middle of winter. A flock of wild turkeys waddled across the back yard but quickly headed into the woods for shelter. One hopeful male gave his tail a brief fanning. The sun is making a weak attempt to shine through, highlighting white branches against a steel gray sky.

Apr. 11, 2009

After a setback into winter, we're continuing forward on the calendar. A neighbor was out on his lawn tractor raking the dried grass and sending up a welcomed aroma of awakening earth. A hint of grass clippings added to the vernal bouquet. Green shoots are poking through down in

the wet areas, with small leaves appearing; unfolding marsh marigolds in the making. Lush green moss on boulders and decaying logs leap out in the otherwise brown debris left by the melting snow. Robins are more prevalent in flocks now, not just the brave first few to arrive.

Apr. 12, 2009

24° with light snow flurries. Happy Easter. We seem to take one step forward and two backwards. I refuse to be discouraged and plan to repot some of my vegetable seedlings today. I'm trying bok choy this year and the sturdy stalks look ready to get out of their germinating pots and into something more substantial. Well the snow picked up some momentum and actually stayed on the ground. I guess in northern Vermont, people color Easter eggs so they can find them in the snow.

Apr. 17, 2009

It's been a perfect week for working outdoors; lots of sunshine and mild temps. The wind has picked up considerably today, bringing clouds and a feeling of colder weather in the making. I turned the garden yesterday, and Jeff dug out a swath to widen it an extra foot. We've done well with raking stones back into the drive. Shoots and leaves are beginning to sprout: tulips, lilies, primrose, poppies and lupine. The ground must be warming up. Snow still hangs on in the field and woods as well as by the house where roof snow has accumulated. The White Mountains continue to live up to their name.

Apr. 21, 2009

Gentle April showers are greening up the fields and swelling the buds on the lilacs. It's only 39° so a bit chilly to be too encouraging. I did manage to line dry our sheets yesterday, compliments of the wind, not the sun. It did feel good though to be

able to hang out the wash even as the snow lingers on. We picked up our first gallon of 2009 syrup. B is our preference since we use it mostly for cooking and want the rich maple flavor, not so much the sweetness. Slowly but surely we're putting winter behind us. The snowshoes are stored away and my winter boots are out of the mud room but close at hand, just in case. The snow shovel is still hanging by the door but the rest of the mud room has had a good cleaning and is in spring mode. My indoor gardening continues with several dozen seedlings in yogurt pots, filling up the solarium windows. Hopefully I can start using the cold frame in a few weeks. Basil is all that remains in their original small sprouting packs. They always seem slow to take off. Salad thinnings from all are good, concentrated flavor of what's to come.

Apr. 24, 2009

Bright sunshine and 64°. A very welcomed change from yesterday's 30's, textured rain and hail. The White Mountains have a fresh mantle of snow. Wood frogs are "quacking" so the muck must be warming up. I even had a quick froggy view, spread-eagle on the surface before he dove for cover. Flickers are back aerating the ground.

Apr. 26, 2009

High of 82° yesterday and that was up on the hill. It was a brief window into summer, with record breaking highs throughout the state. I did a first weeding in the asparagus bed and added some manure. Today's gentle rain is helping to percolate it down to where it's needed. I took a walk in the cooler woods. A few patches of snow remain. Trillium leaves with an occasional bud were visible among the leaf litter as were trout lily leaves. One lonely delicate yellow violet was in bloom. Several piles of droppings show that the deer have been in

the woods as well. I walked as far as the beaver dam that is now definitely defunct. Gushing water breeches both levels of the dam. I guess the beaver have moved on to alter another part of the watershed. Peepers added their shrill chorus as night settled in.

Apr. 28, 2009

After three days of 80°, sultry summer weather, we're back to the ups and downs of April in Vermont. Strong, blustery winds are ringing in a change, along with stormy, dark, dramatic clouds. The temperature has already dipped 20 degrees. We've put in most of the screens to open windows but will need to double latch them again. After all, we're not even through April yet. Some of the trees that were fooled into flowering will have a frosty shock coming.

Apr. 30, 2009

We're ending April with lots of spring green: bright green fields, softer pastel shades in the first leafing of the poplars. Fuzzy green fiddleheads are up amongst the spotted green trout lilies and darker green trillium leaves. Emerald green moss is the showiest green of all. Yellow is close behind with waxy marsh marigolds just beginning to open and paler trout lilies nodding their singular flowers. Forsythia is in bloom even at our elevation. Reddish florets on the swamp maples color the hills, bringing on Vermont's "other foliage season". Deer have moved back into the woods now that most of the snow is gone. We scared up two single deer at ponds; one along the logging road in the watershed and the other just off of Walden Hill Road. It's been a basically warm, very spring-like April. A rare treat to have an early spring, with days like these often hard to find in May. Even my garden is ready, "Moo Doo" and all.

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Sap Bucket Photo: Courtesy of Ruth Goodrich. All others by Jeff Gold.

Maple syrup is made from sap, collected from sugar maple trees in the brief period between late winter and early spring when nights are cold and the days are above freezing. The sap, which has run one drop at a time from spouts in the trees, is taken from individual buckets or by means of plastic tubing to the sugarhouse to be boiled and concentrated into sweet maple syrup. For a wonderful treat of the season ask about Sugar on Snow at a Vermont sugarhouse or see the instructions below.

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Sugar on Snow: "Sugar on Snow" parties have been a traditional spring-time favorite in Vermont for hundreds of years. Sugar on Snow is made by pouring hot maple syrup onto packed snow to form a taffy-like candy and is traditionally served with raised doughnuts, dill pickles and coffee. The pickles and coffee serve to counter the sweetness of the maple candy. To make your own Sugar on Snow heat pure Vermont maple syrup without stirring to 233°. Pour or drizzle (again without stirring) the syrup immediately over the packed snow to form a thin coating. The taffy is soft, so the easiest way to eat it is to wind it up with a fork and enjoy.

Perfect Easter bread



No Small Potatoes *with Vanna Guldenschub*

I think the perfect Easter or springtime bread is brioche. Brioche is an amazingly light and delicate bread with intense flavor.

It is a deceitful bread, often disguising itself as a chocolate filled pastry or a savory brunch item stuffed with sausage or just a plain bread longing for homemade jam. The airy and fluffy nature of brioche belies the number of eggs and the sticks of butter used in its dough. It rises high and is a beautiful sight for the cook who retrieves it from the oven.

If you think it is difficult to

make this French gourmet delight in your home kitchen you would be wrong. A normal kitchen stove will cook a brioche to perfection.

And, don't be afraid of the butter and eggs, we are all ready for this treat after the Lenten fast or the winter season in the Northeast Kingdom.

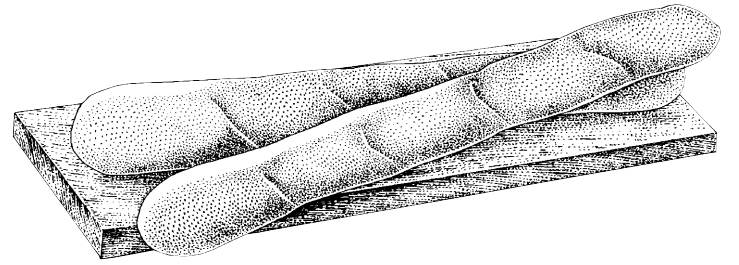
Helpful Hints

Ingredients: The temperature of your ingredients is important. Milk should be warm, but not hot enough to kill the yeast (105 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit.) Eggs should be at room temperature

and the butter should be very soft room temperature but not melted. The temperature of the butter is important because it will not integrate properly if it is too hard.

Time: Give yourself enough time to let the dough rise properly at every stage. There is a lot of yeast in this dough and it must be given the time to work its magic without leaving a too yeasty flavor in the finished product.

Machinery: I use a fairly heavy duty mixer to make this dough, but you can make it by hand. This recipe utilizes the mixer, but I will try to give 'by hand' instructions



along the way. If you really want good 'by hand' instructions, Julia Child in 'Mastering the Art of French Cooking - Volume II' does a great job of explaining (with illustrations) how to make brioche by hand.

Brioche Dough

- 2 ½ packages active dry yeast
- ¾ cup warm milk
- 4 cups white flour (unbleached)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup sugar
- 6 eggs
- ¾ lb butter (very soft)

The Sponge Stage:

This stage is an important one - it tames the yeast in this recipe.

Combine the yeast and warm milk in a bowl mix them until the yeast has completely dissolved.

Add ½ cup of the flour and mix well. Set this mix aside to rise for at least an hour. It will ferment and a 'sponge' will form. Put this sponge in the bowl of your mixer.

Mixing the Dough:

Add the salt, sugar, 4 eggs and the rest of the flour to the sponge and using the paddle attachment of your mixer, blend on medium speed until well combined. (By Hand - If you are going it by hand use a heavy duty wooden spoon and combine the above ingredients very well. It will take some muscle.)

Add the remaining 2 eggs and blend until very well mixed.

Add the very soft butter gradually into the mix until you have incorporated it all and a smooth

but very soft dough has formed. If it is too liquid (like pancake batter) you can add a little flour to make it more workable, but remember, the softness of the dough is important for this loaf. (By Hand - If using the 'by hand' method you will have to knead the dough at this point - it takes some flour on the surface and a scraper to get this soft dough to behave and incorporate the butter. Some bakers slap the dough down again and again to complete this step.)

Put the dough in a bowl for rising.

Cover it and let rise at room temperature for 3-4 hours.

It will be light and airy and almost tripled in bulk. Deflate the dough gently, cover it and put in the refrigerator overnight. After spending the night in the cold, this dough is ready to be deflated gently and formed into the many faces of brioche.

I give you a few ways to use your brioche dough - but feel free to get creative and make your own version. I like to make one plain and one stuffed item from the recipe - so the recipes below use half the dough. Use the cold dough right from the refrigerator in all the following recipes and do not handle it too much - the butter will get oily.

Plain Brioche Loaf

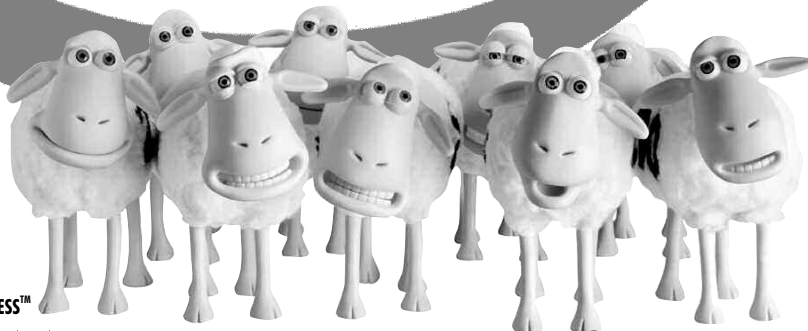
You can shape this dough many ways. The classic brioche is made by putting 3 small balls of dough in the bottom of a fluted brioche pan and one larger ball on top. I prefer making a long loaf in

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a bread pan. You can even use a muffin tin and roll three small balls of dough in each tin and top with one more small ball on top – remember to keep them small because the dough needs to rise.

Butter a bread pan. Take the dough out of the refrigerator – deflate gently and form rectangular shaped pieces of dough (each about the size of a deck of cards) and lay them in the pan on their side as though they were slices of bread. Cover the pan and let the dough rise at room temperature about 1 ½ hours. It will puff up past the top of the pan. Brush lightly with an egg wash and bake at 350 degrees for about 35 or 40 minutes - until the top is golden brown and it has a slightly hollow sound when you tap the loaf.

Let it sit for a few minutes when it comes out of the oven and then run a knife around the edge to loosen it and turn it out on a wire rack to cool.

I find that brioche is not as good hot from the oven as it is when it has cooled completely. After it has cooled you can peel each slice off without the help of a knife. The slices that you originally put in the pan will pull right off the loaf. If you want it warm - heat it again in the oven. It is ambrosia with homemade jam slathered on the top. You can toast brioche but I think it is better warmed in an oven.

Use this plain brioche in French toast and bread pudding recipes. It sounds decadent but it is very delicious.

Chocolate Brioche

An interesting dessert or a real tea cake

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
½ cup chopped nuts (optional)
½ of your chilled brioche dough

Pre-heat the oven to 375 degrees. Butter a loaf pan.

Roll the refrigerated dough into a 7x15 rectangle. Spread the chocolate chips and the nuts (if you are using them) into the cen-

ter of the dough and starting from the short side, roll into a tight log and pinch the seam to close it. Place the log in the buttered loaf pan – seam side down - put few quick slashes across the loaf (not too deep) - cover and let rise at room temperature about 1 ½ hours. The dough should no longer feel cool.

Brush the loaf with a small amount of beaten egg for a nice sheen and cook. Bake about 40 minutes – When the brioche is golden brown take it out of the oven and run a knife around the edges to loosen the loaf and turn out on a wire rack to cool completely.

Slice and serve with whipped cream and a hot beverage.

Sausage Brioche

Serve this for lunch or on an appetizer platter. It should slice well after cooling.

¾ lb of your favorite coarse ground sausage taken out of its casing
½ of your chilled brioche dough

Fully cook the sausage in a medium sauté pan and discard all the excess fat. Let cool before putting it in the dough.

