

Vermont Country Sampler

Free

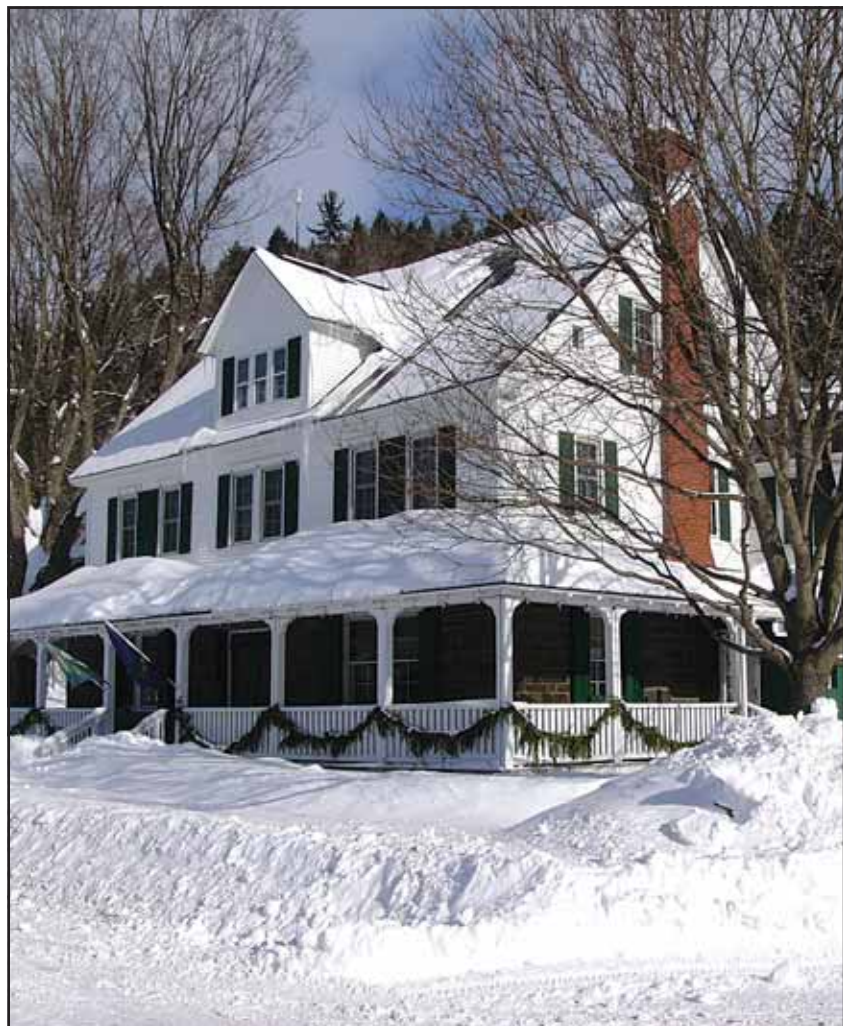
December 2013

- Statewide Calendar of Events, Map
- Inns, B&B's, Dining, Real Estate
- Sights to See, Things to Do
- *Plenty of Good Reading!*



WEDDINGS • REUNIONS • RETREATS • CONFERENCES

X-C SKIING • SNOWSHOEING • 1,300 ACRES



THREE STALLION INN

at the  Green Mountain Stock Farm

“The Best Lodging & Dining in Central Vermont”

- o Centrally located, only 2 miles from Exit 4, I-89.
- o Willy B's Tavern is open at the Inn for dinner on Friday & Saturday nights.
- o A delicious breakfast is included in room rate.
- o High-speed wireless Internet access.
- o Nightly rates start at \$125.

Weddings ~ Family Reunions

802-728-5575 • www.ThreeStallionInn.com • 665 Stock Farm Road • Randolph, Vermont

The Sammis Family, Owners



FITNESS CENTER • SAUNA • WHIRLPOOL • GOLF • BIKING

“THE BEST LODGING & DINING IN CENTRAL VERMONT”



Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market—A Holiday Tradition

Share the joys of our local bounty with your family and friends. Starting Saturday November 30 through December 21 the Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an extra hour of holiday shopping.

Still unsure what to give your family for the holidays? Need a fragrant pine wreath for your holiday decorating? The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market has what you are looking for—a wide selection of locally grown and homemade gifts. Over thirty vendors offer farm fresh produce, maple syrup, delicious jams pickles & preserves, jewelry, holiday wreaths, local wines, handmade soaps, hand thrown pottery, beautiful woodworking gifts, childrens' fantasy wear, woodprint note cards

& onesies, and much more.

Come for the local farm produce and beautiful homemade gift items and stay for a tasty lunch, live music and the warmth of community. There is something at the market for everyone.

The Winter Farmers' Market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions and offers an abundance of local farm products including fresh produce, eggs, locally-raised grass-fed meats, baked goods, local preserves, and more. Debit and EBT accepted. Located at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden, 153 Main St., in downtown Brattleboro, VT every Saturday through March 29, 2014.

For more information contact us at farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org or call (802) 869-2141.



A back road winds through the snowy woods in Bethel, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Empty Inventory

by Bill Felker

The inventory of late autumn is still rich in foliage and color, but the approach of early winter draws down the pigments and density and texture of the canopy and strips away all the floral barriers to winter. December spreads across the summer with accumulation of loss.

Instinctively and naturally, there is a taking stock of what appears to be no longer present, an inventory of emptiness, cued by a search for the truth, and by nostalgia and by

the fragmentary reminders that bind the seasons into memory:

Shapes of absent plums and peaches, pears and cherries, broccoli and lettuce, raspberries and blackberries, strawberries and mulberries, and the cotton of cottonwoods. Bare landscapes of corn and soybeans and wheat. Empty shells of milkweed and hosta, empty canes and branches, seeds eaten, innumerable creatures gone, the harvest complete.

Faded colors of zinnias and snapdragons, sunflowers and coneflowers, goldenrod and purple ironweed, dahlias and tulips. Vanished fragrances of blossoms from roses and Japanese honeysuckles and azaleas and apple trees and mock orange and lilacs, from alyssum and moon flowers and jasmine. Missing calls of doves and red-winged blackbirds and robins, of toads and frogs, katydids and crickets and cicadas.

All of which is fulfilling, not negative, not sad:

Because it is the very kernel of the known universe that absence and presence are complementary, that they are two aspects of the same thing, that each is the key to other, and that we cannot understand them if we view them as separate. From a litany of sensations lost, absences flesh out past events and missing objects. They fill up the present's hollow and deceptive pod, create wholeness from the part that seems so transitory or so broken, but is only incomplete.

Vermont Country Sampler

December 2013, Vol. XXIX

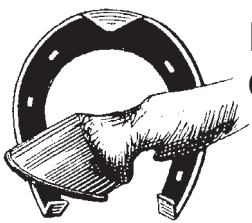
The Vermont Country Sampler is distributed free over-the-counter in and out of Vermont. Back issues, \$2 per issue, first class. Subscriptions \$24/year.

Calendar of Events published free of charge. Mail or e-mail your information to us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Charles Sutton, Publisher

Vermont Country Sampler

PO Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759 • (802) 772-7463
info@vermontcountrysampler.com
vermontcountrysampler.com



Horseshoeing & Cattle Trimming

Specializing in Draft Shoes for Hayrides, Sled Rides, and Woods Work.

We Trim Anything with Feet!

Goats, Sheep, Cattle, Pigs, Llamas, Oxen, Alpacas & More. Blacksmith Shop. Portable Stocks & Stationary Stocks On-Site at Shop.

Roland L. Church • (802) 875-1034
3668 VT. Rt. 103N, Chester, VT 05143

— Drafts to Minis —



Open Every Saturday

153 Main St. Brattleboro, VT
At the River Garden

November–March • 10–2

Holiday Hours 10–3
Between Thanksgiving & Christmas

Farm Fresh, Local, Handmade, Homemade
Great Local Food Lunches & Live Music
A wonderful selection of holiday gifts
All you need for your holiday table
Debit and EBT cards welcomed

Flames Stables

Route 100 South, Wilmington, VT
(802) 464-8329



Scenic Horseback Riding
Year-Round Trail Rides
\$25 for 40 Min.

Children Over 6 Can Ride Alone
Pony Rides for Younger Children

~ By Reservation ~

Great Family Fun at the Lowest Prices Around!



The Holidays are Here!

Balsam Christmas Trees
Wreaths & Evergreen Roping

We have cut-your-own and pre-cut trees and make-your-own and ready-made wreaths.

Visit Our Gift Shop

Fresh Cider, Apples, Cider Donuts. Homemade Apple and Pumpkin Pies – be sure to order ahead!

Mail Order Apple Gift Packs

Horse-Drawn Sleigh/Wagon Rides by Reservation.

Fun for the Whole Family!

130 West Hill Road, Putney, VT

(Exit 4, I-91) Look for signs in Putney Village

Open daily 9 am – 5:30 pm • (802) 387-5851
greenmtorchards.com

great coffee • local food • friendly people

Winter Hours: Mon-closed Tues-Sat 10-6 Sun 9-4

Freshly made:
Cupcakes,
Cookies
and more

Catering
Available

Our food is carefully made by hand from the freshest and simplest ingredients. We source as much local and organic ingredients to create a sustainable community.

10%
off purchase
with coupon

Valley Cafe

7 Village Square Bellows Falls (802)732-8024

daily specials @ [facebook.com/valleycafeVT](https://www.facebook.com/valleycafeVT)

The River Artisans' Holiday Open House in Saxtons River

The River Artisans (formerly the Jelly Bean Tree Crafts Cooperative) invites the public to their Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 4 from 5–7 p.m. in Saxtons River, VT. Join with the members in celebrating the holiday season. Those present are eligible for member-donated door prizes drawn throughout the event. The open house is free and light refreshments will be served.

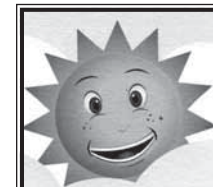
The River Artisans is a favorite stop for finding unique gifts for friends and family. The store will be open during

the event for anyone interested in purchasing something special.

The River Artisans is a cooperative organization dedicated to promoting local artists and craftsmen. The store gives members a place to market their goods. The group always welcomes new artists.

River Artisans is located at 26B Main St., in Saxtons River, VT.

For more information call (802) 869-2099, e-mail shop@riverartisans.com or visit www.riverartisans.com.



Teacher Treasures

A Teacher Resource Store & More!

Scrapbooking Materials & Gently Used Books/Lending Library

"A Hands-On Store"

School Year Hours:

2–5 pm Wed–Fri and 10–5 on Sat

(802) 365-4811 • (802) 365-4426 fax

Cynthia W. Nau • sindy@sover.net

Right on Rt. 30—just north of Newfane Village



KLICK'S
ANTIQUES & CRAFTS

Bought & Sold

SPECIALIZING IN RAG RUGS,
COUNTRY ANTIQUES, FOLK ART.

Watch rag rugs & placemats being made

Open Mon–Fri 10–5 or by appointment

29 Westminster St • Bellows Falls, VT

Just south of the square • (802) 463-9656



Billings Farm's Belgian draft horses, Tom and Jerry, pull a sled full of visitors around the winter fields at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo courtesy of Bilings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Visit Billings Farm & Museum for the Holidays

Christmas at the Farm

Discover the traditions of a late 19th century Vermont Christmas with a visit to the Billings Farm & Museum, gateway to Vermont's rural heritage. Christmas at the Billings Farm will be featured on weekends in December and December 21 – January 1, 2014, (excluding Christmas Day) 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Tours of the authentically decorated farmhouse, visits to the dairy farm for interactive programs, holiday activities, plus the Academy Award® nominee film, *A Place in the Land* will be offered.

Highlights of the Holiday Season

December 7 & 8, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Making Christmas silhouettes & poppers; candle dipping.

December 13, 14 & 15, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Woodstock's Wassail Celebration. Make historic Christmas ornaments and pomanders and dip candles. On Sunday take a horse-drawn sleigh or wagon ride.

December 21 to 24, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Make Christmas silhouettes and poppers and dip candles.

Closed Christmas Day – Merry Christmas!

December 26 to January 1, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Christmas Week. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides and sledding with jack jumpers, if snow conditions permit. Make historic Christmas pomanders, ornaments and snowflakes and dip candles.

19th Century Vermont Christmas

Like most New England states, Vermont did not widely celebrate Christmas until late in the 19th century. It was not until 1890, when the farmhouse at the Billings Farm was completed, that Christmas became recognized as a holiday in all states. At that time, celebrations were much simpler than

they would become in the 20th century. Families enjoyed the holiday, but still had cows to milk, ice to cut, and wood to saw. A few gifts, a special meal, and the gathering of friends, were noteworthy in an otherwise typical day.

Decorations included fresh greens draped over mantels, windows, and staircases throughout the house. Small trees, packed in a jar or butter tub and placed on a tabletop were common. Many of the ornaments reflected an agricultural tradition. Stockings filled with candies, nuts, and raisins were among the most common gifts given on Christmas Day.

The Billings Farm & Museum is north of the Woodstock village green on Rt. 12. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Open weekends November through February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Adults \$12; 62 & over \$11; children 5-15 \$6; 3-4 \$3; 2 & under are free.



Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd.
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 244-7037
gmc@greenmountainclub.org
www.greenmountainclub.org

VERMONT WILD

Three volumes of best-selling hilarious game warden adventures with hungry bears, angry moose and more!



Stories read
and loved
by ages
9 to 99.

Find in bookstores, Kinney Drugs and many more locations throughout Vermont. New MAINE WILD warden book is out now! Ask for it at stores! Or order any volume online at PineMartenPress.com

"Help Bring Some Joy to Vermont Shut-Ins!"

Join The Vermont Sunshine Society

- Volunteers Needed
- Monthly Newsletter
- Free Memberships

Contact:
Bev Grimes
225 Plateau Acres
Bradford, VT
05033

Tickle Your Pickle Palate!

With Hickin's Pickles

Maple Icicle • Mustard Crock • Cooler Dill
Bread & Butter • Maple Cinnamon • Dilly Bean
Peppered Pickles

Hickin's
MOUNTAIN MOWINGS FARM
Dummerston, VT • (802) 254-2146

We ship—call to order or see us the
Brattleboro Farmers Market, Saturdays 10-2.

Open 7 Days a Week • 6 am – 9 pm

Allen Bro's

FARM MARKET



'Tis the season to be jolly!

Trees, Wreaths, Roping & Holly

Come Shop in Our Greenhouse!

Poinsettias, Plants, Sleighbells, Kissing Balls, & Unique Gifts

We'll gladly design outdoor planters and even tie your Christmas tree on your car!

ORDER your HOLIDAY PIES online at www.allenbrothersfarms.com
Allen Brothers Farm Market • *There's a treat for everyone!*

Exit 5 off I-91 • Westminister, VT • 802-722-3395

Total This & That Circus Coming to Bellows Falls, VT

The Bread & Puppet Total This & That Circus is coming to Bellows Falls Friday, December 13. The performance will be at 7 p.m. at the Middle School, 15 School St. The school is wheel chair accessible but please call to make arrangements for access.

The Total This & That Circus includes the battle against the F-35 jets, the miraculous birth of a calf, a giant face trying to see who's running back and forth between his ears, the tar sands pipeline, some very tall people with wooden legs, all kinds of animals from zebras to some very interfering turkeys and much more. All acts are accompanied by their circus band. This circus was performed last summer at the Bread & Puppet Farm in Glover, VT and now you can see it in Bellows Falls.

The Bread & Puppet Theater is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. It is one of the oldest non-profit, self-supporting theatrical companies in the U.S. Based on a large farm in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, it was founded by Peter Schumann, German born artist-dancer, in 1963. For the next decade his giant puppets figured prominently in anti-Vietnam-War demonstrations in New York City, Washington, D.C. and other cities in the US and abroad.

In 1970, an invitation from Vermont's Goddard College to be theater-in-residence, facilitated a longed-for change to country life. "Our Domes-

tic Resurrection Circus," an outdoor festival of music, art, puppetry and pageantry, began then, and ran almost every summer, growing to crowds of tens of thousands, until 1998. A smaller, more dispersed version still performs on Sundays in July and August; the company continues touring and workshopping the rest of the year in New England and around the globe; and Schumann continues as director and artist—and bread baker.

Author and NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu has praised "the genius of Peter Schumann (artistic director), the prodigious puppet-God," writing "the Bread & Puppet Theater has been so long a part of America's conscious struggle for our better selves, that it has become, paradoxically, a fixture of our subconscious."

The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP), which is sponsoring the event, has worked with Bread and Puppet since 1999 when RAMP hosted Bread and Puppet Theater for a week-long town-wide residency in Bellows Falls. Over the years it has collaborated to bring other Bread and Puppet performances to downtown Bellows Falls.

RAMP is supported by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

To reserve tickets call (802) 463-3252. Visit www.breadandpuppet.org.



Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, Bread & Puppet Theater performs the Total This and That Circus. photo by Mark Dannenhauer

Pentangle Arts

'Irish Christmas in America' for Woodstock's Wassail Weekend

An all-star Celtic showcase for the holidays is coming to Woodstock, VT on December 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. "Irish Christmas in America" is presented as part of Woodstock's three-day Annual Wassail Weekend, and is a great opener to the festivities.

Now in its ninth season, "Irish Christmas in America" features Ireland's finest traditional artists in a multimedia performance rich in music and dance, history and humor, and boundless energy. Produced by Oisín Mac Diarmada of the award-winning Irish group Téada, the 2013 tour includes guest artists like Lumiere as well as singer and accordionist Séamus Begley.

The joyful, family-friendly performance captures the spirit of Christmas and highlights Ireland's rich holiday traditions. Irish ballads and Christmas carols blend with lively instrumental tunes and Irish dancing, while evocative photographic images provide a visual backdrop for the holiday season.

Guest artists, Sony-recording vocal group Lumiere, featuring the angelic voices of Pauline Scanlon and Éilís Kennedy, will be accompanied by renowned guitarist Donogh Hennessy. The Irish Times calls Lumiere's harmonies "spellbinding," and the BBC rates them "absolutely superb."

Séamus Begley joins in with his stunning vocal prowess and charming wit, and award-winning Irish step dancer Samantha Harvey dazzles with her fancy footwork. The

all-star band also includes Gráinne Hambly's beautiful harp playing, Sean Gavin on flute and uilleann pipes, and Oisín Mac Diarmada on fiddle.

Mac Diarmada created the show to bring some of Ireland's lovely yet lesser-known holiday traditions to American audiences. Music, singing, and dancing were historically intrinsic to the season in Ireland, and also for the many Irish that found themselves in America.

"One of the most heartfelt themes of Irish Christmas is emigration," says Mac Diarmada. "Music was a way that people stayed close to home."

Performance appearances have included the National Geographic Society in Washington DC, the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia, and the Cerritos Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles.

A sparkling holiday tradition, "Irish Christmas in America" is a memorable glimpse into the spirit of the season.

Tickets are \$33 general advance, \$35 day of show, \$15 child (under 18).

Pentangle Arts presents "Irish Christmas in America", on Friday, December 13th at 7:30 p.m. at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (802) 457-3981. Visit www.pentanglearts.org.

Willow Farm Pet Services

Grooming & Boarding...Naturally



Doggie Daycare

Natural Foods & Pet Supplies

"The Red Barn" at #21 Route 106

N. Springfield, VT • (802) 886-5000

Mon-Fri 8-6, Sat 8-4

willowfarmvermont.com

Viking Nordic Center



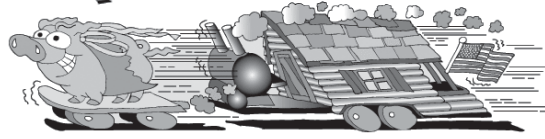
35km ski trails groomed for classic & skate skiing or snowshoeing for skiers of all abilities.

Lessons • Rentals • Learn to ski packages
Full service ski shop • Repairs • Cafe

4br rental house on site
20 minutes from Manchester
Near Bromley, Stratton & Okemo

615 Little Pond Road • Londonderry • VT 05148
802-824-3933 www.vikingnordic.com
skiandstay@vikingnordic.com

Squeels on Wheels



Wood Roasted BBQ
Two Locations
This Winter

At the Okemo Southface Chair Lift
Open Seven Days 10 am - 3 pm
and

The Ludlow Country Store
— 471 Rt. 103 S., Ludlow, VT —
Open Daily 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays

Take Out & Catering, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner,
BBQ & Deli Sandwiches and Platters, Boar's Head
Meats, Vermont Cheeses, Homemade Soups & Sides,
Salads, Cold Beer & Wines, T-Shirts,
VT Gifts & Maple Products

Let Us Cater Your
Holiday Party or Family Gathering
Our Delicious BBQ & Homemade Sides
Will Please Everyone!

squeelsonwheels.com
(802) 228-8934 • see us on Facebook



Free Calendar Listings

Send us your community or church events & we'll list them free of charge in our calendar.

Vermont Country Sampler
PO Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759
info@vermontcountrysampler.com

Sporting Goods • Wine & Liquor • Specialty Foods
Butcher Shop • Clothing & Footwear

Our Own:
Cob-Smoked
Hams, Bacon
& Pepperoni



We Now Ship Our
Smoked Meats
Great for Gifts!

Expanded Produce, Grocery & Dairy Departments
With Organics, Non-GMO's, Gluten-Free & More!

Singleton's General Store

356 Main St. • Proctorsville, VT 05153 • (802) 226-7666
6962 Woodstock Rd. • Quechee, VT 05059 • (802) 698-8675

www.singletonsvt.com



Fragrant Paperwhites

by Dr. Leonard Perry

Extension Professor, University of Vermont

A popular and easy-to-flower bulb for late fall and the holidays is the paperwhite narcissus. Sweet smelling paperwhites can be coaxed into bloom with very little effort. Pre-potted paperwhites can be purchased at many garden stores. All you do is add water! These potted bulbs also make a nice gift, or a fun activity for children.

The correct term is actually "forcing" as you are forcing the spring-flowering bulbs to fast-forward their natural growth cycles and bloom in winter instead. Paperwhites produce small, star-shaped flowers that will last for several weeks. Some varieties have pure white flowers, others have white perianths (outer petals) with pale yellow "cups" in the center.

If purchasing locally, choose healthy bulbs with no soft spots or signs of discoloration. Store in a cool, dry place until time to plant. Paperwhites will bloom about four to six weeks after planting, so plan accordingly if you want flowers for the holidays or other special occasions. For continuous bloom throughout the winter, plant bulbs every two weeks from late fall through February.

How to plant

Use shallow containers, about three to four inches deep, without drainage holes. You can find these specially designed containers for forcing at many garden centers. Add about two inches of washed pebbles, or large glass beads similar to marbles (available at craft stores and some garden stores) in the bottom of the container. If using the colorful glass beads, use a clear container so they can be seen. Or, similar to other forcing bulbs, you can plant in pots with soil.

Gently place the bulbs, pointed side up on the gravel or beads. They should be close, but not touching. (Five bulbs will fit nicely in a six-inch pot.) Then add enough pebbles around the bulbs to hold them in place. If using soil, make sure the bulb tops are at or above the surface.

The tricky part is watering the bulbs if not in soil. You want to add just enough water so it reaches the base of the bulbs. You don't want the bulbs to sit in water as this will cause rot. Maintain this level of water throughout the growing period. You'll probably need to replenish the water every two or three days. Don't fertilize—the bulb already contains the nutrients it needs.

Be patient and wait to sprout

Place the container in a cool, dark place (about 50 degrees F) for a few weeks until green shoots appear (but don't forget about them). Then move to full, bright light (generally, a window with southern exposure). Too little light, and the plants will grow leggy as they stretch to reach the light. Initially, room temperature should be 60 to 65 degrees.

To prolong bloom, after the plants begin to flower, remove them from direct sunlight and place in a cooler, less sunny part of your home. They provide easy, inexpensive, cheery, and long-lasting flowers.

For more information contact Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, Dept. Plant and Soil Sciences, Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Dr., University of Vermont, Burlington VT 05405. (802) 656-0479. Have you visited Perry's Perennial Pages lately? Go to: www.perrysperennials.info.

103 Artisans Marketplace

(formerly Gallery 103)

Unique Gifts from the Hand and Heart!

We offer the fine handcraft of over 100 Vermont and New England artisans. Jewelry, pottery, candles, textiles, woodwork, photography, metal work, prints, glass, gourmet chocolates and much more.

Free gift wrapping, hot mulled cider, cookies and Holiday Cheer!

Open every day until Christmas 10-5
Route 103 (1 mile south of the green) Chester, VT
802-875-7400 www.gallery103.com

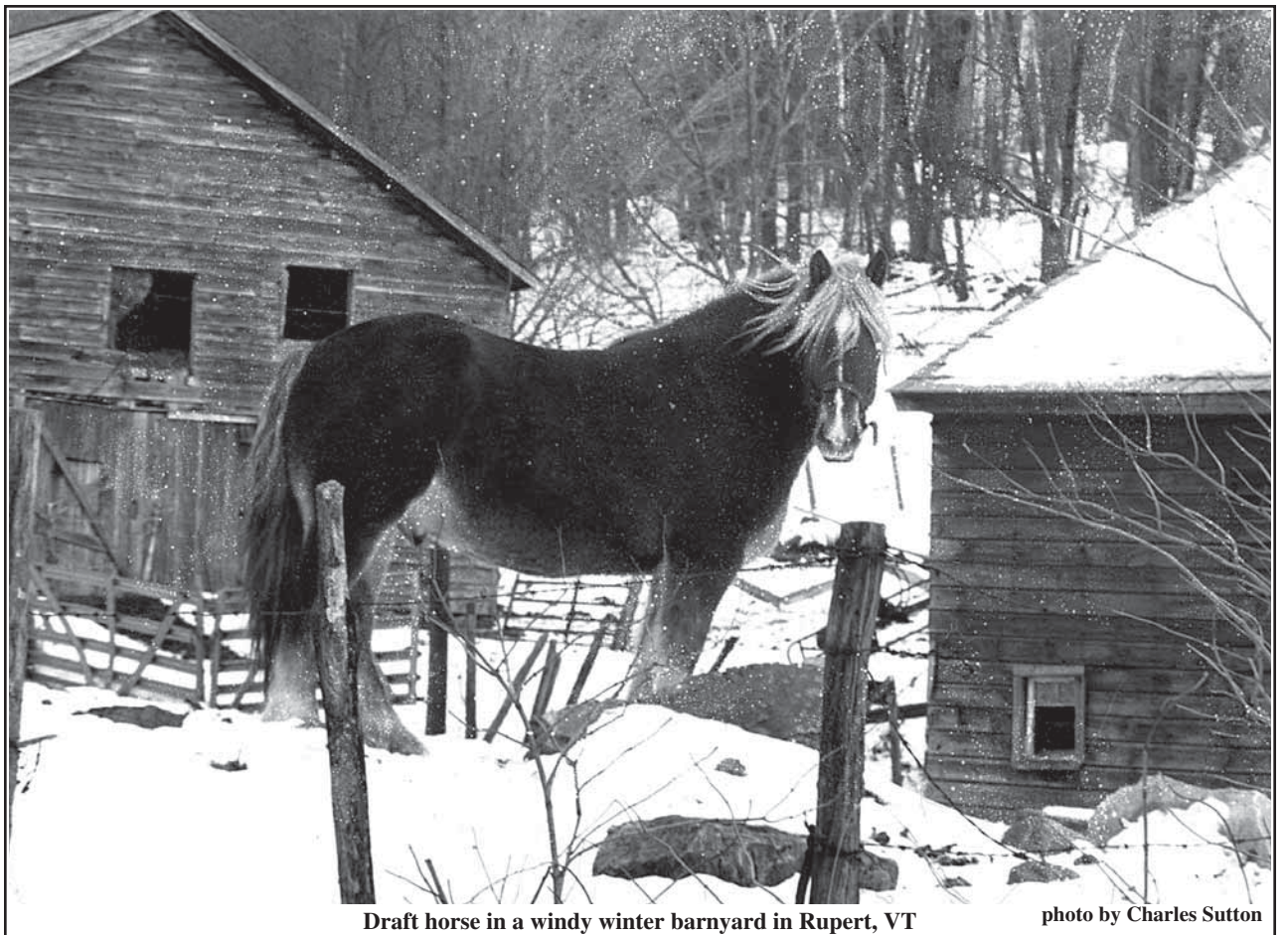
Country on the Common

Home of Sharon's Shawls
An Eclectic Boutique featuring Clothing from around the world and Special Treasures from Vermont.

