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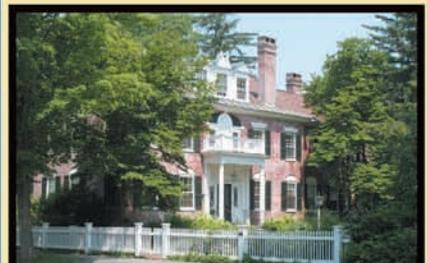
WOODSTOCK VILLAGE

Built in 1801 on a 1.3 acre village lot, this handsome Federal retains a wealth of original historic detailing inside and out and offers the opportunity to preserve an exceptional example of the many fine homes in the central historic district. **\$969,000.**



WOODSTOCK VILLAGE

Greek Revival home on .23 acres combines antique features with a charming blend of formal and informal spaces. Many attractive updates including remodeled kitchen with soapstone counters and cherry cabinets and renovated baths. Separate 'in-law' apt. with efficiency kitchen included. **\$399,000.**



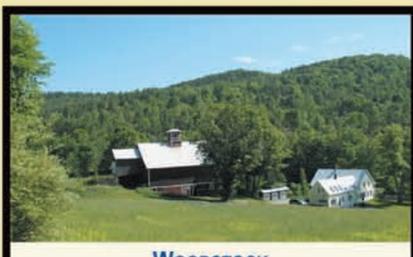
WOODSTOCK

A beautiful first level condominium, being one of four units at Richmond House, a classic antique home in the center of Woodstock's Historic District. Landscaped gracious lawns, off street parking and located on a fine residential street. An easy stroll to all village amenities. **\$569,000.**



WOODSTOCK

An attractive cape on 2.84+/- acres with many desirable features. Kitchen with adjoining family room, main level master bedroom with bath in suite, apartment above the garage for guests of income, and heated detached shop to name a few. Easily accessible and attractively priced at **\$419,000.**



WOODSTOCK

Prosper Hill Farm is a classic hillside farm consisting of 1791 cape farmhouse renovated and updated in 2006, handsome 60' x 40' timber frame barn, sugar house, spring-fed swimming pond and 102 spectacular acres. Walking distance to national park and an easy 3 mile drive to the village center. **\$1,950,000.**



WOODSTOCK VILLAGE

Antique cape with charm and character on .75 acres, configured in such a way to allow single family use or to create a second floor apartment with separate rear access. Needs TLC but worth it to have an affordable antique home within walking distance to village center. **\$249,000.**



WOODSTOCK

On the site of sculptor Hiram Powers birthplace sits this sophisticated gem privately located on 1.49+/- acres one-half mile from The Green. Beautifully decorated light-filled rooms overlook magically landscaped grounds with wonderful outdoor living spaces. A unique offering. **\$625,000.**



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READING

A dramatic timber-frame home with beautiful interior finishes and sited high up on 50+/- acres of open and wooded land looking over fields, a large spring-fed swimming pond and on to spectacular long distance views. On a sunny knoll off a quiet gravel road. Private and beautiful. **\$995,000.**



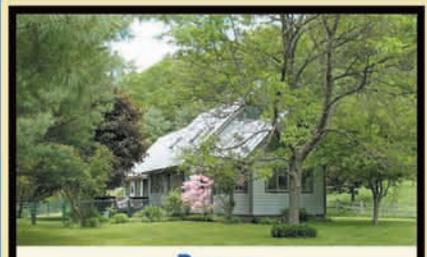
WOODSTOCK

Architect-designed for beautiful form and superior function, this traditional style home on 10.24+/- exceptional acres is situated to gain southerly exposure as well as east/west views over the river valley. Handsome 3-stall barn, fenced pastures, run-in sheds and a spring-fed swimming pond complete this lovely property. **\$1,795,000**



SOUTH WOODSTOCK LAND

Sunny knoll creates a surprisingly private refuge for this sophisticated home on 10.04+/- acres. Sun streams into an open LR/DR/K, fireplace of antique brick orients to a peaceful sitting room on the other side. Adjoins Appalachian Trail. Simple and wonderful. **\$299,900.**



READING

Meticulously constructed oak post and beam cape on 10.3+/- acres with abundant built-ins and a high level of interior finish. Back from the road on a sunny knoll with swimming pond and private lawns. Included is a 5-stall barn, fenced pasture and run-in shelter. Horse lovers take note! **\$447,000.**

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Reading • Charming 4 Bedroom Colonial includes a new addition with a sunny kitchen, large family room and library/study. Sited on 2.55 acres of lovely lawns, with a pond. \$485,000



Hartland • Spacious New Englander with an open floor plan connecting the kitchen, dining area and living room. Barn, pastures and terrace on 5.1 acres, with views. \$525,000



Killington • Antique Cape joined with Post & Beam barn, creates a fine residence. 3 secluded acres, pond, and adjacent trails provide your own *backyard resort* for recreation. \$1,200,000



Reading • 1850 Cape with spacious kitchen, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, and screen porch. 75+ tranquil acres with flagstone patio, in-ground pool. \$625,000



Barnard • Post & Beam Cape nestled on 1.75 acres with frontage on a delightful brook. Hand hewn beams, wide pine floors, stone patio, established perennial beds. \$325,000



Barnard • 1796 Cape filled with history and charm: hand hewn beams, hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace. Sited on 67+/- acres on a private country road. \$960,000

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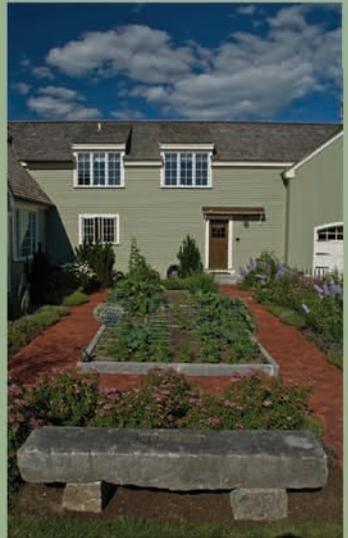


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contents

28



features

28 **Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort**

Come for dinner, a weekend, or forever.

BY MEG BRAZILL

34 **Blue Ridge Mountain**

A pleasant discovery.

BY LISA DENSMORE

58 **Antiques Collaborative**

It's all about history and education.

BY JEN PARSONS



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contents



21



50

departments

14 Around & About
BY CASSIE HORNER

21 Bright Ideas
The gap year.
BY CINDY PARKER

39 Spotlight
Copeland Furniture.
BY MARY GOW

45 What's New
Morgan-Ballou.
BY LAURA HARRIS-HIRSCH

50 Vermont Living
The Woodstock Country School.
BY NAN BOURNE

66 Seasonal Foods
Falling for dessert.
BY SUSAN NYE

70 Travel Time
Following Venetian threads.
BY SARA WIDNESS

75 Community
The Woodstock Rotary Penny Sale.
BY AUDREY RICHARDSON



39

in every issue

- 9 **Editor's Note**
- 10 **Contributors**
- 12 **Online Exclusives**
- 79 **Happenings**
- 84 **Last Glance**



ON THE COVER

Autumn at the Quechee covered bridge.
Photo by Bill Hebden.



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Autumn's Offerings



Photo by: Ann Aymond

I can think of nothing better than a mountain hike or a football game on a crisp, clear day; a Sunday drive through mountains of brilliant foliage; and a houseful of friends and family gathered for a Thanksgiving feast. This time of year may be my favorite of all—although I seem to say that with the turn of every season!

In this issue we're sharing stories of interesting places and remarkable people once again. You can get out and explore Blue Ridge Mountain with Lisa Densmore (page 34), or you may choose to relax and be pampered at Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort (page 28). There's something about fall that kicks off my urge to browse for antiques, and the Antiques Collaborative in Quechee is brim-

ming with all kinds of treasures (page 58). Stop by and take a look, and tell owners Bill and Isabelle Bradley we sent you.

Take a step back in time with Nan Bourne as she recalls the glory days of the Woodstock Country School (page 50), and visit Copeland Furniture in Bradford (page 39). The company is the only one authorized by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation to reproduce his furniture designs. If you're looking to spruce up your fall wardrobe, stop in to see Barbara Wheaton at Morgan-Ballou (page 45). She'll outfit you with beautiful fashions that you won't see anywhere else.

Don't miss the fun of the Woodstock Rotary's Penny Sale (page 75). The fundraiser has been a community event for almost 40 years. Be sure to try Susan Nye's delectable dessert recipes (page 66), and join Sara Widness as she travels to Venice (page 70).

Whatever you do this fall, have a wonderful time. Enjoy!

Deborah Thompson

Deborah Thompson
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Our Contributors



Meg Brazill

Meg Brazill is a regular contributor to regional New England magazines, and she teaches at the Writer's Center in White River Junction, Vermont. A recovering punk rocker and performance artist, she lives with her daughter in South Woodstock. She is currently working on a book of short fiction when she's not too busy living it.



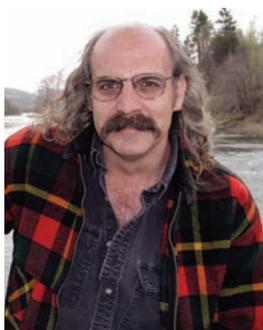
Lisa Densmore

A three-time Emmy-winning television producer and host, Lisa Densmore has been a familiar face around New England for her work on PBS and for various sports and outdoor networks. An accomplished writer and photographer, she contributes regularly to over 30 regional and national magazines. She has written seven books, including *Best Hikes with Dogs: New Hampshire and Vermont*, *Hiking the Green Mountains*, and *Hiking the White Mountains*.



Mary Gow

Mary holds the middle place in a family with three generations of women writers. Best known for her award-winning history of science books for middle school students, she is also a regular contributor to regional magazines. Her latest book, *The Great Thinker: Aristotle and the Foundations of Science*, was released in September 2010. She lives in Warren, Vermont.



Jack Rowell

A fifth generation Vermonter, Jack Rowell was born and raised in central Vermont. He has been a professional photographer for over 35 years, shooting documentary, commercial, and advertising photographs. His work has been published in *People Weekly*, *London Independent*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, *The Economist*, and the *Times* of London.

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Around & About

BY CASSIE HORNER





Riders take to the trails!

GMHA Foliage Rides

Photos by Spectrum Photography

Exploring Vermont's foliage splendor on horseback is a special experience. The Green Mountain Horse Association in South Woodstock hosts two annual Fall Foliage Rides, September 23 through 25 and October 7 through 9. The September ride is for GMHA members only; the October ride is open to nonmembers for the first time this year. Riders must bring their own horses. (GMHA does not own or rent horses.) Horses can be stabled at GMHA as part of the entry fee. "The rides offer a unique opportunity for horses and riders to come and enjoy GMHA's one-of-a-kind, fabulous trail system at the height of foliage season!" says Karey Manner, GMHA event director.

Each long weekend includes a dinner on Friday evening, bringing riders together to meet and share stories. Each day of the



three-day Foliage Rides offers riders a diverse experience on a different marked trail loop that begins and ends at the GMHA grounds. The trails, ranging from 7 to 20 miles, are punctuated with beautiful scenic vistas of the countryside. Riders, many in groups with friends, set their own pace, and often enjoy lunch served on the trail. They can ride one day or all three.

GMHA was founded in 1926 and has been an important part of the development of equine sports in the US. The 65-acre facility on Route 106 hosts a busy year-round schedule of events where riders can learn, practice, and compete. About 3,500 horses visit the facility each year.

For more information on the ride, please visit www.gmhainc.org or contact the office at (802) 457-1509. 🐾



Spooky Woodstock



Ghosts and ghouls, spooks and spirits, and even a vampire are part of the lore and legends connected to Woodstock's history. Last year's first Spooky Woodstock event was so

popular that the Woodstock Historical Society is doing it again on Saturday, October 29.

Spooky Woodstock 2011 will include a walking tour held after dark (of course) that will feature a visit to the historic River Street Cemetery where local students will play the parts of various Woodstock residents buried there. The tour will also include a stop at the former site of the home of the doctor famed for treating Phineas Gage, whose brain was pierced by a metal rod. Phineas lived to tell the tale. The village green is noted as the setting of an old story about the burning of a vampire's heart.

While the tours take place, the Woodstock History Center's Dana House and galleries will be hosting several spooky historical exhibits and mini talks. Many students of Woodstock Union High fondly remember the skeleton in their science class nicknamed Oswald. The story of the eventual burial of the skeleton in Cushing Cemetery on the River Road will be told. Another interesting topic will explore burial practices of people who feared being buried alive. One such individual, a doctor in Middlebury, had an elaborate mound topped by a glass window created.

Refreshments will be served. The times of the events are available by calling (802) 457-1822 or by visiting www.woodstockhistorical.org. 



Left: Jennifer Donaldson, WHC librarian, evokes the world of 19th century spiritualism.



Left: Woodstock Union Middle/High School students tell the story of a hanging on the village green.

Right: Woodstock History Center executive director Jack Anderson reads a historical document to the crowd.