Roll the dough into a long rectangle and spread the sausage filling down the middle. Bring each side of the dough to the middle and pinch the seam down the center. Form the dough into a circle and loosely attach the ends. Butter a bundt pan and gently put the circle of filled dough into the pan seam side down. Cover and let rise for about 1 ½ hours at room temperature. Brush with egg wash and cook around 40 minutes in a 375 degree oven.

It should be golden brown on top when cooked. Again, let this cool before serving. You can re-heat this brioche in the oven with good results.

Serve with a salad for a light meal or slice (after cooling completely) into rounds for an appetizer plate.

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when they gather in huge flocks in the spring, I wonder if they are just waiting for us to plant the corn. More likely, they are simply doing as the Native Americans around here did at this time of year; old folks catching up on the news while the youngsters go courting. A rural tradition has been to break up the celebration with a shotgun blast.

When I got my first gun, a beautiful .410 which I cherish to this day, I ran outside, giddy with joy, and bagged a crow which had inadvertently made a low fly-by at that very moment. Almost immediately afterwards, I was struck by an unexpected wave of guilt, a feeling which I have subsequently become more familiar with. At about that same time in my life, I was also caring for a crow which a camp counselor had tamed. My job was to feed it, which I loved doing. It was a lot more witty and fun than, say, a puppy, and in the years that have followed my appreciation of the intelligence of these creatures has steadily grown.

As we have gradually become less self-centered as a race ourselves, begrudgingly admitting, for example, that the earth goes around the sun, scientists have done a lot of interesting experiments with crows which clearly demonstrate that they are capable of abstract thinking and can envision, and then implement, a simple tool to reach food. Impressive as these experiments are, they don't surprise me. I enjoy watching the behavior of crows here on the farm, and I especially enjoyed watching them during a brief stint of teaching at Dartmouth. Those were crows with a college education.

Smart and sophisticated, the crows of Dartmouth knew all the campus routines. They

watched from the tall pines and patrolled the sidewalks, having developed a fondness for French fries and chips. Once, while enduring the long walk to my vehicle which my low rank necessitated, I came across a pick-up truck covered with crows. They had noticed that the unfortunate owner had left bags of household garbage in the back, and had opened the bags. Finding much to their liking, they had called all their friends and it looked just like Hitchcock's movie, too, except that the once black truck was so spattered with droppings it had zebra stripes. They had also discovered a rolled up ball of aluminum foil in the rubbish, and several were playfully tossing it back and forth like a frisbee. They had learned student behavior perfectly.

Less charming was what I saw taking place on the still water above the Arnold Falls hydroelectric dam in St. Johnsbury one morning. A mallard duck was trying desperately

to protect her small ducklings while a crow repeatedly dove at them and herded them closer to the edge of the dam. A second crow patrolled the shoreline, preventing them from coming inland. Soon enough, the ducklings were washed over the dam as the mother flew to safety. The crows then plucked the dead or stunned ducklings out of the water below the falls and flew off with them.

Just as it is a mistake to lament the cruelty of nature without looking at ourselves, it is also a mistake to place too much value on cleverness. We are privileged to recognize the commonalities of man and beast now and then, but then fail to take it one step farther. I believe that somewhere, just beyond the grasp of men and crows, true enlightenment comes with true intelligence. Meanwhile, as planting time rolls around, I think I'll keep the shotgun handy.

David Toll, M.D.

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>> Page 1

The song refers to the Bosstones' single "The Impression that I Get," which climbed to the top of charts in 1997 and sold 2 million copies worldwide. The mainstream success catapulted the Boston band into the mainstream after a long, successful run of sell outs in their hometown. A major record deal followed, as did appearances on primetime television and an international touring schedule.

Thirteen years later, Joe was looking for a new challenge when he accepted a position in LSC's new Music Business and Industry program. Only three years old, the program has more than 100 students, but then again, who wouldn't want to learn from someone with more than 20 years of experience playing and producing, as well as the founder of arguably the most successful ska band in music history.

Formed in Cambridge, Mass. in 1983, the eight-piece band is sometimes credited with the creation of the ska-core genre, a form of music that mixes elements of ska and hardcore punk. Ska is believed to have originated in Jamaica in the late 1950s as a precursor to reggae. The Bosstone's sound is hard to describe, but easily distinguished by the horn section and unique vocals.

The view from the Gittleman's kitchen table is tranquil; a quality the couple was seeking when they moved to the Northeast Kingdom last fall. It was an area they were modestly familiar with. Joe's uncle had a farm in West Glover and they'd vacationed in Greensboro. Apparently, that's all it took. Now, a large window is the only thing between Joe and 20 acres of thawing Peacham ground. Spring is close, but a small pond's icy surface is a gentle reminder of

change, something Joe is familiar with.

"The program at LSC was growing and they needed a full-time teacher," he says. When he applied for the job, he was hoping the institution would see past his lack of traditional teaching credentials and focus on his professional experience.

Obviously, they did. "They say experience makes the education, and they mean that."

In addition to his performance experience, Joe spent the last few years on the West Coast working for a small independent record label, Side One Dummy, as a recruiter and producer. He says the business side of the music industry has always interested him. In fact, that aspect of the industry always held sway over the Bosstones instead of the partying side of fame.

Teaching is a completely new challenge for Joe, but at least it's in his blood. Several members of his family either attended Harvard University, taught there, or both. Students at LSC can take classes like: Introduction to Music Industry, Publish & Copyright, Songwriting and Rock & Roll Form and Style.

The flexible teaching schedule allows Joe to rejoin his band for about 20 gigs a year, including three sold out concerts at the House of Blues in Boston this year. The Bosstones now live all over the world, according to Joe, but they started as a collection of friends from the greater Boston area.

The mainstream success of the band in the late 90s was actually the band's fifth full-length album and their grassroots success in Boston's music underground is a tremendous source of pride for their founder, who had no idea he had something special when he wrote "The Impression that I Get."

"When it comes to bands be-

coming famous, a lot of it is luck," he explains. "There's always some band being played on the radio and signing a big record deal. I have always been more proud of the work we did leading up to that point. To me, that was special. The band has always been about live performance, not commercial success."

Joe's performance in front of his students may be producing future leaders in the music industry, but he says it's not difficult to keep a level head when you're dealing with college-aged students. During a recent meeting with a student and mother, Joe was reminded of generation gaps. The student's mother noticed Bosstone memorabilia in Joe's office and asked her son if he remembered the band. The student insisted he didn't, but the mother persisted. As it turned out, the mother was remembering a Sesame Street video called "Elmopalooza," she used to play for her then toddler son.

The Bosstones were in good company on Sesame Street, joined by the likes of Gloria Estefan, John Stewart, En Vogue, Rosie O'Donnell, Steven Tyler, Jimmy Buffet and Celine Dion.

Humility, check!

Unlike Sesame Street, the music industry wasn't all fun and games. A topic of great passion for Joe is the current trend of illegal music downloads, or bootlegging. It's a cause he has devoted much of his mind and a little of his body to fight for.

In 1993, the Bosstones were touring with the Stone Temple Pilots in Italy. After the concert, Joe and the rest of the band noticed an Albanian vendor selling unlicensed merchandise. Joe grabbed a handful of tee shirts and threw them into the crowd.

"That turned out to be a stupid move," he says. The vendor pulled a knife and stabbed Joe in the side, nicking his lung. To



make matters worse, Italian officials determined the band was in the wrong since vendors in Italy need only a government license to sell their goods.

Internet bootlegging, or illegal music downloads dealt a vicious blow to the music industry in the mid 90s, according to Joe, including cutting CD sales in half. Simply speaking, this underground phenomenon began with Napster, a free program computer users downloaded which gave them the ability to retrieve music tracks from Napster's database for free. It was created by a student at Northeastern in Boston. According to Joe, labels threw an inordinate amount of effort at shutting Napster down. They were successful to a degree, but the train had already left the station. Various other free music downloaders started appearing across cyberspace, and they had a distinct advantage over their predecessor when it came to fighting record companies, their music was not stored in a cen-

tralized database. Users all over the world were downloading music directly from each other's computers. This made legislation, detection, and enforcement difficult.

The Internet changed the music industry landscape, according to Joe, but plenty of artists, the Bosstones included, are using new technology to their advantage. Recent album releases are being distributed digitally, through reputable Internet companies that offer either a pay as you go or a subscription-based payment system.

Some aspects of the business have changed for good, says Joe. Where in the past, artists toured to promote their latest album, now the album has become something artists produce so they can tour.

While he's sitting in his kitchen with a giant glass of tea, it's hard to picture Joe as an energetic bassist dancing around on a stage. It seems like time with his students or at home in Peacham is both rewarding and

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Follow the Money

FROM DEBT TO ETERNITY

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



“Our Constitution is in actual operation; everything appears to promise that it will last; but nothing in this world is certain but death and taxes.”

- Benjamin Franklin

This time of year, it is taxes that command our attention, and less so their partner in citation, death. Paired for their certainty, the quote is most often heard as a commentary on the inevitability of government robbing the citizen of deserved income, just as death robs us of life itself. And just as we have created a myriad of financial structures to defy taxes, so we have tried to defy death.

The most obvious attempt is the idea of inheritance, the idea that wealth can survive its creator and be passed along to another. Insurance acknowledges the certainty of death but tries to hedge its effects, as the devil is in the details, particularly in timing. Our boldest defiance of death is our creation of the corporation, itself an organic entity not dependent on its owners for life, but only for the nourish-

ment of capital.

The idea of the corporation or the joint-stock company has been around for a few centuries. It was a solution to the problem of pooling large sums of capital from many investors, the very number of whom diluted investor control. Limited liability insures that an investor cannot lose more than invested, cannot be liable for additional debts of the company itself. And there is debt, as it quickly became apparent that capital could go even further if so augmented, that equity could be more useful as collateral than as capital.

Shares can be traded and will last as long as the corporation does; for a price, anyone can buy a share of eternity. Debt is finite, having a maturity when principal must be repaid. While there is risk in assuming that obligation, there is also

a discipline imposed by its conditions.

But debt is also an attempt to defy reality, to live beyond our immediate means, and it turns out that debt may not be as finite as it seems. It, too, can outlive its creator and be handed down just as wealth can be. It can be “rolled over” so that its lifespan renews and maturity extends. It can be “refinanced” or renegotiated so that its more onerous burdens can be relieved or at least deferred. It can be insured against or hedged, indemnifying the lender or spectator willing to place a bet. And it turns

out that debt can be refashioned as stock. Securitization pools debt and then slices it into fund shares. It allows debt redemption to become collateral, and lenders to become leveraged.

In 1752, Britain’s Chancellor of the Exchequer converted all outstanding government bonds into consols or consolidated annuities. They had no maturity, and because of their long—theoretically infinite—life, they paid a low rate of interest, decreasing the cost of the government’s debt. Their interest rate has been lowered over the years, and a provision added in 1903 allows for their redemption by an Act of Parliament, but those consols still exist. The sun may have set on much of the British Empire, but its debt—used to finance the colonization of that very empire—lives on.

In the last decade, we have seen more of the damage that debt can do. Our manipulations of its disciplinary bounds have led to a false sense of security that has led to a misguided reliance. It was too tempting to cash in on equity, so we ignored the risks of turning assets into leverage with the faith that all can be refinanced, renegotiated,

or consolidated. We flew too close to the sun.

Franklin and his colleagues were trying to create a government independent of its creators, a government that could be passed down to successive generations of shareholders—the political equivalent of the corporation.

Like a corporation, our government has used its contributed capital as collateral, leveraging our productivity with plenty of debt. While we haven’t openly gone quite so far as to issue perpetual bonds, we have created a debt of such enormity that it seems endless and banal. Will the eventual redemption of our debt deny us our shot at eternity? Or will its sun still shine long after ours has set?

Our alternative to government debt is taxes, that is, a government can really only tax or borrow. Perhaps the certainty of taxes comes not from the government’s appetite for income but from its—and our—eternal desire to live beyond our financial lives.

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



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Jake Wheeler, above, at home in Burke Hollow tying flies. Below, some of his work, including "magog smelt" and "Blue Charm."



Quiet time in a busy world

Photos and Article By Donna Garfield

While visiting Jake and Cathie Wheeler at their home in Burke to interview Jake on the topics of fly fishing and fly tying, Oliver and Liam, the Wheelers' two black cats, settle on the couch and listen in on the conversation.

According to Jake, the Willoughby River is the place to be for opening day of trout season in the Northeast Kingdom. This year it begins on Saturday, April 10. He sets his alarm for 3:45 a.m. and then heads to the river to throw out his line and relish the joy of fishing on opening day. Jake says, "I'll fish until 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. and then go to breakfast. Then I either go back fishing or pack it in."

For Jake, fishing has been a part of his life since he was a child. His father, Jim Wheeler, was the first one to take him fishing.

"We would visit my grandparents just north of Boston near the ocean. I had a cane pole about 8-10 feet long. It didn't have eyes, guide, or a reel. We would tie a hook on the end, put a sinker somewhere above the hook, and go down by the rocks wearing life jackets. I was 4 or 5 years old."

When Jake was 12, he received a fly-tying kit as a gift from his parents. The kit had feathers, a small vice, a bobbin, thread, and a book with instructions. "I tried and I wasn't very good at it. I could tie a streamer and a Mickey Finn. Those were kind of easy. A Mickey Finn is a traditional old

streamer fly that uses red and yellow deer hair." Jake's first fly rod was a fiberglass Fenwick. "I received it as a graduation gift from high school and still have it."

