

Vermont Country Sampler

Free

Late October to
Mid November
2020

- Calendar of Events, Inns, B&B's, Poems, Recipes
 - Book Reviews, Dining, Real Estate, Map
- Plenty of Good Reading!*

N. Cassidy

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Late Fall Journal

Bare Trees and Frost

by Bill Felker

The more I watch myself in nature, the more I see that my emotional life is tied to appearances more than to ideas or events in society.

The time of year in my feelings is the reflection of my perceptions. The changes in the landscape produce changes in my mind. The Earth's fluctuating relationship to the Sun may technically cause the approach of winter, but it is the bare trees and the frost that make the season in my head.

Very literally, snowdrops and snow trilliums bring February to my brain. Robin song before sunrise brings March. Fragrant peonies and lilacs make April and May. Green trees bring June. Lilies evoke July. Black-eyed Susans shape the middle of August. Goldenrod creates September, scarlet maples

October. November is the sudden collapse of ginkgo leaves. Frost and the call of the snow geese mean winter.

The simplicity of this psychological phenomenon leads me to a basic realism.

Through the experience of the seasons, I recognize the limitations of my reason and convictions, as well as the fragility of my awareness and my will. I also realize that, without trying, I actually can and do remain in the moment much of the time, tied to and reflecting what is right in front of me.

I realize, too, the dangers and challenges involved in leaving that foundation for the untethered society beyond. Like God or love or a consuming passion, the material world is the simple truth that feeds as well as protects the self.



Autumn dooryard in Randolph, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Autumn Maple Recipes, circa 1922

Maple Layer Cake

- 3 eggs
- 1 cupful soft maple sugar
- 1 cupful pastry flour
- ¼ cupful grated maple sugar
- ½ teaspoonful salt
- 1 teaspoonful baking-powder
- 1 cupful cream

Beat the yolks of the eggs until light. Add the soft maple sugar and the flour sifted with the salt and baking-powder. Fold in last the whites of the eggs beaten very stiff. Mix quickly and bake for about one-half hour in two greased and floured layer-cake pans in an oven registering 320°F. Put together with the cream whipped and sweetened with the grated maple sugar and sprinkle top with powdered sugar.

Maple Charlotte

- 2 cupfuls rich milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoonfuls granulated gelatin
- 2 tablespoonfuls cold milk
- ½ teaspoonful almond extract
- ¼ teaspoonful salt
- 1 cupful maple syrup
- ½ cupful chopped blanched almonds or shredded coconut

Scald the milk in a double-boiler and pour it slowly over the egg-yolks well beaten; return to the double-boiler and cook five minutes. Add the gelatin which has soaked a few minutes in the cold milk and the salt. Remove from the fire and add the maple syrup. Let cool, and when beginning to set, add the almonds or shredded coconut or half of each and the extract. Beat until frothy and fold in the stiffly beaten egg-whites. Turn into wet individual molds to stiffen. Serve with or without whipped cream.

Maple Nut Gingerbread

- 1 cupful maple syrup
- ⅓ cupful butter
- 1 cupful cold water
- 2 cupfuls whole-wheat flour
- 1 cupful chopped nuts
- ½ teaspoonful salt
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoonfuls baking-powder
- 1 teaspoonful ginger
- 1 teaspoonful cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoonful soda

Cream the butter and syrup together. Add the eggs well-beaten. Mix and sift the dry ingredients together, and add alternately with the water. Add the chopped nuts last. Bake in a 350°F oven for forty-five minutes, or until done.

Maple Doublets

- 1 cupful maple syrup
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon melted margarin
- 3 cupfuls pastry flour
- ½ teaspoonful salt
- 2 teaspoonfuls baking-powder

Combine the syrup, egg-yolks well beaten, and the melted margarin. Add the pastry flour sifted well with the salt and baking-powder. Fold in the whites of the eggs beaten stiff. Drop far apart on a greased baking-sheet as they spread in baking. Avoid making them too large. Bake at 400°F for about twelve minutes. Put together in pairs with maple fondant.

from Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
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—TRANSLATED BY EDWARD FITZGERALD
1809-1883, Merton, United Kingdom



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Vermont Country Sampler
Late Oct. to Early Nov. 2020, Vol. XXXVI

This issue is mid-Oct thru mid-Nov
November is mid-Nov thru mid Dec, and
December is mid-Dec thru mid-Jan

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Basting a turkey roasting in the wood cookstove in the 1890's farmhouse at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT. photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Autumn at Billings Farm & Museum

With Autumn in full swing, there is plenty to experience at Billings Farm & Museum! See the scenic pastures and our farm animals, and enjoy a walk along the Ottauquechee River Trail. Visit the apple orchard and see the many different apple varieties. Learn about 19th century harvest activities on the farm and about Vermont's rural history.

October Festivities at Billings Farm & Museum

Plan to visit Billings Farm & Museum in October. See our farm animals in the pastures. Enjoy a walk along the Ottauquechee River Trail, visit the apple orchard with its many apple varieties, and learn about 19th century harvest.

Each weekend throughout October, guests can enjoy harvest-themed activities, demonstrations, and crafts. Learn about drying herbs, and preserving apples, pumpkins, and squashes. See traditional methods of cider pressing, hand threshing of grain, corn husking and bean shelling.

Families can Find the Hidden Pumpkins in the Farm Life Exhibits and take a "Sheep Trick or Treat" Story Walk. Family-friendly activities include pumpkin bowling, leaf rubbings, finger knitting, and wax paper pressed leaves.

Harvest activities vary each weekend. Find daily schedules at billingsfarm.org detailing which programs will be offered.

Autumn is also the time for a special treat—cider and doughnuts! Available daily at the Dairy Bar along with Vermont-based Wilcox ice cream and Billings Farm cheese.

Enjoy the Quiet of November at Billings Farm & Museum

Visit Billings Farm & Museum each Saturday and Sunday in November. Enjoy the scenic landscapes provided by the historic barns and pastures on the dairy farm. Explore what life on the farm was like in the 1890's through the Farm Life Exhibits and learn about the families and history of Billings Farm in the Upon This Land Exhibit within the Visitor Center.

Go deeper into Vermont's place in conservation history with A Place in the Land, the Academy Award® – nominee film which chronicles the development of Billings Farm. History seekers will not be disappointed; while the 1890

Farm Manager's house is not open to visitors at this time, guests are invited to view re-creations of both the Sitting and Dining Rooms within the Activity Barn.

Meanwhile, families will find craft activities such as leaf rubbings using leaves from the Farm's trees and can search for the pumpkins hidden within the Farm Life Exhibits.

Celebrate Thanksgiving Traditions at the Farm

Learn about late 19th century Thanksgiving traditions as the Farm & Museum celebrates Thanksgiving Weekend, Friday, November 27 through Sunday, November 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed at the Billings Farm in the 1890s. The event will feature the traditional farmhouse Thanksgiving table setting, holiday programs and activities. Find out the history of foods typically served on the Farm for this holiday.

Share stories about your own family traditions on our "Sharing Wall." See why we are thankful for the stewardship of this land and take a "Thankfulness Walk" around the farm. Enjoy holiday-themed children's stories in the Theater and the "Story Walk" along the pastures. Children can take home a seasonal "to-go" craft bag with instructions and materials to make a colorful ear of corn or a pumpkin out of beads.

Note that the Billings Farm & Museum site is limited to a maximum capacity of 225 people at one time, per State of Vermont guidelines. Face coverings must be worn by all guests over the age of two, everywhere on the site, including the outdoors.

Billings Farm & Museum is located at 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock, VT.

Open during October Thursday through Tuesday, 10 am – 4 pm. Open from November through February, weekends and vacation weeks, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4.

For info call Billings Farm, (802) 457-2355, or go to www.billingsfarm.org or billingsfarm.org/billings-fam-at-home.

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St. Luke's Wreath-Decorating Workshops Coming in November

Conquer the strange world of Covid-19 and bring on some joyous holiday spirit by decorating a premade evergreen wreath. While the number of holiday wreath workshops, which are annually presented by St. Luke's Church in Chester, VT, has been increased (this year they will run November 19-21), the number of participants in each session has been decreased to enable safe social distancing. Masks will be required.

At the workshops, participants may choose from an impressive array of especially collected greens, berries, nuts and other natural materials, bows, and different embellishments that they would like to add to their premade evergreen wreath. Wire, glue guns, and other supplied equipment make the decorating easy and successful.

Open to the public, the workshops will take place on November 19-21 in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main Street (Route 11 West) in Chester, VT, and will again benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

Space is limited to six people per session this year,

so participants should pre-register early to be assured of a wreath and their preferred session. There are seven different workshops: Thursday November 19, 1-2:30 p.m. or 6:30-8 p.m.; Friday November 20, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. or 6:30-8 p.m.; and Saturday November 21, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m..

Each session will offer all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group, and participants are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them.

A \$5 early-bird discount on the fee of \$50 per wreath will apply to those who pre-register and pay by Friday November 6. Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated in the memo line for the wreath workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. This is a great opportunity to support two good causes, start getting ready for the holidays, and have fun doing it safely!

For additional information and registration, please contact Lillian Willis, (802) 875-1340, lbwillisct@comcast.net.



photo by Lillian Willis
Marilyn Mahusky, at left, and her daughter, Mary Anderson, with the wreaths they each decorated last year at St. Luke's Wreath Decorating Workshop. in Chester, VT. This year the workshops are on November 19, 20 & 21.

Memories of a Century Past

All Set for Winter with a Bountiful Harvest

by Elisabeth Doren

When I was small, which was close to a century ago, there were two schools of cooking in our house. There was my mother's which favored whole wheat bread, baked six loaves at a time in the big old kitchen range; whole grain gems, luscious treats baked in little pre-heated iron pans just by the heat of the pans without baking powder or soda; other whole grain goodies, and of course, vegetables of all sorts.

Then there were Aunt Kate's contributions to our diet, which leaned toward cookies: ginger—great big four-inch rounds of pure pleasure, baked 60 to a batch; caraway, for which we kids were sent out to gather the seeds in our neighbor's field across the road; and molasses and plain and fancy sugar cookies. You name it, we had it!

But Aunt Kate's cooking was not all tooth-filling sweetness. She also made a delicious yeast-raised corn bread. And pickles—all kinds. She even had her own row of cucumbers in the big family garden, just for her pickles.

The rest of the garden was my mother's department and she tended it well, raising enough vegetables to feed our large family all summer and fall, with plenty more to put up for the winter, stored in the big cellar beneath the house.

Shall I describe our cellar? Can you withstand the onslaught of pure unadulterated gluttony that filled our cellar, with its barrels and boxes and bins, full of the bounty of garden and orchard? One corner was walled off for the

potato bin. It was a large corner, big enough to hold a nine-month supply for a large family that ate potatoes at least two meals a day, baked, boiled, scalloped, fried. And were they ever good! My father knew just which seed potatoes to buy, but the only one I remember is "gold coin", which was large and smooth-skinned, excellent for baking.

Considerable drama hovered around the potato bin. Would they last until the new crop came in? If you were lucky—and planted early—you just might get your first delicious small early potatoes by the Fourth of July. By that time last year's potatoes were getting spongy and were growing sprouts.

But enough of potatoes. Let's move on to the apples. We grew them ourselves. The orchard extended from the driveway north nearly all the way back to the little family cemetery, and west from the road nearly to the barn—perhaps two or three acres, filled with several varieties of apples.

There were Snows—a winter apple good for applesauce or just plain eating, raw, by the big parlor stove with a book in hand. Then there were Tallman Sweets—the very best for baking, two dozen at a time in the big old kitchen range. And we had several other varieties, some for keeping, some for early eating. But the very best for lasting through until spring was the Russet. It had a rusty brown skin, a firm flesh, a slightly sharp flavor, and was wonderful for its keeping qualities. You don't see them around much anymore. (One time we learned that there was an orchard across the river that still had them, and we made an expedition by rowboat.)

The other corners of the cellar held barrels of salt pork, home-raised and home-cured. This was a staple of the farm diet between batches of fresh meat. It was freshened (the salt removed) in milk, which was brought to a boil and then thrown away as it contained the saltpetre, good for preserving pork, but not for the human stomach.

And so we gratefully ate our way through the seasons of bitter cold and snowy storms on the bounty provided by our foresightful farm parents.

And while I have been singing its praises, the food was only a metaphor for the larger riches my enterprising parents were able to wrest from life itself on a small farm in that faraway land of my youth.

"And so we gratefully ate our way through the seasons of bitter cold and snowy storms."

Elisabeth Doren helped found and was still writing for the Sampler when she was well into her eighties. She has since passed on. She is missed.



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No Medals for Mom

by Alan Mills, Jr.

As I sit in the glorious splendor of this Whipple Hollow Vermont Valley, I am thinking about the coming November. Of course, there is the upcoming Vermont Deer Season and the great family traditions of Thanksgiving, but I must also think about November 11th, Veteran's Day.

The English poet John Milton (1608–1674) said “They also serve who only stand and wait”. It could also be said they also serve “who sit at home and wait”. So, this writing is dedicated to the woman who, in 1944, stayed at home as her husband, Robert E. Wright, was drafted into the United States Army. She was left at home to raise four children, while carrying the unborn child, Roberta Anne Wright, who years later would become my wife. I wonder, now, what she was thinking, as she watched her husband leave. Her name was Marjorie Smith Wright, the daughter of Harry and Jessie (New) Smith of Pittsford, Vermont.

The draft and its consequences

Marjorie was an avid reader whose house was filled with books, and quite a history buff, as am I. I regret that I did not discuss with her the time of Robert's and her service (for who served more than she did) during World War II.

I can remember sometimes listening to Robert telling me about his time in the service. If Marjorie overheard, she would always say, “Robert, no one wants to hear about that”. “But why?” I wondered. Maybe it was too painful for her. I can only wonder, while Robert was away in WWII, after she had fed and gotten her other four children—Alice, Lorna, Gail and Stephen—into bed and finally laying down herself, feeling the stirrings of her unborn child; what was her unknown terror in the darkness? What was she thinking?

During this time, young men were being drafted. Marjorie and Robert had a private joke between them. They said that their four little weather strips would protect their father from the draft. Uncle Sam, however, was not joking in January of 1944 as, at the age of thirty-six with a pregnant wife and four little children, Robert was drafted.

There was a petition circulated through the Town of Pittsford and sent to the Draft Board that because of Robert's value to the community as a mechanic and with a large family that he be exempted from service but Robert, himself, felt that if his country needed him then he must go. He went to Georgia for training and then boarded the Queen Elizabeth which had been converted from a luxury liner into a Troop Transport Ship and was headed for war in Europe.

I wonder what Marjorie was thinking.

As I mentioned before, Robert's ability to fine tune any internal combustion engine just by listening to it would surely be why the Army would have him work on military vehicles. Instead of a wrench, however, he was handed a rifle and put in the Infantry.

There has been much written, and many movies done about soldiers and the wars they have fought, but I can't imagine what a thirty-six year old drafted soldier with a pregnant wife and four children left at home was thinking as he sat in his cold lonely fox hole or as he marched countless hours on end to a destination and a fate that he knew not where or what.

The home front and all the travails of waiting

I think again of my mother-in-law, Marjorie Wright and the new world she had to adjust to after Robert was drafted. She already knew about the shortages and rationing of such items as meat, sugar, butter, canned food and many other food items along with gasoline for the cars, but now she was responsible for procuring all of them. Lorna, Marjorie's second oldest daughter, relates that meat was purchased at Mr. Kitson's Meat Market and most of the grocery items were purchased at Thomas and White's General Store, both in Pittsford, VT.

Gas rationing must have been tough for Marjorie because as I remember, my mother-in-law was the happiest when she was driving her car somewhere or just anywhere. Lorna tells about her mother hanging a hammock between the dash of her car and the back of the front seat between her, in the driver's seat with the oldest daughter, Alice, in the passenger seat. Her infant daughter was loaded into the hammock and after putting the other children, Lorna, Steve and Gail in the back seat of her Lafayette, they headed for Wilder, a small community just north of White River Junction, Vermont. But she stopped first at Hennessey's Garage in Pittsford and asked if her ration of gas would get her there and back.

Marjorie was fortunate at that time because she lived in a house just north of her parents who helped her immensely during this difficult time. Harry, her father, had a sawmill and furnished her with wood for heating the house and for the wood cooking stove. Charlie, her younger brother, would come and split the wood for her every day. Her mother, Jessie, was an excellent seamstress and gardener. She made clothing for the children and gave her fresh produce from her garden.

Women from the town made garments and bandages for the Red Cross to be used for wounded soldiers. I can imagine Jessie making bandages and probably thinking, “I hope these are not needed for my son, Wendell, and my son-in-law, Robert”, who were both in military service at the time.

Black-out warnings were issued, and the thick black-out shades had to be drawn over the windows at dusk and the children sent to bed early. Lorna said it felt like they were being punished.

The shock of combat

Robert went into combat the day after his daughter, Bobbie, was born. He was in combat for forty days until while crossing a hedgerow, that was targeted and mined by the enemy, his world and the war went suddenly black. He



Robert E. Wright and Marjorie Smith Wright of Pittsford, VT, shown here with their five children: (from left) Gail, baby Bobbie (Roberta), Lorna, Alice, and Steve. Robert was home on leave during his service in WWII, January 1945.

regained consciousness sensing someone standing over him saying, “This one is alive, he's moving”.

Lorna will never forget when two soldiers came and told her mother that Robert had been injured. He had shrapnel wounds and his leg was badly injured. She said her mom cried terribly the rest of the day and into the dark of the night.

Wounded warrior comes home

The rest of Robert's service was spent in military medical facilities in France, England and the United States, where he underwent surgeries and rehabilitation to his leg. I can remember years later how he walked with an unusual gait. It was not very visible even though he would sort of throw his leg out and slap his foot down. I can remember also seeing him at a picnic table at their camp on Burr Pond in Pittsford after taking a swim. It appeared that only skin attached the large shin bone to his foot and knee, and I thought to myself, how does this man even walk.

The mail was slow back and forth between Robert and the family throughout his time in the service, as evidenced by a letter from Robert's mother-in-law to Robert. It had five different postmarks on it. She said she was sorry he was hurt but at least he was out of that terrible business for a while.

Another letter was from Marjorie telling about the upcoming Christmas and the gifts she was trying to get for the family and everyone else. I could somehow sense the loneliness she must have felt. Another letter was written to his infant daughter, Roberta. He requested that her sister Alice read it to her. He remarked how she must have grown and inquired as to what she was doing.

I can only imagine the joy and excitement when Robert came home on leave six months after he had been injured. He spent most of the rest of his time in the service at Walter Reed Army Hospital. He was discharged from the Army and returned with several decorations pinned on his uniform among them a Purple Heart. My only regret is that there was no medal for Mom.

So, on this Veteran's Day and every day, I salute all Veterans, those living and passed on, and all the Veterans who stay at home and wait. Thank you all.

Allen A. Mills, Jr. has written a book about his childhood on the family farm in Florence VT, *Barnyards, Barefeet and Bluejeans—A Horse's Tale*. It can be ordered from Allen A. Mills, Jr., 362 Allen Mills Rd., Florence, VT 05744, for \$20 plus \$5 for P&H or call (802) 438-5653.

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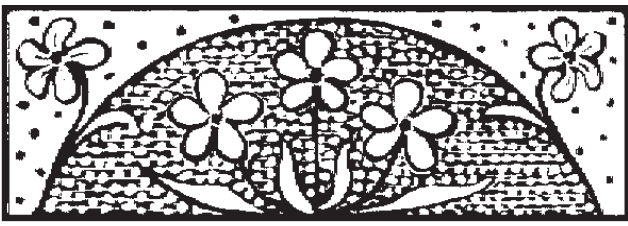
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The Natural Calendar

Late Autumn

by Bill Felker

Notes on the Progress of the Year

October: Week Four

As October deepens, the ash, locust and hickory trees reach their finest color—then shed suddenly in the cold waves that sweep more violently across the Northeast. When those leaves come down, high mapletum moves into the Central states, producing some of the brightest oranges and scarlets of the season. New England asters come to the end of their blooming cycle and asparagus yellows in the garden. A few lance-leaf and zigzag goldenrod still hold on, but the great roadside bloom of the tall goldenrod is finished for the year.

By the end of the week, the sun has traveled halfway between equinox and winter solstice; by the time maple color peaks, the day has lost almost four hours from its summer length, and light snow occurs one year in a decade. Orange bittersweet is opening, all its foliage fallen.

The chances for light frost increase every morning, and long flocks of blackbirds fly over town, their passage often lasting several minutes. Sometimes they settle into the trees and join the starlings that have come together once again for winter; they caw and cackle throughout the day.

October Week Four in the Field and Garden

Prepare soil for transplanting of peonies, iris and lilies after full moon (October 31).

Farmers have often harvested all the corn silage by this date. Half of the winter wheat sprouts as tree leaf color fades. Most commercial grapes have been picked.

Complete fall pruning in October's remaining mild weather. Spread manure on the field and garden; wait until all the leaves have fallen to feed trees, perennials and shrubs.

Continue to bring in frost-sensitive herbs and place them at sunny windows. Young tomato plants can survive indoors for a month or two and produce a small amount of fruit.

November: Week One

Cabbage worms still eat the cabbages and kale, but the seasons of tomatoes, beans, eggplant, and squash are over in northern states. Some years, houseflies still get in the back door. The last crickets sing in the milder afternoons and nights. A few butterflies still hunt for flowers. Grasshoppers and woolly-bear caterpillars are still common. Small tan moths play in the sun. But the last robins and doves follow the valleys south. All the other major migrations end.

Sometimes the maple and white mulberry leaves that survived October drop in a day. The ginkgoes do the same; they can shatter overnight into a shining circle below their limbs. Willows, though, are only half turned. Decorative pear trees are still green, prolonging an illusion of September. Silver maples seem to be untouched by the radical shift in the season; they hold until the nights go into the teens. Dogwoods will be pink, magnolias gold, oaks red-orange for a few days longer.

November Week One in the Field and Garden

As harvest time ends for grain crops, the holiday market gathers momentum. Christmas cacti, dried flower arrangements, grapevine wreaths, grasses, and bulbs for forcing sell briskly, offering welcome income to the small farmer.

When soil temperatures fall into the middle 40s, consider placing mulch around prized plants and bushes. Dig manure into the garden. Plant next year's sweet peas and spinach. Set garlic cloves for spring.

Break up Halloween pumpkins for mulch or for your sheep. When the last maple leaves fall, test the field and garden soil, and mow the lawn for the last time.

When thimbleweed heads are tufted like cotton, then late fall arrives with killing frosts. When the poinsettia crop arrives at the market, then the last crickets die in the cold, and many farmers are feeding hay to their livestock.

When beech and pear leaves finally fall, then wrap young transplants to protect them against frost cracking.

November: Week Two

A warm October and November often create a benign cradle for the resurgence of Second Spring. The last autumn violets are still blooming beside a few chicory, Queen Anne's



Belgian draft horse in an autumn pasture in Fairfield, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

lace, thyme-leaved speedwell, mallow, the final asters and one or two stalks of goldenrod. Wild geraniums, thistles, and cinquefoil can be coming back. Sometimes a parsnip is ready to bloom. Garlic mustard, sweet Virginia creeper, burdock, red clover, ground ivy, sweet rocket, dock, leafcup have also recovered, looking ahead six months to Deep Spring.

Lawns grow back, often long and thick beneath the fallen leaves. Winter grain, destined for harvest in June, sprouts to turn fields glowing green.

The latest roses bloom. Pachysandra, its buds formed in May, waits for a warm February. Mint and thyme, rosemary, parsley and verbena are fresh in the garden. New spinach and chard are sweet and tender. Comfrey is fat.

Remnants of Late Summer add to the impression of renewal, pansies or nasturtiums or even petunias, spared from frost, keeping blossoms. Yellowing honeysuckle glows like April forsythia along the bike path.

In the greenhouse, jade trees and aloe sometimes flower. In south windows, Christmas cacti open. Paperwhite and amaryllis bulbs extend their stalks for solstice.

Cardinals sometime sing. Late or overwintering robins call in short bursts or whinnies. Small moths appear at porch lights. Crickets still chant for each other in the dark.

November Week Two in the Field and Garden

After chores, calculate taxable farm and garden income for the first three quarters of the year and plan your expenditures and sales for the remaining weeks—and year to come.

Clean up all around the yard and garden, cut your wood, clear out the hedgerows and haul manure. Mulch strawberries with straw. Feed the lawn—fall is a better time than in the spring—the winter's rain and snow, freezing and thawing, will gently work the fertilizer through the soil. Mulch the wet perennial beds to prevent drying and cold damage.

Plant an evergreen in the yard: now that the leaves are down, you can position it for best winter appearance.

November: Week Three

Along the highways, ironweed seeds are soft and white when witch hazels bloom. Goldenrod and thimbleweed are tufted like cotton, their foliage deep chocolate brown. Most of the milkweed pods have opened.

Although many of the maples, oaks, beech, pears and sweet gum continue to hold on, the latest ginkgoes lose their leaves. The final white mulberry foliage comes down. Mock orange, honeysuckles and forsythias are thinning; their leaf-fall measures the progress of the last phase of autumn.

Driving south from Chicago, you can still find Early Fall, catching up with the best of leafturn in Arkansas. Along the Gulf coast, the trees still hold their foliage, and colors haven't even reached their peak. By the time you go south far enough to recapture Deep Summer, the monarch butterflies will almost be getting ready to start back north from Michoacan, Mexico, and robins will be restless to leave the Caribbean.

By the time the frost reaches Mobile, Alabama, it will be just about time for it to recede. By the time Second Spring is halted by snow and cold in Indiana, it will be reaching its fulfillment in Georgia. By the time the last leaves fall in the southern Appalachians during mid-December, the first leaves will be emerging in Florida. The last day of harvest in Vermont will be the first day of planting a thousand miles south where the last wildflower of one year will be blooming beside the first of the next.

November Week Three in the Field and Garden

Remove tops from everbearing raspberries. Cut back mums. Stake young shrubs and trees. Wrap young transplants to protect them against frost cracking and rodents. Bring parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme indoors for winter seasonings.

