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HAVERHILL, NH Completely updated, this house is located on beautiful historic Haverhill Common & has a new roof, large family room with gorgeous views to the CT River Valley and VT and many historic features and charm including 4 fireplaces. Private rear yard. Great house, great price! \$235,000

ORFORD, NH Terrific investment opportunity! Extremely well maintained 8 unit multi-family on lovely, level, nicely landscaped lot, has all new appliances, floors, boiler, oil tank, windows & roof. Located within walking distance to all village amenities. Solid rental history - Close to I-91. Great property - Great buy! \$400,000



LYME, NH This renovated home is in a private location with 4.6+/- acres and frontage on Grant Brook. New kitchen with hickory cabinets, granite countertops, southern yellow pine & cherry floors, screened porch, walk-out finished basement & pergola. One mile to Dartmouth Skiway & Appalachian Trail. \$480,000

HANOVER, NH The light pours into this elegant colonial in a great in-town location with a fabulous one acre lot. Beautiful landscaping, elegant kitchen, dining room and formal living room. 2 sunporches, indoor gym or basketball court, 2 offices, 6 fireplaces. Fantastic! \$2,250,000



LYME, NH On a quiet hillside in Lyme, this majestic home combines elegant architecture, pleasant views, quality construction and the finest in country living. With more than 6000 sq ft of living space, there are 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, high ceilings, custom cabinets, a separate entry studio/workspace and much more! A fabulous home! \$1,390,000

HANOVER, NH This 5500+ sq ft house has gorgeous long range views, & is only 10 minutes from downtown. The total of 14 rooms include a gourmet kitchen, finished walkout basement, 2 offices, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, hardwood floors, central a/c & 3 fireplaces. Fabulous! \$1,450,000



LYME, NH A wonderful estate with 298+/- acres & stunning views. Architect designed. Open floor plan, central fireplace, lovely kitchen, an office, a woodshop & a studio, as well as 3 bedrooms & 3 baths. Extraordinary gardens. Frontage on Pond. \$2,000,000

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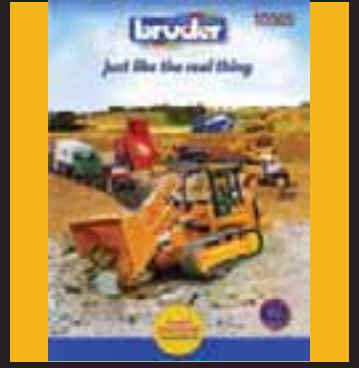
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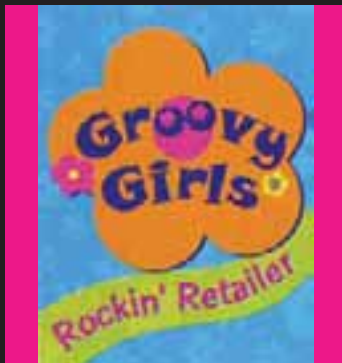
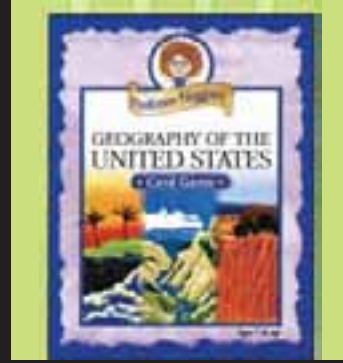
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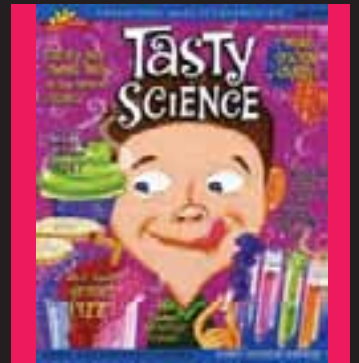
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Kellie Smith and Dusty pull Kier Geoff Smith during a ski joring race in New London. Photo by Eric Carr of OmniTerra Images.

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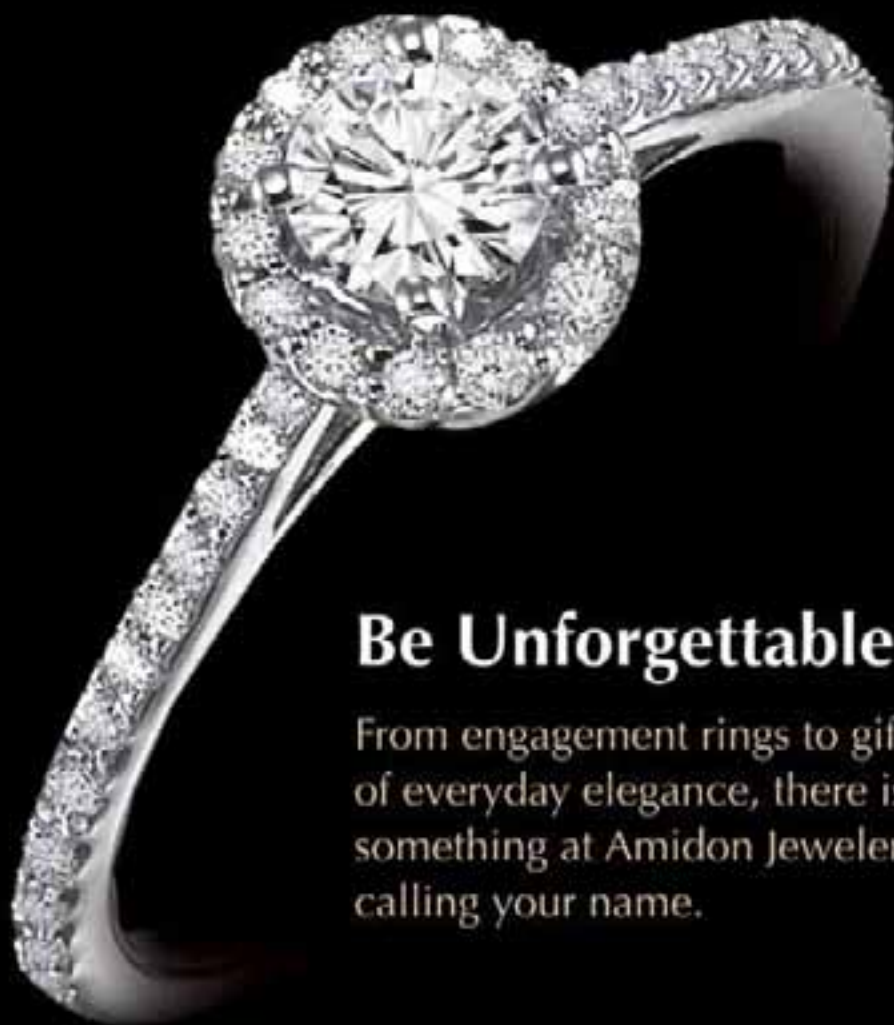
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editor's note

Winter Magic



It's time for another holiday season and all the fun that winter brings. After a glorious autumn, our favorite celebrations come around again with the arrival of Thanksgiving and Christmas. A time for joy and giving thanks for our many blessings, searching for the perfect gifts for loved ones, and sharing with those less fortunate take center stage for most of us.

In this issue we focus on a winter filled with fun, family, and friends. Discover the unique new sport of ski joring by spending the day outdoors cheering for skiers and their horses and riders as they race down a snowy course. Vicki Beaver and Eric Carr of OmniTerra Images capture this action-packed event on our cover and in the story on page 22.

We're happy to be bringing you a special information-packed section devoted to creating home media rooms. People are choosing to stay home more, and they're making improvements to add to their family's comfort and entertainment. Whether you're investing \$1,000, \$100,000, or any figure in between, you'll want to catch up on this hot new trend. Follow tips and advice from local experts as they walk you through what you need to know to create your own special family entertainment center or home theater.

During the holidays and any time of year, visit your friends and neighbors who operate local businesses. We drop in on Lynn Ambrosi of Lebanon Floral, Mark and Dianne Estes of Junction Frame in White River Junction, Don Boxwell and Jack Tate of Tatewell Gallery in New London, and the folks who design beautiful homes at Davis Frame in Claremont. Don't miss our special holiday shopping guide on pages 30 and 66. Make it a point to boost the local economy by supporting area merchants and putting your money to work in your own community.

Besides enjoying our magazine in print, be sure to visit *Image* online. We're excited to now be bringing you the entire magazine in a digital version, allowing you to flip through the pages and print out articles and recipes. You'll also find extra content not in the magazine in our Online Exclusives area. And be sure to follow us on Facebook.

The rest of the staff and I thank you for your continued support and wish you and your family a blessed holiday season and a wonderful winter!
Enjoy!

Deborah Thompson

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about our contributors



Eric Carr



Vicki Beaver

Eric Carr and **Vicki Beaver** moved from western Washington state to the Upper Valley in 2007 to experience the

culture and landscape of New England.

Together, through their business OmniTerra Images, they photograph wildlife, pets, people, events, and destinations for websites, textbooks, and regional and national magazines. Vicki's writing often accompanies their photos.



Elizabeth Kelsey

Elizabeth Kelsey specializes in business and higher-ed publications including website text, newsletters, brochures, and public relations. She lives in Lebanon, New Hampshire, where she writes for Dartmouth College, the Lebanese American University, and other organizations. She's covered scientific discoveries, soap opera stars, local heroes, and sporting events.



Stephen Morris

Stephen Morris is the publisher of Green Living: A Practical Journal for Friends of the Environment. He is also a novelist whose most recent work, *Stories & Tunes*, is set in Vermont. It is available at area bookstores and online booksellers. He lives in Randolph, Vermont.



Susan Nye

A corporate dropout, **Susan Nye** left a 20-year career in international sales and marketing for the fun, flexibility, and fear of self-employment. She is a writer, speaker, entrepreneur, and cook. Susan's work appears in magazines and newspapers throughout New England. Her favorite topics include family, food, and small business.



Jack Rowell

Jack Rowell has been capturing personalities and places with his photography for more than 40 years. In this issue his work is featured in stories about artist Phillip Godenschwager and the renovation of the Chandler Music Hall. Jack was associate producer on feature films *Man with a Plan* and *Nosey Parker*. Born and raised in central Vermont, he's also an enthusiastic and experienced angler.



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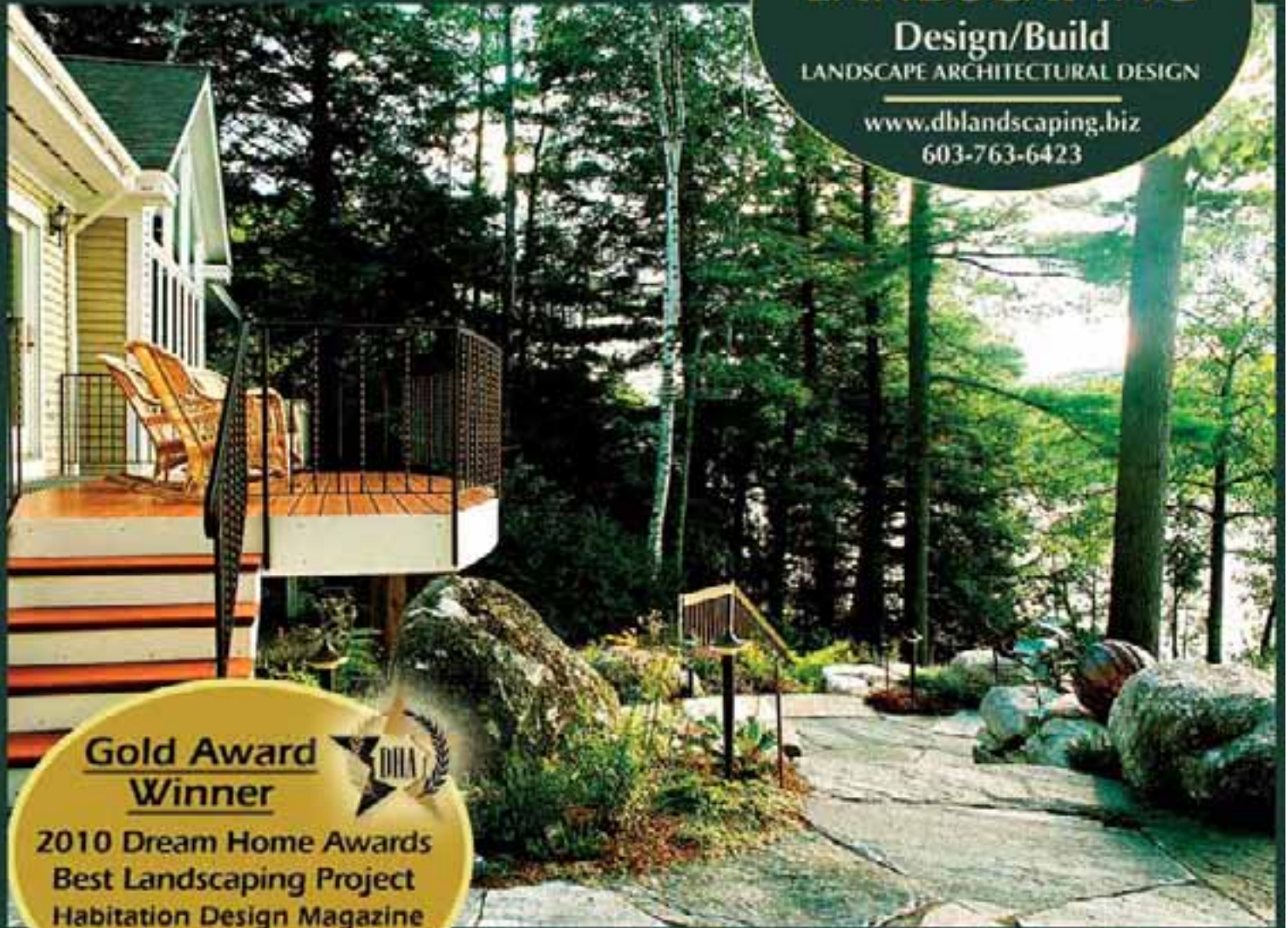
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BY NANCY FONTAINE
PHOTOS BY MOUNTAIN GRAPHICS

The Art of Framing

SERVICE IS PERSONAL AT JUNCTION FRAME SHOP



Owners Mark and Dianne Estes.

