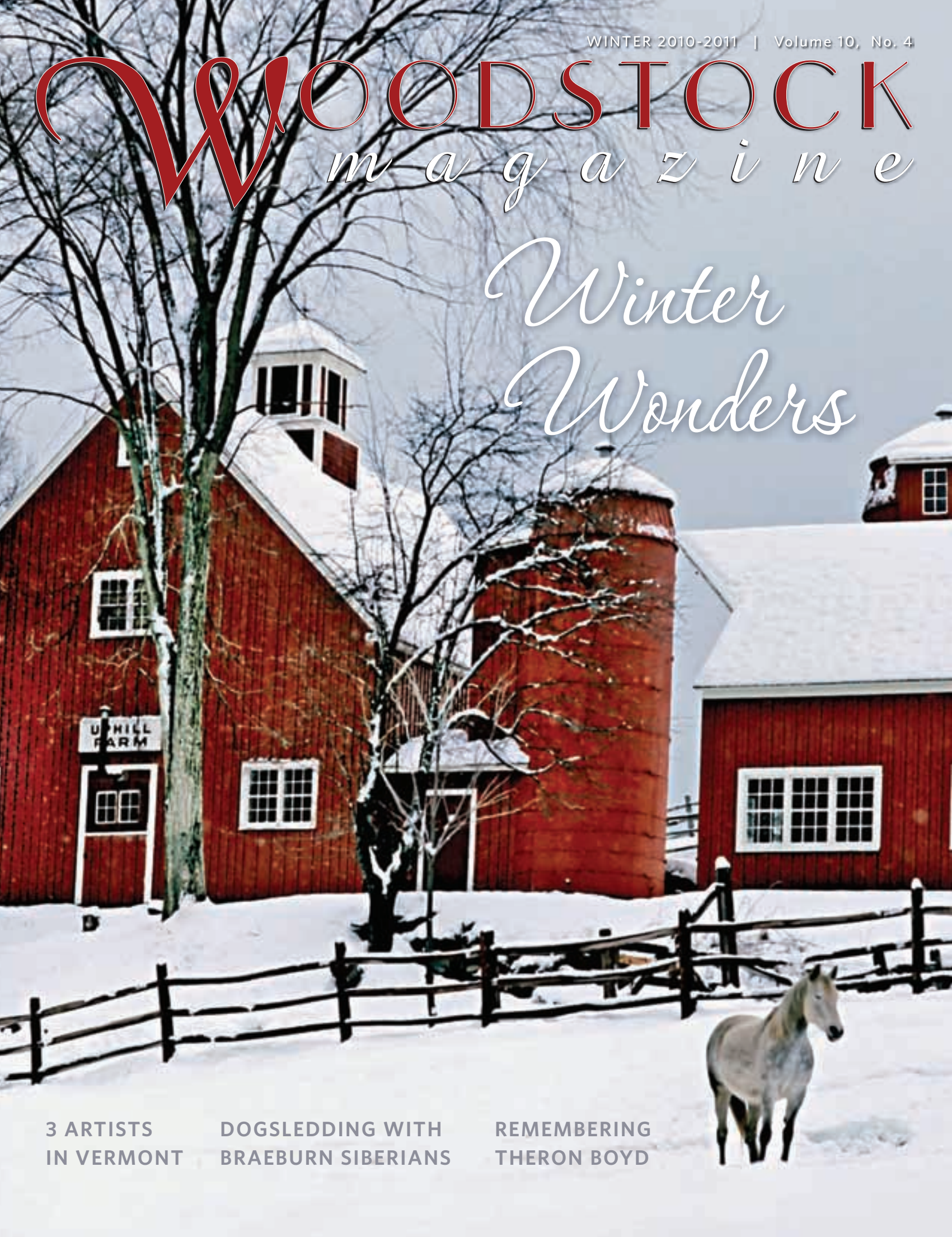


WINTER 2010-2011 | Volume 10, No. 4

WOODSTOCK

m a g a z i n e

Winter Wonders



3 ARTISTS
IN VERMONT

DOGSLEDDING WITH
BRAEBURN SIBERIANS

REMEMBERING
THERON BOYD

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Woodstock Village. One of four residences sharing the use of 'Golf Pond,' this contemporary (6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths) on .62+/- acres enjoys sunny exposure and a very nice level of interior finish. Easy walk to village center. **\$465,000**



Woodstock (Tafstville). Stylish contemporary (9 rooms, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths) on 14.1+/- acres remodeled with flair and distinctive interior finish. Views over nearby farms and on to distant hills. Private yet easily accessible to points east and west. **\$634,000**



Bridgewater. This eclectic home (6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths) blends antique charm with modern design and convenience. A great opportunity for a studio or commercial use. To capitalize on its high visibility location. **\$185,000**



South Woodstock. Antique cape (5 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths) on .5+/- acres with a new kitchen and main level bedroom with bath ensuite. 2 car detached garage/workshop included. On a south facing bluff overlooking Kedron Valley Pond. Walk to store/post office. **\$325,000**



South Woodstock. Compact, well maintained home (6 rooms, 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath) on 1.2+/- acres in a quiet rural setting. Generous level lawn for gardens and outdoor activities. Detached garage with separate studio space. Easily accessible off a gravel town road. **\$269,000**



Woodstock Village. Recently remodeled Victorian era home (9 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths) on .3+/- acres offers spacious rooms, high ceilings, and an abundance of character and charm. Private second level deck & enclosed front porch for enjoyment in all seasons. **\$449,000**



Barnard. 78 +/- open and wooded acres with modest contemporary home (4 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath), situated in a quiet rural location long popular for its natural beauty. Easy drive to Silver Lake and Barnard General Store. **\$795,000**



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
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Winter Means Family and Fun



Photo by Ian Raymo Nd

With the holiday season in full swing, you'll want to check out this issue for some great ways to enjoy winter. Whether you're skiing or taking in a local gallery, *Woodstock Magazine* is your guide to people and places of interest.

In our pages you'll meet dogsledder Kathy Bennett of Windsor. Opt for a two-hour tour or an all-day wilderness adventure riding behind a team of her Braeburn Siberians (page 22). After an invigorating afternoon outdoors, relax at the beautiful new spa at the Woodstock Inn (page 30). This fresh, modern space boasts local materials and is environmentally friendly and LEED certified. Choose from a variety of treatments for pampering at its finest.

You'll also read about Vermont old-timer Theron Boyd, who was determined to live on his farm the way he wanted to live, existing happily and letting even the most basic modern conveniences pass him by (page 63). His story has given me inspiration to think about his simple life and reflect on my own choices and "busyness" during this season. Maybe Mr. Boyd will inspire you as well.

On the art front, Sara Widness shares the reminiscences and paintings of three artists bound by the natural beauty of this area of Vermont (page 46), and Susan Nye takes the chill off winter with hearty, warming soup recipes influenced by her years of living in Europe (page 69). If you're planning a holiday party, Occasions Catering can take care of every detail in style (page 54), and Woodstock Beverage owner Mike McCarthy offers up his top wine picks for the season for all your gatherings of family and friends (page 39).

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

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

Deborah Thompson

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Executive Editor

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Our Contributors



Mark Aiken

Mark Aiken is a travel writer who specializes in outdoor living, recreational pursuits, and all topics in between. When he's not writing, he teaches skiing at Stowe, trains for marathons, plays pickup hockey, and plans bigger and better vacations. Mark lives with his wife in Richmond, Vermont.



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.



Carol Carter

Carol Carter, a retired news reporter, writes from her home in Claremont, New Hampshire. For 36 years, she was a photo-journalist with *The Union Leader* and *New Hampshire Sunday News*. Her column, "From God, With Love," appeared biweekly for 18 years. She enjoys gardening, writing, and exploring roads less traveled.




Linda A. Thompson

Food has been a central part of Linda A. Thompson's life since she watched her grandmother create magical dishes in her Missouri farmhouse kitchen. As a freelance writer focusing on food and wine, her work has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Concord Monitor*, *Hippo*, *Better Nutrition*, *Great Life*, and *Let's Live*.



Audrey Richardson

Audrey Richardson lives in Woodstock with her husband and two young daughters. Formerly, Audrey was a high school English teacher, but she took time off to raise her children. Currently she is a freelance writer and also runs an SAT tutoring business.



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MY TOWN MY MUTUAL

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Around & About

BY CASSIE HORNER



GMHA Sleigh Rallies

Winter easily calls up images of horses and sleighs with bells jingling in the frosty air. The Green Mountain Horse Association in South Woodstock has been running Sleigh Rallies for over 20 years, bringing together drivers with their horses and sleighs, in competition.

Two rallies are scheduled for this winter, January 8 and January 15, beginning about 11 am. Karey Manner, event director for GMHA, cautions that the rallies are weather dependent. If the roads are bad with snow or ice, people don't want to trailer their horses.

The January 8 rally is a Sleighing Combined Test. This means a competition for drivers with sleighs in which they compete in dressage and cones at a variety of different levels. Each driver is judged individually.

On January 15, drivers with sleighs join in a traditional sleigh rally in a competition. This is comparable to a pleasure driving competition. There are different classes, and what makes this event especially fun for spectators is that there are many participants in a class all at once. The judges select first and second in each class, ranking each driver based on the horse's way of going and obedience, and on the driver's ability and position.

"Spectators are welcome," says Manner. "We encourage them to bundle up to be outside. There is no charge." Contact the GMHA office at (802) 457-1509 or visit www.gmhainc.org the morning of the event to verify it will be taking place.



Sue Lathrop drives her Morgan stallion, Townshend's What's Up Doc, at a GMHA Sleigh Rally. Photo by Lisa Cenis.