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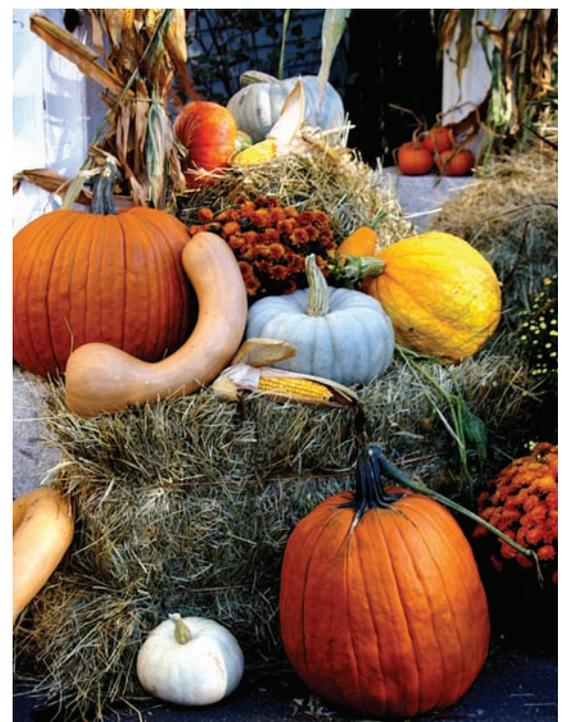
Photos by Judi Greene

The historic Pomfret Town Hall toasts the foliage season with the symbols of a bountiful autumn, thanks to the Pomfret School Harvest Supper. The steps at the base of the statuesque columns wear decorations of corn stalks, hay bales, and brightly colored gourds and pumpkins, welcoming approximately 375 diners who will pass through the doors Saturday, October 1, for the annual feast that raises money for the elementary school.

“This year will be the 37th,” says Judi Greene, parent and coordinator of the event. “It started in the early 1970s to pay the kindergarten teacher. When the kindergarten became part of the public school, the supper morphed into a fundraiser for the school. It supports anything not bud-



The supper has three seatings—5pm, 6:15pm, and 7:30pm—and reservations are recommended.





The steps of the town hall are decorated with fall's bounty.

geted that we say, 'Let's do that; it's so great.'" The list includes playground equipment, the observatory, and the artist-in-residence program. This year most of the money will go to the creation of a paved area for basketball, nine square, and just bouncing a ball.

How are all these people fed? The 53 families at the school make it happen, along with lots of other townsfolk who look forward to pitching in. Because it is the big fundraiser, every parent is asked to contribute to three tasks such as making pies, cooking a turkey, taking reservations, or waiting on tables. »



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Some of the parents prepare the turkeys in the Pomfret Town Hall kitchen.

“We try to get as much donated as possible to cover our costs,” Greene says. “People donate pies and sweet breads, and we get everything else. They do all the preparation.” A turkey drive solicits money from local businesses to purchase the birds.

“Some people have been doing the supper for 36 years,” Greene observes. “There is a really lovely community feeling at the supper. It is one of the reuniting events when we are all back together for the school year after the summer. Everybody is welcome. It’s not just a school event.”

There will be a student raffle of baskets heaped with treats and treasures, and the North Pomfret Congregational Church will raffle a quilt. The cost of the supper is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call (802) 457-2067 to reserve a spot at the 5pm, 6:15pm, or 7:30pm seating. 🍷

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Consider Your Options

BY CINDY PARKER

Gretchen and a friend are exhilarated after a beautiful hike in Big Bend National Park.

TAKING A "GAP YEAR" AFTER HIGH SCHOOL CAN BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS

Instead of learning her way around a college campus the September after high school graduation, Gretchen Kaija found herself studying rock patterns with geologists at Big Bend National Park in Texas. Four days after arriving in East Africa, Zoe Parker plummeted down the Nile River rapids in a raft full of people she didn't know. And Noellen Neisner took a bath in a freezing lake the week she arrived in Norway because her host family's well had run dry.

Twenty-five years ago, when the parents of these Woodstock Union High School graduates left school, the options were going straight to college or joining the workforce. Now, many of their children choose to take things a little more slowly and explore their options through various "gap year" programs.



Gretchen Kaija guides visitors on an interpretive walk she designed called "We Look, But Do We See?" examining the patterns, textures, and colors of the Big Bend landscape.

Exciting Possibilities

The concept of the gap year—postponing study after high school graduation—has been common in Britain since the early 1980s and has steadily gained popularity in other countries, including the United States. “The trend may not be skyrocketing, but it is on the increase,” says Chris Cate, director of counseling at Woodstock Union High School. “Going abroad during or after high school is common now.”

Kaija, a strong student in high school, applied to some excellent colleges but only got into her “safety school.” Rather than matriculate there and transfer later, she decided to take a gap year and then reapply, with the hope that she would get into her first choice, Bates.

Parker was not sure what she wanted to study and did not have a strong feeling about where she wanted to go. Following her gut, she took a gap year that opened her eyes to possibilities she nev-

er knew existed and gave her time to mature and learn practical skills she might not have acquired in the academic world.

Neisner’s family had hosted exchange students through the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program since she was three years old. She says having older “siblings” from around the world for most of her life influenced her decision to spend a year abroad.

Some gap year students hope that their experiences will enhance college essays and applications, allowing them to apply to better or different colleges. Many kids want to learn more about possible avenues of study. Work or volunteer experience in a certain field may



Working with a peer intern and a wildlife biologist to remove invasive salt cedar plants near the Rio Grande banks.

rule out a path that sounded interesting or open up other possibilities. And some students discover that formal study is not the right decision at all.

“College is so expensive that it is worth it to figure out if it’s really what you want to do before you go,” Cate says. “The world has opened up to kids be-

cause of technology; it makes people, places, and ideas accessible virtually, but this is not a substitute for actually going places in person and having a real experience.” Gap year students can learn valuable skills, not to mention the life lessons gained through volunteer work, exposure to different cultures, and travel.

Life Experience

Kaija chose a low-cost Student Conservation Association program in Big Bend National Park for her fall semester. She worked 40 hours a week collecting park fees, maintaining and monitoring trails, and working with wildlife biologists. In exchange for her work, she received housing and a stipend for food. “I had an apartment, and I had to carefully budget for and shop for food while most of my friends were eating at dining halls.” At the end of the 13-week project, she received an educational grant toward her college education.

After hours spent cataloging the park’s archaeological objects, Kaija realized that archaeology was probably not right for her. “I got a glimpse of many different jobs and a feeling for what I enjoyed and what I didn’t like,” she says. “But it was inspiring to be with experts who were grounded and loved what they were doing.”

Kaija spent the second half of her gap year traveling through Europe, alone and with friends. She “woofed” on a dairy farm (volunteered in exchange for room and board), navigated ferries and taxis, missed trains, got lost, negotiated her way through unfamiliar places with strange languages, met interesting people along the way, and gained self-confidence.

Neisner wanted to learn Norwegian and immerse herself in the culture by attending school for a year. “I spent my first day of school understanding next to nothing,” Neisner says. “I had to learn how to get around on the bus to and from school alone.”

One of her favorite experiences was jumping into a hole cut through thick ice on Lake Farris. She did five



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Zoe plays Simon Says with schoolchildren from the Lubani Primary School in Jinja, Uganda.

strokes each of the breaststroke, freestyle, and backstroke. Her host family awarded her the title “Ice Woman 2010” because she added five strokes of the butterfly.

Parker faced both physical and mental challenges during her two semesters in Africa. Having grown accustomed to ubiquitous electronic communication and the comforts of home, she had no cell phone, limited computer access, and a backpack containing just a few changes of clothes.

Her group lived with the Maasai tribe for two weeks with no running water or electricity, surrounded by lions and other wildlife kept at bay by a thorn enclosure. A goat sacrifice made her appreciate the convenience of running to the grocery store for dinner fixings. “We don’t even know where our food comes from,” she says. “The Maasai spend the whole day preparing the goat meat and use everything from its body, including the eyeballs, which are fried

over the fire.” Parker drew the line; she drank the goat’s blood but passed on the eyeballs.

Parker also volunteered in a school where many children were HIV positive. “We learned about AIDS and knew we couldn’t get sick from playing with the kids, but it was still scary and difficult to see those sick kids,” she says. In Rwanda, Parker learned about the 1994 genocide that resulted in the murder of almost a million people. She was horrified at the massacre that happened the year she was born. “Seeing what I saw made it real for me,” she says. “I would never have learned about it in the same way by reading a textbook.”

At a game reserve in South Africa, Parker and other volunteers tore down



Have you ever felt an elephant's tongue? An "elephant interaction" at Kwa-Zulu Game Reserve, South Africa.

buildings, cleared land, and built a ramp to make way for a herd of elephants transported in giant trucks from another reserve. After toiling all day on the project, the workers waited for the big moment when the elephants would arrive. The animals, stressed and terrified from their journey, took hours to unload, but it was a thrilling and rewarding relief for

the dozens of workers who had made it happen.

Later that day, Parker and her group were enlisted to help fight a brush fire on the reserve using only big brooms made of strips of tire rubber. She was hot, filthy, and exhausted when the group crowded into the back of the bucky (truck) to head home and get some sleep. Suddenly the driver slammed on her brakes when a huge herd of elephants appeared in the road. Lights stress elephants and can cause them to attack, so the driver turned off the headlights and told the volunteers to get down as the huge creatures lumbered by. "We heard the elephants slamming the side of the bucky," Parker says. "It was an insane day. . . . It made me look at my life and wonder how I got here! It was amazing!"

Gaining Perspective

After her gap year, Kaija compiled a book based on her journals and photographs, submitted it with her applications, and got into all the schools where she reapplied. She is now a sophomore at Bates focusing on environmental studies from a literature and arts perspective. Neisner's year in Norway led her to pursue a major in international business at St. Louis University. "It was the best year of my life and I wouldn't change anything about it!" she says. And Parker's work with game animals and chimpanzees in South Africa influenced her decision to enroll in an animal behavior class at De Anza College in California this fall.

According to Holly Bull, founder of the Center for Interim Programs, a gap year referral service, "For most, it is a first chance to hold the reins of their lives for an extended period of time. . . . Wielding this ability to choose and taking responsibility for the results is an empowering learning experience. I would invite people to reframe the gap year as an integral part of a student's education rather than as a break from it."

All three girls agree that stepping

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BRIGHT IDEAS



Noellen Neisner perches atop Dønnamannen Mountain after a seven-hour hike in northern Norway.

out of their own little part of the world to experience a different life gave them perspective. Cell phones, iPods, and trendy clothes lose their importance when you are wearing a dusty khaki uniform in the Texas desert like Kaija, or running through the streets wearing a red-tasseled hat and overalls, as Neisner did to celebrate graduation in Norway. Facebook seemed an unnecessary and slightly ridiculous concept to Parker as she played Simon Says with 30 eager African children.

“I’ve never seen such beautiful smiles as on those children’s faces in Africa,” Parker says. “They may be hungry, and they may not have clean clothes every day, but they don’t complain. They don’t know anything different. At first I felt sorry for them, but then I realized how happy they are with almost nothing.”^W

RESOURCES

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms:

» www.woof.org

The Center for Interim Programs:

» www.interimprograms.com

Rotary International Youth Exchange Program:

» www.rotary.org

African Impact:

» www.africanimpact.com

Carpe Diem:

» www.carpediemeducation.org

Student Conservation Association:

» www.thesca.org



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BY MEG BRAZILL
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HAWK INN & MOUNTAIN RESORT

Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort

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FOREVER

Less than half an hour from Woodstock, south on Route 100, the Green Mountains open onto a natural basin where the Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort sits on 1,200 acres of forested land and recreational areas. In the fall, when the trees are still in full foliage, much of the resort is hidden from view, built to preserve and emphasize the impressive natural features of the local topography.





WELCOME



The intent of the original planners and architect was to provide privacy as the ultimate luxury. While that still holds true, the Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort (aka Hawk) also focuses on providing a place where people can come together for vacations, weddings, reunions, retreats, weekend getaways, holidays, or simply for an evening of fine dining.

The Great Outdoors

Recreation Director Jeanette Mackenzie greets guests with enthusiasm. She points to a range of equipment and gear, maps, packs, and water bottles for the day's activities. Whether you're a family with kids in tow or a couple looking for an outdoor challenge, she'll help you plan an active day, either at Hawk or for a longer day trip. And Jeanette thinks of everything. Do you need bicycles? Check. Helmets? Check. Fresh, cold water? You've got it.

An autumn view from the library deck.

At Lake Amherst, you'll find canoes, kayaks, waterbikes, and even a pontoon boat. Jeanette will equip you with rackets for tennis or a bow for archery—just tell her your idea of fun and she'll get you started. "We'll send a family out for a whole day of touring if they want," she says. "You can preorder a packed lunch from the kitchen, or pick something up on the way to Killington or Okemo." And of course she can suggest restaurants along the way too.

Come winter, you can snowshoe, cross-country ski, or ice-skate at Hawk, or find downhill skiing in either direction at Okemo or Killington.

Hikes on Hawk's 1,200 acres traverse a nature preserve—one of the largest riparian watersheds in the area.

A nature walk takes you from an old orchard through wetlands and ponds to a wildlife viewing area. Steeper, more challenging terrain awaits the adventurous; access to Vermont's Long Trail is an easy drive.

The Black River runs behind the inn and passes through Amherst and Echo Lakes. Just a short drive south, fly anglers can fish the two-mile trophy-trout section of the river. The river picks up tributaries as it winds through



A luxury room awaits your arrival.

Ludlow and on to Cavendish Gorge. Fly fishermen can find a little bit of everything: long runs, plunge pools, riffles, and pocket water—and if you're lucky, a nice catch. But you don't have to leave the Hawk property to try your hand at fly-fishing. A small pond, as well as the Black River, is stocked with rainbow and brown trout, and private lessons can be arranged.