What do a Rembrandt etching, a Civil War sword, and a Dartmouth College diploma have in common? They've all been framed by the Junction Frame Shop in White River Junction, which celebrated 25 years of framing everything and anything this past October.

Entering the store, a downtown White River Junction mainstay, you're surrounded by colors—frame corners serving as samples are displayed in every style and material, from 12-carat gold to glitter, and reach from floor to ceiling. The effect is beautiful; the artfully arranged pieces form patterns on the walls and displays that fill the store. ▶



Above: A wide variety of frames greets visitors to the shop. Inset left: Mark and Dianne Estes outside their storefront. Inset right: Which frame will you choose?

Owner Mark Estes wants those coming through the door of the shop to know there's a wide array of choice in frames, because he believes in serving his customers' needs. "Customer service and personal service are very important," he says. "We try to accommodate people's needs if it's humanly possible." There's something for everybody: ready-made and photo frames, a wide range of custom moldings, and several lines of finish corner frames. A visit to the Junction Frame Shop need not be a simple ring-it-up transaction, however. "At the design counter, we ask a lot of questions, like where the item will hang, how the room is decorated, things like that, so we can come up with the best frame possible. It's a give and take between our designers and the customer." ▶





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Clockwise from top left: Veteran team member Anne Foley prepares a frame prior to fitting an antique sampler. Tim finishes cutting a mat on a computerized mat cutter. Junction Frame Shop staff from left: Tim Stout, Anne Foley, Mark and Dianne Estes. Mark cleans glass before inserting into frame.

How the Business Began

If it sounds like the shop means more to Estes than just revenue, it's true. "My wife and I say the business is our middle child," he says, because they founded the store between the births of their two sons, who are nine years apart. Estes is also an artist, both by inclination and by training. An Upper Valley native who grew up in Thetford, Vermont, he attended the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and earned a BFA in painting. When he graduated, he returned home and was preparing to display some of his work in a local show. "I had to frame my paintings, the frame shop needed help, and the rest is history."

By 1985, it was time to start his own store. Estes does not do everything himself, however. He has a small but very experienced staff, and his wife Dianne serves as his sounding board for projects and promotions and handles the adver-

tising, including promoting the business wherever she goes in the Upper Valley.

Changes & History

In 25 years, Estes has seen a few changes in the framing business. "Fashions in frames have changed somewhat, although not as fast as in the clothing industry. People don't redecorate that often." Another change is the availability of archival-quality materials for preservation. "Ultraviolet light-filtering glass is much more affordable now. Archival quality frames and backing are very commonplace these days but were just coming on the market 25 to 30 years ago." People get it now, too. "Everyone has experienced their drapes fading in the sun, so they can relate. And if you've invested in something enough to have it custom framed, you'll want to preserve it."

Technology has also entered into the frame shop. When he started, Estes wrote



every order out by hand. Now he uses a computer to generate quotes and keep track of materials and their availability. He also has acquired a computerized mat cutter that allows him to create complicated mats in an efficient and profitable manner.

Estes has framed a lot of different things in a quarter century. Naturally the fine arts are well represented—he has framed Rembrandt and Whistler etchings, for instance. Asked to name a favorite, Estes takes a moment to think and replies, “One I get the most inward glee about is a dress we framed that was worn by a model in one of Norman Rockwell’s paintings. Touching a piece of history like that feels good.” Other people like to preserve history, too. “We had a job that we did for a young couple remodeling their first house. They were redoing their living room, and they discovered layer upon layer of wallpaper. We framed a piece of each one as a historical record of the house.” ▶



The Hanover Inn

at Dartmouth College



Chef Justin Dain

Introducing Executive Chef Justin Dain. Chef Dain graduated from both the Culinary Institute of America and the New England Culinary Institute. Since childhood Justin possessed the desire to be a Chef, embarking on his career path with an externship while still in high school. It was there that his love of cooking began to flourish. He began his career in Vermont and worked at fine establishments such as the world renowned Equinox Resort in Manchester, VT. He cultivated his skills at the Boston Harbor Hotel as the Restaurant Chef for Meritage under the acclaimed Chef Daniel Bruce.

Chef Dain comes from The Reluctant Panther Inn and Restaurant, a property that was ranked #5 top in Zagat's 2009 best hotels and resorts in New England. Chef Dain had been the Executive Chef at The Reluctant Panther for the past three years. As Hanover Inn's Executive Chef, his central mission is to present refined American cuisine that is elegant but accessible. Chef will bring new ideas and techniques to enhance the Inn's culinary repertoire by utilizing high quality ingredients and his thorough understanding of how they are best combined and prepared. With the distinctive changing of seasons in New England, Chef Dain always examines what is fresh and locally available. This is essential to his culinary endeavor in providing the optimal guest experience. Chef is moving to the area with his wife Kristen and son Connor.

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first glance

Bringing Art to the Area

Estes no longer has time for his own painting, and friends who've known him for a long time wonder if he misses it. He finds that the frame shop takes too much of his time and energy to get back into his studio after work. "My tank is kind of empty at the end of the day," he says, and he finds his business both engrossing and satisfying. "It's part retail, part manufacturing, part design, and part interior decorating, so it ties up the brain cells. Missing painting is not traumatic because every day is a new creative thing."

Being in White River Junction has also been gratifying for Estes, and he is proud that his was the first arts-based business in a downtown that is now also home to a school for cartoon studies, a professional theater, and a writers' center. With the arts renaissance has come a greater sense of place as well.

"There's more traffic now; people come to White River as a destination instead of just passing through. It's been exciting to be part of that."

For now, Mark Estes is pleased with his thriving business, but he thinks the time will come to revisit his easel. "I'm so mentally involved in my business that I don't think about painting that much, but I know there's a need to return some day." This winter, he hopes to tackle cleaning up his studio and to "start doodling." In the meantime, his framing talent is on display every day on South Main Street in White River Junction. ●

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Cowboy Up

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
VICKI BEAVER

IN New England!

Ski joring is fast fun



Left: Christina Thorp rides Big Ben the Belgian with skier Blair Weathers behind during a ski joring event in New London.

Above: Horse Dusty races down the course with rider Christina Thorp, towing Bruce Stott at full speed in Newport.

"RIDER IS READY. SKIER IS READY. THE COURSE IS CLEAR . . ."

The announcer's voice cracks across the crisp winter air from speakers rimming the New London Commons, preparing spectators and volunteers for another thrilling run. The next moment a horse, rider, and skier burst through a starting block toward an obstacle course bathed in white.

This is the sport of ski joring. ▶

Ski What?

Equestrian ski joring (pronounced *skee-your-ing*) is the wild winter sport of a horse running full speed down a snow-covered track while pulling a skier on a long rope. It is a sport of speed, finesse, and teamwork. A skier must possess the skill to stay upright, react to the quickly changing course, and adapt to the horse's tow. The horse has to be unafraid of the rope, towing a skier, and crowd distractions.

Ski joring originated centuries ago in Scandinavia as an effective mode of winter travel where skiers were towed behind reindeer, steering them with long reins. In the early 1900s, ski joring (or *skikjoring*, Norwegian for "ski driving") became a military competition in Norway and Sweden, and horses replaced the reindeer. Equestrian ski joring was even included as a demonstration sport at the 1928 Winter Olympics in Switzerland, and although it has not been in an Olympics since, it remains a popular sport there.

In 1917, ski joring was a highlighted racing event in the traditional Scandinavian style at the second annual Newport, New Hampshire, Winter Carnival. However, many people credit horse ski joring's arrival to the U.S. in 1949 when a couple of cowboys in Leadville, Colorado, began riding their horses while pulling skiers and racing. It was there, during World War II that the 10th Mountain Army Division trained with ski joring.

Fifty years later, ski joring competitors came together to form the North American Ski Joring Association (NASJA) and organized events for horses, mounted riders, and skiers to race against the clock instead of each other.

NASJA promotes variety, and today a diverse spectrum of competitions take place annually in five states. Races evolved to include ski jumps, slalom and ring "jousting," and in some cases, mounted shooting. Jumps can be four to eight feet high and skiers can reach speeds of up to 50 miles per hour. ▶





Skiers of all ages and skill levels navigate cones and collect jousting rings behind horses on courses in Newport and New London. Top: Jay Lyons goes for the rings behind Thorp and Dusty. Left: Jennifer Judkins reins Manny to bring Bear Judkins within arm's reach of the rings. Above: A youngster enjoys the event.

Many Varieties Today, ski joring has many forms involving skis, snowboards, inline skates, horses, dogs, bicycles, snowmobiles, and other small, motorized vehicles. It is done on grass as well as snow.

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A "New" New Hampshire Winter Sport

A few years ago, New London residents Brooke and Geoff Smith wanted a way to enjoy their horses during the long winter months. "With the cold winters here in New Hampshire, there was nothing horse-wise to do. Our horses just sat all winter and we never did anything with them," Brooke says.

After hearing about ski joring and then visiting ski jorers out west, the Smiths decided to bring the sport to New England. With help from NASJA they created the North East Ski Joring Association (NESJA) and began organizing events in New Hampshire. Their first race, fittingly, was set for 2005 at Parlin Airport during Newport's 95th Winter Carnival.

There was only one problem: no snow. Without snow, there could be no ski joring. Luckily, just two days before the event, a large snowstorm saved its debut. With Mount Sunapee and the City of Newport creating the course for free, and with the help of many volunteers, the weekend was a success. For the first time in 87 years, racers and approximately 2,000 spectators enjoyed a ski joring competition in New England once again. "Like any successful event, it takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen," states Geoff, "and we'd like to thank them."



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Top: Trish Sullivan on Breyburn pulls skier Elayna Messenger. Above: Rob Thorpe and Dusty.

Get Involved

NESJA is a nonprofit, nationally sanctioned organization hoping to grow. They're looking for riders, horses, skiers, volunteers, event organizers, and sponsors. "It's a hugely exciting and fun sport to do," says Geoff, now president of the national organization NASJA. "It hooks you. When you hook onto a horse and you're being pulled down the course, there's nothing much more exciting."

Ski joring is a great family activity, and people of all ages participate at

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Mike Askin emerges through the snow dust bearing the weight of a collection of rings on his arm.

different levels. It's great exercise for horses and it draws people from all directions. "I love what the sport does for the community. I love how it brings all these people from different disciplines—skiers and riders—together to be a team," says Brooke. "You meet so many different people. Even from different disciplines of horses. Some people do gymkhana [equestrian games], some do western pleasure, some do driving or eventing or just trail riding. It brings all these disciplines to this one sport."

Participants should have basic skiing or riding skills. There is some learning and training for horses and riders, but they encourage beginners. "Everyone that ski jores is like family," says Brooke. "When you start ski joring, people treat you like family. If you don't know what you're doing, people will help you. They're not going to let you be off by yourself."