80 The Common
Chester, VT 05143

Open Daily,
Tuesdays by Chance
802-875-3000

www.countryonthecommon.com



Draft horse in a windy winter barnyard in Rupert, VT

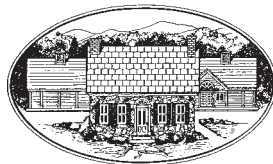
photo by Charles Sutton

Autumn Rafter's

Now rafters in the attic and the shed
And smokehouse hold the magic stored away:
The silvery green of sage, and peppers, red
As sunset embers on the hills today,
And golden rows of seed corn hung to dry,
And hams and bacon, russet-brown, with beads
Of salty flavor, and the dill, swung high,
To peek from bundles with bright eyes of seeds.

Enticing fragrance joins the breath of sun
Or wood smoke where the shadowy rafters hold
Their many treasures, with the harvest done—
Except where pumpkins mint the latest gold.
And here the cobwebs add their silver strands,
And cling a moment to our reaching hands.

—GLENN WARD DRESBACH



Stone House ANTIQUES CENTER

A multitude of antiques, collectibles and crafts.
Over 250 booths featuring fine furniture, folk art, quilts,
jewelry, primitives, farm implements, books and bottles.

Open Daily 10 am to 5 pm. (802) 875-4477.
Route 103, Chester, VT. 8 miles west of Exit 6, I-91.



R. B. Erskine, Inc. Grain & Supplies

Est. 1952
Chester Depot, VT
Mon-Fri, 7:30-5:00; Sat 7:30-3:00
802-875-2333

Rural Needs From A To Z

Poulin Grain

Nutrena
Excellence Inside

MORRISON'S
Custom Feeds
Certified Organic

MUCK
ROTT CORN
SCIENCE DIET
ECONOMIZER

WELLNESS
Loyall
NUTRITION

GREEN MOUNTAIN FEEDS
Certified Organic

Merrick
LIFE SUPPORT

GREEN MOUNTAIN FEEDS
Certified Organic Feeds

• Blue Buffalo
• Fromm
• Special Orders
Now Stocking • Dave's Natural

A...Arctic Sport Muck Boots, \$121.50
B...Bulk Bird Seed
C...Chain, Clevises, Cable, Come Alongs
D...Dog Crates & Kennels
E...Electric Deicers, Buckets & Bowls
F...Fence Panels: 1/4" Wire, 16', 4 Styles
G...Good Work Gloves & Mittens
H...Heat Tape & Hand Warmers
I...Ice Walkers: Stabilizers & Tak Trax
J...Jiffy Pots, Jolly Balls & Jingle Bells
K...Kids' Gloves & Mittens
L...LEADER EVAPORATOR Dealer
M...METALBESTOS Chimney
N...Nest Boxes & Nest Eggs
O...Organic Feeds & Fertilizers
P...Plumbing Supplies
Q...Quality Hand Tools
R...Rosin & Roof Rakes
S...Stove Pipe: 3"-10" & Adapters
T...Tanks, Tubs, & Totes & Tiedowns
U...USA Pet Foods & Supplies
V...Vermont-Made Products
W...Wire: Welded & Woven
X...Xtra Service
Y...Yard Hydrants & Parts
Z...Ziploc Freezer Bags to 2 gallon

Good Service
Everyday Low Prices
Much, Much More

CHERRY HILL FARM
— Springfield, VT —
Order For the Holidays!
Vicki Day's Preserves
Handmade in Vermont
Seedless Black Currant • Seedless Red Currant
Red Currant • Black Currant with Red Raspberry
802.885.5088 • cherryhillfarmvt.com

Simply Country
Open Mon-Sat 10-5
Sun 11-4
Closed Tues & Wed

(802) 875-7500

Great primitives and country finds
to decorate your home with!

527 North St., Chester, VT 05143

YOUR HOLIDAY FUN SHOP
THE HUGGING BEAR SHOPPE

TEDDY BEARS
FROM AROUND THE GLOBE
STEIFF
MUSIC BOXES
ARTIST BEARS
DOUGLAS BOOKS
GUND
FOLKMAN'S PUPPETS
WEBKINZ

IN THE HUGGING BEAR INN
244 MAIN ST.
CHESTER, VT.
05143
(802) 875-2412

The finest selection of Teddy Bears in the Northeast

OPEN EVERY DAY

www.huggingbear.com
info@huggingbear.com

A Vermont Almanack for Early Winter

by Bill Felker

The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind,
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

—Percy Bysshe Shelly

The Phases of the Paperwhite Moon

Among the various traditions that punctuate the darkest days of the year, the planting of paperwhite bulbs for bloom near winter solstice creates an indoor winter garden with which to transition into the next phase of the garden year.

December 2: The Paperwhite Moon is new at 7:22 p.m.
December 9: The moon enters its second quarter at 10:12 a.m.
December 17: The moon is full at 4:28 a.m.
December 25: The moon enters its final phase at 8:48 a.m.

The Sun

Winter solstice occurs at 12:11 p.m. (EST) on December 21. On the 24th, the sun's declination makes its very first move towards spring, shifting just a fraction of a degree from 23 minutes 26 seconds to 23 minutes 25 seconds. Vermont nights begin to shorten the day after Christmas.

The Planets

Jupiter lies in Gemini, overhead after midnight and shining bright in the far west before sunrise. Mars is in Virgo, well up in the southeast before dawn. Venus remains in Sagittarius, low in the southwest after dark. Saturn in Libra glows in the morning sky.

The Stars

The Milky Way lies across the sky from southeast to southwest this month. It turns slowly through the winter, reaching from due south to due north as the first lambs and kids are born and the first crocus blooms.

The Shooting Stars

December's shooting stars are the Geminids, appearing at the rate of about 40 to 50 per hour on December 13-14. Find them following behind Orion in Gemini. The Ursid meteors will appear late at night deep in the northeast around the Big Dipper and Little Dipper, the Ursid or "bear" constellations, between December 17 and 25.



Old barn and white birch at rest in a winter field in Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Meteorology

Severe weather is most likely to occur during the following periods: December 1-3, 24-26, 31 - January 1. It is probable that new moon on December 1 will intensify the arrival of early winter. Full moon on December 16 is likely to bring stronger-than-average storms to Vermont as deep winter approaches.

Peak Activity Times for Livestock, Fish, Game and Dieters

Fish, game, livestock and people tend to feed more and are more active as the barometer is falling one to three days before the weather systems that arrive near the following dates: December 2, 7, 13, 17, 23 & 30.

Natural Calendar

Perhaps what most moves us in winter is some reminiscence of far-off summer...The cold is merely superficial; it is summer still at the core, far, far within.

—Henry David Thoreau, January 12, 1855

On the 24th of December, the sun begins its ascent toward June, shifting from a declination of 23 degrees and 26 minutes to 23 degrees and 25 minutes. Although the days do not start to lengthen until the 26th, the 24th is the first day of the Season of the Rising Sun, a period which divides the year in two equal halves and which lasts until the sun stops at its highest point above the horizon between June 19 and 23, and then begins to fall towards winter solstice on June 24.

In Vermont, the Season of Dormancy can last from November through March, but a little more than a thousand miles south, that period narrows to a slender, ambivalent space, a borderland in which the difference between winter and spring balances on a fulcrum as fragile as a single plant or a single hour.

In the Northeast, the apparent movement of the sun on December 24 seems frozen in the stillness of the landscape, but somewhere between Georgia's marshes of Glynn and the Everglades of Florida, leaf-fall time turns suddenly to budding and blooming time, and that silent, felicitous reversal undoes the hard advance of superficial cold, stirring the coals of far-off summer's core.

WAGON, CARRIAGE & SLEIGH RIDES

Karl Pfister • 802-824-4663
Landgrove, VT

Vermont Scenic Prints
Original hand pulled, signed blockprints of "The Northeast Kingdom" and other Vermont locations.
Many designs available.
Also available as blank cards and 8x10 double matted reproduction prints.

Jeff Gold Graphics
2181 Walden Hill Road, Danville, VT 05828-9811
jnegold@myfairpoint.net • (802) 684-9728

Second Chance Animal Center

Dogs, Cats & Other Pets Available for Adoption

Tuesday 11-3:30
Wednesday 11-7
Thursday 11-3:30
Friday 11-7
Saturday 11-3:30
Sunday open house 12-3
Closed Monday

6779 Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury, VT
(802) 375-2898
www.2ndchanceanimalcenter.org

Grandma Miller's ~ Homemade Pies ~
24 Delicious Assorted Varieties!
Fresh Baked or Oven Ready
Take One Home Today!

Apple • Apple Crumb • Pumpkin • Mince • Pecan
Maple Walnut • Cherry • Blueberry • Summer Berry
Raspberry Peach • 29+ Varieties of Homemade Pies!

Stollen and Yule Logs for the Holidays!
Quiche, Soup and Other Dinner Specialties
Chicken Pot Pie & Shepard's Pie.
Coffee Cake, Sticky Buns, Cookies, and Breads.
Special Orders Welcome (802) 824-4032.

Come Visit Our Retail Store
At Hearthstone Village, Rt. 100, 2 mi. S. of Londonderry, VT
Open Monday-Saturday, 8 am - 5:30 pm

GRANDMA MILLER'S PIES SINCE 1994 PASTRIES

Pies also available at:
River Bend Market in Townshend, VT
The Colonial House Inn & Motel in Weston, VT
Wayside Country Store in West Arlington, VT
H.N. Williams Store in Dorset, VT
The Market Wagon in N. Bennington, VT

"Have a cup of coffee or tea and a pastry in our cafe area and enjoy the view!"

GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS
David Nunnikoven Baker & Owner

Visit Taylor Farm

A New Vermont Tradition!
Visit our Farm Store for Vermont cheeses, raw milk, baked goods, honey, syrup and more.

Horse-Drawn Sleigh or Wagon Rides!
825 Rt. 11 West, Londonderry, VT
(20 min. from Manchester or Stratton)
(802) 824-5690 • www.taylorfarmvermont.com



Annual Arlington Community Santa Lucia Festival of Lights

Once again, the Arlington Community and visiting travelers are invited to share in the Santa Lucia Festival of Lights, to be held on Saturday, December 14th, 2013.

The day starts with an Arlington Garden Club Craft Fair at the Arlington Community House and Holiday Open Houses at Arlington and Manchester Inns and B&Bs from 12-4 p.m.

Santa will be visiting the Community House at 4 p.m. A Christmas Tree Luminary Lighting and Community Carol Sing will also take place at 4 p.m. in front of the Community House followed by the Santa Lucia Pageant at 5 p.m. at the St. James Church across the street.

Inn to Inn tours, including Inns & B&Bs in Manchester are \$15. All other events are free to the public with a donation requested benefiting local community food cupboards.

St. James Episcopal Church, located in the center of the Village of Arlington, will once again host the Santa Lucia Pageant, which begins at 5 p.m. The pageant is an annual tradition set around the story of Santa Lucia and includes carol singing, readings and pageant participation by local youth and

adults. The celebration honoring the Italian-born Santa Lucia, actually originated from 16th century Germany, and later spread to Sweden and other Scandinavian countries.

Santa Lucia was fabled to have been a healer and spreader of light and love, and during this darkest time of the year the community comes together to honor her and welcome light into what can often be a bleak mid-winter.

Santa Lucia was known for her courage in dispensing food to the hungry and poor in times of persecution.

This tradition of community giving is continued in the context of this annual event, as attendees are encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable foods for the Arlington Food Shelf to the pageant or to make a free-will offering.

Both the Arlington Community House, at 3854 Main St., and St. James Church are located on Rt. 7A in the center of the Village of Arlington, VT. For more information about the Santa Lucia Festival of Lights, and the Inn Tours call Amie Emmons at (802) 375-6516 or e-mail amie@sover.net.

Book News

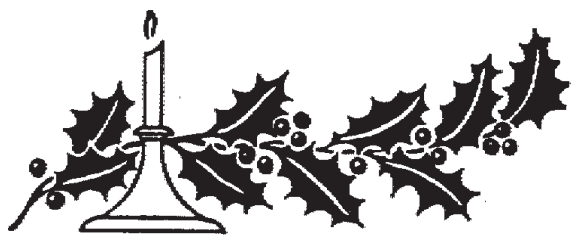
Add a Little Scandinavian Magic To Your Christmas

For holiday ideas in the Scandinavian tradition, get a copy of *A Swedish Christmas—Simple Scandinavian Crafts, Recipes and Decorations* by Caroline Wendt with photographs by Permillia Wastberg, translated by Eileen Laurie (published by Floris Books, \$24.95, www.florisbooks.co.uk).

Learn about beautiful ways

to honor the holiday. Make gingerbread men, create a snowflake blanket, try a lime pomander, and make outdoor gifts for the birds and ice lanterns.

Whether you have Scandinavian roots or just long for a simpler, more authentic Christmas, this book will take you on a pleasant holiday journey.



Sankta Lucia

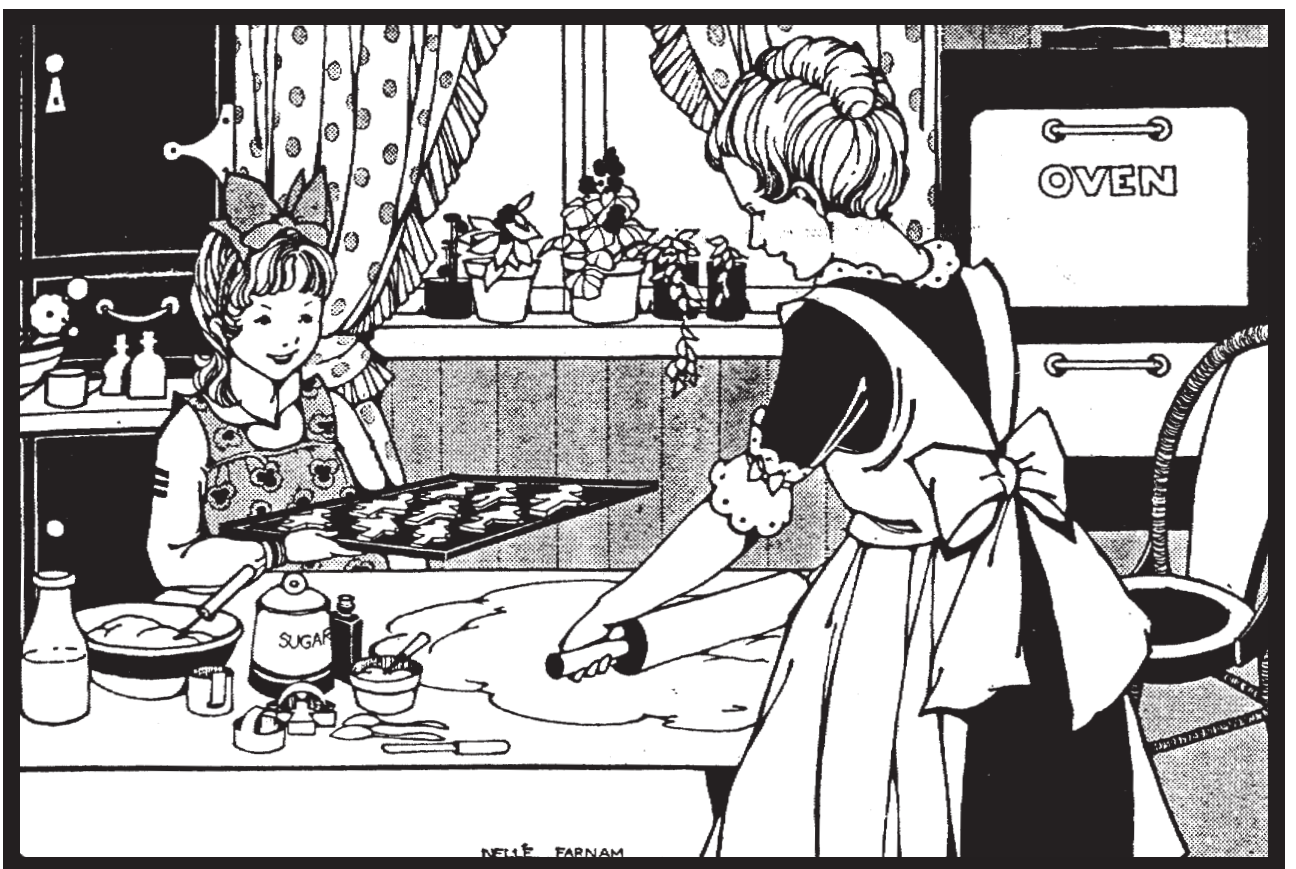
Nightly, go heavy hearts
Round farm and steading
On earth, where sun departs,
shadows are spreading.
Then on our darkest night,
Comes with her shining light
Sankta Lucia! Sankta Lucia!

Night-darkling, huge and still.
Hark, something's stirring!
In all our silent rooms,
Wingbeats are whisp'ring!

Stands on our threshold there,
White clad, lights in her hair,
Sankta Lucia! Sankta Lucia!

Darkness shall fly away
Through earthly portals.
She brings such wonderful
words to us mortals!
Daylight, again renewed,
will rise, all rosy-hued!
Sankta Lucia! Sankta Lucia!

—from the Swedish



Light in the Dark of Winter Celebrate St. Lucia with Swedish Saffron Buns

by Anna Brones

December is a dark month, especially in Nordic lands, which is why celebrating light is of the utmost importance. That need for honoring light, makes December 13th a holy day in Swedish families; the day for celebrating the tradition of St. Lucia.

As the child of a Swede that was intent on preserving tradition, I always knew what would come the morning of the 13th.

In the midst of the pitch black of a winter morning, my mother would gently knock on my door, the sign that I was meant to get up. Propping it open, she would walk away, leaving only the melodic sounds of *Lucia sången* coming from the downstairs speakers. I would rub my eyes and sleepily crawl out of bed. Outside of my door, a white robe was carefully hung, a thick red sash draped on top.

This ritual was so expected, that even in a semi-conscious sleepy state I knew what to do. Put on the robe, tie the red sash around my waist and proceed downstairs. Here, my mother would grace me with our Lucia crown—a green plastic crown with battery operated candles. That's the easy route; traditionally live candles and lingonberry leaves are used. Fortunately my mother knew better and I managed to avoid wax dripping onto my head (I had the chance of

discovering that later in life when live candles were deemed “age appropriate”).

Fully dressed in my traditional attire, my mother would give me a tray crammed full of *pepparkakor* and *lussekatter* (saffron buns) which I would take to my father.

Thousands of miles away a whole country devoted this day to celebrating light. In Stockholm there would be a national celebration, with striking blondes vying for the ultimate in recognition—being selected for the official procession through the streets of the capital city. There would be newspaper articles and television coverage. School celebrations. A day where the whole country ate the same baked goods, tinted yellow with saffron and dotted with currants.

But on the other side of the world, in our yellow house deep in the dark, and often dreary, winter forest of the Pacific Northwest, in a place where very few people even knew what “Lucia” meant, my mother made an effort to keep the tradition alive. And so it stuck.

In my own apartment nowadays I have no white robe or sash, and I'm not crazy enough to don a crown of candles merely for my own entertainment, but *lussekatter* are a must.

Also called *saffransbullar* or *lussebullar* these yellow sweet buns are stereotypical of Swedish Christmas. You'll find them at Advent parties, and of course, especially in honor of Lucia Day.

In honor of light, brew a hot cup of coffee, light a candle, listen to a Lucia playlist, serve a *lussekatt* and pretend for a moment that you're surrounded by a choir singing *Lucia sången*.

Glad Lucia!

Saffransbullar—Saffron Buns

Ingredients:

1/8 teaspoon saffron	1/2 cup + 3 tablespoons butter
2 1/2 cups milk	2 tbsp active dry yeast
1 teaspoon salt	1 cup sugar
7 cups flour	One egg + currants
1/4 cup currants	for decoration

Preparation:

Crush saffron in a small bowl with a little bit of sugar. Melt butter in a small pot and add milk. Heat until warm (you should still be able to stick your finger in).

Measure out yeast in a large bowl and mix in a couple tablespoons of the butter and milk mixture until the yeast dissolves. Mix in the rest of the milk and butter. Add in sugar and salt.

Add in almost all of the flour (you want to reserve some for rolling later) and mix and knead it together for about 10 minutes. Knead until the dough no longer sticks to the sides of the bowl.

Dust a little flour on top of the dough, cover and let rise for 30-45 minutes.

Knead dough on floured surface. Roll into classic *saffransbullar* shapes. The most common is the “S” shape, but get creative.

Place on a baking sheet with parchment paper or a nonstick baking mat. Cover with and let rise for 30 minutes.

Decorate with currants (they traditionally go in the center of where the bun is rolled) and glaze with a beaten egg.

Bake at 400 F for 8-10 minutes.

—Anna Brones

BOB'S MAPLE SHOP

Visit our display area and shop at
591 RICHVILLE RD, MANCHESTER, VT
At the Red Barn, 3.3 miles from Rt 11/30

The Best Pure Vermont Maple Syrup!
LOWEST PRICES!



Decorative Glass • Maple Candy
Volume Discounts • Large Inventory

OPEN DAILY • (802) 362-3882
Bob Bushee, Owner
www.bobsmapleshop.com



SUGAR SHACK

Large Selection of
Pure VT Maple Syrup

Made in our state-of-the-art evaporator

Visit Our Country Store

Lots of Vermont food products including jams, mustards, relishes, maple candy, cheeses, snacks, VT souvenirs, T's & sweatshirts and MORE!
Take home a fresh baked pie!

—Fresh Cider Donuts Made Daily!—

Norman Rockwell Exhibition

Featuring hundreds of examples of Rockwell's printed works; 15 minute film and Gift Shop.
Prints & Collectibles. Small admission fee.

Open daily 10 am – 5 pm
(802) 375-6747 • sugarshackvt.com

Historic Route 7A, Arlington, VT
Only 15 mins between Manchester & Bennington
(one mile north of Arlington Village)

Visit website to order online.

**10% Off Maple Syrup
With This Ad**



Faller Music Co.

SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS

- Percussion —Pianos
- Keyboards —Guitars
- Printed Music —Amps
- Band & Orchestral Instruments

“Life's too short, Don't forget to play”

170 N. Main St., “Downtown” Rt 7, Bennington, VT
802-442-4977 • 800-544-6792

The Old Woman

I've come the long way they call living,
I've fought to keep my feet upon the road;
Now I am old and reached the end of it
I know the whole trip didn't matter much.
I've had them all, those things that people crave,
The warm, fierce kiss, the searing pain of birth;
I've lost them, too, and now I know
They say of me, "It must be sad
To be like that, old and alone."
What fools most people are!
To think I'd want—
Now that I've lived and paid for it—
To go the path again.
A fine way that would be
To spend the last days that I have,
Ripping my heart and body up again.
No use to tell them though
That I've got everything I need and want—
A sight more happiness than them;
They'll have to come the long way, too,
To learn that this is what you come it for—
A patch of roof that's yours to have alone,
The hot sun warming up your back,
A pot of black tea brewing on the stove.



—ANN NELSON
1939



Historic Hildene, home to the Lincoln family, at rest under the winter snow in Manchester, VT. photo courtesy of Hildene

Judith Irven Landscape & Garden Designer

Helping people create beautiful gardens

Writings: www.northcountryreflections.com
Designs: www.outdoorspacesvermont.com
Talks: www.judithirventalks.com



For all your on-the-road needs!

Mt. Tabor Country Store

Rt. 7, Mt. Tabor, VT • (802) 293-5641

Groceries, Cold Beer & Soda, Ice, Videos,
Citgo Gas, Diesel, Self-Storage Rentals.

Store Open 6 am - 8 pm, Sunday 7 am - 7 pm



Full Deli: Pizza, Hot Dogs, Salads,
Cold Cuts, Sandwiches Made to Order



Daily dinner specials including: meatballs, shrimp,
chicken fingers, deluxe hamburgers.

Open till 7:30 daily, 6:30 Sunday.

Black Sheep Yarns, 25 Stonewall Lane
just off Route 30, in Dorset, VT. (802) 362-2411
Open daily 10-5, Sundays 12-4, closed Tuesdays

Come
and
See Us

black
sheep
yarns

Hildene Hosts Annual Museum Store Open House

The Museum Store at Hildene, the Lincoln family home in Manchester, VT hosts its annual open house, "Our Home for the Holidays" on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8.

Neighbors and new friends alike are welcomed to the warmth of the Lincoln family's one hundred year old restored carriage barn dressed in all its holiday finery. The aroma of hot apple cider and fresh cider doughnuts wafts through the air as musical sounds of the season and Vermont specialty food tastings set the mood for a unique holiday shopping experience.

The festive atmosphere on Sunday from 1-2 pm, will include live holiday music by the Emerald Valley Recorder Ensemble. Hildene admission fee is not required for visitors to the Welcome Center and The Museum Store.

The store will be filled to the brim with items inspired by Lincoln family history, the estate's natural environment, gardens, life at Hildene Farm and Vermont products.

An expanded student-focused section features fascinating new choices for children with activity oriented books, games and

project kits on diverse topics from bees and bugs to environmental science, recycling, and sustainability.

For that unique "one size fits all" present, a Hildene membership that provides year round access to the Lincoln family's estate is also available for purchase.

December 8 will also be the last day for "guesstimating" the amount of Lincoln pennies in the big jar. The winner will be the person whose guess comes closest to the total number of pennies in two categories, children and adults 16 and older.

If shoppers wish to extend their Hildene experience with

a visit to the Lincoln's home decorated for the holidays, Hildene Farm, and the Pullman car, Sunbeam, guest passes are available for purchase at the Welcome Center.

During regular hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., staff and interpreters are on hand to answer questions about the estate and its famous residents. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$5 for youth 6-14, and youth under 6 are free.

Hildene is located just off Rt. 7A south of the village of Manchester, VT. For more information call (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. www.hildene.org.