At the inn, guests can swim in the year-round heated outdoor pool, a refreshing 72 degrees in summer and about 90 degrees in winter. Swim a few laps or relax and enjoy the surrounding fall foliage in the adjoining water lounge. Or take a dip in the indoor pool in a climate-controlled, glass-enclosed room under a cathedral ceiling. Afterward, enjoy the full wine list and fine dining at the River Tavern.



One of many common areas throughout the inn.

Easy to Stay, Hard to Leave

Up the winding mountain roads, townhouses and homes are neatly tucked into hillsides to retain the unspoiled character of the mountain. Inside, the effect offers breathtaking lake and mountain views. Families and groups love renting the spacious two-, three-, and four-bedroom villas with fully equipped modern kitchens. Some are contemporary, others traditional, but all have soaring cathedral

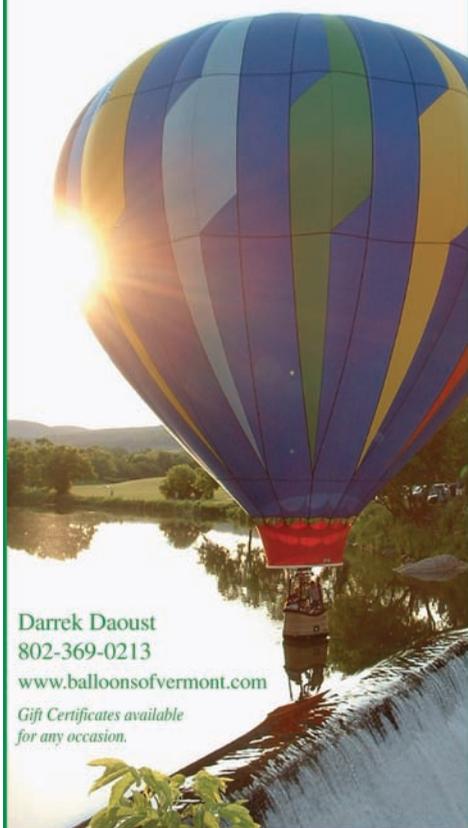
ceilings and massive fieldstone fireplaces. Each Mountain Villa is sited on an acre and a half for privacy. Many of them have a Jacuzzi, hot tub, and/or sauna, and guests can choose from a full complement of luxury services, such as housekeeping service, a masseuse from the on-site spa, breakfast in bed, or a chef-prepared candlelit dinner for two.

At 1,600 feet above the inn and valley floor, the Ledges Villas perch on a prominent mountain ledge and are set in among birch trees. Like the Mountain Villas, they share the amenities and overall design concept of all the Hawk properties, but they're grouped together in clusters. Guests say that the simple pleasure of stargazing from the outdoor

Guests enjoy relaxing by the fire in the library.



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A fresh blanket of snow covers the inn.

decks at night should not be underestimated. And if you can't get enough, home or condominium ownership is available.

A Hawk "I Do"

The backdrop of the Green Mountains makes Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort a natural for destination weddings—and spectacular wedding photos. A foot-bridge lined with tiki torches brings guests across the Black River to a meadow where the wedding tent presents a romantic tableau. An alphabet of activities, from biking and kayaking to swimming and tennis, plus an abundance of rental properties and inn accommodations, add up to a perfect recipe for a great experience. Hawk's variety of rooms, suites, and private homes can accommodate the lodging needs of any number of family and friends. An on-site spa and salon come in handy too. The considerable expertise of Hawk's



The River Tavern.

staff, combined with their superb customer service, ensures that each wedding is memorable.

Local Products & World-Class Cuisine

The River Tavern is just a short drive from Woodstock, Rutland, and Killington along scenic Route 100. "And once people come to the tavern, I think we have them hooked," says Hawk's General Manager Jim Nielsen. He's speaking, of course, about the tavern's cuisine, prepared by Executive Chef Marc Scott.



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Trained at Johnson & Wales, Scott brings a combination of American and world cuisine to the table with an emphasis on local products from Winterview Farm (Springfield, Vermont), Green Mountain Smokehouse (Windsor, Vermont), Plymouth Artisan Cheese (Plymouth, Vermont), and Jersey Girls Dairy (Chester, Vermont), among others.

On a recent weeknight, Fish Thai Soup, Orange Honey Duck Spring Rolls, and Caramelized Sweet Onion Tart were standouts among the tavern's

starters. The handmade Lobster Ravioli entrée topped with sautéed lobster in a brandy-tomato blush sauce was a lovely combination of rich but deliciously delicate flavors. An orange, carrot, and ginger coulis added a sweet complexity to the pan-seared Jumbo Sea Scallops. On the side, Himalayan red rice and sautéed fresh asparagus were cooked to perfection. Both entrées exemplify Chef Scott's penchant for turning unlikely combinations of ingredients into his signature Regional New American and World Cuisine.

The extensive award-winning wine list is testament to Chef Scott's deep knowledge and appreciation of wine. Since 2003, River Tavern has been the annual recipient of *Wine Spectator* magazine's Award of Excellence.

The Long and Short of It

Some guests who come to Hawk Inn & Mountain Resort never want to leave—and they don't have to. Home or condominium ownership is an integral part of the resort. Over the past 40 years, about 165 homes and condos have been built throughout Hawk. According to Jim Nielsen, there are "plenty of opportunities to buy and build, and some of the best properties are yet to be developed." Prime real estate is waiting, and the resort has the infrastructure in place for permitting, wastewater, and bringing in power. Condo ownership is also available as a room or suite at the inn, or in many of the other Hawk villa properties. Come for a week, stay for a month—or take ownership and stay forever. 🍷

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY LISA DENSMORE

Blue Ridge mountain

A PLEASANT DISCOVERY

One would think that two work-at-home moms whose kids are in school all day could carve out a couple of hours to go for a hike together. But life has a way of overflowing with things that needed to get done last week. Peggy and I meant well, pledging to find a mountain to climb one day during the fall when the foliage was at its peak. As those colorful weeks in October neared their end, I called my friend with an ultimatum. “Tomorrow or we’ll miss it,” I said. “Okay, tomorrow then,” replied Peggy, who lives in Rutland, “But I can’t drive far. I only have the morning.” »

A snowy fall view near the summit of Blue Ridge Mountain.



Cascade beside the trail.

We had three criteria for the route: short enough to meet our time constraint, long enough to feel like we got some exercise, and high enough for a view. The usual local spots didn't fit the bill. Deer Leap and Mount Tom were too short, Pico and Killington too long. The rest were either too far away or lacking a scenic vista. Peggy finally suggested Blue Ridge Mountain on Old Turnpike Road, just west of the Sherburne Pass.

Girls' Morning Out

The hike up Blue Ridge Mountain (elevation 3,248 feet) is four miles round-trip and ascends 1,200 vertical feet. It follows a well-maintained footpath, but because it's not on the Long Trail or connected to the Long Trail, it's off the radar for most hikers outside the area. Lucky for the locals! It's one of the most pleasant discoveries I've made among the myriad hiking options in central Vermont.

As I drove to the trailhead, I shivered waiting for my car to warm up. The



Clockwise from above: Artist's conches on a tree trunk. Entrance to a lodge at the scout camp. Trail sign. Frozen maple leaves. On the trail.



Clockwise from above: Hiking on the first snow of the year. Leaves of a black maple on a snowy log. Upper trail. Pico Peak through snowy conifers.

thermometer read a chilly 28 degrees. The Green Mountains wore a new white shawl over their fall finery. Autumn's blazing show was past its peak but still aflame. The contrast between the first snow and the last leaves captivated me, though I worried how the combination would affect the footing on the trail.

We started up the Canty Trail, which soon passed through a small cluster of rustic buildings that looked like a well-used, now-forgotten scout camp. An abandoned metal canteen hung from a blue arrow that pointed the way deeper into the forest of hardwoods and conifers. The sugar maples had already dropped their leaves, and these lay underfoot in a thick, unruly carpet of tweedy oranges, yellows, and browns.

The trail followed Sawyer Brook, climbing gradually. Peggy and I caught up on family and work as we walked. The crisp morning air energized us, and it felt good to be out in the woods rather than inside at a computer. Though the maples were bare, the birches filled the spaces among the dark green hemlocks with golden yellow. The contrast with the orange and red leaves on the ground

Below: Summit view toward Rutland.



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made me feel as if I were walking down a long, multicolored hallway.

We passed a 15-foot cascade that was surprisingly full for this time of year when most other small mountain waterfalls had gone dry. The lacey veil flowed down the dark bedrock. The water looked cold and made the nearby rock slick with a clear coating of ice, but we continued without mishap.

As the climb became more persistent, snow lay more heavily on the trail. I became acutely aware of each step. Every time one of our hiking boots bore weight, it crunched noisily on the frozen leaves, the only sound in the silent forest that had turned to spruce and fir. Not a single bird or squirrel chirped at us. The early blanket of snow had left nature in a quiet, pensive mood. As I passed a paper birch, I briefly contemplated how each curl of its peeling bark seemed to catch a spoonful of snow.

A Beautiful Reward

We continued in silence, breathing harder and concentrating on our footing—not treacherous but slippery enough to deserve attention. We paused briefly to examine some rabbit tracks that crossed the path. The telltale paw prints, two large ovals in back and two small indents in front, were perfectly imprinted in the powder. It was nice to know that the wildlife, though silent, was still present.

As the trail became narrower, steeper, and rockier, I sensed the summit. Within moments, we stood atop a bald knob looking out at the city of Rutland, which filled the valley to the west. The ski trails on Pico Peak to the southeast looked as if we could ski on them, but I knew the white ribbons were a ruse. During the few minutes we spent on top of Blue Ridge Mountain, the snow turned from fluff to corn and would soon disappear as the cloud-shrouded sun heated up the day. We turned to descend, back to civilization and its onslaught of deadlines, parental duties, chores, and social obligations. But after our morning climb, it all seemed manageable again. 🍷

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BY MARY GOW

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Susan Lawrence Dana, socialite and heiress to a substantial fortune, decided in the early days of the 20th century that her family's Italianate mansion on "Aristocracy Hill" in Springfield, Illinois, needed some updating. A renowned hostess and art collector, she wanted a showplace home suited for large-scale gracious entertaining. The forward-thinking Dana hired a rising architect of the time, Frank Lloyd Wright, and essentially gave him carte blanche to do the job. Twelve thousand square feet later, an architectural masterpiece emerged, a landmark Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie-style home with low, earth-hugging lines, expansive rooms, and carefully planned windows connecting interior and exterior spaces. Wright's plan went far beyond walls and windows—he also designed the home's furnishings.

Dana wanted a grand dining room for entertaining. Wright accommodated and created a room that comfortably seated 40. But within this vast space, Wright's furniture created an intimacy between guests. Handsome, tall-backed dining



Above: Taliesin Barrel Chair.

Below: Dana-Thomas Grand Extension Dining Table and Chairs.



chairs lined the long table, shaping a room within the room.

The Vermont Connection

A century after Dana's guests first enjoyed her hospitality in 1904, Tim Copeland, founder and president of Copeland Furniture in Bradford, visited the Dana Thomas House with his design team. The historic house is now owned by the state of Illinois. "We spent a day there, looking at the furniture and crawling around and photographing it," says Copeland of the visit.

All this crawling around, close examination, and measuring of the pieces did not alarm the docents of the Dana Thomas House—Copeland Furniture is the only company authorized by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation to reproduce the architect's furniture. »

spotlight



Above: Francis Little Desk.

Right: Dana-Thomas Grand Buffet and optional shelf.

Below: Oak Park Home and Studio Seating and Coonley Occasional Tables.



Around the country and around the world, when designers or homeowners want a Taliesin Barrel Chair, those iconic Dana Thomas dining chairs, or any other authentic Wright-designed piece of furniture, they turn to Bradford, Vermont. Here Copeland Furniture, a locally owned company known for its high-quality contemporary hardwood furniture, creates these superb tables, chairs, beds, and desks for new generations.

“We are pleased and honored to have the license to make the Frank Lloyd Wright furniture,” says Copeland about this small but distinguished part of the company’s business. “It is not our major product. We range from the Frank Lloyd Wright designs to very contemporary looks of the 21st century.”

Copeland’s connection to the famed architect’s legacy began about five years ago. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, a nonprofit organization based at Wright’s Taliesin West



Dana-Thomas Occasional Chair.

home in Scottsdale, Arizona, runs an educational center whose mission includes encouraging innovative thinking about architecture and design and the natural environment. Founded by Wright in 1940, the organization owns his designs, drawings, personal property, and writings.»



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Left: Boynton Hall Table.



Above: Boynton Dining Chairs.

“They have the archives and original drawings that span his entire career,” says Copeland. In licensing Wright’s designs, “they want a product that is faithful to the original,” Copeland explains. “They were looking for a US manufacturer capable of doing it well.” Copeland is the only firm licensed to use the Wright drawings. Each piece made by Copeland in this extensive collection is numbered, engraved with Frank Lloyd Wright’s signature, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from the Director of Archives at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Synthesis of Nature & Home

Widely viewed as the greatest architect of the 20th century, Frank Lloyd Wright was born in 1867 in Wisconsin and died in 1959 in Arizona. From his Prairie-style houses of the early 1900s to the stunning cantilevered Fallingwater in 1935 to the Guggenheim Museum in 1959, Wright revolutionized architecture. “A building is not just a place to be. It is a way to be,” Wright said. Connecting humankind to the environment was central to his approach and designs; he spoke about his work as “organic architecture.”