Work gypsum into the soil where salt, used to melt winter's ice, may damage plantings. Fertilize pastures for improved winter hardiness and stimulation of growth in early spring.

Try to save your best quality feed supplies for the colder months. Use lower grade feed early in November, gradually increasing nutrient value and quantity throughout the winter.

The canopy of leaves continues to shed, revealing the high branches as well as the skeleton of the undergrowth. Deer, squirrels, turkeys and crows should be easier to spot in the daytime, opossums and raccoons at night. In the South, mistletoe appears in the tall trees.

November: Week Four

The sun enters Sagittarius on the 20th, having traveled three-fourths of its way from autumn equinox to winter solstice. Two hours before midnight, the sky carries the forms of Deep Winter: the Pleiades, Taurus and Orion are rising, the Milky Way cuts across the sky from east to west, Andromeda lies directly overhead, and the Summer Triangle is setting over the Pacific Ocean.

The final rites of fall include a chronology of the last leaves and fruits. Major losses occur on beeches and pears as autumn ends. Sometimes oaks are the holdouts, sometimes forsythia or a hardy honeysuckle. Sometimes sweet gums and poplars keep a few leaves this late in the year; sometimes protected oak-leaf hydrangeas, Osage, mock orange or lilacs outlast all the other trees and shrubs. Bittersweet berries continues to fall to the sidewalk. Yellow witch hazel flowers are shriveling. Privets are bare, their blue berries revealed. Euonymus fruits are losing their white outer shells, orange cores unveiled by the cold.

New England aster and stonecrop foliage turned yellow in Middle Fall; now the plants are shedding. Late garden lettuce and the autumn growth of rhubarb have withered. The gooseneck turns chocolate brown. Most all the seeds are gone from milkweed pods; just a few wisps of down cling to their shells. Fragile pokeweed stems have exploded in the frost. The last roses have been frozen by nights in the teens.

November Week Four in the Field and Garden

All the major harvest is typically complete; fall seeding should be done; the garden is pretty well picked clean, and the cover crops have sprouted.

Compare early-season estimates of your farm and garden crops with the actual results. Make plans to compensate for similar challenges next year.

Try to include in your Thanksgiving dinner at least one thing that you have grown. Plan for two things next Thanksgiving.

Review photographs of the garden or your summer notes for ideas about what seeds and plants to purchase and where to put them all. Check seeds you have saved to see they are dry and not developing mold.

Put the vehicles and implements in shape; polish tools; paint when the sun shines; repair fences when the wind is quiet. Mulch or dig root crops in anticipation of a hard freeze.

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A Vermont Almanack for Late Autumn

by Bill Felker

We'll go nutting once more. We'll pluck the nut of the world and crack it in the winter evenings...I will take another walk to the Cliff, another row on the river... be out in the first snow, and associate with the winter birds. Here I am at home. In the bare and bleached crust of the earth, I recognize my friend.

—Henry David Thoreau, Journal, November 1, 1858

The Sun

The 23rd of October is Cross Quarter Day, the halfway mark between autumn equinox and winter solstice. The Sun enters Scorpio at the same time. Within a little more than a month of equinox, the Sun has traveled half the distance to winter. If it continued to move lower in the sky at that rate for another month, solstice would occur near Thanksgiving. As December approaches, however, the expansion of the night gradually slows, finally stopping abruptly before Christmas.

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1. Set clocks back one hour at 2:00 a.m.

On November 20, the sun leaves the Late Fall sign of Scorpio and enters the Early Winter sign of Sagittarius, three fourths of its way from autumn equinox to winter solstice. At the end of November, sunset has reached to within just a few minutes of its earliest time throughout the nation. The latest sunrise, however, is still about half an hour away.

Phases of the Moon

October 23: The Moon enters its second quarter at 8:24 a.m.

October 30: The Moon reaches apogee (its position farthest from Earth) at 1:47 p.m.

October 31: The Moon is full at 9:50 a.m. This is the second full moon of the month, making it a Blue Moon

November 8: The Corn and Soybean Harvest Moon enters its fourth quarter at 8:42 a.m.

November 14: The Moon is at perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 6:49 a.m.

November 15: The Manger Moon (when livestock need hay and supplements as pastures stop growing) is new at 12:08 a.m.

November 21: The Moon enters its second quarter at 11:46 a.m.

November 26: The Moon reaches apogee (its position farthest from Earth) at 7:30 p.m.

November 30: The moon is full at 4:30 a.m. and a penumbral lunar eclipse will be visible in North America

The Planets

Venus, now in Virgo, is still the Morning Star, continuing to dominate the eastern sky before dawn. Jupiter and Saturn in Sagittarius are almost lost in the evening dusk, low in the west. Mars rises with Pisces from the east as Jupiter and Saturn disappear with Sagittarius in the west.

The Stars

An hour or so before sunrise, the stars foretell their evening early spring positions: Orion fills the west, and Sirius now promises April instead of December. Overhead, Cancer and Leo announce the March blooming of Azaleas across the South, and Regulus advises the setting out of cabbages and the greening of winter wheat throughout the Border States. In the east, Arcturus foretells daffodils and tulips, and the Corona Borealis wakes summer fireflies in Florida.

The Shooting Stars

The S. Taurid Meteor Shower peaks on the night of November 4 and 5. The Leonid meteor shower reaches its best on the night of the 17th.

Meteorology

Weather history suggests that the cold waves of Late Fall usually reach the Northeast on or about November 2, 6, 11, 16, 20, 24 and 28. Snow or rain often occurs prior to the passage of each major front.

If strong storms occur this month, weather patterns suggest that they will happen during the following periods: November 2-5, 14-16 and November 22-30.

It is probable that lunar perigee on November 14 will strengthen the power of the new moon on November 15, and the full moon on November 30, will bring stronger-than-average storms to the United States, complicating harvest and travel.





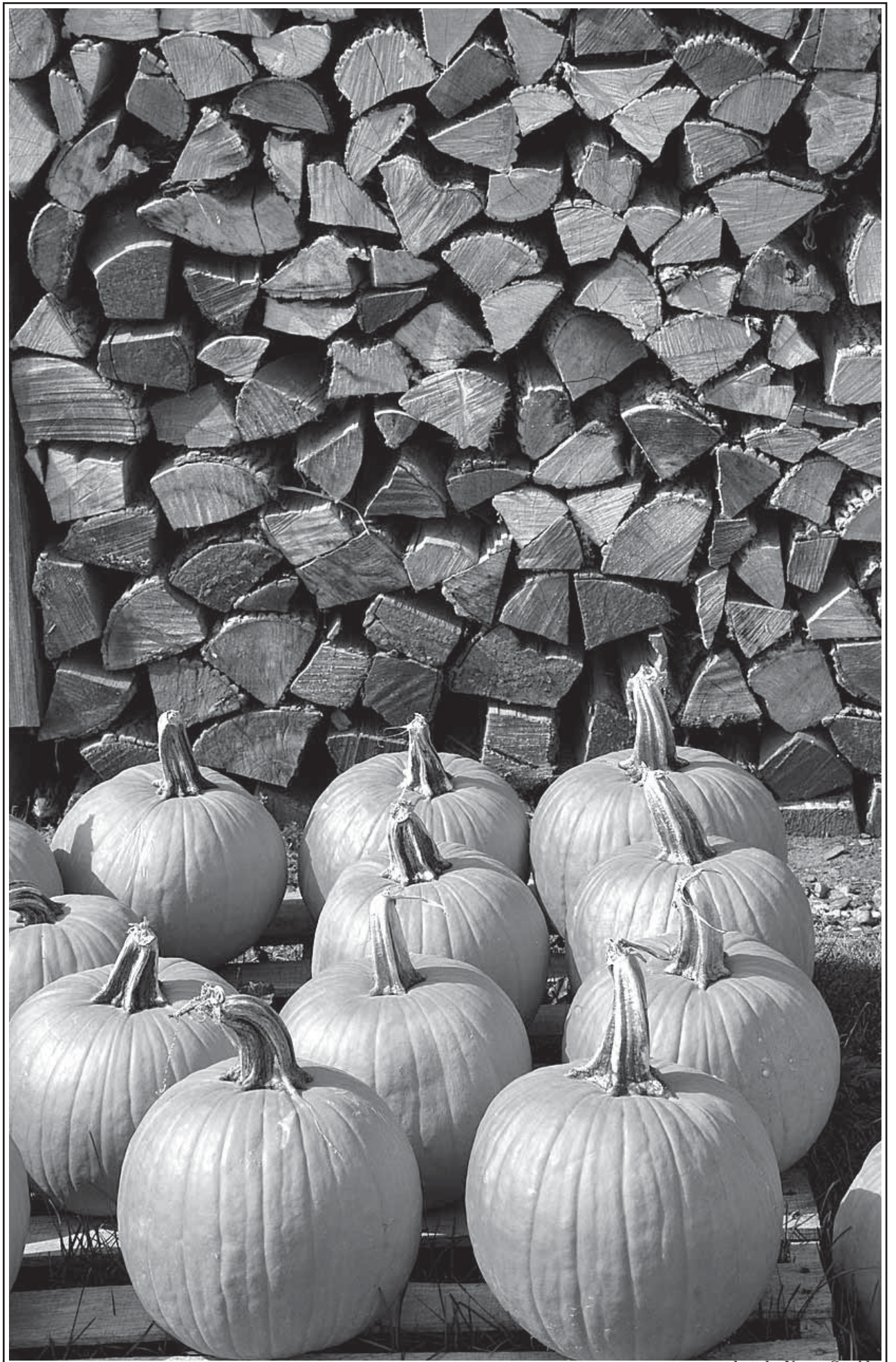
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Pumpkins and stacked wood in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

-Rachel Carson



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Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the Ongoing Activities for daily listings. Call ahead to confirm events before going.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2020

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum. The southern Vermont institution best known for housing several works by Grandma Moses. Exhibit: "Vermont Utopias: Imagining the Future". 25 contemporary artists from the region respond to the simple prompt of "What is your vision for the future of Vermont?" Runs November 27 through December 28. Face masks must be worn at all times inside the building and temperatures of each visitor will be taken. Visit the gift shop. Museum open year round Friday 1-8 pm, Saturday through Monday 1-6 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. Jamaican Food at Bennington Museum. R&D Island Taste is bringing Jamaican dishes including Jerk Chicken sandwiches on Coco bread with sweet sauce and some new spicy garlic dishes 1-6 pm every Saturday through October 24. A la carte for walk-up visitors. Entry to the museum is half price (\$6) when you purchase from R&D Island Taste. Music 3-5 pm by the North Bennington Traditional Jazz Band in the courtyard. Museum open Friday 1-8 pm, Saturday through Monday 1-6 pm. Bennington Museum 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. The Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont. Dolls and dollhouses, puppets, trucks and trains, toys, and educational displays. Museum shop. Admission is \$2 for children three and older, \$4 for adults and \$10 for families. Please wear masks inside museum. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. (802) 681-3767. www.dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Bennington Battle Monument. Free admission for ground level, observation level closed. Gift shop. Open Friday thru Monday 10 am - 5 pm. 15 Monument Circle off Rt. 9. (802) 447-0550. historicsites.vermont.gov. *Through October 31.*

BERLIN. Kids Trade and Play. Kids Clothing exchange, newborn to junior size 12. Bring what you no longer need and take home what you do. Cost: \$3/family. 9:30-11:30 am. Central Vermont Capitol City Grange, 6612 VT Rte 12. merrykaysings@gmail.com. capitalcitygrange.org. *Second Saturday of every month.*

BRADFORD. Special exhibit of rural and railroad photographs by Philip Ross Hastings. New exhibit titled "Meetings Canceled, Permanently" looks at organizations that have come and gone. Free and handicapped accessible. Every Friday 10 am - 12 noon. Also by appointment. Bradford Historical Society Museum, Third floor, Bradford Academy building, 172 N. Main St. (802) 222-4423 or (802) 222-9621. *Through October 25.*

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Wear your face mask and when you enter sanitize your hands. Maintain the six-foot social distancing. Revised opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 4 pm. Visit The Phonograph Rooms, Divine Art Records CD store, Compass Treasure Chest, Compass Farmers' Market, Bagatelles (collectables, books and gifts), Artist galleries and studios. Compass Music and Arts Center/Brandon Music, 333 Jones Dr. info@cmacvt.org. cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Presentation: From The Beginning. "Photography's Coming of Age" is part of "2020 Vision: Seeing the World Through Technology." Starting with the first photograph captured in 1827, this unique exhibition features a wide variety of photographic technologies dating from the mid-1800's to today, showcasing a timeline of cameras as well as sample photographs from each era. Noon-5 pm. Vermont Center for Photography, 49 Flat St. (802) 251-6051. vcphoto.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Retreat Farm. Animals grazing on pasture, growing food. Labyrinth garden, arts installations, walking paths and trails. Historic cow tunnel, pollinator pathway. Meadows waterfront trail. Forest playground, storybook walk. Woodlands Interpretive trail. Living sculpture, the Fiddlehead. Learn about the significance of this site to the Abenaki people. No restrooms or public facilities available. Free and open from dawn to dusk. 45 Farmhouse Square, (802) 490-2270. www.retreatfarm.org.

BURLINGTON. Exhibit: "Reckonings." Museum staff and student interns reflect on the past months of 2020 by engaging with objects from the collection. Free admission. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Rd. (802) 656-0750. fleming@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/fleming. *Through November 21.*

BURLINGTON. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. "Return of the Butterflies" opens at ECHO for a seven month exhibit run. ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, 1 College St. (802) 864-1848. www.echovermont.org.

BURLINGTON. Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. A site dedicated to the Revolutionary War hero. Outdoor tours of the Homestead include The Allen House, A recreated Abenaki Encampment, and the Heritage Garden. COVID protocols in place. Open Thursday-Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Allen Homestead Museum, 1 Ethan Allen Homestead. (802) 865-4556. ethanallenhomestead.org. *Through October 31.*

BURLINGTON. Cookie Decorating. Freshly-baked sugar cookies ready for decorating with sprinkles, frosting, sugar, and nuts. Cost: \$5 suggested donation to charitable cause. 10-11 am. Barrio Bakery, 203 N. Winooski Ave. (802) 863-8278. jessica@barriobakeryvt.com. barriobakeryvt.com.

BURLINGTON. Burlington Farmer's Market. More than 90 stands. Seasonal produce, flowers, artisan wares, prepared foods, and more. Dogs welcome on a leash. Preserves, fresh vegetables, fruits, fresh meats, cheeses, maple syrup, honey and eggs. Ethnic foods utilizing local ingredients. Crafters selling jewelry, handcrafted metal products, pottery and children's clothing. Live music and dance. Face coverings required. Every Saturday, 8:30 am - 2 pm. 345 Pine St. (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. *Through the end of October.*

CABOT. Burt's Apple Orchard. 40 varieties of pick-your-own apples. All ages allowed to pick. Farm stand with cider doughnuts, pre-picked apples, maple syrup, cider slushies, apple cider vinegar, ground beef, pumpkins, and fresh cider. Corn maze free for all customers. No dogs in orchard (service dogs allowed), but welcome in fields. 9 am - 6 pm daily. Burt's Apple Orchard, 283a Cabot Plains Rd., just a few minutes from Cabot Creamery. (802) 917-2614. burt@gmail.com. www.burtsappleorchard.com. *Until Halloween.*

CHARLOTTE. Clemmons Family Farm. 148-acre historic farm, African-American owned land and cultural heritage resource. K-12 field trips, on-farm arts engagements. Cooking classes and pop-up meals. Music, dance and theater programs for children. Art exhibits and cultural events. Book talks and literary arts events. Holistic health and healing events. Multicultural community gatherings and community service activities. Outreach to local primary schools. Family stories and storytelling that trace more than 150 years of African-American history. Guided tours of the property and historic buildings, beautiful indoor and outdoor venues to rent for meetings, retreats and special events in a working landscape. (765) 560-5445. clemmonsfamilyfarm.org.



The Farmer's Field

The branches are bare and a sodden sky
Hangs over the field where furrows lie
In long straight lines of grey black soil,
Turned, one by one, with patient toil.
In the snug warm stable munching hay
The old plow horses are tied away...
The cows are milked and the barn closed tight,
For the farmer says it will freeze to-night.

He eats his supper with a relish keen
And talks to the family in between...
"The fall's work is finished, the plowing done,

To-morrow I'll take my dog and gun
And a whole day off, if the weather is fair,
To chase the red foxes away to their lair."
Then he goes to bed for a well earned rest
And the clouds roll back from a star decked west.

Before the rising of the tardy sun
The farmer is off with his dog and gun...
A neighbor's boy his chores will do,
In fact the neighbor goes hunting too.
On the grey black furrows in the morning light
The frost lies heavy...It glistens white...
A herald of promise...The Farmer knows
He welcomes the shield of winter snows.

—ELLA WARNER FISHER
1853-1937, Vergennes, VT



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Vermont Country Calendar

COLCHESTER. Sam Mazza's Corn Maze. 1-mile and 2-mile mazes in the likeness of a 100-foot tall scarecrow, a 65-foot tall pumpkin and a 50-foot tall crow. Find 12 checkpoints within one or both mazes. Admission: adults (12+) \$8, children 11-3 \$5, under 3 free. Monday-Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. Sam Mazza's Corn Maze, 277 Lavigne Rd. (802) 655-3440. sammazza-farms.com.

CORNISH, NH. New Hampshire's only national park features sculpture exhibits, tours of the home, gardens, trails, summer concerts and events. Leashed dogs welcome. Admission: \$10, 15 and under free. Open daily 9 am - 4:30 pm. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, 139 Saint Gaudens Rd. (603) 675-2175. nps.gov/saga. *Through October 31.*

DANVILLE. Great Vermont Corn Maze. 26 acres of fun. Big maze: 3+ miles of trail, bridges, tunnel, photo ops, etc. Scenic maze: about a 40-min walk. Bring proper footwear, snacks, picnic, and allow plenty of time. Children 15 and under must have direct supervision by an adult. No pets, no smoking, no alcohol. Cost: adults \$15, children 5-15 and seniors \$10, under 4 free. Advance reservations required. Open 7 days a week by reservation only. Open 10 am, last admission 2 pm. 1404 Wheelock Rd. (802) 748-1399. info@vermontcornmaze.com. vermontcornmaze.com. *Through mid-October.*

DORSET. CSA Harvest Market. Northshire Grown Direct, a program of Merck Forest & Farmland Center. Wednesdays 3-5 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-2223. dorsettheatrefestival.org. *Wednesdays.*

DUMMERSTON. Scott Farm. PYO farm with 130 varieties of apples. Peaches, plums, pears, quince, medlars, cherries, gooseberries, nectarines, and berries. Farm store with Heirloom cider, jams, jellies, pumpkins, and pies. 10 am - 6 pm daily. Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. (802) 254-6868. scottfarmvermont.com. *Farm stand open until Thanksgiving.*

EAST MONTEPELIER. Bragg Farm Sugarhouse & Gift Shop. Maple syrup, candies & cream. Mail orders welcome by phone or on-line. For curbside pick-up call (802) 223-5757. 1005 Rt. 14. www.braggfarm.com.

EAST MONTEPELIER. Peck Farm Corn Maze. For kids 4 and up. 5-6 destinations or "rooms" to find. Most families spend 45 minutes or more in the maze; experts can complete the maze in 20 minutes or fewer. Pick-your-own pumpkin patch. Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm. Peck Farm, 750 Sibley Rd. (802) 249-1223. peckfamily-productions@gmail.com. peckfarmorchard.com. *Through October.*

FERRISBURGH. Exhibit. Mending Fences: New Works by Carol MacDonald. A multifaceted exhibition of objects, monotype prints, and site-specific installations that promotes both simple and profound acts of repair. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$8, students \$5, under 5 free. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rte 7. (802) 877-3406. info@rokeby.org. rokeby.org. *Through October 25.*

FERRISBURGH. Rokeby Museum. The Robinsons were leaders of radical abolition in Vermont. Their home in Ferrisburgh is now the Rokeby Museum. The historic home that was once part of the Civil War-era Underground Railroad is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Rokeby Museum, 4334 Rt. 7, Ferrisburgh. (802) 877-3406. www.rokeby.org. *Through October 27.*

GLOVER. Exhibit: "A Frayed Knot: the human art of tying and untying" explores everything knotty in a collection of objects and artifacts. Visitors must sign up for a two-hour slot, wear masks on the premises, and use provided hand sanitizer before and after viewing. The Museum of Everyday Life, 3482 Dry Pond Rd. museumofeverydaylife.org. *Through December 31.*

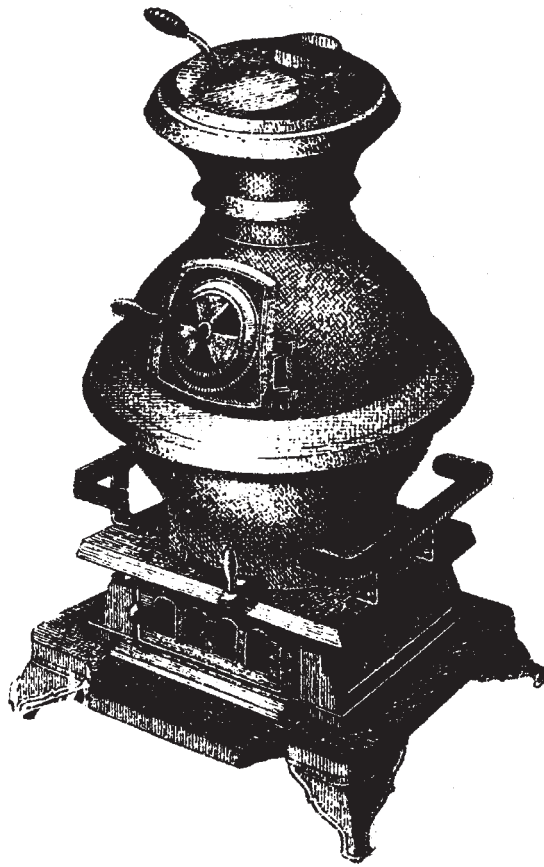
GUILFORD. Gaines Farm Corn Maze. Five-acre corn maze. Baby animal barn, hayrides, horse riding, fun games. Concession stand and picnic tables. During October haunted hayride and haunted maze at night. Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$9, under 3 free, cash only. Saturdays and Sundays 11 am - 5 pm. Gaines Farm, 6343 Coolidge Hwy. (802) 257-0409. info@gainefarm.com. www.gainefarm.com.

HARTFORD. Hartford Historical Society Museum. Tours and exhibits about the town's history, including the Abenaki nation. Free. Garipay House, 1461 Maple St. (802) 280-2221. hartfordhistory.org. *Through October.*

HINESBURG. Yates Family Orchard. 22 apple varieties. Already picked apples, plums, and pears. Farm stand with fresh pressed cider, cider donuts, orchard raw honey, orchard made jams, preserves, maple syrup, and more. 9:30 am - 6 pm. Yates Family Orchard, 1074 Davis Rd. (802) 373-7437. info@yatesfamilyorchard.com. yatesfamilyorchard.com. *Through November.*

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. The museum's 100 acres of trails are always open, and the museum is now as well. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays-Sundays. They are limiting the number of people in the building to 12, and masks are required. This year's art show is "Borders: illusions that constrain us." Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. www.birdsofvermont.org.

LEBANON, NH. After-School Youth Class: Pottery for ages 10-14, with Tyler



Morrison. Introduction to the potter's wheel, developing the fundamental skills of centering, throwing, and shaping clay. Limited to 6 students, with strict COVID-19 screening protocols. Wednesdays, 3:30-5:15 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. avagallery.org. *October 14 thru November 18.*

LEBANON, NH. After-School Youth Class: Art Adventures for ages 6-9, with Allison Zito. Discover great works of art, observe nature, and refine skills while exploring new and familiar art materials, methods, and techniques. Limited to 6 students, with strict COVID-19 screening protocols. Thursdays, 3:30-5:15 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. avagallery.org. *Through December 17.*

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Open 12-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St. (802) 228-5050, www.bramvt.org.

LYME, NH. Exhibits: "Logging in Lyme: Then and Now," vintage photos and artifacts. "Lyme Quilts—and still does," two dozen quilts spanning over 200 years. Free. Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm, other times by appointment. Lyme Historians Museum, Churchill House, 15 Main St. (603) 795-2508. lymehistorians@gmail.com.

MANCHESTER. Fall/Winter Member Exhibition, Theme: Hope, in response to the 2020 health pandemic. All artwork for sale. Entrance limited to the number allowed by current COVID-19 regulations. Social distancing, masks required. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Yester House, Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 367-1302. acrites@svac.org. svac.org. *Through January 3.*

MANCHESTER. Exhibit: "Two Sides of a Dream: Adrien Broom", a "Women Take Wilson" exhibition. Part of "2020 Vision: Seeing the World Through Technology", a statewide initiative of the Vermont Curators Group. Two of Broom's recent bodies of photographic work, Holding Space and the Color Project. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 12 noon - 5 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Dr. (802) 362-1405. svac.org. *Through November 1.*

MANCHESTER. Southern Vermont Art Center. Galleries, exhibits, classes, performances, gift shop, café, botany trail. Some exhibits free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm. Yester House Galleries, Southern Vermont Arts Center, West Rd. (802) 362-1405. svac.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene - The Lincoln Family Home and its 41-acre estate is open for the season with COVID-19 safety measures. Admission: \$23 adults, \$6 youth, under 5 no charge, and includes self-guided tours of Robert and Mary's home, the gardens, Hildene Farm, Pullman car Sunbeam, Dene Farm and about 12 miles of walking trails. It is here that Robert's famous father, Abraham Lincoln, is honored in thought-provoking exhibit, "The American Ideal: Abraham Lincoln and The Second Inaugural" which includes one of the President's bibles and one of the few of his iconic stovepipe hats in existence today. Open Thurs-Mon, 10 am - 4 pm. 1005 Hildene Rd. off Rt. 7A south of the village. (800) 578-1788. hildene.org.