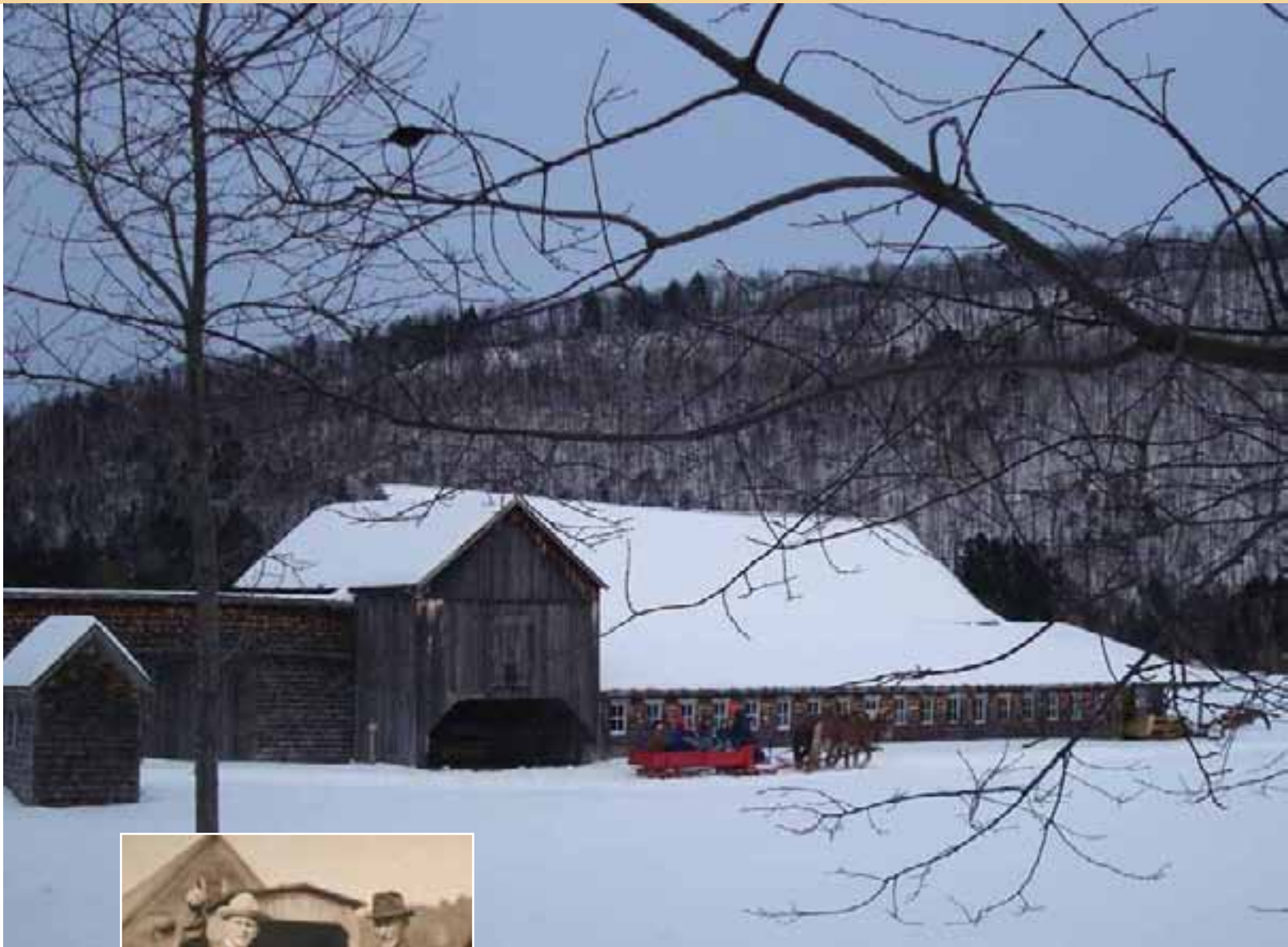
Jenny Kimberly of Windsor, Vermont, drives her pony Dixie Dee in a Sleigh Rally. Photo by Lisa Cenis.



Sarah Isham competes in a Sleigh Rally at GMHA. Photo by Lisa Cenis.



Katherine Prestero and Hallmark await the results of their class at a GMHA Sleigh Rally. Photo by Jane Spencer.



Top: Horse-drawn sleigh leaves the barn.

Above: Calvin Coolidge with his father.

Holidays at the Coolidge Historic Site

The Calvin Coolidge Historic Site in Plymouth, Vermont, has been compared to Brigadoon—a tiny settlement in the hills that has remained largely unchanged since the day when President Harding died suddenly in 1924 and Vice President Coolidge was sworn in as President while on summer vacation at his native Vermont town. The quiet peacefulness of the Notch village surrounded by fields and with a view of East Mountain attracts thousands of visitors every season. 2010 is the 50th anniversary of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, and a large museum and education center building was added to the site, opening this past summer.

The site, with the Homestead where the President was born in 1872, country store, cheese factory, church, and other exhibits, closes in October for the season, but reopens for the Saturday of Wassail Weekend. This year, on Saturday, December 11, from



The cheese factory will be open during the Open House on December 11.



Visitors enjoy a sleigh ride.

10 am to 4 pm, the annual Calvin Coolidge Open House welcomes visitors to explore the village in winter. A number of the buildings, including the Homestead, will be open free of charge. There will be sleigh or wagon rides and craft demonstrations. The Fiber Arts in Vermont folks will be on hand to show traditional textile techniques such as spinning, weaving,

and knitting. The Wilder House restaurant will be open. Kids will enjoy a variety of activities, including decorating gingerbread cookies and making period ornaments. For stamp collectors, the post office, located in the building with the historic store, will offer a special holiday cancellation. In the new museum and education facility, there will be wreath making and

also opportunities to create gift cards and holiday tags.

“The birthplace will be decorated as it would have been in 1872 when Coolidge was born,” says William Jenney, administrator of the historic site. “It will be very simple, and appropriate to the time.” For more information, visit www.historicvermont.org/Coolidge.



An old-fashioned winter in Plymouth.



Stewart Barr, European Theatre, Army, Transportation Corps.



WWII Woodstock Book Published

The United States entered World War II in December 1941, after the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. In the call to arms, men and women came from the biggest cities and smallest country villages to join the military. Woodstock was no exception. Among those who went to serve was Keith Benedict, who would never return home, killed in action. Others, such as Benjamin “Buster” Lewis and Stewart Barr, did return home after active duty to live long lives in the community.

In honor of these men and some women, over 20 volunteers and staff at the Woodstock Historical Society have been working since about 2002 to collect oral histories from local veterans. In time for the 70th anniversa-

ry of the start of World War II for the U.S., the stories have been edited into a book, *Recollections of World War II by Veterans of the Woodstock Area*. About 40 oral histories appear in this fascinating volume, along with dozens of photographs. Most of the stories are told by the veterans, but some are recollections of the families. It is a timely and moving book that honors a huge time in our history.

Jennie Shurtleff, education coordinator at the Woodstock Historical Society, explains, “A number of these veterans have already died recently, and we have made a big push to get the book out. It includes concise oral histories from the European Theatre, Pacific Theatre, and stateside service and memories of nine young men



Velma Wheeler, Army nurse, stateside.



Left: Monument to World War II vets in Woodstock.



Franklin Billings, Ambulance Corps of American Field Service, wounded in Italy.



Benjamin "Buster" Lewis, Pacific Theatre, Army.



Keith Benedict, Pacific Theatre, Marines, killed in action, Peleliu Island, Palau.

who never returned. Their stories are so amazing—poignant, funny, tearing your heart because of the tragedies witnessed. People are talking in full sentences, clearly and articulately, and get to an event that was tragic or devastating and suddenly they are speaking in fragments. You really hear how

profoundly people felt the intensity of emotion. Many did not want to go but felt it was their world duty to keep the peace and save the world.” For information about purchasing the book, call the Woodstock History Center at (802) 457-1822.

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**DOGSLEDDING WITH
BRAEBURN SIBERIANS**

*BY MEG BRAZILL
PHOTOS BY LYNN BOHANNON*



It's not easy keeping up with Katharine Bennett and her husband Alex MacLennan, let alone their team of Siberian huskies. It's a perfect winter morning, and we're on top of a mountain along Vermont and New Hampshire's shared border. »

*Above: Kathy and Alex, with author Meg Brazill, seated, enjoy an outing as their dogs run down the trail.
Inset: Kathy and her go-to leader Hera.*



On today's two-hour dogsled ride, Kathy says we'll cross through a nature preserve, traveling a series of forested trails that open into a meadow.

Kathy is unabashed about her love for her dogs—and for the outdoors. “There are so many different kinds of snow conditions,” Kathy explains. “If you're running on a packed trail with two to four inches of cold, fresh, untracked powder—close your eyes. All you can hear is the breathing of the dogs, and the quiet hiss of the runners in the snow.” “It's a little bit like sailing,” Alex adds, “and

“Close your eyes. All you can hear is the breathing of the dogs, and the quiet hiss of the runners in the snow.”

Happiness! Siberians doing what they love most.

hearing the lapping of the waves and the creaking of the boat.” They both agree it's even better at night, with or without a moon.

I try to imagine how spectacular this already beautiful place would be at night, but the dogs bring me back to the present. Their excitement is contagious,



Chilling out after the run.



*Above: Kathy leading Kuff and Anakin to be hooked into the team.
Below: Sisters and best friends Phoebe and Ariel waiting patiently.*

and I don't put up any resistance. As Kathy and Alex harness the dogs and hook them into the team, the dogs are turning back and looking, pawing, rolling in the snow, sitting, jumping, standing, climbing on one another, playing, and shaking their coats and their heads.

They are spectacular animals. Their thick, heavy winter coats range in color from white to light honey to caramel to every shade of gray and black. Their markings, especially on their faces, read like a cross between war paint and the carefully applied makeup of a young starlet. A sea of blue eyes sizes me up, but there are plenty of brown eyes, too, and a couple of dogs have the distinctive blue-eye, brown-eye pairing. "The Siberian husky has a magical, even mystical





REQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answered by Katharine Bennett of Braeburn Siberians

How many dogs are needed to run a sled?

Four to 12. We typically run 8 to 14.

What color are Siberians' eyes? How much do the dogs weigh?

Brown, blue, or amber. They can have two eyes with the same color, or each eye a different color (bi-eyed), or two colors in the same eye (parti-eyed). The dogs are typically in the 40-pound range.

When do puppies join the team? When do dogs stop running?

Nine to 12 months, although initial training begins at 4 to 6 months. They can run until they are about 10 to 14 years, although most will want to run forever—it's their love in life!

How does a dog become a leader?

Like people, some dogs love to lead, some prefer to follow, and some have leader potential that needs to be drawn out. Leaders need to be problem solvers, decision makers, and good listeners. They need to be steady and tuned into the rest of the team, but prepared to make the final call alone. The team follows the leaders and the leaders work closely with the musher through voice command and a relationship built on mutual trust and respect. Most dogs in a team are a leader at some level; main/trail leader, command leader, or leader-in-training. Leaders can be male or female.

How do you tell them where to go?

By voice command and a working relationship between driver and leaders.

How far and fast can they run?

A Siberian in good condition runs 5 to 15 miles per hour seemingly forever, depending on conditions and terrain, day or night with a preference for cooler temperatures (-10 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit). Temperatures can get too warm (above 50 degrees), but never too cold!

Soaking up the beauty and peacefulness on a perfect winter day.

and primitive quality that is captivating," Kathy says. Someone once told her that "a Siberian husky is like a potato chip. You can't have just one."

How It Started

For Kathy and Alex, it all began when Kathy's daughter Elizabeth, who was a fourth grader at the time, wanted to learn how to dogsled. Elizabeth convinced her mother of her commitment to this idea and they found a mentor and sled dogs she could learn from. Elizabeth dove in, doing everything from cleaning kennels to grooming to driving. Kathy was impressed by her daughter's hard work and devotion to the dogs. "In the summer of 2004 we adopted two trained Siberian husky leaders so they could train us—literally." They soon acquired three more dogs and Elizabeth began racing. Braeburn Siberians was born. The name comes from the Scot-



Kathy considers this to be "the best view in the world"!

tish words "brae" and "burn," for the hill and stream next to the kennel—in recognition of Kathy and Alex's Scottish heritage, and after the checkpoint "Braeburn" in the great Yukon Quest 1,000-mile dogsled race. The race holds special meaning for Alex and Kathy; it was run by their initial mentors, Ann and George Cook of Alka'siber Siberians.