“Arguably the influence that he had on architecture is so ubiquitous that people don’t recognize it. The low slope and flat roof lines, overhanging eaves, and open floor plans are all things that

he pioneered,” says Copeland. “Coming out of the Victorian age with its heavy ornamentation, Wright did things totally differently.”

Copeland’s Frank Lloyd Wright collection is comprised of furniture from his Prairie-era houses. Several of Wright’s most famous homes are represented—Taliesin, Robie House, Dana Thomas, and Boynton House among them.

Wright’s organic view of connecting the home to nature is evident. The strong, horizontal lines evocative of Prairie

landscape figure prominently. The designs showcase the natural grains, colors, and textures of the woods. Wright favored local materials over exotic woods imported from distant sources. In his synthesis of nature and home, Wright also had an eye for his clients’ lifestyles. Combining those elements of design with livability, his furniture was functional, artistic, and enduring.

The Barrel Chair is among the most famous of Wright’s furniture pieces. He had this semicircular chair with verti-



Meyer May Dresser and Mirror.



Asymmetrical English dovetail drawer construction.

cal rails and an upholstered seat in his Taliesin home in Wisconsin. He designed an early version of the chair in 1904 for a house in Buffalo, New York. He revisited the design several times, including it in a guest room at the magnificent Fallingwater and in the spacious Wingspread in Racine, Wisconsin.

Carrying Wright's Philosophy Forward

The Copeland Wright collection includes pieces that are exact, tape-measure perfect reproductions of the originals. A few designs have been slightly modified; the Meyer May Bed, originally twin sized, for example, is available in larger sizes. The adaptations allow these enduring designs to better accommodate 21st century lifestyles and functions that Wright could not have imagined. "The Boynton Hall table today is often used to hold a flat-screen TV. I think Wright would have totally approved; he was an early adopter of technology," says Copeland.

With Frank Lloyd Wright's emphasis on local materials and connections to the environment, his foundation's choice of Copeland Furniture carries that philosophy forward. Copeland has been crafting fine furniture in

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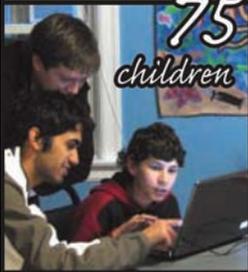
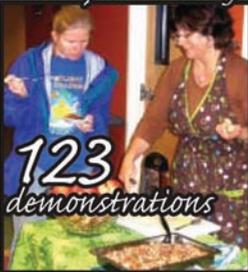
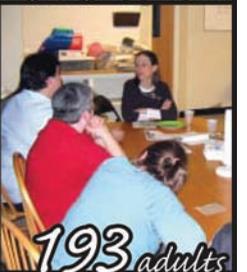




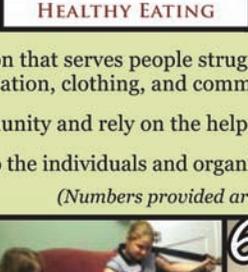
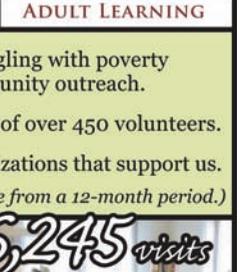
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Bradford for over three decades. More than 80 people work for this local, family-owned company. "Green and sustainable are at the core of our business," says Copeland. "To us it seems foolish to ship North American hardwood halfway around the world to be manufactured and shipped back." Copeland uses sustainably harvested hardwood from the Northern Forest. The company is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, meaning that they do not purchase wood from forests that are threatened, have high conservation significance, or have genetically modified trees. Copeland has won environmental awards for its practices.

Beyond Frank Lloyd Wright, Copeland Furniture offers an impressive array of fine contemporary furnishings. Their designs are inspired by influences including International Modernism, Art Deco, and Shaker and Scandinavian design. Their 21 AC (21st century Arts and Crafts) collection, for example, brings a contemporary lift to the bold geometry of Arts and Crafts style while the Berkeley collection draws on Japanese traditional design.

"Form follows function—that has been misunderstood," said Frank Lloyd Wright. "Form and function should be one, joined in a spiritual union." Today, thanks to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and Copeland Furniture, many timeless pieces that marry form and function are gracing 21st century homes. 🏡

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Copeland Furniture is available through dealers around the United States.



Owner Barbara Wheaton holding an Indian quilt jacket.

If you regularly shop in the artificial light of cavernous department stores, where polyester blends are warehoused on rack after rack, knowledgeable sales help is nonexistent, and you are simply an anonymous shopper waiting to pay, then visiting Morgan-Ballou in downtown Woodstock will be a special treat. The store is filled not only with natural light from windows overlooking a home built in 1807 but also quality women's clothing—in brands and styles you won't find anywhere else in the Upper Valley. »

Morgan-Ballou

ELEGANTLY CASUAL CLOTHING

BY LAURA HARRIS-HIRSCH

PHOTOS BY LYNN BOHANNON



The boutique offers many accessories.



*Top: Jackets are displayed in the front window.
Above: Moore & Giles leather bags.*

WHAT'S NEW



white shirt and black shells and turtle-necks at Morgan-Ballou, but you'll also find a mix of affordable and higher-end clothing with striking designs in up-to-date colors.

Wheaton does all the buying for the shop and accepts "fine quality only." She's knowledgeable about the range of contemporary fabrics, which often include interesting blends. Taking a "very washable" sweater made from Modal, a textile derived from spun beech wood, Wheaton demonstrates how very soft it is. A second, equally soft sweater she



Leather belts.

A large selection of cashmere is available.

Unique & Classic Selections

You'll marvel at the colorful, reversible jackets individually designed and sewn by a Connecticut woman who travels to India to purchase the traditional wedding quilts from which she makes these soft garments. Other jackets on display include alpaca blends from Peru and Merino wool jackets with appliqués done by hand. You'll also see popular Cambio jeans in denim and twill, Belford sweaters, and 100 percent fair trade necklaces and cotton scarves from Kenya.

Morgan-Ballou caters to women over 30, sizes 2 through 16, with "elegantly casual" unique sportswear. "So many stores cater to young women," says owner Barbara Wheaton. "There are very few who stock inventory that is appropriate for a mature woman, but still fashionable." You'll always find a crisp



The spacious store allows plenty of room for browsing.

displays is made, surprisingly, from a cotton-bamboo blend; the bamboo keeps the pullover from stretching out of shape.

High Quality, Timeless Designs

Wheaton travels to Boston and New York to select inventory. She looks for quality clothing constructed of natural fabrics—silk, wool, alpaca, cash-



Barbara assists a customer.

mere, and cotton—in timeless designs that a woman will be able to wear for many years. She also seeks suppliers at juried craft shows and is always searching for artisan producers who don't sell to department stores.

One of those suppliers is Lynn Yarrington of New Haven, Vermont, who hand-loom eye-catching jackets woven of cotton, silk, rayon, and chenille yarns in vibrant colors. Each of these one-of-a-kind creations, as Yarrington's website informs, is "designed to move with ease, elegance, and style with the complex lifestyles of women today." These jackets, like other four-season clothing and accessories at Morgan-Ballou, are purchased by "the mature woman who wants to be dressed elegantly but in country style," says Wheaton.

She's describing the store's inventory of scarves, many hand-dyed and hand-pieced, non-woolen sweaters, and crewnecks and cardigans in two kinds of cashmere, "so fine that even women who can't usually wear



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WHAT'S NEW



This 1807 historic building is home to Morgan-Ballou.

cashmere can wear these.” She’s referring also to the fair trade clothing from Vietnam, sweaters from Aldo Martin’s of Spain, and “whatever special accessory or piece of clothing you’re looking for.”

Often, repeat customers proudly tell Wheaton about the many compliments they’ve received on their Morgan-Ballou clothing, and how happy they are that it has lasted for so many years. Wheaton’s favorite customer comment? “You have such unusual things—you don’t see such things everywhere!”

“It’s all about the customers,” Wheaton notes. “My favorite aspect is when I have customers who are excited and happy.” The three sales associates are committed to being helpful, efficient, and friendly. Because they are not on commission, they are happy to spend the time needed to help each customer select flattering clothing that she likes. And in the rear of the store, there is comfortable seating for waiting spouses and even a table where young children can color or play.

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Shoppers are treated to artful displays.



A colorful array of scarves.

Appreciating Beauty

Shopping at Morgan-Ballou has been a Woodstock tradition since Barbara Morgan and Ellie Ballou founded the store in the late 1950s. Wheaton moved here in 2001 and after working in sales at Morgan-Ballou for several years, she bought the business nearly seven years ago. Only the third owner, she has worked in retail “on and off for many years.” Today’s Morgan-Ballou customer may be one of the many international tourists that Woodstock attracts, or a seasonal or full-time lo-



The shop has a wide variety of jewelry, including the latest fun, flexible necklaces.

cal resident, including some shoppers who are the third generation in their families to shop at the store.

Barbara Wheaton still remembers the first time she saw Woodstock, Vermont. It was in 1972, as she was driving her sister, a student entering Dartmouth, from their home near Syracuse to Hanover. “Our jaws dropped!” says Wheaton. “It was the most beautiful New England town we’d ever seen.”

Today not only is the store in a pretty location on tree-lined Elm Street with its beautifully maintained historic homes, but as Wheaton says simply, “We also sell pretty clothes.” 🍷

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The Woodstock Country School

A REMARKABLE SCHOOL LIVES ON IN ITS STUDENTS

BY NAN BOURNE

Fall dance, 1949. Nan Bourne is grinning at left with Charlie MacIntosh.



In 1944, the Woodstock Country School was born in Woodstock, Vermont, of two widely divergent dreams, brought together in a fragile coalition by a dynamic trio of local educators. Kenneth Webb was a staunch Quaker; he and his wife had founded the Farm and Wilderness Camps in Plymouth, Vermont, in 1939, and he dreamed of an affiliated school, fostering rugged self- and group-reliance sustained by a strong Quaker faith.

David Bailey had made a memorable educational detour from Harvard to a B.A. at the non-accredited Black Mountain College in North Carolina, and he dreamed of creating a school that would prepare students for the unusually liberal experience of an institution like Black Mountain.

The third educator was the “midwife” who fused these dreams into reality: Elizabeth Forrest Johnson, a formidable fundraiser who had retired to Woodstock in 1941 after 26 years as headmistress of the Baldwin School in Philadelphia. Both Kenneth and David, unknown to each other, appealed to her separately for financial help to start a school; she agreed to support them if they would agree to combine their efforts into one enterprise.

Eclectic Beginnings

The men were eager to begin, and they joined forces despite many obvious differences in philosophy and even in appearance: Ken was short, erect, and a militant believer in hard work,



Greenhithe on Church Hill, 1950.

exercise, and religion, while six-foot, six-inch David was languid and preferred an intuitive teaching style with a minimum of traditional discipline.

The school opened in the fall of 1945 in a 19-room Victorian inn called Greenhithe, with a barn and 40 acres on top of Church Hill, with 35 students, including a few war veterans. Despite—or maybe because of—its somewhat discordant beginnings, the school thrived. In an era born of 1930s and ’40s polarizing, hardened “isms”—fascism and communism —“the fundamental difference between leadership and dictatorship should not escape us,” one educator observed, and David and Ken carefully selected kind, knowledgeable, and stimulating teachers and worked hard to meld the diverse group into a harmonious, productive community. Students were both prodded and nurtured, and a family-like atmosphere quickly evolved and became a central element of the school for its entire 35-year existence.

The students formed a varied cohort that included theater children, youths from problem backgrounds, and those whose parents wanted a more stimulating environment for their offspring. Few boarding schools of that time were coeducational, and even fewer encouraged the arts over athletics. One of the more conspicuous early students was Larry Hagman, son of singer Mary Martin, who arrived with a reputation as an unruly child, and who, though liked by many, was finally expelled—an unusual move for WCS, then and afterward—for being what David succinctly called “a terribly naughty boy.” »

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Woodwind group in the 1950s led by music teacher Buffy Dunken.

“The school had a joyous atmosphere. There was a sense of safety—it was a haven for girls. Boys and girls were treated as equals, which was not the case in the outside world.”

—Sarah Lorenz Mitchell, Class of 1955

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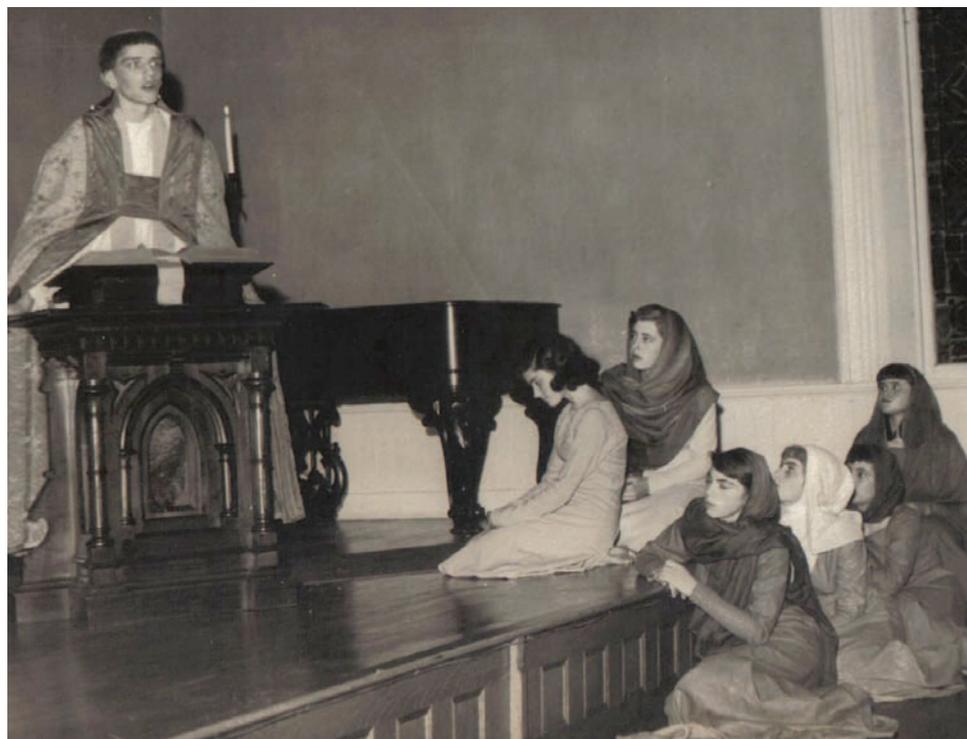
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Students perform *Murder in the Cathedral* by T.S. Eliot in 1954.