The Smiths offer training at their Never Done Farm, and NESJA offers an annual clinic in Rochester. Or just come watch the races. This year's New London race is in the Town Common on January 29 and 30, and the Newport Winter Carnival race at Parlin Field Airport is on February 12 and 13. For more race schedules and information, visit www.NESJA.com or www.NASJA.com. ●



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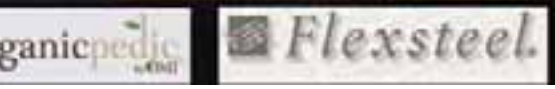
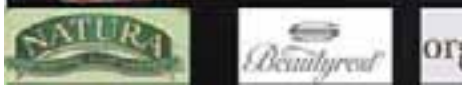
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Golf, snowboarder, skier, alpine skier

Pete Peterson, PA-C, ATC
Sports medicine physician assistant and athletic trainer
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John Nutting, MD
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Kristine Karlson, MD
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Olympic rower, cyclist, cross-country skier, runner

John-Erik Bell, MD
Shoulder and elbow specialist
Cyclist, skier, runner

Michael Sparks, MD
Knee specialist
Runner, climber, cyclist, skier

Kirsten Gleason, PT
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Not pictured: Steve Vinicki, PT
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HOME MEDIA ROOMS

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Fabulous improvements in high-definition TV combined with superb surround-sound systems have revolutionized home entertainment. Literally millions of choices of music, films, programs, and games are available for home viewing and listening. A recent design trend, the home media room puts this superb new technology in its place and puts it there with flair. ▶



COURTESY OF MAVERICK INTEGRATION, BEDFORD, NH





“TV screens are larger and thinner and provide a better picture than in the past, and speakers and amplification are better, too. Along with the high-quality picture, movies are getting better sound as they are produced. Now it’s not just the TV, it’s not just the sound, it’s the whole experience.

“The biggest trend and newest thing on the market is 3D TV. Along with the screen, you physically wear a pair of 3D glasses. It’s fantastic! It’s something to experience!”

*David Bennett, electronics manager,
Superstore, 132 South Main Street,
West Lebanon, NH 03784*





“When you went to a stereo shop 10 or 15 years ago, you would see a lot of bookshelf-style speakers. Go there now and you see more in-wall and hidden speakers. You don’t have to look at them anymore to hear them.”

*Eric Stone, Tasco,
PO Box 850,
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In a home media room, your lifestyle and interests take center stage. The jigsaw puzzle of components—Blu-ray players, receivers, amplifiers, cable boxes, speakers, and all those wires—are out of sight. A professionally designed media room has easy controls; an advanced remote can access all your programming and more, even operating the drapes and the popcorn popper. Some homeowners opt for dedicated home theaters, spaces designed specifically for watching movies; others integrate media into living spaces, affording great viewing and other activities in the same space.

Along with the technology, there are almost endless options for the home media room to suit the homeowners' style. Back-lit panels and recessed lighting set the mood and eliminate distracting glare. Ample, comfy chairs and loveseats recline; some have heated seats. Gaming chairs synchronized with films and game programs shake, jolt, and simulate high-speed chases. Automated drapes and shades open or close as needed. Artwork and mirrors hide television screens when not in use.

Design and installation of a home media room fits smoothly into new construction or as a retrofit of existing home spaces. Media systems can be concentrated in a room or rooms or installed through the house, from the great room through the kitchen and even in the bathrooms. So, tap that touchpad—it's showtime!



It's Better at Home

"Media stores in the area work with homeowners and builders in planning and installing media rooms. With the new equipment you can have a whole-theater experience at home and you don't have to worry about your feet sticking to the floor—and the popcorn is better, too."

*David Bennett, electronics manager,
Superstore, 132 South Main Street, West
Lebanon, NH*



“We see a few designated home theaters, but we’re seeing a lot more multipurpose rooms with media and other uses. The media room may also be the room where Mom may go to read or the family may entertain.”

*John Adams, Satellite Video,
135 Beswick Drive, White River
Junction, VT*

Home Theater

Movie stars and high society celebrities settled into comfortable gold brocade armchairs to watch black-and-white films during visits to William Randolph Hearst’s San Simeon estate. Eleven pm screenings were a tradition there; most of the films were from Hearst’s production company, and most starred his girlfriend Marion Davies. The plush room in Hearst Castle with its elevated rows of seats and opulent décor—gold caryatids holding bunches of flowers stand along the burgundy walls—was completed in 1931. Hearst’s was one of the first and is still one of the most famous home movie theaters.

In 1942, the White House theater was installed. Unlike Hearst’s that was built for its purpose, the Presidents’ was a retrofit—an ample cloakroom in the East Wing was adapted to its new media use. Presidents and their families use the room for private screenings; they also often entertain guests there, from visiting dignitaries to groups of Washington, D.C., schoolchildren. The theater was most recently redecorated in 2004; the old pale tan and cream walls, drapes, and chairs went out and red upholstered seats and deep red and gold walls came in. Beyond movie nights, Presidents also use the White House theater for practicing speeches.

A residence of the magnitude of Hearst Castle or the White House is not necessary for a modern home theater. Yet, home theaters today have features found at both of those addresses. A home theater’s main purpose is screening movies. Its seating and systems are designed to provide an optimal movie viewing experience, not a space for exercising with your Wii or watching the evening news. Lighting can be completely controlled day or night. If the room has windows, drapes or shades keep natural light out. Non-reflective fabrics, carpet, and wall coverings minimize glare and distraction.

Seats are arranged for viewing. In a larger home theater, they are typically in rows and on elevated platforms to afford every seat a superb view of the screen. ▶



“In your media room, you can have seating that’s elevated like a theater. Companies make specific lounge chairs for home theater—they’re wider, very cushy, and have drink holders. Some have speakers built into the seats themselves. It’s theater design.”

David Bennett, electronics manager, Superstore, 132 South Main Street, West Lebanon, NH



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Steps to Your Home Media Room

“The new televisions along with surround-sound systems really bring the home media experience together,” says David Bennett, electronics manager at the Superstore in West Lebanon. Bennett has seen a lot of innovation and advancement in media technology in the 20-plus years he has been in the audio and video business. Bennett suggests these steps to homeowners who are looking forward to their new home media experience.

- Ask yourself a few questions first, suggests Bennett. What is your wish list? Do you want speakers through the house or just in the media room? What kind of screen and what size screen do you want in your home? Do you want projection or a panel TV? Both are high definition, but a projection screen is designed for movies and can be a much larger screen.

- “Talk to a professional who can design the system,” advises Bennett. “We look at the space and propose a plan and we give you ideas about how to set up the room. If you’re going to get a new TV, why not do speakers or surround sound at the same time? And why not put the speakers in the wall?”

- Working with your interests and budget, the media technician, explains Bennett, “can help with design and ideas about placement as well as developing a schedule of what you may want. We develop two proposals—a wiring layout and an equipment proposal. The customer decides what specifics they want—the size or features on the TV, a specific Blu-ray player. We give recommendations, but the customer picks out the specific features.”

- “Have your A/V technician wire your system,” says Bennett. “Generally media system wiring is not done by an electrician, it’s done by a specialized technician. The technician installs and tests the products to make sure everything is working as it should.”

- Once the system is in place, says Bennett, “We program and test the remote. We do a walk-through of the system with the customer. For the homeowner, it’s a little like driving a new car. At first you’re not familiar with all the features. We’re there to help.”

- “Then it’s the Wow! Factor,” says Bennett. “When it’s all done, we want people to be thrilled. When they turn it on, if there’s a storm in the movie, we want to have the thunder sound like it is in the room with them.”

The Latest Trends

Eric Stone of Tasco in Lebanon says, "It is pretty incredible what's going on in the home media industry." Eric explains that while Tasco is best known for its work with security systems, they also design and install home theaters, whole-house audio, and other systems to meet homeowners' media interests.

"I'm just back from a big CEDIA (Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association) meeting in Atlanta—their national meeting," says Eric. CEDIA describes itself as "the electronic systems industry's go-to resource for education, networking, and training." The CEDIA annual meeting is definitely the place to see what's cutting edge.

"A hot new trend is Ton speakers," says Eric. "They build the speakers into artwork. At the CEDIA convention they had a Buddha statue. The statue was about five feet tall and looked like it was floating. The sound system emanated from under the Buddha. It was amazing!"

New technology is changing not only the way people watch TV but also how they're listening to music. "I've been in the audio visual field for over 20 years," Eric says. "People used to go out and get a sound system. Now it's all about access—instantaneous access. With the content that is online, there are people who are packing up their CDs because they don't need them anymore." You can stream from Pandora, a radio station, or from Rhapsody, and for a few dollars a month you have access to nine million songs."

Just For Fun

The Game Room Media Room Install multiple televisions like a sports bar. With team logo floor covering, your favorite team is part of the décor.

Hide That Television Your projectors and screens can be motorized to retract into the ceiling when not in use.

Home Theater Accessories A personalized traditional marquee, film posters in illuminated cases, movie star cutouts, concession signs, velour ropes, even theater style drink cups and popcorn boxes can bring your home experience even closer to the theater, except without the perils of having chewing gum under your chair or strangers kicking the back of your seat and talking through the action.

The Consumer is the Winner *CNN Money* recently reported prices of 32-inch LCD TV panels over the last five years. In 2005, the 32-inch flat screen LCD sold for an average price of \$1,566. Its price plummeted to \$873 in 2006, then continued to ease down to \$374 for most of 2010. Prices are expected to be even lower with pre-Christmas sales.

Choose Your Theme Bat Cave? The bridge of the Starship *Enterprise*? Jules Verne's *Nautilus*? It's your media room and can be all your imagination conjures up. Some fabulously themed rooms have already been created and more are no doubt yet to come. Even if you don't choose to go to the extreme of recreating a space from a favorite film, your style and interests make it your own. ●

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John Jackson's favorite "Chandler moment" happened in February 1971, when the lights came up for the opening of *Brigadoon*, the first theatrical production to be staged at Randolph's Music Hall since World War II. Jackson had reason for elation. He first set foot in the "decayed and nearly derelict"

BY STEPHEN MORRIS

PHOTOS BY JACK ROWELL



building two years earlier. Although vestiges of its original elegance were obvious, 20 years of idleness and disrepair had taken a toll. A community group had tried to stage a production there in 1968, but the lack of even basic services

turned it into a disaster. As described by Jackson in his memoir: “For starters, there were only 60 amps of power available in the hall, including the house lights. The only technical lighting equipment was an ancient rheostat about a foot in diameter

The 103-year-old Chandler Music Hall gets a much-needed facelift—fresh paint, new LED lights, and a welcoming front plaza.



that dimmed the footlights. If one tried to use it, it tended to throw sparks and blow out the building fuse. The attic had numerous buckets scattered around to catch the drips from the leaking roof. The back wall of the stage had loosely fitting windows and structural cracks that did little to keep the weather outside. On at least one occasion we had to sweep snow off the stage before rehearsal.”

Looking Back

Funded originally by philanthropist and summer resident of Randolph, Albert B. Chandler, the hall was completed in 1907 and donated to Bethany Church, located directly across the street. For the next 25 years Chandler Music Hall lived up to its billing as a place “where the arts and community meet,” hosting plays, concerts, lectures,





The Music Hall's historic interior remains essentially unchanged and its legendary acoustics have been carefully preserved. Restoration work in the lobby has improved patron traffic flow and resulted in a more elegant connection between the Music Hall and Gallery, and new woodwork was painstakingly created to match the original features. As a way of celebrating the importance of the visual arts to the organization, the Chandler Board voted to fund two commissioned pieces of original art by slate artists Andrea Wasserman and Elizabeth Billings and stained glass artist and cartoonist Phil Godenschwager as an integral part of the renovation project. Ms. Anjou, an original sculpture in blue granite by local artist Jim Sardonis, is on loan and graces the new grand staircase.



Chandler commissioned stained glass artist Phil Godenschwager to design a commemorative window celebrating the building's 100th anniversary.

films, meetings, and events. Chandler became known as the most acoustically perfect venue in the state of Vermont.

But the 1927 flood, the stock market crash, the Great Depression, and subsequently World War II took their tolls, not just on Chandler but on the arts in general. By 1947 the hall was undeniably a “white elephant” and ownership passed to the town of Randolph for one dollar. Unfortunately, the town was reluctant to incur the expenses of

maintenance or renovation. Chandler’s long slide into oblivion had begun.

Many other people in central Vermont have favorite “Chandler moments.” Kevin Dunwoody’s moment came during the New World Festival a few years ago. This rollicking noon-to-midnight festival is held annually the day before Labor Day and celebrates Vermont’s Celtic and French-Canadian roots with six musical venues that fully utilize the Music Hall’s facilities. Festivities spill out onto Main

Street, transforming a sleepy town into a throbbing orgy of painted faces, sidewalk murals, microbrewed beers, and whirling dancers.

For Dunwoody, who founded the festival 18 years ago and who has served as the volunteer musical director ever since, the magic came when his teenage daughter turned to him and said simply, “At least for one day a year, Randolph is cool.” Dunwoody’s many years of volunteer service were instantly, and fully, rewarded.