MANCHESTER. Dutton's Farmstand. Apples, winter squash, pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums. Fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods, garden supplies, creemeees! 2083 Depot St. (Rts. 11/30). (802) 362-3083. duttonberryfarm.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Revolutionary/Civil War landmarks visited by Backroad Discovery Tours. For history buffs, given by local bestseller author. Over 35 sites from Bennington to Manchester. 9:30 am - 12 pm. Tour meets at black sidewalk benches in front of 21 Bonnet St. (802) 362-4997. backroaddiscovery.com. *Through November 29.*



Rupert, VT

Fall Activities at Merck Forest & Farmland

Visit the farm, venture into the forest or stay overnight in a rustic cabin or lean-to. Over thirty miles of trails for hiking. The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round. Cabin rentals are available through our online reservation system for the weekends only.

For outdoor events, please dress for the weather: sturdy shoes or boots, layered clothing, raingear.

Our certified organic pure Vermont maple syrup and other farm and forest products may be purchased at our Visitor Center or our Online Store. The Visitor Center is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; no other buildings are open to the public yet.

All access and activities are being conducted according to the regulations specified by the Vermont Department of Health, including mandatory mask-wearing, social distancing and severely restricted enrollment in our programs.

All activities and programs require certification as to COVID-19 exposure/travel history. See the website for details and to register. No walk-in registrations will be accepted.

To learn more about the details of an event that interests you, please call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836 or stop by. Advance reservations—made on a first-come first-served basis—are necessary for many events.

Autumn Event Schedule

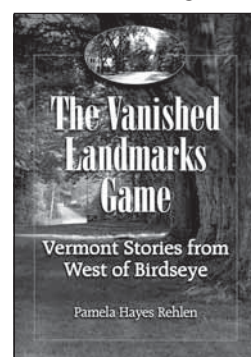
October 21. Wilderness Wednesdays. A weekly exploration of the natural world for students in grades 4-6. Students will explore the landscape and document their journey through drawing and writing in nature journals. We'll explore forests and woodland, dip in the pond, do some citizen science and collect data, all while having fun in the great outdoors. Activities align with the Next Generation Science Standards curricula. Enrollment is limited to 10 students. Session 2: October 21 & 28 and November 4 & 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Merck Forest is committed to providing a safe learning environment for students. We follow COVID guidelines issued by the American Camp Association set forth in consultation with the CDC. (For more information on the ACA Field Guide, please go to the ACA website.) For more information, email Chris at christine@merckforest.org. *Fee: \$200.*

November 14. Second Saturday Hike. A jaunt through the landscape with a knowledgeable guide—what a great way to spend the afternoon! 2-4 pm. *Cost: \$5.*

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization in the Taconic Hills of southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and the creation of recreational opportunities.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Rt. 315 in Rupert, VT. Once you reach the top of the very big hill turn into Merck Forest's driveway. If you start going back down the hill, you've gone too far. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

Captivating Stories from Castleton



The Vanished Landmarks Game Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye

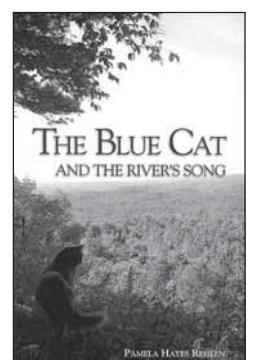
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen
\$20 (plus \$5 s&h)

Old-time and present-time people and places from west of Vermont's Birdseye Mountain. Here are their stories.

The Blue Cat And The River's Song

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen
\$17 (plus \$5 s&h)

The Blue Cat was first immortalized in an embroidered carpet from 1836, later in Catherine Coblenz' 1949 children's story, *The Blue Cat of Castle Town*. Now he returns to tell his mesmerizing tale of the past 150 years.



Order from the Castleton Village Store
P. O. Box 275, Main St., Castleton, VT 05735
(802) 468-2213 • castletonvillagestore@gmail.com
Visa, MC and AmEx accepted
Also available at a number of Vermont bookstores

Vermont Country Calendar

MANCHESTER CENTER. Backroad Discovery Tours. Guided tours for people who wish to explore the region's best-kept secrets! Ride in a 10-passenger tour vehicle. Advance reservations necessary. Tours meet in front of 21 Bonnet St. (802) 362-4997. backroaddiscovery.com.

MENDON. Mendon Mountain Orchards. Family-run motel and 26-acre heirloom apple orchard. Bakery and country store. Apple pies and cider. Mendon Mountain Orchard, 16 US Rte 4. (802) 775-5477. mendonorchards.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Farmer's Market. Local agricultural products including vegetables, fruits, plants, flowers, and CBD. 9 am – 12:30 pm. 530 Exchange St. (802) 673-4158. middleburyfarmersmkt@yahoo.com. middleburyfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through October 14 and Saturdays through October 31.*

MIDDLEBURY. Sculpture Exhibit. Five new works by three Vermont artists added to the Sheldon Museum's in-town, outdoor oasis. Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. (802) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Exhibit: 'A Sculpture Haven.' New outdoor sculptures by John Matusz, Kat Clear, and Kate Pond in the museum's garden. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org. *Through October 31.*

MIDDLEBURY. Happy Valley Orchard. Over 70 varieties of pick-your-own apples. Pumpkin picking, too. Happy Valley Orchard, 217 Quarry Rd. (802) 388-2411. happyvalleyorchard.com.

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: Show 40, featuring works by gallery members. Fridays 4-7 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 11 am – 2 pm, and by appointment. The Front, 6 Barre St. (802) 552-0877. info@thefrontvt.com. thefrontvt.com. *Through November 1.*

MONTPELIER. Mushroom Mondays with Dave Muska. Casual foray in search of all things fungi and mushrooms. Learn about fungi identification, ecology, symbioses, edibility, and life history. COVID-19 protocols observed. Maximum 10 participants. Fee: \$10. Pre-registration required. Mondays, 4-5:30 pm. North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm St. northbranchnaturecenter.org. *Every Monday in October.*

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum. Run by the Vermont Historical Society.

Open 10 am to 5 pm. Wednesdays-Saturdays. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St., Pavilion Building, Montpelier. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org/museum.

MONTPELIER. Capital City Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm. St. Johnsbury municipal parking lot behind Anthony's Diner, Pearl St. 2 Taylor St. (802) 223-2958. capitalcityfarmersmarket.com. *Through October.*

MONTPELIER. Exhibit. When Women Lead: Governor Madeline Kunin of Vermont. Explores the career of Governor Madeleine Kunin and showcases the three inaugural gowns she wore in 1985, 1987, and 1989. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Vermont History Museum, 109 State St. vermonthistory.org. *Through January 2021.*

NEWFANE. Dutton's Farmstand. Apples, winter squash, pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums. Fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods, garden supplies. 391 & 407 Rt. 30. (802) 365-4168. On Facebook. www.duttonberryfarm.com.

NO. SPRINGFIELD. Displays and exhibits about the town's history, monthly programs, and items and documents available for viewing and research. Free. Saturdays 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Route 106. (802) 886-7935. sahs@vermontel.net.

NORWICH. Norwich Farmers Market. Local vendors offering vegetables, meats, eggs, cheese, baked goods, and prepared foods. Every Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm, rain or shine. Norwich Farmers Market Grounds, 281 Route 5 South. (802) 383-7447. norwichfarmersmarket.org. *Every Saturday through the end of October.*

NORWICH. Exhibits explore Norwich's one-room schoolhouses and the history of Norwich University. Free. Wednesday-Thursday, 9 am – 12 noon, Saturdays 10 am – 12 noon. Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main St. (802) 649-0124. norwichhistory.org. *Through October.*

ONLINE. Class: Continuing Drawing, with Dan Gottsegen. Put pencil and charcoal to paper and see where you can go. Learn the basics of drawing, or push your skills to the next level. Live, via Zoom. Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center. avagallery.org. *October 21 through November 25.*

ONLINE. Vermont Jazz Center Fall Educational Semester: Rhythm Lab, Blue Note Ensemble (in-person), Ear Training Theory, Youth Jazz Ensemble, Soubrette Jazz Choir, The Bass: What to Practice and How to Practice, Latin Jazz

Ensemble (in-person), Singing the Standards, Jazz Guitar Ensemble (in-person), Jazz History, Samba Percussion Ensemble (in-person), Zoom Tunes (10/25 & 11/29 only). Vermont Jazz Center. ginger@vtjazz.org. vtjazz.org.

ONLINE. After-School Youth Class: Drawing, Painting, and Sculpting for ages 10-13, with Karl Neubauer. Figure drawing and painting, designing and building imaginative sculptures, vehicles, and houses. Live, via Zoom. Thursday, 3:30-5 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center. avagallery.org. *October 22 through December 17.*

ONLINE. "Lake Lessons," place-based, hands-on STEM and local history/ecology workshop for area schools. "History from Home," virtual tour, digital exhibition, and "Northwest Passages" podcast. Free. Saint Albans Museum. (802) 527-7933. alex@stamuseum.org. stamuseum.org.

ONLINE. 4-H at Home. University of Vermont Extension is offering a smorgasbord of programs and activities for kids of all ages with topics ranging from veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Virtual program descriptions and links at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home. Free.

ONLINE. 4-H At Home. Programs and activities for kids of all ages. Topics ranging from veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Open to 4-H members and non-4-H'ers. Links to activity sheets for various livestock species for independent learning, and resources from other states. allison.smith.2@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home.

ONLINE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra K-6 Music Education Program. SymphonyKids presents Musical Chairs: Instruments of the Orchestra. Meet aspiring young Vermont musicians, VSO musicians, and instruments that make up a symphonic orchestra. Learn about musical instruments from around the world. Free. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4 pm. vso.org. *Starting October 27 for five weeks.*

ONLINE. The Lake Champlain Digital Museum: Digital Exhibits, Virtual Shipwreck Tours, 360° Panoramas. Dig into local history in digital exhibit experiences. Dive underwater on a tour of a Lake Champlain shipwreck. High-definition 360° panoramas of some of the spaces on campus. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. (802) 475-2022. lcmmm.org.



Camping in Randolph

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Many of the weeds by the side of the highway are ropery and brown, and in the vegetable gardens we pass, swaying and dipping, pulling our Airstream on the road over Killington to Woodstock, and then up Rte. 66 to Barnard and Bethel, and, finally, to Randolph, we see tall sunflowers and golden-tasseled corn. Up close to houses drowsing in the sun, beds of purple phlox have long taken the place of day lilies.

Every Autumn my husband and I head out of state on a wedding anniversary trip in our Airstream RV, but this pandemic year it seemed wisest to find a local campground and stay home in Vermont.

Lake Champagne RV Park, running along a mountain ridge in Randolph Center, was up until the early 1960s a dairy farm. It's the next door neighbor to Vermont Technical College, and our campsite, #A30, under a stand of maples and butternuts, is adjacent to the Vermont Tech athletic fields and at the end of a long row of campsites which overlook what once must have been a dammed, pre-environmental regulations, small-lake-size, farm pond.

We pull in and find another Airstream next door. Two giant Doberman-mix black and tan dogs leisurely monitor our arrival and note our own fluffy, twelve-pound, Sparky facing them down from behind a secure truck window.

This next-door Airstream is owned by Rebecca who teaches math at Lyndon Institute, where her husband is headmaster. The two of them stay in this spot all summer. Her husband's away during the week, but she reads and bikes and walks the fearsome dogs. At night, another Lyndon couple comes up the hill from their camping spot in a little grove of trees for a cocktail hour and dinner. It all strikes me as an idyllic arrangement.

I've never known a quieter place than Lake Champagne RV Park. Rows of behemoth rigs, sedate and silent, line the hill above the pond, nearly all with ground clothes at the door, picnic tables, grills, outside chairs, and the little gardens that often go along with all-summer stays.

Mist pools in the surrounding valleys in the early mornings this time of year, and the chain of forested mountains to the west looks blue and cold, but when the sun breaks through, my husband and I round up Sparky and go for our daily walk.

Randolph Center is Morgan Horse country, and early brick houses—the kind that are possible when there is, or where there has been, wealth—face Route 66, the main street that farther down from our campground passes in front of Vermont Technical College.

The first place we come to is Floyd's General Store. We know general stores—after all, we own a general store—but anyone could quickly size up Floyd's as being in rough shape.

The Floyd family has owned this place for a long time. It



photo by John Rehlen
Pamela Hayes Rehlen walks Sparky at sunrise while vacationing at Lake Champagne Campground in Randolph Center.

was established in 1843 and has all the architectural charm of a store of that era. It presently belongs to Al Floyd, who along with his wife graduated from Vermont Tech, and who lives next door in a big yellow house that, I'm glad to see, isn't in rough shape.

Al now stays sitting behind the counter next to a 1912 cash register, wearing a pandemic-mandated, plastic face mask and watching a lot of television.

What brought his long-time family business down was The Barn, a giant, has-everything, mini-mart, next door to a McDonald's, both constructed just down the hill from Randolph Center at the off ramp to I-89.

Beyond the general store, following a barely-discernable path in the burnt, end-of-summer grass, the Institute campus begins. Vermont Tech was established in 1866 as a central-state Normal School. Now it's a 554-acre small college offering degree programs in agriculture, engineering, and nursing.

My husband and I walk through open, park-like, inter-building, spaces planted with golden glow, pale lavender cone flowers, and purple phlox. We wander between serene, nearly-deserted, Vermont Tech classrooms and dorms. Only thirty students are presently on campus.

Down the hillside, there's a space-station-style Agricultural and Environmental Lab and the Veterans Cemetery, and then a little path up through the woods to the dog walk around Lake Champagne's vast mowed fields.

We get back to find a forty-five-foot, three-bump-out, brown and cream, Newmark King Aire, Class A, Motor

Home jockeying to fit into the narrow campsite between Rebecca and us. The owners, when the Herculean chore is accomplished and they finally emerge, are a nice couple from Naples, Florida.

We meet RV nomads from Alabama, Austin Texas, and Rhode Island.

Champagne Lake has a lot of long-term campers, some in million dollar rigs, and it's not just next-door-Rebecca who's spending the summer here.

But summer is over.

The next day it's chilly and dark. When I get up, I realize there'll be no warmth, no blaze of sunlight until mid-morning. It's time to head back to Castleton.

I wish we'd come earlier in the season—I always think this way.

*Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written and lived most of her life in Castleton, Vermont. She is the author of stories, article, essays, magazine features, and of two books: **The Blue Cat and the River's Song** (\$17 plus shipping and handling) and **The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye** (\$20 plus shipping and handling) available at the Castleton Village Store, P. O. Box 275, Castleton, Vermont 05735, and at a number of Vermont booksellers. To reach the store, call (802) 468-2213.*

All back issues of these columns are available to read under the archives, usually on p. 11, at www.vermontcountry.com.

Vermont Country Calendar

ONLINE. 4-H at Home. University of Vermont Extension is offering a smorgasbord of programs and activities for kids of all ages with topics ranging from veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Free. Virtual program descriptions and links at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home.

ONLINE. Animal Scoops. University of Vermont Extension 4-H educators introduce kids to white-tailed deer on October 21; wild geese on November 4; and turkeys on November 18. One-hour sessions offered bi-weekly on Wednesday from 9-10 am. Free, pre-registration required for link to join the Zoom program. (802) 651-8343. uvm.edu/animal-scoops-reg.

ONLINE. Revels North is producing a 15-20-minute film called *The Christmas Revels: All Shall Be Well Again*, available in mid-November. The film will be available for free through local media resources such as CATV and on social media platforms such as Facebook. Revels North. (866) 556-3083. info@revelsnorth.org. vimeo.com/462416811. revelsnorth.org.

ONLINE. The Revels North Virtual Singers choral group will meet via Zoom on Monday evenings for 10 weeks. Newcomers welcome. Everyone aged 8 and up is welcome in this non-auditioned chorus (children under 12 must participate with a parent/guardian). (866) 556-3083. info@revelsnorth.org. vimeo.com/462416811. revelsnorth.org. *Through December 7.*

ONLINE. Introduction to Coding. Open to grade 6-12 students. Meet virtually with teens from throughout the country. Create a website to take action on an issue. Free. Six consecutive Thursdays, 7-8 pm. go.uvm.edu/4hworldchanger. *Through November 19.*

ONLINE. After-School Youth Class: Art Adventures for ages 6-9, with Allison Zito. Discover great works of art, observe nature, and refine skills while exploring new and familiar art materials, methods, and techniques. Live, via Zoom. Wednesdays, 3:30-5 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center. avagallery.org. *Through December 9.*

ONLINE. Annual Youth Environmental Summit (YES!), for students in Grades 6-12. Online community learning space, using FlipGrid. Workshops, keynote speeches on how to take action. Climate change, wetland restoration, recycling and waste reduction, environmental legislation, how to become a citizen scientist. Share your ideas and connect with other teens. Free, register by October 23 at uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. *October 30 through November 20.*

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Admission: adults \$5 museum only, \$8 museum & tour of homestead; children under 15 free. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. coolidgefoundation.org. *Through October 18.*

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. The Darrow family has been growing apples since 1914. Already picked or pick-your-own apples, blueberries, peaches, pumpkins, and more. Make your own cider on our demonstration press. Green Mountain Orchards, 130 West Hill Rd. Exit 4 off I-91, North on Rt. 5, left at Putney General Store, left after 1 mile on West Hill Rd., 3/4 mile on right. (802) 387-5851. mail@greentorchards.com.

PUTNEY. Putney Farmers' Market. Local produce, artisan craft goods, prepared food, and more. Covid protocols. Every Sunday, 11 am - 1 pm. 17 Carol Brown Way, across from the Putney Food Co-op, off Rt. 5. putneyfarmersmarket.org.

QUECHEE. VINS Nature Center. Outdoor exhibits are open daily with educators presenting in person. Reptile time 10:30 am every day. 11 am and 3 pm explore the natural world through the eyes of raptors. At 1:30 pm get up close and personal with VINS own raptors. COVID protocols in place. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. vinsweb.org.

RICHMOND. Richmond Farmers' Market. Fridays at 3 pm. Volunteers' Green. (802) 434-5273. richmondfarmersmarketvt.org. *Through October.*

RUTLAND. Guess Gertrude's Weight. Gertrude the Pumpkin was grown by farmers at Baird Farmand. Guess Gertrude's weight correctly and win a prize. Free. Rutland Rec Community Center, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 774-1819. rutlandrec.com. *Through October 31.*

RUTLAND. Self-Guided Event: The Great Pumpkin Story Walk. Find pages from "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" and let them lead you around the the exterior of the Community Center to... you guess it... a great pumpkin. Free. Rutland Rec Community Center, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 774-1819. colleens@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. *Through 31.*

RUTLAND. Hathaway Farm & Corn Maze. Livestock barn with Haflinger horses, Southdown sheep, and pygmy goats. Hayrides on weekends, barbeque featuring our own beef. PYO pumpkins. Book a stay at "farmstay." Admission: 12 & over \$12, 4-11 & seniors \$10, 3 & under free. 10 am - 5 pm, Saturdays until 9 pm, closed Tuesdays and inclement weather. Hathaway Farm & Corn Maze, 741 Prospect Hill Rd. (802) 775-2624. info@hathawayfarm.com. hathawayfarm.com. *Through the last weekend in October.*



RUTLAND. Call to Black Artists: We believe art has the power to transform lives and communities, and are honored to invite Black artists to submit artwork or other creations to display. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. chaffeeartcenter.org. *Through December 31.*

RUTLAND. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. COVID protocols in place. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 10 am - 12 noon and 2-4 pm. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. (802) 282-2678. info@wkmvt.org. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Farmers' Market. From farm fresh veggies and fruits to artisan cheeses, and more. Live music. Saturdays 9 am - 2 pm through October 31st, Wednesdays 3-6 pm through October 21st. In Depot Park across from Walmart. The indoor Winter Market runs Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm from November 7 through May 1 at the Farmers Food Center, 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes, Art in the Park October 10 & 11 in Main Street Park. Open Thursday & Friday 12-4 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

SHAFTSBURY. Robert Frost Stone House Museum. The house, built circa 1769, was considered historic even before the Frost period. The house sits on seven acres and still retains some of Frost's original apple trees. Admission adults \$10, seniors & students \$8, under 18 \$5, children under 10 free. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. 121 Historic Rt. 7A. (802) 447-6200. www.bennington.edu. *Through October 31.*

SHELBURNE. Shelburne Orchards. Pick your own apples along the shore of Lake Champlain. Over 80 acres of apples trees. 30 varieties of apples, peach, pears, table grapes, pumpkins, plums and sour cherries. 9 am - 5 pm daily. Shelburne Orchards, 216 Orchard Rd. (802) 985-2753. shelburneorchards.com. *Through October.*

SHOREHAM. Champlain Orchards. 250 acres of fruit trees, 115 varieties of apples, 40 heirloom cider varieties. 20 varieties of pears (Asian & European), 12 varieties of plums, and many other fruits in season. PYO apples (call for availability). 9 am - 4 pm daily. Champlain Orchards, 2955 Rt. 74W. (802) 897-2777. champlainorchards.com.

SOUTH HERO. Hackett's Orchard. Farm stand with Vermont specialty foods and produce from our gardens. Fresh cider donuts. Home-made apple pies. Kids' playground. 34 varieties of apples, fresh sweet cider, nine varieties of homemade pies, cider donuts. Vermont maple syrup, honey, Vermont products. Pumpkins, pick-your-own apples during season. Hackett's Orchard, 86 South St. (802) 372-4848. hackettsorchard.com.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial. Includes historic artifacts, films, sculptures, hiking paths and screenings of Meet the Mormons. Free. Monday-Saturday 9 am - 7 pm, Sunday 1:30-7 pm through October. 357 LDS Lane off Rt. 14. (802) 763-7742.

SPRINGFIELD. Wellwood Orchards. Pick your own apples - many varieties. Pears and plums. Pumpkins, petting zoo. Country store. Cider donuts during apple season. Direction from downtown Springfield: when you get to a true four-way traffic light, go straight through and take your next right onto Valley Street. Go about four miles. Pass Crown Point Golfing club. Take the left at the bottom of the hill onto Wellwood Orchard Road. Follow about 1/2 mile. Wellwood Orchards, 529 Wellwood Orchard Rd. (802) 263-5200. wellwoodorchards.net.

STATEWIDE. The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) is accepting applications for its Farmer Grant Program. Up to \$15,000 available per project. Grants may not be used to help start or expand farm businesses. Applications due online by 5 pm ET on November 17. candice.huber@uvm.edu. northeast-sare.org/FarmerGrant.

STATEWIDE. Vermont State Parks. Vermont has 55 developed and staffed state parks and other undeveloped state park lands. Visit our website for information and COVID precautions. (888) 409-7579. vtstateparks.com.

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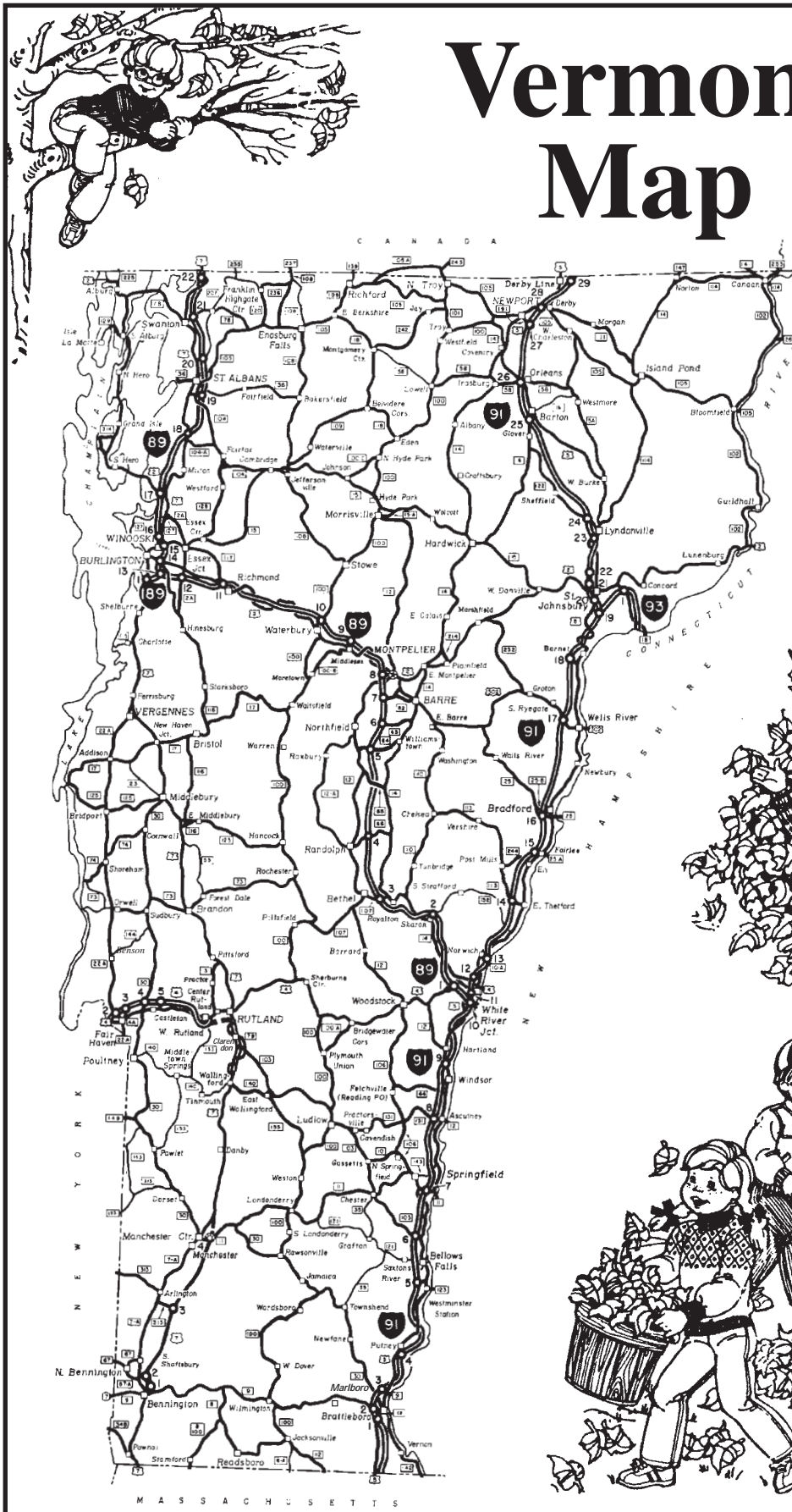
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Vermont Map



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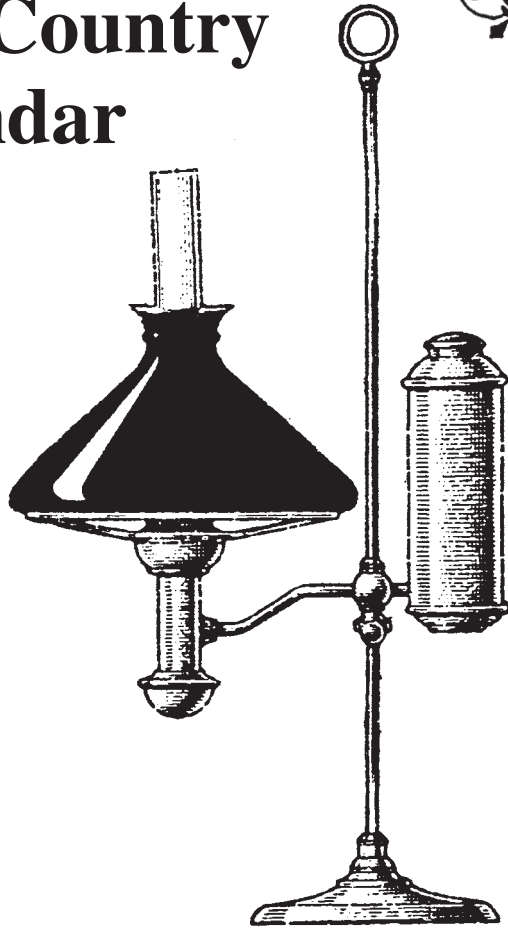


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Vermont Country Calendar



STATEWIDE. Salvation Farms. Volunteer to glean and process Vermont raised, surplus fruits and vegetables for use by vulnerable populations. Contact (802) 522-3148. info@ourfarmsourfood.org. www.salvationfarms.wordpress.com.