Manchester Music Store Instruments Sheet Music Accessories Great Prices! Expert Private Instruction Sound System Rental

Repairs & Maintenance **KORG VOX L&G**

Live Music for Your Next Event!
4732 Main St, Manchester Ctr, VT
(802) 367 1067 • manchestermusicstore.com



The Pharmacy, Inc. The Pharmacy-Northshire

Your community pharmacy for over 40 years

Corner of North & Gage Streets
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 442-5602

34 Ways Lane
Manchester Center, VT 05255

(802) 362-0390

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| ◆ Full Service Pharmacies | Hours: | |
| ◆ Medical Supplies | 8am-7pm | Monday-Friday |
| ◆ Orthopedic Supports | 8am-6pm | Saturday |
| ◆ Veterinary Products | 9am-12:30pm | Sunday-Bennington |
| ◆ Delivery Available | 9am-3pm | Sunday-Manchester |
| Monday through Friday | | |

THE 251 CLUB OF VERMONT

Since 1954, an organization of Vermont enthusiasts whose objective is to visit the state's 251 towns and cities.

www.vt251.com
(802) 234-5039

H.N. Williams Store
A One of a Kind Experience!

MEN'S CANVAS WORK SHORT

An excellent lightweight choice, these canvas work shorts feature the pockets you need for your tools.

RELAXED-STRAIGHT DUNGAREE JEAN

For a full day of no-quit comfort and quality, pull on the relaxed-straight dungaree jean.

MEN'S LEATHER FENCER GLOVE

Built of suede cowhide and reinforced for strength where you need it most.

www.hnwilliams.com

Six miles north on RT 30 from Manchester Ctr. in Dorset, VT
802-867-5353 M-F 7:30-6, Saturday 7:30-5, Sunday 8-4

A Few of My Favorite Things

by Judith Irven

It's early December and the annual catalog avalanche is well underway, not only in our physical mailbox at the road, but also in its electronic equivalent.

In the commercial world I am surely marked as an avid gardener! So now whole catalogs, devoted to clever tools and gadgets designed to solve any garden problem one might ever encounter, arrive by the dozen, to be followed in January by plenty of seed catalogs, with their tantalizing pictures of unblemished peppers and frilly lettuces.

But over the years I have learned to avoid rash purchases of new garden gadgets that ultimately get little use but still take up valuable space in the tool shed.

Now, when I head out into the garden, rather than hauling a heavy cartload of tools with me, I work on the principle that 'fewer is easier'.

I rely on a small number of easily carried tools to accomplish all my everyday gardening tasks, along with a few more which I keep on hand for specialized jobs like pruning.

So, with the holiday season around the corner and people asking what you want for Christmas, I thought you might enjoy hearing about my favorite tools and how I use them. Or perhaps you will glean some gift ideas to give your own favorite gardener!!

Pruners at the ready

I rarely step into the garden without my hand pruners, so useful for tidying-up perennials and grooming shrubs. I carry them in a leather holster slung on an old belt, where they are always handy. And, when not in use, the whole assembly hangs on the hook beside the back door, readily available at a moment's notice.

I mostly use my hand pruners to cut soft, live plant tissue, and for this purpose the bypass design (where the blades pass across each other in a scissor-like motion) is the best. I prefer this to the anvil design, which tends to crush the stem.

Pruners come in many shapes and weights, and of course peoples' hands vary widely in strength and size. Since you use your pruners a lot, it is important find a pair that truly matches your hand. Take the time to shop for them in person at a store that offers several brands which you can really hold and feel before you buy.

Felco is usually considered the 'gold standard' for pruners and they are certainly beautifully made. However, after trying out the motion and weight of several different brands and models, I finished up buying an ergonomically designed Bahco pruner with its distinctively angled blade assembly, and I have been very happy with my choice.

A steel hook with many uses

My 'Cobra head' weeder, an unlikely looking tool that I received as a gift, is now one of my 'must-have' garden tools. I use it for all kinds of weeding and cultivating, as well as for digging holes and transplanting small plants. And, by pushing the tool deep into the soil, I can lasso those stubborn dandelion taproots, usually getting them out intact.

Because I find my cobra-head weeder so indispensable, I added a small loop to my garden belt that allows me to carry it 'hands free' next to my pruners.

A new addition

This fall I discovered the Japanese 'sickle-saw', a new tool that promises to join my list of 'indispensables' at least during the fall clean-up. The sickle-saw has a curved handle with an extremely sharp 6" serrated blade that make short work of slicing through large clumps of perennials like Shasta Daisy stems and Siberian Iris leaves.

Clean hands, warm hands

'Dirt under the fingernails' may describe a real gardener. But since I also like to bake bread, if at all possible I would rather keep my fingernails clean. So finding garden gloves that were durable yet breathable, and flexible enough that I can feel the soil, was a must for me.

The Atlas brand '370 Garden Club' mesh gloves provide all that functionality. They have a flexible coating of nitrile



Judith has been putting her pruners to good use to shape up these old lilacs in front of the barn. Now they look especially nice in the snow. photo by Judith Irven

on the palms and fingertips, they wash well and besides they come in pretty colors. I buy mine in packets of six from the Palmflex website so I always have a clean pair ready for use.

I balance these out with a lined waterproof glove for cold weather work. Vinylove 360, also by Atlas and available through the Palmflex website, fit my hands perfectly.

Strong and sturdy

A good fork and spade are two larger items that are crucial for the gardener's toolkit. I use mine to prepare the soil for a new bed, to move (or remove) any larger plants, and also to lift and divide over-grown perennials.

So my fork and spade must be both strong and sturdy, while not overly heavy to use. From personal experience I can attest to the false economy of buying cheap thin forks, which sooner or later will bend or break.

Ten years ago I felt a bit extravagant when I purchased a digging fork and narrow transplanting spade, each forged from a single piece of steel with a smooth ash handle, made by Spear and Jackson. I bought them at Gardener's Supply in Burlington, where I was able to try the various makes and models to find tools that were compatible with my body and my stamina.

Spear and Jackson has been making tools in England for over 100 years and their products come with a 15-year guarantee (not bad considering the stress many of us put on our garden tools). I use my fork and spade constantly and still they retain their original shape and strength.

Last but not least

My final recommendation is to invest in a battery-powered string trimmer. Oh, I can hear you say—'an electric trimmer, that sounds really flimsy. Surely a gasoline engine would be preferable'.

The answer is that, while a gasoline powered trimmer works best for longer jobs like edging beds, you will be amazed at the host of smaller tasks where the lightweight ver-

satility of an electric trimmer is very welcome. For example: I have several stepping stone paths that meander through my beds. But, rather than attempting to weed between the stones, I use my Black and Decker electric trimmer to give each path a monthly haircut. The delightful discovery is that, over time, an inviting velvet carpet of moss is gradually replacing the weeds.

Golden rules for garden tools

Seek out quality tools properly proportioned for your own body.

Look for a few versatile tools to accommodate all your everyday gardening needs.

Judith Irven is a landscape designer who lives with her photographer husband, Dick Conrad, in Goshen, VT. Her northcountryreflections.com website is devoted to her garden writings.



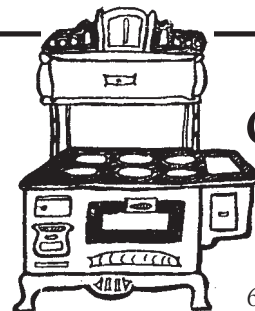
1820 HOUSE OF ANTIQUES

One Block Off Rt. 7

82 South Main Street

Danby, Vermont • 802-293-2820

Open Daily 10-5, closed Tues & Wed



Mom's Country Kitchen

Freshly Prepared Homecooked Foods

Open Monday-Saturday 6:30 am - 2 pm, Sun 7 am - 1 pm.

Come & Enjoy! Breakfast Served All Day. 5 Main Street, Wallingford, VT • (802) 446-2606

The Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, December 20th 8-11 p.m.

(802) 235-2718 www.tinmouthvt.org

All dances are taught. Come on time if you are a beginner. Exuberant dancers of all ages welcome. Admission: \$9 adults, \$7 teens, \$3 for 12 and under.



Tinmouth Community Center

573 Rt. 140 in downtown Tinmouth, VT

Green Living

www.GreenLivingJournal.com

A Practical Journal for Friends of the Environment



Since 1954, an organization of Vermont enthusiasts whose objective is to visit the state's 251 towns and cities.

www.vt251.com (802) 234-5039

Handcrafted Balsam Wreaths • Kissing Balls • Swags Garland • Holiday Pies • Maple Syrup • Homemade Jams

The Vermont Wreath Co.

In keeping the 50 year tradition going, The Vermont Wreath Company has relocated to the center of Tinmouth, VT. Our retail shop is open daily 10 am - 5 pm for the Holiday Season: November 15th - December 15th.

580 Route 140W, Tinmouth, VT

vermontwreath.com • (802) 446-3333 • vtwreaths@vermontel.net

hand forged iron Vermont Forgings

Finely Crafted Ironwork for the Home

Specializing in Hand-Forged Fireplace Accessories



Lighting Plant Hangers Hooks & Coat Racks

Custom Work Accepted Working Blacksmith Shop & Gallery

—Family Owned & Operated Since 1984—

41 Cook Dr. at Rt. 7, just south of Wallingford, VT

(802) 446-3900 • open daily

www.vermontforgings.com

Gifts From the Farm

It's chilly December and the holidays are upon us, time to think about curling up with a soft Vermont-made mohair, wool, or alpaca blanket.

Find out about the handmade, homegrown gifts that our friends and neighbors are creating for us—throws, comforters, blankets, mittens, scarves, yarn, sheepskins! The blankets are available in a variety of colors and styles—from natural browns and whites to dyed blankets.

You can find these goods at a holiday fair or winter farmers market or you can order directly from the farm, sometimes with a visit. Be sure to call ahead.

Alpacas of Windmill Hill Farm

Laura M. Solomon, 842 Grassy Brook Rd., Brookline, VT 05345. (802) 348-9300. trelex88@gmail.com. www.windmillhillartisans.etsy.com. We use hand-spun yarn from our organically raised alpacas to hand-knit/hand-crochet blankets. Alpaca wool is warmer and softer than sheep's wool. Our custom-made blankets are available year round in all sizes in natural colors including grey, white, fawn, black, or a combination—100% Alpaca! Hand-knit at the farm, we produce one-of-a-kind, warm, and cozy designer creations from alpaca—hats, headbands, mittens, scarves, neck warmers, dolls, handmuffs, and afghans.

Call to request size, color, and design then pick up by appointment between 10-5 at the farm. Shipping available.

Black Sheep and Zucchini Farm

Suzanne Wallis, 154 Blood Hill Rd., Norwich, VT. (802) 649-1789. suzannewallis@valley.net. Dyed skeins of yarn, fleece, carded fleece, and bagged yarn from Jacob and Merino sheep. We also have daffodills and peonies in season.

Broadbrook Mountain Farm

Holly Nash Wolff, 260 Nash Rd., Royalton, VT 05068. (802) 763-7282. Natural-colored blankets woven from the luxuriant wool of our purebred white Romney Sheep. Very strong fiber from a calm, healthy flock. Mail order available. Fleeces for hand spinning, at the farm.

Ellen's Half Pint Farm

Norwich, VT. (802) 649-5420. www.ellenshalfpintfarm.com. Mail order and online sales. Hand painted yarns and knitting supplies.

Gage Hill Crafts

Rick and Sarah Scully, Tunbridge, VT. (802) 763-7474. info@gagehillcrafts.com. gagehillcrafts.com. At Gage Hill Crafts we sell wool blankets, yarn, roving, and knitting kits. Our rare-breed Navajo-Churro sheep are known for strong wool suitable for rugs, blankets, outerwear, and felting. We



Grace Bowmer holds a lamb at Tamarack Tunis in Corinth, VT. Grace and her partner Ben Machin raise heritage Tunis sheep, one of America's oldest livestock breeds, on the farm.

also sell luxury yarns made from llama fiber. All of our fibers are 100% grown and processed in Vermont.

Maple Ridge Sheep Farm

Linda Doane, 1187 Connecticut Corners, Braintree, VT 05060. (802) 728-3081. mrsf@mrsf.com. www.mrsf.com. The Maple Ridge flock is the oldest flock of Shetland sheep in the USA. We offer premium-quality breeding stock, hand spinners' fleeces, yarn, rovings, quilting and felting batts, finished wool products, including writing pens made out of horn, wool blankets, and meat. Our sheep are raised the naturally healthy way on grass. No grain, no additives.

Stonethrow Farm

Katherine Smith, 136 Jack Perry Rd., Wallingford, VT 05773-9350. (802) 446-3325. katsmith@vermontel.net. I am a handspinner with a mixed flock of Angora goats, Blueface Leicester, Romney and Cormo sheep and their crosses. I have lustrous coated fleeces for handspinning as well as roving, clouds, and pin-drafted sliver. Three styles of luxury yarn, machine-spun using my homegrown soft mohair.

Limited amounts of handspun yarn and died mohair locks.

Sheepskins. Registered breeding stock available as well as crossbred sheep for the handspinner's flock.

Tamarack Tunis

Ben Machin and Grace Bowmer, 913 Young Rd., Corinth, VT 05039. (802) 439-3833. benandgrace@tamaracktunis.com. www.tamaracktunis.com. Tamarack Tunis is a grass-based farm raising heritage Tunis sheep. Affectionately known as "the redheads" for their unique reddish-brown faces, the Tunis are a multi-purpose, medium-sized, cream colored sheep with pendulous ears and a calm way about them. We produce wool comforters, eco-spun tunis yarn and tanned sheepskins. Will ship. Also meat available.

Vermont Grand View Farm

Kim and Chuck Goodling, 1638 Scales Hill Rd., Washington, VT 05675. (802) 685-4693. kimgoodling@yahoo.com. www.grandviewfarmvt.net. We are a small, diverse fiber farm offering B&B style farm stays. We raise purebred Romney sheep, llamas, and angora rabbits for their fiber. Our farm products include yarns, hand-woven rugs and blankets made from wool from our sheep.

Subscribe to Tidbits, a free web publication of Valley Food & Farm. Call (802) 291-9100. Visit vitalcommunities.org.

First Snow

The cows are bawling in the mountains.
The snowflakes fall.
They are leaving the pools and pebbled fountains;
Troubled, they bawl.
They are winding down the mountain's shoulders
Through the open pines,
Through wild rose thickets and the granite boulders
In broken lines.
Each calf trots close beside its mother
And so they go,
Bawling and calling to one another
About the snow.

—CHARLES E.S. WOOD

This Christmas Give The Vermont Country Sampler To Your Friends & Family



"A Great
Way To Stay
In Touch
With The
Vermont We
All Know
and Love!"

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

\$20 each when you order three or more!
(One year subscription regularly \$24)

Your own subscription or renewal may be included in this offer. All gift subscriptions begin with the January issue.

Please enter the following subscriptions
(Use blank paper for more than three—no limit.)

I enclose \$_____ for _____ subscriptions.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to:

The Vermont Country Sampler
PO Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759

The Book Shed

BUYING BOOKS TRADES
SELLING on all subjects CONSIGNMENTS



Open Wednesday-Sunday
10 am - 6 pm, or by
appt. or chance

Lake & Stage Roads, Benson, VT

(Off Rte 22A in Rutland County)

(802) 537 2190 • Shop thebookshed.com

- Member Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association -

Vermont Country Dining at its Best

As always we serve real good, real food.

We still bake our own bread and pies, and we serve our famous chicken and biscuits every Wednesday.



Breakfast,
Lunch & Dinner
Every Day

- Daily Specials -
Full Service Bar

Just Over the Hill in Benson, VT • (802) 537-2755

"Wheel" Cater to You. Let us bring our famous food to your next party.

It's Always Maple Time at

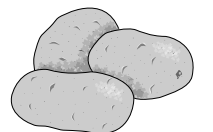
Green's Sugarhouse

1846 Finel Hollow Rd., Poultney, VT
802-287-5745 • greensugarhouse.com

Guided Tours • Free Samples
Mail Order Catalog • We Ship
Maple Syrup, Maple Cream & Candies,
Specialty Maple Spices.

Gift Boxes for the Holidays!

Perry's Potatoes



~ Farm Stand open 7 days ~

**Bagged Red and White Potatoes in
10, 20 & 50 lb. bags • Maple Syrup for sale**
Rt. 22A Hampton, NY • (518) 282-9640
(1 mile north of Poultney, VT, 8.5 miles north of Granville, NY)



Fashion Corner

Bridal Gowns • Bridesmaid Gowns
Mother of the Bride Dresses
Flower Girl Dresses • Tuxedos
Shoes • Prom Dresses
Special Occasion Jewelry

4325 Main St. • Port Henry, NY
(518) 546-7499

Call for Hours

The Best Christmas Ever

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

Quite a few years ago, my husband and I had a Christmas when it seemed almost no one in the family was going to be home. Of our three daughters, one had been living and working for awhile in Milan, one had dedicated her life to skiing in Alta, and one had temporarily disappeared.

My sister was far away too, visiting a friend in Vienna. No one seemed particularly interested in making it back to Castleton. Maybe that was understandable—although at the time it didn't seem so to me.

Our son, who lived in town, asked with some concern, "Will it be much of a Christmas with just us?"

I thought about it, and finally I said, "It might be fine."

I continued, "These things work out." Then I added with a certain reckless bravado, "It could be the best Christmas Ever."

I'm not quite sure why I said that, although I suspect that there's a universal maternal instinct to try to soothe and reassure. But I was anxious myself. Family-wise, we were unfestively few. My father was still alive then, and he was nearly ninety. It was going to be just him, my husband, my son and me.

My son and I drove to Charlie Brown's farm stand and picked out a tree. I decorated the house. I drove up to Burlington and spent a day Christmas shopping. My husband and I went to the Castleton Historical Society carol sing at Main Street's Higley House. We had our Village Store employee party at the Birdseye Diner, and we went to church. That brought us right up to Christmas Day.

In the morning, we made some long distance telephone calls to the far-away daughters and to my sister. My son came over after picking up his grandfather, who lived just down the street, and we settled in at home going through our usual Christmas rituals.

I have a photo, which I can no longer find, of the four of us on the front room sofa. My son had set his camera's auto-

matic timer and run across the room to join us. There we were, all laughing, pushed in together in a row. Looking at it now I can't believe that my father was ninety. That year, we were all the same age.

I don't remember much about Christmas Day. But traditionally, we open gifts one at a time, and when we get famished we eat breakfast under the tree. I do remember that it was awfully cold, and then it started to snow.

It snowed and snowed, but we weren't very aware of it because we were so cozy inside opening those gifts one at a time.

Then it was late afternoon, and we had our traditional 'Spirit of Dickens' roast goose dinner. We sat around the table and talked. It grew dark, and my husband said, "Let's get out of the house and go for a drive."

That's when we realized that the snow was over a foot deep and the whole town had become silent and dark. The wind pushed the snow around, and it drifted under the street lights. When we'd bundled up and come out into our driveway, it sounded like there was sand or rice blowing in the wind.

The car was warm, and my son and my father got in the back seat. We were headed to Hubbardton. No one else was out. All the houses along Main Street were dark. Perhaps people were tucked in watching television. There was only the blowing snow under the street lights. Town plow trucks had come through once earlier in the day, but now they'd gone home and the snow had deepened dramatically.

When we got up to Hubbardton, we drove back roads. We slid in spots and slewed around some, but our car was good in snow, and my husband kept going. The cold was intense, the sky clear and black, marked with tiny brilliant stars.

At the top of the long hill on St. John Road, my husband turned off the headlights. I was worried that my father would be alarmed, but when I glanced quickly over my shoulder, I realized he wasn't. He looked excited and happy, like a young boy on a wonderful adventure.

All around us, the fields were drifted white,



and on the distant ridges a few tiny houses—all that was left of the hill farms my father had known as a boy—were black.

The stars above us shone brilliantly. It was silent in the car. We went on and on through the deep powdery blowing snow. I wanted that Best Christmas Ever drive to last forever, and now in my memory it does.

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has written all of her life and lived most of that life in Castleton. She is the author of many stories, articles, essays and magazine features and of two books: *The Blue Cat and the River's Song* and *The Vanished Landmarks Game—Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye*.

High Mowing Organic Seeds Offers a Seed CSA

You can now save 10% on your 2014 seed order with High Mowing Organic Seeds in their seed CSA.

In a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm system, CSA members invest in their farmer before the crop has even been planted, to provide income at a time when costs are high and sales are low. Like farms, seed companies experience a similar ebb and flow with seasonal income.

High Mowing Organic Seeds has adopted the CSA model to create the Community Supported Seed Share program (CSS).

We invite you to purchase your seed credits at a 10% discount through midnight, December 21, 2013.

You can purchase your CSS share by calling our High Mowing at (802) 472-6174 or by purchasing it online at www.highmowingseeds.com.

You can purchase seed credits in any denomination. For example, if you purchase \$100 worth of seed credits, you pay \$90.

These seed credits can then be redeemed anytime from January 15th, 2014 through December 31st, 2014. You will receive your Community

Supported Seed certificate and redemption instructions by January 15th, 2014.

By purchasing a CSS share, you put your seed dollars towards supporting an independently-owned company that is dedicated to supporting sustainable agriculture and providing farmers and gardeners with

the highest quality certified organic seed.

High Mowing Organic Seeds is located at 76 Quarry Rd., Wolcott, VT 05680.

For questions call (802) 472-6174. E-mail questions@highmowingseeds.com. Or visit highmowingseeds.com.

The Nature Conservancy
OF VERMONT

Saving the Last Great Places

Phone: (802) 229-4425
Website: www.tnc.org

27 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602

Stop In & Check Us Out!

 Matthew's Solo Cam Bows
Archery • Guns & Ammo
Air Rifles & Lacrosse Boots

Mart's Sporting Goods
Hunting & Fishing Supplies
—Open 7 Days—
85 Main St., Poultney, VT
(802) 287-9022 • Martin VanBuren Jr.

Rena's Garden Market

Christmas Trees & Wreaths,
Garlands, Centerpieces, Kissing Balls
Crafts, Honey & Maple Syrup.
Oriental Food Products.

Rt. 30, Wells, VT • (802) 287-2060
Reopening Daily 9-5, Nov. 29 - Dec. 23

Priscilla's Sweet Shoppe

Fine Chocolates • Truffles • Old-Fashioned Candies

Maple Soft Serve
Nuts, Gifts

199 Main St, Poultney, VT
(802) 287-4621 • Tues-Sat, 2-6 pm
priscillassweetshoppe@gmail.com



A Food Co-op
In downtown Poultney
Sunday-Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-7

STONE VALLEY
COMMUNITY MARKET

stonevalleymarket.com

216 Main St., Poultney, VT • (802) 287-4550



Earth & Time
Gift Gallery

- Fine Art
- Crafts
- Antiques

Exclusive 'Robert Hamblen' Gallery
Open Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5
Closed Mon & Tues
5 Capron Lane/Route 30
Wells, VT • (802) 783-8025
2 miles north of Wells Village



"Supporting Local Farms, Fresh Food, Healthy Communities"

For more information or a copy of our Locally Grown Guide, contact:

Rutland Area Farm & Food Link
(802) 417-7331
rutlandfarmandfood@gmail.com
www.rutlandfarmandfood.org

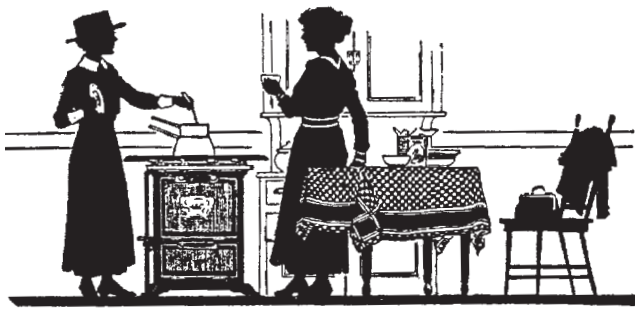


NANCY'S PLACE

Bakery, Breakfast, Lunch

Holiday Pies & Baked Goods

150 Main St., Poultney, VT • (802) 287-4769
Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7 am - 3 pm,
Saturday & Sunday 8 am - 2 pm. Closed Wednesday.



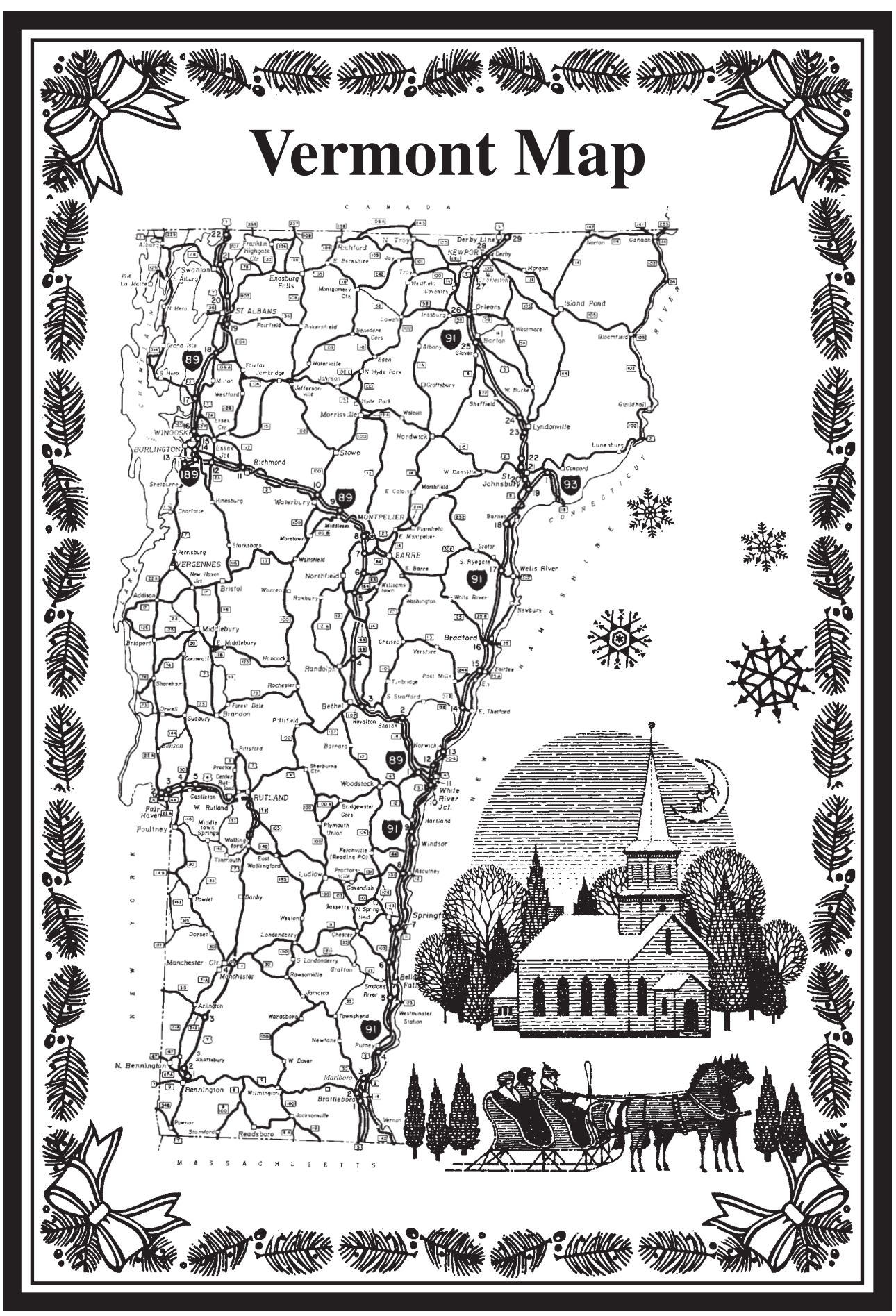
Memories Forever
Best Country Shop Around
New Location!
53 Rt. 30N., Bomoseen, VT
Next to Century 21 Bird RE • Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat till 4
Visit the Christmas Room
Ornaments Galore!
802-345-8799
On Facebook—Ellie Chiccarelli Memories Forever

BROWN'S ORCHARD & FARMSTAND
~ Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Swags ~
*Christmas arrangements.
Order holiday pies now!
Maple syrup, jams, jellies,
honey, Vermont cheddar.*
Homemade pies, pastries, cider donuts, & sweet cider
Rt. 30, 1 mile south of Castleton Corners, VT
at Brown's 4 Corners • Open daily • (802) 468-2297

TOM'S Bait & Tackle
Christmas Trees
Starting Thanksgiving Weekend
Just west of Rt. 30
Route 4A, Bomoseen VT
Open 7 Days a Week
Hours: Mon-Sat 5 am - 6 pm, Sundays till 3 pm
(802) 265-8654 • tomsbait@comcast.net • Rob Steele

LA FRANCIS QUALITY USED FURNITURE
We Buy & Sell Furniture
(518) 499-1994
(518) 338-7613
522 Route 4A West
Castleton, VT
Mon-Thurs 10-4
Fri & Sat 10-5
See Us for Couch & Table Sets!