Time to Renovate

This year’s festival attendees received a bonus in the form of a sneak preview of the 3.5 million dollar renovation that has just been completed thanks to the combined financial efforts of the town of Randolph, the office of Senator Patrick Leahy, and a huge number of supporters of the local arts community.

To the casual observer, the renovation is not immediately obvious. Yes, there’s a new electric marquee and some landscaping changes, but the main stage is still recognizably the main stage, the stenciling is still impressive, and the sound is still perfect. Much of the renovation occurred below ground and behind the curtains. When asked about the benefits of the renovation, Becky McMeekin, executive director,





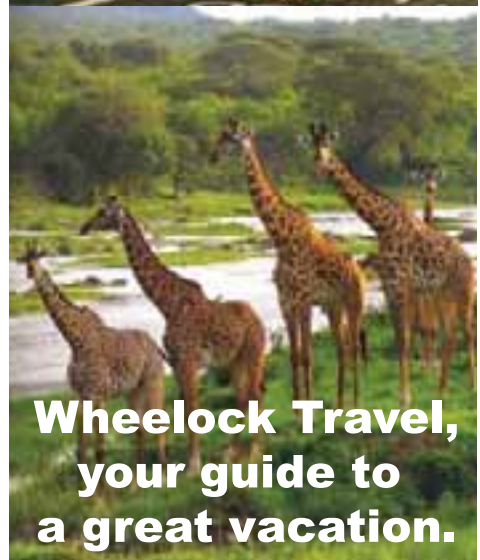
Jim Green and Beth Telford offered traditional music in the Gallery during Chandler's community-wide open house in September. Green's father Robert (bottom of facing page), whose wife Shirley served as Chandler's volunteer box office manager for more than 20 years, listened appreciatively with Kathy Nowlan.



Ellie and Chandler Anderson find their profiles among more than 170 gathered from community members by artists Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman. These sandblasted slate profiles are interwoven with images of native plants and trees and echo the "sometimes complex or conversely quiet sequences and cadences" of music, theater, and dance.



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Of Note

Much of the historical information in this piece came from *Not a Bad Seat in the House: Albert B. Chandler and His Marvelous Music Hall*, a centennial year history and celebration written by M. Dickey Drysdale, available through Chandler.

Amateur musician Chris Smith and friend brought music to the Upper Gallery space, now the dedicated Esther Mesh room, during the September open house. More than 200 community members, visitors, artists, performers, and funders celebrated the grand opening of the renovated and expanded facilities.

responds exuberantly and unequivocally, “Restrooms and accessibility! Finally, all portions of the building are accessible. Elevator access and the reinforced floor in the Upper Gallery allow us to add a sixth venue for the New World Festival.”

McMeekin knows firsthand the challenges of crowd control within the limitations of an old building—the complaints about interminable lines for the restrooms, the cramped dressing spaces for the performers, the issues of wheelchair access. All these issues are magnified with an annual, weather-influenced, one-day festival. “We work hard to find the perfect balance—a sufficient number of festival-goers to make an event profitable, but not so many that venues are overcrowded. We want it to feel intimate, but we need to be financially viable, as well.”

The facility changes backstage delighted the performers, who now have more room to warm up before taking the stage. The infrastructure improvements are immediately apparent to anyone familiar with the “old” Chandler. Charlotte Phillips, a veteran of the student tech crew for many years and now returning with her husband as a festival attendee, noticed a new door that connects the Upper Gallery with the balcony. “Do you know how many trips up and down the stairs this would have saved me?” she exclaimed.

The Challenge of Fundraising

McMeekin credits capital campaign co-chairs Sharon Rives and Linda Morse with much of the fund-raising success. “Sharon focused on individual gifts and Linda worked on the public funding pieces. One of our biggest successes was the \$200,000 challenge from Jane’s Trust, but more than 700 individual, business, and foundation gifts supported the project in addition to the bond from the town and the Historic Preservation gift that Senator Leahy leveraged.”

McMeekin’s favorite fundraising story is the nationwide support generated from people across the country to honor beloved music teacher Esther Mesh, who taught in the area from 1932 to 1957. Scores of gifts poured in, ranging from \$2 to \$10,000. As a result, the Upper Gallery has been named in her honor.

Serving the Community

Betsy Cantlin is Chandler’s outreach director. It’s her job to make sure that the building and the organization serve the whole community, not just the few. Her moment is decidedly more subtle. “My favorite moment was when the new sheetrock in the Upper Gallery received its first coat of paint. It totally changed the face of that tired and shabby space—now with a new wooden floor and evenly hung cabinets! The space is absolutely beautiful and is ready to serve the public with room

for classes, public and private gatherings, and celebrations of all sorts.”

Classes, demonstrations, and roundtables are of equal importance to big-name entertainment on the main stage, and the renovations will allow people of all ages and abilities to utilize the facility. More classes and a film series are in the works, and community members are encouraged to rent the renovated spaces for their own celebrations or performances.

The organization also offers scholarships to youth in need so that they can attend Chandler’s summer youth musical theater program. It’s all about expanding “where the arts and community meet,” the organization’s slogan.

“We even support an ‘Arts Bus’ that travels to childcare centers, elementary schools, libraries, low-income communities, and youth camps to share the gifts that exposure to the arts can bring,” says Cantlin.

Charlie McMeekin, Becky’s husband and a Chandler veteran as both a performer and a director, had his own Music Hall epiphany when he saw his son, a bluegrass musician, appear recently on the main stage. “He was up there playing his own music in front of hundreds of hooting and hollering friends and fans. It was a validation of all his life choices.”

From bluegrass frenzy to painted sheetrock to the opening of *Brigadoon*, Randolph’s Chandler Music Hall will be providing memorable moments for another hundred years. ●

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BY MEG BRAZILL

PHOTOS BY JACK ROWELL

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Phillip Godenschwager

AN ARTIST FOR ALL SEASONS

Who is Phillip Godenschwager? It might depend on who you ask. He's been known for his exquisite work in stained glass for more than 30 years, and for his pen and ink drawings even longer. His students at Vermont Technical College (VTC) know him to be an expert draftsman and teacher. Still others point to his graphic designs, or his magazine illustrations, or his industrial designs. He's been a sculptor, craftsman, engineer, and art director. In fact, Godenschwager has worn too many hats to mention. The man simply cannot be pigeonholed. ▶



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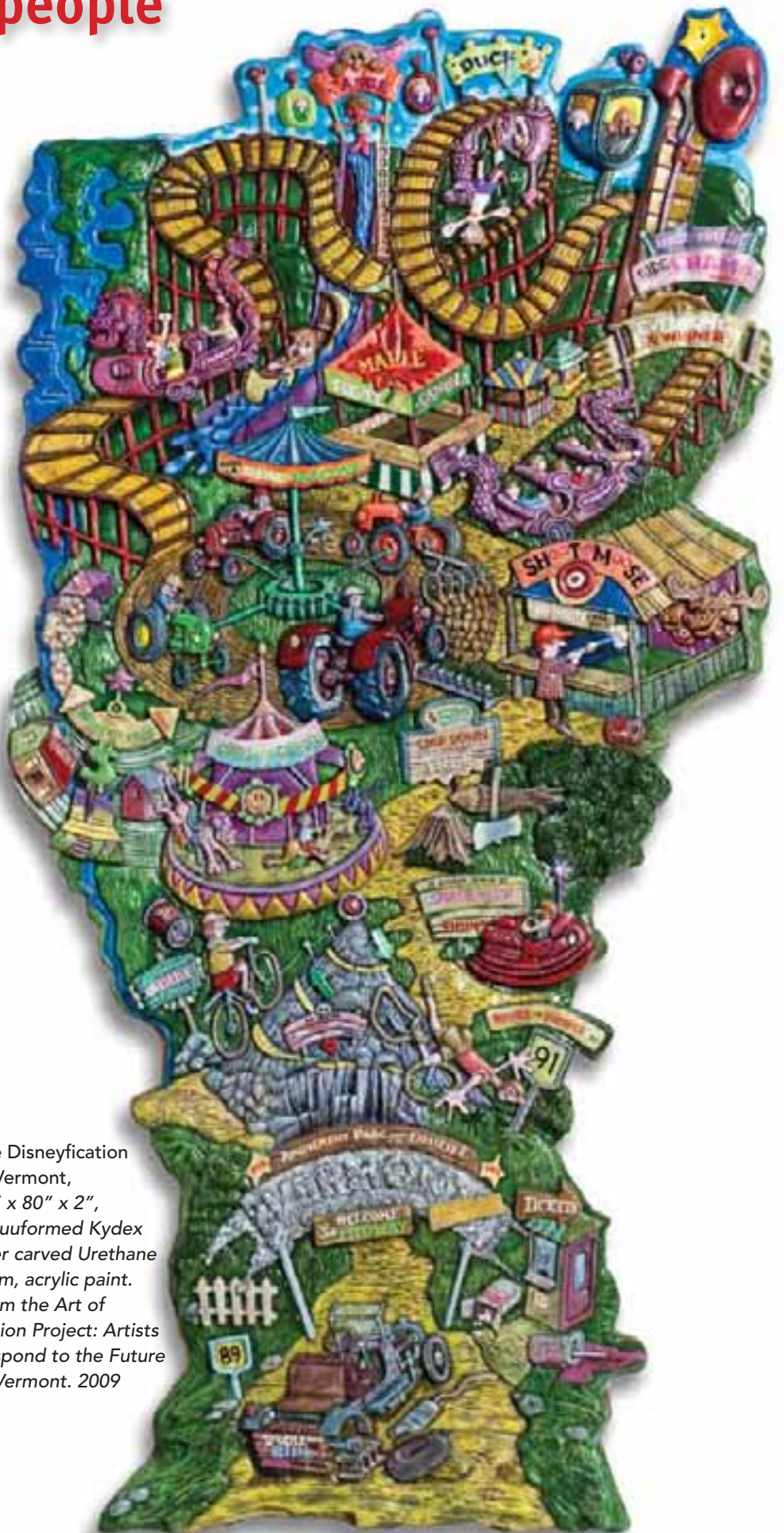


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The Disneyfication of Vermont, 45" x 80" x 2", vacuformed Kydex over carved Urethane foam, acrylic paint. From the Art of Action Project: Artists Respond to the Future of Vermont. 2009



Top: *It's a Jungle out There*, 48" x 96" x 2", *vacuumformed Kydex, wood cut-outs, acrylic paint*. Collection of the artist. 2001. Above: *Cowmel's Hump*, *glass mosaic over fiberglass cow form*. From the *Cows Come Home to Burlington* project, sponsored by the *Chittenden Bank for the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce*. 2010. Right: *Fragile Globe*, 12" diameter x 22" high; *cut, fused, and slumped glass in a wire matrix, found cast-iron stand with gold leaf*. Collection of the artist. 1993.

A Man of Many Talents

He's restored a 56-horse Dentzel Carousel (which later moved to Dollywood), as well as supervised the restoration of a turn-of-the-century amusement park. While he was creative director for Advanced Animations in Stockbridge, Vermont, from 1985

through 1988, he designed car shows for Chrysler at the annual Detroit Auto Show. The 30-foot animated clock tower Godenschwager designed for FAO Schwarz's flagship toy store quickly became a kid magnet and a New York City tourist attraction. He even directed the manufacture of the

Muppets Traffic Safety Show, which featured the first fully animatronic versions of the Muppets.

In Vermont, Godenschwager is also known for the public art commissions he's created in stained glass at the Chandler Music Hall (see article on page 42) and the Vermont Veterans

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Opposite page: Four Seasons, leaded glass, fired glass paint, and silver stains, 72" x 32". Private residential commission. 2001. Left: Memorial Window, leaded glass, fired glass paint, and silver stain, 72" x 32". Commissioned for the Historic Stone Church in Cragmoor, NY.

to a point where the glass begins to melt and "slumps" into whatever shape you want.

Like most artists, Phil strays from his true love—art—to work that helps bring home the bacon. But, unlike many artists, he infuses everything he does with creativity, mastery, and a sense of joy. Godenschwager is the definitive craftsman, a professional whose work is consistently of high quality; he is a skilled creator using the manual arts to practice a trade.

"These days the biggest part of my design business is architectural design and illustration," Phil says, "and I teach architectural drafting in the construction management program at VTC. It's one of the few places where they understand the inherent value in teaching kids how to think with a pencil." Godenschwager is also a contractor who does a lot of design-build work, so he recognizes the need to have drawing skills in the field. "You're on the work site with carpenters and you need to make some changes on the fly. If you can sketch it on a two-by-four, they can build it." He laughs, recalling a situation just like it. He enjoys teaching and takes pride in his design work, however, he's quick to add, "That's the way I make my living, but that's not my art."