STATEWIDE. Kids: Become a certified Watershed Explorer. Fun activities that teach about watershed science and the Lake Champlain Basin. For grades 5-8 and upper elementary or early high school students. 11 indoor and outdoor activities with a glossary and links to additional resources. Free copies of activities booklet available at libraries and other sites throughout Vermont. watershd@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/wse-challenge.

ST. ALBANS. Northwest VT Farmer's Market. 9 am - 2 pm rain or shine. In Taylor Park. www.facebook.com/05478NorthwestFarmersMarketVT. *Saturdays through October.*

ST. ALBANS. Study History at Home. St. Albans Museum is sponsoring an on-going home study program of historical topics including agriculture, railroads, women's issues, Vermont history. St. Albans Museum, 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Exhibit. Inside Out: Hidden Art in Natural History Collections. Using x-ray technology, interior structures of natural history specimens from taxidermed mounts to seashells are revealed on the resulting radiographs. Admission: adults \$9, seniors (65+) and children (5-17) \$7, 4 and younger free. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. bharris@fairbanksmuseum.org. fairbanksmuseum.org. *Through December 31.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections, Star Space Astronomy Tours. Admission: adults \$9, seniors and children under 17 \$7, ages 4 and under free. Open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. COVID protocols in place. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Gallery open seven days a week in the summer. Dog Chapel open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Hike the trails, run and play! Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. contact@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Caledonia Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. St. Johnsbury municipal parking lot behind Anthony's Diner, Pearl St. (802) 592-3088. caledoniafarmersmarket.com. *Through October.*

STOWE. Exhibit. Dona Ann McAdams: Performative Acts. Photographs from the last forty years of the avant garde performance and queer liberation scenes in New York in the '80s and '90s. Free. Timed ticket entry only; reservations at: <https://bit.ly/hdacticket>. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. gallery@helenday.com. helenday.com. *Through December 31.*

STOWE. Exhibit. Past Perfect/ Future Tense: Mixed media works by Dorothy Simpson Krause, accomplished artist and digital arts pioneer. In-person private views, by appointment only. 571 Projects, 56 Park St. (802) 881-0418. Sophie@571Projects.com. 571Projects.com. *Through October 29.*

STOWE. Exhibit: Performative Acts. Photographs from Donna Ann McAdams' expansive oeuvre over the last forty years. Timed ticket entry only. Reserve your private viewing experience here: <https://bit.ly/hdacticket>. Helen Day Art Center, 5 School St. (802) 253-8358. helenday.com. *Through November 13.*

STOWE. Stowe Farmers' Market. Locally grown produce, handcrafted goods and handmade breads, pastries and more. New shopping procedures as a result of COVID-19. Pre-orders online encouraged. 10 am - 1 pm, rain or shine, 10-10:30 am reserved for high-risk customers. gostowe.com. *Every Sunday.*

STOWE. Percy Farm Corn Maze. Approximately 1 hour to complete. Dogs on a leash. Feed baby calves for \$0.25. Dress for the weather and wear good, comfortable walking shoes. Adults with smaller children bring a backpack or jogging stroller. Insect repellent recommended. Cost: adults \$6, children \$3. Open daily 11 am - 5 pm. Directions: from Rt. 100 in Stowe, turn onto Rt. 108 and follow until you see Percy Farm Corn Maze signs. Maze is on the left. Park in rec path parking lot, walk up path towards the Mountain. Maze just. Percy Farm, Rt. 108. (802) 371-9999. leehpercy@yahoo.com. percyfarmcornmaze.com. *Thru mid-October.*

STRAFFORD. Exhibits, including a model of the Strafford Town House. Wednesday and Saturday, 10 am - 12 noon, or by appointment. Strafford Historical Society, The Brick Store, 1 Brook Rd. (802) 765-4057. *Through October 12.*

TICONDEROGA, NY. Fort Ticonderoga National Historic Landmark. Heroic corn maze in the shape of Fort Ticonderoga: over two miles of paths in the main maze; history hints help you find your way. Log House Restaurant. Gardens and grounds, children's garden. Admission: adults \$17.50, seniors (65+) \$14, youth (5-12)

\$8, under 4 free. Fort Ticonderoga, 84 Montcalm St. (518) 585-2821. fort@fort-ticonderoga.org. fortticonderoga.org.

VERGENNES. Woodman Hill Orchard. Pick your own apples. Small, boutique orchard with lots of low branches and gently sloping terrain to accommodate pickers of all ages and abilities. Farm stand with pre-picked apples, fresh pressed cider, cider donuts, maple syrup, homemade jellies, baked goods and more. Beautiful Adirondack views. Wednesday-Sunday 10 am - 5:30 pm. Woodman Hill Orchard, 175 Plank Rd. (802) 877-6686. woodmanhillorchard.com. *Through end of October.*

VERGENNES. Youth Rowing. The Champlain Longboats youth rowing league meets March through May and September through November. Rowing teams organized by school meet after school for practice two to three times a week. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022 ext. 113. NickP@lcmm.org. lcmm.org.

VERGENNES. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Online Course. Presenting Abenaki Culture in the Classroom. Instructors: Vera Sheehan and Lina Longtoe. Music, history and archaeology, weaving, social justice issues, and heirloom plants. 8 required class sessions meet on Sunday afternoons 1-4 pm: August 30, September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25. 3 credits through Castleton University. Tuition: \$950 standard, \$1400 with credit. Presented through a partnership between the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, Abenaki Arts & Education Center and Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. (802) 475-2022. info@LCMM.org. www.lcmm.org. *Through December 15.*

WAITSFIELD. Exhibit. Triad 2020: Art During COVID. Paintings by Pam Glick, Patrick Dunfey, and Richard Jacobs explore concepts of order and disorder, chaos and structure, and work and play through fluid shapes and abstract images. 1960 modern sculptures on the grounds. By appointment. Bundy Modern, 361 Bundy Rd. (802) 777-2713. info@bundymodern.com. bundymodern.com. *Through October 18.*

WAITSFIELD. Exhibit: Triad 2020: Art During COVID-19. Large-scale new paintings by career artists Patrick Dunfey, Pam Glick, and Richard Jacobs. Gallery open anytime by appointment only; grounds only open Saturday and Sunday 12 noon - 5 pm. Bundy Modern, 361 Bundy Rd. (802) 777-2713. *Through June 25, 2021.*

WESTON. Play: An Iliad. Gripping adaptation of Homer's classic. Tickets: \$45-\$60. Friday and Saturday 7:30 pm, Saturday 2 pm, Sunday 3 pm. Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm, 705 Main St. (802) 824-5288. tickets@westonplayhouse.org. westonplayhouse.org. *Thru Oct. 18.*

WEST BRATTLEBORO. Dutton's Farmstand. Apples, winter squash, pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums. Fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Maple syrup, homemade baked goods, garden supplies. 308 Marlboro Rd. (802) 254-0254. On Facebook. duttonberryfarm.com.

WEST MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. This collection of live animals and taxidermy exhibits is open daily 10 am to 4 pm by appointment. Over 600 mounted specimens of native northeastern birds and mammals, close to 250 species are represented. The Museum houses a northeastern Mineralogy Collection, live animal exhibits and presents educational programs on-site and around the region. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, 7599 Rt. 9. (802) 464-0048. vermontmuseum.org

WINDSOR. American Precision Museum. "Shaping America," an exhibit of early machine tools and firearms. A learning lab with basic robotics and 3D printing, machine shop demonstrations, speaker series, behind-the-scenes tours and more. Admission \$5-8, families \$20, children under 6 free. Daily 10 am - 5 pm. 196 Main St. (802) 674-5781. americanprecision.org. *Through October 31.*

Useful Vermont Websites

Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
Things to Do: findandgoseek.net
Mountain Biking: vmba.org

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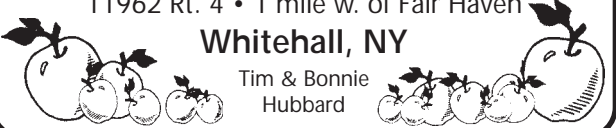
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Thursdays 3-6 pm • through Oct 22nd

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Saturdays 9 am to 2 pm beginning November 7

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Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. The Carriage Barn Visitor Center open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Roads, trails and grounds open year-round. Guided tours of the mansion \$4-\$8, 15 and under free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368. nps.gov/mabi. *Through October 31.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm House/Manor House Tour. Tour two unique homes: the 1890 Farm Manager's House and the Billings Mansion. Joint tour with the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Combination ticket required; reservations strongly recommended. 2-4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. (802) 457-3368 x 222. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Open for public onsite events as well as online. Admission \$16 adults ages 16-61, \$14 seniors ages 62 and over, \$9 students ages 16 & up, \$8 children ages 5-15, \$4 children ages 3-4. Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. 69 Old River Rd. off Rt. 12 just north of the village in Woodstock. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WORLD-WIDE. The Museum of Modern Art. Offering free in-depth online courses through Coursera, a leading online learning platform for higher education, where 56 million learners from around the world come to learn. More than 200 of the world's top universities and industry educators partner with Coursera. The Museum of Modern Art is based in New York City. www.coursera.org/moma.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

BELLOWS FALLS. An Evening with David Sedaris, one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. Tickets: orchestra \$55, balcony \$45. 7:30 pm. Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Square. (802) 748-2600. catamountarts.org.

BONDVILLE. 29029: Stratton Mountain meets Mount Everest. Base camp village with bands, bonfires, luxury tipi tents, food and drink. Epic endurance hiking challenge: Run/walk/crawl up Stratton Mountain, take the gondola down. Each hike is 1.3 miles and 1,750 vertical feet. Repeat 17 times in 36 hours until you climb 29029 feet... Everest. All day. Stratton Mountain. stratton.com. *Through October 18.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: Mount Eerie at Ruach haMaqom. Tickets: \$15. 7-11 pm. Ruach haMaqom, 168 Archibald St. eventbrite.com/e/mount-eerie-at-ruach-hamaqom-tickets-102907844132. ruachhamaqom.org.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Concert: Neko Case, live at the Higher Ground Drive-In Experience. CDC and Vermont social distancing guidelines. Tickets: \$150 per vehicle. 7 pm, doors

at 6 pm. Midway Lawn at Champlain Valley Expo, 105 Pearl St. eventbrite.com/e/neko-case-at-the-drive-in-tickets-121769974271.

MONTPELIER. Montpelier Madness. Three-day celebration of downtown Montpelier and local shopping and dining. A weekend full of great deals, amazing giveaways (like nearly \$4,000 in coupons to spend at your favorite businesses), popup entertainment, and fun surprises. montpelierlive.org. *Through October 17.*

ONLINE. Virtual Event: The Craft of Farming: Virtual Farm Tour with Stonewall Farm, Keene NH. Cost: individuals \$5, families \$10, farmers and farm workers free. 7-8 pm. pasture@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/pasture. events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eh79om1he727bf29&oseq=&c=&ch=.

ONLINE. River City Drumbeat Films. Ernie & Joe—Crisis Cops: two Texas police officers who are revolutionizing the way police respond to mental health calls. Varda by Agnès: a playful, profound and personal summation of the director's own brilliant career. Get your ticket on the Hop website and receive links and instructions to watch the film. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu/events. *Through October 21.*

ONLINE. 75-Minute Program: "Taking Back Our Economy: Reversing Inequality and Rebuilding Local Economies Post-Pandemic." Dedrick Asante-Muhammad (National Community Reinvestment Coalition), Chuck Collins (Institute for Policy Studies), and Stacy Mitchell (Institute for Local Self-Reliance) discuss concrete actions we can take to build vibrant, just, and sustainable local economies even now. Sponsored by Post Carbon Institute. 2 pm. postcarbon.org/events/taking-back-our-economy.

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: S.C. Gwynne will discuss his new book "Hymns of the Republic" about the final years of the American Civil War with Joe Donahue of WAMC/Northeast Public Radio. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: Political satirist P.J. O'Rourke will discuss his new book "A Cry from the Far Middle" with Joe Donahue of WAMC/Northeast Public Radio. Tickets: \$29-\$35. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Video with Kimberly Hagen explaining the Wool Pellet Project. Using a waste product, raw wool from sheep farmers, to create a soil amendment for vegetable growers.

Learn what happens to soil and plants treated with pelletized raw wool. youtube.com/watch?v=w15feeHgMh0. uvm.edu/pasture.

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: S.C. Gwynne will discuss his new book "Hymns of the Republic" about the final years of the American Civil War with Joe Donahue of WAMC/Northeast Public Radio. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Halloween Art Contest. Kids pre-K through 8th grade submit Halloween or fall theme artwork. Entries in any medium, paint, crayon, clay, fabric, Legos, etc. Art work will be displayed in the Arts So Wonderful window by center court. Deadline for entries: October 24. Art drop off at the Mall Management Office or Arts So Wonderful. University Mall, 155 Dorset St. (802) 863-1066. lclarke@keypointpartners.com. umallvt.com. *Through October 31.*

TOPSHAM. Mindful Outdoor Experience with Andrea Z-Covey. Practice exercises to awaken your senses as you saunter among the trees. Proper footwear and protective clothing encouraged. Bring sunscreen, a blanket or ground pad, rain gear, and a water bottle. Suggested donation: \$20. 1-3:30 pm. The Growing Peace Project, 63 Fiske Rd. eventbrite.com/e/mindful-outdoor-experience-tickets-115661728343. *Fourth Sunday of each month.*

WAITSFIELD. Exhibit: Favorite Things. Works by artists in oils, watercolors, acrylics, mosaics, printmaking, pastels, photography, glass and graphic media. Wednesday through Friday 1-5 pm. Festival Gallery at Valley Arts, 5031 Main St., #2 Village Sq. (802) 496-6682. info@valleyartsvt.com. valleyartsvt.com. *Through December 18.*

WAITSFIELD. Exhibit: Triad 2020: Art During COVID-19. Large-scale new paintings by career artists Patrick Dunfey, Pam Glick, and Richard Jacobs. Gallery open anytime by appointment only; grounds only open Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon – 5 pm. Bundy Modern, 361 Bundy Rd. (802) 777-2713. info@bundymodern.com. bundymodern.com. *Through June 25, 2021.*

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Exhibit: "Metamorphosis." Alycia Kravitz presents a collection of photographs, a meditation on the cycle of destruction and regeneration inspired by the pandemic. Free. Thursday-Saturday, 11:30 am – 5 pm. Long River Gallery, 49 South Main St. (802) 295-4567. kathy.detzer@gmail.com. longrivergallery.com. *Through November 28.*



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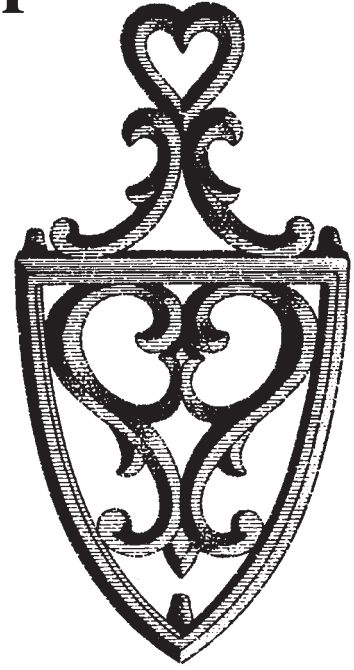
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Vermont Country Calendar



WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Pickleball Fall Season. A paddle sport for all ages and skill levels. Simple and easy to learn, can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game. New players welcome. Equipment on-site can be loaned. Ages 16+. Purchase a season pass or drop in for \$2. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6–7 pm. Maxfield Outdoor Sports Complex, 120 Leslie Dr. (802) 295-5036. hartfordvt.myrec.com. *Through October 29.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

CAMBRIDGE, NY. Performance: The Susan B. Anthony Project. In 1894, Susan B. Anthony hosted a Woman's Suffrage Convention at Hubbard Hall in Cambridge, NY. This is the story of what they did – and what they left undone. Tickets: \$25, 21 and under \$10. Friday 6 pm & 8 pm, Saturday 2 pm, 6 pm* & 8 pm* (* gala ticket holders only), Sunday 4 pm & 6 pm. Hubbard Hall, 25 East Main St. hubbardhall.org. *Through October 18.*

HUBBARDTON. Farm Walk and Picnic. See the farm, take a 1.5-mile hike, have a picnic, and say hi to the animals. Bring your own picnic, or stop in the store for a farm sandwich, seasonal salad, weekly special and dessert. Wear hiking shoes, carry out what you carry in. No dogs. No public restroom. Friday and Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday 11 am – 3 pm. Frog Hollow Farms, 924 Frog Hollow Rd. (802) 468-7975. info@froghollowvt.com. froghollowvt.com. *Through October 18.*

BURLINGTON. Concert: Pink Talking Fish Show. Hybrid tribute fusion act takes the music from Pink Floyd, The Talking Heads, and Phish and creates a special treat for fans. Tickets: \$50. 5–8 pm. The Backyard at Nectar's, 188 Main St. eventbrite.com/e/pink-talking-fish-5pm-show-the-backyard-at-nectars-tickets-121408858163.

PLYMOUTH. Yoga Retreat with Dana DeMartino and Kate Lewis. Yoga, hiking, meditation, delicious home cooked meals (all included) and so much more. Social distancing maintained as needed and masks worn when necessary. Fee: \$750. Friday 4 pm – Monday 10 am. Good Commons, 4771 Vermont 100A. (802) 774-8651. dkyogaretreats@gmail.com. goodcommons.com. *Through October 18.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. The Last Three-Day "Taste of the Fair" For This Year. Attendees can drive straight into the Midway, park, purchase their food while socially distancing in or around their car. There will be no seating. Fee \$5 per person. The many food items include taco salads, Brazilian BBQ, cotton candy, candied apples, fried foods, beverages, and more. 4-7 pm today. 11 am to 8 pm October 17 & 18. Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. www.cvexpo.org. *Also Oct. 17 & 18.*

FAIRFAX. Online Workshop: Halloween Wreath-Making. Crafty community members make cute and creepy decorations. Cost: Free; preregister. 7 pm. Fairfax Community Library, 57 Hunt St. (802) 849-2420. libraryfairfax@gmail.com. fairfaxvlibrary.org.

ONLINE. Concert: Michael Brown, pianist, playing pieces by Barber and Mendelssohn, along with an original composition. Free. 7:30 p.m. Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5007. middlebury.edu/college/arts/performing-arts-series.

ONLINE. Film Screening: Martin Eden. Adapted from a 1909 novel by Jack London, the 2019 film follows a working-class Italian man vying for a place among the literary elite. Tickets: \$12. info@vtiff.org. vtiff.org/events/martin-eden-ends-october-22. *Through October 22.*

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Phil Klay in conversation about his debut novel, *Missionaries*, with Norwich bookseller Carin Pratt. Phil Klay examines the globalization of violence through the interlocking stories of four characters and the conflicts that define their lives. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

SHELburne. Concert: The Queen's Cartoonists. Six-piece band zips through cartoon music, conjuring characters from Bugs Bunny to Bart Simpson. Bring your own chairs, blankets, and umbrellas. Social distancing and other safety measures enforced. No glass, pets, or alcohols. Tickets: adults \$35, children \$25, cash-free; credit or debit card. 7–10 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

BENNINGTON. Southern Vermont Fall HomeBrew Festival. Tents, food trucks, live music, bonfires, cider donuts, pumpkins. 12 noon – 4 pm. Old Tuttle's lot, behind the Bennington Brush Building, 190 North St. bennington.com/fallhomebrewfestival.

CAMBRIDGE, NY. Hubbard Hall Gala. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and performances of The Susan B. Anthony Project. Tickets: Honorary Committee & Gala \$200, Gala \$125, includes a performance of the Susan B. Anthony Project. 7–10 pm. Hubbard Hall, 25 East Main St. (518) 677-2495. hubbardhall.org.

CAMBRIDGE, NY. Pajama Gala for the Kids. Ages 3 and up. Pizza, dancing, movies. Kids should wear comfy clothes and bring a water bottle and sleeping bag. Space limited to 20. Cost: \$20. 6:30–9:30 pm. Hubbard Hall, 25 East Main St. (518) 677-2495. hubbardhall.org.

EAST POULTNEY. 18th Annual Horace Greeley Writers' Symposium. Writing workshops, networking, Q&A, and more. Keynote speaker: author Colleen Patatore. Registration: adults \$65, students \$20. 10 am – 3 pm. United Baptist Church. horacegreeleyfoundation.org.

EAST THETFORD. Workshop for Kids: Fire and Fairy House Building. All ages, limited to 10 participants. Fee: \$10, advance registration. 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. (802) 785-4737. julie@cedarcirclefarm.org. cedarcirclefarm.org.

HARTLAND FOUR CORNERS. Take-Out Turkey Supper. Includes roast turkey with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, coleslaw, pickles, cranberry sauce and apple crisp. Price: \$12 per meal, exact change preferred, checks made out to FUSH (First Universalist Society of Hartland). 4:30–6:30 pm. UU Church, 8 Brownsville Rd. (802) 738-0102. office@hartlanduu.org. hartlanduu.org.

MANCHESTER. Annual Pumpkin Carving and Harvest Festival, to benefit The Dorset Equine Rescue. Corn maze, live music, craft and food vendors, pumpkin craft activities, wagon rides, and much more. 10 am – 5 pm. Equinox Valley Nursery & Greenhouses, 1158 Main St. (802) 366-1300. dorsetequinerescue.org. (802) 362-2610. equinoxvalleynursery.com.



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Vermont Country Calendar

RUTLAND. Let's Get Crafty! Paper mâché, fiber art, water color, painting, all kinds of art that you can think of. Fee: \$10 for pre-registered kids, \$15 for drop-ins. 11 am – 12:30 pm. Chaffee Art Center. (802) 775-0356. chaffeeartcenter.org. *Third Saturday of every month.*

WILLISTON. Pumpkin Carving on the Green. Register to receive a pumpkin and carving kit, one pumpkin per household. Registration required. All ages welcome, children under 16 accompanied by an adult. Masks required ages 2 and up. After carving, October StoryWalk on the Green. Free. 10 am – 12 noon. Williston Library, 21 Library Ln. (802) 878-4918. williston.lib.vt.us.

ONLINE. Class. Drawing Anatomy Illustration: Basics of Humans and Other Creatures, with Christine Mix. Requirements: computer with Windows 7 & up or Mac OS X or later, internet connection, tablet or smart phone. Register by October 14. Cost: \$25. 10 am – 12 noon. Gallery at the VAULT. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

ONLINE. Concert: Streaming live from ArtsRiot, the Jukebox Quartet with music by Dame Ethyl Smyth, Carlos Simon, the Talking Heads, Bach, Beethoven, and Shostakovich. Virtual after-party with the performers. Single tickets start at \$5, pay-what-you-can sliding scale. 7:30 pm. Vermont Symphony Orchestra. (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

BENNINGTON. R&D Island Taste in the Courtyard. Authentic Jamaican Cuisine. Pre-orders welcome. Prepared dishes a la carte for walk-up visitors, cash, Zelle, or Venmo. Entry to the Museum half price when you purchase lunch or early dinner from R&D Island Taste. 1–6 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. Pre-orders: rdislandtaste@gmail.com. benningtonmuseum.org. *Every Saturday through October 24.*

RANDOLPH. Fall Staged Reading Tour: It Can't Happen Here. Sinclair Lewis's 1935 satirical novel, performed "radio drama" style in an appropriately distanced but fully live version by a BarnArts touring ensemble. All COVID-19 safety guidelines followed. Tickets: \$5–25 sliding-scale donation. Reservations strongly encouraged. 2 pm. Chandler Arts at Farr's Hill. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. www.barnarts.org.

RANDOLPH. Performance: "It Can't Happen Here." Sinclair Lewis's 1935 satirical novel, adapted for the stage. Performed "radio drama" style in a socially distanced but fully live version by a BarnArts touring ensemble. Tickets: \$5–\$25 sliding scale. 2–3:30 pm. Farr's Hill, 24 Elm St. (802) 765-4703. barnarts.org.

BARNARD. Race for Cakes 5K. Winners of the selected categories will win free breakfast vouchers to BGS. Fee: \$30. 10 am – 2 pm. Barnard General Store, 6134 VT Rte 12. eventbrite.com/e/race-for-cakes-5k-tickets-81970846007.