Jake was born in Boston. Growing up, he enjoyed baseball, football, hockey, basketball, running, and swimming. He attended Harvard and graduated in 1970, took a year off to do some military service and was in the Army Reserves, and then graduated from Boston University Law School in 1974.

Jake and Cathie lived in Boston when they were first married.

"We spent some of our spare time commuting north to hike, camp, and ski. I liked being in a place where fishing was more readily available. We looked at northern New England pretty hard. Long term, we wanted to be some place where we weren't commuting three hours on the weekend to go north to do the things we liked to do."

Jake was hired at the law firm of Downs Rachlin & Martin (DRM) in 1974, and he and Cathie moved to St. Johnsbury. He has been practicing law since then and is now a partner at DRM. In 1975 Jake and Cathie moved to Burke where their property has frontage on the East Branch of the Passumpsic River. They raised two daughters, Erin and Emily.

By the late 1980s, Jake started fly tying seriously

"The more fly fishing I did, the clearer it became to me that I could have much more flexibility and creativity tying flies I needed rather than finding some place to buy them."

For fishing Willoughby River, Jake uses a graphite fly rod that is 10 feet long and weighs 3 ounces. The reel weighs 6-8 ounces and carries a 7-weight line. He has several spinning and fly rods of different weights. The lower the number, the lighter the rod. Where you are fishing, how far you are casting, what fish you are catching, and what flies you are using all determine the gear you use. Fly fishing has three steps that resemble the movements of a metronome arm.

"I'm self-taught so I'm not an expert. The concept is that your line is in the water, you bring the

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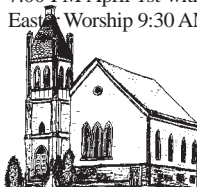
Ecumenical Men's Breakfast: First Saturday; 6:00 AM to cook, 7:00 AM to eat. All welcome, by donation.

Do Good Work help with ongoing projects to benefit soldiers in Afghanistan or victims of disaster around the world. Call Cher for more info at 684-2528.

Senior Meal Site: Join others for a time to visit and enjoy a great meal. Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon; by reservation; call Karen for more info at 684-3903

AA Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 PM in the church fellowship hall.

Special Holy Week Services: Join us for the Ecumenical Holy Thursday service, 7:00 PM April 1st with community choirs. Easter Sunday Breakfast 8:00 AM and East Worship 9:30 AM. All welcome.



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rod back to a stop and think of the 11 and 1 numbers on a clock. You need to make sure you pause because you want a good fly cast. If your back cast is good, you stop and pause and let the line straighten out and then you bring it forward.”

Fishing can be dangerous as river bottoms are naturally slippery. Jake explains, “When I’m fly fishing, I’m usually in the river. There aren’t a lot of banks to cast from because of trees. I wear sneakers and pants but always wear waders and felt soled-boots or boots with cleats over the feet of the waders so I won’t slip. I have started using a wading staff for balance.”

Animals show up on trips, too. “I have seen bear but not up close while fishing. The closest I ever came to a bear was in the cornfield in Burke where I was 15

point of land with the lake all around us and when you lift off, the helicopter’s nose goes down so it looks like you are plunging into the water. He couldn’t use the normal flight path so he said he was going to fly along the Kenamu River. I thought that wasn’t a bad idea until I realized that the Kenamu River was a big gorge. We were flying at tree level right down the river. We made it but we were late for our flight.”

Another trip Jake remembers is when “Gordon Mills went with my Dad and me to Goose Bay. We were scheduled to fly out of Goose Bay in the morning to get into camp on a float plane. The flight is about 40 or 50 miles from Goose Bay. The pilot, whose wife was the cook at the camp, had a little miniature dog that she wanted at camp so the dog was on

Opening day draws me to get cobwebs out, it’s a new year, you see old friends, and it’s less about catching fish than being out, putting your line in the river, and standing in the middle of the river. It’s spring, rebirth, and regeneration...

feet away from one when I was out running. I have seen moose walk up the middle of the York River and the East Branch of the Passumpsic River.” On his fishing trips, he has seen doe, bald eagles, otters, beavers, muskrats, caribou, ducks, mergansers, blue herons, foxes, and coyotes.

Jake enjoys fishing in many local rivers such as the Willoughby, Clyde, Upper Connecticut, Black, Barton, the East Branch of the Passumpsic, and in ponds. In late June he heads to the Gaspé Peninsula in Canada where he fishes for Atlantic salmon on rivers like the York, Dartmouth, St. Jean, Matapedia, Bonaventure, St. Paul, and Pabos.

Jake and his father have made several trips to Coopers’ Minipi Camps in Goose Bay, Labrador, along with a group of other fishermen.

“My Dad was always the hit of the trip. He has a good sense of humor, a lot of good life experiences, and is very self-effacing.” Fishing with his father has made many good memories and they still reminisce about their trips.

Some of the trips in and out of Labrador were interesting. Jake explains, “At one time, the U.S. Air Force base was fully staffed in Goose Bay. The NATO air forces all trained there during the Cold War because it was the closest to the terrain and geography of the Soviet Union. One time we flew to the Coopers’ new camp at Goose Bay. When we were scheduled to fly out, it was foggy and raining. We were concerned we weren’t going to make our next flight. Finally, a helicopter came in and picked us up. The fog rolled in again. The pilot said we were going to go. I was in the co-pilot’s seat. We were out on this little

the flight. We took off fine, got over the Churchill River, and started to turn and head up the river. The dog started barking in the back and all of a sudden the pilot was paying a lot more attention. Gordon and I were in the second set of seats and the engine started to sputter a little bit and we saw oil spraying all over the windshield. The pilot was as cool as could be and said we were just going to circle around and land on the river. We were trying to process all of this and sure enough he landed on the river and taxied along to a spot. We made it back to dry land without incident. I have a terrific picture of my Dad kissing the ground when he stepped off the pontoons of the plane. If it had been 15 or 20 minutes later and we were out in the bush, it would have been a different situation.”

The biggest fish Jake ever caught was a 35-pound Atlantic salmon. He may keep a couple of fish a year to eat but mostly practices catch and release. “The area up here had 2-5 pound brook trout as native fish and we overfished them. I don’t begrudge people keeping fish if they are really going to eat them. I have been foolish enough to keep large fish and have them mounted but I won’t do that any more.”

Where in the world would he like to go fishing? Jake would like to have the summer to fish as many salmon rivers as he could in northern Quebec. He would also like to fish in Alaska, New Zealand, Chile, Patagonia, and the mountains out west. As he describes it, “Fishing is my contemplative time. Any place you go to fish is great.” Probably at the top of his list is the Kola Peninsula in



Photo by John Hall

Vermont’s trout fishing season begins April 10 this year. This son and dad team fished the Winooski River last spring.

Anglers gear up for spring trout fishing

Vermont’s opening day of trout fishing is a day that many anglers look forward to each spring. This year trout fishing begins Saturday, April 10; anglers are already gearing up for another year of great brook, brown and rainbow trout fishing.

“There are plenty of wild trout throughout the state, and many that were stocked earlier in lakes and streams to support spring fishing,” said Vermont Director of Fisheries Eric Palmer. “The Willoughby River steelhead provide a great spring fishery in the Northeast Kingdom around the Village of Orleans, and some of the largest brown trout caught each year are taken in April.”

Vermont’s 2010 stocking schedule will be available later this month on the Fish and Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) under the “Fishing” category. The site is interactive, so you can enter the body of water, town or species of fish and see what fish will be stocked and those waters that have already been stocked. Lakes and ponds are first to receive fish in the spring, while rivers are stocked later after the high water runoff has passed.

As an added bonus, Vermont’s catch-and-release bass fishing season in lakes starts the same day as trout season on April 10 and continues through June 11. Only lures and flies may be used, and bass must be immediately released.

Anglers are reminded to use sinkers that are not made of lead. It is unlawful to use a lead sinker weighing one-half ounce or less while fish-

ing in Vermont. Weighted fly line, lead-core line, downrigger cannonballs, weighted flies, lure, spoons, or jig heads are not prohibited.

Planning a Vermont spring fishing trip is easy. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has a 2010 Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping that includes maps showing lakes and streams as well as fishing access areas and public lands. It also lists the fish species found in each body of water and it includes fishing regulations. Copies are available where fishing licenses are sold, or from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0501. Tel. 802-241-3700. You also can download sections of the publication from their website.

The Vermont Outdoor Guides’ Association offers help in locating fishing guides and some overnight facilities on their website (www.VOGA.org). Additional help in finding a place to stay overnight can be found at (www.VermontVacation.com).

Fishing license fees are \$20.00 for adult residents, \$8.00 for residents 15-17 years of age, \$41.00 for adult nonresidents, and \$15.00 for nonresidents 15-17 years old. One, three and seven day fishing licenses also are available for nonresidents. Children under age 15 do not need a fishing license in Vermont. Licenses are available at agents statewide and from Fish & Wildlife’s website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Russia. He describes it as “probably the best salmon fishery in the world.”

In retirement, Jake says he would “enjoy doing custom fly tying for people.... I wish I had taken the time to learn tying when I was a kid because now it would be second nature.”

Tying a fly depends on the pattern, but it takes anywhere from 5 to 30 minutes. Jake does not tie for presentation but for use. He ties year round. This winter he tied around 100 flies. He chuckles when he says, “You never have enough flies when you go fishing.”

Some of the materials used to tie flies include feathers from partridge, turkey, pheasant, ducks, and ostrich, and fur from deer, elk, moose, coyote, bear, skunk, and fox. The feathers and fur are sometimes dyed to become beautiful colors. Exotic birds, heron, anything that is protected, or endangered species cannot be used. Jake’s conversation is punctuated

by names of his favorite flies such as soft hackle streamers, green highlander, tiger ghost, same thing murray, blue charm, undertaker, magog smelt, and grey ghost. He has his own version of a fly that he has named PHISH fly.

For five years, Jake presented fly fishing and fly tying at the traditional Craft Day at the Fairbanks Museum. He adds, “The one thing I worry about is when I go to the Willoughby River on opening day, the number of anglers is decreasing. For the next generation and the generation after that, there aren’t as many younger folks as there were when I first started. We haven’t done a very good job of mentoring. It’s the future if you are going to have a healthy fishery. You need to have anglers of all generations.”

Fishing creates long-lasting friendships such as the one with Pete and Ann Henderson, friends who fish each year on the St. Paul River with Jake. “I have been able

to share a canoe with each of them which has probably been some of the most fun times of fishing I have ever had except with my Dad.”

What draws him to fishing?

“Opening day draws me to get cobwebs out, it’s a new year, you see old friends, and it’s less about catching fish than being out, putting your line in the river, and standing in the middle of the river. It’s spring, rebirth, and regeneration. I like to catch fish, but the more remote the setting, the more contemplative it is for me. To me, it’s a way to commune with nature and some of it is fairly primitive.” Jake has a busy law practice and fishing is a time to get away. His philosophy is that “Vacation is vacation. Fishing is fishing. Business may be talked about in the car on the way to the airport and maybe on the way back, but when you’re in camp, you’re in camp.”

Perhaps Jake has the right idea.

'Color Moves'

Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild

The Back Room Gallery at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild in St. Johnsbury presents an exhibition of Karen Dawson's oil and acrylic paintings. On view from March 9 through April 26, these spirited, energy-filled images give new meaning to "landscape painting." The subjects are familiar local scenes, far away places, and intimate close ups of the natural world, interpreted in vibrant color and lively forms.



There will be an artist's reception on Saturday, March 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. The public is invited.

Karen Dawson says "Color leaves language and theory in

the dust! Color is arresting when it is right."

She credits her mother, an art teacher, for her wonderful

color observation and color use. She says, "a little bit of all colors in every color became part of the fabric."

Dawson lives and works in Burlington, and exhibits throughout Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. She says, "for the last 18 years I have been operating a visual art studio in the Lakeside Neighborhood, in Burlington, Vermont, with 30 to 50 paintings in the works at any given time. During the warm months I paint out doors. Studio refinement takes place in the winter, and in the run-up to exhibitions! I wish to "be the kind of person on whom nothing is lost," as John Keats once advised. Everything feeds my art, not the least of which are the 4 art classes a week I have been facilitating at the local correctional center since 1998. Through all of my work I hope to promote empathy, and a world view in which entropy and emergence can coexist; and most of all, find HOPE. We need an injection of sanity into our lives, and art can do that for us all.

Among her favorite artists are Emily Carr, Wayne Thibaud, Friedenreich Hundertwasser, and Frank Gehry.



'Watercolor and Willow'

Opens April 29



The Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild welcomes Bert Dodson and Zelma Loseki.

"Watercolor and Willow" opens on April 29 and runs through June 17. There will be an artists' reception on May 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. The public is cordially invited for wine and cheese.

This exhibition will display the work of a husband and wife team who work in different, but complementary media.

Zelma Loseki's freeform sculptures of paper and vine incorporate paper made by a process she developed, using willow readily available by her home near the Connecticut River. She has exhibited widely and has been selected for the prestigious annual craft shows in Philadelphia and The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Bert Dodson is a talented and prolific draftsman, painter, teacher, author and illustrator. He has illustrated over 80 books for children, and is the author of the best-selling "Keys To Drawing, Keys to Drawing with Imagination," and "NUKE, A Book of Cartoons," among others. He was animation designer for the four part PBS television series Intimate Strangers (1998). He illustrated over 30 opera stories for children, a series commissioned by the New York Metropolitan Opera.