A Bit of Background

Phil Godenschwager grew up in a military family, so he was always on the move. "Drawing was the one constant that traveled with me as I grew up." By the time he graduated from high school, he'd moved more than a dozen times. He says the experience helped him become the consummate observer he is today. The frequent moving had its upside, too. When he was eight, Godenschwager learned to paint from

Chapel, and in the lobby of the City of Burlington's Central Maintenance Facility. Phil has even created industrial designs for gas and wood stoves that many Vermonters use in their homes.

At the heart of it all, Godenschwager is an artist who works with 3D assemblages and sculptures, and glass art. "When I do my own thing," he says, "I do my glass art, which is fused and painted and slumped." He explains that slumping is a technique for forming glass in which heat is applied


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THE CHANDLER WINDOW



It started with a competition. The Chandler Center for the Arts had just undertaken a \$3 million renovation of its historic building to launch Chandler into its next 100 years of presenting art. For their centennial, they invited artists to design a piece that would celebrate the Chandler's history. The open competition brought all of the artists' concepts together—photographs, scale models, drawings, and papers—to be exhibited in the Chandler gallery.

A committee convened to study the proposals and selected 10 finalists. In the end, it came down to two projects, and the committee voted to fund both: a series of slate panels by Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman, and a stained glass window by Phil Godenschwager.

Godenschwager's stained glass window, approximately 72 inches high by 32 inches wide, depicts Chandler's history in a series of fanciful cartoon images, stencil designs, and historic images. They converge to represent the continuum of the past 100 years of the arts on into the future. Godenschwager originally designed it as an exterior window, replicating the detailing of the existing windows, but historic preservation restrictions did not allow changes to the building's exterior. It was a fortuitous problem, however, because Godenschwager instead built the window inside a light box. LEDynamics, a local company, provided the special LED lighting.

During the renovation a corner office was replaced by a grand staircase, which leads directly to Godenschwager's stained glass window. It's the perfect spot to see his artwork which so vividly describes Chandler's history pictorially. Now, whenever the Chandler is open, patrons can see Godenschwager's art window, day or night.

See related story on page 42.

real
people



Fish Hill Forever, 36" x 36", "patchwork quilt" leaded window with fired glass paint, from Memories window series. 2008.

a Japanese teacher in the Philippines; in high school he learned to draw from life on the steps of the Acropolis in Greece (where he also met his future wife). Back in the U.S., he received a BFA in Graphic Design from Ohio University; later he received an MFA from Vermont College of Norwich University in 1993, with an emphasis on glass as a medium for sculpture.

Phil is currently restoring a stained glass window in his workshop, Atlantic Art, Glass and Design, where he does restoration work and also creates new glass work. Located along the railroad tracks in one of several old factory buildings, his studio is part of the White River Craft Center in Randolph, Vermont. When the train pulls fast along the track, the windows rattle and it's impossible not



to fear for the thousands of pieces of glass and paraphernalia perched on every shelf, nook, and cranny. But Godenschwager himself isn't rattled. He seems to take it all in stride.

Skill and Patience

In the center of the room, long worktables are filled with projects he is working on. To see a work in progress is to understand how painstaking the work really is. For example, for the 100 square-foot ceiling at the Central Maintenance Facility in Burlington, Phil used 2,000 pieces of multicolored stained glass to create a street map of the Burlington area, from Shelburne to Malletts Bay and from Lake Champlain to Essex Corners. Constructed in 41 individual 20-inch square panels, the resulting work is beautiful. He spent four months creating it in his studio, and then the panels were transported to the site where it took another 12 hours to install in a steel frame. ▶



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Maple Leaves, 43" x 28", fired glass paint, lead. Landing window for a private residence. 2002.

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Although Godenschwager has been working in stained glass for decades, he always refers to it as a sideline. "I don't advertise for glass work; these

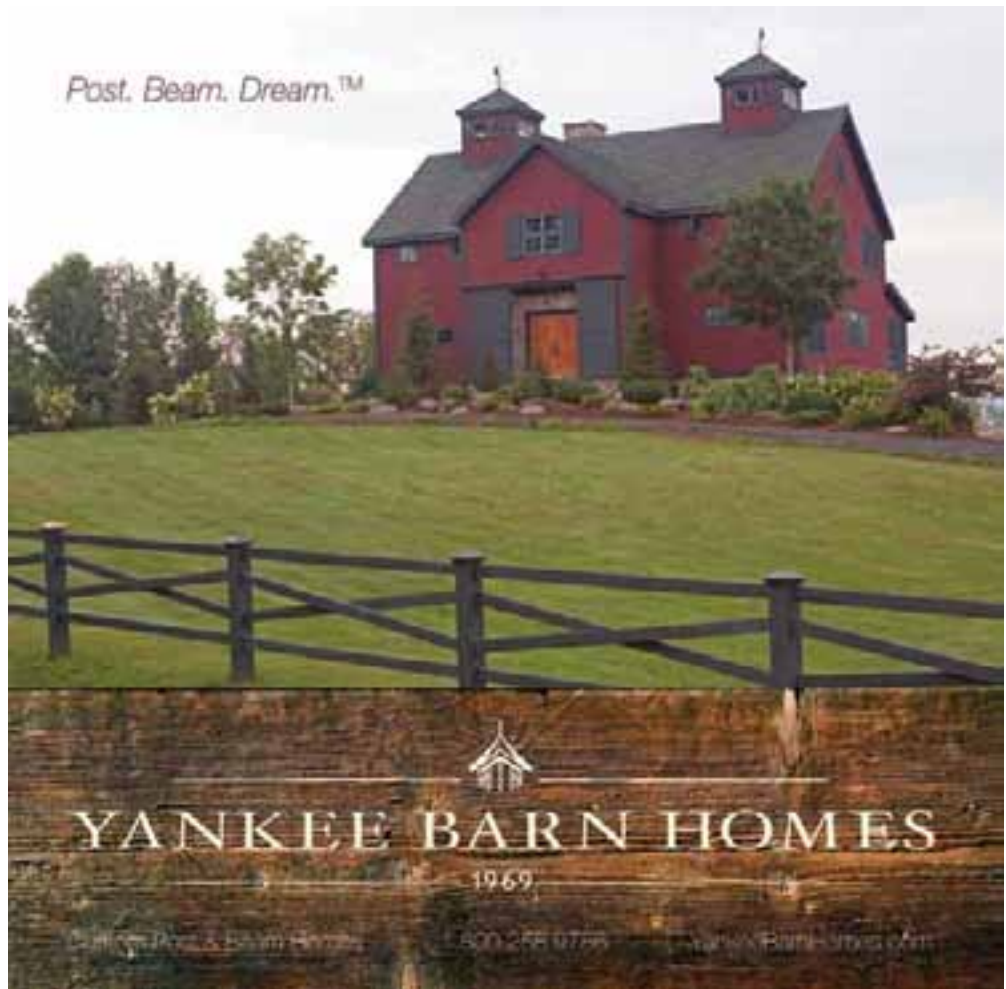
days, it's all word of mouth." In the 1980s, he ran a stained glass shop for about six years and founded a glass studio there, which was associated with

the Great American Salvage Company. "That's where I learned how to take old windows apart and rebuild them." His art comes with a built-in job hazard: glass cuts. Phil has a stash of Band-Aids and wields a tube of ointment as if it were just another tool of the trade.

He learned other techniques, too—Old-World techniques like painting on glass. Godenschwager says very few people know the technique. Phil studied it at Pilchuck Glass School under Albinas Elskus, who literally wrote the book on it, *The Art of Painting on Glass: Techniques and Designs for Stained Glass*. The painted glass is fired at 1,250 degrees Fahrenheit. The paint fuses to the glass and cannot be removed. It doesn't fade. "It will look the same in 100 or 1,000 years," Phil says. "You can find Egyptian glass in archaeological digs, thousands of years old, and it looks the same as the day it was made."

Over the past six years, Godenschwager has created 40 stained glass panels for a gazebo at his home. "And I need to do 40 more!" he says. "I had a great uncle in Cleveland who was a stained glass man all his life. He saved every scrap of glass from every church window he ever repaired." Phil inherited the glass scraps and uses them like historical artifacts to create contemporary abstract glass panels. The glass is 19th and early 20th century. It's from New York City, Cleveland, and Belgium. Perhaps 1,000 years from now, archaeologists will unearth Godenschwager's gazebo. And the painted glass will still be as fresh as the day he made it. ●

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You could say Lynn Ambrosi was born with a green thumb. The owner of Lebanon Floral and Plants has spent decades growing and arranging plants and flowers. Lynn was employed at a greenhouse in her hometown of Newburgh, New York, and studied plant science at SUNY Cobleskill. When she moved to the Upper Valley in 1974, she worked for two different area florists before starting her own business in 1990. ▶



Fay Gerber and Lynn Ambrosi.



"At the two flower shops where I worked, the owners were getting ready to retire," Lynn recalls. "When you're young, you're enthusiastic and interested in different things and different styles. The styles that people wanted were changing. The types of flowers they wanted were changing. I was ready to do all that. The way things were done 25 years ago—they're not done that way now. We have better ways of taking care of flowers these days. We have better ways arranging flowers, and it's not just carnations and daisies. You can get flowers from everywhere—practically any type you want."

Brighten Up Your Home

Lebanon Floral offers fresh flowers, custom arrangements, delivery, giftware, jewelry, green and flowering plants, plant accessories, and silk and dried arrangements. Services include custom-designed fresh arrangements for all occasions, local delivery, FTD wire service, and plant repotting. "Whenever possible, especially during warmer months, I try to





Lynn keeps a variety of fresh flowers on hand, and she can create arrangements for any decor, even in a customer's own container.

buy lots of locally grown material," Lynn says. "It is fun to use! It offers us diversity of flower types and real freshness as it is often cut the morning we receive it." In addition to local goods, Lynn receives flowers from the Netherlands, South America, California, and Hawaii. "We spend quite a bit of time processing our flowers and checking quality," she explains. "We really want a good-quality, long-lasting product."

Demand fluctuates with the seasons. Summers keep Lynn busy with weddings, holidays are always hectic, but business really picks up in the winter. "When people don't have

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flowers in their yards, they are more in the mood to buy flowers. And this time of year when it starts getting a little gray, we can brighten up those homes."

Location, Location, Location

Establishing her business in downtown Lebanon in 1990 was exciting for Lynn. The area already had retail shops, and new restaurants were opening. Many changes have occurred over the years: additional restaurants and shops appeared, and the Lebanon Opera House booked more events.

"Food is a big draw," Lynn says. While ordering, many customers come in to browse. Parents also stop by after dropping off students at the nearby ballet and music schools. People take advantage of the mall's free parking, and many pass the shop on their way to work.

The Golden Rule

"With the employees I have been able to hire, I have been able to make customer service a priority," Lynn says.

"Every one of these people has played a great part in our shop being able to offer this service and follow through with it. I really like to have our customers greeted when they come in. I always feel more welcome when I'm spoken to. I like to be able to browse and I encourage customers to do the same. I guess I like to treat others as I want to be treated. Some golden rules just don't change."

It is very important to listen, Lynn adds. "Our job is to interpret what our customer would like. We also encourage them to try new things. I had one customer who always comes in and gets carnations and daisies. Last year I said, 'Why don't we try orchids for your birthday?' And she loved them. But for 20 years she did the same thing. I don't know if she'll switch for good, but it's kind of fun to try something else."

Many customers become friends. "We have not only discussed what they like or dislike as far as flowers, but we catch up with what is going on in our lives," Lynn says. "It has been a

privilege. We have customers that bring in a specific container. We oftentimes know where this piece is going and what they like. We have customers who are willing to let us just go with it. This is great fun!"

You Name It, They've Done It

Lynn has made some interesting creations in her day. "You name it, we've done it," she says. Once, when customers wanted to order an arrangement for their mother's funeral service, Lynn recognized the name. She recalled seeing a photo in the paper of the senior citizen roller-skating. "They said, 'oh, yes, she loved roller skating,'" Lynn says, "So we made a spray for her funeral, and the focal point was her roller skate."

Lynn has made her share of wedding and party pieces, too, of course. But she has also created bouquets to celebrate new pets. "We put little cookies in the arrangements." And to commemorate colonoscopies: "It involved a toilet plunger."