Kathy became the handler, the pit crew, and cheerleader. After that first winter, they acquired enough dogs so they could each run a team together. "It was a mother-daughter team," Kathy says, "but we couldn't have done it without Alex." On her birthday in March 2006, Kathy raced for the first time. "And I was smitten," she says. "It was one of the top 10 highs of my life." By then, they were up to a dozen dogs. "I was addicted," Kathy says, laughing.

They began breeding to build their team, selling some puppies to approved homes. Alex provided critical backup support and then began running the dogs in 2008-09. "Initially I started going along for the ride," Alex says. "But you begin to develop a connection. They become a part of your life; you become a part of theirs."

Hold On Tight

This morning, Kathy and Alex move among the dogs, making adjustments



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Never too many beautiful faces! Parti-eyed Aspen looks regal with companions Ariel, left, and Blaze, behind.



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to the lines, talking, coaxing, encouraging, and disciplining. “There is an interdependent relationship with the dogs,” Kathy says. “It’s very essential,” Alex says. “Imagine a 2 am training run and you’re 20 miles from civilization. It doesn’t get more basic than that.”

They never raise their voices to the dogs; the human team delivers a quiet confidence, creating calm in the midst of controlled pandemonium. I listen in on their patter, hearing the dogs called by name: Alec, Asia, Blaze, Jasper, Rain, Skye . . . It’s like listening to Santa on Christmas Eve calling to the reindeer.

I stamp my feet to stay warm, watching these amazing dogs. This morning, one thing is clear: they can’t wait to run. The dogs are paired up in a particular order and the team leaders are in posi-

tion. They know the drill. The yelping has turned into full-on barking. It’s not a quiet morning anymore.

I have the option of sitting in the sled, but decide instead to stand on the runners to get a vicarious feel for what it’s like to drive the team. Kathy and Alex have special tour sleds designed to carry one driver and two passengers. “Hold tight,” Kathy reminds me. “The sled can jerk when we start.”

She calls out, “Everybody ready?” The dogs get into position. “Let’s go!” And we’re off! The dogs leap forward and . . . the sudden silence leaves me breathless. It’s pure magic. We are running, picking up speed, moving in unison. I’m alert to the movements of the sled, looking ahead to bumps and curves as the team seems to literally fly over the terrain.



Two hours later, I'm a little worried I might have gotten the Siberian bug too—I love these animals! Kathy reassures me that I can come visit their dogs any time. These days, Elizabeth is almost off to college and it's just Kathy and Alex—and their 25 dogs. Kathy races two or three times a year, but it's no longer the focus. "It's not about the competition," Alex says, "For us, it's the camaraderie." Their focus of activity has shifted to tours. Their main purpose is to have "a kennel of happy, well-trained dogs that work well with each other and work well with us," Kathy says. "It's really all about the dogs and the joy of sledding with them out in the countryside—and sharing the experience with others."

If Kathy could have it her way, they'd do it year round. "Sometimes in the middle of the summer I put on a video. The best view in the world is watching 12 dogs in front of you." ❄️

TOURS

Dogsled touring with Braeburn Siberians can be two hours or a full day wilderness adventure. They've done tours for special events including an 80th birthday celebration, and one for a marriage proposal. Lots of older couples take tours . . . and lots of young couples, too. Families with children who are old enough to stand on the runners also enjoy the longer adventures. The children especially love bonding with the dogs. Many of their rides are for people who received a gift certificate for a new experience rather than another "thing."

This year, in addition to their two- and four-hour excursions in the wilderness, they're offering half-hour and hour-long tours along the Connecticut River through Great River Outfitters in Windsor, Vermont. Kathy says the shorter tours are particularly attractive to families with younger children.

If You Go:

- Dress warmly in layers, including hats, gloves, and proper boots.
- Bring a water bottle.
- Wear sunglasses.
- Don't forget your camera!

Braeburn Siberians

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For Kathy and Alex, it doesn't get better than this!

The ssshhhh, ssshhhh, shooosh of the sled runners is the only sound. I prepare for a downhill turn, holding on as the sled curves. It was just as Kathy and Alex had described. "You have to be prepared and in control" at all times, even when you're only a passenger.





The Woodstock Inn Spa

**SERENITY MEETS
STATE OF THE ART**

BY AUDREY RICHARDSON

There are few things about Vermont winters that are relaxing, but now the forecast has changed. Winter will be more renewing than ever this year with the arrival of the Woodstock Inn and Resort's new spa. »



*Above: Couple's
massage.
Right: A time for
relaxing.*



The spa, a \$10 million undertaking by the resort, is a breath of life and purity for the 200-year-old inn.

The spa entrance illuminates patrons in every season with its vaulted ceilings and plentiful windows. “It has a classic elegance,” describes Michelle Adams, director of the spa. “We’ve really tried to make use of the natural light.” Mission accomplished. But natural lighting is only the beginning of the spa’s dedication to purity and nature.

Fresh and Modern

The Inn and Resort’s new space spans an additional 10,000 square feet from the original building. The classic windows and white clapboards and brick of the new spa building coordinate with the original building; however, the inside

The Great room at the spa.
right: The spa has its own entrance.

is a picture of modern spacious design. The open brightness of the welcome area strays slightly from the darker rustic comfort of the main building, but this space embodies the exact mission of the spa: purity. “You’ll find there aren’t a lot of decorations, and we are really trying to bring the outside in,” says Adams. The spa takes a clutter-free approach, and for what they lack in clutter, they make up for in amenities and services.

With a focus on harnessing the serenity of the environment, this day spa offers an immense variety of therapeutic treatments. These treatments, such as Swedish massage and deep-tissue mas-



sage as well as facials and couples treatments, take place in private rooms. The treatment rooms all boast natural light, whether you are in the Woodstock Suite or a simple private room. According to Adams, windows in treatment rooms are not standard for most spas. When using the Woodstock Suite for a bridal gathering or couples massage, patrons can make use of the inn and resort's room service as well as the Japanese soaking tub. After customers are finished with their massage, they are led to a locker room with steam showers and given a signature lavender cookie. Patrons can also make use of the Great Room and outdoor whirlpool as part of their visit. "It is a great natural space and people are really enjoying it," Adams reports.

Satisfied Customers

In an age where hotel spas are all the rage, the Woodstock Inn and Resort is now able to keep up with other resorts. "The inn wanted to be able to better compete with their competitors and offer a luxury option," says Adams. Since the spa's grand opening in September of 2010, it is seeing a boom in new

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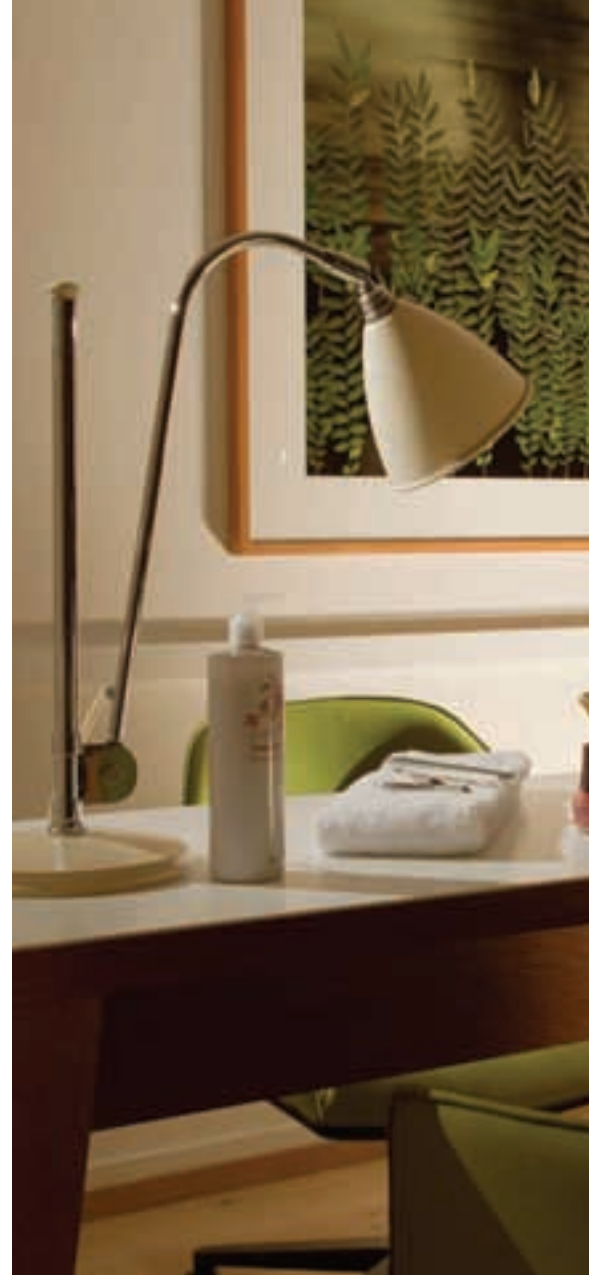
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Prepare to be pampered.

and repeat customer interest. "All the guests are raving, the reception has been fabulous. We are fortunate to have so many locals visiting the spa, too, and we have seen many repeat guests," claims Adams.

Joan King of Dallas, Texas, who visited the spa as part of her daughter's wedding festivities, agrees. "We began this special day with a variety of relaxing massages that were done to perfection, and we all had fun after exploring the dry and steam saunas and outdoor Jacuzzi," says King about her experience. King also found that the spa provided a "Zen-like ambiance," which she feels will keep customers coming back for more.

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An Eye to the Environment

Natural beauty was clearly an important aspect of the spa's design, and that natural effect also applies to the environmental aspect of the business. One of the more important architectural goals of the spa's construction was to be LEED certified. In order to be a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified business, many requirements must be met. A LEED-certified establishment must meet energy usage requirements and also utilize local natural building products. The details of this certification go right down to the products used for spa treatments. The spa uses only skin, hair, and nail care products that

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are paraben, formaldehyde, and chemical free, including makeup by Jane Aredale. These products are also available in the spa's gift shop. The spa has used local products throughout, including furniture from Charles Shakleton and globes by Simon Pearce.