For further information call Joan Harlowe, (802) 467-3701.



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This was a day to good to miss

By BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

I lay in bed, looking out on that sparkling Saturday morning, the middle day of a week of sparklers we were blessed with this March. Random thoughts were tumbling through my head, and out of nowhere I said to Peter, "What is the name of that pub we like to go to sometimes?"

Well, he wasn't even awake at that point. There was a pause – I could almost hear his brain cells struggling to get going. Then, "Mmmm, Pilsen." Good old Peter – he came through again. "Yes, Pilsen!" I said with a rush of nostalgia.

A little while later, we wandered into the kitchen to make some breakfast. The sun was streaming in all the windows, it seemed, and we were both awake by that time. Peter was counting out vitamin capsules when I said, "Why don't we go to Pilsen for lunch?"

Another pause. He stared at me as though I had come unbidden. Then, "You mean, today?" His voice rose to a little higher pitch than usual. I could hear his grey cells scraping together

again – now they were awake, but confused. "Why not?," I said. "Look at this day! It's just too good to miss – nobody needs us today."

Slowly, his face brightened. "Why not, indeed?," he grinned, and we began to swing into action, including a quick breakfast and a brief outing for our dog. I remembered to grab our passports – quite a good idea at the border now – and we were off!

The day was even more dazzling when we got out in it. We were soon cruising on the Interstate, and as we coasted along we could feel ourselves relaxing, since there was no need to hurry. In less than an hour and a half, we would be where we were going. We were surprised to see how few cars were on the road on this beautiful spring-like day.

The countryside in the Eastern Townships is always pleasant – mostly open farm land, slightly rolling, with trees clustered around the farmhouses and buildings. It is the beginning of feeling that you are in a foreign country, with French and metric signposts everywhere, even though you are only 50 or so miles from home.

The pub we were aiming for, called Pilsen, sits in the village of

North Hatley, at the northern tip of Lake Massawippee. The lake is good-sized and nestles among low wooded hills. The day we had picked was intensely blue and sparkly. Pilsen hove into view as we drove down the hill into the village. We found a better parking spot than usual and found a table by the window. We decided the outside deck would be a little chilly in March. A river runs right by the windows and into the lake only fifty yards away. Later in the season, one would see ducks in the river, but now they were probably snuggling in their nests.

Soon the lunch crowd came in, with much laughing and chatting. Every bit of the chatter was in French. We glanced at the menu, but we had already pretty much decided on our lunch. It was to be

'Ploughman's Lunch,' which is our favorite. It offers several varieties of cheese, caramelized onion, country paté, grapes and crusty bread. We chose a mild local beer that went very well with it. For dessert, we shared a very tasty maple crème brûlée. We took our time as we sipped coffee and discussed plans for our return drive.

Again, the route we chose was a familiar one. By family tradition, it is known as a "fribsy way," meaning a different way home. To get to the desired road, we went through the city of Magog. We enjoyed creeping up the main street and watching the hundreds of people window-shopping and basking in the mid-day sun. We picked up our road as we left Magog and headed south. Within a couple of miles, the traffic thinned out markedly as we got

back out into the country. We saw a few hikers and the odd bicycle, but few cars.

We thought we would stop and browse in the village store in Georgeville, about halfway from Magog to the border crossing. It is a special store that carries all sorts of exotic canned goods, cheeses, and baked goods. This time we just picked up a few treats to share with friends and continued on our way.

We passed by beautiful Fitch Bay and some granite country. When we got to the border, there was virtually no activity – definitely not tourist time yet. As we barreled down I-91, I thought how lucky we are to have the opportunity to go for a day's trip to a "foreign" country that is so friendly and just enough "different" to make us feel adventurous.

National library week at Athenaeum

In honor of Anne Dillard's book, *The Writing Life*, the most circulated non-fiction title of 2009 and in celebration of the many talented writers in our community, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum will host "The Writing Life: an evening of readings" on Wednesday, April 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Writers must sign-up to read in advance and time will be allotted according to the number of readers on the list. Writers are asked to read solely from their own work in any genre they choose.

Light refreshments will be served. The public is encouraged to come, relax and listen to the stories, poems and essays of our neighbors and friends.

Please call Lisa von Kann at the Athenaeum (802) 748-8291 to sign up.

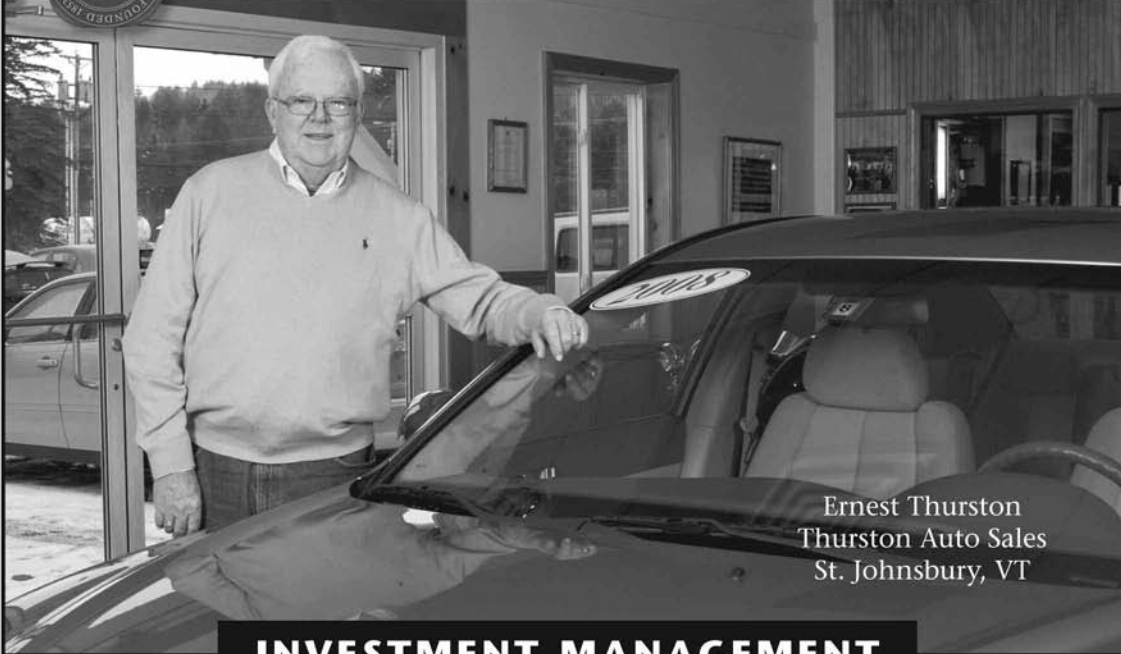


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Catamount Arts

<<April Films>>

- »Broken Embraces/*The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus* (4/2-4/8)
- »Green Mountain Film Festival (4/9-4/11)
- »Me & Orson Welles/*2010 Oscar Short Films* (4/12-4/15)
- »Fish Tank/*Burma VJ* (4/16-4/22)
- »Crazy Heart/*Kenny* (4/23-4/29)
- »Edge of Darkness/*North Face* (4/30-5/6)

<<Live Performances>>

- »SAT.3: The Met Live in HD - "Hamlet" Encore - 1 p.m.
- »THURS.8: OSHER - "A Conversation on Dance," 1:30 p.m.
- »THURS.15: OSHER - "Our Fashionable Future," 1:30 p.m.
- »SAT.17: Haiti Benefit Concert with Walker Storz, 2 p.m.
- »THURS.22: OSHER - "Block Painting: One Artists Aproach," 1:30 p.m.
- »THURS.22: National Theater - "The Habit of Art" Live," 2 p.m.
- »SAT.24: National Theater - "The Habit of Art" Encore," 2 p.m.
- »THURS.29: OSHER - "My Visual Philosophy," 1:30 p.m.
- »SAT.1: The Met Live in HD - "Armida" Live - 1 p.m.

<<Special Events>>

- »FRI.2: Artists' Reception - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- »April 9-11: Green Mountain Film Festival - 3 Days of Film Excitement on 4 Screens
- »SAT.13: The Neolithic World of Stone - lecture by Bob Manning - 3 p.m.

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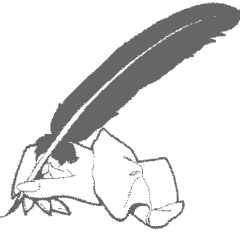
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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

By Lynn A. Bonfield



At mid-nineteenth century, the industrial revolution summoned and more than twelve hundred Vermont girls answered and began to work away from the family farm and earn wages for the first time.

The more educated girls went into teaching and those with less education did domestic service or factory work. Between 1830 and 1860 tens of thousands of young, single women went to Lowell and other New England mill towns. Among those going to the factories to operate the new machines was Persis Edwards of Barnet. In April 1839, she wrote from Nashua, New Hampshire, to her cousin, Sabrina Bennett (born 1817):

"I work in the mill like very well enjoy myself much better than I expected am very confined could wish to have my liberty a little more but however I can put up with that as I am favored with other priveleges. . . I think if nothing in providence prevents I shall stay here untill fall. It seems

now a long time since I left home am almost homesick sometimes."

Persis's aunt, Malenda M. Edwards (born 1809), also worked in Nashua, and added a few lines to the letter:

"I am a factory girl and that I am at Nashua and I have wished you were here too but I suppose your mother would think it far beneath your dignity to be a factory girl. Their are very many young Ladies at work in the factories that have given up milinary dessmaking & shool keeping for to work in the mill. But I would not advise any one to do it for I was so sick of it at first I wished a factory had never been thought of. But the longer I stay the better I like and I think if nothing unforesene calls me away I shall stay here till fall."

Historian Deborah P. Clifford wrote of "the long hours and unrelenting pressures of factory work," but she noted that "compared to the drudgery and isolation of farm life, sixteen hours in a textile factory spent with people one's own age had distinct advantages, at least for a time." She added that "it paid better than most occupations open to women in the years before the Civil War. Above all it provided these farm girls with a degree of social and economic independence they could not have achieved in any other line of work." Another historian, Melanie Gustafson, claimed that "the mills functioned for women the way western migration did for men. Working in the mills taught women to think and act independently."

In 1840, Persis returned to Barnet and wrote again to her cousin. After describing the family troubles, she wrote of her dream of learning a trade, but her relatives, who had the means to help her, would not as she was not up to their standards; she was poor. Persis proposed that Sabrina, who had left her shop earlier due to ill health, spend the summer in Vermont and teach Persis the millinery trade. Persis hinted

at the possibility that they might open a shop in Barnet. As there are no ads in the Caledonian or indication in Walton's Vermont Register, it seems that Persis's dream came to naught. She was another farm girl with little education and no financial backing, who found it difficult to find gainful employment. Letters from girls in her position are rarely preserved.

Barnet [Vermont]
April the 18[,] 1840

My very Dear Coussin

I received your letter dated jan 24 after a long time it layed in the [post] office. Be assured it met with the most hearty welcome was read over & over again & again. It brought to mind the many social hours we have spent together which are now past. . . .

When I came home last fall found Sister E[liza] confined with the Fever. She recovered in a few weeks then Mother & Alcemena were confined at a time & myself likewise. After we got better Almira & John they get about then James was sick about three weeks. The first day of january Father froze his foot was not able to work for five or six weeks. The first day he went to work, the boys went into the woods with him to chop wood James cut his foot was not able to go to school for three weeks & so we have had one trouble after another ever since I came home till this Spring. We are now all enjoying good health, which above every thing else we should be thankful for. I feel as though it was through the Goodness & Mercy of God that we are spared. It can surely be

nothing we merit from our own goodness. . . .

I do not know what my employment will be this Summer. Mother is not willing I should go to the Factory. I thought some of learning the Milleners & Dress-makers trade but have failed in the attempt. I wrote to Uncle Bryants folks to know if I could get in there to Haverhill . . . They thought it would be rather inconvenient for them to board me if I could get in. You may well know the reason that I am not popular. Cousin Ann [Blake] is the top of Haverhill Corner she had a Broadcloth cloak last Winter cost over 30 dollars.

If I could learn the trade there is a very pleasant village in this town which would be a good place to work. There is no one in the place that keeps shop. Hope you will try to visit us this summer. Come & spend a long time with us. Write to me as soon as you get this tell me of your Prosperity & how you are employed dont delay. If you work at your trade I should be glad to work with you. I wish you were here in a shop could you come we should enjoy all the pleasures imaginable. Father & Mother send love to your Parents wish them to visit us soon as convenient. Give them my love.

My Brothers & Sisters all send love to you all, you all have our best wishes for your Prosperity. Cousin there shall be no lack on my part aboutt keeping up a correspondence. Answer this as soon as possible direct your letter to Peacham. Barnet Post Office is five miles from us. Believe me to remain your very affectionate Cousin

Persis L. Edwards

The original of this letter is preserved at the Haverhill (Massachusetts) Public Library. A collection of letters from this family have been published in The New England Mill Village, 1790-1860, edited by Gary Kulik, Roger Parks, and Theodora Z. Penn, and in Farm to Factory, Women's Letters, 1830-1860, edited by Thomas Dublin. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Editor's additions are in brackets; words missing are indicated by ellipses.