Changing Times

Over the years, Lynn has tried to obtain more information from her customers. She has asked what they would like to see, their opinions of new products, and which business hours suit them best. "There are far fewer flowers shops than when I opened," she says. "People have choices as to where they make their purchases. You can grab pre-bunched flowers at any grocery store. My goal is to know our customers and to allow them the opportunity to choose what they would like for fresh flowers. We can beautifully wrap or arrange the flowers chosen. It is an experience to be enjoyed by all!" ●

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BY SUSAN NYE

Lovely, Luscious Chocolate

FOOD OF THE GODS

It is the perfect holiday food. The perfect gift. The perfect dessert. The perfect little treat. Christmas, New Year's, or Valentine's Day are all wonderful excuses to indulge. And hey, it's not too shabby on Presidents' Day, either. Let's face it—any time is a good time for chocolate. ▶

Chocolate Truffles



A sweet gift or a luscious treat to enjoy with coffee after a special dinner.

Makes about 2 dozen truffles

Ingredients

16 oz bittersweet chocolate, chopped into small pieces
1 cup heavy cream
1/4 tsp cinnamon
Tiny pinch salt
2 Tbsp cognac (optional)
2 Tbsp espresso or strong coffee
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
16 oz milk chocolate

Directions

1. Put the bittersweet chocolate in a heavy saucepan with the cream, cinnamon, and salt. Cook over low heat, carefully whisking the cream and chocolate together, until the chocolate has melted. Transfer to a bowl and whisk in the cognac, espresso, and vanilla. Chill in the refrigerator, stirring a few times, for 2 hours or until the chocolate mixture is thick and firm enough to scoop.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. With 2 teaspoons or a mini ice cream scoop, make dollops of chocolate and place them on the baking sheet. Refrigerate for about 45 minutes or until firm enough to roll into rough balls. Place the chocolate balls in the freezer for about one hour.
3. Melt the milk chocolate over low heat in a heavy saucepan. Dip the chocolate balls in the melted milk chocolate until completely covered. Chill again to set. Serve at room temperature.

Without a doubt, it's got to be the most popular treat in the world. As far as I can figure, my niece Emily is the only person on the planet who doesn't love chocolate. So with that one notable exception, I'll be doing my best to share lots of delicious chocolate with special friends, family, and loved ones this winter. ▶

Rich and delicious, serve this tart at your next holiday gathering.

Serves 12-16

Crust

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/2 cup finely ground almonds
6 Tbsp (3/4 stick) unsalted butter, melted

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Line the bottom of a 10-inch springform pan with parchment paper.
2. Combine the graham cracker crumbs, ground almonds, and butter in a medium bowl. Press the crumbs into the bottom and about 3/4 of an inch up the sides of the springform pan. Bake the crust at 350° for 8 minutes. Cool to room temperature and refrigerate until ready to use.

Chocolate Filling &

Caramel Sauce

2 cups sugar
Pinch of salt
2/3 cup orange juice
2 cups heavy cream, divided
2 tsp vanilla, divided
1 tsp espresso coffee powder (decaf is okay)
14 oz bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped

Garnish: 1/4 cup chopped and toasted almonds, whipped cream, and chocolate shavings



Death by Chocolate Tart

Directions

1. Put the sugar, a pinch of salt, and orange juice in heavy medium saucepan and cook over medium-low heat, stirring continuously, until the sugar dissolves.
2. Increase the heat and bring to a boil. Boil the sugar, swirling the pan occasionally, until the caramel turns a deep amber color, about 10 minutes.
3. Remove the pan from the heat. Stir in 1/2 cup of cream (the mixture will bubble up). Cool for 15 minutes. Stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla. Transfer three-quarters of the caramel sauce to a storage container. Let cool completely. Cover and store the sauce in the refrigerator until you are ready to serve the tart.
4. Add the remaining cream and a pinch of salt to the pot with the warm caramel sauce. Whisk over low heat until the cream and caramel sauce are well combined and caramel cream is just below a simmer. Stir in the espresso powder; whisk until the powder is dissolved and well



combined. Turn off the heat; add the chocolate and let sit for a minute or two until the chocolate starts to melt. Whisk until smooth and the chocolate has melted completely and is fully incorporated. Whisk in the remaining vanilla.

5. Carefully pour the warm chocolate into the graham cracker-almond crust. Let cool to room temperature, and cover and refrigerate for at least 6 hours or overnight. Remove the tart from the refrigerator about 30 minutes before serving.

To serve: Carefully release and remove the sides of the springform pan. Warm the caramel sauce for a minute or two in the microwave. Drizzle a spoonful of caramel sauce on each plate. Cut the tart into 12 or 16 wedges depending on how hungry you and your guests are for chocolate. Place each wedge of tart on a plate, drizzle with a little more caramel sauce, sprinkle with chopped almonds, and top with a small dollop of whipped cream and sprinkle with chocolate shavings.



chocolate

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Decadent Hot Chocolate



Definitely not your average après-ski or après-shoveling hot chocolate, but a warm and wonderful decadent dessert!

Makes 4 small but very rich servings

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 4 oz milk chocolate*, chopped into small pieces
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- Pinch salt
- 1/4 cup hot espresso or strong coffee
(decaf is okay)
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup Kahlua (optional)

Garnish: whipped cream and chocolate shavings

Directions

1. Put the cream, chocolate, cinnamon, and a small pinch of salt into a small, heavy saucepan. Cook on low, whisking frequently, until the chocolate is melted and fully incorporated into the cream. The mixture should be nice and hot but not boiling.
2. Whisk in the espresso, vanilla, and Kahlua. Pour into tiny cups and serve immediately with a small dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkle of chocolate shavings.

For a more traditional after-ski version, slowly whisk 3 cups of milk into the hot cream and melted chocolate and heat until steaming. Whisk in 1/2 cup hot espresso, the vanilla, and Kahlua. Pour into mugs and serve immediately.

* For a less-sweet version, use bittersweet chocolate.

Sweet Beginnings

Chocolate comes from the cacao tree or, to use its fancy-pants name, *Theobroma cacao*. Theobroma is Greek for "food of the gods," which more or less sums up this delightful delicacy. Native to the Amazon and grown throughout the tropics of South and Central America, the Mayans and Aztec were making chocolate drinks long before the conquistadors hit their shores. The Spanish fell in love with the bitter treat and brought it home. They added sugar and cinnamon and served it hot. Popularity grew and spread, and soon all of Europe was clamoring for sweet and spicy hot chocolate.

A Delicious Discovery

It took a few hundred years before a clever young Swiss confectioner and entrepreneur developed the smooth, creamy bars we all crave today. In the late 1800s, Rodolphe Lindt was determined to turn chocolate from a grainy and somewhat bitter substance into a luxurious treat. Young Rodolphe bought a fire-damaged factory and some second-hand equipment and began experimenting with chocolate paste, cocoa butter, and sugar. Legend has it that he rushed out the door one Friday afternoon and left a mixer churning away with a batch of chocolate. When he returned on Monday he discovered a velvety smooth, luscious concoction.

This amazing new chocolate could do much more than serve up a bitter-sweet drink. It could be formed into bars, bonbons, and truffles. It could be added to cakes, pies, and tarts. It could coat dried fruits and nuts and big, beautiful strawberries. It could be melted into a gorgeous sauce for ice cream or whipped into cream for a luscious mousse. The list of yummy treats goes on and on.



I don't know if Herr Lindt was rushing off to take part in a yodeling contest, a ski weekend, or a fondue. Whatever the reason, I for one am grateful for his absentmindedness and accidental discovery.

Treat your sweetheart, friends, and family to lovely, luscious chocolate! ●

A Chocolate Finish



Want a spectacular finish for your chocolate desserts? Decorate your dessert with lovely chocolate shavings and it might be mistaken for the work of a famous pastry chef.

Place a piece of parchment paper on the counter. Set a big, thick cookbook or dictionary on the edge of the parchment paper and top with a small cutting board. Place a lovely, thick chocolate bar on the edge of the cutting board. Hold onto the edges of the chocolate bar and use a vegetable peeler to peel off chocolate shavings and curls. Be careful and mind your fingers!

When you are done, lift up the parchment paper and carefully pour the chocolate flakes into an airtight container, cover, and store in a cool, dry place until ready to use.

For tips on cooking with chocolate, log on to www.uppervalleyimageonline.com.

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fitness matters



This page: The LIFE fitness resort in southern California has many amenities and comfortable guest rooms. Opposite top: Resort guests work out on the beach. Center: LIFE president and founder Eric Viskovicz assists actress Angela Bassett. Bottom: Eric with Elizabeth Rohm of Law & Order in the gym.



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"We work with professional athletes, celebrities, and regular people who are trying to live a healthier life," says LIFE president and founder Eric Viskovicz. "Right now we're hosting about half of the LA Clippers team and planning meals for them. We also work with triathletes, hockey players, and people training for the Olympics." Besides sports figures, LIFE regularly welcomes celebrity guests such as actress Angela Bassett and rocker Chris Daughtry.

"People come from all over the world," Eric says. "To be successful, many times people find they need to leave their toxic environments behind—toxic people, toxic jobs. Our entire culture is based around food, and negative influences in our lives can undermine the best efforts to eat healthy and be fit, so we offer an escape from that. Obesity is an epidemic in this country, with more than 60 percent of us being overweight. Our holistic approach helps people change their lifestyles and be successful long-term."

Eric's—and LIFE'S—Philosophy

As a college athlete, Eric was in incredible shape. But after entering the "real world" after school, he began to gain weight. He realized he could not continue his unhealthy habits and that he had to train himself mentally to work on his urges to eat unhealthily. "I realized that eating one or two cookies is OK, but that eating the whole box is a problem. Now I teach people to think about not what they're eating, but why. At LIFE we teach people to do things for enjoyment, not out of habit. We teach them to find a healthy balance in their daily routines. We conduct group sessions to focus on the psychological aspects of eating. We work with people to prepare them for long-term success." ▶



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Tailoring a program to each individual's needs is what sets LIFE apart from other health spas. The schedule for guests at LIFE is set from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm daily and includes working out, meeting with nutritionists, meal planning, therapy sessions, grocery store excursions, and cooking classes. "We plan out a very structured schedule for each individual every day, but we give them what they like. Activities range from weight training, cardio, yoga, posture alignment, biking, hiking, basketball, football, tennis—whatever people enjoy doing," Eric explains. "Because we're such a controlled environment, our clients see results very quickly."

Guests don't need to worry about their weight, fitness level, or working out in the gym when they arrive. "The gym can be a very intimidating place," says Eric. "But there is no judgment here. Everyone is here for the same reason."

Assessing Fitness

The staff at LIFE conducts many tests to measure fitness. Polar body age reveals flexibility, strength, body fat, blood pressure, and more. "A person may be 42 years old, but his or her body age may be closer to 70," Eric says. Often people look at weight and judge if a person is healthy, but Eric says weight alone is not an accurate measure of health. "Someone can weigh 180 and be in better health than someone who weighs 100. Body fat and lean muscle ratio must be taken into consideration instead," he explains.

Eric's main piece of advice for anyone trying to lose weight is, "Throw your scale away. Scales are irrelevant. If you lose one pound on the scale but gain four pounds of muscle, that's great. But if you're losing six pounds of muscle, that's not being successful." Eric has a good way to visualize body weight. "Think of a trash bag full of 100 pounds of money versus the same bag filled with 100 pounds of manure. Both

weigh the same, but which would you rather have?"

Meetings with nutritionists include a series of tests to assess lean body mass and making a meal plan for each person. Clients are taught to weigh their portions, and preservatives and trans fats are a no-no. Meals are a healthy balance of protein, carbohydrates, and good fats. On grocery shopping trips, clients learn smarter and healthier ways to buy food and plan their menus.

Enjoy Your Stay

Depending upon each client's goals, stays at LIFE can range from a one-week healthy vacation to six or seven months to lose 200 pounds. Some people stay for two weeks or a month. The professional staff at LIFE can help determine what's right for you.

Clients enjoy their stays in beautifully decorated guest rooms. Accommodations at the LIFE fitness retreat are a spacious one-bedroom suite complete with a living room, dining area, bedroom with walk-in closet and bathroom, and a fully equipped kitchen. A patio offers a great view and the ocean breeze off the marina. Relax and unwind by the spectacular outdoor pool surrounded by lush landscape or in the whirlpool or sauna. The comfortably elegant suites also feature amenities such as high-speed Internet service, premium cable channel access, and a washer/dryer in the unit.

Living accommodations are centrally located in Marina Del Rey, just minutes from LAX and all the excitement of Los Angeles, Venice Beach, and Santa Monica. The gym and other facilities are on the retreat's campus, and the beach and many shops and attractions are within walking distance. ●

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BY GEOFF GUNNING

PHOTOS BY
GREG HUBBARD

*The Kelleher home
overlooks Mascoma Lake.*

The phrase “timber framing” to the uninitiated brings to mind loggers yelling “timberrr!”, early American settlers’ homes, dark log cabins, barns, and snowed-in 19th-century New Englanders—visions of days gone by and a humble and difficult past. But the first impression on walking into a modern timber-framed home is cathedral ceiling. Space. Light. And the warm and

stimulating exposed wood, full of character, long sturdy lengths of it, framing and crossing in all that space above. “It’s also history and romance,” says Jeff Davis, president of Davis Frame of Claremont.