Something for Everyone

The spa offers a range of services in every price range. Traditional massage and facial treatments and packages are available, but so are services specific to golfers, men, and teens. Patrons can indulge in a gentle Swedish massage starting at



\$110, or they may opt for one of the spa's packages like "The Works," lasting up to six hours. Guests can enjoy all of the spa's amenities if they schedule spa services totaling \$70 or more. Adams recommends that guests get comfortable and plan to stay the day. With all of the relaxing options and natural beauty this new spa has to offer, it makes it difficult to find something better to do on a winter day than to visit this renewed—and renewing—establishment. ☺

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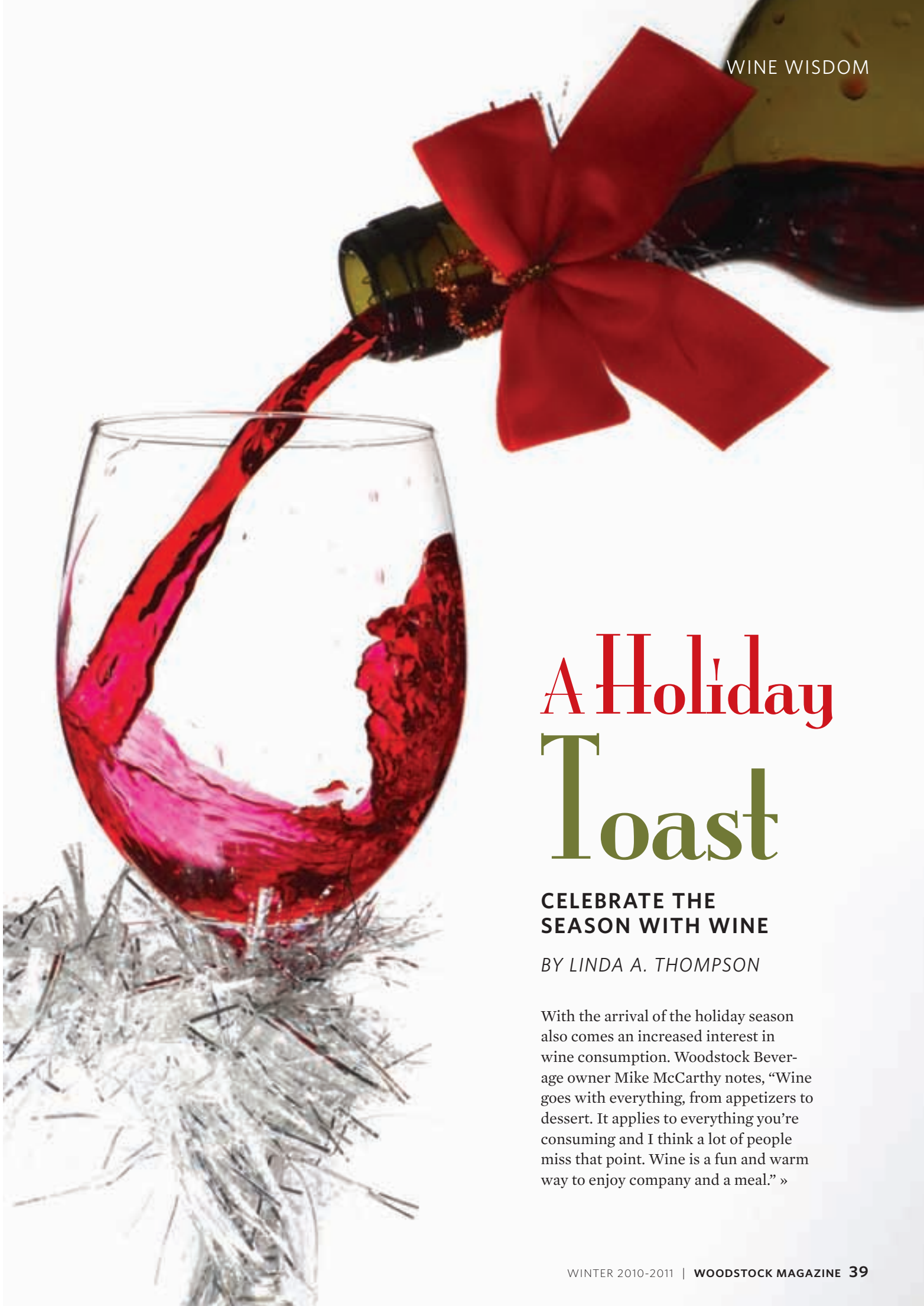
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A Holiday Toast

**CELEBRATE THE
SEASON WITH WINE**

BY LINDA A. THOMPSON

With the arrival of the holiday season also comes an increased interest in wine consumption. Woodstock Beverage owner Mike McCarthy notes, “Wine goes with everything, from appetizers to dessert. It applies to everything you’re consuming and I think a lot of people miss that point. Wine is a fun and warm way to enjoy company and a meal.” »



A New Shopping Experience

Just in time for the holidays, Woodstock Beverage moved into a much larger store on Woodstock Road. The new space is almost twice as large as the previous location because McCarthy reclaimed an old barn attached to the existing store front. Now there is much more room, a larger refrigerator area and redemption center, and better parking. The store features approximately 10,000 different wine selections, as well as beer, liquor, and soda offerings. And there is an extensive variety of cigars to choose from in the large humidor. “I fell in love with the place years ago,” McCarthy says. “It

Sometimes people focus too much on the price.

There are some very nice wines that are not expensive.

Instead, focus more on what it will be used for.

looks like a country store. I can see horses grazing on the hillside in the morning. It’s almost like not going to work.”

Holiday Picks

When it comes to selecting wine for a holiday gift, McCarthy recommends

buyers consider the tastes of the gift receiver, the price range, and what the wine will be paired with—a meal, hors d’oeuvres while socializing, or on its own. He adds, “Sometimes people focus too much on the price. There are some very nice wines that are not expensive.

Instead, focus more on what it will be used for.”

Here is a list of McCarthy’s top holiday picks. When in doubt, he suggests a Reisling. “It is a refreshing wine and pairs well with everything, especially a turkey dinner,” he says. He also recommends grower’s champagne, which is produced on the estate where the grapes are grown.

Berger Zweigelt 2009

Austria’s premier red wine variety, Zweigelt has a nice balance of ripe fruit and maturity, with layers of plum and berry fruit. This wine also has an assertive acidity and lots of spice.

Leitz Dragonstone Riesling QBA 2009

This German wine has an aroma of honeyed stone fruit, herb, apple, and citrus notes. This wine was once called Rudesheimer Drachenstein and is considered the best Riesling value in the world.

Schloss Gobelsburg “Gobelsburger” Riesling 2009

This crisp and clean wine from Austria has aromas of apple and lime, as



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WINE WISDOM

well has a nice combination of acidity and minerality.

Alfred Merkelbach Urziger Wurzgarten Riesling

Another German Riesling with notes of strawberry fruit and a subtle hint of creaminess, this wine also has a hint of melon along with honeysuckle and freesia florality.

Cinnabar Mercury Rising

This is a Bordeaux-style red wine from California that has a plush mouth feel and a lot of complexity, with aromas of blackberry, black cherry, toasted oak, dried herbs, earth, and cocoa. This wine would go well with anything from duck and beef to pasta and pizza.

Sharecropper's Pinot Noir

From the Owen Roe Winery in Oregon, this wine has a rich, creamy texture with flavors of blackberries, blueberries, and a hint of dried wild rose essence.



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O'Reilly's Pinot Gris

This is another Oregon wine with floral and stone fruit aromas and a clean, crisp finish.

**Chalone Vineyard
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A California wine with flavors of citrus and pineapple, bright acidity, and lots of minerality. Goes well with seafood or Vermont cheddar.

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This California selection has a ripe, spicy tropical bouquet with flavors of

citrus, pear, and apple-butter and a crisp, clean finish. It will pair nicely with cream soups, seafood, fowl, veal, and pasta dishes.

Marc Hebrart Premier Cru

This grower's champagne is medium bodied and rich, with flavors of blackberry, currants, chalk, slate, yeast, and smoke.

Vilmart & Co. Grand Cellier

Another grower's champagne that has a light straw color and aromas of smoke, pears, peaches, and tangerines and good minerality. 🍷

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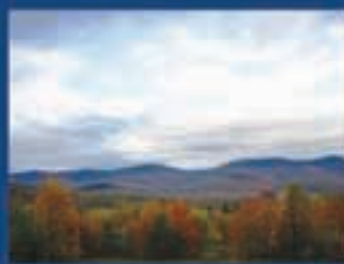
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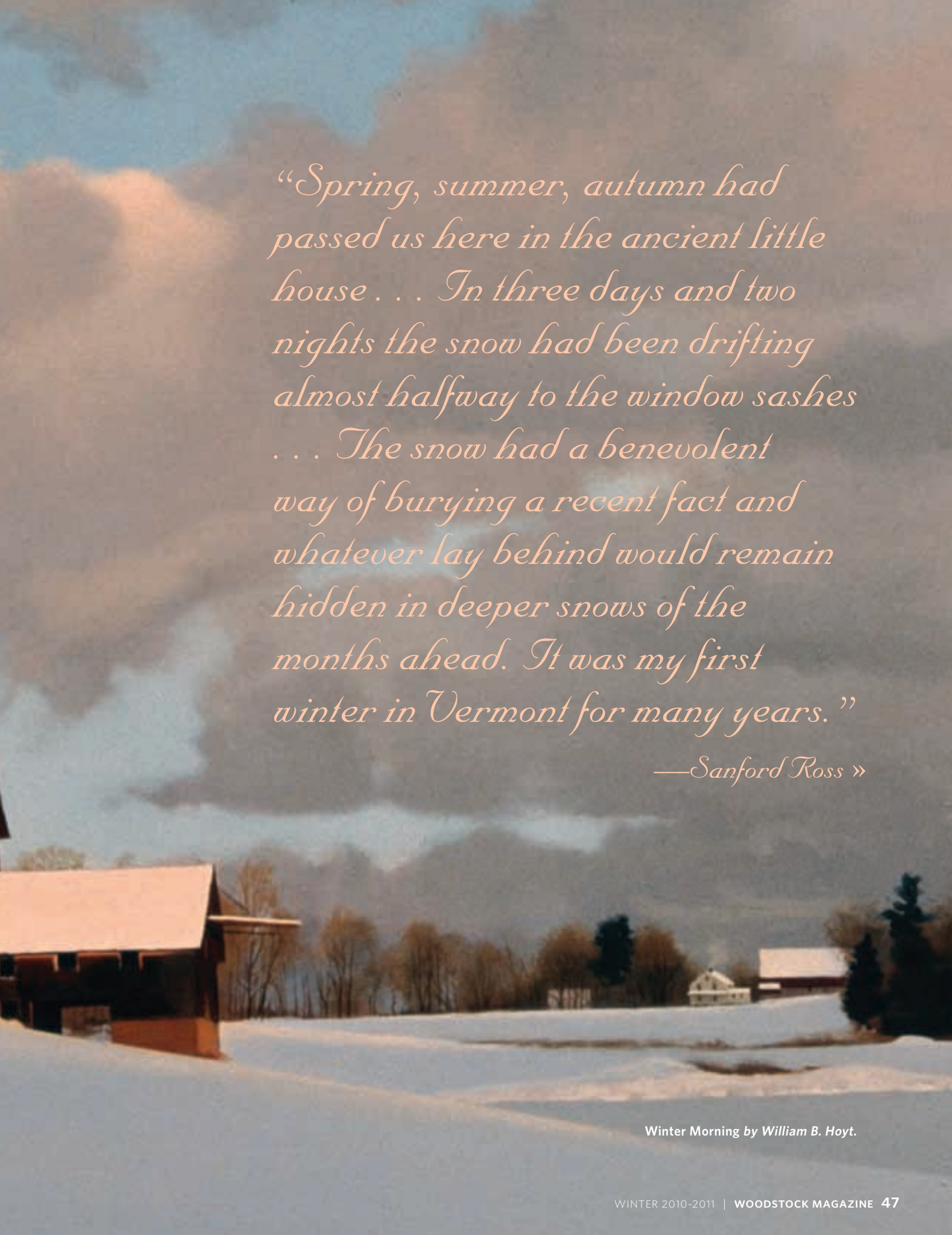




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INSPIRES THREE ARTISTS

BY SARA WIDNESS

A photograph of a winter landscape. In the foreground, there is a snow-covered field. In the middle ground, there are several buildings, including a large barn on the left and a smaller house in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, and the overall lighting is muted, suggesting a winter morning.