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Mailing kicks off Census 'Secrets of Eden'

Enumerators needed in local towns

The 2010 Census questionnaire began arriving in more than 120 million mailboxes across the nation in April.

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution and conducted every 10 years, the census counts every man, woman and child, where they live and sleep most of the time. Mailing back the census form is the easiest way to participate in the 2010 Census, and every household should complete and mail back the form upon receipt.

Households served by the United States Postal Service will receive their forms in March 2010. Census workers will hand-deliver forms through April 2010 in all other areas. One of the shortest census forms in U.S. Census history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Mailing back a form ensures an accurate count and lowers the cost of the 2010 Census by

reducing the number of census workers who must go door-to-door to collect census data. It costs the government just 42 cents for a postage paid envelope when a household mails back the form. It costs the Census Bureau \$57 to send a census taker door-to-door to follow up with each household that fails to respond. About \$85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation. Additionally, the Census Bureau saves \$60-\$70 per census form returned by mail. In 2000, the nation reversed a three-decade decline in mail rates, achieving a participation rate of 72 percent.

Now anyone can track the participation rates for any town, city, or the nation by visiting the Take 10 Map (<http://2010.census.gov>). Later this month, participation rates for the 2010 Census will be updated daily so communities can track performance and work to raise the rate.

People with questions about

their census form may visit a Questionnaire Assistance Center call 1-866-872-6868.

Census takers needed!

Regional Census offices are looking for qualified individuals for temporary work as census takers. Most of the jobs involve fieldwork in neighborhoods near the census taker's home. Work schedules vary making the work suitable for those with part-time and full-time jobs.

Minimum requirements are a completed application, proper identification documents, favorable background check and completion of a 30-minute written employment test. The pay rate is \$13.50 per hour plus mileage reimbursement, which is also available during the required four days of training.

Terry Hoffer, of Danville, is currently working as a recruiter for the Census Bureau. He welcomes your calls with questions about applications and the projected work schedule. His number is 684-3981.

is riveting fiction

BY MARVIN MINKLER

Vermont author, Chris Bohjalian does not disappoint, and with his latest novel, "Secrets of Eden," he has written another deeply compelling book, that hooked me from page one, and lingered long after I put it down.

Just after her baptism by the Reverend Stephen Drew, Alice Hayward says to the minister, "There." She then returns to her home and husband George. Later that evening George strangles Alice, and then shoots himself.

The murder-suicide of the prominent couple in the rustic community of Haverill, Vermont, has stunned the population. Reverend Drew, feels his faith slipping through his fingers, and he abruptly leaves town. He soon meets Heather Laurent, the author of a popular series of inspirational books about angels. Heather, who survived a childhood that culminated in her parent's murder-suicide, offers him a chance to pick up the pieces of his shattered life, and a shoulder to lean on.

Besides becoming a comfort to Reverend Drew, Heather also becomes friends with the Hayward's orphaned daughter Katie, and becomes a mentor to her. Throw in a suspicious State's Attorney, Catherine Benincasa, who suspects George was murdered, and who finds out that Alice had secrets she shared only with the Reverend, and you have one of those page-turning novels that won't shake its grip, especially after the shocking ending.

Chris Bohjalian has earned a reputation for writing novels that hold a magnifying glass to some of the most important social issues of our time. In "Secrets of Eden," the author examines wife-beating, infidelity, and alcoholism, with a prose and understanding that is authentic and thought provoking.

So, clear the nightstand and make room for Chris Bohjalian's new novel, "Secrets of Eden." It is truly one of his best. The novel made it's debut on the New York Times bestseller list on February 21st, at number 6.

"Secrets of Eden," can be found in all our area's independent bookstores, and look for Chris to be signing it at a store near you.

Antiques Roadshow, NEK Edition

The Athenaeum's Antiques Roadshow, Northeast Kingdom Edition, will be held Saturday, April 10 from 1-4 p.m. at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.

Loosely patterned after the popular Antiques Roadshow, appraisers Chuck Eaton, Delsie Hoyt, Barbara Porter, James Maroney, Kim Crady Smith and Richard Diefenbach will be at the

Athenaeum to examine, evaluate and provide a range of values for your potential "treasures." A \$15 donation at the door will allow for the appraisal of up to three items. All appraisals are non-binding.

Areas of expertise include: paintings, early Americana and collectibles, glass and china, jewelry, books, textiles, hooked and braided rugs, ironware, pottery, and clocks and watches. Firearms of any type are prohibited. Size is

limited to items which can be carried in by hand. No large furniture items will be allowed.

This is a first time event for the Athenaeum and is a great way to see if that family hand-me-down or yard sale find is worth anything, while supporting the library and art gallery. For more information about this event, please call (802) 748-8291. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.

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The mysterious flying mattress

By BRUCE HOYT

April 1st is upon us and the National Zoo will receive at least a dozen calls for Mr. Lyon. Elsewhere, some medical worker will come into the waiting room to ask for "Eileen...Eileen Over," realizing with the utterance of the last syllable that he has been duped by his colleagues.

The best prank in my personal recollection was not performed on April Fools Day, but has that essential ingredient of credulity led astray: Two of my friends at the Trade School built a boat during a mid 50s school year and acquired a trailer to take it up to visit a relative in Canada. Anyone who journeyed up that way at that time will remember the "thump, thump...thump, thump...thump, thump" of travel over the concrete sections of highway, which, for reasons of weather or engineering, never quite came in close abutment. On their way, these travelers came up behind a stake-body truck with a load of mattresses, one of which was coming precariously closer to the edge with each "thump, thump" of the road. Curiosity led them to follow at a safe distance to see what might happen. Before

long, the mattress fell off and the truck driver went on, unawares.

Seeing the opportunity for some devilry, my friends pulled back the tarpaulin on their boat and threw in the lost cargo, concealing it under the tarp. They then sped on by the slow moving truck and put enough distance between the vehicles to give them time to pull out the mattress and leave it in the road. They pulled off on a side road to watch, undetected, the results of their prank.

The driver, at first elated at the good fortune of finding a free mattress, examined it more closely, went back and counted his load, then examined the found item again. Finally, unable to determine a logical explanation, he threw it up onto his load and went on his way.

My friends have had fifty years of amusement over their prank. They are sure that the truck driver had many restless nights pondering the strange phenomenon of the leap-frog mattress.

Green Cheese

Beware of the World by Peter Dannenberg

A few weeks ago, the American Academy of Pediatrics suggested hot dogs need warning labels. Choking is a real danger for small children. Small toys and plastic bags added warning labels years ago. At least two firms, Ball Park and Oscar Mayer, already have warnings on their frankfurter packages.

The news report said hot dogs pose the greatest danger of chok-

ing, but other foods—carrots, bananas, grapes, hard candy, popcorn and peanut butter—are risky too. I recalled my wife and I chopping franks into tiny pieces before letting our preschool children and grandchildren have them.

The pediatricians also suggested sausage makers should change the shape and size of their product. This would eliminate the danger we face with our mom and pop solution. A kitchenware vendor pointed out this hazard to us when it warned on its packaging, "KNIVES ARE SHARP"

I was making a peanut butter sandwich with a knife when I heard the Academy's ideas on the news. I looked at the jar. Sure enough, in tiny print, it said, "WARNING: CONTAINS PEANUTS." Since there was no mention of choking, I surmised this was to alert those with allergies.

I admit I don't read many food-warning labels. However, I suspect many imported snacks are risky. I'm afraid someone will repackage radioactive waste as glow in the dark junk food. It would fly off the shelves, maybe under its own power. The advantage is some of it is made in Vermont.

I do not want to worry about all

life's dangers. I'd get jittery and stay up all night. That could lead to trouble. After all, the label on Nytol, a sleep aid, states, "WARNING: May cause drowsiness."

Despite my reluctance, I thought it prudent to sample the precautions vendors think we should take. Among their many wise words of advice were these:

On a disposable coffee cup—Caution: Hot beverages are hot!

On a bag of peanuts—Warning: May contain nuts.

On salt—Warning: High in sodium.

On a soft drink cup—This ice may be cold.

On a takeout pizza box—Caution! Contents hot!

In addition to warnings, we get many helpful instructions, such as:

On Nabisco Easy Cheese—For best results remove cap.

On Heinz Ketchup—Instructions: Put on Food.

On hair coloring—Do not use as an ice cream topping.

On the bottom of a Coke bottle—Do not open here.

On the bottom of a pizza box—Do not turn upside down.

On fruit roll-ups—Remove plastic before eating.

On a Swann frozen dinner—

Historical factoid for the first day of April

Anyone who has entered Quebec via Derby Line and driven to Montreal along Canada's route 10, will have noticed signs for the town of Saint Pie. Less publicized in ecclesiastical history is the fact that there were two Pies—brothers. The one who, during Cromwell's persecution of the Catholics, clung to his faith, despite threats of torture, and thus became a saint. The other, having been shown the instruments, became converted to a Protestant denomination and a spokesman for that faith. Unlike his saintly brother, he became known as Chicken Pie. Although his memory has been lost in large urban churches, his legacy has been preserved in country churches with Chicken Pie Suppers.

Serving suggestion: Defrost.

On a bag of American Airlines peanuts—Open packet. Eat contents.

On a 7-11 muffin—Remove wrapper, open mouth, insert muffin, eat.

On Fisherman's Friend throat lozenges—Not meant as a substitute for human companionship.

I did find cavorting through corporate caveats edifying. It turns out I'm doing many things wrong. I'm planning some changes, but it will be hard to break the news to my throat lozenges. Not long ago I held them close and vowed they would be my best friend forever. Now in addition to being jittery, I feel like a cad.

Of course, the corporate label writers want to protect their clients from lawsuits. No matter what happens, they want to point to a label that told you not to do that. Nevertheless, we aren't safe from every imaginable hazard yet.

For example, my egg carton and milk bottle warn those perishable products need refrigeration and the eggs require thorough cooking, but they don't point out the peril of allergies. The egg carton should say, WARNING: CONTAINS EGGS. For the lactose intolerant, milk cartons should say, WARNING: CONTAINS MILK. Alternatively, we could use a universal label, WARNING: THE SURGEON GENERAL HAS DETERMINED THAT EVERYTHING CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH.



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Danville Historical Society

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Have you ever thought of writing your own life story? It is proving to be an interesting adventure for a group that is meeting on Thursdays from 1:00-2:30 at the Danville Historical House. We don't know where it is going, but it is a lot of fun. Not only that, but we're learning things about ourselves and our culture. We invite you to join us.

Volunteers Welcomed

if you are willing to offer some time, here are a few possibilities
*mow the lawn*clean a room*identify old photos*read the Old North Star microfilm*reminisce*have a cup of tea*tell a story*add your history*weed the flowers*assist with receptions and programs*acquire new computer skills* any ideas?*

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Through the vantage point of a volunteer

BY VAN PARKER

With the exception of a couple of years right after retiring, I've been a regular visitor to Hartford Hospital for 42 years.

For 27 years, I was a minister visiting church members. Once, I was there as a patient. For 13 of the last 15 years, I've been a volunteer. Hartford Hospital has lots of volunteers, around 800. They are visible with their blue coats almost everywhere, except in the section containing the operating rooms. Most of us work no more than one or two half-days a week. We get free parking and free meals (\$5.50 in the heavily subsidized cafeteria). We are women and men, varying in age from late teens to old timers up to 90 or older.

We check in and out at the Volunteer Office. The people who run that office are amazing. They try to find just the right spot for each person and constantly offer encouragement and support. On Thurs-

day afternoon, my job is to visit with people in the Emergency Room. On Friday, I deliver newspapers and email messages to patients. My wife works in the Surgical Lounge, a large area filled with families and friends of patients who are in the midst of an operation.

Volunteers, in addition to their jobs, do quite a bit of observing. By this I mean observing patients, visitors, doctors, and nurses. Here are a few of my observations:

Doctors are looking younger. Partly that is because I'm so much older. The older doctors I used to see around the halls 15 or 20 years ago have mostly retired, though some are still making the rounds and may do that as long as they are physically able.

There are more women doctors than in 1997 and way more than in 1968, when I first started regularly visiting the hospital.

It's too bad it took our society so long to actively encourage women to go into medicine. To me, female doctors and their

younger male counterparts seem approachable. They will often sit on the edge of a bed beside a patient. Like the best of the older doctors, they tend to be good listeners.

There are more male nurses these days. The nursing profession, like the medical profession, is shaking off the old stereotype that a nurse is a woman. The erosion of gender roles must be helping men to follow their natural bent.

People are people, whatever their language or background. Some patients are serene about their hospital stay. A surprising number can laugh at themselves. Many are touched by the kindness of the medical staff and are grateful for everything. A few appear anxious or confused, still fewer, just plain angry.

I'm moved by the devotion of spouses. A woman sits quietly knitting by her husband's bedside; a man pushes his wife's wheelchair down the hall. Connecticut recognizes same sex marriage as well as part-

ner's visitation rights. It certainly is no big deal if the spouse is of the same sex. Adult children visit their parents, and parents can often be found sitting beside an adult son or daughter's bed.