An Inspired Headmaster

Subsequent classes included an adopted son of the actor Frederic March; two daughters of Vincent Sheean, a popular author of the time who lived at Twin Farms in Barnard; the daughter of ACLU founder Roger Baldwin; and a child of TV pundit Walter Cronkite. By the school's third year, the differences between the two founders had become so pronounced that Ken left WCS to focus more directly on his camps in Plymouth, and David became the sole headmaster. While Ken learned he preferred working with younger children, David thrived in the turbulent world of high school students. John McDill, a Woodstock town leader of that period, commented, "David Bailey, in his prime, was one of New England's great headmasters." Peter Jennison, a local historian, adds, "Inspired—and something of a visionary—he brought other gifted teachers to the school."

Since David drew his inspiration mainly from two of his own school experiences, it might be helpful to describe them briefly. Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where David spent his primary-school years,

was started in 1917 by a Harvard professor and his wife as an alternative to the local public schools. The theories of John Dewey, a 20th century educational reformer, were central to the school's belief in tangible experiences as the best teacher. Walks and lessons in nature and an organizing "central subject" allowing the children to do research and artwork both (such as a study of American Indians or ancient Greeks) became primary strategies. As much as possible, teachers guided each child to discover his or her own best style of learning.

Black Mountain College, where David earned his B.A. and met his wife Peggy, a drama teacher there, was a logical next step for David. Founded in 1933 by a group of dissident professors from Florida's Rollins College, it was for the 23 years of its existence a magnet for other creative dissidents, both teachers and students. Headed for a number of years by the artist Josef Albers, its faculty at one time or another included John Cage and Merce Cunningham, Buckminster Fuller, William de Kooning, Franz Kline, and Robert Rauschenberg.

Besides encouraging creative autonomy, Black Mountain focused strongly



David Bailey, Headmaster. Photo courtesy of William Boardman.

on the idea of community, and it managed to gather its disparate faculty and students into an effective alternative family; memories of this intense intimacy remained with many students for life.

For David Bailey, fresh from Harvard, Black Mountain was heady fare indeed, and he often said that one of his goals at Woodstock was to prepare students to enter Black Mountain without the time-consuming culture shock he himself had experienced. (Unfortunately, Black Mountain closed in 1956; no one from the Country School actually went there.)

A Fusion of Ideals & Ideas

The Woodstock Country School became an amalgam of these various influences. The student work-job program, where everyone helped with table setting, dishwashing, and general cleaning, stemmed directly from Kenneth Webb's interest in cooperative labor. Shady Hill contributed Dewey's ideas of personalized teaching and a strong connection to the outdoors.

Black Mountain's focus on an intense, cooperative community and on the arts formed what could be seen as the school's core values. WCS remained small; in its first decade, the number of students rarely exceeded

elliott newman



Anna Beck

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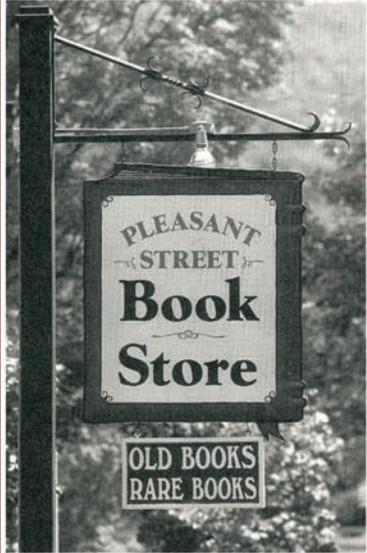




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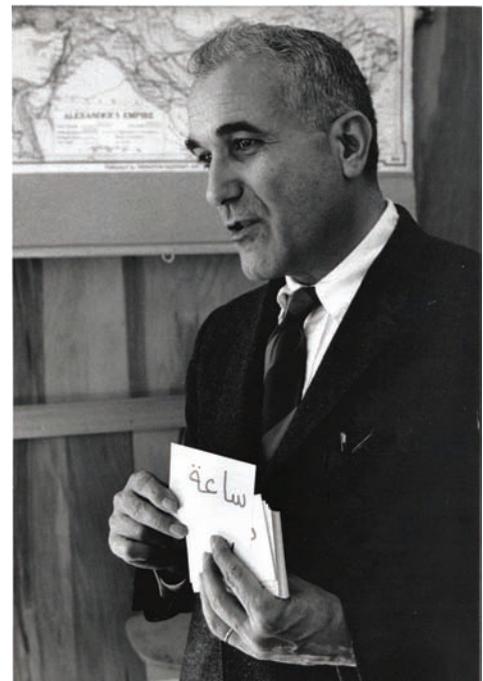
Jo Oatfield, English and French teacher. Photo courtesy of William Boardman.

80, with boys and girls in equal numbers. The school's central building was Greenhithe, the 19-room Victorian inn with its matching carriage house. Situated at the crest of Church Hill with invigorating views of Mounts Tom and Peg, it was a large, dignified, white clapboard structure with green shutters and a deep wraparound porch supported by thick white columns. It contained classrooms, common areas and dining rooms, a faculty lounge, kitchen, and a girls' dormitory. "It was a magnet," says Bill Boardman, class of '56, who later wrote a history of the school. "Greenhithe had girls and food."

Two other dorms, on Linden Hill and at 22 The Green, made up the school in its first years. By 1955 a small library and a house for David and Peggy had been constructed, but the school remained a tight-knit, family-like community with many ties to the village. Faculty members acted in Little Theater plays; a pair of students gave a uni-cycle performance in the Town Hall; and Pete Seeger, the brother of a student, gave concerts at the Woodstock Inn. The WCS baseball team played the local boys on Vail Field, and students visited the local library, the Fruit Store (which actually possessed a jukebox) and, it was

rumored, the Tavern.

When I arrived there as a 13-year-old freshman in 1947, I was both terrified and fascinated. I had chosen Woodstock from a short list of rural New England coed schools, but I was not prepared for the exuberant informality of my schoolmates, who wore jeans to classes and called the teachers by their first names. I snatched up *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* from the



Mounir Sa'adeh, teacher.

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scanty school library and hid behind it for a week, now and then peering out apprehensively.

Before long, however, I became intoxicated by the landscape's autumnal beauty and the friendly understanding of my teachers (one of whom, I later learned, had kindly overlooked the instruction, left by my parents, that I was to attend church regularly). Students were allowed to go downtown several times a week, and I soon discovered a livery stable and began to explore the lovely countryside on horseback—a joyful memory still.

WCS had a roster of memorable teachers. There was Mounir Sa'adeh from Syria, who organized stimulating round-table discussions of history and current events; Peggy Bailey, David's wife, who prepared seniors for college with a rigorous study of literature, plus low grades; Buffy Dunker, the charismatic music teacher who used her record player to fill the common room with classical melodies. There was bow-tied Allen Weatherby, who organized school spelling bees, taught Shakespeare with flair and, after hours, acted with the local New Woolhouse Players. And there was Bob Lake, beloved science teacher who had been in the 10th Mountain Division and who led his ninth-grade geology class deep into Quechee Gorge in a quest for sedimentary rock.

In that first decade, organized sports at the Woodstock Country School never developed much beyond baseball. The most popular sport was probably skiing; the school had its own hill and its own Model A truck, whose engine was converted to pull a rope tow.

David never called his school progressive. Although students' opinions were validated and most flowered in the intimacy of small classes and easy relationships with teachers, courses were rigorous, especially in English, math, science, and drama. Seniors got into their colleges of choice. »



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VERMONT LIVING



Barn fire, 1954.

Drinking and smoking without parental permission were firmly punished. David had a style of discipline all his own. "A group of us used to sneak out of the dorm at night to smoke in a special place in the woods," remembers Anne Adams, class of '54. "We were sure no teacher knew about this. But one night we arrived at our secret spot to find David sitting there, silent as a Buddha. Needless to say, that was the end of our evenings out!"

Sarah Lorenz Mitchell, who graduated from WCS in 1955, remembers, "The school had a joyous atmosphere. I couldn't wait to get back after vacation! There was a sense of safety—it was a haven for girls. Boys and girls were treated as equals, which was not the case in the outside world."

Sarah was a senior when the barn—the science center and records repository—burned to the ground one night. "I remember waking up at about 3:30—it was mid October, just before Parents' Weekend—and seeing these huge flames. I got someone to call the fire department. We were told not to leave Greenhithe. It was terrible for the school," she went on. "We all knew it would mean a huge change. All the school records were lost; everything about the school had burned. And all the parents arrived to see a smoldering cellar hole."

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Another Locale, A Sad Decline

Because half the school's basic plant was now gone, it was decided after much discussion to move. WCS purchased 400 acres of Owen Moon's Upwey Farm in South Woodstock, including several barns, two magnificent brick mansions, and a vast landscape of fields and woods. On this beautiful rural campus the school continued for another quarter of a century, until an unfortunate confluence of events caused it to close: David's slow decline from emphysema; the sex-and-drug revolutions of the '60s and '70s that overwhelmed the school's personalized approach to discipline; a growing number of coed boarding schools; and finally, the lack of internal cohesion, as David never succeeded in appointing a strong successor. It could also be said that the fire weakened the school. A decade of alumni had loved the Church Hill campus, especially Greenhithe, and many of them could never quite claim the new location and felt they had lost their school. The Woodstock Country School shuttered its doors for good in 1980.

POSTSCRIPT: Elizabeth Fischer Lilly of Colorado Springs, Colorado, who was the college roommate of Polly Oatfield, WCS '51, told me recently that she visited Polly's family in London in the early 1980s and they happened to watch a TV talk show featuring Larry Hagman, the antihero of the TV series *Dallas*.

"They were asking him about his youth," Elizabeth remembered. "I suddenly heard him saying, 'I was sent to boarding school, and they kicked me out. So I came back and burned down their barn!'"

Polly immediately reported this to her mother, Jo, who had been a teacher there at the time. Jo said she remembered seeing Larry at Parents' Weekend, right after the fire, but apart from being a bit surprised, she had thought nothing of it. 🐾



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Antiques Collaborative

BY JEN PARSONS
PHOTOS BY JACK ROWELL

IT'S ALL ABOUT
HISTORY AND
EDUCATION



Owners Isabelle and Bill Bradley.

“The best time to buy an antique is when you first see it,” Bill and Isabelle Bradley say, and they know a thing or two about collecting. As the owners of the Antiques Collaborative, Inc., a large and impressive group shop in Quechee, they see many items come and go through their doors. But when they find an antique that they really love, they do not hesitate to purchase it, and if they decide to bring it home, there is a good chance that they will never be able to part with it.

“Most dealers are the greatest purchasers of antiques,” says Bill. “Quite often, items go round and round between dealers. Each dealer has an area of interest or likes to specialize in particular items.”

Quality & Diversity

To call Antiques Collaborative a store would be an understatement. It’s an antiques destination housing 165 display spaces in an expanded 1880s farmhouse. Upon entry, one sees charming quilts lining the stair rails; an atrium opens through three floors, beckoning the explorer into this atmosphere of anachronism. The character of the place changes from room to room.

Looking for a 19th century cherry pitter or maybe an alligator skull? They’re here. How about some Yankee-crafted 18th century country furniture? Got that. Want a local Vermont scene painted by a beloved native, like Arthur Wilder? It’s here. In fact, the diversity and quality of

“Most dealers are the greatest purchasers of antiques,” says Bill. “Quite often, items go round and round between dealers.”



Above: The Antiques Collaborative is housed in a converted 19th century farmhouse.

Left: Meissen porcelain coffee service.





Reflecting on a Federal looking glass.

“Most dealers begin as collectors,” notes Bill. Isabelle adds, “Most collect and then find that they have too much!”

the offerings in this group shop give it bragging rights. “We have Native American antiques, Oriental carpets, African tribal masks, Tiffany silver, and a dealer who specializes in ephemera,” notes Isabelle. “People are very pleasantly surprised when they enter our gallery.”

Windows to the Past

It’s great fun to speak with Bill and Isabelle—their enthusiasm for historical objects is contagious. They purchased the Antiques Collaborative in 1992, just two years after it was established by assembling a group of dealers who were previ-



Fine American and European furniture and paintings.