“Spring, summer, autumn had passed us here in the ancient little house . . . In three days and two nights the snow had been drifting almost halfway to the window sashes . . . The snow had a benevolent way of burying a recent fact and whatever lay behind would remain hidden in deeper snows of the months ahead. It was my first winter in Vermont for many years.”

—Sanford Ross »

Winter Morning by William B. Hoyt.



This is a thumbnail sketch of three artists drawing inspiration from a landscape that begins to caress the heart on Route 12 north out of Woodstock, a landscape that creates a near lover's frenzy as it snuggles into Silver Lake and climbs from the hollows to Pomfret before stretching over to East Barnard or floating below Cloudland Road. The works of Sanford Ross (1907–1954), William B. Hoyt (1945–present), and Sabra Field (1935–present) reflect a locale that has been their home and sometimes muse.

Even without an art history course under your belt, if you've wandered through museums or pored over coffee table art books, the dots connect. "Aha," you say, peering from a bell tower in

January Snow by Sanford Ross.

Italy. "I've seen vistas like this before. Now which artist was it?" If you've visited the setting of Barnard's Lakota Club,



Winter Light by Sanford Ross.

you may recognize this lakescape as uncannily resembling the 19th-century Hudson River School of painting. Artists who delve into landscapes often embellish what they see around them; or, reflected poet Alexander Pope, “True wit is nature to advantage dressed, What oft was thought, but ne’er so well expressed . . .”

Ross Captures the “Feeling” of Vermont

These artists have dressed Barnard and environs again and again to expressive advantage. Take for example Sanford Ross. While circulating amongst a community of prominent artists in Manhattan, he also moved in Dorothy Thompson’s circles in the 1940s, the halcyon days at Twin Farms. “When he got married and settled down, that was when his love affair began with Vermont and with Barnard,” said his stepdaughter, Nina Patterson. During the war he moved his family to Barnard.

In his unpublished novel, Ross wrote: “Here there were nature’s mysteries come back to me after years in New York, here I could see the seasons really change . . . and here I could watch the wonders of growth. . . . I had been removed too far and

too long from the strings of the deep country and from my associations with natural reality which had been so close to me long ago. Violence, from which I had claimed immunity, had left its scars, but perhaps life could begin all over again, and this was as good a time as any. It would be my second beginning.”

“I think he fell in love with Vermont, with the beauty of Vermont,” said Patterson. “He was aware of the passing of the old farm culture and the beauty of that and he wanted to record that with his paintings. That’s really why he stayed.” She remembered that her stepfather, who studied, among others, under Thomas Hart Benton, would drive over the Vermont countryside taking photographs and using those for his paintings. “One of the things about his paintings, he really captures the skies and the whole natural feeling of Vermont. I think that was what interested him the most. The Vermont he saw was not prettified or quaint, which speaks to me having grown up there in that tiny, drafty house through all the seasons,” Patterson said.

Ross wrote of the Barnard group of his time “as being my kind—a community that had earned the reputation



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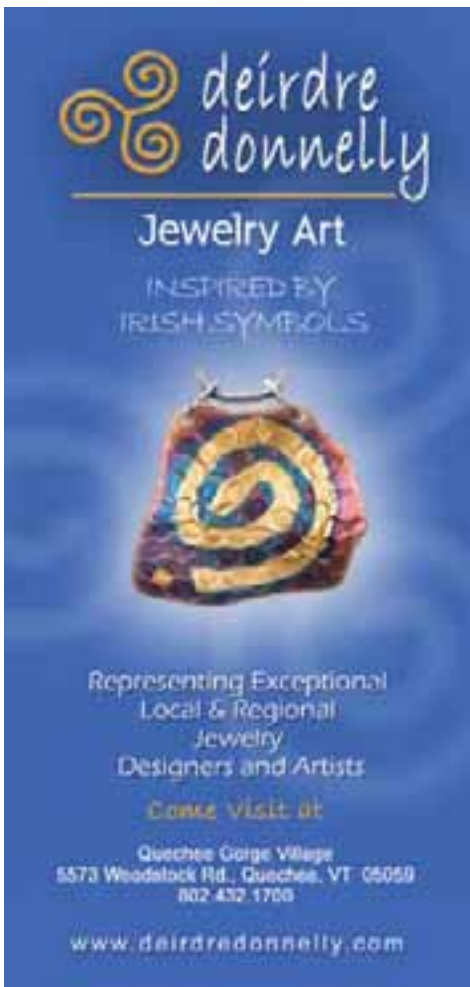
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for being more bizarre and still representing more ability than any comparable cliques of artists in the county. They were closely knit by political beliefs and I suppose it was the bond in our professions.”

Another artist in the Ross circle was William James, related to William James, the father of psychology, and author Henry James. He lived in Pomfret just past the Teago General store and did a portrait of Ross’s wife, Patterson’s mother.

Hoyt’s Silver Lake Inspiration

William B. Hoyt, a full-time artist since the mid 1970s, at one time lived and worked in the studio on the Ross prop-

erty. About Ross’s work Hoyt said, “I remember a lot of watercolors. He was attracted to bare trees, things that reflected in rain. Those images stand out as representative of his work.” While Hoyt never met Ross, he did know Winona Chickering, a sister of Ross and whose son Roger was a school friend. Hoyt’s artist-mother did a portrait of Chickering. Though too young to be part of the Dorothy Thompson scene, Hoyt is a link to that world and the artistic circle that followed.

Artist Rockwell Kent (1882–1971) lived in an old cape with a barn and studio on Schoolhouse Hill Road near the Doton Farm in Barnard. Later artist Irwin D. Hoffman (1901–1989) lived in that cape and Hoyt was a friend of



Cider Apples by William B. Hoyt.



Barn on North Road by William B. Hoyt.

Hoffman. Hoyt remembers that Hoffman was “very ambitious. His works reminded me of socialist realism.” “Hoffman didn’t have any children; I think he was looking to make us (Hoyt’s wife and daughter) his children. He actually was going to give us some land to build on. We had built a platform on the land and spent a summer there.”

As Dorothy Thompson’s social group faded, a second wave of artists earned the patronage of Barnard summer resident Lolo Sarnoff, said Hoyt. Along with Charlet Davenport, this area’s doyenne of sculpture, “six or seven of us would meet pretty regularly and hire a model or pose for one another. We were the Barnard Art Clinic. We had a little platform we’d stick the model up on—whoever got chosen. We would invite people over for dinner and then make them pose,” recalled Hoyt. His first wife, Pamela Bryan, and Hope Cannon of Woodstock were two of the models. “I was painting from locale. I would spend a lot of time at the beach at Silver Lake. I drew and drew—paintings of people swimming and beach activities and driving around the area—farmyard scenes, animals, the Tunbridge Fair, the Lewis farm on Route 12,” he said.

Not even winter stopped Hoyt. He designed a series of fold-up boxes and backpacked to frozen Silver Lake where the boxes trans-

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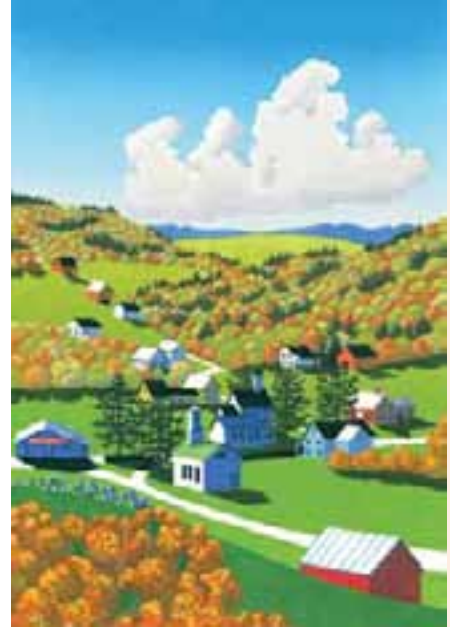
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Leaf Light by Sabra Field.

formed into a small hut with a plastic window and kerosene stove where he would paint. "I painted in that quite frequently. It might be 18 degrees below zero with about a 30-knot wind, snow flying. I would sit cross-legged with the little camp stove. It was a lot of fun and very challenging. I took great pleasure wandering around in the winter-time doing watercolors in it," he said. "It's the scale of landscape. I love the lake, walking up from the house with the evening light hitting on the far side of hill. In different seasons that was always inspiring."

Over the years Hoyt's work moved beyond this locale. With East Barnard artist and friend Sabra Field and their spouses, Hoyt traveled a few years ago to a region in Italy's Apennines of familiar human scale and intimacy.

**East Barnard
Native Sabra Field**

Sabra Field moved to East Barnard in 1967. She knew of Sanford Ross after meeting his granddaughter who summered in Barnard. "Barnard is not so much the point as East Barnard, my hometown," said Field. "I am very fond of the sort of small-scale landscapes of this land of high horizons as opposed, say, to the Champlain Valley. Our area that is accessible only by dirt roads still has an intimate scale that we are very fortunate to have. It still has an agricultural base that pro-

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Snow Light by Sabra Field.

vides a backdrop; instead of being a tunnel of trees we have vistas. We also have a housing and agricultural building stock, which has a unity of style and scale and function. I think we are very fortunate to have that.”


Field explained that she was in her mid 30s before moving to Vermont and had been living in a place “where the landscape wasn’t very interesting. When I got here I was very challenged by the ups and downs, the high skylines, and the changing points of view as you walk and ride and ski.”