Hartford Hospital, through its website, makes it possible to send an email greeting to a patient. More and more people are learning how to do this. One of the best parts of my job is bringing these messages to a patient's room. In varying words and sometimes in different languages these greetings express the love of a patient's family and friends. When I walk into a room with a greeting a patient may at first look worried and wonder, "What's going on now?" Then, reading the words, she will break into a smile.

A hospital is, after all, a place of healing. My experience as a volunteer confirms that. Healing does go on in a deeper way than I once thought, even for those who may not live much longer.

It's humbling.

World Maple Festival April 24

Vendors and entertainment on Railroad St.

St. Johnsbury will again host a World Maple Festival in its historic downtown on April 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Johnsbury is the Maple Capital of the World. Its forests are significant volume producers of maple sap, and home to several family sugarhouses.

Maple Grove farms, located in St. Johnsbury, and a major sponsor of the festival, is the largest packer of maple syrup and maple candy in the world. The festival will feature maple products of all kind, local crafts, food, and enter-

tainment for all ages. There will be a pancake breakfast at 8am and a judging competition to determine the 2010 World Maple Syrup Champion.

Events at the festival will include an 8 a.m. pancake breakfast, working Sugar House, sound stage featuring the band "Red House," Rock Climbing Wall, Kid's activity area, food court, historical and scientific exhibits, and maple syrup judging. Scott Beck, World Maple Festival organizer, says, "This year's festival promises to have something for the thousands in attendance throughout the day. We are anxious to wel-

come maple syrup producers and lovers from around the world to St. Johnsbury."

Detailed information about the World Maple Festival can be found at www.worldmaplefestival.org. Interested vendors may contact Fred Little at (802) 535-5501 to reserve space. For local hotel accommodations, please call (802) 748 1500.

The World Maple Festival is organized by a group of volunteers from St. Johnsbury and the surrounding areas of Vermont. They are committed to the advancement of the Maple Industry and its connection to St. Johnsbury.

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Volunteers

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New listings.

Memoir is soul work:

Playin Wuff

“History is nothing but a series of stories, whether it be world history or family history.”

- Bill Mooney and David Holt, *The Storyteller's Guide*

On Thursdays, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., storytellers gather at the Historical House in Danville. They bring their writing, chat, drink a cup of tea and share a little bit of their lives with each other. They laugh. They haven't cried yet, but I think they might. They go off on tangents of memory, and then they close their notebooks and go home to continue the work of writing their memoirs. According to Dr. Allan G. Hunter, whose guidelines we are following, they are doing “soul work.”

We will be using this column in the North Star to share some of these stories. This month, the writer is Dwayne Langmaid of North Danville, a natural born storyteller. You don't need to attend the writing group to submit your stories,

but you are most welcome to do so. If you don't attend, you will need to bring or send your stories in. Perhaps you will see your story in print. If not, be assured it will be treasured by the Historical Society. We might even be able to help out with some photos to help illustrate your story. I wonder, does anyone have a picture of the Peck boys? After reading this story, I know I want to see what they looked like.

Sharon Lakey, Director of the Danville Historical Society

By DWYANE LANGMAID

The four Peck boys grew up on a hardscrabble farm in the Tampico area and became men about the time George Cary's sugaring operations bloomed in North Danville. The Pecks were probably no different than any of the other local farm kids, but they were noted as being extremely rugged and very competitive. In fact, it was said that if



you could somehow yoke them, a span of Peck boys could likely pull Cary's prize oxen through a knot-hole.

The locals would often gather on the Old North Church road in Waterman's field for a picnic and a Sunday afternoon game of baseball. Sometimes an equally ragtag team from another town could be enticed to participate. Ora Peck often pitched. He could throw it long on speed and maybe a little short on control. It was well known that if he happened to hit a bull in the head with one of those pitches, you might as well break out the knives and forks.

First time up, the opposing star

belted it. Gone out into the hay. Next time up, the obvious solution was to throw it even harder. The pitch got away, the star got beamed and dropped for the count. A lively discussion resulted. After a few bumps and bruises, the game resumed. A severely sprained ankle (“Naw, it ain't broke) and chore time ended the fun.

Someone remarked to Ora's brother Freedom. “Little rough, wasn't it?”

“Naw, not bad wuff, jus good wuff.”

In his late years, Freedom was helping a newcomer with some farm-type chores. It was suggested that if Freedom saw the newcomer

doing something wrong to please bring it to his attention. Freedom's reply, “I really ain't used to talkin' all that much.”

Come springtime in one of George Cary's big sugar houses up on the Sprague farm, the Peck boys were boiling, and a bunch of the other baseball team members were gathering. The sap had been running nonstop for three days and showed no sign of letting up. The buckets were all running over; everyone was working hammer and tong and getting sick of it.

That's when the boilers questioned the gatherers as to their manliness, their worth, and why they couldn't keep up. Something else started to boil then, but everyone was too tired to do much about it, so off the gatherers went for another sled-load of sap. As they went down into what is now Hickey's sugar woods, they passed the big spring there and stopped to water themselves and the horses. Someone miraculously found a big jug under a rock, and it got passed around a couple of times while the horses got their fill.

The pump log from the spring came right to the top of the gathering tank and jug wisdom intervened. Many loads of water later, it was hard to tell if it was sweat or steam coming out of the sugar house vent as the Peck boys doggedly tried to make Cary maple syrup with a little sap and a lot of pure spring water.

Jus some good wuff fun!

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2010 Schedule
 Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

Softball & Baseball

April			
13	Tuesday	Stowe @ Danville	4:30
15	Thursday	Danville @ Blue Mountain	4:00
17	Saturday	Danville @ Winooski	11:00
24	Saturday	Richford @ Danville	11:00
28	Wednesday	Danville @ Lake Region	4:30
May			
1	Saturday	Danville @ Richford	4:30
4	Tuesday	Enosburg @ Danville	4:30
6	Thursday	Danville @ Hazen	4:30
8	Saturday	Lake Region @ Danville	11:00
11	Tuesday	Danville @ Stowe	4:30
13	Thursday	Blue Mtn. @ Danville	4:30
16	Sunday	People @ Danville	11:00
18	Tuesday	Hazen @ Danville	4:30
20	Thursday	Winooski @ Danville	4:30
25	Tuesday	BFA Fairfax @ Danville	4:30
27	Thursday	Danville @ Peoples	4:30

Track & Field

April			
29	Thursday	Freshman Meet@LI	3:30
May			
4	Tuesday	@ Lamoille	3:30
12	Wednesday	@ North Country	3:30
18	Tuesday	@ Harwood	3:30
26	Wednesday	@ STJA	3:30
June			
5	Saturday	@ Chester, States	

Lacrosse

April			
27	Tuesday	STJA @ Danville	3:30
30	Friday	Danville @ U32	5:15
May			
14	Friday	Danville @ STJA	3:30
18	Tuesday	Danville @ Lamoille	3:30
21	Friday	Danville @ STJA	3:30
28	Friday	Lamoille @ Danville	3:30



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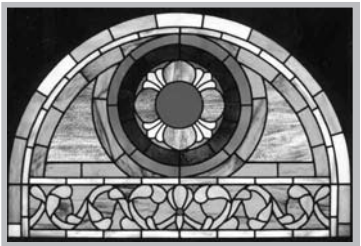

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Pope Notes

with Dee Palmer, Library Director

Please join us for our April book discussion sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

On Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m. we will discuss "What is the What" by Dave Eggers with scholar John Turner. Valentino Achak Deng, real-life hero of this engrossing epic, was a refugee from the Sudanese civil war—the bloodbath before the current Darfur bloodbath—of the 1980s and 90s. In this fictionalized memoir, Eggers makes him an icon of globalization.

Separated from his family when Arab militia destroy his village, Valentino joins thousands of other "Lost Boys," beset by starvation, thirst and man-eating lions on their march to squalid refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, where Valentino pieces together a new life. He eventually reaches America, but finds his quest for safety, community and fulfillment in many ways even more difficult there than in the camps: he recalls, for instance, being robbed, beaten and held captive in his Atlanta apartment. Eggers's limpid prose gives Valentino an unaffected, compelling voice and makes his narrative by turns harrowing, funny, bleak and lyrical. The result is a horrific account of the Sudanese tragedy, but also an emblematic saga of modernity—of the search for home and self in a world of unending upheaval.

Books are available at the library.

Our next Knitting Night will be on Wednesday, April 14 from 6:30 – 8pm. Blythe Webster will instruct beginners or help those with projects already in progress. This is a fun, no pressure get-together. All levels of knitters welcome!

Another first for the Pope! Friday, April 30 is the kick-off for "Dinner and a Foodie Movie" night. The movie is "Big Night" starring Tony Shalhoub and Stanley Tucci. Tucci wrote Big Night with his cousin Joseph Tropiano, and they based the story on the experience of growing up in a large, proud Italian family. The brothers in Big Night—chef Primo (Tony Shalhoub) and businessman Secondo (Tucci)—have come to New Jersey to open a bistro named The Paradise that serves the finest in traditional, authentic Italian cuisine. Their every move is foiled by rival restaurant Pascal's, which serves mile-high servings of spaghetti and meatballs and flasks of bad Chianti at exorbitant prices. Primo is disgusted by the fact that Americans want cheap pasta instead of risotto, so Secondo hatches a plan to boost business: rumor has it bandleader Louis Prima is traveling through and will dine at The Paradise that very night. Secondo gambles to bring the finest dinner ever cooked—at the risk of losing his shirt and being reduced to

exile to the old country with his tail between his legs.

The movie will be shown at the home of Ginny Flanders who will cook an Italian dinner for all who attend. Please call the library to sign up or for details.

Some of our new book acquisitions are: The Happiness Project by Rubin, The Year of Living Biblically and The Know-It-All by Jacobs, Food Rules: An Eater's Manual by Pollan, Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace With Marriage by Gilbert, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Skloot, House Rules by Picoult, Not My Daughter by Delinsky, The Price of Malice by Mayor and Kisser by Stuart Woods. Come in and check them out!



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What's happening at town hall

Barnet

Town Clerk: Benjamin Heisholt
Selectboard: Ted Faris, Gary Bunnell and Jeremy Roberts

March 8, 2010

Board Organization - A motion was made by Bunnell and the Board approved the appointment of Theodore Faris and Jeremy Roberts as co-chairs.

Service Officer - The term of office of the present Town Service Officer expires April 14, and Vermont law provides for the appointment of such an officer on or before April 15th of each year. Roberts motioned to re-appoint Stanley Robinson as Town Service Officer. The Board approved.

Mowing - The Board briefly discussed whether or not to request bids for mowing Town properties for the 2010 season. Roberts said William Warden, a Barnet resident who has performed this work for several years, last year submitted a bid that was competitive with the other bids received. The Board decided not to accept additional bids and hire Warden to do the work in 2010.

Cemetery - Shirley Warden appeared to discuss a tree that is down and may have damaged gravestones in the Palmer Cemetery. Faris responded that though the Board has been aware of this situation it has taken no action due to snow on the ground. Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs said he will address this situation.

ation.

Truck Repair - Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs appeared to present the Board with an estimate to repair body damage to the Town's 2007 GMC 2500 pick-up. This damage has been present for several years. The Board reviewed JJ's Auto Body's estimate for repair of dents in body, replacement of bumper and straightening of the trailer hitch. Total cost was estimated at \$2,263.62. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to approve the replacement of the bumper and straightening of the hitch at this time, but instructed Gibbs to postpone the dent repair until later in the budget year.

Danville

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

March 4, 2010

Board Organization - The first order of business was to reorganize the Board. The Board elected Michael K. Walsh as Chairman. The Board elected Doug Pastula as Vice Chairman. Michael

Town Hall - Mike Boudreau was not present, but he had talked to several of the Board members and sent a letter to request to use of the town hall for student athlete training. The object is to help Danville athletes avoid injury and better prepare for their sports, and would be coordinated and assisted by school personnel. It would involve use of rubber blowup balls, rubber exercise bands, small hand weights used on rubber mats, as well as lots of push-up type exercises for agility and balance. He requested to use the hall starting at 4 p.m. for two nights a week. After some discussion, Larrabee moved to approve the request starting after 4:30 and with the usual list of conditions, Denise Briggs seconded the motion which was approved.

Bandstand - Merton reported that VTrans had requested the configuration of the stairs that the Board wanted on the bandstand. The Board decided that the ramp to the back of the bandstand was all that

would be required, separate stairs would not be required. Pam Hebert of The Joes Pond Association sent a letter requesting the annual support from Danville to assist in the fight against milfoil in Joes Pond. Briggs moved to approve \$750 to support the Joes Pond Association fight against milfoil, which the Board approved. The Historical Society is ready to order the re-printing of the town history book at the cost of approximately \$30 each, and they are requesting the Town's support. Briggs moved to approve spending the \$2,463 balance in the history book account for the reprinting of the town's history and the Board approved.

Grant - Leonard requested a grant from the Better Back Roads Program to be accepted and signed. The grant is for \$10,000 to help pay for a new culvert on Kittridge Road and requires Board acceptance.

Lyndon

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

March 1, 2010

Street Name - The Board approved the name of Crystal Lane for a new road at the Northeast Kingdom Trailer Park.

Other Business - Police Chief Jack Harris updated the Board on the department's alarm policy and potential changes in staffing. The Board approved the wastewater permit of VELCO for their proposed substation with the fee set at \$1,800.

Peacham

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty
Selectmen: Richard Browne, Tim McKay and Andy Cochran.