DERRY, NH. Drive-In Comedy Fundraiser: Celebrate Recovery with DFC, featuring Kenny Rogerson and Francis Birch. Tickets: \$75/vehicle. 2 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. (603) 437-5100. info@tupelohall.com. tupelomusichall.com.

EAST BURKE. Concert: Kat Wright. The Burlington songbird turns heads with soulful vocal stylings. Brett Hughes opens. Tickets: \$20 for patio; additional cost for balcony room. 6 pm. Burke Mountain Resort, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. (802) 626-7300. skiburke.com.

EAST THETFORD. October Harvest Weekend. Pumpkin picking, fall treats, food trucks, and educational workshops. Preregistration required for workshops. Hello Café and farmstand open every weekend, pumpkin patch open every day. Free. 9 am – 5 pm. Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center, 225 Pavillion Rd. (802) 785-4737. growing@cedarcirclefarm.org. cedarcirclefarm.org. *Every weekend through October.*

HUBBARDTON. Community Bonfire. Gather (6 feet apart of course) around the fire. Homemade smores, live music, and good ole community fun. Bring your own chairs, blankets, and drinks. Local hot apple cider and water available. Pay what you can. 7–10 pm. Frog Hollow Farms, 924 Frog Hollow Rd. (802) 468 - 7975. info@froghollowvt.com. froghollowvt.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. 2020 Komen Vermont More Than Pink Walk™, supporting survivors and those living with metastatic breast cancer in New England. Virtual Walk if it remains unsafe to walk in person. Every sign-up means another chance to change someone's life. Tickets: \$15–\$30. 7:30 am – 12:30 pm. Riley Rink at Hunter Park, 410 Hunter Park Rd. (802) 362-2733. Imaness@komennewengland.org. komennewengland.org.

WOODSTOCK. Free Dinner To Go. Barbecue chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, broccoli and dinner rolls are available for takeaway. Limited delivery available for those unable to pick up. Free; preregister. 4–6 pm. First Congregational Church of Woodstock, 36 Elm St. (802) 457-9818. fccw.net/dinnertogo.

WINOOSKI. Arabian Take-out. Take-home dishes prepared by chefs featured at the 2019 Vermont International Festival. Meal includes: Kofta, spinach rolls, oozi veggie rice & basbousa. All meat is Halal. BYO bag. Price: \$20; preregister. 4–6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410. northendstudios.org/events.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

ONLINE. 13th Annual Domino Toppling Extravaganza. Watch live online for free via Facebook Live. We are also offering a very small number of tickets for in-person socially distanced viewing. 5:30 pm. brattleboromuseum.org.

BRANDON. Phil Henry Drive-In Album Release. Socially-distanced concert with special guests Richard Ruane and Beth Duquette. Tickets: \$30 for a carful, \$40 with CD / digital copy of the album and concert poster, \$75 front row VIP parking. 2–4:30 pm. Jack McKernon Drive-In, Estabrook Field, 760 Grove St. eventbrite.com/e/phil-henry-drive-in-album-release-tickets-121585721165. Rain date: October 25.

KILLINGTON. Movie Screening: "Kiss the Ground." Documentary shows how regenerative farming techniques can provide abundant food, sink carbon into the soil, and heal landscapes. Oven-fired pizza available for purchase. Outside; bring a folding chair or remain in your vehicle. Masks and social distancing required. Suggested donation: \$5/person, \$20/family (cash or check). 4–7 pm. Mission Farm, Mission Farm Rd. (802) 422-9064. info@missionfarmvt.org. missionfarmvt.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Workshop: Dorothy Canfield Fisher in Arlington. Presented by the Bennington Historical Society. Free. 2–3 pm. Bennington Museum. benningtonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Road Trip Scavenger Hunt. Follow clues to locate 10 landmarks in Addison County. Two routes: East Middlebury to Vergennes and Orwell to Middlebury. Each route is about 2 hours, 25 miles. Picnic areas suggested, bring lunch or snacks. At each site, take your picture with the landmark, then post your photos and tag the Sheldon on Instagram or Facebook: @henrysheldonmuseum. Fee: \$10, includes both routes. Henry Sheldon Museum. (802) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: Political satirist P.J. O'Rourke will discuss his new book "A Cry from the Far Middle" with Joe Donahue of WAMC/Northeast Public Radio. Tickets: \$29–\$35. 6 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. northshire.com.

QUECHEE. Book Discussion: Pale Horse, Pale Rider, by Catherine Anne Porter. Explore the impact of pandemics through a collection of short fictional stories and two novels. Led by Suzanne Brown. Hybrid format of in-person and online. Sign up early for in-library distanced space or to receive the Zoom link. In-person event will follow all current Vermont and CDC guidelines. 4:30–5:30 pm. Quechee Library, 1957 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-1232. quecheeandwilderlibraries.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: Brother Christopher of the Monks of New Skete will be joined by Marc Goldberg, co-author of "The Art of Training Your Dog." Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

Way Back Then

East 49th Street

by Charles Sutton

When my mother was 40-years-old she surprised herself one day to discover she was pregnant. My brother and I (in our mid-teens) were equally unprepared for such news but sort of glad to learn we would be having a baby brother or sister even though our parents seemed much 'too old' for all that.

To prepare for the arrival of our sibling, Mother and Father temporarily rented the third floor apartment from mother's sister (our Aunt J) and her husband Howard, know as Big H. This was in a

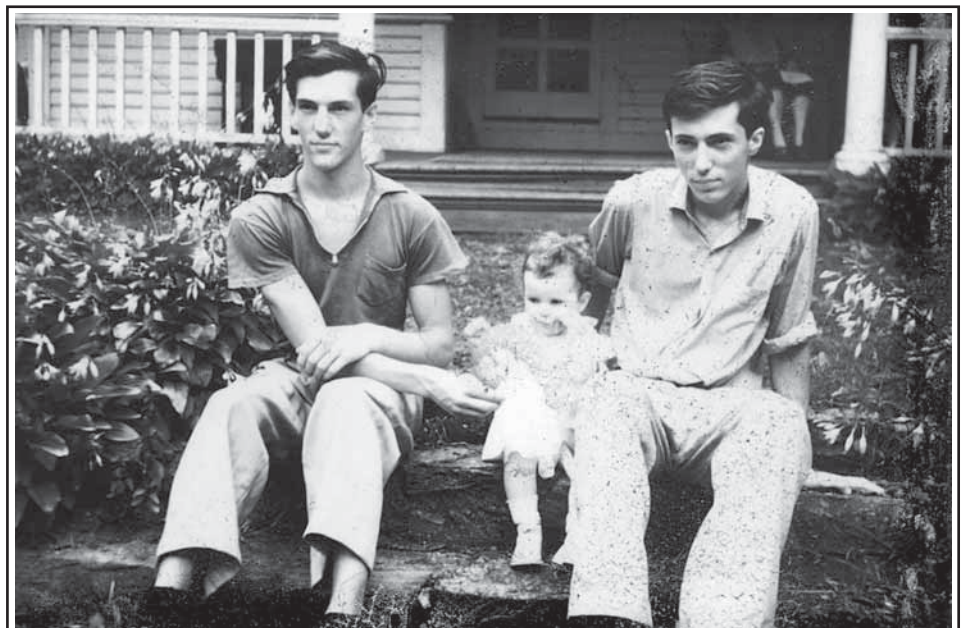
brownstone at 249 East 49th St. on the east side of Manhattan. They had purchased the building after World War II for a very reasonable price because it needed a lot of repairs and fixing up, and this was long before the area became an expensive high status place to live. The noisy Third Avenue El was running then making it a marginal area. J and Big H made rental units on the top floor and basement which they furnished from second hand shops along Second Avenue. This was on the same street

where Actress Katherine Hepburn lived and Auntie J told us she did see her co-star actor Spencer Tracey visiting there. (The twosome had a 26-year relationship.)

The brownstone's top floor was private and attractive although not too roomy. Being a third floor walk-up wasn't easy on mother in the final stages of pregnancy, so she ingeniously rigged a basket on a long rope which was lowered to the ground floor for delivery items, mail, and groceries.

My bother and I arrived at the scene for our spring vacation from boarding school. We were put up at the nearby Hotel Beekman overlooking the East River which was a treat for us from the regimen of school. Auntie J made sure we got to go to plays, musical events, museums, that kind of thing, and our father who was at work all day would take us boys out to dinner every night to a different ethnic restaurant where we could order whatever we wanted from the menu.

Our favorite place was



Fred, little sister Lisa, and brother Charles Sutton on the steps outside their home in Fairfield, CT. photo by E. Sutton

around the corner on Third Avenue, a French restaurant called Le Bistro. It had a limited menu with daily specials that included bouillabaisse (a gourmet fish stew) and cassoulet, a casserole of white beans and lamb. Tripe was always on the menu but that never tempted us brothers.

During the week we were there our sister Lisa was born at the New York Presbyterian

Hospital where we visited mother and saw our baby sister in one of those little cribs through a plate glass window. She was frowning a lot for her own personal reasons although we were told the delivery was normal. She told us later she enjoyed meeting all the younger mothers in the ward as younger people made her feel young, too.

We returned to school and saw our sister again at home

in Fairfield, CT, in mid-June. My brother and I did well helping with Lisa's care and being on-site babysitters.

Although child-raising is usually a young person's game, my parents raised Lisa with the same formula that mostly worked for us brothers: high expectations, lots of freedom, home chores, and continuing encouragement through the ups and downs of growing up.

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Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

SHARON. Baxter Cafe. Stop by for a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to meet up with friends and neighbors, check out a book and relax. Donations accepted. 9-11 am. Baxter Memorial Library, 5114 Rte 14. (802) 763-2875. sharonbaxterlibrary@gmail.com. Every Wednesday through October 28.

ONLINE. Naturalist Journeys Online Presentation Series: Turning Stones: Exploring Aquatic Invertebrates, with Declan McCabe. The talk will cover inexpensive and home-made sampling gear, and the major groups of macroinvertebrates commonly found in Vermont's streams, ponds, and Lake Champlain. Live via Zoom. Free. 7-8 pm. us02web.zoom.us/j/87917570291. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

ONLINE. Film Screening. Awake: A Dream From Standing Rock. Hard-hitting documentary brings the 2016 #NODAPL resistance movement at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation into focus. Free, donations welcome. programs@sustainablewoodstock.org. sustainablewoodstock.org. Through October 28.

ONLINE. Workshop: Plant Spirit Medicine, an Intuitive Journey with Crystal Woodling. How to notice, meet, greet, and tap into the intelligence stream of plants. Bring a cup of chamomile tea, a candle, and a small item that reminds you of a loved one. Free. 7-9:00 pm. Burlington City Hall, 149 Church St. eventbrite.com/e/plant-spirit-medicine-an-intuitive-journey-tickets-121506002725. earthstarmagic.com.

ONLINE. Reading Ourselves into Insight. Book-sharing conversation with Rokeby Museum volunteers and staff. Bring a book that explores themes of repair, racism, and history to recommend, or just join to gather titles for your winter reading. Please register in advance. Books titles discussed will be emailed to participants. Free. via zoom. 6:30 pm. Rokeby Museum. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance. A conversation between Paul Madonna, author of Come to Light, and Dartmouth Professor, Peter Orner. A gripping page-turner that weaves an intoxicating tale of love, murder, books, and art. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. virtual55@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

ONLINE. Virtual Performance on YouTube: Virtuoso mandolinist, composer and vocalist Chris Thile performs and welcomes guest singer-songwriter Aoife O'Donovan. A whimsical, genre-crossing musical performance. 8 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

LUNENBURG. Learn about goats. What you need to know before you breed that doe. This workshop will be outside, so dress appropriately. Limit 10 participants. Pre-registration required. Free. 6-7:30 pm. Auburn Star Farm 152 Auburn Star Rd. (603) 788-4961. nicholas.rowley@unh.edu. uvm.edu/pasture. extension.unh.edu/events/goat-pre-breeding-health-check-and-breeding-basics-workshop.

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: Bestselling romance author duo Christina Lauren will join us to celebrate the release of their charming new holiday romance, "In a Holiday," joined by fellow romance superstars Sarah MacLean, Kennedy Ryan and Sally Thorne. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 5:30 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: Author and historian Gretchen Sorin will discuss her book "Driving While Black," which inspired a new PBS documentary by Ric Burns. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: Author and historian Gretchen Sorin will discuss her book "Driving While Black," which inspired a new PBS documentary by Ric Burns. Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Children's Literacy Foundation Book Club. A discussion with local author Sarah Stewart Taylor about her mystery The Mountains Wild. Dig into the work of a CLiF presenter, discuss the book with new friends, ask questions, and hear directly from the author. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

ONLINE. River City Drumbeat Films. River City Drumbeat: powerful story of a beloved after-school drum

corp in Louisville, KY; Q&A follows. The Dark Divide: a grieving butterfly expert embarks on a dangerous trek in search of a new species. Get your ticket on the Hop website and receive links and instructions to watch the film. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.box@dartmouth.edu. hop.dartmouth.edu/events. Through October 28.

MILTON. Afternoon Teas at the Milton Artists' Guild. Create, learn about, and display art. Snacks, tea, board games, and community. Free. 1-3 pm. Milton Artists' Guild Art Center & Gallery, 199 U.S. Rte 7. miltonartistsguild.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Concert: Jack Harlow, Guapdad 4000. Tickets: \$17 advance, \$20 day of show. 7:30 pm. doors at 7 pm. Higher Ground Ballroom, 1214 Williston Rd. eventbrite.com/e/jack-harlow-tickets-90635165219. jackharlow.us.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Not-so-scary Night Hike. Dress for the weather and bring a headlamp or flashlight. Please leave pets at home. Free. 6:30-7:30 pm. Meet at the trailhead in the dirt parking lot for Wheeler Nature Park (adjacent to the entrance to Veterans Memorial). Wheeler House, 1100 Dorset St. (802) 652-7080. sburlcomlib.com.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Fall Antique Expo and Craft Show. Unique gifts and decorative items. Established antique and vintage collectible dealers and individual sellers. Champlain Valley Exposition. (802) 878-5545. info@cvexpo.org. cvexpo.org/fall-antique-expo-and-craft-show. Through October 25.

ONLINE. Concert: Arnaud Sussmann. The celebrated violinist captivates audience members with his interpretations of works by Bach and Chausson. Free. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5007. middlebury.edu/college/arts/performing-arts-series.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Big Blue Express Not So Scary Halloween Train Ride. Only family members and friends may sit together. Train cars disinfected every half hour. Hand sanitizer stations. Masks highly recommended, stay 6 feet apart. Cost: \$5 advance, \$10 at the door. 12 noon - 7 pm. University Mall, 1100 Dorset St. (802) 343-3302. Parties@TheBigBlueTrunk.com. TheBigBlueTrunk.com. Through October 31.

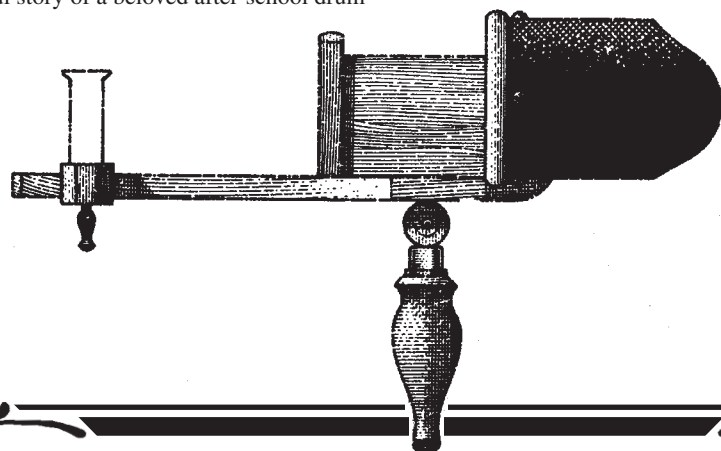
BRATTLEBORO. Fall Staged Reading Tour: It Can't Happen Here. Sinclair Lewis's 1935 satirical novel, performed "radio drama" style in an appropriately distanced but fully live version by a BarnArts touring ensemble. All COVID-19 safety guidelines followed. Tickets: \$5-25 sliding-scale donation. Reservations strongly encouraged. 2 pm. Rotary Theater at Living Memorial Park. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. barnarts.org.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Wellness Workshops. At 2:30-4 pm, yoga and body wellness teacher Sylvie Desautels offers "Loose As A Goose" with some easy yogic moves. At 4:10-5:30 pm a program called "Stress Release in a Time of COVID," an acupuncture based stress reduction activity. At 5:40-7 pm, "Five Herbal Allies for Autumn" workshop featuring western herbalism and traditional Chinese medicine. BALE - Building A Local Economy, 36 S. Windsor St. (802) 498-8438. balevt.org. Also, 9 am-noon November 13.

SO. ROYALTON. Weatherization Workshop. Sustainable Woodstock's "Green Drinks" monthly program features home weatherization with Efficiency Vermont's Becca White. Bill Neukomm executive director of COVER home repair, will present local options for weatherization. 5:30-6:30 pm. BALE 36 S. Windsor St. (802) 498-8438. balevt.org. Also, 9 am-noon November 13.

STATEWIDE. Youth Deer Reporting. Youth and novice hunters are asked to bring their deer to one of 17 biological reporting stations today and Oct. 24th between 9 am and 7 pm to help wildlife biologists gather data on Vermont's deer population. For a list of a site near you, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

WILDER. Guided Town Tour. Sandy Gmur, Vital Communities' valley quest coordinator and Roy Black, lifelong Wilder resident and a member of the Hartford Historical Society, will lead a guided exploration of the village. Learn about old buildings from the 1890s and early 1900s that housed worker at a former paper mill on the Connecticut River. All welcome 1-3 pm. Meet at Datamann, 1994 Hartford Ave. Register hartfordvt.myrec.com. (802)295-5036.



October

The weird October nights have come,
And all along the way
The goldenrod of yesterday
Has turned to drifting gray.
The yellow leaves are shivering down,
The katydids are still.
The wind, behind a scud of rain,
Brings down from Berry Hill
The lonely cry of some small bird
Whose breast is filled with grief
For children that have clapped their wings
And danced upon a leaf
And gone to where she cannot say—
And it is ever so
At this weird time of yellow leaves
And browning golden glow.



—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
1876-1970, Springfield, VT



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Vermont Country Calendar

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

BENNINGTON. "Music at the Museum." Concert 11 am to 12:30 pm played on historic instruments by Seven Country musicians. Performance also live-streamed. From 1-6 pm, R&D Island Taste serves Jamaican food including oxtail soup, spicy jerk chicken, goat curry and ginger beer. Popular local DJ "Dr. Paine" provides upbeat ska, reggae, and other dancehall favorites. From 3-5 pm The North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show has season closing reception with tour of 20 sculptures, artists present, refreshments. Attendees must wear a face covering over the nose and mouth, and maintain appropriate social distance. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. info@benningtonmuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Jazz quartet concert. Vincent Herring, a highly regarded alto saxophonist involved in today's jazz scene, will perform with his working quartet in a tribute to jazz legend Charlie Parker at the Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. The free concert will be live streamed at 8 pm. on VJC's website - www.vtjazz.org. (802) 254-9088.

BRATTLEBORO. New Exhibits. Figuration Never Died: New York Painterly Painting, 1950-1970, curated by Karen Wilkin and featuring work by ten artists of the mid-20th century. Also, large-format photographs of Vermont ice shanties accompanied by audio recordings of ice fishermen. And IMAGE: Grace Hartigan, Giftwares (1955), oil and charcoal on canvas from Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org

BURLINGTON. Halloween Howl Hayrides. Haunted hayride through the North Beach Campground. Spectacular spooks, creeps, fun scenes and performances. Register online in a specific time slot to attend. Cost: \$5/family, maximum of 6 people. 2-6 pm. North Beach Campground. (802) 864-0123. enjoyburlington.com.

HARTFORD. Biking Skills. A one-day clinic in women's mountain biking fundamentals to ride novice terrain with roots, rocks, tight corners, trees and steep sections. Also, improve your riding technique and learn new tips for getting over obstacles, crossing bridges, improving speed and safety in corners. 9 am-12 p.m., Hartford Town Forest. Register hartfordvt.myrec.com. (802) 295-5036.

QUECHEE. Hoots & Howls. Family-friendly, non-scary guided tour. Puppets, storyteller, science station, nature skit. Forest canopy

walk illuminated by jack-o-lanterns. Groups limited to 12 participants. Tickets: adults \$12.50, youth & seniors \$10.50, 3 & under free. 5:30-8 pm. Tours depart every 10-minutes; arrive 10 minutes early to check in. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. (802) 359-5000. education@vinsweb.org. vinsweb.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop at VAULT. Drawing perspective basics with Christine Mix. A 2-hour ZOOM class 10 to 12 am. Learn perspective skills from the world of fine art, architecture, landscapes, and illustration. Create your own landscape-be it country, city, or seascape. \$25. Materials list provided. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org

STATEWIDE. More Than Pink Walk. Virtual event allows anyone, anywhere to register for free and plan to #WalkWhereYouAre. Additionally, Komen New England is planning an online event day. Register at komennewengland.org/walk/vermont. No fee but donations appreciated for Komen's breast cancer research and patient support efforts." (877) GO KOMEN. ww5.komen.org/social.

STATEWIDE. World Fish Migration Day. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, along with several local, state and federal conservation partners, will celebrate World Fish Migration with in-person and online activities to raise awareness about fish migration and commemorate free flowing rivers. Visit the Camp Winooski Dam removal site on Bull Run, a tributary to the Dog River in Northfield, and see a stream restoration project happening. Also, an Agents of Discovery digital scavenger hunt and three educational videos will showcase the migrating fish at the dam, native sea lamprey and American shad in the Connecticut River, and brook, brown and rainbow trout in Bull Run in Northfield. oskiriver.org. Also, www.vtfishandwildlife.com. Also, October 28.

BURLINGTON. Fifth & Final Annual Trumpkin Smashing & Witch-In. Dressed as their most powerful, feminist selves, activists ward off forces of evil and patriarchy. Wear a mask. Free. 2-3 pm. Top of Church St., 2 Church St. (802) 324-3875. facebook.com/events/2638946906347167.

ONLINE. More Than Pink Walk. 9 am Opening ceremony. 9:30 am #WalkWhereYouAre: Walk wherever you're able to socially distance. 11:30 am - 1 pm Mid-day mission: Hear from experts about the disparities that women of color face, breast cancer during COVID, and the importance of patient navigation. 5 pm Finish line celebration. (802) 362-2733. lmaness@komennewengland.org. komennewengland.org.

WOODSTOCK. Performance: "It Can't Happen Here." Sinclair Lewis's 1935 satirical novel, adapted for the stage. Performed "radio drama" style in a socially distanced but fully live version by a BarnArts touring ensemble. Tickets: \$5-\$25 sliding scale. 2-3:30 pm. East End Park, 54 Maxham Meadow Way. (802) 765-4703. jschley@sover.net. barn arts.org.

WARDSBORO. 18th Annual Gilfeather Turnip Festival. Gilfeather turnip soup and turnip recipe tastings at the Turnip Café. Outdoor soup kiosk, farmers' market, craft vendors, 1000+ lbs of turnip, turnip seeds. Turnip festival tee shirts, turnip-theme gifts, and more. Awards for the largest Gilfeather turnip and most creative name—enter yours to win. Rain or shine. Free admission, parking: \$5 donation. 10 am - 3 pm. Main Street and Town Hall. (802) 896-3416. friendsofwardsborolib.org/turnip-fest.

PROCTOR. Wilson Castle Restoration Extravaganza. Explore and photograph this beautiful property. Two photo workshops with Jason Baker, 1-3 pm or 3-5 pm, 10 spots per session. Experience tools and techniques used in ghost hunting. Bring a sleeping bag/air mattress. Local accommodations available. Light refreshments and pizza, no alcohol permitted. Tickets: \$50-\$125. Saturday 7 pm - Sunday 10 am. Wilson Castle, 2970 West Proctor Rd. eventbrite.com/e/wilson-castle-restoration-extravaganza-tickets-119830541375. Through October 25.

RUTLAND. RACS Craft Market. Local crafters, vendors, and home-based businesses. Paintings and painted furniture, clothing, candles, wrought iron, jewelry, masks, soaps & lotions, goat milk products, handmade toys, wreaths, wire and resin crafts, and more. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St. (802) 775-0709. kpczobut@racsonline.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Community Pumpkin Carving. Free, bring a pumpkin to carve. Tools, spooky music and supplies provided. 12 noon - 2 pm. South Burlington City Hall!, 575 Dorset St. (802) 846-4108. southburlingtonvt.gov/recreation.php.

ST. ALBANS. Spooky Saturday: Family-friendly Halloween Activities in Downtown St. Albans. COVID-safe event in Taylor Park. Trunk-or-treat, pumpkin-carving contest, costume contest, scary stories. Free tickets available to reserve your time and spread out the crowd. 12 noon - 3 pm. 9 Church St. (802) 527-7933. downtownsaintalbans.com.

The Christmas Revels Comes to Your Home this Holiday Season

The Christmas Revels, one of the region's most unique and popular holiday traditions since 1975, enjoyed a new beginning in 2019 with its move to Lebanon Opera House. "An English Celebration of the Winter Solstice" was enthusiastically received both by longtime Revels audiences and those seeing the show for the first time.

Revels North, the nonprofit performing arts organization that produces The Christmas Revels, was eagerly anticipating the follow-up to the debut production in its new home, but COVID-19 has forced them to change plans, as it has for every performing arts organization across the country. They canceled December's live Christmas Revels production. The good news is they have turned this challenge into an exciting opportunity, both for Revels North and its audience.

Revels North is producing a short film called *The Christmas Revels: All Shall Be Well Again*, available to the public starting in mid-November. This film will keep the annual Christmas Revels tradition alive for Revels North's audience by creating a surprising, entertaining, and safe alternative to the live production.