In part because of the landscape, her work changed. This change can be seen in the woodcuts that secured her reputation here and elsewhere. “I got better at it. I was able to depict more things that had greater challenges. I learned how to make proscenium drops and start penetrating space in a more sophisticated way. I always want large resting places. But it has been a challenge and a joy to learn how to show shadows and light from different directions and surfaces of various sorts. It took me a while to learn to do the tassels of corn, for instance. For a long time I couldn’t figure out how to do nighttime. I had forgotten how hard that was,” she says. “I love the pastoral landscape. I find it a metaphor for many things and charming in and of itself.”

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SPOTLIGHT



Beautiful table settings, delectable desserts, and festive drinks make for a top-notch celebration. Photos top and right by David Murray Weddings.

From humble beginnings in her home kitchen, Mendell has grown her catering business beyond her wildest dreams. She and husband Dean now own Mendell House on Route 100 where they have a commercial kitchen, offices, and their satellite business, The Linen Shop. Dean dubs Route 100 “the thread that ties Vermont together,” an appropriate location for a business that caters to clients throughout the Green Mountain State.

The couple also owns the Village Porch Bar & Bistro on Rochester’s Main Street and earlier this year bought the 1824 House and Barn Door Restaurant in Wakefield. Dean, a former builder, helps



run the business and entertains guests as the friendly bartender in this thriving, family-run catering business. Son Spencer rolls up his sleeves on college breaks to help his dad behind the bar.

Their daughter Emily is innkeeper and cook at the new Bed and Breakfast, and daughter Hallie is her mom’s right hand in the catering end of things. “I’m creative and abstract but she makes it happen. All three of our children can read my mind,” Mendell jokes.

A Passion for Entertaining

Looking back, Mendell realizes she was destined for this career. A natural in the kitchen, she focused on home economics in high school and helped her parents



welcome guests at their frequent dinner parties. “My parents liked to entertain and they would say, ‘Connie, can you set the table and make the dining room look special?’ I’m not someone who is formally trained. I just enjoy taking care of people and making sure everyone has a good time. I’m more the hospitality end of things.”

Eventually, that passion for entertaining spilled over into her own marriage where exquisite dinner parties sparked a flurry of job offers. “This all started in the early ’80s when friends would ask me to cater a wedding for a friend or a friend of a friend. It grew gradually over the years until we out-



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A summertime table setting. Below: A bountiful sideboard is ready for guests.

grew the kitchen. We bought the building on Route 100 in 1997 and two years later bought the building next door. That visibility helped grow the business even more.”

Now she caters as many as five events in three days, feeding from 30 to 350 people at weddings and events held in backyard tents or gardens to exclusive estates and private commercial wedding venues. She is the exclusive caterer for Riverside Barns of Pittsfield and enjoys business connections with popular wedding venues like the historic Hildene Estate in Manchester, Shelburne Farms of Burlington, and the Monitor Barn in



Richmond.

A few years ago, she was hired by her sister’s employer to cater two large events in New York City—a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton and a huge holiday party for the employer’s 350 employees. She also worked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to cater an event for 400 on the shores of Lake George. Clientele has even included weddings here in Vermont for a major league ballplayer and a Broadway actress.

A Personal Touch

From casual to formal events, Mendell credits her success with going the extra mile. “We give customers more than they expect. We don’t just plop platters



of food down on the table. Each buffet table is a beautiful presentation. We zero in on a theme and bring props—plants, candles, maybe items representing their hobbies or something about the season.” »



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Clockwise from top left: Open-faced sandwiches, a festive summer table, and a candlelit buffet of munchies. Below: Beautiful linens set the mood.

Along with the eye-catching table displays, Mendell demands outstanding food. Everything is homemade in the company's own kitchen by a professionally trained chef. Yes, everything—all entrees and pastries, right down to the salad dressing and ketchup. And clients are encouraged to taste-test their food choice before making a deposit for the event.

Regardless of the venue, Mendell is determined to satisfy her customers. She recalls catering one event in a field without power or water. "We rented a generator and brought in water. No matter what the customer wants, we make it



happen. It's a real tribute to our staff. We work hard to make every event unique and fun."

Mendell employs a core group of about 25 experienced employees, many that literally grew up in the food service industry. She also hires seasoned waitresses and support staff for many events—people that are creative and committed to the success of the event. In a busy week, Mendell signs as many as 52 paychecks.

The Whole Package

Surprisingly, the business quickly bounced back from the sagging economy. Last year, weddings were somewhat smaller and more conservative, almost



like it was politically incorrect to order filet and lobster, Mendell observes. But in 2010, business came back on track with guest lists hovering around the 200 mark. "This business seems almost recession proof. People save all their life for their daughter's wedding and they don't want to skimp on it." Weddings account for about 90 percent of the catering business, she adds.

While the catering end is flourishing, Mendell's specialty linen business has taken off with as many as 25 rental orders going out to other caterers, florists, and inns throughout New England on any given weekend. "We started the company more than

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This link between the catering, linen, and restaurant has proven invaluable, Mendell notes. Food, decorations, linens, and even a complimentary meal at The Porch for the bridal couple before touring the facilities promises a seamless event. And that's quite an accomplishment for a high school home economics enthusiast. Martha Stewart, step aside. 🍷



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A Good Life

VERMONT FARMER
THERON BOYD

BY MARK AIKEN

PHOTOS BY BILL HEBDEN

Do you feel that we sometimes lose ourselves in the rat race of everyday life? That, in keeping pace with our rapidly changing world and app-crazed society, we lose sight of what's important?

Think of how Theron Boyd must have felt in the early 1970s when the Quechee Lakes Company approached him in an attempt to purchase his land. A Vermont farmer who, since birth in 1901, spent nearly his entire life in the

Theron tends his fields.



The face of a farmer.

same house, Theron lived in what most would consider squalor. He didn't have a refrigerator, so his foodstuffs—including perishables—sat out on the kitchen table. He rarely bathed. He farmed on 35 acres and raised a few livestock animals. He had no modern tools.

Progress Arrives

After the mills in Quechee village closed, many of the buildings in the village—and the town's historic covered bridge—fell into disrepair. People left, and home values dropped. When Quechee Lakes arrived on the scene with plans for the restoration of the village and an ambitious 2,000-homesite and golf course development project, many—in fact, most—of Theron's neighbors willingly sold.

But not Theron. Regardless of what



Theron in his kitchen, with long johns nailed to the wall to dry. Theron gave one of the oil lamps to friend and photographer Bill Hebden, who has had it restored.

Quechee Lakes offered, he refused to sell. Thinking he was merely driving a hard bargain—you know how thrifty those old-time Vermonters can be—the developer revamped its offer. “They wouldn’t take ‘no’ for an answer,” says Bill Hebden, a friend of Theron’s.

Theron had no interest in money. “He was into living on that home-stead,” says Hebden. The developer offered \$1 million for the plot. Theron declined, and they told him to name his price. “The next time I visited,” recalls Hebden, “he opened the door and I found myself looking down the barrel of his shotgun.

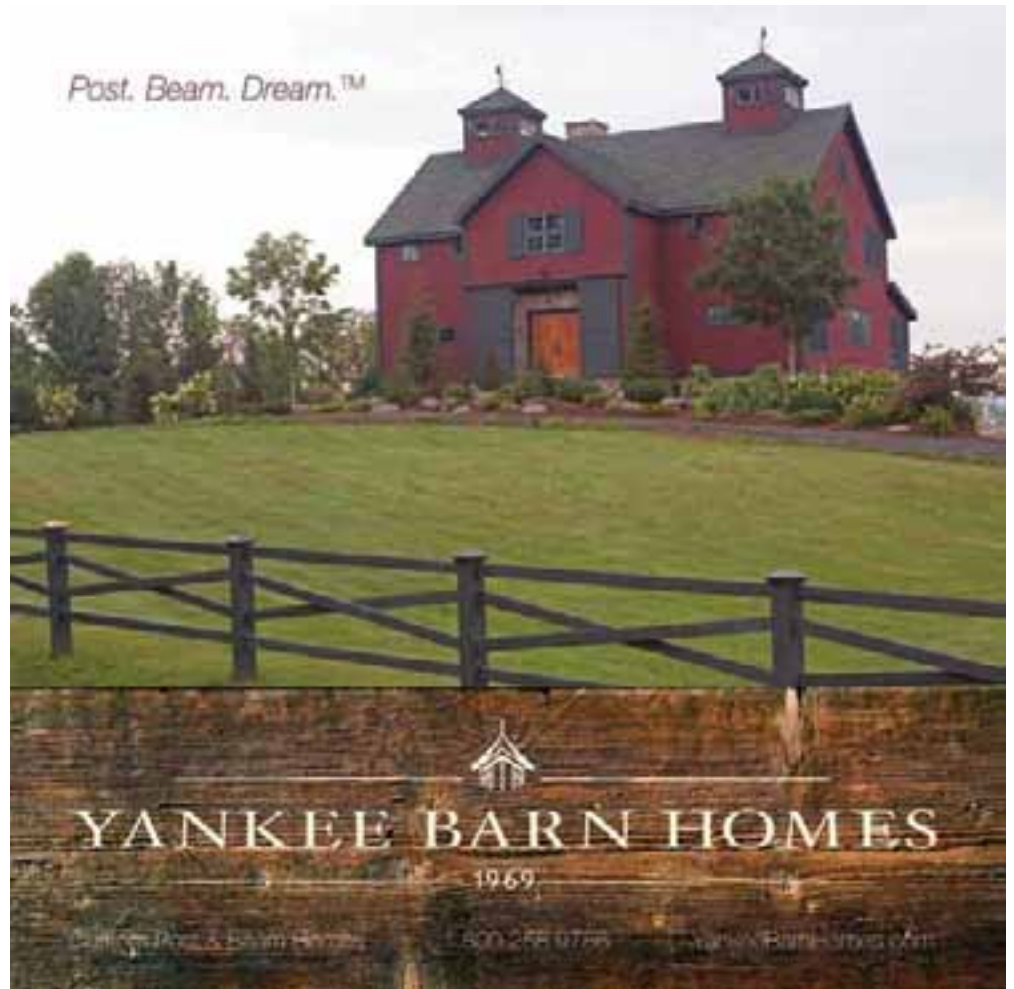
“I was like, ‘Theron, it’s me, Bill!’” Hebden says. Theron seemed embarrassed, looking at the ground and mumbling, “Sorry about that.”

A Simple Man

Theron grew up in the time of Henry Ford and Philo Farnsworth, but he never drove, watched TV, or enjoyed any modern amenities. His home had no central heat, running water, or electricity. Hebden’s first meeting with Theron occurred after Hebden spied the small bearded man from the road. “He was cutting his corn with a scythe and stacking it in a field to dry,” he says. Ignoring current trends in farming, he did things the way he always had. “He was happy,” says Hebden. “He was living the life he wanted.”

Sue Skaskiw of Bridgewater remembers Theron’s hands. “They were big, strong hands,” she recalls. “They were dried and cracked from years of hard work in the outdoors.” While Theron toiled on his plot of land, the world around him was changing. Second homes and condominiums sprang up within sight of his land, and Theron’s health began to fail. Land values and property taxes in Quechee skyrocketed.