Country decor.

ously part of a shop in Windsor. Bill and Isabelle met as students at the University of Durham in northern England. Before they purchased the Antiques Collaborative, they lived in the Florida Keys and collected Georgian silver and fine porcelain. “Most dealers begin as collectors,” notes Bill. Isabelle adds, “Most collect and then find that they have too much!”

Over the years, Bill has developed an interesting philosophy about selling an-

tiques—he sees his business as an educational gallery. “The study of history in textbooks is often viewed as boring. Antiques provide us with an informal yet important means to incorporate historical knowledge into our lives through our exposure to tangible artifacts.” Isabelle interjects, “The objects serve as an inspiration to develop an interest in history because they are real connections to the past.”»



Browsing a book room on the second floor.

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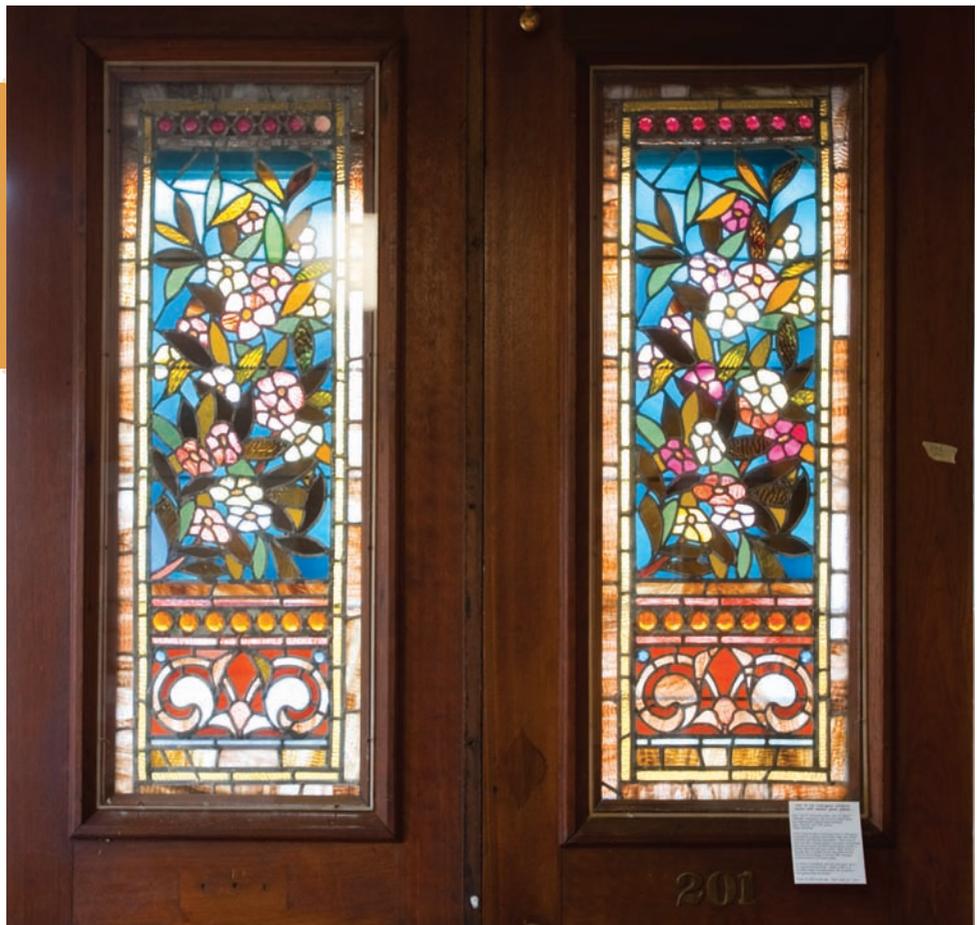


Items to delight both young and old.

“You can own objects that were made by true craftsmen to solve uniquely American problems.”

She recalls the history teacher who came in and asked them to find a cannonball to help his students relate to historic battles. Bill and Isabelle researched extensively and found one dating from the French and Indian War. “Who wouldn’t be inspired by a genuine cannonball that had been fired in a battle and much later excavated from a farmer’s field next to Fort Ticonderoga?”

Antiques are the ultimate “green initiative,” in Bill’s view. “One hundred percent of what we sell is recycled and also recyclable.” Although some antiques come with a high price tag, their craftsmanship has withstood the test of time. And rather than losing value over time,



Victorian stained glass gallery.



A selection of Middle Eastern antique copper.

their value increases. He also notes that buying antiques is buying local, with the profits benefitting a local business and local sellers.

A Passion for Collecting

Isabelle points out particular items that exemplify American ingenuity. "You can own objects that were made by true craftsmen to solve uniquely American problems." For example, she says, in America's early days it was difficult to make small and accurate metal parts for clocks. She points out an early long-case clock; its inner



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19th and 20th century American paintings.

workings were fashioned entirely of small wooden mechanisms.

Isabelle is very proud of a recently added collection on display: the objects from the Benjamin Swan house in Woodstock, one of the last residences on Elm Street that has remained in one family since its construction in 1801. In 1804, Benjamin Swan married Lucy Gay of Suffield, Connecticut, and a portrait of her father, Reverend Ebenezer Gay, is among the items for sale. Other antiques from the collection include the family's original leather fire bucket, stoneware jugs, a



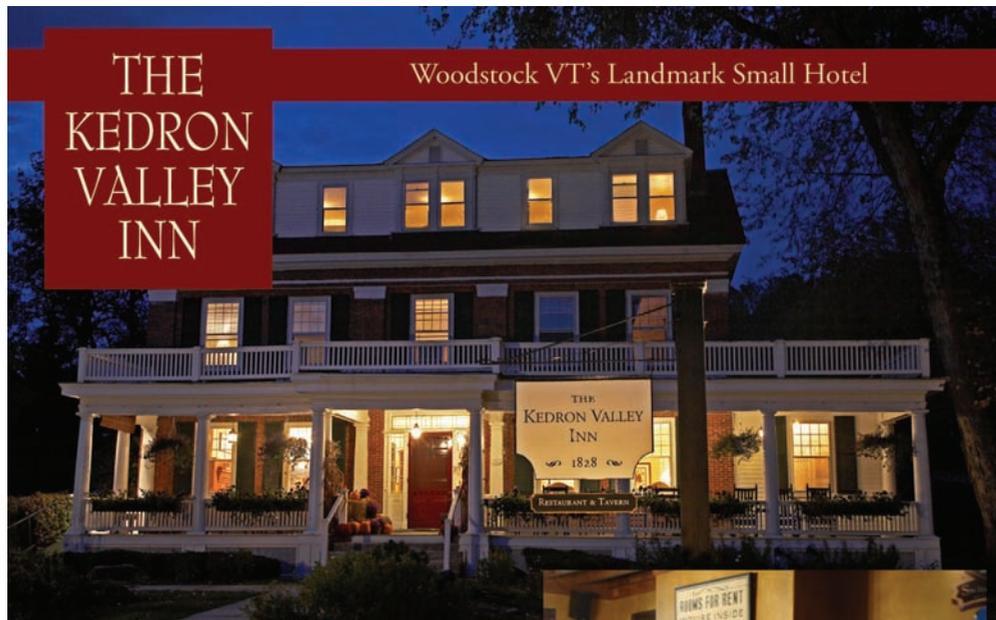
Three-story entrance foyer.



child's wooden tricycle, and even Benjamin Swan's 18th century wallet. With such history embedded in the house and the family, the quality of these antiques reveals a time capsule of a period in Vermont's past.

Making connections is the most interesting part of the work for both Bill and Isabelle. "You never know what is going to come through the door on any day." Researching new items and linking that knowledge brings rewards. Families have been reunited with lost heirlooms—one customer found a Civil War document bearing his great-great-grandfather's signature; another recognized a silhouette as a distant relative. This keeps the business fun for them—and infectious. They want everyone to find a passion for collecting. And there's something for everyone at the Antiques Collaborative—from a 75-cent antique postcard to a trunk purportedly once owned by Salvador Dali. "Begin by taking a chance on an object you like, and follow up that interest by learning more about it," Bill advises. And the Antiques Collaborative is just the place to find it! 🐾

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FALLING FOR Dessert

ENJOY A SWEET AND SPICY TREAT

BY SUSAN NYE

What could be better than the crisp, clear days of autumn in Vermont?

It's a great time to be out and about town or exploring the countryside. With the art show, craft fair, and bluegrass festival, there is plenty to do throughout the fall. For hikers and bikers, the hills are ablaze with red and gold, and the sky is a brilliant, clear blue. Whether you spend



the day wandering through the Tunbridge World's Fair or canoeing on Silver Lake, you're sure to work up an appetite for something sweet and spicy.

Fall has its own unique flavors and lures us back to the kitchen for a little baking. While there are almost as many excuses to bake as there are days in the season, a few call out for special attention. Halloween wouldn't be

FALL DESSERT MENU

Old-Fashioned Apple Cranberry Crisp

Pumpkin Cheesecake

Cranberry Coulis

Chocolate Walnut Tart



Halloween without a sweet treat or two. The jury is still out trying to determine if the crowning glory of Thanksgiving dinner is the turkey or the pumpkin pie! Why not invite friends and family around to celebrate the Harvest Moon, Oktoberfest, or the long Columbus Day weekend? And don't forget Guy Fawkes Night and Sadie Hawkins Day.

It's hardly necessary, but local farmers do much to

encourage us to get out our pie tins or cake pans. Vermont's orchards are filled to overflowing with beautiful apples. There are mountains of pumpkins and squash at the farmers' markets. Then again, no one can resist chocolate! Whether you whip up pumpkin scones for afternoon tea or offer to bake the Thanksgiving pies, enjoy a few hours in the kitchen and a sweet fall celebration with family and friends. 🍷

<< Old-Fashioned Apple Cranberry Crisp

This wonderful fall dessert is an easy crowd pleaser and a favorite of young and old alike.

Serves 10–12

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 4–5 lb Cortland or Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1–2 Tbsp Calvados or Apple Jack
- ½ cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- Crispy Topping (recipe follows)



1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Generously butter a large baking dish.
2. Put the apples and cranberries in a large bowl. Add the zests, lemon juice, Calvados, brown sugar, and spices and toss to combine. Pour into the baking dish.
3. Sprinkle the Crispy Topping evenly over the fruit. Put the crisp on a baking sheet to catch any drips and bake for 1 hour or until the top is golden brown and the apples are bubbly.
4. Let cool a bit and serve warm with vanilla or ginger ice cream.

Crispy Topping

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup light brown sugar, packed
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- Pinch nutmeg
- 12 Tbsp (1½ sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 1 cup quick-cooking oats

1. Combine the flour, sugar, salt, and spices in a food processor and pulse to combine. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture resembles coarse cornmeal.
2. Add the oats and pulse a few times to combine.

What to Sip with Your Fall Dessert?

How about Pomme-de-Vie, inspired by the French apple brandy, Calvados, and produced in Vermont at Flag Hill Farm in Vershire? Flag Hill Farm's apple brandy is made with traditional, time-honored techniques. You can use Pomme-de-Vie in recipes calling for apple brandy or enjoy it with your favorite fall dessert.

Or take a trip over the border—visit Poverty Lane Orchards and pick up some Farnum Hill Semi-Dry Cider. They also sell some special small-batch ciders; this year's Dooryard 1108 is a good bet with dessert.

Boyden Valley Winery offers a sweet Ice Cider—great with apple desserts and creamy custards. You might also like their Apple Crème Liqueur. Made with Ice Cider, apple brandy, and cream, this smooth, crème liqueur is Vermont's answer to Irish Cream. Made from maple syrup and cider, their Gold Leaf Wine goes well with nutty desserts.

For a chocolaty sweet, you can't do better than Putney Mountain Winery's Vermont Cassis. The winery also makes a fortified dessert wine. Similar to a Normandy Pommeau, their Putney Pommeau combines apple wine with apple brandy and is lightly sweet and fruity.

For More Information about Dessert Ciders and Wines

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Pumpkin Cheesecake

Halloween or Thanksgiving, Pumpkin Cheesecake is a welcome addition to any fall table!

Serves 12

- Gingersnap Crust (recipe follows)
- 4 (8 oz) packages cream cheese at room temperature
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp allspice
- ¼ tsp cloves
- 3 eggs
- 1½ cups pumpkin purée
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- Garnish:* Cranberry Coulis (recipe follows) and lightly sweetened whipped cream

1. Bring a large kettle of water to a boil.
2. While the kettle is boiling, put the cream cheese, sugar, and spices in a large bowl and use an electric mixer to beat until smooth. Beat in the eggs one at a time until well combined. Add the pumpkin, cream, and vanilla and beat until well combined.
3. Pour the pumpkin-cream cheese mixture into the prepared springform pan. (See crust recipe.)
4. Place the pan in a large roasting pan. Add enough boiling water to come halfway up the sides of the springform pan.
5. Bake the cheesecake until it's slightly puffed and softly set, and the top is golden, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Transfer the cake in its pan to a rack and cool to room temperature. Cover the pan and refrigerate the cheesecake overnight.
6. With a thin knife, carefully cut around sides of the pan to loosen the cheesecake. Release the pan sides. Decoratively drizzle a little Cranberry Coulis onto each serving plate, cut the cheesecake into wedges, and serve with an additional drizzle of coulis and a dollop of whipped cream.