Timber framing was cutting-edge architecture in Egypt, China, and Japan thousands of years ago. From the shrines and temples of Japan to the latticed houses



Timber Framing is New Again

Davis Frame

and churches of medieval Europe to the European settlers in the New World, right up to New England in the 1800s, the craft of raising and connecting large timbers for a strong wooden building frame, without nails, was well known. But with the industrial age came an easier way to make houses, using mass-produced, much smaller-sized wooden studs and boards, attached

with newly available, inexpensive, factory-made nails. Timber framing became a lost art to machine-age carpenters and builders. In the 1970s, timber frames, with their unique interiors, began to make a comeback in a niche housing market. Today's technology has transformed the process of this ancient craft and caught up with modern concerns about energy efficiency. ►

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The “Wow” Factor

From their new timber-frame home in Enfield, with the typical high ceilings and open spaces, Jim and Barbara Kelleher’s living room looks out through a two-story wall of windows on Mascoma Lake. Owner of a local construction company, Jim had been intrigued with timber-frame homes since he built his first house in the ‘70s. Jim and Barbara worked with the design team at Davis Frame to design this modern timber frame, with large solar panels to heat the water for domestic use and to power the comfortable radiant heating beneath the floors. There is a “wow” factor to the great room of the house, with its stone chimney, views, and space, with a spiral staircase on the side and interior second-floor balcony overlooking the room. But despite the size, says Barbara Kelleher, “You get a warm feeling, and there’s a casual feel so

you’re able to relax.” Since interior walls are not required to bear any loads in a timber frame, the interior can be as open as desired, which gives a feeling of togetherness and informality, says Jim.

Like many modern timber-frame homes, despite the high ceilings, the house is so tight that no “chimney effect” takes place with the heat within the house. The energy efficiency is high enough to require a ventilation system to ensure that enough fresh air is getting into the house in the winter. The heat from the outgoing air is recycled to warm the incoming fresh air, but the main efficiency of the timber-frame house is in the continuous insulation around the house that the timber framing makes possible. While the cavities in the walls of conventional houses can hold increasingly efficient insulation, with only wood as insulation at the studs that hold the walls, the R-value plunges to one at those spots.



Cherry cabinets complement the Douglas fir timber frame. The open-concept kitchen and dining room is perfect for entertaining during the holidays.

The modern timber-frame house is completely encircled, outside the wooden frame, with R26 stress skins, or structural insulated panels (SIPs), with no gaps. The stress skin roof panels are R40.

.....
A Giant Erector Set

Davis Frame is a company of 11 people, and unlike timber framers of the past, most of their work is done on computers. In a few low industrial buildings in Claremont, with Mount Ascutney rising to the northwest, Jeff Davis remembers hand cutting timber frames with his business partner and co-founder Rick Bascom at Rick's inherited dairy farm in Brownsville, Vermont, just on the other side of Ascutney. He used saws and chisels,

and an old sit-down, hand-powered drill, and worked the wood on the building site. But a lot has changed since the 1970s, and after a career in timber framing, most of Davis's work is done on the computer, and the 100 to 300 pieces needed to assemble each unique frame are sent out in kits, like giant erector sets. Designers work with clients for weeks or months on finalizing a custom design. Jeff Davis, who also plays in a classic rock band, says, "Plans are infinite, just like songs are infinite. You change a note here or there, it's a different melody. It's almost impossible for someone to buy a premade set of plans for their particular site and desires. So our standard plans are just a starting point, but we can also start with a clean sheet of paper. A lot of factors go into custom

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design, like views, solar gain, garages, budget, etc. We can't create kits in advance, because every home is different."

.....
Ancient Craft, High Technology

Once the plans and the sometimes long and arduous building permit processes are completed, the 11-person team at Davis cuts the wood for the frame in a week or two. Most of the work has already been done on a computer. The builders of ancient Japan and 1800s New England would marvel equally at the computer numerical control (CNC)



The flooring on the first floor of the home is red birch hardwood. The great room features cathedral ceilings and a hammer beam truss. The room captures beautiful views of Lake Mascoma.

software and large robotic machines that follow its instructions. Simply feed the timber from the sawmill, primarily Douglas fir, into one end of the machine, and the long rectangular cut timber is grabbed and manipulated while various cutters whirl in three dimensions, sending out a precision measured and carpentered custom timber piece, ready to assemble into the large and strong puzzle of interlocking beams, held

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sense

Clockwise from top left: The master bedroom offers views of the lake and access to the deck. Another bedroom also features a deck and lake views. The loft overlooks the first floor great room and has a perfect view of the hammer beam truss. A wall of windows captures a view of the lake. The hallway is quiet place to enjoy a book.

together securely without nails. There is hand finishing to achieve aesthetic perfection, and then the pieces are assembled and sent out like a giant erector set to the builder in Colorado, Texas, Vermont, or Enfield. Usually a Davis employee travels to the site to provide technical assistance. "It's very enjoyable," says Jeff Davis, "because most of the time we work with conventional carpenters on-site with no experience with putting up a timber frame. (Davis Frame doesn't build the house away from their local area; usually a local contractor is hired for the actual assembly.) The carpenters find it very exciting because it's new to them. Drilling and putting these things together and pegging with wood instead of grabbing a nail gun and nailing a bunch of studs together—this is a lot different for them and every time I find that they're very satisfied, very happy.

"At the end," says Davis, "at the raising of the frame, we put a little bough at the peak, to bless the house. It's called the tree of life, and it's a ritual that's been used for a thousand years. That's always a nice time, a nice celebration." ●



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Tatewell Gallery

MAKING ART
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BY LORI FERGUSON
PHOTOS BY GARY SUMMERTON

I'm just minutes into my conversation with Don Boxwell, a co-owner of the New London-based Tatewell Gallery, and I can already sense his enthusiasm. "We're a small, accessible gallery that offers a great variety of affordable artwork and custom framing," observes Boxwell. "Our prices are competitive and our clientele are loyal."

The gallery, a frame shop and art gallery that started in Hillsborough in 1987 and subsequently moved to New London, is a popular spot in this charming community. "The majority of our business is custom framing," explains Boxwell. "That's our backbone. The art is important as well, but it doesn't occupy as much of our time." ▶

One wall of the gallery.



in the
spotlight





A wide variety of frame selections and artwork is available.

A Demand for Local Art

According to Boxwell, the gallery's clientele is comprised of a mix of locals and those from surrounding states who maintain second homes in the area. Their tastes are broad based and range from figurative works to landscapes. "We cover a multitude of genres and artists," notes Boxwell, "and we also offer works by select local artists from time to time." The latter are frequently in high demand, Boxwell notes, and their works tend to sell out quickly.

Among the most popular local works carried by the gallery are prints of paintings by the now deceased New London artist

"Bud" Lauridsen. Through a cooperative agreement with Lauridsen's family, the Tatewell Gallery has made several of Lauridsen's works available as prints. A year ago the gallery offered a print of the Lauridsen painting *Coffee Beans*. The print, according to Boxwell, proved very popular with clients. In light of the demand, the gallery will soon offer a second print of Lauridsen's work, *Jane's Doll*, owned by the New London Historical Society. "Bud's work is charming and the Lauridsen family is wonderful to work with," asserts Boxwell. "Our clients respond very favorably to his work, so we're delighted to make it more accessible through these prints."



High-Quality Reproductions

The gallery also sells a number of giclees, high-quality reproductions that are created by digitally scanning the original work of art and then reproducing it on a new medium such as canvas, paper, or even wood. "We sell a large number of giclees," notes Boxwell. "They tend to be more modestly priced than an original piece, yet they provide buyers with a high-quality reproduction of the work. They've proved to be a very popular item for us." Clients seeking a particular theme, genre, or artist can

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select from a vast number of giclees available on the gallery's website, www.tatewell.com.

The gallery also offers clients access to Artaisance, a web-based company that allows users to search a database of 140-plus artists and more than 3,300 images, choose an image that meets their decorating needs, and then have that image created as a giclee on paper or canvas in whatever size they desire. "This is a fairly new service for this area," says Boxwell, "and it's been well received." Clients can browse the images at home at their leisure, Boxwell explains, and select the piece that best complements their décor, room, color scheme, etc. In this way, clients can select an image that is just the right size, shape, and feel for a given space, Boxwell continues, making it a popular option for many.

In addition to two-dimensional artworks, the gallery also handles modestly priced bronze sculpture and glasswork. "We essentially carry any type of art that we feel our clients might like," says Boxwell.

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Left: Co-owners Jack Tate and Don Boxwell. Above: Set of four coasters.

Items not commonly found in the area are also appealing to Boxwell and his partner, Jack Tate. For example, the gallery recently began carrying a line of custom-made writing instruments created by Mark Gostomski, an Atlanta-based artist. "We try to offer our clients something unique that others in the region don't offer," notes Boxwell, "and they've responded very favorably." ●

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Works in oil, watercolor, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, photography, ceramics, textile, sculpture, jewelry, and glass, all on display and available for sale. AVA Gallery and Art Center, Eleven Bank Street, Lebanon, NH.

Dec10

December 1

Holiday Open House

Lebanon Center Genesis will be hosting a Holiday Open House. We will be featuring our newly renovated Short Stay Transitional Care Unit, Specializing in Orthopedic Recovery Care. The community is invited. 24 Old Etna Road, Lebanon, NH. 4-6 pm



December 3

We the People

Students will have a blast learning about the three branches of government, the First Amendment, presidential elections, democracy, the judicial process, and more. Claremont Opera House, Claremont, NH. 10 am. (603) 542-4433, www.claremontoperahouse.com

December 3

Billy Arnold and Friends

Join KIXX 100.5 as we take a night to celebrate David's House with the 6th Annual David's House Concert. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park Street, Lebanon, NH. 7 pm. (603) 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org

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December 4

The Berenstain Bears Family Matters: The Musical

The Moore Theater, 3 pm

There's trouble in the tree house: Brother Bear is vexed by a school quiz, Sister Bear makes friends with a frog, and Papa Bear has been cheating on his diet. The quiz, frog, and empty candy wrappers have all been hidden in the cookie jar and it's up to Mama to sort things out!



December 9

Hamlet

Lowe Auditorium, 7 pm

The National's artistic director Nicholas Hytner directs William Shakespeare's timeless tragedy of failed family dynamics.

December 16-19

The Christmas Revels

Spaulding Auditorium, 16 & 17, 7 pm; 18, 2 & 7 pm; 19, 1 & 5 pm

The 60-member Revels North chorus celebrates the season with zesty traditional Québécois music, dance, and stories as it presents one of the most popular shows from the Revels repertoire, the magical tale of "The Flying Canoe."

January 7 & 8

The Shipment

The Moore Theater, 8 pm

With *The Shipment*, Korean-American playwright and director Young Jean Lee dares audiences to laugh as they consider their own preconceptions about race and culture. This disquieting "cringe comedy" combines Lee's trademark acid wit with a dose of brutal honesty, daring to ask embarrassing questions and seek solutions to impossible problems.

January 8 & 9

Met Opera: La Fanciulla del West

Loew Auditorium, 1 pm

Puccini's Wild-West opera had its world premiere at the Met in 1910. Now, on the occasion of its centennial, all-American diva Deborah Voigt sings the title role of the "girl of the golden west," Marcello Giordani co-stars, and Nicola Luisotti conducts.



January 14

Jeremy Denk, Piano

Spaulding Auditorium, 8 pm
Whether performing great works of the past or illuminating today's masterpieces, American pianist Jeremy Denk is the ideal interpreter for music that defies easy classification.





the pick

January 14 & 15

Armitage Gone! Dance

The Moore Theater, 8 pm

Karole Armitage's company presents the Hop co-commissioned *Three Theories*, inspired by physicist Brian Greene's book *The Elegant Universe*. The work contemplates relativity, quantum mechanics, and string theory through a blend of movement, text, projected imagery, and live and electronic sound.



January 20

Charles Lloyd New Quartet

Spaulding Auditorium, 7 pm

Concerts by legendary jazz saxophonist Charles Lloyd are events of pristine beauty and elegance, taking audiences on journeys that traverse enormous distances. His music is

intense, mesmerizing, and from the heart—reflecting decades-long spiritual exploration.

January 22

Balla and Sekou Kouyate—What Sounds Can a Balafon Make?