Then a so-called friend swept in, promising to take care of Theron and his taxes in exchange for him signing over the deed to his property. “I met



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PERSONALITIES



Theron with a framed picture.

her a few times,” recalls Hebden, who tried to warn Theron about would-be do-gooders taking advantage of him. “I thought he understood,” Hebden says, “but now I’m not sure he did.” When the woman violated her end of the arrangement, a well-known legal battle ensued in which the two sides reached a settlement halfway through the trial, and Theron emerged with his deed.

Getting Older

As he aged, it became clear to friends and benefactors that Theron couldn’t take care of himself. Sue Skaskiw became legal guardian for Theron in the final years of his life, which he spent in the Mertens House nursing care facility. “I took comfort in knowing that his physical needs were being met,” Skaskiw says. “But my heart ached for him.” She knew what Theron wanted: to be back at his homestead.


Theron was suffering from dementia, so, morally and legally, Skaskiw and the Mertens House staff couldn’t send him home alone. The staff, says Skaskiw, gave him great care and became a sort of surrogate family. Mean-




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while, there was another problem.

Again, players from the outside world came together. Peter Welch, now Vermont's lone congressman in Washington, was the lawyer who represented Theron in his earlier legal struggle. Welch brought together the state, the Housing and Conservation Board, and the Vermont Land Trust. These players struck a deal which held the developer at bay, offset all of Theron's healthcare and nursing home costs, and forever preserved Theron's home and land as a Vermont historic site. Which it is: Built in 1786, the house is largely unchanged since its construction in the federal style. It served as a stagecoach stop and as a hiding spot for runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad.

Did Theron appreciate these efforts? "It wasn't something he could grasp at that point," says Skaskiw. "Mentally, he just knew that he wasn't living at home." Theron Boyd died of natural causes at the Mertens House on March 21, 1990.

In Theron's kitchen was a leaky oil lamp that he gave to Bill Hebden, who had it restored. "Now it sits in our family room with a picture of Theron," Hebden says. Likewise, Skaskiw's

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PERSONALITIES



Doing daily chores.

whole family—including her children—took to visiting Theron at the Mertens House on holidays, and they attended his burial. "I really enjoy working with seniors," says Skaskiw. "You can learn so much by listening; they have so much to offer."

"I sympathized with him," says Hebden, who feels the world was moving in ways that Theron didn't understand. "I wonder sometimes about all of our new technology," he says. "Are people any happier today than they were back then?"

Sue Skaskiw says that neighbors used to see Theron sitting in the sunshine in front of his house. "Just sitting and enjoying," she says.

I never knew Theron Boyd, but after researching his life, I intend to make a few changes. For example, next time I go for a walk in the woods near my home, I plan to mistakenly leave my cell phone in the car (don't worry—I have voice mail). I will not go along with the establishment just because everyone else is. And finally, once in awhile, I will stop what I am doing just to sit and enjoy the sunshine. "Theron lived a hard life," says Skaskiw, "but it was a good life."

Yes, it was a good life. 🍷

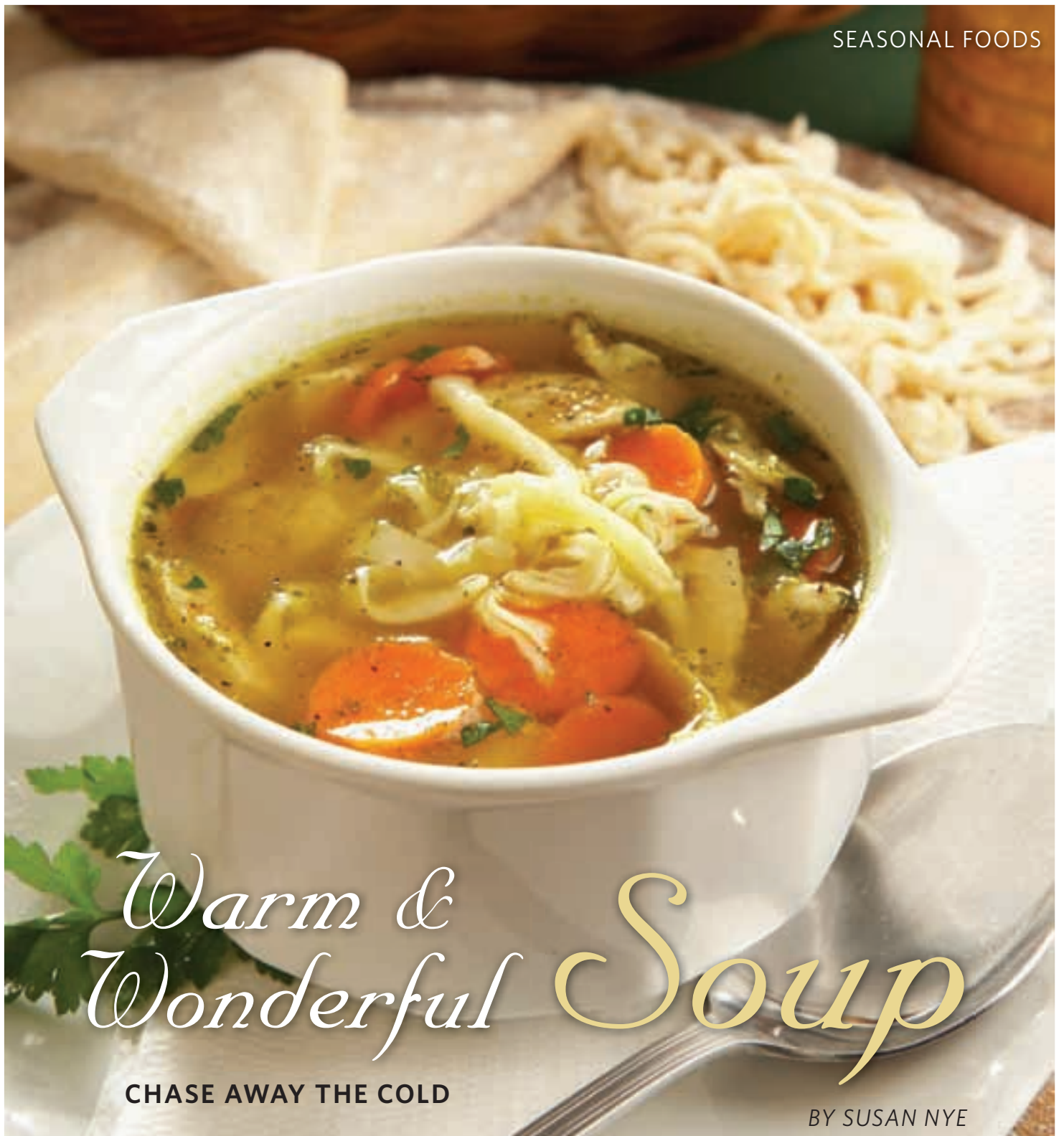
Ed. note: Special thanks to Bill Hebden for his assistance on this story and for his wonderful photographs.

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Warm & Wonderful Soup

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BY SUSAN NYE

Is it possible that we New Englanders have developed a cozy gene? Mine certainly comes out as soon as the weather turns cool and blustery. I love sleeping buried deep under a big down comforter. I could never live in a house without a fireplace. And when the wind is howling and the snow is falling, I like nothing better than a warm mug or bowl of soup. »

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SEASONAL FOODS

For many years I lived in Switzerland. The French and Swiss Alps were practically in my backyard and I have wonderful memories of long days on the slopes. Arriving at trail's end, worn out and shivering, my friends and I found the nearest café to warm up and recharge.

Influenced by cozy cafés and bistros in French alpine villages and beyond, I started to develop a repertoire of wonderful homey and hearty soups. I discovered new ingredients and gadgets and learned some great techniques. One of the good things about being a

foreigner is that you aren't tied by time-honored tradition. I didn't hesitate to mix and match my own New England traditions with new discoveries.

When it's dark and dismal outside, experimenting in the kitchen will lift your spirits. There is nothing more warm and welcoming than the hearty aroma of roasting vegetables and a bubbling soup kettle. The day may be cold and blustery but your kitchen will be a cozy oasis. Invite your friends and family to chase away the winter blues with a hearty bowl of soup! Bon appétit! 🍲

A GUIDE TO FRENCH SOUPS

Within a day or two of moving to Switzerland, I realized that soup was a lot more than soupe. I was introduced to potage and velouté, as well as potage crème velouté. Coming from New England, I knew about bisque. I also knew about chowder, even if the Swiss and French didn't. I'd heard of consommé but wasn't quite sure why or how it was different from bouillon.

As far as I could figure and now remember:

Soupe

This one is pretty simple; soupe is any combination of vegetables, meat, and/or fish, even fruit, cooked in a liquid.

Potage

At its best, potage is soupe that has been pureed. Think butternut squash, potato, and leek or tomato. Sometimes cream, egg yolks, or a roux is added to make it creamier or thicker. A potage crème velouté is a super smooth and creamy potage.

Within days of my arrival in Switzerland I discovered potage at its worst. Potage de Farine. Unless my memory is playing tricks, Potage de Farine is flour soup. I confess the chef might have been having an off day (I tried it only once), but it was dull and tasteless. If you've ever wondered what gruel is, I'm guessing Potage de Farine is the answer. When poor Oliver timidly asked for more, I'm pretty sure Potage de Farine was in the kettle.

Bouillon and Consommé

Bouillon is nothing more than broth made from cooking vegetables, poultry, meat, or fish in water. Consommé is bouillon that has been clarified.

Bisque

Traditionally a wonderfully rich pureed soup made with seafood and cream, some chefs have commandeered the name for any smooth, creamy soup. While the recipes may not have changed, some tomato, butternut squash, and mushroom soups have become bisques.

Velouté

On the other hand, these same bisques are sometimes called veloutés. Velouté means "velvety" in French. As far as I can figure it is just the shorthand name for a Potage Crème Velouté. Sometimes, but not always, the velouté is run through a fine sieve to strain out all the solids.





Soupe aux Lentilles (Hearty French Lentil Soup)

This hearty soup will warm you up on the coldest winter day.

Makes about 6 quarts, or make a double batch. This soup freezes well.

- 1 lb lentils
- Olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 leeks, white and light green parts only, chopped
- 6 stalks celery, chopped
- 6 carrots, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- Pinch crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 lb boneless chicken breast
- 4 quarts chicken stock
- 1 cup dry red wine
- 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 lb kielbasa, cut into quarters lengthwise and then into ½-inch pieces



Garnish: ¼ cup finely chopped fresh parsley leaves

1. Put the lentils in a large bowl and cover with boiling water; let them sit for 15 to 20 minutes, drain, and rinse.
2. Meanwhile, heat a little olive oil in a large stockpot over medium heat. Add the onions, leeks, celery, carrots, and garlic, and season with thyme, cumin, salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes. Sauté for about 20 minutes.
3. Add the chicken and enough chicken stock to cover. Raise the heat and bring to a boil; reduce the heat and simmer until the chicken is just cooked, about 20 minutes; remove the chicken and reserve.
4. Add the remaining chicken stock, red wine, tomatoes, and lentils. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer partially covered for 1 hour or until the lentils are tender.
5. Shred or cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces. Add the chicken and kielbasa to the soup and simmer until heated through, check for seasoning and add salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with parsley and serve.