Gingersnap Crust

- 2 cups (about 20 cookies) gingersnap cookie crumbs
 - 1 tsp cinnamon
 - 6 Tbsp (½ stick) melted butter
1. Set a rack in the center of the oven. Preheat the oven to 325°.
 2. Put the gingersnaps and cinnamon in a food processor and process until finely ground.
 3. Put the cookie crumbs and butter in a 10-inch springform pan and mix with a fork until the butter is evenly incorporated with the crumbs.
 4. Firmly press the crumbs into the bottom of the pan and about ½ to 1 inch up the sides. Bake at 325° for about 12 minutes or until the crust is golden brown. Cool the crust on a rack. When the springform pan is cool, wrap the outside in two layers of heavy aluminum foil.

Fresh Pumpkin Purée

Want to try your hand at pumpkin purée? It's very easy, but plan ahead—unless you want soupy purée, it needs to drain overnight!

Makes about 3 cups

- 2 lb fresh sugar pumpkin
 - Unsalted butter, melted
1. Preheat oven to 400°. Line a colander with overlapping coffee filters or cheesecloth and set it over a large bowl.
 2. Cut the pumpkin in half; scrape out the seeds and membrane. Cut the pumpkin into wedges and brush the flesh side with melted butter.
 3. Arrange, flesh side down, in a large roasting pan and cover with foil. Bake for 1 hour. Turn the pieces, cover, and return to the oven. Cook for another hour or until the pumpkin is very tender. Remove foil and cool pumpkin in the pan.
 4. When it's cool enough to handle, scoop out the pumpkin flesh and discard the skin. Purée the pulp in batches in a food processor. Transfer the purée to the colander and cover. Set it in the refrigerator and let drain overnight.

If you use a lot of pumpkin during the fall and winter months, particularly over the holidays, double or even triple this recipe. Divide the purée into 1-cup portions and freeze.



Cranberry Coulis

- 2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
 - 2 cups apple cider
 - 1 Tbsp Calvados or Apple Jack
 - ½ cup brown sugar
 - ½ tsp cinnamon
 - ½ tsp ground ginger
 - Pinch nutmeg
1. Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer gently for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and cool.
 2. Transfer the sauce to a blender and process until smooth. If it seems too thick, add a little more cider. Strain through a sieve into a bowl; discard the seeds and skins.
 3. Cool completely and then cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Serve leftover coulis with ice cream or freeze in a plastic container for another cheesecake. Use within a month.

Susan Nye writes, cooks, and lives in New Hampshire. You can find more of her stories and recipes on her blog at www.susannyewordpress.com.



Chocolate Walnut Tart

A nice change from the traditional pecan pie—and a favorite with chocoholics!

Makes one 9- or 10-inch tart

Flaky Pastry (recipe follows)
 3 large eggs
 2 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted
 1 Tbsp dark rum
 ½ tsp cinnamon
 Pinch nutmeg
 ¼ cup brown sugar
 ¼ cup maple syrup
 2 cups (8 oz) coarsely chopped walnuts
 Chocolate Glaze (recipe follows)
Garnish: unsweetened whipped cream



1. Preheat the oven to 350°.
2. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out the dough and fit it into a 9- or 10-inch glass or ceramic tart or pie plate. Trim and crimp the edge. Cover with plastic wrap and chill until firm, about 30 minutes.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, butter, rum, and spices. Whisk in the sugar and maple syrup. Using a rubber spatula, stir in the walnuts.
4. Pour the filling into the chilled tart shell and bake until set, 50 to 55 minutes. Cool on a wire rack for at least 2 hours. Pour the glaze over the pie and spread evenly to cover the top. Cool completely and serve garnished with a dollop of unsweetened (the tart is sweet enough!) whipped cream.

Chocolate Glaze

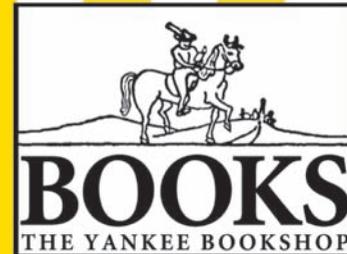
8 oz dark chocolate
 4 Tbsp unsalted butter
 2 Tbsp heavy cream

Blend the chocolate, butter, and cream together in a heavy pan over very low heat until the butter and chocolate melt, stirring frequently. Cool slightly.

Flaky Pastry

1¼ cups all-purpose flour
 1 Tbsp sugar
 ½ tsp salt
 5 Tbsp cold butter, cut into pieces
 3 Tbsp cold solid vegetable shortening
 2–4 Tbsp ice water

1. Blend the flour, sugar, and salt in a food processor. Add the butter and shortening and process until the mixture resembles coarse meal.
2. Sprinkle with ice water, 1 to 2 tablespoons at a time, and process until the dough comes together in a ball. Flatten into a disk. Wrap the dough in plastic and chill until firm enough to roll, at least 30 minutes.



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Rainbow over Venice's Grand Canal.

Following Venetian Threads

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BY SARA WIDNESS

PHOTOS BY MATTEO DE FINA

Sailing to Byzantium did it for Yeats. Traveling by train from Milan to Venice did it for this traveler, who for a week shared the poet's sentiments about the virtues of getting away from nature and into the world "of hammered gold and gold enameling." Sandwiched between the sky and the Adriatic, Venice is pinioned precariously over one-time swamps and plays havoc with sensibilities. Prague has a similar effect. These are places where reality shocks 21st century sensibilities and forces time into subservience.

To get the most from a visit to Venice, a little advance planning can inoculate against what can easily end up being just a blur—or something we imagined. The way not to see Venice is with a guidebook in one hand and a pen in the other, ticking off literally hundreds of must-sees. Even though you may think you want to see every Tintoretto and Veronese or every church, you don't—and you can't. The result of such scrutiny would be, sadly, experiencing little of this seductress. One strategy is to source a guide who will, at your request, serve up only four or maybe six delicacies in a given day. Another is to give desire free rein by plucking a few singular threads and letting them unravel before you. Following are my threads, composed of only a few paintings, textiles, art glass, and an organization called Save Venice Inc.



Venice's Hotel Cipriani.
Photo courtesy of the hotel.



Murano glasses. *Photo courtesy of Hotel Cipriani.*

Hotel Cipriani

Guidecca, an island accessed by vaporetto (like a city bus on water), was home for a few days, offering the advantage of actually strolling and gazing without worrying about stumbling into people as happens elsewhere. Guidecca, once a working person's residential island, still

harbors a boatyard that smells of wood and varnishes. Here, the Hotel Cipriani receives guests of the fabled Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. (There are other lodging choices, though none so gracious.) Here, in Agatha Christie style, threads first reveal themselves, beginning an unraveling of Venice.

Fabrics lavished on suites and in the dining room herald Fortuny, the 19th century textile genius whose weaving techniques are still kept secret at the Guidecca fattoria (workshop) accessed by foot or by vaporetto. In the Hotel Cipriani's Cip's Club, the elegance of Murano glass is exemplified in water tumblers by Schiavon, purveyor to Hotel Cipriani.

An introduction to art of the Renaissance begins on a tiny island a few minutes by vaporetto from the hotel. This is Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, where Andrea Palladio, whose name is stamped on an architectural style known as Palladian, designed the Basilica di San Giorgio Maggiore in the 16th century, replete with works by Tintoretto.

An expedition to Murano was a must after sipping from those Schiavon tumblers. The reception at this showroom and studio resulted in a demonstration of how color meets design in art glass. »



San Sebastiano restoration.
 Photo courtesy of Save Venice Inc.

Painful though it was, choices of tumblers were made to be given as gifts, along with battery-operated votive candles to embellish color and design, with a note that read: “Don’t you dare drink out of these; they are too expensive.”

Works of Art

While the Hotel Cipriani’s hospitality can never wear thin, especially given daily swims in the nearly Olympic-sized outdoor pool, the pocketbook did, proscribing a retreat to a warren near Piazza San Marco. (You’ve seen photos from here of pigeons on people’s arms while they’re standing in acqua alta—high water—that occurs from time to time.) This hostelry shall remain anonymous lest readers be bitten by fleas. However, changing lodgings did provide proximity to the “hammered gold and gold enameling” for which the Basilica di San Marco



A ceiling panel is removed.
 Photo courtesy of Save Venice Inc.

is famed. A short walk away is Fortuny Museum's collection of gowns (including those worn by Peggy Guggenheim) displayed with art against old brick and sections of faded stucco. This doyenne lived in the palazzo that houses the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, with at least one piece of art from anyone who was someone during her lifetime (she died in 1979).

Almost an antidote to indulging in too much Renaissance (easy to do at The Academy of Fine Arts), mod-



*Painting the details.
Photo courtesy of Save Venice Inc.*

ern art abounds in Venice. However, exhibitions come and go, so it's best to check on current shows before or upon arriving here. An example of one of the later palaces lining the canals is Palazzo Grassi, a haven for contemporary art. But as with many elements Italian, even wine bars done up in brick and ornamented with wooden wine cases fall into the sensual category and give a glimpse of how crumbling edifices can be repurposed.

Restoring Venice

Save Venice Inc. raises money to help fund restorations of works of art and buildings, including at present the Church of San Sebastiano, built between 1505 and 1548. (Save Venice Inc., based in New York and with

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San Sebastian fresco.
Photo courtesy of Save Venice Inc.

an office in Venice, has chapters in Boston and California as well.) At the Church of San Sebastiano the restorations include the decorative ceiling and canvas and fresco paintings created by Veronese between 1555 and 1570. The public can actually view the ongoing transformations. Other projects include masterpieces restored in The Academy of Fine Arts and 6th century pillars flanking the ceremonial entrance to the Basilica di San Marco. These Acritani Pillars came from Constantinople (Byzantium) and are among the spoils of a 13th century crusade.

By now it's easy to see how, without a few threads to guide you, it is easy to get lost in time in Venice. And there are still the dining and performance threads, but aren't these the same in Italy anyway? One evening you might dine on Venetian cuisine at Bistro de Venise with recipes dating from the 15th century. On other nights there are inexpensive concerts staging famous operatic arias or Vivaldi. La Fenice, the opera house, is a Baroque delicacy.

Do take a few hours to enjoy a vaporetto journey (marked just like the New York subway maps) that takes you on an inexpensive tour of palace-lined canals, some edifices crumbling, others being restored. For a complete immersion in distorted time and place, take a vaporetto away from Venice and to the airport.

If crowds are a concern, think about visiting here after October and before Carnival. For more details on Save Venice Inc., please see www.SaveVenice.org.

The Woodstock Rotary *Penny Sale*

COMMUNITY, CHARITY,
AND A CHANCE TO WIN

BY AUDREY RICHARDSON



If you've got a ticket, you've got 100 chances to win! And for many in and around the Woodstock community, odds like that are too good to resist. This fundraiser is not only one of the most successful charity events in Woodstock but also a Columbus Day weekend tradition.

Nearly 40 years old, The Woodstock Rotary Penny Sale is the cornerstone of community fundraising for the local Rotary Club. "People enjoy winning and supporting the community at the same time," says Beth Finlayson, former Rotary president and current chair of the penny sale. The bingo-like carnival is a collaborative effort involving nearly everybody in the community.

The name "penny sale" came from the idea that a person could pay a dollar and—since every ticket is reentered after each drawing—he or she could win up to 100 times. Although the probability of winning 100 prizes is unlikely, it's not impossible. Most attendees increase their odds by purchasing multiple tickets and studying them closely throughout



Above: The crowd in the Woodstock Union High School gymnasium.

Left: A Boy Scout with a prize.

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community

the evening. Other folks come for a fun night out that includes low-cost entertainment, good food, and a great chance to go home with something they didn't have before. "If you go with \$20 in your pocket, you'll have an enjoyable, relatively inexpensive night out. Where else can you do that?" asks Finlayson.

Local Merchants Give Generously

Businesses from all over the Upper Valley donate hundreds of valuable items that are raffled off for pennies in the Woodstock Union High School gymnasium. Merchants donate anything from \$25 gift certificates to John Deere lawn tractors valued at over \$1,800, and they often donate three prizes, since there are three groups of one hundred

prizes. High-value items like this year's Weber Grill donated by Larry Perry of Ace Home and Hardware and the John Deere donated by L. F. Trottier and Sons are reserved for the grand-prize drawing. Grand-prize tickets cost more, but they are still reasonable at \$5 a ticket. "The merchants are fantastic; they make the event," says Rotarian Dwight Camp, who co-owns Cabot Funeral Home in Woodstock and has been involved with the penny sale since its inception.

One Man's Vision

The penny sale dates back over 50 years ago to a carnival held every year by the Rotary. Rotarian Pat Mangah saw a penny-sale event in the Rutland commu-



Charlie Linclon, Britney Isabel, and Sandy Kasim show off their prizes.

nity and had an epiphany. “He came to us and said, ‘We should try this,’ and he really made it happen,” says Camp, who remembers attending the Rotary carnival as a young child. “I remember the carnival being a lot of fun, but it didn’t make a lot of money,” he says. Mangah believed that replacing the Rotary carnival, which had produced a lot of excitement but subpar financial gains, would allow the organization to earn more money for charitable giving. For Mangah, it was all about giving back to the community in a big way, and by having a penny sale, he thought they would be able to make a bigger difference in the community. Mangah passed away unexpectedly nearly a decade ago, but his memory lives on in the Woodstock Rotary Penny Sale. “He was a larger-than-life local figure,” says Finlayson about Mangah’s generosity.