The Christmas Revels: All Shall Be Well Again will be released to the public in mid-November, with scheduled free viewings possible on New Hampshire and Vermont community television stations, including 15 November and December broadcasts on CATV starting Thanksgiving Day. Revels North will also hold several free Facebook "Watch Party" viewings of the film in November and December. With many families feeling severe financial hardship due to



COVID-19, creating free opportunities to view The Christmas Revels will help bring joy to everyone's holidays. Paid streaming is also expected to be available to the public.

This production has been led by Nils Fredland, Revels North artistic director since 2015, and Josiah Proietti, long-time Christmas Revels performer and stage director since 2015.

SALT Project, a small three-time Emmy-award winning non-profit film production company dedicated to the craft of visual storytelling based in Keene, NH, has managed the project. Since 2008, SALT Project has specialized in short films and animation that "help the world catch a glimpse of who you are and what you do."

One of the stars of the film is a marionette named "Jack," designed and brought to life by No Strings Marionette Company of Randolph, VT. A trailer for The Christmas Revels: All Shall Be Well Again introducing Jack to the world can be found on the Revels North website.

Jane Boxall, a percussionist based in Vermont, and Alex Cumming, a music arranger and accordion player based in Massachusetts, contribute to the film's soundtrack. Each musician was a featured guest artist in the 2019 production of The Christmas Revels at Lebanon Opera House.

Local participation is at the core of every Christmas Revels, and this year's film will be no exception. Revels North invited recent chorus participants to add their voices to the

film, one socially distanced vocal track at a time. The initial response within the Revels North community to news about this film has been wildly enthusiastic.

With potential audiences not limited this year by geography, calendar, or price, they see potential for this film to be viewed by more people than any Revels North production of The Christmas Revels in its history. The shortness of the film, the inclusion of SALT Project's nuanced animation and No Strings Marionette Company's magical artistry, and the opportunity for free viewings will appeal to people who have never attended The Christmas Revels before and want to get a sense of why it has been a regional event for 45 years. Revels North's hope is that this film itself becomes an annual holiday tradition for Vermont and New Hampshire families.

Revels North is grateful to Mascoma Bank for underwriting this project, as well as to dozens of individual donors without whom the film would not have been possible.

Revels North is a non-profit arts organization providing year-round, multi-generational programming that celebrates the power of traditional song, dance, storytelling and ritual.

You can learn more about Revels North, *The Christmas Revels: All Shall Be Well Again*, and the remarkable artists whose work will bring the traditions of *The Christmas Revels* to life on film, at the Revels North website: www.revelsnorth.org

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Vermont Country Calendar

WINOOSKI. Ethiopian/Eritrean Take-out. Menu includes: doro alicha, yemesser alicha, gomen, dinsh wat, rice and injera. BYO bag. Price: \$20; preregister. 4–6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410, ext. 21. northendstudios.org/events.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

DERRY, NH. Drive-In Concert: Jorma Kaukonen, one of the leading practitioners and teachers of finger-style guitar. Tickets: \$75/vehicle. 12 noon and 3 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. (603) 437-5100. tupelomusichall.com.

BARRE. Exhibit: 'Rock Solid XX.' Annual stone sculpture exhibit: sculptures and assemblages by area artists, and other work depicting the qualities of stone. Take the Art Stroll around downtown Barre to view a variety of sculptures created from granite. Tuesday–Friday 11 am – 5 pm, Saturday 12 noon – 4 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. studioplacarts.com. Through October 30.

BENNINGTON. In-Person Workshop for pre-schoolers and caregivers: Museum ABCs—What's your favorite? Free. 1:30–2:30 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. benningtonmuseum.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibit: Brent Birnbaum & Christin Ripley. Mixed-media assemblages consisting of deconstructed board games, and hand-painted textiles, respectively. Gallery open by appointment, masks required. Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. (802) 251-5130. epsilonspires.org. Through November 6.

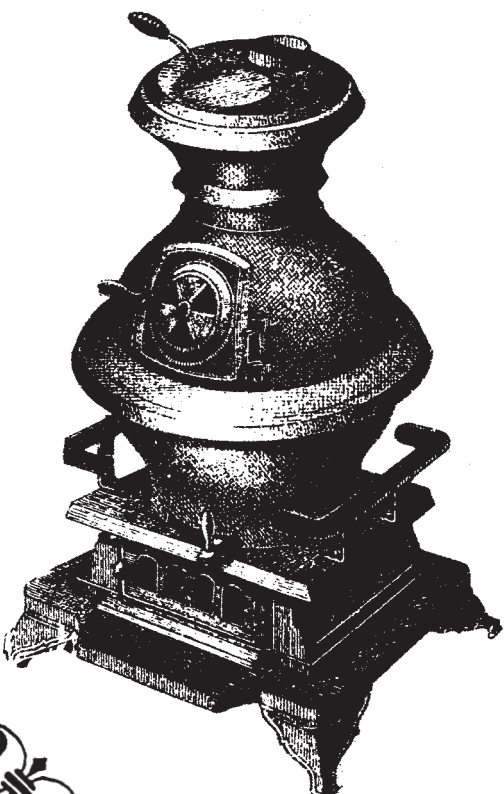
BURLINGTON. Exhibit. Intervention: Toward an Anti-Racist, Anti-Imperialist, Anti-Colonialist African and Ancient Egyptian Gallery. New labels and quotes acknowledging legacies of colonial collecting and scholarship, in advance of a reinstallation of these collections in a new anti-racist, anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist gallery. Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm. Free admission. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Rd. (802) 656-0750. fleming@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/fleming. Through May 14, 2021.

CLAREMONT, NH. Art Packs: Music and supplies to create from home, and to learn along with upcoming workshops. Boxes provided for free/scholarship to those who opt in, or can be purchased at cost. First box will include basic art supplies, a bag to store supplies, a music drive/CDs, a specially selected book, and other fun surprises. West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts. (802) 738-0022. wcc-ma.org.

GLOVER. Exhibit: A Frayed Knot: The human art of tying and untying. Collection of objects and artifacts explores everything knotty. Sign up for a two-hour slot at museumofeverydaylife.org, wear masks on the premises, and use provided hand sanitizer before and after viewing. The Museum of Everyday Life, 3482 Dry Pond Rd. museumofeverydaylife.org. Through December 31.

GREENSBORO. Exhibit: A Critical Balance. Eight New England artists have gathered to paint and exhibit species listed as endangered. Several pieces focus on Vermont species. 11 am – 4 pm daily. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St. (802) 533-2000. boxoffice@highlandartsvt.org. highlandartsvt.org. Through November 22.

MANCHESTER. Exhibit: "Many Voices." The paradoxical story of the black Pullman porters. On the platform of Hildene's restored 1903 Pullman palace railcar, Sunbeam. Part of the Vermont Curator's Group statewide initiative "2020 Vision: Reflecting on a World-Changing Year." Thursdays, 10 am – 4 pm. Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, 1005 Hildene Rd. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. hildene.org. Through September 16, 2021.



ONLINE. Art Experiences: Virtual content created by artists. Short video clips featuring Music, Art, Dance, Theater, Culinary Arts, and Crafts, plus activities to try at home. ArtEx students will gather together virtually (or in-person when possible), to discuss and explore the arts. Digital meet-ups with artists, master classes, workshops, WCCMA concerts. Access to Art Packs, instrument loan programs, and YAE scholarship opportunities. West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts. (802) 738-0022. wcc-ma.org/artex.

ONLINE. Class: Watercolor: This Way and That, with Margaret Dwyer. Learn about traditional techniques such as wet on wet, wet on dry, charging, and glazing. This class will open your eyes to new ways of starting and finishing a watercolor painting. Live, via Zoom. 10 am – 12:30 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center. avagallery.org. Also Oct 22.

PUTNEY. Yellow Barn Patio Noise. Artistic director Seth Knopp hosts weekly conversations centered on this past summer's musical programs, delving into what listeners can learn from making music under current circumstances. Free; preregister; limited space. Tuesdays, 4:30-5:45 pm. (802) 387-6637. yellowbarn.org. Through October 27.

RUTLAND. Halloween Fun Run. This run takes you through campus and is stroller and pet friendly. Participants required to wear masks before and after the race, and encouraged to dress in the spirit of Halloween. Prizes for best costume. Pre-registration required. Free. Rutland Rec Community Center, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 774-1819. colleens@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. October 17 through 31.

RUTLAND. Spooky Nature Scavenger Hunt. Take a walk through the trails at the Rutland Rec Community Center for a nature-based scavenger hunt! Bring your camera. Surprise at the end of the trail. Free. Rutland Rec Community Center, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 774-1819. colleens@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com. October 26 through 30.

SOUTH HERO. The Tasting Room. Lots of outdoor seating available. Tastings per the Vermont Governors lifted regulations. Curbside pick-up also. Wine by the glass. Vineyard open: walk on trails up Fox Hill during business hours. Wash your hands before you come and we recommend wearing a mask. 11 am – 5 pm. The Tasting Room, 190 West Shore Rd. (802) 372-9463. snowfarm.com.

SOUTH POMFRET. Group Exhibit: Local Color 2020. Local artists' interpretations of the many pleasures and colors of Autumn. Paintings, photography, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics. 11 am – 5 pm. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd. (802) 457-3500. design@artistreevt.org. artistreevt.org. October 2 through November 7.

WAITSFIELD. Exhibit. Triad 2020: Art During COVID. Paintings by Pam Glick, Patrick Dunfey, and Richard Jacobs explore concepts of order and disorder, chaos and structure, and work and play through fluid shapes and abstract images. 1960 modern sculptures on the grounds. By appointment. Bundy Modern, 361 Bundy Rd. (802) 777-2713. info@bundymodern.com. bundymodern.com. Through October 18.

WARREN. Vermonter Days. Play a round of golf for \$50 with a valid VT photo ID on Tuesdays this season, cart included. Reserve your tee time online. Please review our latest safety guidelines and procedures. Sugarbush Resort Golf Club, 102 Forest Dr. 800-53-SUGAR. sugarbush.com. Every Tuesday.

WEST LEBANON, NH. Outdoor Library at the Kilton Green Space. Use our laptops, print documents, and enjoy the space. Librarians available for your questions and happy to help. Free. 1–5 pm. Kilton Public Library, 80 Main St. (603) 298-8544. celeste.pfeiffer@leblibrary.com. leblibrary.com. Every Thursday and Friday.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. One-Woman Show: "It's Fine, I'm Fine." Stephanie Everett comes to grips with her new normal after four career-ending concussions as a varsity soccer player at Dartmouth. Tickets: \$19–\$45, students \$19, EBT cardholders \$5, advance registration. Tuesday–Saturday 7:30 pm, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 2 pm. Also available to stream October 22 – November 29. Northern Stage, 5 South Main St. (802) 296-7000. boxoffice@northernstage.org. northernstage.org. Through October 25.

WOODSTOCK. Market on the Green. Deep Meadow Farm, Ana's Empanadas and Wild Hart Distillery are among the local producers to set up shop at this weekly marketplace. Wednesdays, 3–6 pm. Woodstock Village Green, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3555. woodstockvt.com/the-town/blog/farmers-markets-2020. Through October 14.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Fall Staged Reading Tour: It Can't Happen Here. Sinclair Lewis's 1935 satirical novel, performed "radio drama" style in an appropriately distanced but fully live version by a BarnArts touring ensemble. All COVID-19 safety guidelines followed. Tickets: \$5–25 sliding-scale donation. Reservations strongly encouraged. 2 pm. Lyman Point Park. (802) 234-1645. barnarts.org.

FERRISBURGH. Closing Reception of Carol MacDonald's exhibit, Mending Fences. To maintain social distancing pre-registration is required. Tickets: \$5. 2–4 pm. Rokeby Museum Education Center, 4334 Route 7. (802) 877-3406. rokeby.org.



Statewide

Vermont Virtual Gardening Conference Coming Nov 5-6

Gardeners of all abilities are invited to participate in a virtual statewide gardening conference, November 5-6. The theme for the conference, sponsored by the University of Vermont (UVM), is "Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our Soil, Seeds, Habitats and Communities". Sessions will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on both days via Zoom.

The conference opens with a presentation by Sylvia Davatz, an organic gardener from Hartland, VT, who describes her research, including trials on seed varieties suitable for Northeast climates, and explains the steps to saving home garden seeds. Davatz is the founder of Solstice Seeds and a member of the Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa, and ProSpecieRara, the Swiss seed savers' organization.

Gardeners also will hear from Cat Buxton, a UVM Extension Master Composter from Sharon, VT, and Natasha Duarte, director of the Composting Association of Vermont, on soil health and composting. The second day includes talks by Dan Jaffe Wilder, a horticulturalist, propagator and staff photographer for the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson, MA, and award-winning novelist and Harvard professor Jamaica Kincaid.

The \$40 fee provides access to the live sessions and archived recordings of the conference. Partial scholarships are available for Vermonters.

To register, visit go.uvm.edu/mastergardenerstateconference. Registrations will be accepted until November 3 at 11:45 p.m.



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Vermont Country Calendar

SHELburne. Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treating. Mask up and maintain appropriate distancing along the Parade route. Floats from local Boy Scout and Girl Scout units, vehicles from rescue, fire, and police agencies, vehicles and floats from local community groups. No post-Parade activities (food, contests, etc.). Free. 2-4:30 pm. 97 Falls Rd. (802) 448-0118. rfox@foxlavt.com. shelburnevt.org.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Land as Commons. Kali Akuno, co-founder and co-director of Cooperation Jackson (a network of worker cooperatives) and George Monbiot, author, Guardian columnist, and environmental campaigner address the topic "Land as Commons: Building the New Economy." 1-4 pm. The topic is land access, the problems generated by a concentration of ownership, and ways of creating a more fair and equitable system. Free. BALE - 36 S. Windsor St. (802) 498-8438. balevt.org. Also, 9 am-noon November 13.

STRATTON. Kidding Around Yoga Family Class. Classic yoga, meditation, breath work, and stress-management in a kid-friendly style with original music, games, and imaginative stories. Mats to borrow, but bring your own if you have. All ages welcome. Free. 2-3 pm. Kidding Around Yoga, Stratton Mountain Resort. stratton.com.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Performance: "It Can't Happen Here." Sinclair Lewis's 1935 satirical novel, adapted for the stage. Performed "radio drama" style in a socially distanced but fully live version by a BarnArts touring ensemble. Tickets: \$5-\$25 sliding scale. 2-3:30 pm. Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St. (802) 765-4703. jschley@sover.net. barnarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Family Halloween. Socially-distancing Halloween fun for all ages. Pumpkin bowling, hayrides, costume contest and parade, cider pressing demonstrations, spiderweb craft. Cost: children in costume free when accompanied by an adult; adults pay regular admission fee. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

BURLINGTON. Public Skating. Sign up for an hour of fun on the ice. Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing must be maintained on and off the ice. No rentals. Cost: \$6. 3-4 pm. Leddy Park Arena, 216 Leddy Park Rd. (802) 885-7558. enjoyburlington.com.

BURLINGTON. Concert: Bob Weir and Wolf Bros. Tickets: \$69-\$99. 7 pm, doors at 5:30 pm. The Flynn, 153 Main St. flynnvt.org. highergroundmusic.com.

WEST HARTFORD. Village Walk. Meet at the West Hartford Library 10 am. For a 60-minute walk through the village. Register hartfordvt.myrec.com. (802)295-5036.

ONLINE. Growing Places Course. Designed to help aspiring farmers start and operate an agricultural enterprise, from setting goals to developing a viable marketing plan. Self-paced with weekly assignments and live webinars. Sessions will be recorded. Registration fee: \$100 by Oct. 11, after that \$150. Financial assistance available. (802) 476-2003, ext. 204. newfarmer@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/growingplaces. Through November 30. Also January 11 through February 7.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

ONLINE. Vermont Environmental Consortium Ninth Annual Conference: State of Vermont's Water. Topics include polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) studies in Vermont and PFAS issues as well as other contaminants. Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore will give an overview of Act 21. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$100 (+\$50 for continuing education credit), state employees \$25, students free. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. vectogether.org.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Concert: Insane Clown Posse. Wicked Clowns From Outer Space 2 Tour. American hip hop duo formed in 1989 in Detroit, Michigan. Tickets: \$30 advance, \$35 day of show. 7:30 pm, doors at 7 pm. Higher Ground Ballroom, 1214 Williston Rd. highergroundmusic.com. insaneclownposse.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Hamilton Movie Night. Socially-distant screening of the seminal 2015 Broadway smash hit, Hamilton, on McCullough Lawn. Free. 8-11 pm. McCullough Student Center, Old Chapel Rd. eventbrite.com/e/hamilton-movie-night-tickets-121658306269.

STATEWIDE. Tree Warden Statutes. Join the VT Urban & Community Forestry Program to walk through the newly amended tree warden legislation that has been passed to modernize Vermont's tree warden statutes and other statutes related to public trees and roadside vegetation. The bill, H.673 was signed into law on October 8, 2020 and goes into effect November 1. Webinar 10-11am. Staff will read through the bill, highlight changes, and answer questions about the new legislation. www.vtcommunityforestry.org

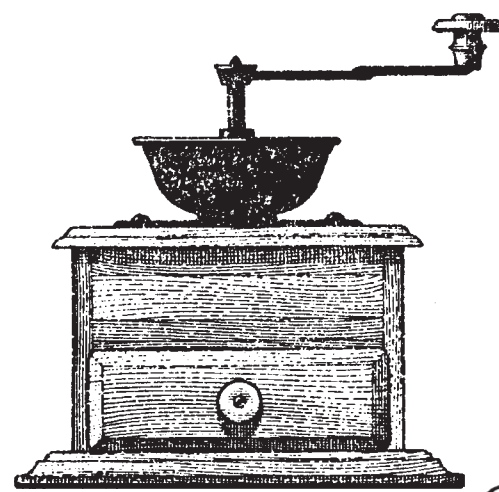
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

ONLINE. Author Appearance via Zoom. Northshire Live: C.L. Polk, the World Fantasy Award-winning author of "Witchmark," will share her new novel, "The Midnight Bargain." Suggested ticket contribution: \$5. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

SHARON. Baxter Cafe. Stop by for a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to meet up with friends and neighbors, check out a book and relax. Donations accepted. 9-11 am. Baxter Memorial Library, 5114 Rte 14. (802) 763-2875. sharonbaxterlibrary@gmail.com.

PLAINFIELD, NH. Plainfield Pumpkin People. Businesses hand out paper maps of routes to find the Pumpkin People. Free. 9 am - 5 pm. Plainfield Pumpkin People, Main St. PlainfieldPumpkinPeople@gmail.com. pumpkinpeople.org. Through October 31.

MANCHESTER. Chamber Music Concert. Featuring pieces by Haydn and Beethoven. 6 pm. At Southern Vermont Art Center's curATE café: four-course harvest dinner 7 pm. Call for details and reservations. 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Drive. (802) 362-1405. www.southernvermontartscenter.com.



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Old-Time Harvest-Time Preserving Recipes

Annie Gregory wrote, in 1902: "Our grandmothers used a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit—but then they used, too, the old-fashioned stone crock or open jar in which to store the fruit. Now, most preserves are put in sealed cans and only three-fourths of a pound of sugar is required to preserve fruit perfectly. Keep in a dark dry closet. If the closet is cool so much the better but always have it dry."

Quince Jelly

Do not pare but polish quinces smooth with a flannel cloth. Cut in small pieces, core and put all in a kettle. Pour over cold water to cover and boil until soft. Pour all into a flannel bag and hang up to drain carefully, pressing occasionally to make the juice run more freely. To one pint of the juice add three-fourths of a pound of sugar and boil fifteen minutes. Pour into tumblers.

—Elsie Mackenzie

Quince and Apple Jelly

Tart apples to which have been added the cores and paring of quinces make a delightful jelly. Make as apple jelly.

—Margaret McNolty

Preserved Pippins

Twelve pounds of apples pared and quartered, six pounds of sugar, one quart of water; make syrup of sugar and water; drop apples in this syrup and cook until tender; cloves and lemon peel may be added; stew till clear and seal.

—Amy Collins

Mixed Marmalade

This recipe is unsurpassed. Take equal quantities of white apples, yellow pears and white plums; pare and cut in small bits, stew in a little water till tender, then strain through a hair sieve. Now weigh the pulp and add to it, its own weight in sugar. Put on the stove and cook carefully three hours in a thick-lined granite kettle. Stir often the first two hours and continually the last hour. It is hard to make because it is easily burned but it always pays for the trouble. When thick turn into shallow pans. When desired for use slice off in slices and put on plate like cheese.

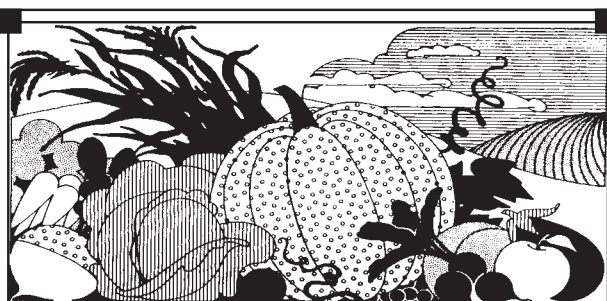
—Hilda Coleman

Harvest Rain

Matted grass and fruited bough
Find a newborn kinship now—
Each is burnished by the rain
With a lovely silver stain;
Richly hangs the colored fruit,
Grass blades capture silver loot;
Wind-caught branches bend and lift,
And sod receives an apple gift.

Orchard ways are redolent
With perfuming the rain has blent,
And when the questing hill-winds pass
Through trees and windfall-laden grass
Concordant as a song refrain
Comes scent of apples in the rain.

—JESSIE M. DOWLIN
Bellows Falls, VT, 1943



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Vermont Country Calendar

MONTPEIER. The Working Press. Getting it Right: Research and Diligence in Reporting with author and longtime Vermont journalist Yvonne Daley interviewing on-line at 7 pm. David Moats, her former colleague from the Rutland Herald, about Moats' series of Pulitzer Prize-winning editorials on the divisive issues arising from civil unions for same-sex couples, and about the importance of research and depth in journalism. Vermont Humanities, 11 Loomis St. (802) 262-2626. info@vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. Lake Champlain Sea Grant Virtual Research Seminar Series: Monitoring the Road Salt Reduction Pilot Program in the Lake George Drainage Basin. Led by Dr. Jim Sutherland and Chris Navitsky. Ample time for questions from the public. 12 noon – 1 pm. Free, preregistration required. Register at go.uvm.edu/roadsaltpilot.

ONLINE. Naturalist Journeys Online Presentation Series: Fishes of Vermont: Confessions of an Ichthyologist, with Doug Facey. A brief tour of some of the major groups of fishes of Vermont, including discussions of diversity, biology, and ecology. Live via Zoom. Free. 5–6 pm. us02web.zoom.us/j/89651472362. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

STATEWIDE. World Fish Migration Day. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, along with several local, state and federal conservation partners, will celebrate World Fish Migration with in-person and online activities to raise awareness about fish migration and commemorate free flowing rivers. The Connecticut River Conservancy will host a virtual town hall to learn about native sea lamprey and American shad, the two species that migrate from the Atlantic Ocean to the Connecticut River and its tributaries to spawn. Register/tinurl.com/ctriverevent. Also, www.vtfishandwildlife.com. and vnrc.org/world-fish-migration-day.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

ONLINE. Northshire Live: Sharon Salzberg presents her new book "Real Change: Mindfulness to Heal Ourselves and the World" in a virtual conversation with Chris Morrow. Live on Zoom, link available upon registration. Tickets: \$27–\$33. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore. (800) 437-3700. events@northshire.com. northshire.com.

ONLINE. Virtual Performance on YouTube. Ozomatli: Noche de los Muertos. Six-piece band brings hip-hop, salsa, rock and reggae together with a message of social justice. 8 pm. Hopkins Center for the Arts. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance. A conversation between Sienna Craig, author of The Ends of Kinship: Connecting Himalayan Lives Between Nepal and New York, and Charlotte Bacon about family and community disrupted by migration. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. norwichbookstore.com.

HUNTINGTON. Birding Event. Almost full moon evening walk. 6:30-7:30 pm. \$5. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

BENNINGTON. Fallapalooza! 2020. Storefront trick-or-treating. In-store specials. Crafters and gift vendors. Children's activities, escape rooms, sand art. Food trucks, live entertainment. Pig roast, medieval combat demonstrations. Free, vendors may charge for specific activities. 11 am – 3 pm. Downtown Bennington. (802) 442-5758. admin@betterbennington.com. betterbennington.org/fallapalooza! Please check for updates on event status.

NORTH BENNINGTON. 28th Annual Halloween Parade. Gather in costume to celebrate and parade down Main Street. Back to Lion's Park for awards, bonfire and refreshments. 4–5:30 pm. Meet at No. Bennington Post Office-VAE, 48 Main St. (802) 442-5549. vtartxchange.org.

ONLINE. Concert: Alessio Bax & Lucille Chung. Parters in music and in life, the two pianists bring artistic chemistry and stunning virtuosity to works by Mozart and Bartók. Free. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5007. middlebury.edu/college/arts/performing-arts-series.

ONLINE. Annual Youth Environmental Summit (YES!), for students in Grades 6–12. Online community learning space, using FlipGrid. Workshops, keynote speeches on how to take action. Climate change, wetland restoration, recycling and waste reduction, environmental legislation, how to become a citizen scientist. Share your ideas and connect with other teens. Free, register by October 23 at uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. lauren.traister@uvm.edu. Through November 20.

RANDOLPH. Just The Players. A new community theater group will perform Macbeth at 7:30 pm. at Chandler Center for the Arts. Buy a ticket or live-stream and dress in costume for our after-show contest (even if you are viewing online). Follow Facebook, Twitter@ChandlerCtvt or Instagram. 71 N. Main St. (802) 728-9878.

SOUTH BURLINGTON. Glow Walk. Take an evening stroll along the path around the retention pond on Market Street. Halloween inflatables, spooky music, fun decorations. Vendor selling hot chocolate. For all

ages. Pets remain at home. Free. 6–8 pm. Market Street. southburlingtonvt.gov/recreation.php.

SHARON. Concert: Jane Boxall, solo marimba. An eclectic mix of 100 years' worth of music masterfully performed on marimba. Tickets: adults \$15, seniors and students \$10, 12 and under free. 7–9 pm. Seven Stars Arts Center, 5126 Vermont Rte 14. eventbrite.com/e/jane-boxall-solo-marimba-tickets-90975093955.