Alumni Hall, 11 am

Balla Kouyate is considered to be among the greatest balafon players from the griot tradition in Mali. The balafon is a West African ancestor to the xylophone. Balla, who began playing the balafon at age six, shares the stage with his son Sekou (age four), accompanying his dad on the djembe drum. Try your hand playing the balafon and drums following the performance.

January 25

Bale Folclorico Da Bahia

Spaulding Auditorium, 7 pm

Based in the heartland of Afro-Brazil, the 38 dancers, singers, and musicians of Balé Folclórico Da Bahia transform traditional culture into “a spectacular display of color, movement, music and drama” (*Chicago Sun-Times*). The acclaimed troupe celebrates *candomblé*, the uniquely Bahian spiritual practices rooted in the Yoruba religion brought to Brazil by West African slaves.



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December 4

A Yankee Barn Christmas

This event for families features hay rides, Santa Claus, a petting zoo, a toy drive for a local church, a chili cook off, a bonfire to roast hot dogs and marshmallows, and more. Yankee Barn Homes, 131 Yankee Barn Road, Grantham, NH. 12–4 pm

December 4

Warren Miller's Wintervention

Do you have a skiing or snowboarding problem? Do you always take "just one more" run? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, it may be time for a *Wintervention*. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park Street, Lebanon, NH. 6 & 9 pm. (603) 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org

December 8–January 2

The Wizard of Oz

We're off to see the Wizard! Your whole family will love this colorful and heart-warming musical. Northern Stage, Brigg's Opera House, White River Junction, VT. (802) 296-7000, www.northernstage.org

December 9

Gift of Nature: Flowering Bulb Project for Kids

The Fells, Newbury, NH. 4–5 pm. (603) 763-4789, www.thefells.org

December 11

Wilderness EMT Day

Day course to recertify the wilderness component for a current WEMT. For more information or to register, contact the Hulbert Outdoor Center, (802) 333-3405,

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December 11-15
Wilderness EMT Module

Designed for currently certified emergency medical technicians, Wilderness Modules are certified by the organizations providing the training. SOLO's Wilderness Module has been approved by the National Registry of EMTs. Pre-registration required. For more information or to register, contact the Hulbert Outdoor Center, (802) 333-3405, www.alohafoundation.org/Hulbert or *Deb Williams*, (802) 333-3405, deb_williams@alohafoundation.org.

December 11-19
Wilderness First Responder with SOLO

Join the staff of SOLO, nationally recognized leaders in the field of wilderness medicine and rescue, for a 10-day intensive wilderness emergency care course. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Hulbert Outdoor Center, (802) 333-3405, www.alohafoundation.org/Hulbert or *Deb Williams*, (802) 333-3405, deb_williams@alohafoundation.org.

December 12
NH School of Ballet's Nutcracker Ballet

This beloved seasonal classic is set in young Clara's dream world where snowflakes dance, mice and soldiers battle, and exotic dancers from far-away places perform. Claremont Opera House, Claremont, NH. 1 pm. (603) 542-4433, www.claremontoperahouse.com



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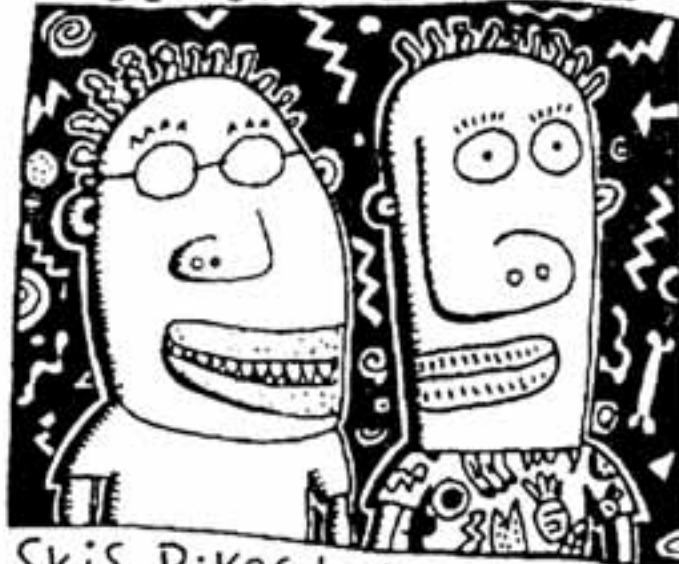


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December 19

93rd Annual Christmas Mystery

Unchanged since its creation in 1917, the Christmas Mystery is a treasured community event. During the singing of "O Come All Ye Faithful," audience members are encouraged to bring new, wrapped gifts to the manger to be delivered to the Haven and to Hannah House. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Robin Henry, (603) 643-1802, robin.b.henry@gmail.com. Rollins Chapel at Dartmouth College, 4 and 5 pm performances.

December 20

A Leahy Family Christmas

A Leahy Family Christmas treats audiences to Christmas classics and stories as well as original Leahy material. Their children even join them on stage to sing, play, and dance. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park Street, Lebanon, NH. 7:30 pm. (603) 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org

Jan 11

January 7-February 5

Duncan Johnson, Charlie Goodwin, Gordon Meinhard, and Patty Castellini

AVA Gallery and Art Center is pleased to present an exhibition of reclaimed wood paintings by Duncan Johnson, oil on panel paintings by Charlie Goodwin, mixed-media/collage by Gordon Meinhard, and oil-based ink on paper works by Patty Castellini. Opening reception is on January 7. Eleven Bank Street, Lebanon, NH.

January 8

Lake Morey Skate-a-Thon

Explore Lake Morey's winter wonderland on the longest ice skating trail in the country. For the admission fee, attendees get free



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skate rentals (while supplies last), lunch provided by Boloco, skating instruction, and warm drinks. For more info, contact john.taylor@uvtrails.org or (802) 649-9075. Register online at www.uvtrails.org. Lake Morey Resort, Lake Morey Road, Fairlee, VT. 10 am–4 pm

**January 8
Winter Skills Day**

A series of in-depth pre-registered Hulbert Outdoor Center winter workshops. Learn the skills needed for safe and enjoyable winter camping or build your own toboggan. Pre-registration required at www.alohafoundation.org/hulbert (click Public Events). For more info, e-mail deb_williams@alohafoundation.org or call (802) 333-3405. Hulbert Outdoor Center, Lake Morey Road, Fairlee, VT.

**January 9
Lake Morey WinterFest**

Activities for everyone, including Nordic skating, snowshoe hikes, cross-country skiing, winter travel skills, sledding, igloo building, and more. Bring your own snowshoes, skis, and skates or borrow them at the Center. Lunch and hot drinks available. For more info, contact the Hulbert Outdoor Center (802) 333-3405 or Upper Valley Trails Alliance (802) 649-9075 or visit www.alohafoundation.org/hulbert and www.uvtrails.org. Hulbert Outdoor Center, Lake Morey Road, Fairlee, VT. 10 am–4 pm





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January 11

Out and About: A Place for Deer

Children learn about deer habitat through movement and games and create a drawing of their favorite animal in its habitat. The Fells, Newbury, NH. 10-11 am. (603) 763-4789, www.thefells.org

January 19-February 6

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe

Catherine Doherty stars in this poignant, eye-opening, and hysterically funny one-woman show. Northern Stage, Brigg’s Opera House, White River Junction, VT. (802) 296-7000, www.northernstage.org

January 31

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake

First there was the Mouse, then the Pig, and now, here comes the Cat! Based on the newest installment in the zany “If You Give A . . .” book series, Omaha Theater brings this madcap world premiere production with music to the stage. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park Street, Lebanon, NH. 10 am. (603) 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org



Feb 11

February 4

The Mystery of King Tut

Theatreworks’ exciting musical tells two exciting stories: that of Tutankhamen, the “boy king” who ruled Egypt in the 14th century B.C., and Howard Carter, the archeologist who discovered Tut’s tomb in 1922. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park Street, Lebanon, NH. 10 am. (603) 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org



February 8

Out and About: Something Wild, Something Tame

Children participate in a scavenger hunt and use a flannel board story with felt animals that they create to explore the meaning of the words wild and tame. The Fells, Newbury, NH. 10–11 am. (603) 763-4789, www.thefells.org

February 11–March 4

2011 Best of the Upper Valley High School Invitational Exhibition

An exhibition of artworks created by Upper Valley high school students and nominated for participation by their art teachers will be on display at AVA Gallery and Art Center. A reception, free and open to the public, will take place February 11, from 5 to 7 pm and will include a “Best of” Awards Ceremony and student Poetry Reading. Eleven Bank Street, Lebanon, NH.

February 11

Click Clack Moo

When his granddaughter Jenny comes for a visit, Farmer Brown declared the farm a “tech-free zone.” He confiscates her laptop in the cold barn along with the shivering cows, who use her computer to type messages requesting blankets. Claremont Opera House, Claremont, NH. 10 am. (603) 542-4433, www.claremontoperahouse.com



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the pick arts & entertainment



Enfield Shaker Museum Highlights

December 1–21 Festival of Trees

Visit the Great Stone Dwelling and see a tree in every dwelling room! Businesses may sponsor a tree for \$500, which their employees may decorate or encourage a nonprofit organization, classroom, or family to decorate. Vote for your favorite tree in the children's and adult categories. The two winners will each receive a \$100 prize! The winners will be announced on Sunday, December 19, noon.

December 1–31 Free Admission to Enfield Residents

The Museum and Store will be 10 am–4 pm, Monday–Friday and 12–4 pm Sunday. The Museum will be closed December 25 and January 1.

December 4 Holiday Open House

Join us for a holiday celebration! The Great Stone Dwelling will be decorated for the holidays. Our Museum Store and Gallery will feature locally handcrafted items. Enjoy wassail, music, and more! 5:30 pm



447 NH Route 4A, Enfield, NH
 (603) 632-4346
www.shakermuseum.org



December 4

Candlelight Holiday Dinner

Enjoy a traditional dinner in the Great Stone Dwelling, the Shakers' greatest architectural achievement. Register by December 3. Catered by Sharon Carr. 6:30 pm

December 11

Christmas with Santa

Have your picture taken with Santa! Create your own greeting card! Explore the dwelling rooms—each has a tree for the holiday season. Vote for your favorite. Enjoy cocoa and look for bargains in the Museum Store. 1–3 pm

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February 12

Comedian Justin McKinney

Justin has appeared on both the *Tonight Show* and had numerous appearances on Comedy Central, including his own half-hour special. Claremont Opera House, Claremont, NH. 8 pm. (603) 542-4433, www.claremontoperahouse.com

February 16-March 6

The Real Thing

Art and real life mix and mingle in this fascinating and very funny look at the relationship between men and women in the modern day. Northern Stage, Brigg's Opera House, White River Junction, VT. (802) 296-7000, www.northernstage.org

February 25-27

Bye Bye Birdie

Tickets can be purchased from the Lebanon Opera House. North Country Community Theatre, Lebanon, NH. www.ncct.org

February 27

Connecticut River Valley Orchestra: A Touch of Brass

You've never heard brass like this! With a lineup of legendary classical brass players, the Connecticut River Valley Orchestra offers a unique opportunity to experience both the music and the celebrities that make this arena shine so bright and sound so clarion clear. Claremont Opera House, Claremont, NH. 4 pm. (603) 542-4433, www.claremontoperahouse.com



Let us know about your events for March, April, and May for our Spring 2011 issue. E-mail details to dthompson@moutainviewpublishing.biz by January 20, 2011.

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The Hale Street Gang:

Portraits in Writing



February 26–March 27

A Photographic Exhibit with Sound

Featuring the images of Braintree photographer Jack Rowell, “The Hale Street Gang” uses photographs, written text, and recorded voice to foreground the work of a dozen Randolph-area seniors who have been writing their life stories in a memoir project directed by writer and Randolph native Sara Tucker. Chandler Gallery, Randolph, VT.

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Celebrate the Moment



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

1. On vacation in Costa Rica, Lily and Greta sleep under nets to keep the bugs out. Sweet dreams!
2. Amani Eve and Timothy, grandbabies of Bev and Jim Brock of Bermuda and Quechee, Vermont.
3. Cameron celebrates her 10th birthday.
4. With the help of Lebanon Center Genesis activities and rehab departments, 89-year-old Jim has an opportunity to ride horseback again, the first time in 70 years!
5. Olivia with her best friend Grady.
6. Sophia and Natalie visit the New England Aquarium in Boston.
7. Jenn and Ted's October wedding at the Windward Harbor boathouse on Lake Winnepesaukee.

We're looking for photos of Upper Valley families to share in the magazine and online. Please include a caption with names and location. E-mail submissions to dthompson@mountainviewpublishing.biz. Send your photos today!



Happy holidays

We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

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