Free Sample Copies?
We'll be glad to mail a FREE copy of the Vermont Country Sampler to the name you list below.
The Sampler can be picked up free of charge in Vermont or subscriptions are available by mail for \$24.00 a year.
Complete & Mail in this Coupon
Please send a free sample copy to:
Name _____
Address _____
I picked up this issue of the Sampler at _____
Comments _____
12/13
Mail to:
The Vermont Country Sampler
PO Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759



The Friendly Beasts

Jesus our brother, strong and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around Him stood
Jesus our brother, strong and good

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown
"I carried His mother up hill and down
I carried His mother to Bethlehem town"
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown

"I," said the cow, all white and red
"I gave Him my manger for His bed
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head"
"I," said the cow, all white and red

"I," said the sheep with curly horn
"I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm
He wore my coat on Christmas morn"
"I," said the sheep with curly horn

"I," said the dove from the rafters high
"I cooed Him to sleep so that He would not cry
We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I"
"I," said the dove from the rafters high

Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel
The gift he gave Emmanuel

—UNKNOWN

Rathbun's MAPLE SUGAR HOUSE RESTAURANT
Open Sat & Sun 7 am - 1 pm 518-642-1799
Off Rt. 22 in North Granville, NY. Watch for signs!
www.rathbunsmaple.com
Specializing in Homemade Pancakes with our own Pure Maple Syrup...
French Toast and Waffles
Gift Shop
Rathbun's is family-owned operating since 1961. A place where people are greeted with a smile and feel the comforts of home.

FLANDERS FARM STAND & SNACK BAR
Pesticide-free Produce from Our Family Farm
New! Grain for Your Farm Animals from Green Mountain Feeds. Affordable Prices!
Starting Mid-November: Grass-Fed Beef & Pork. Winter Squash, Onions, Carrots, Broccoli & More. Homemade Pickles & Jellies.
Coming Nov. 23: Christmas Trees & Wreaths, Holiday Ornaments & Holiday Decor
Open Daily 10 am - 7 pm, Snack Bar: Sat & Sun Noon-8
Rt. 30, Castleton, VT • ½ mile so. of Castleton Corners
802-747-8119 • flandersfarm@gmail.com

Vermont Country Calendar

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

BARTONSVILLE. Friday Night Bingo. 6:30 pm. Once a month meeting held the 4th Thursday of every month—new members welcome. Bartonsville Grange (located across from Rockingham State Police Barracks on Rt. 103), 116 Upper Bartonsville Rd. (802) 875-4438. *Every Friday.*

BELLOWS FALLS. BF3F—Bellows Falls Third Friday. Stores and galleries in town and in the surrounding area host special exhibits and events. 5-8 pm. Flyer available at Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. villagesquarebooks.com. *Monthly on the third Friday.*

CHESTER. 28th Annual Overture to Christmas. Visits with Santa Claus, tree lighting ceremony, parade, puppet show, musical entertainment, arts & crafts, caroling, story telling and more! Throughout the village. (802) 875-2626. motelinthemeadow@comcast.net. *December 2-14.*

CHESTER. Monthly Public Astronomy Meetings for the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group. Second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm—free to the public at Whiting Library. Star parties and other events. For membership and information contact the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, PO Box 424, Chester, VT 05143. www.sovera.org.

KILLINGTON. Ars Poetica. 4th Wednesday of the month. Free. 6-8 pm. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Rd. (802) 422-9765. sherlib.wordpress.com.

LEBANON, NH. Listen Community Dinner. Nutritious free meals served from 5-5:30 pm every Tuesday and Thursday. At Sacred Heart Church on Hough St. (603) 448-4553. www.listencs.org.

LEBANON, NH. ValleyNet Community Technology Center. 10-seat computer lab in the new Grafton County Senior Citizens Council building, Campbell St., downtown. Center is open for walk-ins 9 am - 4:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Free. (802) 649-2126.

LUDLOW. Fletcher Farms School for the Arts and Crafts. Vermont's oldest residential arts and crafts school. Register for our arts and crafts classes. Woodworking, oil and watercolor painting, kirigami, basketry, and much more. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Rt. 103 South. (802) 228-8770. info@fletcherfarm.org. www.fletcherfarm.org.

MANCHESTER. December Holiday Festivities in Manchester & the Mountains. Lighted tractor parade, wine tastings, inn tours, tree lightings, horse drawn wagon rides and world-class shopping. Free. For information and schedule contact the Camber office at 39 Bonnet St. or call (802) 362-6313. www.visitmanchestervt.com. *Through January 1.*

MIDDLEBURY. Very Merry Middlebury. The Better Middlebury Partnership is planning a festive month of December, complete with visits from Santa, horse and wagon rides, a breakfast with holiday characters, the Hot Chocolate Hut and free gift wrap for items purchased in Middlebury. www.bettermiddleburypartnership.org.

MONTPELIER. Bethany Bowl. A community meal that is free to all. 9 am - 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, Bethany Church, 115 Main St. (802) 223-2424. www.bethanychurchvt.org. UCCBethany@comcast.net. *Every Tuesday.*

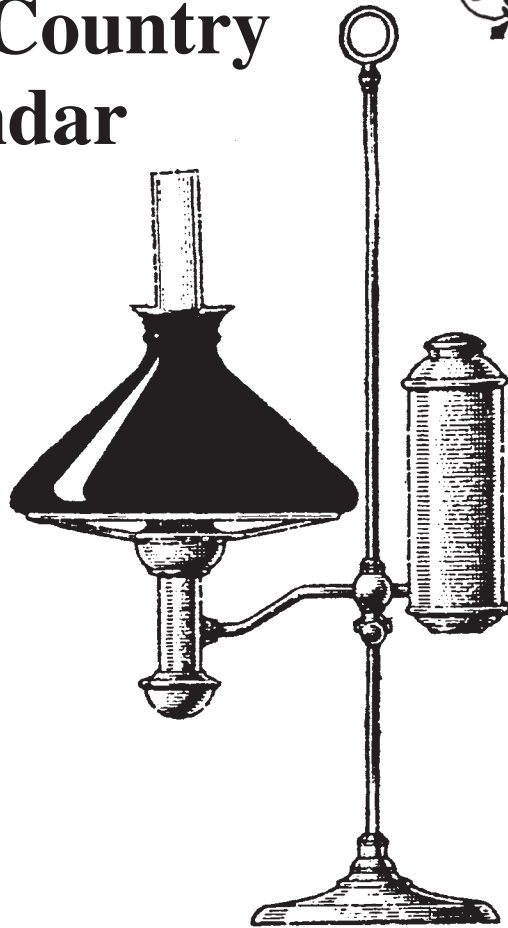
MONTPELIER. Kellogg-Hubbard Holiday Book Sale. Thousands of books, from shiny new bestsellers to antique curiosities. Also find CDs, DVDs, maps, sheet music, and more. Books are organized by subject for easy browsing. Hardcover \$2 each, softcover \$1 each. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm, Fri 10 am - 5:30 pm, Sat 10 am - 5:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogg-hubbard.org. *December 14 through January 18.*

POULTNEY. Free Historical Audio Walking & Driving Tours. View and learn about Main Street Poultney, East Poultney Village, and the Quarries, Farms & Forests. (802) 287-5252, (802) 287-2010. www.poultneyhistoricalsociety.org. www.poultneyvt.com.

SPRINGFIELD. Stellafane. A place and an organization devoted to amateur astronomy, founded by Russell W. Porter in 1923, and considered by many to be the "Birthplace of Amateur Telescope Making." Home to The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., an active amateur astronomy and telescope-making club that sponsors many events, classes, activities, and a convention. Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc., PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156. Webmaster@Stellafane.com. www.stellafane.com.

ST. ALBANS. Book Cellar—Library Used Book Sale. \$3 per bag of books! Sponsored by Friends of the St. Albans Free Library. Tuesdays from 10 am - 8 pm. Held in the library basement. St. Albans Free Library, 11 Maiden Lane. (802) 524-1507. www.stalbansfreelibrary.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Tai' Chi Gung into classes. Reiki healings, Chinese ear coning, handmade herbal remedies, teas, and lotions. Crystals, stones, and books. All are welcome. Open Tues & Wed 1-6, Thurs-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-4, closed Fri. Vermont Herbal General Store, 518 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. www.vermontherbal.com.



WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Listen Community Dinner. Free nutritious meals served at 5 pm every Monday through Friday. Take-home available. LISTEN Community Dinner Hall, 42 Maple Street. (603) 448-4553. www.listencs.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Upper Valley Seed Savers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 5 pm at Upper Valley Food Coop, through the winter. Our mission is to further knowledge about seed saving and to work on projects that will help develop a body of locally-adapted open-pollinated vegetable seeds. For information, or if you can't come to meetings but would like to receive a monthly email with our minutes which contain information on our projects, please contact Sylvia Davatz at sdav@valley.net or call (802) 436-3262.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. Celebrate - Annual holiday season show includes a wide variety of fine art and crafts created by SPA Member Artists. Exhibited on all three floors. Free. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am - 5 pm, Thurs 11 am - 7 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm. Studio Place Arts, 201 N Main. (802) 479-7069. info@studioplacearts.com. www.studioplacearts.com. *December 3-31.*

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Thousands of books, manuscripts, photographs, broadsides, maps, audio, video and film recordings, and many other items of ephemera which shed light on the lives and times of past Vermonters. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Open Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.org.

BELMONT. Mount Holly Community Historical Museum. Open year-round on second weekend of the month. Tarbellville Rd. (turn right immediately after the Belmont Store, museum is on your right). (802) 259-2460. www.mounthollyvtmuseum.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. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. 212 Union St. at the corner of Valentine St. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Art exhibits, permanent collections, theater productions, workshops. Plein Air VT—exhibit of paintings through December 22. Admission: adults \$9, seniors/students \$8, families \$20, under 12 are free. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.benningtoncenterforthearts.org.

BENNINGTON. Hidden Gems Festival of Trees. Wonderful exhibits, grand gala, festive community day, and holiday vignettes, each containing a 'gem' from the museum's collection! Admission: adults \$10, seniors and students 18 and over \$9, children and students under 18 are free. Open every day except Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm, closing at 1 pm on December 24 & 31. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org. *Through December 30.*

BENNINGTON. Bennington Museum—Exhibits and Public Programs, Founding Documents, Fine Art, Grandma Moses, and more. See Bennington Pottery, the 1924 Wasp Touring Car, Fine Art, Vermont Furniture, and the Bennington Flag - one of America's oldest flags. Lectures, workshops, concerts, films, and the George Aiken Wildflower Trail. Admission \$10, children under 18 free. Also free admission to visit the Gift Shop. Open 10 am - 5 pm every day except Wednesdays. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

GENE'S BARBER SHOP
 Angeline M. Joyce—Master Barber • Becky Taylor—Barber
Over 50 Years Experience
 Open Tues-Sat • Men \$10-12 • Ladies \$15 • Under 10 \$8-10
292 West St., Rutland, VT • (802) 747-4773

Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist,
 The Vermont Herbal General Store has all the answers you need!

Usul & Karuna Reiki
 Healings & Classes
 Animal Healings
 w/Remedies
 Tai' Chi Gung Classes

The Vermont
Herbal
 GENERAL STORE

Handmade Herbal Medicines
 Crystals & Gemstones • Teas, Lotions, Capsules

578 Main St., W. Rutland, VT • (802) 438-2766
 Open Tues & Wed 1-6, Thurs-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-4, closed Fri.
 See us on Facebook and Twitter • www.vermontherbal.com

Southern Vermont Hydroponics
Indoor garden supplies, soil, fertilizer, and hydroponic systems.
 Open 7 Days a Week • 10 am - 6 pm
 (802) 259-2003
 51 Belmont Rd. (just off Rt. 103)
 Mount Holly, VT
southernvermonthydroponics.com

Jump Fore Fun
Indoor Family Fun & Party Center
 Blacklight Mini-Golf
 Bounce Houses • Party Rooms
 Playgroups • Rentals
 (802) 772-7339 www.jumpforefun.com
132 Granger St., Rutland, VT
Bounce House Rentals Now Available!

Fruit Pies
 Cream Pies
 Eclairs
 Quiche
 Chicken & Turkey
 Pot Pies

Homemade Condiments
 Pickles
 Jams & Jellies
 Vermont Products

Burnham Hollow
BAKERY • CAFE • CATERING

Order your Holiday Pies & Baked Goods now!
Breakfast & Lunch Menu—Eat-In or To-Go
 Sandwiches, Salads, Spanakopita, Dolmades, Soup, Daily Specials
 Tues thru Fri 9-5, closed Sun & Mon • Sheila Anagnos
97 State St., Rutland, VT • (802) 770-8149
 Saturday at the Rutland Farmers Market, 251 West St., 10-2

Timberloft Farm Store
 LOOK FOR THE BIG FARM MARKET ARROW
 JUST OFF RT. 4B IN WEST RUTLAND, VT

Open daily noon - 6 pm til December 24
Wreaths & Sprays
 — Handmade by Mary —
 Christmas baked goods, jams, jellies, pickles, crafts including aprons & neck warmers

Vermont Country Calendar

(Museums, Exhibits & Galleries continued)

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Concerts, exhibits, classes, readings, and other events. Exhibit: *Your Junk, My Art: The Transformation of Found Objects*. Take-out café is open Monday through Friday 11 am - 4 pm; to place an order call (802) 465-4071. Studio space available. 250-seat concert hall. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. info@cmactv.org. www.cmactv.org. *Through December 15.*

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. VT Kids Design Glass II—an exhibit of 12 imaginary creatures conceived and designed by kids in grades K-6 and rendered in three-dimensional splendor by area glass artists. Many other programs and exhibits. Open 11-5. Closed Tues & Wed. Admission \$6/\$4/\$3. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through March 8.*

BURLINGTON. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Exhibits, workshops, programs, café, gift shop, story hour. Admission: \$9.50 adults, \$7 ages 3 - 17, \$8 seniors and students, under 3 free. Monday-Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. At Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

CENTER RUTLAND. The Rutland Railroad Museum. Housed in the Rutland Depot, built in 1917. See railroad artifacts and historical exhibits including HO & N scale model railroad layouts and a children's layout. The museum is also available to educational groups and schools for tours by appointment. Open Saturdays from 11 am - 1 pm. Rutland Railway Association, 79 Depot Lane. For information call John Schaub at (802) 768-8427. info@rutlandrailroadmuseum.org. rutlandrailroadmuseum.org.

CHESTER. Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts. Art exhibits, programs and music. Free admission. Wednesday through Sunday 11 am - 6 pm. 15 Depot St. (802) 875-1018. info@vtica.org. www.vtica.org.

CHESTER. 103 Artisans Marketplace. (Formerly Gallery 103). Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and Vermont Maple products. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open every day 10 am - 5 pm, closed Tuesday. Located on Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. Gallery103.com.

ENOSBURG FALLS. Exhibit: Works by fine artist Natalie Larocque-Bouchard, potter Alex Costantino and decorative painter Kitten Ellison. Artist In Residence Gallery, Main St. (802) 933-6403. info@artistinresidencecoop.com. www.artistinresidencecoop.com.

GLOVER. Bread & Puppet Museum, One of the largest collections of some of the biggest puppets in the world housed in a 100-foot-long converted dairy barn built in 1863. Events and exhibits. Free admission, donations welcome. Georgian singing workshops on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Open 10 am - 6 pm daily. Bread and Puppet Farm, Rt. 122. (802) 525-3031. www.breadandpuppet.org. *Open in the winter by appointment.*

GRAFTON. The Nature Museum at Grafton. Programs for all ages. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, mounted specimen, wildlife garden. Hiking trails in the Village Park behind the Museum. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 3 to 12, 2 and under free, \$15 for families. Open Thurs, Sat & Sun 10 am - 4 pm. 186 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2111. www.nature-museum.org.

GRANVILLE, NY. The Slate Valley Museum. Exhibits, events, demonstrations, programs, First Fridays, and gift shop. Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am - 4 pm. Admission \$5, under 12 free. Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. www.slatevalleymuseum.org.

HUNTINGTON. Birds of Vermont Museum. Features over 500 carved wooden birds, representing 259 species. Museum, special events and bird walks, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$6, senior \$5, child 3-17 \$3. 10 am - 4 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org. *Open by appointment through April 30.*

LUDLOW. Black River Academy Museum. Exhibits and programs. Annual Christmas play and Open House, December 6 & 7. Admission \$2, seniors and students \$1. Winter hours by appointment. 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. info@bramvt.org. www.bramvt.org.

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

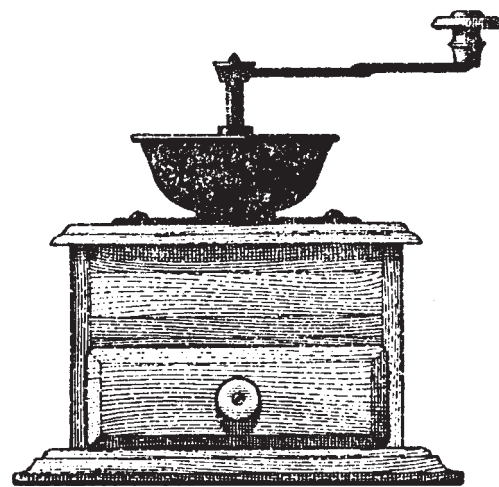
MANCHESTER. Visit Historic Hildene—A 1912 Victorian Christmas. Robert and Mary Lincoln's home is decorated throughout the month as they might have done when they stayed at Hildene through the holidays in 1912. Christmas is celebrated with festive greens throughout, carols played on Robert and Mary's organ and piano on weekends, and carolers in the Welcome Center. Tickets: \$16 adults, \$5 youth under 14, children under 6 free. Grounds pass: \$5 adults, \$3 youth, children under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, closed December 24 & 25. Historic Hildene is off Rt. 7A, just south of the village. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene. www.hildene.org.

MARLBORO. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Perched on an overlook—on a clear day the horizon is 100 miles away! See mounted specimens of over 600 native New England birds and mammals, a Raptor Center with live hawks and owls, amphibian and reptile exhibit and fall wildflower exhibit. Hogback Mountain Gift Shop next door. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, under 5 free. Open 10 am - 5 pm on weekends in the winter. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. museum@sover.net. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Summer/fall hours: Tues-Sat 10 am - 5 pm and Sun 1-5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, 1 Park St. (803) 388-2117. www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Exhibits, gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Mon-Sat, 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 11 am - 4 pm. At 88 Main St., downtown. (802) 388-4964. info@vermontfolklifecenter.org. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MONTPELIER. Exhibit: Interpreting the Interstates. An exhibit aimed at understanding how the construction of the Interstate Highway System changed Vermont's culture and landscape. Admission fee gives access to Vermont History Museum and Vermont Heritage Galleries. Adults \$5; families \$12; students, children, seniors \$3; (802) 828-2291. www.vermonthistory.org. *Through April 2014.*



Vermont Woods in Winter

by Norman C. Tice, 1914

This morning we will buckle on our snowshoes and take a tramp over the snow-covered meadows and explore the silent woods. The purple shadows are dark beneath the snow-laden spruces that stand at the edge of the timber land. The sun shines down upon us in chilly rays and the surface of the snow gleams in dull white patches beside the rail fences. As we enter the younger growth of trees we see a few chickadees hopping from branch to branch, meanwhile chattering incessantly.

The sun becomes deeper as we penetrate farther into the woodland. The winter silence is more pronounced. The shadows are darker and cooler. The soft crust of the snow is marked in irregular trails by the feet of various small animals. Here the rabbit gambolled in the moonlight and we

can see where he chased his companion among the spruces and around the trunks of the beeches.

The silence grows deeper as we walk along. The snow is piled high on fallen logs and decayed stumps of trees. By this unfrozen spring a fox stopped to drink, then trotted away in search of his prey. The crunch of our snow shoes upon the crusty snow warns a timid squirrel of our approach. He runs up to the topmost bough of a leaning birch and scolds us energetically. A sap-sucker races headlong down the trunk of a maple with reckless velocity, then darts away to another tree where he goes through the same performance. Feeding among the cones on a birch tree is a blue-jay. He greedily eats his fill then with a wild scream flies away.

The sun sinks behind the hill early in the day. A twilight glow of purple veiling envelopes the woodland, as we reach the end of the woods that border on the swamp. Tall brown grasses, bedraggled by the winter winds wave drily to and fro. Long streaks of clear blue ice mingled with the soft brown of sunken logs and mossy knolls stretch before us. A breeze steals through the swamp and whistles shrilly among the dry rushes.

A tree of the mountain ash, heavily laden with a treasure of red berries, leans toward the frozen bay. A flock of swamp robins alight on its branches and greedily despoil it of its beauty. Then chirping gayly they fly away.

We now turn our steps homeward as the shadows are rapidly covering the landscape. The last glow of the winter sunset has fled and an ethereal purple glamour fills the sky and tints the slopes of the wooded hills.

ALDOUS FUNERAL HOME & Cremation Service

44 No. Main St., Rutland, VT • (802) 773-6252
AldousFuneralHome.com • Aldous@comcast.net
Joseph Barnhart ~ Christopher Book

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Hours: Wed-Sat 12-5, closed Sun thru Tues.
765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT
(802) 483-6700 • www.rchsvt.org

The Yellow Deli

Delicious Food in Rustic Comfort.

23 Center St
Rutland, Vt
802-775-9800

www.YellowDeli.com

Open 24 Hours Daily from
Sunday at 12 noon thru Friday at 3 pm

Make It Sew

Dressmaking
Tailoring • Alterations
69 Center St., Rutland, VT
802-775-8200
Open Tues-Fri 10 am - 6 pm,
Saturday 11 am - 4 pm



Jennifer@makeitsewvt.com

Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center

Destination Relaxation: Dec 14, 2013

Full day of massage, yoga, tarot, Reiki, and so much more. Only \$60 for the entire day. Gift Certificates Available • www.pyramidvt.com

— Open 7 days —

120 Merchant's Row, Rutland, VT
(802) 775-8080 • (802) 775-1880
www.pyramidvt.com • kelleyw@pyramidvt.com

Boardman Hill Farm West Rutland, VT

Over 25 varieties of organic products available through our CSA or Subscription Gardening. See us for organic farm-raised beef, pork, and chicken.

Call (802) 683-4606



See us at the
Rutland Winter Farmers Market
251 West St., in downtown Rutland
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Vermont Country Calendar

PITTSFORD. New England Maple Museum. World's largest maple museum. Tour Vermont's famous maple industry and visit our gift shop. Admission: adults \$5, children \$1. Open 8:30 am - 5:30 pm daily. New England Maple Museum, 4578 Rt. 7, north of the village. (802) 483-9414. info@maplemuseum.com. www.maplemuseum.com. *Through December reopening in March.*

QUECHEE. Vermont Toy Museum. Collection of more than 100,000 toys. Toy and gift shop. Free admission to the museum. 10 am - 5 pm daily except holidays. On the 2nd floor inside Quechee Gorge Village, Rt. 4. (802) 295-1550 x 102. vermonttoy.com or quecheegorge.com.

ROCHESTER. Art Exhibits. Wed-Fri 10-5; Sat 12-5; Sun-Tues by appointment. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Art Center—Rutland Area Art Association. Exhibits, classes, workshops, open studio evenings, gift shop. Gallery open Tues-Sat 10 am to 5 pm. 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11 am - 6 pm, Friday and Saturday 11:30 am - 7 pm. Chaffee Downtown Art Center, 75 Merchant's Row. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Castleton Faculty Exhibition featuring the work of 13 Castleton faculty members runs through May 11. Free admission. Open Mon, Wed, Sat 1-6 pm, Fri 1-7 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Concerts, workshops, lectures, and classes for adults, teens, and children. Something for every interest. (802) 869-2960.

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Pizzagalli Center & Museum Store only, through May 10, 2014: Tues thru Sun 10 am - 5 pm, closed Mon. Adults: \$10, children ages 5-18 \$5, children under 5 free, family day pass \$26. 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org.

SHOREHAM. Shoreham Bell Museum. See 5-6,000 bells collected from all over the world. Open most afternoons by appointment or chance year round. Free admission, donations accepted. Shoreham Bell Museum, 127 Smith St. off Rt. 74 west. For information call Judy Blake at (802) 897-2780. www.shorehambellmuseum.com.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: *Earth as Muse—Beauty, Degredation, Hope, Awakening.* Paintings and sculptures by artists Fran Bull, Jenny Swanson, Pat Musick, Harry Rich, and Richard Weis. Great Hall Public Art Showcase, 100 River St. (802) 258-3992. Facebook. *Through April 30.*

SPRINGFIELD. Gallery at the VAULT. A Vermont State Craft Center. Featuring fine art and hand-crafted gifts from over 125 local and regional artists and craftsmen. Exhibits, classes, workshops. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm. 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. www.galleryvault.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Exhibit: Sculptor Kristian Brevik makes intricate insects using paper. His work reveals the beauty and grace of creatures too tiny for most of us to notice. These intriguing pieces are on display—apparently crawling and flying—in the Museum's balcony. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. *Through December 31.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain and Dog Chapel. Free. Open Mon-Sat 10 am - 5 pm and Sun 11 am - 4 pm. The Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd. off Spaulding Rd. (800) 449-2580. info@dogmt.com. www.dogmt.com.