WILLISTON. Trick-or-Treat at the Library. Come in costume for candy and a stroll through our not-so-spooky StoryWalk. While supplies last. Ages 0–12. Free. 4–6 pm. Williston Library, 21 Library Ln. (802) 878-4918. daml@williston.lib.vt.us. williston.lib.vt.us.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

BRISTOL. Pumpkins in the Park. Grab a free pumpkin and help us decorate the Town Green for Halloween. Carving tools and LED candles provided by the Rec. Department. Observe physical distancing, wear a mask, stay home if you feel sick. Free. 1–2 pm. Bristol Town Green. facebook.com/bristolrec.

CANAAN. Halloween Drive-In Movie Night. Hocus Pocus will be the featured movie for a night of hocus pocus, sponsored by North Country Chamber of Commerce. Popcorn for sale. Admission \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (16 and under) or \$20 per car. evening. Town Park, 6748 Rt. 102. (603) 237-8939. info@chamberofthenorthcountry.com

HARTFORD. Candy Donations. Halloween trunk or treat drive-thru seeking Halloween exhibitors & pre-packaged candy donations. 2–4:30 pm. Hartford High School campus, 37 Highland Ave. Drop off donations at Hartford Town Hall. For information (802) 295-5036 or recreation@hartford-vt.org or hartfordrec.com for an exhibitor application.

HARTFORD. Halloween Trunk or Treat Drive-Thru Style. Free. Hartford residents only, pre-registration required. 2–4:30 pm. Hartford High School Campus. (802) 295-5036. recreation@hartford-vt.org. hartfordrec.com.

HUNTINGTON. Bird Monitoring Walk. 6:30-7:30 pm. \$5. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167.

HUNTINGTON. October Bird Monitoring Walk, outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Birders—current, experienced, newbie and would-be—welcome. Bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. Face masks required. Max: 5 people, register in advance. 8–9 am. Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org.

KATTSKILL BAY, NY. Halloween Fall Festival. Hiking, archery, field games, campfires, arts and crafts, and more. Wear your costumes and enjoy trick or treating. Lunch and activities are free. 10 am – 4 pm. Camp Chingachgook, 1872 Pilot Knob Rd. (518) 656-9462. camp.cdymca.org.

MANCHESTER. Halloween Event. Spooky Stories with Kathy Penge and Taconic Strings at 2:30 pm, 3 pm, and 4 pm. Free. Reservations required. 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Drive. (802) 362-1405.

MANCHESTER. Halloween on the Hill. Trick or treat on the hill as Southern Vermont Arts Center's galleries are transformed and decorated in spook-tacular fashion, ready to welcome young children and their families. 11 am – 2 pm. Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 SVAC Dr., West Rd. (802) 367-1311. svac.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Spooktacular. Drive-through Trick-or-Treating Drive up to the candy-drop station, decked out with decorations and props to make it fun and exciting, grab pre-bagged candy through the car window. Free. 5–8 pm. Middlebury Town Green, locations throughout town. (802) 388-8666. experiencemiddlebury.com.

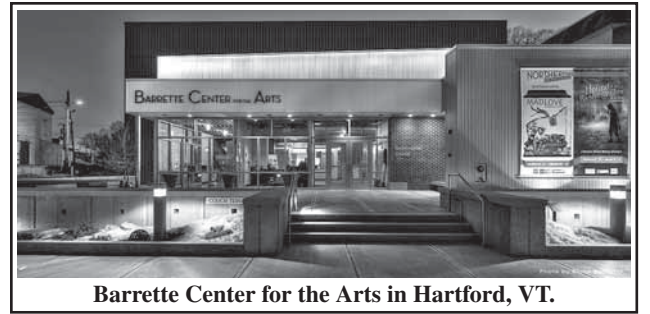
RUTLAND. Trick or Treat Halloween. Spooky decorations and treat bags for families. Wear masks and maintain a minimum of 6' distance from others. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required. Free. Three sessions, maximum capacity 100 participants for each: 1–2 pm, 2:30–3:30 pm, 4–5 pm. Rutland Rec Community Center, 71 Clement Rd. (802) 774-1819. colleens@rutlandrec.com. rutlandrec.com.

WILLISTON. Drive-Up Trick or Treating. Community-wide safe and socially-distanced Halloween alternative. Drive through the church parking lot and receive treats through the car window. Costumes encouraged, masks are a must. 2–4 pm. Williston Federated Church, 44 North Williston Rd. (802) 878-4367. moorejennifer10@gmail.com.

WINOOSKI. Jamaican Take-out. Meal will be prepared by Bilon Bailey, owner of Jamaican Supreme food truck. BYO bag. Price: \$20; preregister. 4–6 pm. O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (802) 655-6410 x 21. info@northendstudios.org. northendstudios.org/events.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

HUNTINGTON. Racing With The Birds. A month-long self-timed, self-scheduled trail race here at the Museum on Sherman Hollow Rd. in Huntington. Run or walk, one lap or two. Hard (but beautiful) forest course. Birding while running is optional! Details at https://birdsofvermont.org/event/race-around-birds. Entry form, donation box, and map at front door. (802) 434-2167



Barrette Center for the Arts in Hartford, VT.

Vermont Fall Arts Excursions in Orange and Windsor Counties

Missing the intimacy and thrill of in-person theater? The stage is the thing in Windsor County on the border with New Hampshire. In The first in-person theatrical performance in the country approved by the Actors' Equity Association since the start of the pandemic takes place in White River Junction at **Northern Stage**. Now through Oct. 25, Northern Stage is mounting a production of Stephanie Everett's one-woman play, *It's Fine, I'm Fine*. The play is performed in Northern Stage's Barrette Center for the Arts. It will also be available to stream on demand Oct. 22 through Nov. 29.

BarnArts Center for the Arts has kicked off an outdoor, across-the-state staged reading of the play *It Can't Happen Here!*, adapted by Tony Taccone and Bennett Cohen from a satirical novel by Sinclair Lewis, who wrote it in 1935 while living in Barnard, VT. The novel depicts a fascist takeover of the United States after a populist candidate defeats FDR for the 1936 Democratic nomination. The story is full of Vermont characters of all types. The tour runs through

Oct. 25 at various performance locations throughout Vermont. *It Can't Happen Here!* will be presented at White River Junction's Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St. Performance will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25. Masks are required in the audience area except while eating or drinking. Bring a picnic – food and drink may be brought in. Barnarts.org.

For visual art, visit **ArtisTree Community Arts Center** in Pomfret, 2095 Pomfret Rd. The Local Color exhibit runs until Nov. 7 and includes paintings, photography, sculpture, and ceramics, celebrating local artists and the splendors of fall. The final exhibit of 2020 will be Small Works, which features 12" x 12" 2D works and 10" x 10" 3D works. The show also includes jewelry, fiber works, and ornaments and runs from Nov. 20–Dec. 23. Submissions are accepted until Nov. 5. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

This Fall Art Excursion is presented by Cornerstone Creative Community Arts. For more info go to www.vermontartscouncil.org.



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Silloway Maple Video on WCAX.com

Vermont Country Calendar

POULTNEY. Painters Choose Painters. An exhibit of contemporary painting from southwest Vermont and eastern New York with Phil Whitman, Ruth Hamilton and Gabi Moore. They were asked to invite a respected colleague to join their exhibit and they choose Joan Curtis, Joan Harris and Chris Medina. 1-4. Visitors limited to 10 at a time. Face masks and social distancing. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St. (802) 325-2603. stonevalleyarts.org.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

BRATTLEBORO. Atlantic Is a Sea of Bones. Jarvis Green, founder of the Black theatre company JAG Productions, will reflect individually and collectively on the afterlives and the legacies of the transatlantic slave trade. 7 pm. Brooks Memorial Library, (Pre-registration required.) Vermont Humanities, 11 Loomis St. (802) 262-2626.

MONTPELIER. Activism Through Music. Say Their Names, A Personal Story of Artistic Activism. In May 2020, Dr. Matthew Evan Taylor began a musical composition in response to the escalating uprisings in the wake of the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Ahmaud Arbery. Including selections from his recorded work, Dr. Taylor will discuss his journey towards using music as an avenue for advocacy and activism. 7 pm. Digital Channels, Online. Vermont Humanities, 11 Loomis St. (802) 262-2626. info@vermonthumanities.org.

ONLINE. First Wednesdays Talk: The Complicated Histories of Monuments. Kelley Di Dio, University of Vermont art history professor explores why, when, and by whom these monuments were made, and what should be done with them. Free. 7 pm. Brownell Library, Essex Junction. (802) 878-6955. brownelllibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org/first-wednesdays.

ONLINE. First Wednesdays Talk: Susan Ouellette speaks on "Emma Willard: Early Female Education and the Campaign for Women's Suffrage." Free. 7 pm. Ilesley Public Library. (802) 388-4095. info@vermonthumanities.org. ilesleypubliclibrary.org. vermonthumanities.org/first-wednesdays.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

ONLINE EVENT. UVM Master Gardener State Conference. "Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our Soil, Seeds, Habitats and Communities." Speakers include Dan Jaffe Wilder, Jamaica Kincaid, Sylvia Davatz, and Natasha

Duarte (CAV) and Cat Buxton, Vermont soil and compost experts. Fee: \$40, includes access to both days and live recording of the conference. Partial scholarships available. (802) 656-1777. bret.halverson@uvm.edu. uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/state-conference. 12 noon - 2 pm. *Through November 6.*

ONLINE. Virtual Author Appearance: Nicholas Christakis. His timely new book, *Apollo's Arrow: The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way We Live*, explores the impact of the pandemic in America and imagines how the recovery will unfold in the coming years. 7 pm. Norwich Bookstore. (802) 649-1114. virtual22@norwichbookstore.com. norwichbookstore.com.

ONLINE. 4-H At Home. University of Vermont Extension is offering a smorgasbord of programs and activities for kids of all ages with topics ranging from veterinary science, civic engagement and environmental leadership to gardening and nutrition, babysitting and learning to code. Virtual program descriptions and links at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/4-h-home. Free. Bookmark page as it is updated as new opportunities become available.

ONLINE. Annual Statewide Gardening Conference: "Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our Soil, Seeds, Habitats and Communities." Open to experienced and novice gardeners. Talks on seed saving, composting, building a resilient landscape. Via Zoom. Cost: \$40 for access to live conference sessions and archived recordings. Financial assistance available for Vermonters. Registration closes Nov. 3. (802) 656-9562. master.gardener@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/mastergardenerstateconference. *Through November 6.*

ONLINE. Live Showcase Series: Unfiltered Spirits. Live weekly streaming series featuring the work of visual and performing artists throughout Vermont. Three weeks, three artists each week, live via Zoom and YouTube. 7:30-8 pm. (802) 865-1140. dspillane@theaterengine.com. bigheavyworld.com. Also November 12 and 19.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

MONTPELIER. Art Walk. A fun and casual way to experience art, meet local artists, and explore downtown shops, restaurants, and galleries. Safely enjoy art. 4-8 pm at indoor and outdoor venues throughout town. montpelierlive.org.

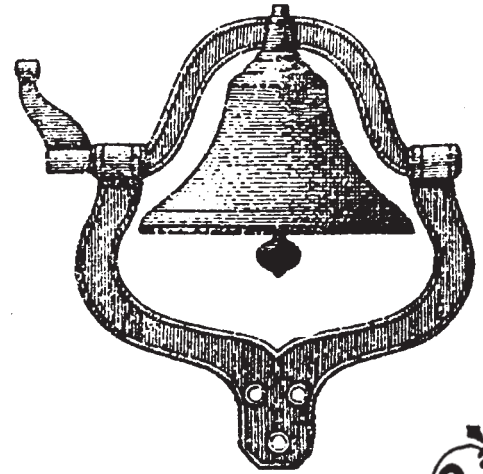
ONLINE. Concert: Gilbert Kalish, pianist, treats classical music lovers to a recital of Crumb, Schubert, and Brahms.

Free. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5007. middlebury.edu/college/arts/performing-arts-series.

STATEWIDE. Virtual Gardening Conference. "Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our Soil, Seeds, Habitats and Communities" sponsored by the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Community Horticulture Program. Noon to 2 pm. via Zoom. Presentations by Dan Jaffe Wilder, a horticulturalist, propagator and staff photographer for the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson, MA, and award-winning novelist and Harvard professor Jamaica Kincaid. Wilder will describe how to build a resilient landscape. Kincaid, a North Bennington, VT resident, will draw from personal experience to explore how gardening can sustain the body and soul. uvm.edu/mastergardenerstateconference. (802) 656-1777.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop at VAULT. Learn to paint the beautiful fall landscapes of New England in glorious splendor. Robert O'Brien will give a demonstration and explain his techniques for capturing the vibrancy of autumn colors through the layering process at Springfield Unitarian Church, 21 Fairground Rd. Techniques for creating light and shadow to be shown. \$75-\$85. Materials list provided. Register at Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org



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Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

SPRINGFIELD. Workshop at VAULT. Journey Collage Workshop with Angie Follensbee-Hall, a ZOOM class 1 to 4 pm. Create an inspired collage that tells a story about someone or something that has meaning in one's life. \$15. A workbook and materials provided at registration at Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street, (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

BRATTLEBORO. Exhibit. The 13th annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit today through Nov.16. at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St. (802)-257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org

STATEWIDE. Virtual Wine-Tasting. Join Opera North for a special virtual gala tour of the Bouchaine Vineyard of Napa Valley. Includes a 20-minute performance of Menotti's The Telephone. A \$200 per family registration fee includes two bottles of red wine. 5 pm. (603) 448-4141. www.coperanorth.org. Also November 16.

BURLINGTON. Stormwater Programs. Lake Champlain Sea Grant and University of Vermont Extension are hosting a series of webinars for the public on stormwater and green infrastructures topics. Today's 4-5 pm topic Job Training and Student Engagement Opportunities in Green Infrastructure Implementation and Maintenance. Free. Preregistration required for each Zoom session. uvm.edu/lcsg-events for details and registration links. (802) 777-7017. seagrant@uvm.edu.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

ONLINE. Paper Play Workshop via Zoom: Tunnel Books, with Stephanie Wolf. Use simple tools to create incredible 3D work. Make your own book or paper model in this fun, instructional online workshop. 6-8 pm. AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St., Lebanon, NH. (603) 448-3117. info@avagallery.org. avagallery.org.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

ONLINE. HopStop Family Program: Diwali Dance Celebration with Nithya Ramesh. Indian dance workshop in preparation for India's festival of light. 45-minute session for the whole family introduces basic steps from classical and folk dance. No experience required. Wear clothes that allow you to move and dance barefoot. For ages 4 and up. Free, ticket required. 4 pm. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.natyaroha.com.

ONLINE. Presentation: Serving St. Albans, with Alex Lehning. Stories of local service members and their efforts at home and abroad during World War I & World War II, utilizing their own words from letters, journals, manuscripts, and other first-hand accounts. Free. 7 pm. Saint Albans Museum. (802) 527-7933. alex@stamuseum.org. stamuseum.org.

SOUTH ROYSLTON. Farm to Plate On-Line Event. A network gathering from 12:30-5 pm featuring the next 10-year strategic plan with sessions on building coalitions beyond the food system; addressing systemic racism and racial equity in the food system; farm succession, future farmers, and securing the working landscape; the future of dairy - cows, goats, cheese, markets, and the environment; creating a climate and environmentally resilient food system; and many more. Fee \$30. BALE, 36 S. Windsor St. (802) 498-8438. balevt.org. Also, 9 am-noon Nov 13.

ST. ALBANS. Serving St. Albans. An online digital history presentation about WWI & WWII. Take a step back in time with SAM's director and librarian, Alex Lehning. Follow the stories of local service members and their efforts both at home and abroad during World War I & World War II utilizing their own words from letters, journals, manuscripts, and other first-hand accounts. 7 pm. Pre-register. (802) 527-7933. museum@stamuseum.org. www.stamuseum.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

ONLINE. Performance: Dartmouth Idol Semi-Finals. Watch some of the virtual Dartmouth Idol auditions, with Walt Cunningham and contestants past and present commenting. Tickets: sliding scale. 8 pm. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

ONLINE. Concert: Jupiter Quartet. A prize-winning chamber ensemble interprets compositions by Felix Mendelssohn, George Walker and Michi Wiancko. Free. 7:30 pm. Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College. (802) 443-5007. middlebury.edu.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Wellness Workshops. BALE - Building A Local Economy, 36 S. Windsor St. (802) 498-8438. balevt.org.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert. The Jason Anick Acoustic Trio (fiddle, guitar, and bass) streaming live followed by Q & A. 7:30 pm. Halcyon Arts. Stone Church Center, 12 Church St - (413) 345-2917. www.halcyon-arts.org.

ONLINE. Workshop. Houseplants: Dealing with Pests and Other Questions, with Will Creed. This Zoom session will deal primarily with pests, especially those brought in from outside. Plenty of time to ask questions. Fee: \$10. 10 am - 12 noon. Friends of the Horticulture Farm. fhfvt.org/events.

RUTLAND. Virtual Craft Fair. Support local and virtually shop some of the most talented vendors from across the state of Vermont. From artisan crafts, specialty foods, maple and honey, CBD products, and everything in between, our vendors have that unique gift you've been searching for. Join us on Facebook and Instagram all day to learn more about our vendors, browse items for sale, view stories, and even live updates from our show manager. We hope to see you there! 9 am - 4 pm. Hosted by the Vermont Farmers Market. (802) 282-2163. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Also December 12.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

STATEWIDE. Virtual Wine-Tasting. Join Opera North for a special virtual gala tour of the Bouchaine Vineyard of Napa Valley. Includes a 20-minute performance of Menotti's The Telephone. A \$200 per family registration fee includes two bottles of red wine. 5 pm. (603) 448-4141. www.coperanorth.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

HUNTINGTON. Winter Bird Feeding. (virtual/zoom). What winter birds are here? Which ones? How come? What do they eat? How do they shelter from the weather? And how can you get involved? Co-sponsored by the Milton Public Library at 7 pm. Register for this zoom presentation/conversation at <https://miltonlibraryvt.org/event/7-745-p-m-birds-of-vermont-museum-on-zoom-winter-bird-feeding>.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

ONLINE. Renewable Energy Vermont Virtual Conference Series: Leaders in clean power, heat, transportation and efficiency sectors share their knowledge through remote lectures. This session features U.S. Energy Storage Association CEO Kelly Speakes-Backman on the topic of resilience. Registration: \$45-\$75. 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. (802) 585-6401. revconference.org.

STATEWIDE. A workshop on weatherization and incentives from Efficiency Vermont. Free virtual home energy visits: regional trainings; and ButtonUp Vermont's share the warmth campaign. Noon. Contact. (802) 457-3188. gmartin@trorc.org.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

CHESTER. Wreath-Decorating Workshop. Decorate a beautiful pre-made evergreen wreath for the holidays with natural materials and ribbon. All supplies provided. Mask and social distancing required. \$50 per wreath (\$5 discount if registered and paid by Nov. 6). 1-2:30 pm and 6:30-8 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For registration (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. Also November 20 & 21.

ONLINE. Indigenous and Tribal Perspectives on Agritourism. Presenters from the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, La Paz on Foot (Bolivia), the Mesoamerican Permaculture Institute (Guatemala) and the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin will discuss indigenous-led agritourism initiatives, best practices for integrating agrobiodiversity conservation in tribal communities and how ancient culture and history can apply to contemporary travel company design and marketing. Free, advance registration required. 12 noon - 1 pm. (802) 257-7967 x 301. rebecca.bartlett@uvm.edu. go.uvm.edu/agtourism-gatherings.

ONLINE. Bookstock: Green Mountain Festival of Words: François S. Clemmons, the vocalist, author and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" actor reflects on his memoir, *Officer Clemmons*. Free. Preregister. 7 pm. info@bookstockvt.org. bookstockvt.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20.

CHESTER. Wreath-Decorating Workshop. Decorate a beautiful pre-made evergreen wreath for the holidays with natural materials and ribbon. All supplies provided. Mask and social distancing required. \$50 per wreath (\$5 discount if registered and paid by Nov. 6). 9-10:30 am. and 1-2:30 and 6:30-8 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For registration (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net. Also November 21.

CLAREMONT, NH. Transgender Day of Remembrance. Rural Outright will hold a candlelight vigil to honor the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Free. 6 pm. TLC Family Resource Center, 109 Pleasant St. (603) 542-1848 x 311. tlcfamilyrc.org.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

BURLINGTON. Concert. This musicale event will be recorded at storied venues around the Champlain Valley to stream into your own home. A Vermont Symphony Orchestra chamber ensemble will premiere new works from composers of diverse styles and backgrounds. String quintet and piano. 7:30 pm. Tickets on a pay-what-you-can sliding scale start at \$5. vso.org/events or (802) 864-5741 x 110.

CHESTER. Wreath-Decorating Workshop. Decorate a beautiful pre-made evergreen wreath for the holidays with natural materials and ribbon. All supplies provided. Mask and social distancing required. \$50 per wreath (\$5 discount if registered and paid by Nov. 6). 9-10:30 am. and 1-2:30 pm. St. Luke's Church, 313 Main St. For registration (802) 875-1340. lbwillisct@comcast.net.

DERRY, NH. Indoor Concert: Dueling Pianos. You pick the set list; no musical style or genre is off limits. Tickets: \$20. 8 pm. Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. (603) 437-5100. tupelomusichall.com.

NEWS FROM VERMONT

Don't Judge a Burr By It's Cover...

by Burr Morse

As I've shared with you before, when I was sixteen my father sold our dairy cows and decided to try his hand at diversified farming. Post dairy cows, our farm consisted of vegetable growing, beef cows and maple sugaring, all ventures that maximized labor and minimized income. I, possessor of both a strong enough back and weak enough mind to sign on, caught the brunt of both of those not-so-new aspects. Although I use "weak mind" largely with tongue in cheek, there have been times when I have questioned whether I should have agreed at all.

Recently a tourist came up to me after one of my sugarhouse presentations and said, "Burr, you clearly love what you do.", a statement, not a question, but, you know, I had to ponder it a few moments. When I finally

son, yer eatin' ain't cha? We both chuckled over our shared history and common knowledge that for a farm kid, food usually equals pay!

The man said later in his life, he adopted a particular lunchtime routine..." Whinn ah was a 'carryin' mail" he said, "ah wint t'Mamma's house iver day at noont'eat". He said that after doing this for years, a man from the neighborhood asked him if he might feel a bit guilty for spongin' off his mamma like that. "No ah don't" the Tennessee man replied..."ah'm still jist collectin' mah salary". And as a final punctuation that day, he told me with a wink, "that neighbah then looked down ovah mah considerable girth and said 'wayell, they shoulda paid ya'".

And so it goes, huge salaries are never a reason for

"The fact is, I stayed on the farm because I held the farm in my heart."

answered, I said haltingly, "guess I love it...but sometimes with an attitude". And that's where the "weak mind" possibly comes in...I've spent my life dwelling on what I "should have done" rather than "what I did". The fact is, I stayed on the farm because I held the farm in my heart.

I'm reminded of another recent sugarhouse guest who stopped to ask a few questions. "Ah'm from eastern TINNassee" the portly man said in a dialect as thick as Blue Ridge fog. He went on to say that he had been a rural mail carrier but had farm roots similar to my own. Much of his early farm tenure was, like my own, equally without pay, at least the monetary kind..."Ah'll tayell ya, mah daddeh worked me t'death f'yeahs. Whinn ah asked him iff'n ah was gone git paid, he said this...'wayell

working on a farm. We farm for other reasons; loyalty, sentimentality, and even mamma's cookin'. Farming gives us high degrees in fixin', cleanin', and toleratin', with a specialty in honor through daily lessons and tough tests. As for my youthful aspirations and attitudes, Quentin Crisp once summed it up very well: "It's no good running a pig farm badly for 30 years while saying, 'really, I was meant to be a ballet dancer'. By then, pigs'll be your style." And to that, I say how right he was! Here at the sunset of my life I can honestly say "pigs're my style" and I love it that way.

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. Year-round 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (800) 242-2740 or morsefarm.com. Masks required in-store

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North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

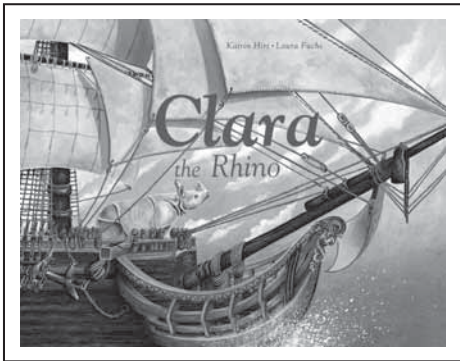
Two Stories About Legendary Rhinos

Forty years ago I took a three-week adventure trip to Nepal that included a trek in the Himalayan Mountains, a river rafting trip, and a visit to the 840,000 square kilometer Chitwan National Park bordering India which has been a one-horned Indian rhinoceros sanctuary since 1963.

The park also was the habitat for royal Bengal tigers, wild elephants, wild boar, hyenas, leopards, monkeys, sloth bears, 525 species of birds and 55 kinds of amphibians and reptiles.

I'll never forget when the guide and I had to quickly climb up a tree to avoid a fast oncoming mother rhino and her baby. We safely hung onto the tree and I did get a couple of photos before I dropped my camera. A fully grown rhino can weight up to three tons, and one doesn't want to be in her way.

With that in mind I have especially enjoyed reviewing *Clara the Rhino* by Katrin Hirt and illustrated by Laura Fuchs (\$18.95. NorthSouth Books. www.northsouth.com) about an orphaned baby rhino that is rescued first by an Indian merchant but later passed on to a Dutch sea captain when she gets to be too large to be house pet. This narrative is based on



a true story from the mid-18th century of a Dutch sea captain Douwe van der Meer bringing the rhino Clara back to Europe in his ship and looking after her the rest of her days.

Van der Meer has a special wagon built for Clara and they travel all over Europe, even getting to London and Venice. She was eagerly greeted when she was on display and could be seen for a small fee (local currency). When she was quite large Van der Meer at one of the showings asked if anyone was brave enough to come forward and measure the rhino. One fearless fellow did respond and reported she was nine and a half feet long and over six and half feet tall!