The Upper Valley & the World

Mangah’s efforts paid off—Camp believes his idea has helped raise more than \$700,000 over the course of 38 years. “It all goes back into the community,” explains Finlayson. The Woodstock Rotary Penny Sale now raises 95 percent of the Rotary’s charitable funds each year, and its impact has benefitted charities all over the Upper Valley and the world. After each penny sale, the Rotary places an ad in local newspapers inviting charities and causes to apply for aid. Rotary members carefully review all the submissions, and together they decide which ones will receive assistance. Last year the organization had approximately \$33,000 to allocate to 50 organizations, such as the Woodstock Food Shelf and the Boy Scouts of America.

In general, the recipients are different every year, except for one—the Nicaragua Project. For the last two years, 10 percent of penny-sale profits have benefitted this charity that equips hospitals with much-needed medical supplies. Spearheaded by International Committee Chair Macy Lawrence and in conjunction with

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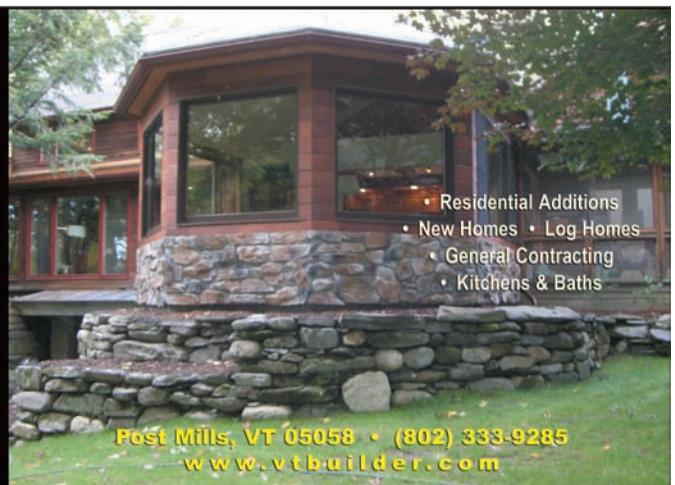


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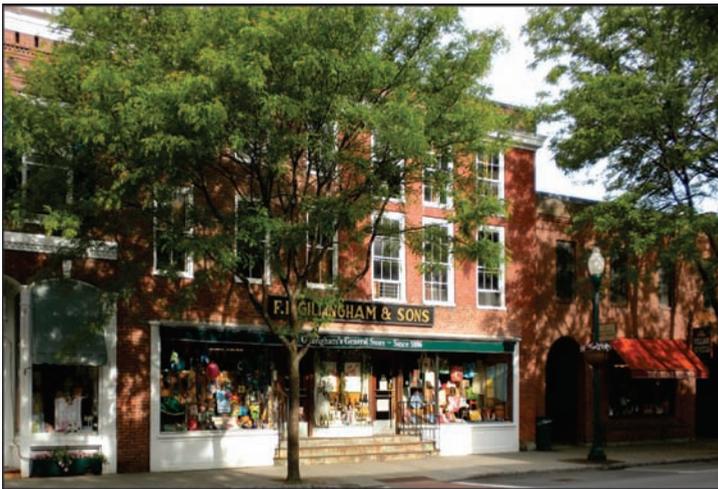


Edde Ebertz watches his numbers.

local doctors Chris Fields and Peter Lapre and matching grants from the Rotary Foundation, Woodstock Rotary has funded and participated in this ongoing effort to make a difference in one of the poorest areas of Nicaragua.

Although Camp and other Rotarians have fond memories of that old carnival, they have tried to bring a festive feel to the Woodstock Rotary Penny Sale. "Every year some of the Rotarians dress as clowns, and there is always something for the kids," says Camp. The focus of this event is not only money but also a chance for the community to come together. Among the bustle of clowns, food, and music are the local Boy Scouts shuttling prizes to their winners. "It is really upbeat—honking horns and silly string—and there are always surprises; the kids love it," says Finlayson.

For those looking to get a taste of the excitement, visit the Rotary website and view a YouTube video shot a year ago. "They were just enthralled by it," says Finlayson about a couple who were visiting the area and filmed their experience at the penny sale. The filmmakers captured not only the high-energy event but also the thriving vitality and generosity of the Woodstock community. With its deep roots and far-reaching philanthropy, the Woodstock Rotary Penny Sale is a shining example of a local charity going strong in the Upper Valley. For tickets to the 2011 event on Saturday, October 8, at 6:30pm, contact the Woodstock Rotary at www.rotarywoodstock.org. 🍷



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October 2
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October 22
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September

Through September 25
25th Annual Quilt Exhibition
In celebration of 25 years of quilting excellence, this juried exhibition of quilts made exclusively in Windsor County will include a selection of quilts hung in Billings Farm & Museum exhibitions since 1986. Quilting demonstrations and activities for children and adults.
*Info: (802) 457-2355, www.billingsfarm.org
Billings Farm & Museum*

Through October 24
ENCODED: Paintings by Vermont artist Galen Cheney
The Picture Gallery at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH

Through October 24
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Get a head start on your holiday shopping at the Sugarbush cheese and maple farm. Taste the different grades of syrup, learn about Vermont cheese, and sample lots of Vermont jams, mustards, and spreads.

Many Vermont crafts and items for children.
*Info: (802) 457-1757, www.sugarbushfarm.com
Sugarbush Farm, 9am-5pm*

24
Vermont Fine Furniture & Wood Products Design Competition Exhibit
The VWMA is very excited to announce that celebrity home and style designer Stephen Saint-Onge will be this year's special guest and featured speaker at the Saturday evening Design Competition awards reception. For the past two years, Stephen has helped millions of homeowners with his column, "House Calls," in *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine and with his numerous television appearances. Tickets are available for purchase to attend the reception. Food and beverages will be provided.
*Info: www.vermontwooddesigns.org
Jackson House Inn, Woodstock, VT*

24
Cooperage with David Salvetti
David will demonstrate the steps and techniques involved in making barrels and buckets. He will display coopering tools

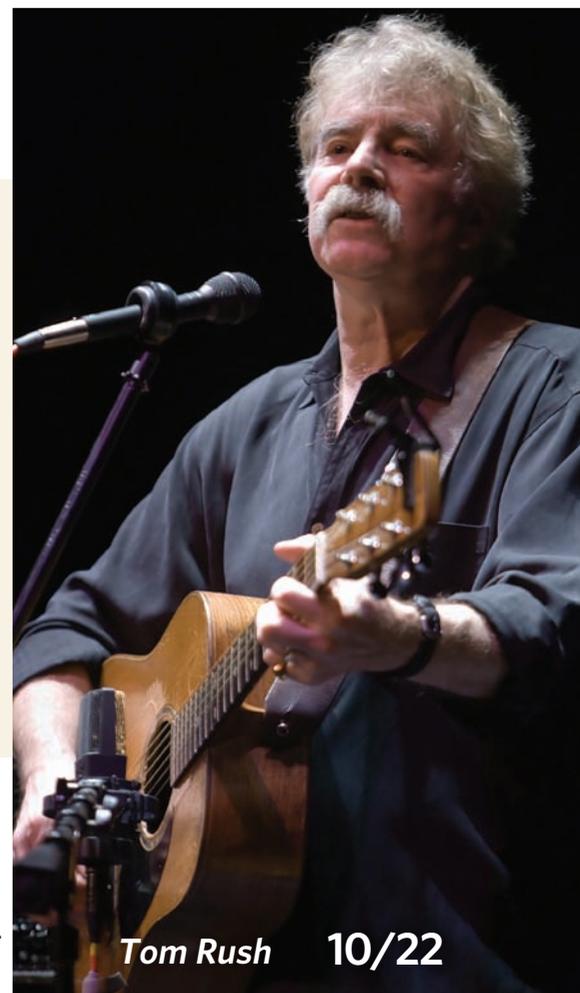


Photo by Michael Wiseman

Tom Rush 10/22

and demonstrate various techniques.
*Info: (802) 457-2355, www.billingsfarm.org
Billings Farm & Museum*

24-25
Revolutionary War Encampment
Come learn about our past! Revolutionary War reenactors will have an encampment set up on the back lawn of the Woodstock History Center. They will be talking about food, weaponry, clothing, and more!
*Info: (802) 457-1822, www.woodstockhistorical.org
Woodstock History Center, 10am-4pm*

25
Lecture Series: Traditional & Contemporary Quilting
Marie Bostwick, a *New York Times* bestselling author, will present "When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Make a Quilt." She will share her insight on the



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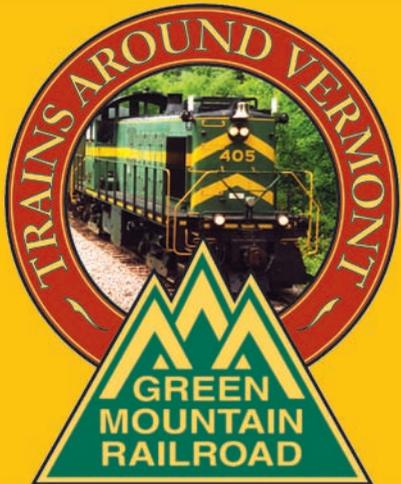
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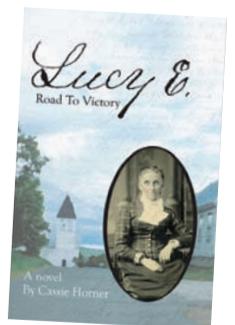
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artistry and the community, cultural, and healing aspects of quilting. Marie's recently released book, *Threading the Needle*, will be available for purchase and signing.

Info: (802) 457-2355,
www.billingsfarm.org
Billings Farm & Museum, 3-5pm

29

Author Event:
Lucy E: Road to Victory
Author Cassie Horner will read from and discuss her new historical novel, *Lucy E: Road to Victory*. This





book, which is based on fact, describes the struggles of one of Horner's ancestors who was born in Mount Holly around 1826. The story details Lucy's survival through hard times in Vermont and New Hampshire.
 Info: (802) 457-1822,
www.woodstockhistorical.org
 Woodstock History Center, 7pm

October

2
Antique Maps of Vermont and the Woodstock Area
 Map expert Mike Buehler will share and discuss early maps of the Woodstock area and Vermont.
 Info: (802) 457-1822,
www.woodstockhistorical.org
 Woodstock History Center, 2pm

8-9
26th Annual Harvest Weekend
 Each day a traditional husking bee will begin at noon, followed by a barn dance from 1 to 4pm. Lend a hand pressing cider, preserving apples, and making butter and ice cream. Other activities include shelling vegetables, fence building, apples-on-a-string, and 19th century games. Hot spiced cider and homemade doughnuts will be on hand for all!
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www.billingsfarm.org
 Billings Farm & Museum, 10am-5pm

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October 1-2

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Info: (802) 457-2355,

www.billingsfarm.org

Billings Farm & Museum, 10am-5pm

9

Old-Time Victrola Music

Main Street Museum curator David Fairbanks Ford will discuss and play samples of some classic Victrola music.

Info: (802) 457-1822,

www.woodstockhistorical.org

Woodstock History Center, 2pm

15-16

Naked Table Couples Weekend

Enjoy a weekend in historic Woodstock, Vermont, and return home with a dining table constructed by you. Work alongside furniture makers of Shackleton Thomas and make your own rectangle, round, oval, or trestle table from locally harvested sugar maple. In addition to returning home with a beautiful, hand-constructed table, this weekend includes a two-night stay at a choice of inns, dinner with the Shackletons, and more.

Info: (802) 672-5175,

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15-16

Wagon Ride Weekend

Capture the brilliant colors of a Vermont autumn on a scenic, narrated horse-drawn wagon ride around the farm fields and along the Ottauquechee River. The dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and restored and furnished farmhouse, plus programs and activities, are included in the entrance fee.

Info: (802) 457-2355,
www.billingsfarm.org
Billings Farm & Museum, 10am-5pm

30

18th Annual Family Halloween

There will be horse-drawn wagon rides and cranking pumpkin ice cream, plus pumpkin carving, doughnuts-on-a-string, "not-so-scary" Halloween stories, pumpkin games, and animal programs. Costume parades at 12 and 2pm will be led by one of the Billings Farm's friendly Southdown ewes and all children will

receive a ribbon.

Info: (802) 457-2355,
www.billingsfarm.org
Billings Farm & Museum, 10am-5pm

November

5-6, 12-13 & 19-20

Wagon Ride Weekend

Capture the brilliant colors of a Vermont autumn on a scenic, narrated horse-drawn wagon ride around the farm fields and along the Ottauquechee River. The dairy farm, farm life exhibits, and restored and furnished farmhouse, plus programs and activities, are included in the entrance fee.

Info: (802) 457-2355,
www.billingsfarm.org
Billings Farm & Museum, 10am-5pm

13

Ethan Allen and the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga: America's First Victory

Historian and author Richard Smith will present a slideshow in which he will discuss Ethan Allen and the capture of Fort Ticonderoga.

Info: (802) 457-1822,
www.woodstockhistorical.org
Woodstock History Center, 2pm

25-27

Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum

Visit with costumed staff as they demonstrate the preparation of a traditional Thanksgiving meal in the 1890 farmhouse. Engaging activities for every age and Thanksgiving programs in the parlor. Enjoy a homemade treat and a wagon ride. Last weekend of the season to visit the farm life exhibits.

Info: (802) 457-2355, www.billingsfarm.org
Billings Farm & Museum, 10am-3:30pm

For more events, visit
[woodstockmagazineonline.com](http://www.woodstockmagazineonline.com)

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(1819-1880)



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