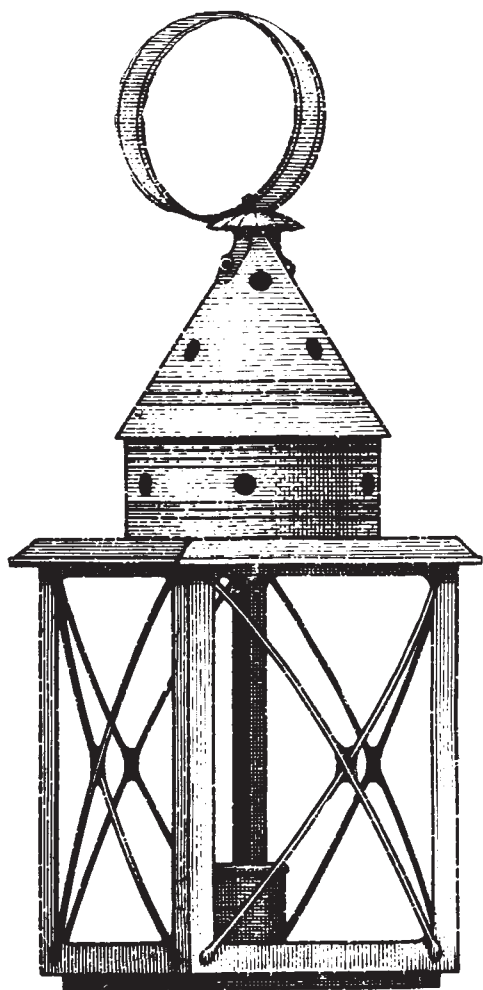
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Main Street Museum. A small, public collection of curiosities and artifacts, each one significant and telling a story about human beings and the universe we are part of—an alternative experiment in material culture studies. Open Thurs-Sun 1-6 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. info@mainstreetmuseum.org. www.mainstreetmuseum.org.

WOODSTOCK. Holiday Art Show. "Less is More"—Fine Works in Miniature. Tues 11 am - 8 pm, Wed-Sat 11 am - 2 pm. ArtisTree Community Art Center, Mount Tom Building, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. www.artistreevt.org. *Through December 21.*

WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Premiere Jersey dairy farm, restored 1890 farmhouse, family programs, festivities and museum. Wagon Ride Weekends every weekend in November. Thanksgiving Weekend, November 29, 30 & December 1. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 5 pm. Winter hours: November-February weekends, 10 am to 3:30 pm. Christmas and February vacation weeks, 10 am to 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

PERFORMANCES, PLAYS & MOVIES

STATEWIDE. Freedom and Unity: The Vermont Movie. New six-part historical and cultural documentary film with gala premieres and showings. For locations, times, gala events, and tickets for all showings, call (802) 779-3653. www.thevermontmovie.com. *Through December 4.*



WOODSTOCK. First Run Movies at the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Old-fashioned big-screen movie-going experience. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6. Famous maple popcorn! (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

COMMUNITY DANCES

BERLIN. Afro-Caribbean Dance. With live percussion every Thursday from 10:30 am - 12 pm. All levels welcome. Drumming and dance from Mali Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Also Capital City Grange Potluck—share delicious food with your friends and future friends, starting about 6:30 each first Saturday, all are welcome, no charge. Capital City Grange, 6612 VT Rt. 12, Northfield Rd. (802) 985-3665. capitalcitygrange.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. tinmouthvt.org. *Every fourth Friday.*

WEST NEWBURY. Eastern Square Dance. Traditional singing squares, waltzes, polkas, foxtrots, two-steps, Virginia Reel, Portland Fancy, Paul Jones, others. All dances taught. With Adam Boyce, fiddler/caller, Donna Weston on piano. Admission by donation, all ages welcome. 8 pm at the Community Hall at 219 Tyler Farm Rd. (802) 429-2316 or adamboyce@juno.com. *Fourth Saturdays.*

HORSEBACK RIDING, WAGON & SLEIGH RIDES

BRANDON. Painted Woods Farm provides sleigh and wagon rides through beautiful fields and forest where you can experience some of Vermont's splendid scenery and perhaps glimpse some wildlife. Looking for a romantic evening adventure? Well a carriage ride for two down a quiet country lane would be for you. For info call Donna and Anthony Peduto at (802) 247-4917.

BRATTLEBORO. Fair Winds Farm Sleigh and Wagon Rides. Half-hour reserved horse-drawn rides through fields and woods, and along a babbling brook. Adults \$10, kids 3-12 \$6, minimum \$50, after 5 pm \$80. Visit our farm store. Fair Winds Farm is a "Diversified, Horse Powered, Vermont Family Farm" at 511 Upper Dummerston Rd., off Rt. 30. (802) 254-9067. fairwind@sover.net. www.fairwindsfarm.org.

DANBY. Mountain View Ranch & Sun Bowl Ranch. Horse-drawn wagon rides, all-season trail rides, lessons, boarding, special events. 502 Easy St. off Brook Rd. Call to reserve. (802) 293-5837. riding@mountainviewranch.biz. www.mountainviewranch.biz.

LANDGROVE. Karl Pfister Horse-Drawn Sleigh, Wagon and Carriage Rides. Rides leave on the hour from Landgrove Inn. Call for reservations. (802) 824-4663. www.karlpfistersleigh.com.

PUTNEY. Green Mountain Orchards. Horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides year-round by reservation. 130 West Hill Rd. (exit 4, I-91), look for signs in Putney Village. (802) 387-5851. www.greenmtorchards.com.

WILMINGTON. Scenic Horseback Trail Rides. \$25/40 minutes. Children over 6 can ride alone. Pont rides for younger children. Year round by reservation. Flames Stables, Rt. 100 south. (802) 464-8329.



Ars Poetica in Killington, VT

Every fourth Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. there is a gathering of poets, writers, storytellers, and those who appreciate the written word at Sherburne Library on River Rd. in Killington, VT. Come one, come all for readings, writings, discussions, and workshops. Refreshments are served. Donations gratefully accepted. Hope to see you there!

For information contact Lauren Jane Wilder at (802) 299-1777. handinhandcommunityservice@gmail.com.

For information contact Lauren Jane Wilder at (802) 299-1777. handinhandcommunityservice@gmail.com.

Connie's Collectibles

Old Glassware
Matchbox Cars
Rocking Chairs

Medicine Bottles
Wagon Wheels
Sumi-e Art Originals



11am - 5pm Wed-Fri, 10am - 2pm Sat
Or by appointment: (518) 569-7536



40 Strong's Avenue, Rutland, VT
www.conniescollectiblesvt.com
(802) 775-0900

Got a story to tell?

The Public Press can be the shortest distance between the author's brain and the printed page. For more information visit us at

ThePublicPress.com

Send for a free guide to over 100 campgrounds and many state parks



Vermont Campground Association

45 State St., #368
Montpelier VT 05602
info@campvermont.com
www.campvermont.com

RUTLAND AREA FLEA MARKET

3-DAY HOLIDAY BAZAAR!
1-STOP SHOPPING!

FRI - SAT - SUN
NOV 29 - 30 - Dec 1
INDOORS!! 9-3

Coins-Crafts-Avon-Books-Pets
Wreaths-Antiques & Vintage-DJ
Candles-Furniture-Carvings
Jewelry-Sports-Dragons-Soaps
Clothes-Shoes-Boots-Lanterns
Health & Beauty Supplies
Clocks-Quilts-Puzzles-Florals
Felt Creations-Slate Paintings
Knittings-CDs-DVDs-Records
Dolls & Clothes-Self Defense
Jams-Pickles-Cards-Pottery
Holiday & Home Décor-Knives

AND MORE!
AUSTIN BURBANK
BOOK SIGNING
SAT, NOV 30th 9:00-3:00

Visit with santa
SUN, DEC 1st!! 9:30-3:00

Raffles! Prizes! Music!

Join us for our final
two weeks in 2013:

DEC. 14 & 15
DEC. 21 & 22

Look for our 2014 Schedule!

RutlandAreaFleaMarket.com
♥ 802-770-9104 ♥
200 WEST ST • RUTLAND

Chambers Farm



Fresh Eggs
Grass-Fed Beef
Pastured Chickens

December Special
Buy One Chicken
Get One Dozen Eggs Free!

Open: Mon-Sat 11-6

3257 Middle Road
North Clarendon, VT
(802) 775-5110
www.7csfarm.com

Best Sandwich in Town!



802-772-7638
Groceries & More

Formerly
East Clarendon
General Store
Route 103
Clarendon, VT

Both Stores Open Till 7 pm

BENSON Village Store



Maple Products
Fresh-Baked Goods
Lunch & Dinner Specials
(802) 537-2041 • We Ship

Vermont Country Calendar

RECREATION & NATURE CENTERS

GRAFTON. Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. A year-round recreation center. In the winter enjoy cross country skiing with snowmaking, snowshoeing, and snowtubing. Mountain biking, bike terrain park, hiking, canoeing. 783 Townshend Rd. (802) 843-2400. graftonponds.com.

HUNTINGTON. Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk. Help monitor bird populations in the different habitats at the Green Mountain Audubon Center. 8-10 am. Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-3068. Vermont@audubon.org. www.vt.audubon.org.

MONTPELIER. North Branch Nature Center. Programs and workshops. 713 Elm Street. (802) 229-6206. chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org. northbranchnaturecenter.org.

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center. Exhibits, programs, nature trail, nature store. Admission: adults \$13, seniors \$12, youth (4-17) \$11. 10 am - 4 pm, 7 days a week through January 5. VINS Nature Center, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Rt. 4, 1/4 mile west of Quechee Gorge. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RUPERT. Merck Forest and Farmland. Camping, cabins, trails, farm, workshops and seasonal events. Visitor's Center and store with certified organic maple syrup, our own 100% wool blankets, and more. Open year round, dawn to dusk. 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

SHELburne. Shelburne Farms. Welcome Center, Farm and Farm Store. Family programs, workshops, events. Open year round 10 am - 5 pm. Eight miles of walking trails in woodlands and meadows. Walkers, check in with the Welcome Center. Admission. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org.

Daily Events

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

KILLINGTON. Killington 5k turkey trot. 5k fun run/walk to support local charities. All ages welcome. Registration Fee. 9:30 am at Jax's, 1667 Killington Rd. (617) 594-8473. killingtonturkeytrot@gmail.com. killingtonturkeytrot.com.

STRATTON MOUNTAIN. Eighth Annual Gobble Gobble Wobble 5K Race. Race starts at 9 am under the Clocktower. Registration info at Stratton.com. Registration Fee. Stratton Mountain Resort, 5 Village Lodge Rd. (800) 787-2886. www.stratton.com.

WELLS. Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone is invited, Wells residents and beyond. Reservations not necessary but it helps if you call to let us know you are coming so we know how many turkeys to roast. Donations accepted but this dinner is free. If you want to donate food, let us know. 3-5 pm, Wells Village School. (802) 645-0934.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

BELLOWS FALLS. Walpole Artisan Tour. Open Studio Tour, occurring in Bellows Falls, VT and Walpole, NH. Free. 10 am - 5 pm. Sherwin Art Glass Studio, 33 Bridge St. (802) 376-5744. walpoleartisans.org. *Through December 1.*

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center Holiday Sale during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Open 11-5. Closed Tues & Wed. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org. *Through December 1.*

CHESTER. Thanksgiving Open House at 103 Artisans Marketplace. Free refreshments, raffles, door prizes, hot mulled cider, and holiday cheer! We're filled to the brim with gifts for everyone on your list, from stocking stuffers to one of a kind pieces for that special someone! Grand Raffle Prize—Handmade basket filled with Vermont specialty foods and chocolate (\$50 value!). 10 am - 5 pm. 103 Artisans Marketplace (formerly Gallery 103), Rt 103 & 7 Pine View Rd. (802) 875-7400. www.gallery103.com. *Through December 1.*

DORSET. Third Annual Thanksgiving Tractor Parade, Dorset Village Green. Artfully decorated tractors, covered with Christmas lights. 5-9 pm. dorsetvt.com.

DORSET. 3 Pears Gallery Christmas Exhibition and Grand Opening Weekend. Celebrating our new location on the Dorset Green. Heirloom Christmas treats and refreshments from 12-4 pm. 3 Pears Gallery, 41 Church St. (802) 770-8820. *Through December 1*

POULTNEY. Christmas Craft Fair. With 60 vendors offering traditional and unique handmade holiday gifts, crafts, folk art, gourmet foods and more. 10 am to 4 pm each day at the Poultny High School gym on East Main St. (Rt. 140) just off Rt. 30. Free. For info call Jamie Condriil (802) 287-9570. *Also November 30.*

PUTNEY. The 35th Annual Putney Craft Tour. Find that one-of-a-kind gift direct from the artisan who made it. 10 am - 5 pm. (802) 387-4032. *Also November 30 and December 1.*

RUTLAND. Rusty Dewees: The Holiday Variety Show. Everybody's favorite uncle dances and prances. Tickets: \$24. 8 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org. *Also November 30.*

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House at the Billings Farm and the critical and demanding work of harvesting crops each fall. The "History of Thanksgiving" programs will be presented in the parlor; cider pressing and harvest and food preservation activities for every age. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride and a homemade treat. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also November 30 and December 1.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

BARRE. Irish Concert. Lúnasa and Karan Casey entertain. Tickets \$18-\$32. 8 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. Box office: (802) 476-8188. Info: (802) 476-0292. staff@barreoperahouse.org. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BENNINGTON. Russian Folk Music. Oleg Kruglyakov and Terry Boyarsky promise an exuberant performance of soulful, passionate, traditional Russian music. Admission. 8 pm. Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane. (802) 442-7158. www.thebennington.org.

BRANDON. Maple View Farm Alpacas Holiday Open House. Free. 11 am - 4 pm. Maple View Farm Alpacas, 185 Adams Rd. (802) 247-5412. mvalpacas@earthlink.net. www.vermontfibermill.com. *Also December 1.*

CHESTER. Thanksgiving Open House at 103 Artisans Marketplace. Free refreshments, raffles, door prizes, hot mulled cider, and holiday cheer! We're filled to the brim with gifts for everyone on your list, from stocking stuffers to one of a kind pieces for that special someone! Grand Raffle Prize—Handmade basket filled with Vermont specialty foods and chocolate (\$50 value!). 10 am - 5 pm. 103 Artisans Marketplace (formerly Gallery 103), Rt 103 & 7 Pine View Rd. (802) 875-7400. www.gallery103.com. *Also December 1.*

DORSET. Concert—Manchester Music Festival Presents Buenos Aires to Saint Petersburg. With the Manchester String Quartet. An afternoon of strings and Spanish guitar: Piazzolla's L'Histoire du Tango, Eduard Angulo's Paseos, and Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No.1 in D Major, Op.11. Tickets: adults \$30; 18 and under \$13. 4 pm at United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, 143 Church St. (802) 362-1956. www.mmfv.org.

DORSET. 3 Pears Gallery Christmas Exhibition and Grand Opening Weekend. Heirloom Christmas treats from 12-4 pm. 3 Pears Gallery, 41 Church St. (802) 770-8820. *Also December 1.*

Rt. 7 North The SHOPS at the Rutland PURPLE Picket Fence

LOOSEY GOOSEY'S CLOTHES LIVE

Wonderful wearables for women who want both COMFORT & Style

3 Crows Vintage ANTIQUES flea-finds SALVAGE & JUNK great-odd-weird

Mr. Twitter's Garden & GIFT Emporium HOME and Holiday!

773-0795 / 800-924-8948
OPEN Year M-F 9:30-5:30
Round Sat 9-4 Sun 10-3
www.mrtwitter.com

Snowflake CUPCAKE CAFE

GOLD SPONSORS: RUTLAND HERALD, CARRISPEELS, SEASON SPONSORS: GE, GE Aviation, FOLEY, Small Dog Electronics, GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER

2013/2014 SEASON

presented by ALBANY BERKSHIRE BALLET

THE NUTCRACKER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 • 2PM/6PM

FAMILY SERIES SPONSOR: Stewart's Shops

SHOW SPONSORS: The Mountain Times, WCAZ

With media support from:

GARRISON KEILLOR

Paramount Theatre 100th Anniversary Celebration

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 • 7:30 PM

VPR SERIES SPONSORS: SAMESUN, Vermont COUNTRY STORE, BERKSHIRE BANK

WITH SUPPORT FROM: NORTHSHIRE BOOKSTORE, Green Mountain College

O'BRIEN SHORTLE REYNOLDS & SABOTKA, PC Certified Public Accountants

The Addams Family national Broadway tour!

A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • 7 PM

THEATRE SERIES SPONSORS: Heritage Family CREDIT UNION, Dr. Michael and Susan Dick, Trust Company of Vermont

SHOW SPONSOR: WCAZ

With media support from:

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

paramountlive.org
30 CENTER ST, RUTLAND, VT • 802.775.0903

Vermont Country Calendar

HINESBURG. Book & Author Event. Meet VT author, Tracey Medeiros. Tracey will be sharing her new book, *The Vermont Farm Table Cookbook—150 Home-Grown Recipes from the Green Mountain State*. Free and open to the public. Refreshments and recipe samples will be provided. 1 pm. Brown Dog Books & Gifts, 90 Mechanicsville Rd., #2. (802) 482-5189. www.browndogbooksandgifts.com. www.indiebound.org.

POULTNEY. Christmas Craft Fair. With 60 vendors offering traditional and unique handmade holiday gifts, crafts, folk art, gourmet foods and more. 10 am to 4 pm at the Poultney High School gym on East Main St. (Rt. 140) just off Rt. 30. Free. (802) 287-9570.

PUTNEY. The 35th Annual Putney Craft Tour. Visit, ask questions, sip hot cider and find that one-of-a-kind gift. See website for map. 10 am - 5 pm. (802) 387-4032. www.putneycrafts.com. Also December 1.

RANDOLPH. "The Three Pigs." No Strings Marionette Company premieres a brand-new show, with an original script, handmade puppets, and fanciful scenery. Admission. 11 am. Chandler Music Hall. (802) 728-6464.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Gift Fair. 9 am - 3 pm. South Congregational Church, 1052 Main St. (802) 748-3315.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House at the Billings Farm. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride and a homemade treat. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also December 1.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

BRANDON. Brandon's Memory Tree Singing and Lighting. The Otter Valley Union High School Chorale, under direction of Patrick Roberts, and Brandon's Festival Singers, led by Gene Childers, will usher in the season and the lighting of the Tree starting at 3:30 pm in Brandon's Central Park. Following the singing, a prayer will be offered and the Memory Tree will be lit for the season. (802) 247-6401. www.brandon.org.

BRANDON. Maple View Farm Alpacas Holiday Open House. Learn about alpacas and fiber processing. Free. 11 am - 4 pm. Maple View Farm Alpacas, 185 Adams Rd. (802) 247-5412. www.vermontfibermill.com.

CHESTER. Thanksgiving Open House at 103 Artisans Marketplace. Free refreshments, raffles, door prizes, hot mulled cider, and holiday cheer! We're filled to the brim with gifts for everyone on your list, from stocking stuffers to one of a kind pieces for that special someone! Grand Raffle Prize—Handmade basket filled with Vermont specialty foods and chocolate (\$50 value!). 10 am - 5 pm. 103 Artisans Marketplace (formerly Gallery 103), Rt 103 & 7 Pine View Rd. (802) 875-7400. www.gallery103.com.

HARDWICK. Galaxy Bookshop's 25th Anniversary Celebration. Join us for cake, prizes, sales, and more. We're even bringing in a few celebrity booksellers for the day! 11 am - 5 pm. The Galaxy Bookshop, 41 S. Main St. (802) 472-5533. www.galaxybookshop.com

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum Annual Holiday Open House. The Judd-Harris House will be decked with beautiful floral arrangements. Enjoy carols played on the Museum's 1831 piano, a craft activity, Christmas cookies, a holiday raffle and the Mid-Vermont Train Club's elaborate electric train layout. Admission by donation. 10 am - 4 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. (802) 388-2117. Also December 2.

PUTNEY. The 35th Annual Putney Craft Tour. Visit, and find that one-of-a-kind gift direct from the artisan who made it. See website for map. 10 am - 5 pm. (802) 387-4032. contact@putneycrafts.com. www.putneycrafts.com.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House at the Billings Farm. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride and a homemade treat. Admission \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children 5-15, \$3 children 3 & 4. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

LEICESTER. Addison County Farm Animal Homeopathy Study Group. Learn how other farmers are applying homeopathy to their herds or flocks. Discussion includes an in-depth look of at least one remedy, some theory and a case analysis. First Monday of the month. Open to all levels. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Taconic End Farm. Info: Annie Claghorn, (802) 247-3979. foxclag@gmavt.net.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

BURLINGTON. The University of Vermont Catamount Singers Perform. Free. 12-1:30 pm. Saint Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St. (802) 656-3040.

CASTLETON. Concert: Spanish Brass. A world winning brass quintet that wows with their musical range, crossing continents and spanning centuries. Tickets adult \$15, senior/student \$12, child \$10. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Castleton State College Fine Arts Center. (802) 468-1119. www.castleton.edu.



RUTLAND. The Shops at Mt. Twitter's Host a Fundraiser for Killington Music Festival. Antiques appraisals \$5 each by certified appraiser, Debby DuBay. She will also appraise your family jewels and offer cash for gold pieces of estate jewelry. 10% discount on all items in Mr. Twitter's store during the event including Loosey Goosey's Clothesline, Three Crows Vintage Antiques, and Mr. Twitter's Garden and Gifts. Food and beverages served and door prizes given. 5:30-7:30 pm. Mr. Twitters, 24 McKinley Ave., off Rt. 7N. (802) 773-4003, (802) 773-0795. www.killingtonmusicfestival.org.

TINMOUTH. Program—Animals of the North: What Will Global Change Mean for Them? Wildlife tracker, photographer, and writer Susan Morse will share the beauty of some of our favorite North American mammals with her stunning photographs. She will address habitat and climate change, the ways in which these critters will need to adapt, and how we can help. 7-9 pm. Tinmouth Community College, Rte 140. For information contact Vermonters for a Clean Environment at (802) 446-2094. vce@vce.org. www.keepingtrack.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

BARRE. Concert: Grammy-winning Cape Breton Fiddler Natalie MacMaster. Her performances for all ages display boundless energy, featuring foot-tapping rave-ups, heart-rending ballads, and world-class step dancing. Tickets \$20-\$58. 7 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St. (802) 476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org.

DORSET. Christmas Tree Lighting. 5 pm. On the Green. (802) 362-6313. visitmanchestervt.com.

ENOSBURG FALLS. Program—Animals of the North: What Will Global Change Mean for Them? Wildlife tracker, photographer, and writer Susan Morse will share the beauty of some of our favorite North American mammals with her stunning photographs. She will address habitat and climate change, the ways in which these critters will need to adapt, and how we can help. 7-9 pm at the Opera House, 123 Depot St. For information contact Nancy Patch at (802) 933-2642. nancy.patach@state.vt.us. www.keepingtrack.org.

HARTFORD. Public Talk: Lumbering, Log Drives & Paper Mills. Historian and Professor Emeritus Jere Daniell will speak on lumbering, log drives and paper mills in the Upper Connecticut River Valley. Refreshments will follow. 7 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St.

MONTPELIER. Third Annual "It's a Wonderful Life" - Live Radio Play by Joe Landry. City Hall Auditorium becomes a 1940s broadcast studio as five actors and a sound effects wizard bring to life Frank Capra's classic. \$10; kids under 11 with accompanying paying adult are free. 7 pm. City Hall Auditorium, 39 Main St. (802) 229-0492. info@lostnationtheater.org. lostnationtheater.org. Also December 5.

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans' Holiday Open House. Member-donated door prizes. The store will be open during the event. Free; light refreshments will be served. 5-7 pm. River Artisans, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. shop@riverartisans.com. www.riverartisans.com.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

HANOVER, NH. Performance—Cirque Alfonse: Timber! A wild wedding of spine-tingling circus and Francophone culture. All ages will be entertained in a logging camp where the rustics happen to be products of Quebec's elite circus arts world. \$15/\$40. 7 pm. Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. Also December 6.

LEBANON, NH. Clara's Dream: A Nutcracker Story. Music by Tchaikovsky, choreography and adaptation by Jennifer Henderson. Advance tickets: adults, \$16.50; seniors and children 12 & under, \$11.50. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St., "On the Green" in downtown Lebanon. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. www.CityCenterBallet.org. Also December 6 & 7.

RUTLAND AREA FOOD CO-OP
802-773-0737
77 Wales St. Rutland VT 05701

Vegan & gluten-free groceries
Vitamins & supplements
Bulk spices, herbs, coffee, tea, grains, granola, etc.
Organic & local produce
Local meats, cheese, and wine
Natural body care
...and much more

Valley View

Truck & Equipment
Weare, NH

(603) 529-3040

oldnhtractors.com
valleyviewtruck@yahoo.com



Arctic & Boss Snowplows
BOUGHT • SOLD • TRADED
Financing Available • Visa/MC

The Emporium



Hand Blown Glass Pipes • Electronic Cigarettes
Roll Your Own Tobacco
Humidified Premium Cigars
Smoking Accessories • Hookahs & Shisha
Bubblers & Waterpipes
Vaporizers & Concentrate

131 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT • (802) 775-2552
Mon-Sun 11 am - 6 pm • www.emporiumvt.com

VERMONT FARMER'S MARKET
Presents it's
GRAND FINALE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FAIR
Holiday Inn Conference Center
Rts. 7 & 4 South, Rutland, VT
SAT., DEC. 14TH, 9 AM - 4 PM

DISTINCTIVE CRAFTS
Fresh Balsam Wreaths, Christmas Decor, Folk Art, Paintings, Fabrics, Fiber, Wooden Ware, Pottery, Glass, Soap & Jewelry.
Candles, Dolls Clothes, Hats, and Quilts.
COUNTRY BAKER'S TREATS
Special Breads, Pies, Pastries, Cookies, Fudge, Cider Donuts, and Toppings
GOURMET SPECIALTY FOODS
Maple Syrup, Sugar, and Specialties. Jams, Jellies, Pickles, Salsas, Cheeses, Marinades, Dressings, Honey, and Chocolate Treats.
PREPARED FOODS
Quiche, Pot Pies, and Empanadas. and More.
FALL VEGGIES
Apples, Cider, Brussels Sprouts, Potatoes, Squash.

ALWAYS FREE ADMISSION
Information: Sherry Smith (518) 796-2609
vtfarmersmarket.org

Don't miss Vermont's first, largest and most diverse all-winter market!
Every Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm
Through May 4, 2014
THE RUTLAND WINTER FARMERS MARKET
251 West St., in downtown Rutland.
In the old Minter Building across the railroad tracks and right across from Smalley Square.
Info: Doug Patac (802) 753-7269 • vtfarmersmarket.org

Vermont Country Calendar

NORWICH. Norwich Square Holiday Festivities.

Special sales, yummy refreshments & lots of good cheer! This year we will feature three special cookbooks! 4-8 pm. Free. Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. (802) 649-1114. info@norwichbookstore.com. www.norwichbookstore.com.