February 17, 2010

Road Report - The State of Vermont Highway Mileage Certificate was reviewed and corrected. Correction involved a previous decision regarding Gracie Drive and Onion Pt Rd reclassification. A copy of the Gracie Drive and Onion Pt Rd Selectboard reclassification minutes will accompany the mileage document. The Selectboard signed the

certificate with corrections. Road Foreman Mark Chase reported that due to the lack of inclement weather, road maintenance duties have been limited. The crew has been cutting brush on the Great Road and Keyser Pond Road. Chase mentioned that the paved roads are cracking and heaving more this year than normal. A Vermont Corrections work camp crew continues with the painting of the Town Garage interior. Annual VT AOT Road Grant application was discussed. Potential road grant areas reviewed were: re-treatment (paving and repairs) for South Main Street between South Peacham and the Groton town line, and the presently paved section from East Peacham towards Barnet (adjacent to the Audubon Preserve). The Board requested that the foreman obtain a quote from Pike Industries for these projects. Emergency Management Plan - The Board reviewed the EMP and announced that they will be in contact with Brian Hanson at NVDA to review the report.

St. Johnsbury

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

March 22, 2010

Maplefest - Downtown businessman Scott Beck requested a waiver of the \$25 vendor fee for those who

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St. Johnsbury Academy Spring 2010 Sports Schedule

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

4/3	New Hampton JV	(A)	1:00
4/12	Lamoille	(A)	4:00/5:30
4/16	Hartford	(A)	4:30
4/22	Lamoille	(H)	4:00/5:30
4/24	Hartford	(H)	11:00/12:30
4/27	Randolph	(A)	4:00
4/30	Montpelier	(H)	4:00
5/4	Harwood	(A)	4:00
5/7	U-32	(A)	4:00/5:30
5/11	Sharon	(H)	4:00
5/14	Randolph	(H)	4:00
5/18	Varsity Montpelier	(A)	4:00
5/21	Harwood	(H)	4:00
5/25	U-32	(H)	4:00
5/28	Sharon	(A)	4:00

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

4/9	U-32	(H)	4:30
4/13	Spaulding	(H)	4:30
4/15	Essex	(A)	4:30
4/23	Rice	(A)	4:30
4/28	BFA	(H)	4:30
5/4	Chelsea	(H)	4:30
5/8	Spaulding	(A)	11:00
5/11	Oxbow	(A)	4:30
5/14	Varsity Harwood	(A)	4:30
5/17	Lamoille	(A)	4:30
5/19	Sharon	(H)	4:30
5/22	Randolph	(H)	11:00
5/25	Montpelier	(A)	4:30
5/28	Lamoille	(H)	4:30

VARSAITY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

4/17	Lyndon	(H)	11:00
4/20	Spaulding	(A)	4:00
4/22	Mt. Abe	(A)	4:30
4/24	Essex	(A)	11:00
4/27	Burlington	(H)	4:30
4/29	Middlebury	(A)	4:30
5/1	MMU	(H)	11:00/4:00
JV @ 11:00 / V @ 4:00			
JV SB @ MMU / JV BB @ Brown River			
5/4	BFA St. Albans	(H)	4:30
5/8	North Country	(H)	10:00
5/11	Milton	(A)	4:30
5/13	CVU	(H)	4:30
5/18	Colchester	(A)	4:30
5/20	Missisquoi	(H)	4:30
5/22	Rice	(A)	11:00
5/25	Vergennes	(H)	4:30
5/28	South Burlington	(A)	4:30

GOLF SCHEDULE

5/3	Girls Match @ Barre(A)	3:00
5/3	NC, SB, Spaulding (H)	3:00
5/6	Girls Match (H)	3:00
5/6	BFA, CVU, (A)	3:00
Missisquoi @ WBolton		
5/10	Essex, Mt.Abe, (H)	3:00
Missisquoi		
5/12	Girls Match (A)	1:00
@ S.Burlington		
5/14	Mt., CVU, NC (A)	3:00
@ Newport		
5/17	Girls Invitational (A)	1:00
@ Newport, NC		
5/17	Rice, MMU (A)	3:00
@ Champlain		
5/20	Boys Invitational (A)	8:00
@ Newport, NC		
5/20	Girls Match (A)	3:00
@ Enosburg Falls, Missisquoi		
5/21	NC, Spaulding, (A)	3:00
MMU @ WBolton		
5/25	SB, Vergennes (A)	3:00
@ Barre, Spaulding		
5/25	Girls Match (A)	3:00
@ Catamount, Burlington		
5/27	NVAC (A)	10:00
Metro Championship @ Kwiniaska		
5/27	Girls Match (A)	3:00
@ West Bolton, MMU		
6/1	Girls Match (A)	3:00
@ Lang Farm, Essex		
6/1	Div. II Boys (H)	9:00
Sectional Tournament		
6/8	State Tournament (A)	9:30-12:30
- Girls @ Proctor/Pittsford		
6/9	State Tournament (A)	8:00-12:30
- Boys @ Middlebury		

BOYS & GIRLS TENNIS

4/9	Lake Region (Girls) (H)	3:30
4/12	Spaulding (Boys) (H)	3:30
	Spaulding (Girls) (A)	3:30
4/14	Middlebury (Boys) (H)	3:30
	Middlebury (Girls) (A)	3:30
4/17	North Country (Boys)(H)	10:00
	North Country (Girls)(A)	10:00
4/26	Harwood (Boys) (H)	3:30
	Harwood (Girls) (A)	3:30
4/28	U-32 (Boys) (A)	3:30
	U-32 (Girls) (H)	3:30
5/3	Montpelier (Boys) (A)	3:30
	Montpelier (Girls) (H)	3:30
5/6	North Country (Boys)(A)	3:30
	North Country (Girls)(H)	3:30
5/8	Spaulding (Boys) (A)	10:00
	Spaulding (Girls) (H)	10:00
5/10	Lake Region (Girls) (A)	3:30
5/12	Middlebury (Boys) NL(A)	3:30
5/15	Harwood (Boys)NL (A)	10:00
	Harwood (Girls)NL (H)	10:00
5/17	U-32 (Boys) L (H)	3:30
	U-32 (Girls) NL (A)	3:30
5/19	Montpelier (Boys) L (H)	3:30
	Montpelier (Girls) NL(A)	3:30
5/24	Stowe (Boys) NL (H)	3:30
	Stowe (Girls) NL (A)	3:30
5/26	Burlington (Boys) NL(H)	3:30
	Burlington (Girls) NL(A)	3:30

TRACK SCHEDULE

4/15	South Burlington (A)	3:30
w/ U-32		
4/20	Colchester w/ CVU, (A)	3:30
	Milton, MVU, CHS	
4/28	LI w/Spaulding, (A)	3:30
	NCU, Midd	
4/29	Frosh Meet @ Lyndon(A)	3:30
	w/ Dan, Hazen, LR, NC	
5/4	Essex (A)	3:30
	w/ BHS, Midd, NC	
5/7	Burlington Invitational(A)	3:00
5/8	Burlington Invitational(A)	2:30
5/12	Missisquoi/Lamoille (H)	3:30
	/Oxbow	
5/14	Bob White Relays - (A)	3:00
	@ BFA St. Albans - Boys	
5/15	Iverson Rebel Relays(A)	10:00
	@ SB Girls	
5/20	Lyndon (A)	3:30
5/21	Metro Frosh Meet (A)	3:00
	@ Essex	
5/26	Spaulding, NC, (H)	3:30
	Peoples, Ran, Dan, Ox, LR	
5/29	Essex Invitational (A)	10:00
6/5	State Meet (A)	10:00
	@ Burlington HS	
6/12	New Englands (A)	TBA
	@ Veteran's Stadium, New Britain, CT	

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

4/3	Amherst Round Robin (A)	8:00
	(& Sun. 4/4) Girls V, Boys V, JV	
4/10	Northfield Tournament (A)	8:00
	Boys Varsity	
4/17	Northfield Tournament (A)	8:00
	Girls Varsity	
5/1	Amherst Invitational (A)	8:00
	(& Sun. 5/2) Girls & Boys Varsity	
5/8	Greenfield Tournament (A)	8:00
	Girls V, Boys V, JV	
5/15	NE Prep School Champ (A)	8:00
	Girls & Boys Varsity	
5/22	St. J Invitational (H)	8:00
	(& Sun. 5/23) Girls V, Boys V, JV	
5/29	New England Champ (A)	8:00
	Girls & Boys Varsity	



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April 2010 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.

- April 2** - Buffet
- April 7** - Chicken noodle soup, sandwich, mandarin orange salad and brownie.
- April 9** - Baked ham, yams, broccoli, cole slaw, rolls and tropical fruit.
- April 14** - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, dark bread, jello and fruit.
- April 16** - Chicken and biscuits, potatoes, cranberry sauce, mixed veggies, vanilla pudding and mandarin oranges.
- April 21** - Chop suey, tossed salad, garlic bread and chocolate pie.
- April 23** - Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, fresh carrots, homemade rolls and sliced pears.
- April 28** - Chicken thigh, rice, peas and carrots, raisin bread and peaches and cream.
- April 30** - Lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread and ice cream and cake.

would participate in the Maplefest on April 24, and to request permission to shut down Railroad Street from Eastern Ave. to Portland Street during the festival. The Board approved.

Path – Evan Detrick, Dubois & King Engineering, addressed the proposed reduced length of the transportation path, to run from South Main to Western Ave, via the High Street/Mt. Vernon Street corridor. The new plan would remove the old rail line bridge as part of the project, thereby eliminating future maintenance of the bridge, and create a new trail head. Detrick projected that repairing that bridge, or at least replacing the deck, could amount to an additional \$100,000 or more. The existing bridge over Sleepers River will require new decking and railing. VAST will contribute some of the work to that area, and will provide the bulk of maintenance on this section of the rail trail. Detrick said Dubois & King Engineering will complete the design, put the project out to bid, review bids and oversee engineering during construction and include preparing the amendment, for the additional fee of \$110,000. In response to a question from Ray LaBounty, Detrick said State rules do not allow for the construction engineering firm to do the final inspection on the project. Welch summarized that with the project in place as presented by Mr. Detrick, the total cost will be approximately \$3 million, with the Town's share

\$300,000. Several people in the audience spoke in favor of the path. John Somers wanted to know where the \$300,000 was budgeted from and Welch said it had yet to be determined, but at least some of the Town's share would probably be in-kind work. The Board accepted the plan as proposed by Evan Detrick.

Tax Breakdown - Welch reviewed a hand-out that reflected actual budgets and tax rates for the past three years and the projected budget and tax rate for 2010, depending upon the scenario voted in. The breakdown indicated for a \$150,000 house, the original budget that was defeated on March 2 would have generated a reduction of about \$4.80 in taxes. Welch's suggested revised budget, which was voted in by the Board on March 10, would have generated an approximate reduction of \$18.60, and the Board motion at the March 16 meeting, and repeated at the current meeting, would result in approximately \$36.75 reduction in taxes on a \$150,000 home.

Support - Russ Hutchins stated that Joel Schwartz had generated (in Mr. Hutchins' estimation) approximately \$6 Million in grants and business assets during his employment, and Hutchins firmly supported keeping Mr. Schwartz in his position. David McGregor also spoke in support of the Economic Development office. He felt the decision to cut the department was short-sighted and would adversely affect future development opportunities. Lauren Moye spoke against the proposed cuts and reductions, citing the loss of skill and experience in Economic Development and Zoning. Steve Smith spoke against the cuts, simply on the basis of grant writing. He said Mr. Schwartz has proven himself as an excellent grant writer, which is hard to find. Peter Crosby, St. J. Development Fund president and Passumpsic Bank president, said he recognized that the Board felt the need to cut taxes, but he felt that two weeks on the job was not sufficient to make an educated decision on making such drastic cuts. Crosby urged the Board to take longer to review the whole budget and operations of the Town before making these cuts. Jim Impey, also concerned with rising taxes local, state, and nation-wide, would rather the Board take longer and review before making drastic department cuts. John Goodrich said he ap-

plauded the Board for trying to reduce taxes, but felt cutting the one person in the office dedicated to generating business was not the best way. Agreed NVDA does a good job, but St. Johnsbury has a "leg up" with Joel on board to work with his expertise. Goodrich urged the Board to reconsider. He said that his company (Weidmann Electronics) had generated approximately \$333 Million to the area in 30 years, and Joel had been a big part of it. Robin Little was concerned about St. J's future. She would like to attract the kind of people who look at availabilities and the downtown, schools and recreational areas, that will help the area to develop and grow. Joel Schwartz is needed to assist the existing and new businesses to help make them thrive and attract new people.

Zoning - Mark Grenier asked if Priscilla Messier could do her job on 24 hours per week, and what her job entails. Messier responded that her average hours per week for the past year were 45. She reviewed her responsibilities to the Development Review Board and Planning Commission – scheduling meetings and site inspections, warn meetings, notify neighboring property owners, notify other board and departments if needed, clerk meetings, research materials and information pertinent to the applications, follow through to issuing a certificate of occupancy, and refer all permit information to the Assessor's Office for review. The 106 permits issued in 2009 represented \$1,485,700 added assessment value to the town, including all Town infrastructure work or non-profits. Alan Ruggles has worked with Priscilla on Development Review Board and the Town Plan, and appreciates the amount of work involved. Ruggles questioned the Board about any analysis they have done to keep the Economic Development projects going, and for the zoning and planning to be covered.