It's best to prepare this soup in advance and let it sit for several hours or overnight to mix and mingle the flavors. Let the soup come to room temperature, cover, and store in the refrigerator.

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SEASONAL FOODS



Soupe de Poisson (Fish Soup)

Maybe the French flavors make this wonderful fish soup taste a bit more elegant than a traditional New England chowder. It's perfect for a casual New Year's Eve party or a friendly après-ski gathering.

Serves 10-12

- Olive oil
- 1 large fennel bulb, thinly sliced
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 shallots, chopped
- 2 medium leeks, white and pale green parts only, thinly sliced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- ½ tsp (or to taste) dried crushed red pepper flakes
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup dry white wine
- ¼ tsp saffron threads
- 1-½ lb red skin potatoes, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces
- 3 quarts fish, shrimp, or chicken stock (or a mixture; I like a 50/50 mix of fish or shrimp and chicken stock)
- 2 tsp fresh thyme
- 2 strips orange peel, 4 inches long
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 lb halibut fillet, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 lb uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 lb uncooked small bay scallops or sea scallops cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 Tbsp fresh, chopped parsley

Garnish: 1-inch-thick baguette slices, toasted and topped with Rouille (recipe follows) and freshly grated Parmesan cheese

1. Heat a little olive oil in a large, heavy pot over medium-high heat. Add the fennel, carrots, celery, shallots, and leeks. Season with salt, pepper, and pepper flakes; sauté about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté 2 minutes more.
2. Add the wine and saffron; bring to boil. Add the potatoes, broth, thyme, orange peel, and bay leaf; return to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover, and simmer for 15 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. (The soup can be made a day ahead up to this point. Cool to room temperature and store in the refrigerator, covered. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat and continue with the next step.)
3. Increase the heat to medium-high; stir in the fish, shrimp, and scallops. Return to a simmer and reduce the heat to low. Simmer until the soup is steaming and the fish, shrimp, and scallops are cooked through, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley and season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 375°. Spread rouille on toasted baguette slices, and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese. Arrange on a baking sheet and bake until golden brown, about 5 minutes.
5. Ladle the soup into bowls, top with the toasts, and serve.

Rouille

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- Large pinch (or to taste) cayenne pepper

Mix the mayonnaise, garlic, and cayenne in small bowl. Cover and chill the rouille for a few hours. Can be prepared 1 day ahead.

Soupe au Pistou d'Hiver (Winter Vegetable Soup au Pistou)

Roasting the vegetables first gives a wonderful, robust flavor to this traditional Provencal soup. Enjoy!

Makes about 8 quarts (This soup freezes well, but freeze it before adding the pasta.)

- 12 oz green beans, trimmed and cut into ¾-inch pieces
- 1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 leeks, chopped
- Olive oil
- 1-2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 3 carrots, peeled, trimmed, and finely chopped
- 3 stalks celery, trimmed and finely chopped
- 3 red potatoes, finely chopped
- 1 lb butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and finely chopped
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 4 quarts chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 (28-oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 2 (15-oz) cans small white beans
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 lb Swiss chard, chopped, or baby spinach
- 4-6 oz angel hair pasta, broken into 1- to 2-inch pieces



Garnish: Pistou (recipe follows) and grated Parmesan cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 375°.
2. Put the green beans, onion, and leeks in a large bowl, and drizzle with a little olive oil and balsamic vinegar; sprinkle with salt and pepper and toss. Spread onto rimmed baking sheets in a single layer. Roast at 375° for about 20 minutes or until tender and lightly browned. Repeat with the carrots, celery, potatoes, and squash. These may take a little longer.
3. Transfer the vegetables to a soup kettle. Add the wine, chicken stock, tomatoes, white beans, and bay leaf and bring to a boil. Add the Swiss chard and remove from the heat. Cool to room temperature, cover, and refrigerate for several hours or overnight.
4. To finish the soup: bring to a boil over high heat. Add the angel hair pasta and cook until the pasta is al dente, 2 to 3 minutes. (If you are not going to eat all of the soup in one sitting, only reheat as much as you need and reduce the amount of pasta to suit.) Check for seasoning and add salt and pepper to taste. Serve the soup topped with a spoonful of pistou and a sprinkle of Parmesan cheese.

Pistou

- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 cup fresh basil
- 1-½ cups fresh flat-leaf parsley
- About ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper



Put the garlic cloves, basil, and parsley in the bowl of a small food processor. Pulse to chop and combine; slowly add olive oil until you have a thick, deep green sauce. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Susan Nye lives in New Hampshire and writes for several New England magazines. She shares some of her favorite recipes and stories about family, friendship, and food online at www.susannye.wordpress.com.



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WINTER 10-11

Happenings



DECEMBER 11

Wassail Holiday Parade

The highlight of Wassail Weekend is a unique Wassail Parade through the center of Woodstock with more than 50 horses and riders dressed in holiday costumes and period dress from the early 19th century. Don't miss the 26th anniversary of the annual Wassail Horse & Carriage Parade, 2pm.

12/11

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December 10

Wassail Weekend Concert: Eileen Ivers

Eileen Ivers captures the spirit and magic of the season in her heartwarming holiday show: An Nollaig—An Irish Christmas. The program features traditional Irish songs, original tunes, and holiday favorites specially arranged by Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul. 7:30pm.

December 11

Wassail Weekend Holiday House Tour

Visitors and locals agree that Pentangle's Holiday House Tour is an

indispensable centerpiece of Wassail Weekend festivities. Experience the warm hospitality of old New England when Woodstock's most charming homes deck their halls and open their doors for what has become a quintessential holiday tradition. Horse-drawn wagon rides and live musicians accompany guests along the way. 10am-4pm.

December 12

27th Annual Messiah Sing

Part of the Woodstock Chamber Music Series. Our Lady of the Snows Church in Woodstock, 4pm.

February 25

Christopher O'Riley

As host of the popular NPR music program "From the Top," O'Riley is well known for his eloquent and compelling musings on music and popular culture. His latest performances stretch the

Eileen Ivers

12/10



piano beyond the classical repertoire and into the rich uncharted territory of contemporary and alt-rock. 7:30pm.

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December

4

A Yankee Barn Christmas

This wonderful event for families features hay rides, face painting, Santa Claus, a petting zoo, a toy drive for a local church, a chili cook off, hot chocolate served by the Chamber of Commerce, Local Brownies and Cub Scouts, a bonfire to roast hot dogs and marshmallows, entertainment from a local elementary school, and more. Yankee Barn Homes, 131 Yankee Barn Road, Grantham, NH. 12-4 pm.

4-5

Holiday Concert

Enjoy Woodstock's community chorus, Freelance Family Singers, with the University Chorus of the Upper Valley from Hanover, NH. Music includes seasonal sacred and secular pieces by both choruses and small vocal ensembles as well as instrumental music. Ellen Satterthwaite directs both choruses. Concerts are free; donations of nonperishable items for the Community Food Shelf suggested. Info: (802) 457-3980 First Congregational Church, Elm Street, Woodstock, VT. December 4, 7pm; 5, 3pm.

10

Woodstock Historical Society Open House

Come see the historic Dana House decorated for the holidays! Enjoy the



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December weekends &
December 26-January 2
Christmas at the Farm

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Billings Farm & Museum, 10am-3:30pm.

History Center's open house with Celtic harp music, holiday readings, hot cider, and seasonal treats.
Info: (802) 457-1822
Woodstock History Center, 5-7pm.

11
Dana House Museum Open

The Dana House Museum will be open and interpretive staff will be available to answer your questions about Woodstock and the collection. Free, with donations gratefully accepted.
Info: (802) 457-1822
Woodstock History Center, 10am-4pm.

10-12
Wassail Weekend

Tour the 1890 Farm House, authentically decorated for the season, and make a historic Christmas ornament. Traditional music performed in the parlor on Saturday at noon. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides on Sunday.
Info: (802) 457-2355
Billings Farm & Museum,
Friday 1-3:30pm;
Saturday & Sunday 10am-3:30pm.

10-11
Christmas Visions

Visit with Santa, make crafts with the elves, and have a treat in Mrs. Clause's kitchen.
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11
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11

Wassail Café

Wassail Cafe on The Green will be offering hot chocolate, coffee, soups, and chili to help keep you warm during the parade. 11am-2pm.

11

Yule Log and Memory Tree Lighting

Join the Woodstock Rotary Club for the lighting of the traditional Yule Log, Memory Tree, and Carol Sing on The Green. 2:30pm.

11

Coolidge Open House

Enjoy the traditions of the season in one of Vermont's most picturesque villages. Visit the Coolidge Birthplace, decorated as it would have been in 1872. Old-time music, craft demonstrations, sleigh rides, and lunch plus children's holiday activities. Info: (802) 672-3773
Coolidge Historic Site, 10am-4pm.

11

Lighting of the Luminaries

Enjoy the Green in holiday splendor as the Woodstock Rotary Club Lights over 400 luminaries. 4pm. Info: (802) 457-3555

11

Wassail Feast with the YOH Players Theater

King Arthur and his merry court have returned again to entertain throughout the Wassail Feast! The feast is served buffet style and is filled with Old English favorites. Festivities begin with a reception at 6:30pm. Info: (802) 457-6621

12

Willem Lange Reads Favor Johnson

Willem Lange, one of New England's greatest living treasures, will be reading his children's book *Favor Johnson: A Christmas Story* beginning at 2pm in the Dana Library. Free admission! Books available for purchase and signing at event. Info: (802) 457-1822
Woodstock History Center

12

Author Tom Wessels Comes to Woodstock

Tom Wessels, author of *Forest Forensics*, comes to the John Cotton Dana Library. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Free admission. Public is welcome.
Info: (802) 457-1822
Woodstock History Center, 12pm.

January

15-17

Sleigh Ride Weekend

Come enjoy horse-drawn sleigh rides through the frosty farm fields and sledding with jack jumper sleds! Visit the dairy farm and restored farmhouse, and participate in farm programs and hands-on activities.
Info: (802) 457-2355
Billings Farm & Museum,
10am-3:30pm.

16

Neil Goodwin, author of We Go As Captives

Neil Goodwin, author of *We Go As Captives*, will talk about the historical context of the Royalton Raid and share selected passages from his new book. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.
Info: (802) 457-1822
Woodstock History Center, 2pm.

February

19-27

President's Week

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Billings Farm & Museum,
10am-3:30pm.

For more events, visit woodstockmagazineonline.com

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