RUTLAND. Library Book Sale. 4-8 pm. In the basement. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

BRANDON. Gale Parmelee will read Charlie Brown and Snoopy Christmas Classic. All are welcome, especially children. 3-4:30 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 465-4071. www.cmacvt.org. Also Dec 13.

BURLINGTON. University of Vermont Lane Series Concert: Lionheart. This leading ensemble in vocal chamber music will perform the 13th century "Il Laudario di Cortona: Christmas in Medieval Italy" and other early works of music. 7:30 pm. UVM Recital Hall, 460 South Prospect St. (802) 656-4455. lane.series@uvm.edu. www.uvm.edu.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 21st Annual Vermont International Festival. People, crafts, food, clothing, music and dance from around the world. Admission (good for entire weekend): \$7 at the door, children (ages 6-12) & seniors (age 65+) \$5, family pass \$20, children under 6 free (excludes special programs). 5-8 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, Rt 15/Pearl St. Through December 8.

HINESBURG. Music Night with Bluebird, Kim Provost (bass and vocals) and John Penoyar (guitar and vocals). Classic country and rock and roll with an emphasis on harmony singing. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and take in an evening of great live music. Bring the whole family! Free. 7 pm. Brown Dog Books & Gifts (next to Rae Harrell Art Gallery), 90 Mechanicsville Rd #2. (802) 482-5189. www.browndogbooksandgifts.com.

LEBANON, NH. *Clara's Dream: A Nutcracker Story.* Music by Tchaikovsky, choreography and adaptation by Jennifer Henderson. Advance tickets: adults, \$16.50; seniors and children 12 & under, \$11.50. 7 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 North Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org. Also December 7.

LUDLOW. Ninth Annual Christmas Play and Open House. *Foiled By An Innocent Maid*, a play featuring The Springfield Players and directed by Stephanie Rowe. The singing group Voices About Town will entertain with holiday songs. Refreshments. Admission by donation. 6:30 pm. Black River Academy Museum, 14 High St. (802) 228-5050. bramvt.org. Also December 7.

MIDDLEBURY. Classical Guitar Concert. Xuefel Yang, China's most accomplished and in-demand classical guitarist performs Scarlatti, Schubert, and Britten; the evocative Ginastera guitar sonata; and the New England premiere of a work by Chen Yi, composed especially for Yang. Tickets \$25/\$20/\$6. 8 pm. Mahaney Center for the Arts, 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 864-5741. boxoffice.middlebury.edu.

PEACHAM. Star Party. Join us for an evening of observing under clear skies using our main 17" and portable telescopes. Observe and discuss with neighbors, amateur astronomers, adults and kids. Donation. 7-10 pm. Northern Skies Observatory, 336 Bayley Hazen Rd. (802) 592-3057. damon@nkaf.org. www.facebook.com/nkaf.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Book Sale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. 10 am - 4:30 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org. Also December 7 & 16.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: "Soli Deo Gloria" with Duo Orfeo, Electric Guitar Duo. Arrangements for electric guitars of great sacred vocal music drawn from the whole breadth of western musical history. Admission. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BELMONT. Holiday Open House. Stouffer Gallery and Gift Shop invites you to come browse and shop. Many gift ideas—shop locally! Free refreshments and raffle. 10 am - 4 pm. 250 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2686. www.stephaniestouffer.com. Also December 8.

BENNINGTON. Festival of Trees Family Day and Children's Shopping Boutique. \$3 Admission for All. Free admission for young people under 18 who bring a personal care item to be placed under the Tree of Thanks. Photos with Santa; Shoppers' Helpers and free gift wrapping. For children ages 4 to 12. 10 am - 5 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BRANDON. Breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Pancakes and sausages will be served. Tickets are \$3. 9-11 am. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 465-4071. edna@cmacvt.org. www.cmacvt.org.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Masterwork Series Concert. Performance includes the overture to Mozart's The Magic Flute, Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony, and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. 8 pm. 7 pm Musically Speaking pre-performance discussion. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (800) 876-9293. www.vso.org.

CHESTER. 28th Annual Overture to Christmas.

Scavenger Hunt 10 am. St. Like's Annual Christmas Tea & Sale 10 am - 4 pm, 313 Main St. Christmas Puppet Show at Whiting Library, 117 Main St., 2-4 pm, Live Nativity at First Baptist Church, 162 Main St., 2-4 pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Parade of Presents, CAES, 72 Main St., 4 pm. Lighting of the town tree at 4:30 pm at Fullerton Inn with cookies, cocoa, books, and candy canes. Free concert with the Springfield Community Chorus at the First Baptist Church, 162 Main St. at 7:30 pm. (802) 875-2626. motelinthemeadow@comcast.net December 2-14.

DORSET. A Live Radio Play—"It's a Wonderful Life." 7:30 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. www.dorsetplayers.org. Also December 13 & 14 at 7:30 pm and December 8 & 15 at 2 pm.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 21st Annual Vermont International Festival. People, crafts, food, clothing, music and dance from around the world. Admission (good for entire weekend): \$7 at the door, Children (ages 6-12) & Seniors (age 65+) \$5, Family pass \$20, Children under 6 Free (excludes special programs). 10 am - 6 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, Route 15/Pearl St. Through December 8.

LUNENBURG. Gingerbread Bazaar. Door prizes, free face painting, free cookie stacking and gingerbread contests with great prizes for the winners. Cookie Walk, fabulous Fudge Shop, homemade soup and sandwich luncheon, fun activities with Mrs. Claus, and vendors with Christmas theme and gift items. 10 am - 3 pm. Lunenburg Primary School, Bobbin Mill Rd. (802) 892-6654. www.topofthecommon.org.

LYNDONVILLE. North Pole Express. A very special Christmas train ride. Heated vintage coaches travel North to pick up lively elves, Mrs. Claus, and Santa Claus. Hot cocoa and cookies, and caroling all the way. Pajamas encouraged. Advance tickets required. \$25. Rides: 12 noon, 2, 4, 6 pm. Memorial Park, Beside The Freighthouse, 1000 Broad St. (802) 626-1400. info@thelyndonfreighthouse.com. www.thelyndonfreighthouse.com/train.php. Also December 8.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Dog Training Demonstration. Brother Christopher of the Monks of New Skete and a canine companion will discuss and demonstrate training techniques from the Monks of New Skete's latest book, *Bless the Dogs*. Free. 5 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Lighted Holiday Tractor Parade. Antique tractors covered with holiday lights parade through downtown Manchester with special guests Mr. & Mrs. Claus! 5:30 pm downtown along Main St. to Dorr Farm. Free. (802) 362-6313. visitmanchestervt.com.



Join the Adventure Join the Green Mountain Club!

Protecting and Maintaining
Vermont's Long Trail Since 1910

Send \$40 Individual Fee, \$50 Family Fee to the:

Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd. Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 244-7037 • gmc@greenmountainclub.org
www.greenmountainclub.org



Piazzetta "Monia" Pellet Stoves

Extremely quiet—89.5% efficiency
500–1800 square foot heating area.

Wood & Pellet Stoves by
Vermont Castings, Pacific Energy, & Enviro.
Fireplace & Stove Furnishings.

Defiant & Encore Two-in-One Wood Burning Stoves.
Superior efficiency and eco-friendly design
combining catalytic and non-catalytic modes.

COUNTRY STOVES

43A Woodstock Ave, Rutland, VT
(Across from Rutland High School Football Field)
(802) 775-6289 • Alan Currier, owner
Open Fri & Sat 10 am - 5 pm

Heliand Consort Performs at Brandon Music

A dynamic group of virtuoso musicians, Heliand Consort performs engaging classical music, from the baroque era through 20th century and contemporary repertoire. The group, now in their eighth season, comes to Brandon Music on Friday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m.

Heliand is recognized for its inspired programs, musical vitality, and commitment to bringing classical music to new audiences through ongoing partnerships with schools, home health and senior centers. Their mission is to nurture the arts in their communities through excellence and a fresh approach to classical music performance.

Their core ensemble includes the flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and piano but they appear in a variety of configurations, along with occasional guest artists.

Performing on December 20th will be Berta Frank, flute; Katie Evans, oboe; Elisabeth LeBlanc, clarinet; and Nicola Cannizzaro, percussion. The program will include JS Bach's Presto from Violin Sonata No. 1 in g minor, Beethoven's Trio in C Major Op. 87, Peter Tanner's Divisions for Flute and Marimba, and Moondog's Bells are Ringing, among others.

Hailed for their passionate performances of classical




Heliand Consort members, from left, Elisabeth LeBlanc, clarinet; Katie Evans, oboe; and Berta Frank, flute.

music, Heliand Consort has appeared live on VPR Classical and WGDR, given interviews on WCVT, and has twice been selected as a Pick of the Week by Seven Days.

Tickets are \$15. A pre-concert dinner is also available for \$15. Reservations are recommended. Venue is BYOB.

Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd., Brandon, VT. (802) 465-4071. info@brandon-music.net. brandon-music.net.



**Vermont Antiquarian
Booksellers Association**
~ More than 70 Dealers ~
vermontisbookcountry.com

Vermont Canvas Products Factory Outlet



- Bags for Every Need
- Handcrafted on Premises
- Customizing Available
- 25% Below retail on Over 100 Styles of Canvas & Cordura Bags

Repair Service • Brochure Available

~ FREE GIFT WITH THIS COUPON ~

Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5:30
(802) 773-7311 • (800) 477-7110

259 Woodstock Ave., Rt. 4 East, Rutland, VT
Over 40 Years in Business



Northern Metals

We Buy Copper, Brass, Aluminum,
Bronze, Litho, Radiators,
Stainless Steel, Wire, Etc., Etc.

**TOP PRICES PAID
FOR QUALITY METALS**

Roll Off Service Now Available
We Pick Up Large Quantities & Industrial Accounts

New Location: 25 Curtis Ave., Rutland, VT
Rear of Todd Transportation Bldg. Turn north at R.R. Tracks
Open Monday-Friday, 8-5 • Saturday 8-12
(802) 773-3583 • northernmetalrecyclers.com

Vermont Country Calendar

MIDDLEBURY. Santa's Arrival. Welcome Santa at 9:45 am as he arrives via fire truck, over the Cross St. Bridge and up Main St. Free old-fashioned horse and wagon ride through downtown. Hot cocoa from the Hot Cocoa Hut in Cannon Park, just 25 cents for a cup with all the fixings, from 9:30 am - 2 pm. bettermiddleburypartnership.org.

PITTSFORD. Annual Holiday Fair. The Pittsford Historical Society will have Pittsford history-related gifts available. 9 am - 2 pm. Parish Hall, St. Alphonsus Church.

PITTSFORD. Pittsford Farmers Market Craft Show. Shop local this holiday season! Support local artisans. Join us for a wide variety of jewelry, pottery, crafts, knit & crochet items, food and more. 9 am - 2 pm. Lothrop School Gym, 3447 Rt. 7. For info call Kelly at (802) 483-6351 or kfield16@yahoo.com. Also December 14.

POULTNEY. Santa Comes to Poultney. 6 pm kicks off with Story time at the Poultney Public Library, followed by a parade at 6:30 pm from the Library to the Town Hall for the lighting of the Memory Tree at 7 pm. Singing and refreshments with Santa. (802) 287-2010. info@poultneyvt.com. www.poultneyvt.com.

RUTLAND. Winter Book Sale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. 10 am - 2 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org. Also December 16.

RUTLAND. Annual Festival of Trees Benefit Auction. Take in the sights as both funds and holiday spirits are lifted. Join auctioneer Bob Prozzo as he presents a huge selection of items. Catered by Roots with a cash bar. Tickets \$10. 5:30 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

RUTLAND. Catamount Radio presents The Santa Train. Departing from the downtown Rutland on Vermont Amtrak, five departure times from 10 am - 4:30 pm. Adults \$22, seniors \$10, 12 & under \$10. (802) 775-7500. www.catamountradio.com.

STOWE. Stowe Community Church Fair. Decorated wreaths, needlecrafts, baked goods, and much more. Quilt raffle features a queen-sized, "Crazy Quilt" pattern. The pocket lady will amuse the children. Free. 9:30 am - 2 pm. Stowe Community Church, 137 Main St. (802) 253-7257. info@stowechurch.org. www.stowechurch.org.

SWANTON. Annual Christmas Bazaar. Items from local craftspeople, Gramma's Attic, children's table, home-baked goodies. Lunch, coffee and desserts. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 38 Grand Ave. (802) 868-7185 x 10. www.holytrinityswanton.org.

VERGENNES. Holiday Stroll. Children of all ages visit & stroll with Santa. Breakfast with Santa at VUHS, holiday craft fair, Bixby Library silent auction, Rotary wreath sale, Santa's workshop, cookie decorating. Music by Champlain Brass Quintet, Victory Baptist Church choir, Dickens carolers and Addison County Gospel choir. 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. For schedule go to www.addisoncounty.com/holidaystroll. Or call (802) 388-7951 x 1.

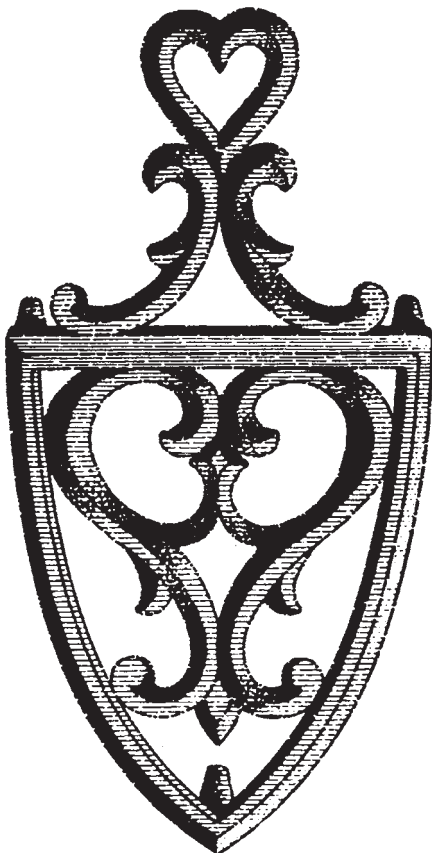
WAITSFIELD & WARREN. Country Christmas Open House and Holiday Paint-In. A weekend of seasonal activities, with artists set up painting the holiday scene. Prizes, treats, and great discounts. Bonfire, tractor rides and Santa. Free. Saturday and Sunday, all day. (802) 496-3409. www.vermontartfest.com. Through December 8.

WATERBURY. River of Light Lantern Procession. Lanterns made by pupils of Thatcher Brook Primary School and artists from Central Vermont illuminate the streets, led by Burlington's street samba band, Sambatucada. Free. Starts at 5 pm. Thatcher Brook Primary School, 47 Stowe St. (802) 778-0334. mmonley@wdsdvt.net. ariveroflightinwaterbury.wordpress.com.

WATERBURY. Bridgeside Books Annual Open House. Enjoy homemade gingerbread cookies and other delicious treats, along with a warm mulled cider. One of Vermont's favorite authors, Archer Mayor, will be signing copies of his new book, *Paradise City* beginning at 11 am. Catch the best seat in town for the River of Light Lantern parade, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and libations beginning at 4:30 pm. The River of Light parade begins at 5 pm and winds its way past Bridgeside Books around 5:20 pm. Bridgeside Books, Stowe St. (802) 244-1441. bridgesidebooks.com.

WESTON. 30th Annual Old Fashioned Christmas in Weston. Tour the village by foot or by a team of horse-drawn wagons, visiting open galleries, museums and inns. Children will enjoy Santa, ornament making, face painting, petting zoo, story-telling and crafts at the historic Little School and Wilder Memorial Library. The 208 year-old Old Parish Church will be decorated for the season and offers Christmas music and a community reading of *A Christmas Carol*. There will be a concert by the Nordic Harmoni choir. Santa will lead carol singing at the Village Green for the lighting of the Weston Christmas Tree. Plenty of food for sale and free samples. Throughout Weston village. 10 am - 5:30 pm. (802) 824-3669. www.westonvt.com.

WOODSTOCK. Holiday Concert: Freelance Family Singers present seasonal sacred and secular pieces in choral, small group, solo, and instrumental formats. Refreshments follow the family-friendly concert. Free with a donation of non-perishable food suggested. 7 pm. First Congregational Church, 36 Elm St.



WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse and linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also Dec 8, 13, 14, 15, 21-24, & Dec 26 - Jan 1.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

BELMONT. Holiday Open House. Stouffer Gallery and Gift Shop invites you to come browse and shop. Many gift ideas—shop locally! Free refreshments and raffle. 10 am - 4 pm. 250 Maple Hill Rd. (802) 259-2686. www.stephaniestouffer.com.

BRANDON. Annual Holiday Auction. Over 50 local patrons and artists donate holiday wreaths, decor, artwork and treasures for the event. Music, refreshments, and door prizes. Preview at 3 pm, auction at 3:30 pm. Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. (802) 247-8230.

DORSET. A Live Radio Play—"It's a Wonderful Life." 2 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. www.dorsetplayers.org. Also December 13 & 14 at 7:30 pm and December 15 at 2 pm.

ESSEX JUNCTION. 21st Annual Vermont International Festival. People, crafts, food, clothing, music and dance from around the world. Admission. 10 am - 5 pm. Champlain Valley Exposition, Route 15/Pearl St.

MIDDLEBURY. Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas. Each service is preceded by performances on the chapel carillon. Free. 4 & 7 pm. Mead Memorial Chapel, Middlebury College. (802) 864-5741.

MILTON. Holiday Open House. Join the Milton Historical Society for some holiday cheer. Live music and holiday treats. See our holiday display and antique toys and bring the kids along for fun activities. 1-4 pm. Milton Historical Society Museum. (802) 363-2598.

NORWICH. English Country Dance. Music by Trip to Norwich, Caller Chris Levey. Bring a snack or drinks to share at the potluck dessert break. All dances taught, no partner needed. All are welcome. Clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes only (or socks). Admission: \$8 Adults, \$4 ages 25 and under. 1-4 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4121. engineering.dartmouth.edu/~d26745m/localECD. Fourth Sundays through April, 2014.

RANDOLPH. Concert—"Dancing at the Edge of Mystery: Celtic Music for Advent and Christmas." The 60-voice Randolph Singers community chorus performs the world premiere of this work composed and directed by Kathy Wonson Eddy. The second half of the program is a celebration of seasonal music from around the world, with languages spoken by native speakers. Admission. 4 pm at Chandler Music Hall, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Handels' Messiah. Annual presentation by Rutland Area Chorus and Orchestra under the direction of Rip Jackson. 3:30 and 7 pm. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St. (802) 775-4301 x 208.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse and linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 13, 14, 15, 21-24, and December 26-January 1.



Annual Holiday Christmas Fair Is Coming to Rutland

Don't miss the Vermont Farmers Market "Grand Finale" Holiday Christmas Fair coming up Saturday, December 14th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Rt. 7 South, Rutland, VT.

It's the biggest event of its kind in southern Vermont. Over sixty vendors bring you the art and taste of Vermont. There will be a wide range of diverse and distinctive Vermont-made crafts offered. Country bakers will have so much good eating ready for your holiday meals.

Our gourmet specialty food folks have made lots of maple products, over 100 varieties of jams, pickles, condiments, and much more. So many food and craft

items can also be shipped to friends (and there is still time). Special gift boxes are ready-made or you can make them yourself, and many of the vendors will ship them for you.

The Christmas Fair is always free admission, so come join hundreds of your friends and neighbors at this truly Vermont event. We think you will like our prices.

If you folks are coming from southern New England up I-91, turn off at Exit 6. Take VT Rt. 103 N.W. to Rutland, VT. Turn right onto Rt. 7. The Holiday Inn is on the left.

For information visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org.crafts.

Deja New
consignment Shop

BOHEMIAN CHIC FASHIONS AND BEEN THERE WEAR
HIGH END DESIGNER FASHIONS
CLOTHING, HANDBAGS, ACCESSORIES & FINE JEWELRY

Open Monday-Saturday • 802.779.8341
Stony Brook Plaza
162 North Main Street, Rutland, VT

MAPLE & CHEESE
Gift giving easy and always in good taste.

Large Selection of Vermont Foods & Gifts
CUSTOM GIFT BOXES
We Ship!

Our Vermont Breakfast Gift Box \$14.00

the Seward Family
GIFT & DAIRY STORE

At the restaurant, 224 N. Main St. Rutland, VT (802) 773-2700

Homemade Food • Vermont-Made Products

Rutland Country Store
~ A Taste of Italy ~
Sandwiches, Stromboli, Pizza
Homemade Italian Dinners

Open Daily 5:00 am - 9:00 pm • (802) 775-7901
215 N. Main St. (Rt 7), Rutland, VT

Head over Heels 18th Year of Business
Gymnastics, Tumbling
Cheerleading, Fitness
Open Gym Camps
Birthday Parties

Open Mon-Fri 9-9, Sat 9-1
Sat & Sun Open for Birthdays

152 N. Main St., Rutland, VT
www.headoverheelsvt.com
(802) 773-1404 Find us on Facebook
Ages 2-18
Voted "Best of the Best" for 2013

NEW ENGLAND MAPLE MUSEUM
FOOD AND GIFT SHOP
North of Rutland, 4598 US Rt. 7 in Pittsford, VT
The Complete Story of Maple Sugaring
Vermont Foods & Maple Products
Open through December 30, daily 10 am - 4 pm
(802) 483-9414 • www.maplemuseum.com

Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

LUDLOW. Holiday Celebration & Silent Auction Benefit for Black River Academy Museum. \$25 includes as many plates of tapas as you would like and one glass of wine. 5 pm. Stemwinder Restaurant, 46 Depot St. Reservations: (802) 228-5050, director@bramvt.org, or at the Book Nook or the Wine and Cheese Depot. www.bramvt.org.

RUTLAND. Cloud Computing. An introduction to Cloud Computing; how it can benefit any size business. Free. 5-6 pm. College of St Joseph, Room 105, 71 Clement Rd. Register online at www.vtsbdc.org/small-business-training-workshops.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

CASTLETON. Castleton Jazz & Collegiate Chorale. Together these Castleton Ensembles will rock the house with great jazz tunes from Big Band to contemporary. Tickets adult \$5, senior/child \$3. 7 pm. Casella Theater, Castleton State College Fine Arts Center. (802) 468-1119. www.castleton.edu/casellatheater.

HANOVER, NH. Performance—"The Christmas Revels, an Appalachian Celebration of the Winter Solstice." Join Revels North in celebrating with a spectacular journey to Southern Appalachia, where Native American, African and European traditions combine in astonishing music, dance and folktales. \$8/\$38. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. Also December 13, 14, 15.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

BARRE. Concert—Holiday Pops: "Around the World at Christmastime." Vermont writer/commentator Bill Mares is our guest emcee for holiday stories and music from many lands. Our festive program features the music you love to hear at this time of year. Tickets: adults \$30, seniors \$24, student or child 18 and under \$9. 7:30 pm. Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main St., corner of N. Main and Prospects Streets. (802) 476-8188. www.vso.org. www.barreoperahouse.org.

BRANDON. Gale Parmelee will read Charlie Brown and Snoopy Christmas Classic. All are welcome, especially children. 3-4:30 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 465-4071. www.cmacvt.org.

BURLINGTON. A Christmas Carol. Flynn Center presents Nebraska Theatre Caravan. Featuring a 24-member cast, a live orchestra, colorful costumes and spirited dancing. Tickets \$15-\$42. 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance—"The Christmas Revels, an Appalachian Celebration of the Winter Solstice." \$11/\$38. 7 pm. The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. Also Dec 14, 15.

WOODSTOCK. 30th Annual Wassail Weekend. Elementary School Choral sing at 4 pm on the library steps. Christmas Visions at the Woodstock Little Theatre, by donation, 5-7 pm. Irish Christmas in America at Town Hall Theatre at 7:30 pm, tickets \$35, under 18 \$15. (802) 457-3555. www.woodstockvt.com. Through December 15.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend Celebration at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Through December 15.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

ARLINGTON. Santa Lucia—Festival of Lights. Everyone is welcome. 5-7 pm. St. James Episcopal Church, Rt. 7A. (802) 375-9952. www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: "To Warm the Winter's Night" with Aine Minogue, Celtic harp & vocals. Tickets \$20 (\$15) at the door. 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 463-3100.

BENNINGTON. Festival of Trees Gala. Delectable food, savory and sweet. Cash bar. Music by the Catbird Trio. Silent auction. \$65 per person. 7-10 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. 73rd Annual Christmas Tea. The hall will be aglow with candles, decorated with wreaths and greens and the Victorian tea table will be full of cookies and sandwiches. Tea, coffee and punch will be served. The Christmas Shoppe will be open with small gifts, jams and jellies, breads and Christmas tree ornaments. The cost is \$6. 3-5:30 pm. Parish Hall, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. (802) 442-2911. stpetersvt.org.

BENNINGTON. WBTN's Radio Christmas Pageant. A musical and theatrical variety show performed as a live radio broadcast on stage at Oldcastle Theatre. Tickets \$10. 7 pm. Oldcastle Theater, 331 Main St. (802) 447-0564.

BRANDON. Brandon Farmer's Market Holiday Fair. Maple syrup, honey, baked goods, hand knit items in wool, mohair, and alpaca, goatmilk soap, canned goods, wooden toys, dried flowers, aprons, jams and jellies, jewelry, holiday decor and more. 9 am - 3 pm at Neshobe School, 17 Neshobe Circle. For info contact Wendy Cijka at (802) 273-2655. cijka4@gmail.com. www.brandon.org.

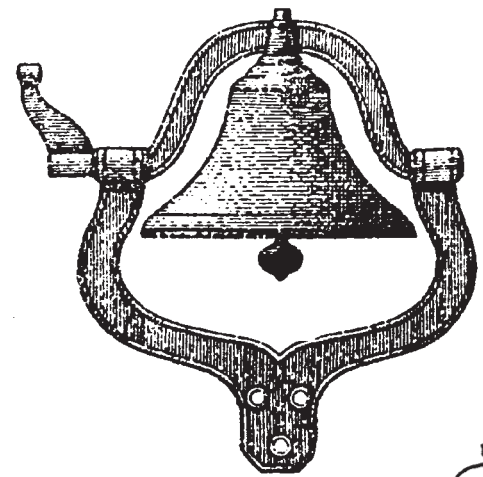
BURLINGTON. Concert—Holiday Pops: "Around the World at Christmastime." Vermont writer/commentator Bill Mares is our guest emcee for holiday stories and music from many lands. Our festive program features the music you love to hear at this time of year, including favorites from Russia, England, France, the Ukraine and Brazil. Tickets: Adults \$52/\$42/\$27/\$15. Students \$9. 7:30 pm. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. www.vso.org. www.flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. Browse and Listen—Full Circle: Medieval, Renaissance, Celtic, and Holiday Music. Peruse the gifts while you enjoy live holiday music from many countries and many times. Free. 1-3 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

CASTLETON. Wildlife Tracking Workshop. Led by Fish & Wildlife Education Coordinator, Ali Thomas. Open to the public, free, no registration required. 10 am - 12 pm. Edward F. Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp, 636 Point of Pines Rd. (802) 265-2279.