Proposal - Scott Beck introduced himself as a new businessman in town in 2005, and said he would not be in that position without the assistance of the Zoning Administrator and Economic Development Director. He agreed that taxes are too high, but felt that the Board had not studied the over-all town government enough to make informed decisions on the cuts. He admonished the Board to go slower, be more thoughtful and take a long look at what they were doing.

April 2010 Menu

Danville Senior Action Center

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.

April 1 - Chipped beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, tropical fruit crisp and rolls.

April 6 - Chicken Waldorf salad, clam chowder with saltines, blueberry muffins, V-8 juice, carrots and birthday cake.

April 8 - Pulled pork on a bun, cole slaw with tropical fruit, baked beans and mixed veggies.

April 13 - Lemon rosemary chicken, rice pilaf, rolls, spinach and oranges.

April 15 - Crab cakes, penne with lobster sauce, rolls, broccoli, carrots and juice.

April 20 - Cream of asparagus soup, macaroni and cheese, canteloupe and carrots.

April 22 - Chicken Divan, rolls, brown rice and mixed veggies.

April 27 - Liver with bacon, peppers and onions, burgers, rolls, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots.

April 29 - Lasagna, garlic bread, spinach salad and mandarin oranges.

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Lyndon Institute
Spring Athletics 2010

Varsity Baseball

Sat., April 17	at St. Johnsbury	11:00
Tues., April 20	at North Country	4:30
Thurs., April 22	(H) MILTON	4:30
Sat., April 24	(H) RANDOLPH	11:00
Tues., April 27	at U-32	4:30
Tues., May 4	(H) NORTHFIELD	4:30
Thurs., May 6	at Montpelier	4:30
Sat., May 8	(H) LAMOILLE	11:00
Tues., May 11	at Randolph	4:30
Thurs., May 13	(H) U-32	4:30
Sat., May 15	(H) MONTPELIER	11:00
Tues., May 18	at Lamoille	4:30
Fr., May 21	(H) HARWOOD	4:30
Tues., May 25	at Northfield	4:30
Thurs., May 27	at Thetford	4:30
Sat., May 29	(H) OXBOW	11:00

Varsity Softball

Sat., April 17	at St. Johnsbury	11:00
Tues., April 20	at North Country	4:30
Thurs., April 22	(H) MILTON	4:30
Sat., April 24	(H) RANDOLPH	11:00
Tues., April 27	at U-32	4:30
Tues., May 4	(H) NORTHFIELD	4:30
Sat., May 8	(H) LAMOILLE	11:00
Tues., May 11	at Randolph	4:30
Thurs., May 13	(H) U-32	4:30
Tues., May 18	at Lamoille	4:30
Friday, May 21	(H) HARWOOD	4:30
Tues., May 25	at Northfield	4:30
Thurs., May 27	at Thetford	4:30
Sat., May 29	(H) OXBOW	11:00

Track & Field

Fri., April 23	at Middlebury	3:00
Wed., April 28	(H) LYNDON	3:15
Thurs., April 29	(H) LI - NEK Frosh Meet	3:15
Sat., May 1	at Fair Haven Invite	10:00
Mon., May 3	(H) LYNDON	3:15
Fri., May 7	at Milton	3:15
Fri., May 7	at BHS Invitational	3:00
Sat., May 8	at BHS Invitational	10:00
Thurs., May 13	at Milton	3:15
Sat., May 15	at Rebel Relays (Girls)	10:00
Wed., May 19	at U-32 (Frosh/Soph)	3:00
Thurs., May 20	(H) LYNDON	3:15
Tues., May 25	at BFA-St. Albans	3:15
Sat., May 29	at Essex Invitational	10:00
Sat., June 5	at Fair Haven (State)	10:00

Track & Field

Wed, April 28	(H) STJCC	3:00
Mon., May 3	at Peoples (Copley CC)	3:00
Wed., May 5	at Montpelier (Elks GC)	3:00
Mon., May 10	at Harwood (CC of VT)	3:00
Wed., May 12	at Hazen (Mt. View CC)	3:00
Mon., May 17	(H) STJCC	3:00
Wed., May 19	at Enosburg CC	3:00
Thurs., May 20	at N. Country Invite	8:00
Mon., May 24	at Randolph (Montague)	3:00
Wed., May 26	at Lamoille (Farm Resort)	3:00
Tues., June 1	at CC of Barre (Boy's Sec.)	9:00
Wed., June 9	at Middlebury (Boy's State)	11:00

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.

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, 6:30 p.m. Catamount Arts. (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. LakeView Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 684-3386.

Tuesdays: Argentine Tango, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (beginners) 5:30-6:30 p.m. (intermediate) Teacher: Isabel Costa (603) 823-8163.

2nd Tuesdays: Caledonia Right to Life will meet at St. John's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1375 Main St, St. Johnsbury, VT at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

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: Live Music at Parker Pie in Glover. Call (802) 525-3366 for details.

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.

Thursdays: Tutoring for GED and Adult Learning Programs, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library.

Fridays: Friday Afternoon Tea Room at the North Danville Baptist Church, 2-4 p.m., through March. Call (802) 748-4096. Handicapped accessible.

1st Fridays: Contra Dance, 8 p.m. at Danville Town Hall. All levels welcome. (802) 563-3225 or samlyman@myfairpoint.net.

4th Fridays: Public readings at Green Mountain Books in Lyndonville. Call (802) 626-5051 or E-mail greenmountainbooks@myfairpoint.net.

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.

Saturdays: Winter Farmers Market in Lyndonville at the Breslin Community Center on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

1st Saturday: St. Johnsbury Winter Farmers Market at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

2nd Saturdays: West Barnet Grange community breakfasts from 8-10 a.m.

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



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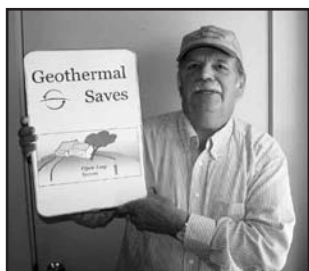
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Events in the NEK

APRIL

THURS.1:

Meet Leon Thompson, Author of Not Too Awful Bad, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. You won't be disappointed with Leon's take on the Green Mountain State. Call (802) 748-3551 or visit www.boxcarandcaboose.com for more information.

SAT.3:

The Home Orchard, instructor Todd Parlo from Walden Heights Nursery, will lead a hands on spring class in Apple & Fruit tree care at the Old Stone House Museum in Brownington from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pond Skimming at Burke Mountain - end the Ski Season with a day of fun for the whole family at this annual event on the Mountain. Call 1-888-BURKEVT or visit www.skiburke.com for more information.

MON.5:

NEK Audubon Informational and planning meeting. Join us at the Fairbanks Museum at 4:30 to 6 p.m. Open to all. Call Laura at 751-7671 for more information.

TUES.6:

Color Moves - oils, acrylics and drawings by Karen Dawson at the NEK Artisans Guild, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 430 Railroad St. St., Johnsbury, VT. Web: www.nekartisansguild.com

WED.7:

Building Books - First Wednesday Lecture series at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Author and illustrator David Macaulay traces the development of his books, from his earliest ideas to the published work—everything that makes the creative process so interesting, exhilarating, and often frustrating. 1171 Main St. St. Johnsbury, VT.

FRI.9:

Green Mountain Film Festival at Cata-mount Arts, one of the state's most exciting and anticipated annual traditions, will come to St. Johnsbury from April 9-11, 2010. Call (802) 748-2600 or visit www.catamountarts.org for more information.

SAT.10:

Athenaeum Antiques Roadshow fundraiser, hosted by the Friends of the Athenaeum from 1 to 4 p.m. \$15 donation at the door allows you to bring in up to three items to run by group of appraisers.

SUN.11:

NEK Community Orchestra Spring Concert at Lyndon State College. Featuring the talents of amateurs, professional and music lovers of all types under the direction of Lyndon Professor Beth Norris. The spring performance will feature Borodin's Polovetsian Dances. Alexander Twilight Theatre, Lyndon State College, College rd. Lyndonville, VT. Web: www.lyndonstate.edu/arts

MON.12:

From Russia with Love, The Great Russian Composers - at Lyndon State College, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Burke Mountain Room, Lyndon State College, College Rd. Lyndonville, VT. Web: www.lyndonstate.edu/art

SAT.17:

Italian Dinner - to benefit NEK Habitat for Humanity. South Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, 6:30 p.m. \$25. Reservations required. Call 748-6239 for ticket information.

SAT.24:

World Maple Festival in St. Johnsbury' historic downtown from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Events at the festival will include an 8 a.m. pancake breakfast, working Sugar House, sound stage featuring the band "Red House," Rock Climbing Wall, Kid's activity area, food court, historical and scientific exhibits, and maple syrup judging. Detailed information about the World Maple Festival can be found at www.worldmaplefestival.org.

SUN.25:

NEK fieldtrip to Moose Bog: Join us in the search for boreal species and early arrivals. We'll hike along the trail and South America Pond Road. Call Tom at 626-9071 or email blackpoll@myfairpoint.net for

E-Mail us your event at:

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This nearly new home in a convenient location. This home has 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, 1664 sq ft and fully handicap accessible. There is currently a 24 X 24 workshop that could be converted to additional rooms if desired. Privately located nicely off the road. VAST trail is close by.

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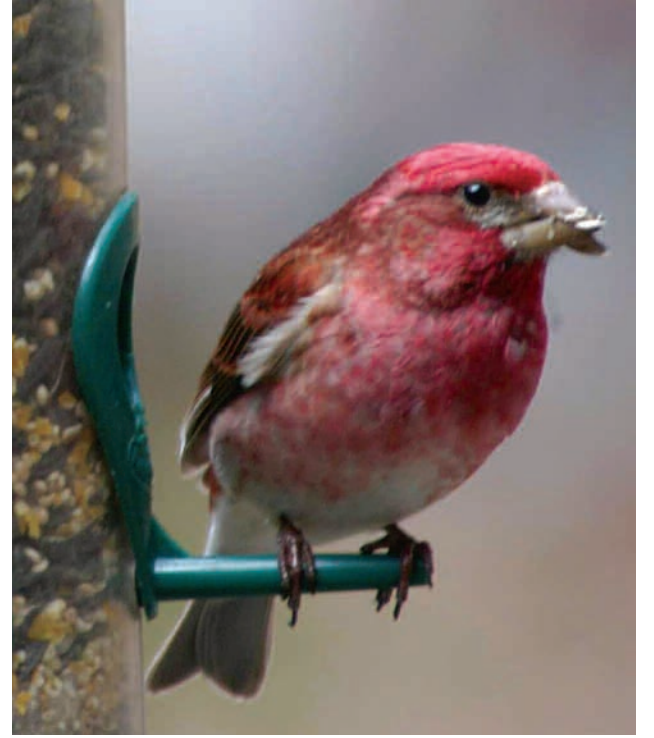
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Signs of Spring are flying in

By JIM ASHLEY

Are you waiting for Spring? Spring officially came a couple weeks ago, this year with little or no snow in March and uncharacteristically warm weather. But what about other signs of spring such as spring birds?

For me, spring starts around the bird feeder. First there are the Purple Finches, which I don't get until March. The male looks like

it has been dipped in raspberry jam. The female has got heavy brown streaks all over. Also, quietly sneaking in are the Slate-colored Juncos. They are an edge of the snowline bird. I have already seen a few, but in a few weeks they should be all over the place. I, also, expect shortly to see White-throated Sparrows. Their call reminds me of the north woods and of a wonderful summer in the Adirondacks years ago.

For most of you, spring is

here when you see your first American Robin. They always seem to arrive before the last snowstorm. They did this year. Great flocks of them congregate on lawns and open meadows. A few years ago, I found one of these large thrushes checking out the seed head on a sumac. In the marshy, brushy areas the male Red-winged Blackbird is back along with Common Grackles.

A real prize if you happen to see one is the American Wood-

cock. They can sometimes be seen along the edge of the road feeding in the wet soil. There may even be snow banks still present, although not this year. They are most likely to be there late in the day. By late April in early evening, you should hear their courtship flight with their nasal breent.

A special highlight for me in spring is to check out flooded fields. I can frequently find ducks on these shallow flooded

areas that I won't see the rest of the year, such as colorful Wood Duck. There may even be some migrants that are headed further north. I, also, may see some Ring-necked Ducks, but I will see them later on Joes Pond.

I probably haven't mention a number of your favorite spring birds. I have many more. Then shortly the warblers, flycatchers and other insect eaters will arrive. Then it will be time to plant the garden!

ST. JOHNSBURY WORLD MAPLE FESTIVAL



JOIN THE WORLD ON SATURDAY,

APRIL 24TH, 2010 | 9AM-4PM

ON RAILROAD STREET IN ST. JOHNSBURY

- WORLD MAPLE SYRUP CHAMPION | 3PM
- SUGARHOUSE DEMONSTRATION
- LIVE MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT | **RED HOUSE**
- THE KING OF SILLY | 11AM
- OVER 50 CRAFT AND FOOD VENDORS • VERMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND MAINE.
- 30 FOOT ROCK CLIMBING WALL
- COPS VS. KIDS BROOMBALL GAME | 1PM
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