In this book she is shown often in unusual and spectacular drawings that fill two-page spreads. Actually the drawings of Clara's friendly ways make this book a must-see and read. There is one appealing scene of Clara's wagon being pulled by eight horses across a vast field while a thunder storm threatens. The sea voyages were very hard on Clara and contributed to her short life. The story has its ups and downs. There is Clara about to partake from a dining room table covered with fruits, cheeses and Indian breads. But when she is seen knocking over the furniture it's time for her to go, much to the dismay of the merchant's children who loved and played with her.

In her final days Van der Meer provides her with a fine stable in a large pasture at his home in Holland. He makes sure she gets her daily ration of 100 pounds of hay...and a treat of plenty of oranges. Clara became so famous that paintings of her can still be seen today in Dutch museums and galleries.

Be enchanted by another true rhino rescue story that has implications for all endangered species. In *Last—The Story of a White Rhino* by Nicola Davies (\$16.99. Tiny Owl Publishing. www.tinyowl.co.uk) a rhino named Sudan is placed in a zoo when he is young, where he fears he will be the last of his kind, the Northern White Rhino.

Then one day he is rescued and returned to the wild.

The fascinating drawings accompanying this tale include random snippets of advertisements and phrases from environmental speeches in many different languages. Nicola's aim is to contrast the bleakness of advertising with inspirational words such as these from Paul Hawkins:

"Forget that the task of planet-saving is not possible in the time required. Don't be put off by people who know what is not possible. Do what needs to be done, and check to see if it was impossible only after you are done."

The real Sudan was captured at age two and with five order rhinos and taken to a zoo in the Czech Republic. During the next five years all the Northern White Rhinos in the wild were killed by poachers for their horns.

In 2009 Sudan and two others were returned to the wild in Africa, but despite their best of care and safety measures, no more baby rhinos were born. Sudan did become a father but none of his children survived, and Davis writes "the species was in big trouble."

Sudan died in 2018, the last male White Rhino survived by only two aging females. Sudan's closest relatives are the Southern White Rhinos of which there are 10,000 with 700 in captivity. They are still being illegally hunted and endangered by climate change and the destruction of habitat. But Sudan may still have a part of play as his sperm has been frozen and perhaps could be used to bring Northern White Rhinos back from extinction.

Davies's spectacular drawings contrast the beauty and freedom of the African wild with the deadly life of being incarcerated in a zoo.

Book Review by Charles Sutton

The Bremontown Musicians

By now we are familiar with over the hill, seen better days, gone to seed, out to pasture, and for some (lucky?) few, the golden years.

This stage of life isn't unique to humans—the animal world faces similar prospects.

Sometimes those seeking survival join others in the same predicament, even if it means making friends with other strangers like a donkey, rooster, cat and dog.

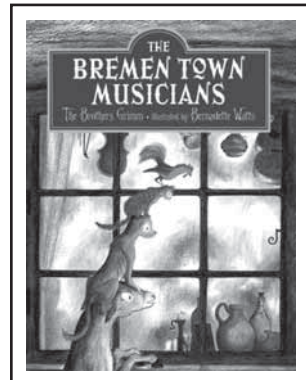
In *The Bremen Town Musicians* by The Brothers Grimm and illustrated by Bernadette Watts (\$17.95. NorthSouth Books. www.northsouth.com) a group of such animals team up in their escape from what was worse than death—death itself.

The rooster named Red-head was headed for the soup pot; Grabber the dog was going to be "put down" because he could no longer hunt; Whiskers the family cat was to be drowned because she was old; and the owner of the donkey Greypelt, whose strength was failing after many long years of service, was getting rid of him.

The donkey planned for the foursome to become musicians playing in the city of Bremen and they headed that way. The cat would sing serenades; the dog would beat the drums; the donkey

would play the lute; and the rooster would provide vocals.

On their way they came upon a house deep in the woods, a hideaway for a band of robbers. Inside there was a table laden with food and drink, and some robbers enjoying themselves. The



foursome decide this is a good home so they boost each other, one atop the next, to a window. They break the glass and burst airborne into the room with a great clatter. The terrified robbers take them for ghosts and flee the house forever. You will love the artist showing the animals crashing into the room with the donkey braying, the dog barking, the cat hissing, and the rooster crowing.

Once again artist Bernadette Watts draws the perfect settings for this heartfelt story, worthy of its message for all of us.



Book Review by Charles Sutton

The Tortoise and the Hare, An Aesop Fable

The famous story of ever-confident quick-as-a-bunny rabbit losing a race through the landscape to a slow-moving, plodding-along turtle is beautifully portrayed in *The Tortoise and the Hare, An Aesop Fable*, retold and illustrated by Bernadette Watts (\$8.95. North South Books. www.northsouth.com).

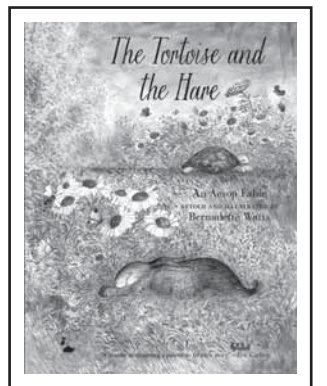
The cover sets the tone where a smiling tortoise inches along through a field of fairies and butterflies while a sure-to-win happy hare, unconcerned about the race, enjoys the setting (and all the time in the world) to take a nap.

English artist Bernadette Watts' illustrations for 50 years have shown us just what beauty there is to see in an anxious world through her illustrations of folk and fairy tales. Bernadette's pastel-like, gentle drawings for this world-classic race will soothe and enthrall you as much as they do the unlikely competitors and their spectators from the animal world.

The story begins at a summer-day picnic where a diverse assortment of small animals are gathered for games, races, and good food like the delicious-looking cake, cupcakes and fruits. It is here that the hare challenges the tortoise to a race through the farmland—an even-more comical idea when the tortoise says yes.

After ducks quack to start the race, we see the hare

bounding away through the meadows before stopping at farmland to gorge himself on freshly-grown lettuce, carrot tops and large, crisp cabbage. Even some apples. He meets up with his friend



the fox, and they talk awhile as friends do.

Meanwhile the tortoise plods along, his short legs tiring and he is hot and hungry. But no stopping for him.

Hare by then comes to a field of harvested corn surrounded by a huge hedgerow of honeysuckle and wild roses—a good place for the over-fed hare to take a nap. And he oversleeps.

But certainly there's still time to win the race? Not so, as not too far from him he hears small animals cheering the tortoise to victory! The subdued and once-confident hare is the first to congratulate his worthy opponent. The show-off is still a good sport. And all the way through the story we have Bernadette's drawings!

Book Review

The Invisible Alphabet

By Joshua David Stern
And illustrated by Ron Barrett

(\$17.95. Penguin Random House. www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

From early on you've seen lots of alphabet books—A is for Apple—but you've never seen the likes of this book! For a new look at letters A to Z read *The Invisible Alphabet* by Joshua David Stern and illustrated by Ron Barrett (\$17.99. Penguin Random House. www.penguinrandomhouse.com). The author has tackled words that stand for things gone, not there, coming later. Showing that N can be for Nothing, the

writer-artist team presents two blank pages. A bus stop is a good prop for people waiting impatiently for a bus, hence D for *Delayed*. At the same bus stop three persons hurrying, including a boy with a guitar, *Just* miss the bus for the letter J. Again a man and daughter have been waiting in the rain for a bus they missed—T for *Too Late*.

Lots of other surprises await the reader of this most clever book.



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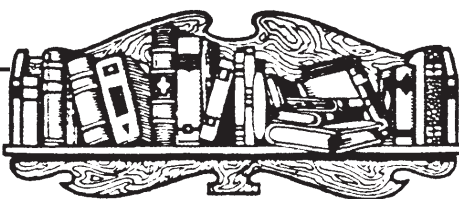
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Good Dog

A Collection of Portraits

by Randal Ford

(\$40. Rizzoli Books. www.rizzoli.com)

Imagine all the dogs you have ever known are in front of you and not moving. You catch a glimpse of their personalities and how you remembered them before they are off chasing balls or squirrels, wrestling with the kids on the floor, or sleeping at the end of your bed.

Like his previous book, the *Animal Kingdom—A Collection of Portraits*, Randal Ford brings to life the souls, looks and personalities of animals—only this time, 130 dogs. Some are familiar to you like Terriers, Sheepdogs, Poodles, Great Danes and Newfoundlands. Others may be unknown to most of us: the Afghan Hound, Chinese Crested, Wire-Haired Pointed and Brussels Griffons, Blue Chow Chow, Dogue de Bordeaux, Sharpei, Ibizan Hound, Whippet and others.

Ford takes time before each photographic session to get to know the dog and to get a line on the dog's personality which he wants to have shine through in the portrait.

And he writes: "This approach allowed the beautiful lines, hues, and textures of each dog to stand out and captivate the viewer's eye." For the dogs that this was a new and challenging experience, he had the help of trainers and owners make the dog feel safe and comfortable.

Most portraits are close-up head shots which emphasize eyes—a gateway into their soul and essence. "As we look into the eyes of these animals, may we recognize the undeniable presence of their spirit—one of gentle wisdom, unending loyalty and perfect love for imperfect humans," Ford continues.

His fascination comes through with many close-ups of facial expressions. Enjoy yourself as you look into the eyes of these dogs: Deku, an Australian Sheepdog puppy; Merlin, a Siberian Sheepdog puppy; Tallu-

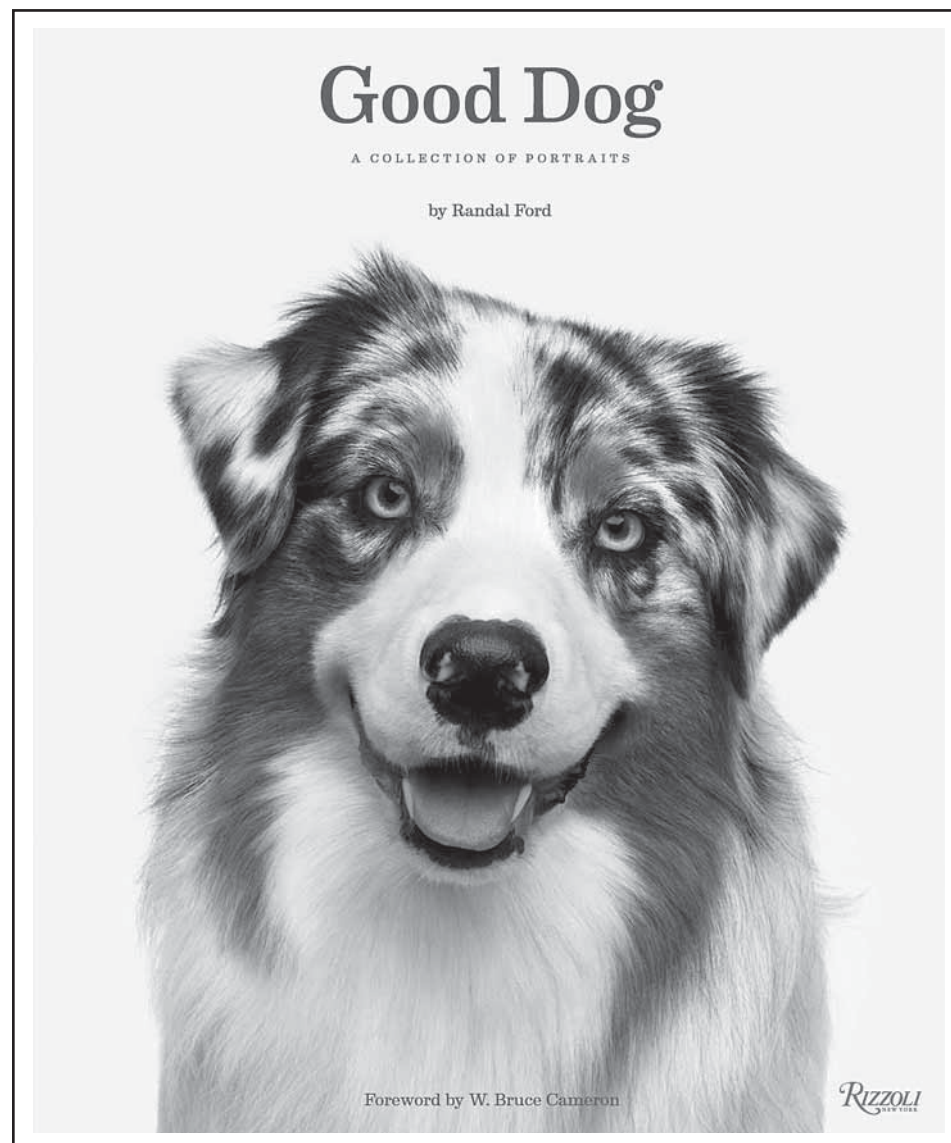
la, a Boykin spaniel; Giddy, an Australian Shepard; Frank, a Bernese Mountain dog; Link, Icelandic Sheepdog; and Buckley, a long-haired liver-spotted Dalmatian, a very rare breed.

To concentrate on his subjects without distractions, Ford uses blank neutral-colored walls or black backgrounds. Black? Wouldn't the dog disappear? Actually this is used to emphasize the blackness of black dogs and oddly enough they don't disappear into the darkness, but come out of it. Those that fit this setting? A Black Standard Poodle, Scottish Terrier, French Bulldog, Neapolitan Mastiff, Blue Chow Cross, Newfoundland, Great Dane, Wire-Haired Dachshund, a Terrier Mix and Belgian Sheepdog.

Because of their breeding or what they do best, Ford shows some appearing to be on the move. These dogs often earn a two-page spread. You will enjoy Lourdes, a Chinese Crested with a determined look as her head hair flows back in the

wind. Merlin, the Siberian Sheepdog puppy who entertained Ford with "some incredibly cute Siberian howls at the moon." Milo, a beagle shepherd mix poised to jump. And Gavin, an Ibizan hound at rest but being very watchful. Ford was also intrigued by Starlight Express, an Afghan hound, whom he likened to a high fashion model. "With long, flowing hair ready to be displayed in Times Square."

Puppies and small dogs get full-frontal views. Among these are Porsche, a white Standard Poodle and Pawpawrazzi, a Toy Poodle, both in show dog poses; Buster, an English Bulldog puppy; Rami and Franz, standard Longhaired Dachshunds; Friscoa, a Yorkshire Terrier; Anubus, a Tibetan Mastiff puppy on the move and looking very much



Book Review by Charles Sutton

like a lion; and Watson, a Border Collie poised to do its duties.

Also with full frontal views are Rosie, an Australian Labradoodle; Secret, a Toy Poodle; Riley, a Chihuahua mix (have you ever seen a more beautiful smile?); Freddie, a Miniature Dachshund; and Matil and Manning, both Corgis.

Those of us who have rescued dogs will be glad to see them featured here. Many had harrowing stories, like Millie, a Terrier mix, who was found walking around her neck with a heavy chain around her neck. And Ford writes: "We all walk around with our own chains, but Millie is living proof that the trick to getting rid of them is keeping yourself in the way of love and allowing others close enough to help you take them off."

Also featured are rescues dogs: Bentley, a Scottish Terrier; McCoy, an Australian Cockerdog; Finland, a scruff Terrier mix; Izzy, a Sharpei; Frank, a Wire-Haired Pointing Griffon; Emerald, a Bearded Collie; and Isti, a Black Puli.

As a bonus to the reader, each dog is shown at the end of the book with a thumb-nail sketch and an over-view about the breed, personality, anecdotes, and often about how these dogs took to Ford during the photo shoot.

In addition to these profiles, Ford also gives certain dogs an extra write-up accompanying their portraits. The top of his list went to the Australian Shepherd Giddy, who is featured on the book's cover. And he writes "It's all there, everything we know and love about our dogs—the joy, the goodness and the depth. He must have known what a great job he did, too, because as soon as we wrapped his session, Giddy flew from the platform straight into my arms. Good dog."

Randal Ford's works have been on the covers of Time, Texas Monthly, and Communications Art. He won first place and best in show in the International Photo awards competition in 2017. Visit him at www.randalford.com.

Book News

Vermont Author Jessie Haas Brings Us a Children's Novel about a Girl, a Pony, and the Power of Love

"We all have something we're hungry for," says a character in the middle-grade novel, *The Hungry Place* by Jessie Haas (\$17.99, *Boyd's Mills Press*, boydsmillsandkane.com). This is a story of a pony with a mind of her own and a girl with a spine of steel striving to overcome the hunger of their empty fields and yearning hearts. It follows a pony's journey from the 'palace on the hill' to a humble, perfect backyard.

Princess, a champion Connemara pony, is cherished by her owner, the elder-

ly Roland, but his over-protective leads to loneliness. The girls who ride her at shows are here today, gone tomorrow. Roland falls ill and she is mistreated by her unscrupulous trainer.

When she's rescued, injured and starving, she finds herself paired at a horsemanship camp with Rae, a girl with a spine of steel. Rae is determined to make her dream of having a pony come true. The question is how? Rae can sense Princess's fears and Princess will do what Rae asks. It seems

like true love. But Princess already has an owner, who is recovering and unlikely to ever let her go.

This story speaks to the longing little girls have for horses and the despair many have of ever owning one. A perfect read that will make you feel better whatever your age.

Jessie Haas is a life-long resident of Westminster, VT. She is the author of over 40 books for children and adults.



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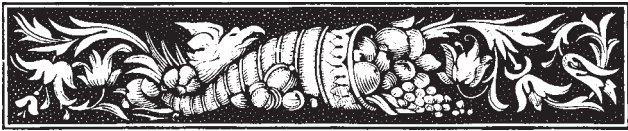
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North Country Reflections

The Season of Mists And Mellow Fruitfulness

by Judith Irven

*Bidding adieu to the garden past
As we sow seeds for the garden yet to come...*

Autumn is surely Vermont's most beloved season. For me, the early morning view across the misty valley to nearby Mount Moosalamoo, alive with the colors of fall—reds, yellows and oranges—is a sight I will treasure all winter.

And, as I walk through the autumnal forests, all around I see lots of little birds busily seeking out nourishment—seeds, fruit and insects—in anticipation of their upcoming journeys to warmer wintering grounds.

My garden, too, seems perfectly in tune with the season. The blueberry bushes and Miss Kim lilacs have turned a glorious bronze, and the serviceberry trees are tinted red. Meanwhile the leaves of our well-known perennials, including monkshood, Solomon's seal and many kinds of hostas, have become beautiful shades of yellow.

The tree hydrangeas are also especially lovely, as their panicles gradually change from creamy white to dusky pink. Meanwhile, right outside my study window, an unusual small tree called 'Seven Son Flower' is covered with white flowers that are filled with late-season bees.

There are even a few stalwart perennials that only recently started to bloom—including a huge mound of hardy chrysanthemums with buttery yellow flowers called 'Mary Stoker', as well as several clumps of New England and New York asters with their purple or pink daisy-like flowers.

And my amazing periwinkle-blue 'Rozanne Geraniums'—that began to bloom back in July—are still going strong despite our recent light frost.

Also, by early October the fruits on the winterberries around our driveway are now bright red—a clear signal for the cedar waxwings and robins to arrive en masse for an easy feast. Meanwhile, up in my veggie garden, several dozen winter squash are waiting to be harvested.

It is no wonder the well-known 'Ode to Autumn', penned over two centuries ago by John Keats, still rings so true today:

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

Fall ushers in beginnings of gardens still to come

But, even as this year's garden fades into memory, slowly next year's garden comes into focus.

With memories of the season just past still fresh in our minds, it is actually fall, rather than spring, which is the most opportune time to rejuvenate our gardens for the seasons yet to come. And, since every gardener is a born optimist, it is also the perfect opportunity to correct the omissions of the



photo by Dick Conrad
Judith and Dick's blueberry bed in the fall. By now the leaves on the blueberry bushes are a beautiful bronze and the buttery yellow, hardy chrysanthemums called 'Mary Stoker' are clearly visible at the foreground. Off in the distance you can see a little bit of Mount Moosalamoo.

past and plant for the future. Thus, in so many ways, autumn is indeed the gardener's new year!

Let's take look at some of the activities of fall in our gardens, both those associated with the old year just ending, as well as those that lay the groundwork for the one that is now beginning.

In the vegetable garden

My last 'old year' activity in the vegetable garden is to harvest every last remaining edible vegetable.

First I gather up all the winter squash, storing them in the basement on wire mesh trays to promote good air circulation and prevent rot.

I also harvest every last tomato, setting each one on the kitchen counter to finish ripening. Eventually I will slice and spread them in a pan with a little olive oil, chopped garlic and herbs, roast them until nicely soft, and store the results in the freezer. Soon I have lots of ready-to-go pasta sauce that tastes absolutely delicious at dead of winter!

Next I turn my attention to the chard and kale, both excellent vegetables for growing in Vermont's cooler summers. My harvest results in mountains of crisp green leaves in the kitchen. After stripping the stems, I wash and rough chop the leaves, before dropping them by the handful into boiling water for a quick blanch. After dunking everything in iced water, I squeeze out the excess liquid and freeze eight ounce portions for easy additions to stir-frys or soups.

Next I focus on the seasons yet to come. I start by weeding everything, carefully chasing down any roots of perennial weeds like witch grass and dandelions.

And then comes the big fall ritual of spreading compost across the beds and digging it into the top few inches of soil.

In the world of gardening, compost is a truly magical substance and a wonderful investment for the years ahead. It adds organic matter and nutrients to the soil, which becomes softer and easier for the plant roots to penetrate. It also permits a sandy soil to retain water more effectively and, conversely, helps a clay soil drain better. If you do not have enough compost of your own, consider adding an organic product, such as the composted cow manure mixture called Moo-Doo from The Vermont Natural Ag Company in Middlebury (you can get it in bulk with a pick-up truck).

Finally I cover each section of the vegetable garden with a tarp carefully held down by tent pegs; this will help the soil warm up more quickly next spring while also preventing early weeds from sprouting.

And in the flower beds

Each fall I like to tackle my flower beds one at a time. I start by cutting back the leaves and stems of most perennials which get added to the compost pile. However I leave the perennials

with seed heads—like Echinacea and Rudbeckia—standing; not only do they provide food for over-wintering birds but they also create winter interest for people. Then, after raking aside any remaining bark mulch, I carefully weed around all the plants, often digging in a little seasoned compost as I go.

Next I carefully analyze the current plant mix, if possible consulting pictures of the garden as it was at different dates last summer, and consider what needs changing, expanding or even removing all together.

Contrary to popular belief, the best time to lift and divide perennials is in the fall, after the tops have died back, but while the ground will remain unfrozen for a few weeks so that the roots have time to reestablish themselves.

I find the easiest way to divide a large perennial root mass is to shove two garden forks, back-to-back, down into it. Wiggle the forks back and forth against each other, and soon the root mass will split into two or three parts, while still leaving individual roots intact. Each part can then be replanted or shared with a gardening friend.

If the roots have grass or other weeds running through them, just soak everything in water for an hour, after which you can usually pull the weeds right out.

And, if you are not ready to replant some of the root sections quite yet, they can easily be stored in a plastic bag for a couple of weeks to prevent them from drying out.

As I contemplate a bed I often see the need for additional plants and a quick trip to the nursery. However at this late stage in the season be sure to check the quality of any plants before you buy. It may be preferable to wait for the new season's stock to arrive in spring before filling the gaps in your reworked beds.

Of course, fall is also the time when we think about planting bulbs to make our gardens beautiful in spring. My garden is already home to thousands of daffodils, both in the beds and also in the rough grass at the edge of the garden. But this fall I will plant a few tulips. I have grown them in the past but gradually many have died out. So next spring I will have some bright colors to greet the coming season.

Autumn is the gardener's new year...

By now the seeds are set and the fruit is ripe—and this year's garden is fulfilled.

Gradually we transition from gathering the harvest and enjoying the remains of the season just ending, to actively planning and preparing for the season ahead.

Whether tackling a big project like making a new bed or just dividing a few perennials, this is a wonderful time be outdoors. The air is cool and crisp yet the soil is still warm and soft.

And this is when my optimism for the garden yet to come knows no bounds.

Judith Irven and her husband Dick Conrad live in Goshen, VT where together they nurture a large garden. You can subscribe to Judith's blog about her Vermont gardening life at www.northcountryreflections.com.

Dick Conrad is a landscape and garden photographer; to see his photographs go to northcountryimpressions.com.

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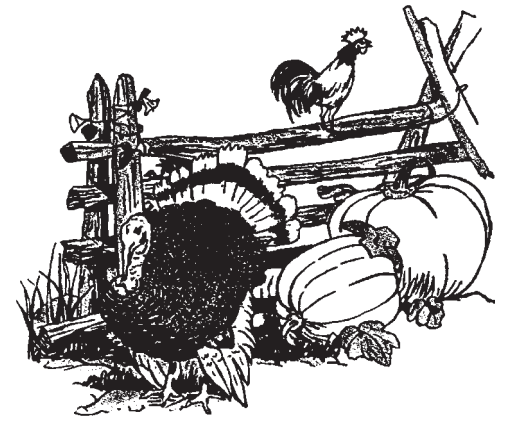
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October in Vermont

The clump of maples on the hill,
And this one near the door,
Seem redder, quite a lot, this year
Than last, or year before;
I wonder if it's jest because
I love the Old State more!

If there was any poppies left,
I guess they'd jest be vexed
To see the hillsides all on fire
Without the least pretext;
Sometimes I think I'm in this world,
And sometimes in the next.

Jest look! the woods are made of trees,
Instead of wholesale green;
Jest see the "wine glass elms" stand out,
With hemlocks in between;
Jest see the birch flags on their staffs
So long and white and clean!

From Killington and Sterling peaks
The flames are pouring down;
The ferns below the pasture woods
Are scorched and dead and brown;
The shoemaker fire-bugs set the blaze
I heard last night in town.

It's kinder more than folks can stand,
This beauty, every year;
The eye that's full can see no more
Until it drops a tear;
It's hard to tell jest where you are,
In paradise or here.

—DANIEL L. CADY
1861-1934, West Windsor, VT

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