CHESTER. 28th Annual Overture to Christmas. Annual Sr. Citizens Christmas Dinner at CAES, 72 Main St. Town party at MacLoamin's Scottish Pub, lite fare, \$5/person or \$15/family, 3-5 pm. (802) 875-2626. motelinthemeadow@comcast.net. December 2-14.

DORSET. A Live Radio Play—"It's a Wonderful Life." 8 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570. www.dorsetplayers.org. Also December 15.



Current Road Conditions
Are a Phone-Call Away

VERMONT 511

A Free Service of the State of Vermont

**MORSE FARM
MAPLE SUGARWORKS**

*Come for the Morse
Farm Experience!*

Ski Touring Center
Country Store • Sugar House
Woodshed Theatre • Maple Trail
Outdoor Farm Life Museum
Whimsical Carved Folklife Characters



Original Maple Kettle Corn. Made Fresh Daily.
Don't miss our maple creemees!



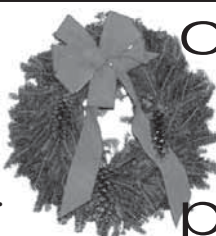
**200 Years
of Maple
Experience**

Open to Visitors Daily
Year-round 9-5, summertime 8-8.
We ship • (802) 223-2740 • morsefarm.com
1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT
(Upper Main St., just 2.7 miles from downtown)

**Vermont
Balsam Wreaths**

Handmade and decorative with
red berry clusters, pine cones,
and a red velvet bow.

Shipped Everywhere in U.S.
\$23.45 plus S&H



Heating with Wood—When Warmth Turned to Danger

by Charles Sutton

A special treat during the holiday season is to drive around after dark to admire the colorful and often spectacular Christmas lights adorning so many homes.

On one such Christmas eve my wife and I went out for a roundabout tour of the backroads over to Granville, NY to enjoy this annual light show. But on our way home we saw on the horizon a different kind of lighting—flashing red lights from fire trucks.

We feared for some unfortunate person having their house on fire on Christmas eve, but we saw all too soon when we came over the hill that the fire was in our home in Danby, Vermont.

Being Christmas eve most if not all of the local volunteer firemen were home, and they came out in full strength with all their engines. Fortunately one of our sons was home at the time and called in the alarm, then rescued his grandmother and the family dog, taking them out into the snowy night and over to the neighbor's house. The fire, which was caused by an overheated wall behind a wood stove, was contained to only one room with mostly water and smoke damage.

Our antique wooden Greek revival house had been 'drying out' for more than 150 years and easily could have been lost if the fire had gotten into the walls and attic. We learned one can never be too careful when burning wood.

This recalls a time fifty years ago in another antique house in Bar Mills, Maine. We had moved into what was called The Old Crow Place two days before Christmas. The home had no furnace but was heated by fireplaces, Franklin stoves, and a large woodcook stove in the kitchen. We ran that stove day and night. It put out wonderful warmth and was also used for

day-long cooking of homemade soups and stews.

One evening when we were seated around the stove we noticed a bright red ring moving slowing up the stove pipe—like a cigarette burning. It was heading through a wall to the chimney beyond. One of us had sense enough to quickly close the damper and throw lots of salt onto the fire in the stove. Too late! Soon there was a loud whooshing sound and bits of burning pitch and tar from the chimney's casing were being showered on the roof. Firemen told us former city dwellers that if one was to burn wood, get the chimney cleared regularly, and don't burn a lot of soft woods like pine and spruce as pitch and tar build up quickly in chimneys. There was no damage from this chimney fire, but we used chimney sweeps thereafter.

You may know or read about families fleeing their burning home in the middle of the night. This happened to my family when I was eight years old. We were living in Fairfield, Connecticut, in a very old house, part of it built in the late 18th century.

Fortunately my parents smelled smoke and while my father was calling the fire department, Mother aroused me and my nine-year-old brother Fred, who was in another bedroom. Being a heavy sleeper, I promptly went back to bed, but did get up when Mother came back for me.

I'll never forget looking down the front stairs and seeing that orange glow and smelling the black smoke. We all got out safely down the back stairs, and my brother and I were taken to the neighbor's.

Mother related later how hurt she was when one of the spectators watching the fire next to her exclaimed: "Hey, this is a good one!"

Fire, smoke and water damage were contained to a large living room, dining room, hall and front stairs. Mother lost the piano she had had since a child and my father's collection of antique and rare books including many first editions were destroyed. The cause of the fire was an overheated wall around a fireplace.

During the clean-up some handsome beams were exposed across the ceiling of the living room. Behind father's destroyed bookcase was an unusual antique fireplace—which they thought best not to fire up.

All these saves were made by volunteer firemen. If you see them along the highway doing their annual fundraising coin drops, be sure to say 'thank-you' along with your donation.

And if you are heating with wood this winter, enjoy the thrift of it and the aroma, but please be careful!



Poulin Grain Dealer

**Maple Leaf
Farm & Garden
Supply, Inc.**

Rt. 100A, Bridgewater Corners, VT

— Christmas Trees & Wreaths —

2013 Maple Syrup, Fresh Eggs, Winter Squash,
Rock Salt, Bird Seed & Feeders. Animal Feed.

Open Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30, Saturday 8:30-12:30
(802) 672-6223 • Bruce & Alice Paglia

Vermont Country Calendar

DORSET. 3 Pears Gallery Christmas Exhibition and Holiday Open House. 3 Pears Gallery, 41 Church St. (802) 770-8820.

EAST CHARLESTON. 114th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Potluck to follow. Free. 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

EAST CHARLESTON. Kingdom Coffeehouse: Music of the Moonlight. Americana, bluegrass and country, mixed with original and traditional jazz. \$10, refreshments included. 7-9 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Drive. (802) 723-6551 x 115. events@northwoodscenter.org. www.northwoodscenter.org.

HANOVER, NH. Performance—"The Christmas Revels, an Appalachian Celebration of the Winter Solstice." \$11/\$38. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu. Also *December 15*.

ISLAND POND. Island Pond Bird Count—114th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count! Free. Pot luck to follow. 7:30 am - 4 pm. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr. (802) 723-6551 x 115. www.northwoodscenter.org.

JEFFERSONVILLE. Annual Craft Show & Cookie Sale. 9 am - 3 pm. Second Congregational UCC, 16 Church St. For info call Jennie Demore at (802) 644-5357. ljadmore@myfairpoint.net.

MIDDLEBURY. Holiday Pancake Breakfast. Two seatings, 8:30 am and 10 am. Tickets at Middlebury Inn, \$8/adult and \$5/child. Free visits with Santa at Maple Landmark Woodcraft from 10 am - 12 pm. Hot cocoa from the Hot Cocoa Hut in Cannon Park, just 25 cents for a cup with all the fixings, open from 9:30 am - 2 pm. www.bettermiddleburypartnership.org.

MONTPELIER. Kellogg-Hubbard Holiday Book Sale. Thousands of books, from shiny new bestsellers to antique curiosities. Also find CDs, DVDs, maps, sheet music, and more. Books are organized by subject for easy browsing. Hardcover \$2 each, softcover \$1 each. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 am - 8 pm, Fri 10 am - 5:30 pm, Sat 10 am - 5:30 pm. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main St. (802) 223-3338. www.kellogg-hubbard.org. *Through January 18*.

MONTPELIER. 9th Annual Touch of Vermont Holiday Gift Market. Wares from nearly 40 Vermont artisans. Free admission. 9 am - 4 pm. Montpelier City Hall, 39 Main St. (802) 310-1725. info@touchofvt.org. www.touchofvt.org.

NEWBURY. Holidays on the Newbury Common. An old-fashioned skating party with hot chocolate, cookies, and more! Free. Throughout the day. Newbury Common, Rt. 5. (802) 757-2708. www.celebrate250.org.

NEWFANE. Annual Cookie Sale. Delicious holiday cookies which are beautifully boxed and tied with holiday ribbon. Sponsored by the Ladies Aid. 10 am - 1 pm. First Congregational Church, 11 West St.

NORWICH. Contradance with Northern Spy. Caller, David Millstone. Bring a change of clean shoes for the dance floor and potluck finger food snacks for the break. Admission \$8, students \$5, under 16 free, seniors by donation. 8 pm. Tracey Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Every second Saturday*.

PITTSFORD. Pittsford Farmers Market Craft Show. Join us for a wide variety of jewelry, pottery, crafts, knit & crochet items, food and more. 9 am - 2 pm. Lothrop School Gym, 3447 Rt. 7. (802) 483-6351.

RUTLAND. Holiday Fair of Vermont. Sponsored by the Vermont Farmers Market. The largest Holiday show of its kind in Southern Vermont. Over sixty vendors with every kind of Vermont-made crafts, Christmas decor, baked goods, gourmet specialty foods, jams and jellies, everything maple. Gift boxes and shipping available. 9 am - 4 pm. The Holiday Inn, Rt. 7 South. For info call Sherry Smith at (518) 796-2609 or visit vtfarmersmarket.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Victorian Holiday Open House. The Victorian gallery sparkles with lights, and holiday music fills the air. Enjoy sweet treats made by the Museum's staff, trustees and friends. A special planetarium presentation explores the holiday night sky. Free. 1:30-4 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372.

SO. HERO. Annual Cookie Walk. Walk along tables of delicious home baked Christmas Cookies to choose your own assortment. Pay by the pound. 10 am - 2 pm. Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC, 24 South St. (802) 372-4962. cchsvt@gmail.com.

WOODSTOCK. 30th Annual Wassail Parade. Parade of horses and riders in traditional costume. 2 pm. Center of Woodstock Village. (802) 457-3555. info@woodstockvt.com. www.woodstockvt.com.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Tea. Enjoy an elegant, traditional "English tea" complete with scones, sandwiches, tea cakes, and a special Wassail tea blend. A cozy respite from the busy winter weekend. Admission \$25, child under 12 \$15. 2:30 & 4:15 pm. Inside the gorgeous Great Hall of St. James Church. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.

WOODSTOCK. 30th Annual Wassail Weekend. Wassail Parade at 2 pm. Wassail Cafe on the Green 11 am - 2 pm. Yule log and Memory Tree lighting at 2:30 pm on the Village Green. Lighting of over 400 luminaries at 4 pm on the Green. Dana House "Dressed for Christmas" Tour 12-4 pm. Holiday Craft Fair at Masonic Hall, 10 am - 5 pm. Holiday House Tour 9:30 am - 2 pm. Christmas Visions at the Little Theatre 2:30-4:30 pm. Holiday readings at the library at 12:30 pm. Wassail Tea at St. James Church 2:30 & 4:15 pm. A capella concert with The Ten at First Congregational Church at 3 pm. Wassail Feast at Woodstock Inn at 6:30 pm. (802) 457-3555. www.woodstockvt.com. *Through December 15*.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend Celebration at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also *December 15*.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

BRANDON. Concert: Festival Singers. The music of Gene Childers. Free will offering. 3 pm. Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Park St. (802) 247-5941. www.brandon.org.

BURLINGTON. A Festival of Carols, debut concert of the Solaris Vocal Ensemble, a new chamber choir of mixed voices based in northern Vermont, will feature a variety of holiday selections for voices with instruments. \$20 adults; \$15 students and seniors. 3 pm. Recital Hall, University of Vermont, Redstone Campus. (802) 879-1218. SolarisVocal@aol.com. www.SolarisEnsemble.org.

DORSET. A Live Radio Play—"It's a Wonderful Life." 2 pm. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd. (802) 867-5570.

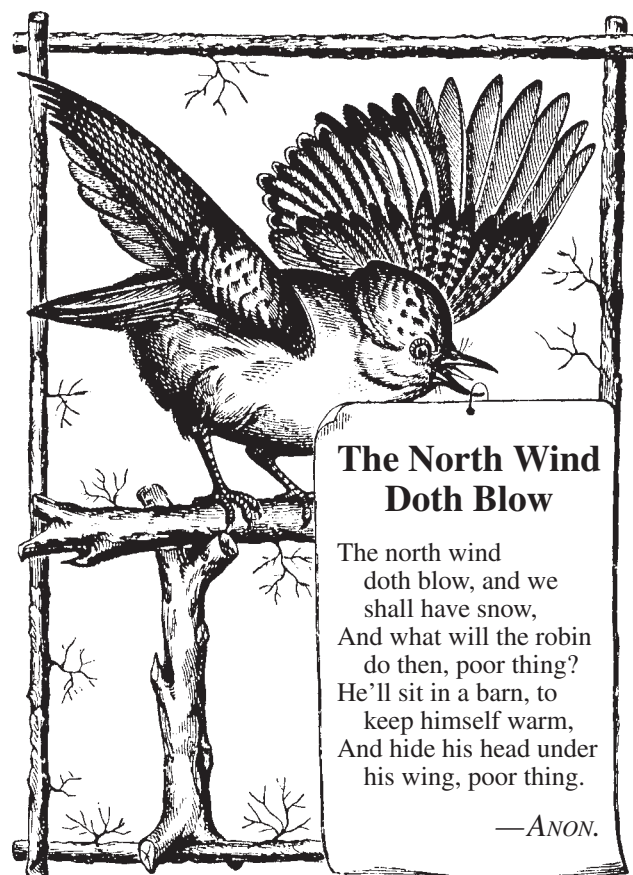
HANOVER, NH. Performance—"The Christmas Revels, an Appalachian Celebration of the Winter Solstice." Join Revels North in Southern Appalachia, where Native American, African and European traditions combine in astonishing music, dance and folktales. \$11/\$38. 1 & 5 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, The Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. www.hop.dartmouth.edu.

NEWPORT. Holiday Concert: Holidays with the Lake Region High School Chorus. Sacred music of various types, South African and maybe a shape note piece or two. Free. 4 pm. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 44 Second St. (802) 334-7365. www.nowplayingnewport.com.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH. Coolidge Holiday Open House. Visit the Coolidge Birthplace, decorated as it would have been in the late 19th century. Winter exhibits at the Museum & Education Center, Aldrich House, Plymouth Cheese Factory, and 1924 Summer White House office. Sleigh rides, old-time music, craft demonstrations, lunch at the Wilder House Restaurant. Special cancellation at the historic Plymouth post office, and children's holiday activities. Admission by donation. 10 am to 4 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Vermont 100A. (802) 672-3773. www.calvincoolidge.org.

RUTLAND. Concert—Holiday Pops: "Around the World at Christmastime." Vermont writer/commentator Bill Mares is our guest emcee for holiday stories and music from many lands. Our festive program features the music you love to hear at this time of year, including favorites from Russia, England, France, the Ukraine and Brazil. Tickets: \$9-\$32. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.vso.org. www.paramountvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. 29th Annual Messiah Sing. Features a world-class ensemble with four soloists. Audience joins in for the choruses, so bring your libretto! Free, suggested donation. 4 pm at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, South St. (802) 457-3981. www.pentanglearts.org.



The North Wind Doth Blow

The north wind doth blow, and we shall have snow,
And what will the robin do then, poor thing?
He'll sit in a barn, to keep himself warm,
And hide his head under his wing, poor thing.

—ANON.



Join the Adventure, Join the
Green Mountain Club!

Protecting and Maintaining
Vermont's Long Trail Since 1910

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 244-7037 • www.greenmountainclub.org

Pittsfield Garden Center

Route 100, Pittsfield, VT
Christmas Trees
Wreaths • Kissing Balls
Fresh Holiday Arrangements.
Call or stop by (802) 746-8100

RIVERKNOLL – Rock Shop

554 VT Rt. 100 - Stockbridge, Vermont 05772



Gifts & Jewelry
Crystals & Mineral Specimens
Lapidary Equipment & Supplies
Gem Cutting Instruction
Collecting Equipment
Bead Restringing

The Gibsons (802) 746-8198

Subscribe Now!



The Vermont Country Sampler

A Great Way To Stay In Touch With
The Vermont We All Know and Love

Please enter the following subscription.
I enclose payment of \$24.00/year.

Name _____

Address _____

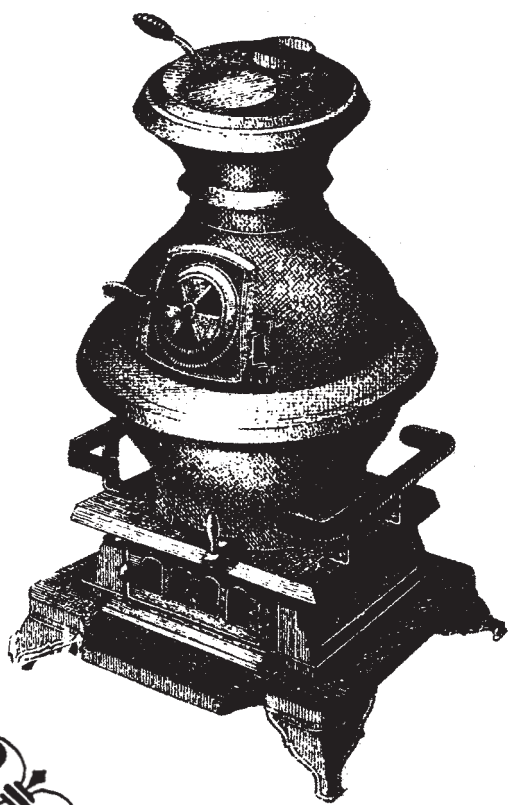
I picked up this issue of the Sampler at _____

Comments _____

12/13

Mail to:

The Vermont Country Sampler
PO Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759



Vermont Country Calendar

WOODSTOCK. 30th Annual Wassail Weekend.

Holiday Craft Fair at the Masonic Lodge 10 am – 2 pm, free. Concert with the Bel Canto Chamber Singers at North Universalist Chapel at 2 pm, adults \$12, students \$6, children 12 and under free. Messiah Sing at 4 pm at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church. Union High School presents “Around the World in Eighty Days” at 5 pm at Yoh Theatre. (802) 457-3555. *Through December 15.*

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend Celebration at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

RUTLAND. Winter Book Sale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages. 4-8 pm. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. www.rutlandfree.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

CRAFTSBURY COMMON. Community Dinner. We gather for a free community supper. Really, it's free! We have a great time with old and new friends. The food is great; the fellowship is wonderful—and you don't have to wear fancy clothes! 6 pm. United Church of Craftsbury, 7 Church Lane. (802) 586-8028. *Continue on third Wednesdays.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

SAXTONS RIVER. “Make It a Handmade Holiday” Workshop: Christmas Tags. Projects and techniques are easy to learn, with options to create your own unique piece. Class fee: \$20. 6-8 pm. River Artisans Cooperative, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.wordpress.com.

WARREN. Holiday Concert with VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint. A heart-warming celebration of the holiday season with holiday favorites such as “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire” and “You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch” as well as concerto excerpts by Handel and Vivaldi and a youth composition by Johna Saltsman entitled Jazzy Quintet. 7:30 pm at Warren United Church. Tickets available beginning December 15 at Roth Real Estate in Warren. (802) 496-3865. www.vso.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

BELLOWS FALLS. Bellows Falls Third Friday. Stores and galleries in town and in the surrounding area host special exhibits and events. Bellows Falls Farmers Market. 5-8 pm. Flier at Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. villagesquarebooks.com. *Third Fridays.*

BELLOWS FALLS. Book & Author Event. New Hampshire poet Pat Fargnoli will read from her newest book, “Winter” and Jim Fowler will read from his newest book “Falling Ashes”. Refreshments. Free. 5 pm. Village Square Booksellers, 32 The Square. (802) 463-9404. www.villagesquarebooks.com.

BRANDON. Concert: Heliand Consort. A quintet of virtuoso musicians performing classical music, from the baroque era through the 20th century and contemporary repertoire. Tickets \$15. A dinner & show for \$30. Reservations are encouraged. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 465-4071. www.brandon-music.net.

JAY. Holiday Concert with VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint. A heart-warming celebration of the holiday season. Admission \$20. 7:30 pm. Foeger Ballroom at Jay Peak Resort. (800) 876-9293. www.vso.org.

MANCHESTER CENTER. Book & Author Event. Deborah Solomon presents her book, *American Mirror: The Life and Art of Norman Rockwell*. Free. 7 pm. Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main St. (802) 362-2200. www.northshire.com.

MIDDLEBURY. “Night Fires.” The annual winter solstice celebration performed by Theatre Group, Ltd. delivers a heartfelt pageant of singing, dancing, storytelling, and visual magic. Tickets \$23/\$20/\$18. 8 pm. Pre-show singing begins 20 minutes before the show. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. *Through December 22.*

STRATTON. Full Cold Moon Snowshoe Hike. Let the light of the moon guide you across the snowy mountain. \$20 per person, \$10 snowshoe rental. Reservations required. Children under 18 must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian. Stratton Mountain Resort.

WILLISTON. Brick Church Music Series: Route 7, a small, mixed ensemble a cappella group. \$10 in advance for adults and \$12 at the door (\$8/\$10 for senior/children). Doors Open at 6 pm; Show at 7 pm. Old Brick Church, across the street from the Williston Town Hall, 7900 Williston Rd. Tickets can be purchased at the Williston Town Clerk's office.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

EAST CHARLESTON. Solstice Snowshoe over Moose Mountain. A community snowshoe hike, approximately 4 miles. Bring a picnic lunch, a hot drink, and warm layers. Registration required. Snowshoes available. Cost: \$15. 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Drive. (802) 723-6551 x 115. events@northwoodscenter.org. www.northwoodscenter.org

GRAFTON. Holiday Concert with VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint. A heart-warming celebration of the holiday season with holiday favorites. On December 2, tickets will be available (limit of four per person) to Grafton residents from 10 am to 4 pm at the Grafton Historical Society Building. Remaining tickets will be available to the public on December 3 from 10 am to 4 pm. 5 pm at The White Church, 55 Main St. (800) 876-9293. www.vso.org.

LUDLOW. Book and Author Event. Archer Mayor will talk about *Three Can Keep a Secret*, the latest Joe Gunther mystery, muse upon his writing process and take questions. Free. 7 pm. Cornerstone Room at Okemo Mountain Resort's Jackson Gore. (802) 228-3238. www.thebooknookvt.com. www.okemo.com.

MANCHESTER. The 2nd Annual Elf Express. Board by RK Miles on Rt. 11/30 at 11:30 am, 1 pm, 2:30 pm & 4 pm. Tickets: adults \$25, children \$20. Manchester and the Mountains Regional Chamber of Commerce, 39 Bonnet St. (802) 362-6313. visitmanchestervt.com. *Also December 22.*

MIDDLEBURY. “Night Fires.” The annual winter solstice celebration performed by Theatre Group, Ltd. delivers a heartfelt pageant of singing, dancing, storytelling, and visual magic. Tickets \$23/\$20/\$18. 4 & 8 pm. Pre-show singing begins 20 minutes before the show. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org. *Also December 22.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse and linger in the cozy kitchen as treats are baked in the woodstove. Holiday programs and making Christmas silhouettes and poppers; candle dipping. 10 am – 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 22-24, and 26-January 1.*

BULK FOODS • CAFÉ • LOCAL MEATS • BREADS



Local, organic, and conventional produce. A full selection of groceries and home cooking. Wine, Beer, & Homebrew Department. On South Royalton's historic Village Green Between Exits 2 & 3 on I-89 • Open Daily • 802.763.2400 www.soromarket.com or SoRo Market on FB

ARTISANAL CHEESES • DAIRY • PET FOODS

Old Millstream Farm
(802) 291-4673
1147 Mill Rd. South Royalton, VT
One mile up Mill Rd. from Rt. 110
Christmas Trees • Wreaths
Our Own Maple Syrup
Cabot Vermont Cheddar


Mills Hardware
Main Street, Bethel, VT • (802) 234-7250
Vermont Castings
Wood & Gas Stoves • Grills • Parts
Authorized Dealer

Karen & Scott Mills
Hours: Mon-Fri 7-6, Saturday 7:30-5, Sunday 8-1

Advice From Poor Robin's Almanac
Now that the time has come wherein Our Saviour Christ was born,
The larder's full of beef and pork,
The granary's full of corn,
As God hath plenty to thee sent,
Take comfort of thy labours,
And let it never thee repent
To feed thy needy neighbours.

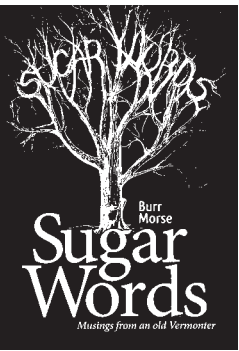
—ANON.


Third Branch Wines
Over 200 wines from around the world.
Open Mon-Wed 7 am – 5 pm, Thurs & Fri 7 am – 6 pm
Sat 8 am – 6 pm, Sun 11 am – 3 pm
269 Main St., Bethel VT • (802) 234-9910

Bethel Village Sandwich Shop

Great Sandwiches, Homemade Muffins and Soups and Great Coffee by Speeder & Earls
269 Main St., Bethel VT • (802) 234-9910

MORSE FARM MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Two Books by Burr Morse
A sugarmaker describes what maple and life in Vermont are all about.


Sugar Words
Musings From An Old Vermonter
\$19.95 plus \$5 s/h (paper cover)


GOLDEN TIMES
Tales Through The Sugarhouse Window
\$19.95 plus \$5 s/h (paper cover)

Morse Farm, 1168 County Rd. Montpelier, VT 05602 • (802) 223-2740
We Ship • morsefarm.com

CREEK HOUSE DINER

Home-Style Cooking With Country Charm

Casual Family Dining
Blue Plate Daily Specials
Homemade Bread, Soups, Entrees, Donuts & Desserts
Full Salad Bar
Real VT Maple Creamies

Jct. of Rts. 107 & 12
Bethel, VT
Open Daily 7 am – 8 pm
(802) 234-9191

Locust Creek Outfitters

Hunting • Fishing • Archery
Outdoor Accessories
Footwear • Clothing

Open Daily 8-5:30 Mon-Fri
8-3 Sat • 9-1 Sun
802-234-5884
1815 River St., Bethel, VT
www.locustcreekoutfitters.com

“Help Bring Some Joy to Vermont Shut-Ins!”

Join The **Vermont Sunshine Society**

- Volunteers Needed
- Monthly Newsletter
- Free Memberships

Contact:
Bev Grimes
225 Plateau Acres
Bradford, VT 05033

Bob-White Systems
Bringing the Cows Back Home

Vermont's Own Micro-Dairy Source

- ★ Micro- and Farmstead Dairy Equipment
- ★ Home Cheese Making Products
- ★ Certified Dealer for A&L Labs Dairy Teat Dips and Cleansers
- ★ Livestock & Barn Supplies

Shop our store or online at BobWhiteSystems.com

Tel: 802-763-2777
228 Chelsea Street, PO Box 365 • South Royalton, Vermont 05068

Vermont Country Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

MANCHESTER. Holiday Concert with VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint. 4 pm at First Congregational Church. Tickets at Northshire Bookstore, (802) 362-3565 or Vermont Symphony Orchestra, (800) 876-9293. www.vso.org.

MIDDLEBURY. "Night Fires." The annual winter solstice celebration performed by Theatre Group, Ltd. delivers a heartfelt pageant of singing, dancing, storytelling, and visual magic. Tickets \$23/\$20/\$18. 4 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. (802) 382-9222. www.townhalltheater.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Annual Messiah Sing. College-Community Chorus and led by conductor, Jeff Rehbach. Musical scores provided. Donation at the door (\$5 adult/\$10 family). 2 pm. Middlebury Congregational Church, corner of Rt. 7 and Main St. (802) 989-7355. rehbach@middlebury.edu. www.middlebury.edu.

MONTPELIER. 8th Annual Montpelier Antiques Market. The Elks provide breakfast and lunch for sale. Admission: early buyers \$5 (7:30 am), general public \$2 (9 am). Open 7:30 am - 1:30 pm. Montpelier Elks County Club, 1 Country Club Rd., just off Rt. 2. (802) 751-6138. www.montpelierantiquesmarket.com. *2nd & 4th Sundays November through March.*

RUTLAND. Ballet: Albany Berkshire Ballet performs the holiday favorite The Nutcracker. Tickets \$39.50 adults, 29.50 students. 2 & 6 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. www.paramountvt.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Caroling Party & Potluck. The North and South Congregational Churches, Lower Waterford and E. St. Johnsbury Congregational Churches join together for an evening of food, caroling, and fellowship. Gather at South Congregational Church, 1052 Main St., St. Johnsbury at 4 pm for a potluck dinner. After dinner the group will make its way through the town regaling folks with joyous songs of the Christmas season. Then all will head to North Congregational Church, 1325 Main St., St. Johnsbury for dessert and hot chocolate. (802) 748-3315. southcongregationalchurch.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 23-24, and December 26 - January 1.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

BRANDON. Holiday Concert with VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint, Nathaniel G. Lew, Conductor. A heart-warming celebration of the holiday season with holiday favorites. 7 pm at Brandon Congregational Church. Tickets at Lake Sunapee Bank, Brandon, (802) 247-5771 or VSO (800) 876-9293. www.vso.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 24, and 26-January 1.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also December 26-January 1.*

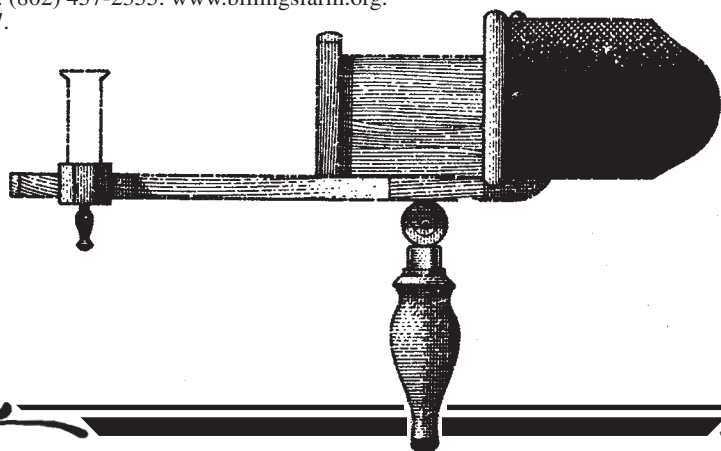
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

MONTPELIER. Summit School Players Jam. Share music, a meal, and help Summit School sustain its programs! Suggested donation \$5. 6-8 pm. Call or email for confirmation of schedule. Summit School, 46 Barre St. (802) 917-1186. director@summit-school.org. www.summitschool.wix.com/summitschool. *Every fourth Thursday.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Admission \$8, \$6 for teens, \$3 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Refreshments available. 8 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140, 5 miles west of Wallingford. For info or directions call (802) 235-2718. Tinmouthvt.org. *Every fourth Friday.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

NORWICH. Social Singing from The Sacred Harp. Early American hymns in the shape note tradition. Free and open to the public, no experience necessary, loaner books provided. Not a performance or church function, just fellowship in song. 1:30-4:30 pm. Parish Hall of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 262 Main St. For information contact Daniel Hertzler at danhertzler@gmail.com. *Fourth Sundays.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

ARLINGTON. Messiah Sing-a-long. 3-4 pm. St. James Episcopal Church, Rt. 7A. (802) 375-9952. www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Admission: adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

BELMONT. New Year's Eve at Star Lake. Welcome in the New Year with good friends, good cheer, fireworks, a bonfire and skating. Co-sponsored with the Mount Holly Sno* Drifters. Free! 9 pm. Star Lake. (802) 259-2562.

MANCHESTER. New Year's Eve Concerts. The Manchester String Ensemble with special guest, Peggie Telscher, Mezzo Soprano featuring the music of Bach, Piazzolla and more. Family concert at 4 pm—tickets: adults \$30; 18 and under free. Full concert at 6 pm—tickets: adults \$30; 18 and under \$13. At the First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. For tickets or information call (802) 362-1956. www.mmfvt.org.

NORWICH. Special New Year's Eve Contra Dance with Cuckoo's Nest. Ruth Sylvester, caller. All dances taught. Beginners are welcome—no partner is necessary. Please bring a separate pair of soft-soled shoes for dancing. Potluck finger food at the break and singing at midnight! Admission \$15, students \$10, under 16 & seniors half price. 8 pm, beginners session 7:45 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 785-4607. rbarrows@cs.dartmouth.edu. *Every fourth Saturday.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. 21st Annual First Night. A New Year's Eve celebration of the arts. Free activities at Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium 6-9 pm. More than 220 entertainers performing at 18 venues on and near Main St. Street entertainment, free pancake supper, fireworks, food, free shuttle. Pre-event button admission \$13, \$20 on 12/31. 4 pm - 12 midnight. (802) 223-6304 x 114. awarmke@acluvt.org. www.catamountarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Adults \$12, age 62 & up \$11, children ages 5-15 \$6, 3-4 \$3, under 3 free. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Also January 1.*



World Premiere—Celtic Music For Advent and Christmas

The 60-voice Randolph Singers community chorus directed by Kathy Wonson Eddy is performing the world premiere of Eddy's "Dancing at the Edge of Mystery: Celtic Music for Advent and Christmas" at Chandler Music Hall. The concert includes a celebration of seasonal music from around the world. Chandler Music Hall is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. (802) 728-9878. chandler-arts.org. December 8 at 4 p.m. at



GERRY L. WHITE SNOWMOBILE PARTS & SALES

Biggest Inventory and Best Prices in the Area
Large Selection of OEM and Aftermarket Parts
& Accessories for All Makes and Models
Good Selection of Used Sleds & Parts.

Open Evenings & Weekends • (802) 234-9368
31 Arctic Cat Road, Bethel, VT
gwhite1948@myfairpoint.net

Dandelion Acres Garden Center



Local Christmas Trees • Wreaths & Gifts
Open through Dec 23 (closed for Thanksgiving)
Bethel, VT • I-89 Exit 3, 1 1/2 mi. west on Rt. 107
(802) 234-6622 • (888) 234-6622
Gift Certificates make GREAT gifts!



Matting & Framing Original Prints & Paintings • Woodcrafts

Maryann Mayberry Davis

Portrait, Landscape, Wildlife Artist

George Andrew Davis—Pastel Artist

Open Daily. Closed Sunday.

(802) 234-5001 • Cell: (802) 310-2337
2190 VT Route 107, Bethel, VT 05032

• Stained Glass • Bears, Bears, Bears • Framed Prints • Tapestries • Bath Products • Incense & Oils • Maple Products • Gourmet Foods • Potpourri • Baskets • Pottery • Candles • Music • VT Souvenirs • Cards • Lamps

Royal Towne Gifts

Three floors of unusual crafts,
beautiful gifts, and home accessories.

Holidays Are Here!
Fully-Stocked Christmas Shop.
With Santas, Snowmen, Ornaments, Cards, Gifts and Things Merry!

Kringle, McCalls & Woodwick Candles
Sweet Grass Farm Soaps & Lotions • Aussie Soaps
Holiday Potpourri • Willow Tree Cards & Figurines
New VT Food Lines • Silver Forest Jewelry • Clocks
Braided, Hooked, & Rag Rugs • Handbags • Linens
Wooden & Metal Signs • Stuffed Animals of All Kinds • Sweat Shirts, Socks, & Scarf Lines
Try Our Delicious Fudge in Homemade Cranberry, Candy Cane, & Divinity Fudge

Rt. 107, Royalton, VT
(802) 763-2537 • I-89 Exit 3 (Bethel)
Daily 10-6 • We Ship • Credit Cards Accepted

Jewelry • Braided & Hooked Rugs • VT & NH Handcrafts

Holiday Shopping—Keeping it Local in Brookfield, VT

December 2013

The Floating Bridge Food & Farms Cooperative invites you to visit Brookfield, VT this December for a local seasonal shopping experience.

December 7th and 8th, you can put together a holiday outing in the Brookfield area. Enjoy a drive through picturesque countryside to L.H. Stowell and Son Christmas Tree Farm to choose your tree. Stroll the property and fall in love with one of their many sizes and eight varieties.

After getting your tree and watching their electric train display in the barn, drive into the scenic village of Brookfield to the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative's Holiday Shop held in the Fork Shop, next to the Floating Bridge.

Look for gifts amongst handcrafted products such as beeswax candles, soaps, wreaths, and holiday arrangements. For the food lovers on your list, you can choose Cajeta—goat's milk caramel in three flavors, honey, barbecue sauce, maple products, jams, Ariel's chocolates or even a copy of the new Vermont Farm Table Cookbook featuring several recipes from Ariel's. Make up a gift basket with a sample of several items.

For those hard-to-shop-for friends and family, consider a gift experience. A tasty dinner at Ariel's, cooking classes, farm experiences, get-a-ways, farm store gift certificates or even a farm share membership are great gifts to make Vermont memories for friends and family out of state.

At the Holiday Shop, you can also stock up on pasture-raised Vermont meats and organic vegetables for your holiday meals. Of course, there will be some delicious treats to enjoy on the spot including wood-fired pizza with local toppings from Field Stone Farm, mulled cider, and baked goods.

Don't forget to book a dinner to celebrate the holidays at Ariel's Restaurant in Brookfield where Lee Duberman transforms local farm products into an amazing dining experience.

Visitors to Central Vermont can stay at wonderful inns or farmstays for a holiday get-a-way. The Floating Bridge Food & Farms Cooperative can help you plan your trip.

"What a fulfilling way to enjoy the holiday season," noted Mari Omland of Green Mountain Girls Farm. "Support our local economy and maintain our cherished agricultural landscape while the countryside refreshes and rejuvenates you. The Floating Bridge Food & Farms Coop is all about creating opportunities for people to experience the essence of farms through all seasons."



A field full of black horses in Williamstown, VT.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Holiday Season Events Schedule

Saturday, December 7th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 8th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday Shop At The Fork Shop, 2205 Rt. 65 (next to the Floating Bridge), Pond Village, Brookfield, VT. Local farm products and handmade gifts. Participating businesses include: Ariel's Restaurant, Brookfield Bees, Fat Toad Farm, Field Stone Farm, Green Mountain Girls Farm, Green Trail Inn, L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Tree Farm, Pagoda Pond Gardens, Spotted Dog Farm, and Spruce Lane Farm. www.FloatingBridgeFoodandFarms.com.

November 29th through December 22nd, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. L.H. Stowell Christmas Tree Farm, 1591 Twin Pond Rd., Brookfield, VT. Choose your own Christmas Tree. www.lhstrees.com.

Starting on Friday, December 20th. Ariel's Restaurant, 29 Stone Rd., Brookfield Village, VT. Ariel's will feature a festive seasonal a la carte menu available on Christmas Eve. Ariel's will also be open on Christmas Day with a three-course, family-friendly holiday menu. They also offer an annual New Year's Eve six-course extravaganza on Tuesday, December 31st. If you have family and friends visiting for the holidays Ariel's will be open daily Christmas week, from Tuesday, December 24th through Sunday, December 29th. You can make reservations by email at arielsrestaurant@yahoo.com. www.ArielsRestaurant.com.

For more information call Donna Farley at (802) 276-0787. E-mail info@FloatingBridgeFoodandFarms.com. Visit FloatingBridgeFoodandFarms.com.

Sweet Threads Gift Shop
1559 Riford Brook Rd., Braintree, VT
Off Route 12A, past Abel Mountain
Our Own Syrup • Quilts • Many Great Gift Items
Fri, Sat, & Sun 9 am – 3 pm, or by appt. till Dec. 23
(802) 728-9764 or 728-2572 • Free Ornament with Ad

FARM-ALL-FIX
Farm Machinery Repair
Specializing in Repairs & Restoration of Older Tractors
1236 Rt. 12N, Randolph, VT • (802) 728-3390
(Across from Mid-State Riding Rink)
"Oil Change to Overhaul"
Jonsered Chain Saws
New and Used Tractor Parts
Ariens Snow Blowers
Open Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-Noon
- Mike McPhetres -

"Help Bring Some Joy to Vermont Shut-Ins!"
Join The Vermont Sunshine Society
• Volunteers Needed
• Monthly Newsletter
• Free Memberships
Contact:
Bev Grimes
225 Plateau Acres
Bradford, VT
05033

The Barn

"I am tired of this barn!" said the colt.
"And every day it snows.
Outside there's no grass any more
And icicles grow on my nose.
I am tired of hearing the cows
breathing and talking together.
I am sick of these clucking hens.
I hate stables and winter weather!"

"Hush, little colt," said the mare
"And a story I will tell
Of a barn like this one of ours
And the wonders that there befell.
It was weather much like this

And the beasts stood as we stand now
In the warm good dark of the barn—
A horse and an ass and a cow."

"And sheep?" asked the colt. "Yes, sheep,
And a pig and a goat and a hen.
All of the beasts of the barnyard,
The usual servants of men.
And into their midst came a lady
And she was as cold as death
But the animals leaned above her
And made her warm with their breath.

"There was her baby born
And laid to sleep in the hay
While music flooded the rafters
And the barn was as light as day.
And angels and kings and shepherds
Came to worship the babe from afar,
But we looked at him first of all creatures
By the bright strange light of a star!"

—ELIZABETH COATSWORTH



For the Best All Season Sports Equipment
Snowsville GENERAL STORE
SINCE 1830
GUNS • HANDGUNS • AMMO • SCOPES
Large In-Stock Inventory of Hunting Rifles, Shotguns and Handguns • Reloading Supplies • Buck Knives
Hunting & Work Boots • Muzzle Loading Supplies and Accessories • Hunting & Fishing Licenses
Fishing Gear: Flies, Lures, Trilene Line, Night Crawlers and Worms in Season
"We're the Capitol of Trades Home of the Wheeler Dealer!"
Complete Line of Groceries & Beer.
Open weekdays 12-6 pm, GIFT CERTIFICATES
Sat & Sun 10-6, closed Mon.
Route 12, East Braintree, VT
(802) 728-5252
snowsville.com

GREEN MOUNTAIN FEEDS
Certified Organic Feeds
Certified Organic Feeds
21% Poultry Starter Grower Mash
17% Poultry Grower Pellet
19% Broiler Grower Crumbles
20% Calf Starter Cracked Corn
16% Dairy Pellet
20% Dairy Pellet
13% Horse Feed
Natural Advantage 12 - Pellet
16% Layer Mash
16% Coarse Layer Mash
16% Layer Pellet
16% Pig Grower Pellet
16% Pig Grower Mash
Expelled Soybean
Whole Roasted Soybean
16% Sheep & Goat Pellet
26% Turkey Starter Mash
21% Turkey Grower Pellets
Whole Barley
15% Whole Grain Mix
Whole Oats
Molasses (Lb)
Redmond Salt
Redmond Blocks (44 lbs)
Kelpmeal • Scratch
Non-GMO Conventional Feed
Call for your nearest Wholesale Dealer.
All product available in standard 50# bags.
Bulk available upon request
Green Mountain Feeds
65 Main Street, Bethel, Vermont 05032
Phone: (802) 234-6278 • Fax: (802) 234-6578

Certified Organic by VT Organic Farmers
Store Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon
www.greenmountainfeeds.com

Chef's MARKET
Produce & Provisions
Crazy Good Produce • Local & Hand Selected Products
Chef's Market Grab-n-Go • Full Service Boar's Head Deli
Chef's Market Catering • Vermont Handcraft Gallery
— SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS FIRST —
Open: Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-3
839 RT. 12 SOUTH, RANDOLPH, VT
(802) 728-4202 • www.chefsmarketvt.com



The VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint, with Robert De Cormier conducting, performed in the Brandon Congregational Church.

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra A Holiday Concert Tradition

Join the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for holiday music to warm your soul. The VSO with Jaime Laredo, Music Director, will present its annual holiday concerts bringing festive cheer to communities around the state.

The Orchestra will present three Holiday Pops concerts in Barre, Burlington and Rutland, VT. A quintet made from the VSO brass section pairs with the beloved Counterpoint Chorus to perform five concerts in five communities.

The VSO welcomes Vermont writer/commentator Bill Mares as guest emcee for holiday stories and music from many lands. The festive program, conducted by Anthony Princiotti, features the music you love to hear at this time of year, including favorites from Russia, England, France, the Ukraine, and Brazil.

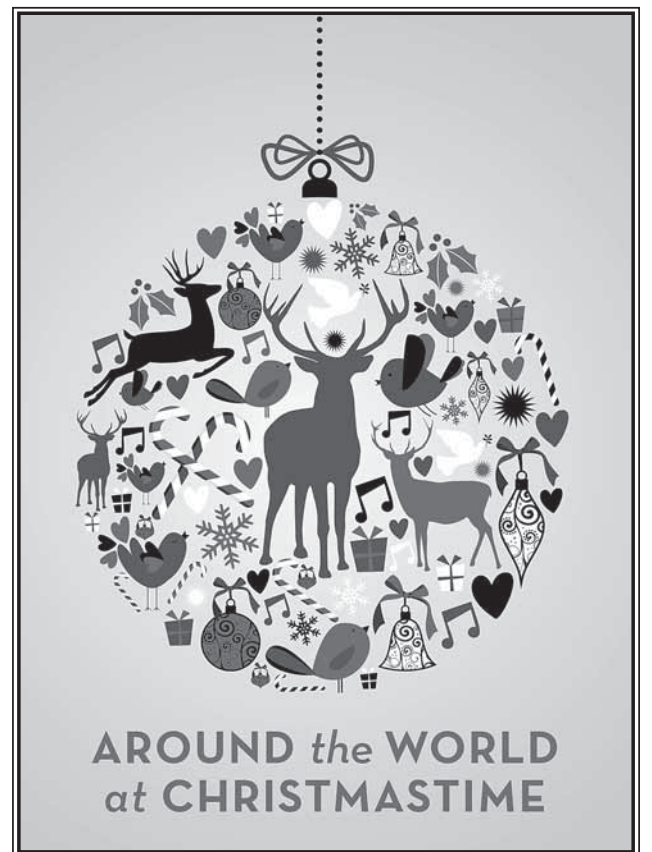
Holiday Pops performances are Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Barre Opera House, Barre, VT; Saturday, December 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington, VT; and Sunday, December 15, 3 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland, VT.

In another series of holiday concerts, Counterpoint Chorus

joins the VSO Brass Quintet for a heart-warming celebration of the season. Nathaniel Lew conducts this program which includes holiday favorites such as Jingle Bell Rock, Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire, You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch, and I'll Be Home for Christmas, as well as concerto excerpts by Handel and Vivaldi. This concert will also feature a youth composition by Johna Saltsman entitled Jazzy Quintet.

The VSO Brass Quintet/Counterpoint performances are Thursday, December 19, 7:30 p.m., Warren Church, Warren, VT; Friday, December 20, 7:30 p.m., Jay Peak Resort, Jay, VT; Saturday, December 21, 5 p.m., The White Church, Grafton, VT; December 22, 4 p.m., First Congregational Church, Manchester, VT; and December 23, 7 p.m., Congregational Church, Brandon, VT.

Join the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for festive celebrations you'll remember long after the plum pudding is gone! For tickets or additional information, please call (800) 876-9293 x 10, or visit online at www.vso.org.



The Christmas Revels An Appalachian Celebration of the Winter Solstice

If you're in the audience at the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH for "The Christmas Revels: An Appalachian Celebration of the Winter Solstice," you can look forward to celebrating the shortest day of the year with a spectacular journey to Southern Appalachia. This is where Native American, African and European traditions combine in astonishing music, dance and folktales.

More than 75 talented local adult and child singers and dancers are joined by singer, composer and multi-instrumentalist Pete Sutherland, formerly of the folk trio Metamora; Ontario-based old-time music duo

Sheesham & Lotus; and North Carolina-based singer Suzannah Park, of Village Harmony and the Starry Mountain Singers.

Discover the song and the dance preserved generation after generation, by our neighbors to the south.

The 39th Christmas Revels is produced by Revels North based in the Upper Valley region of Vermont and New Hampshire.

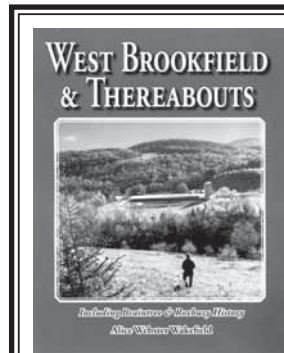
Performances are on December 12, 13 & 14 at 7 p.m.; also Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, December 15 at 1 & 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$38 adults, \$11 children. All children's tickets are only \$8 just for

the Thursday, December 12 performance.

Christmas Revels takes place at Spaulding Auditorium in the Hopkins Center, in Hanover, NH. For the box office call (603) 646-2422. Or purchase tickets online at dartix.dartmouth.edu.

For more information call (866) 556-3083 or go to www.revelsnorth.org. hop.dartmouth.edu.



West Brookfield & Thereabouts

\$29.00 post-paid
To order, write to:

Alice Wakefield
4877 Rt. 12
Braintree, VT 05060

Or call (802) 728-9749

Muskeg Music Presents a CONTRA DANCE with Cuckoo's Nest Caller: Ruth Sylvester



Dec. 31, 2013 • 8 pm
Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT
Admission \$15, over 60 and under 16 half price!
Bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing.
(802) 785-4607

"A Quality Family
Farm Shop"
Open Everyday
8:30-6:00



Maple
Ice Cream Parlor
Maple Cremees
Every Day!

1005 VT Rt. 14 N. • E. Montpelier, VT • www.braggfarm.com
(802) 223-5757 • (800) 376-5757 • Call for Free Catalog



Sugarmaker Doug Bragg tends the fire during sugaring season.

The Bragg Family has been producing pure Vermont Maple Syrup for eight generations. Visit our farm gift shop and sugar house nestled in the pine-clad hills of East Montpelier, Vermont.

Free Maple Tours and Tastings

Unique Gift Shop • Great Mountain Views • Farm Animals
Family-Run for Eight Generations! Maple Syrup,
Candies & Cream—Take Some Home or Have It Shipped!

Uphill Both Ways

by Burr Morse

I know times have changed but I, admitted curmudgeon, found news accounts of the October 9th “International Walk to School Day” quite entertaining. In fact for folks of my generation, staging a “walk to school” for a single day with fanfare and balloons, is downright hilarious. And, yes, I have my own “walked a mile to school uphill both ways” story to tell to you young whipper-snappers.

It was exactly one mile each way to the one-room school in East Montpelier Center and we’re talkin’ everyday. I was in the first grade and my sister Susie was in the fourth. Since I cannot tell a lie, I won’t say we had to get up and do barn chores, haul water from the spring, and clean out the outhouse before we left—that was for the generation before ours. It was up to us, however, to get ourselves ready, fix something for lunch, and ration enough time for the trek.

Running for school, will I make it?

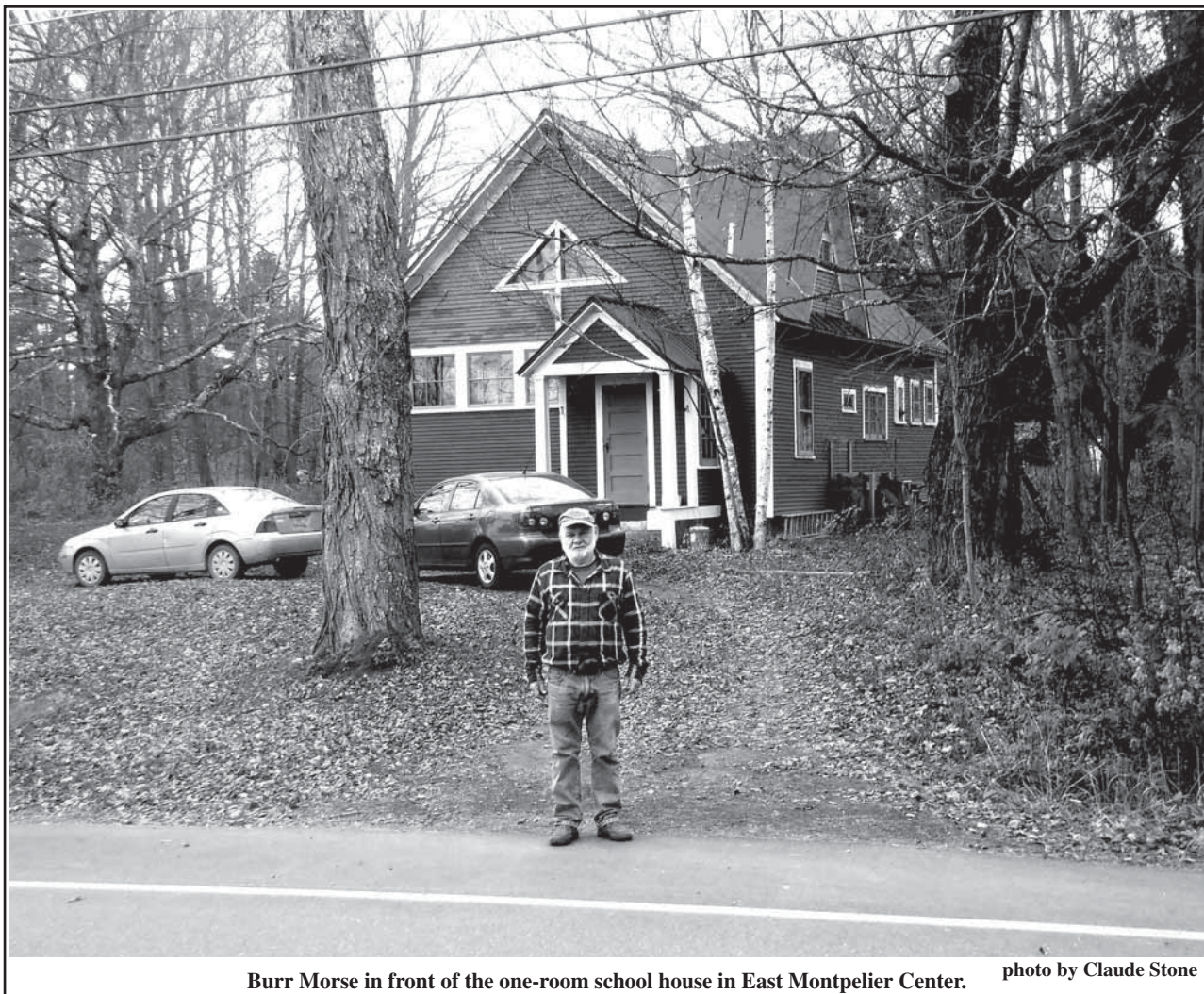
We were tempted to complain but life in the early 1950s had already taught us the fruitlessness of that. Although

“As Susie and I headed up the road through the woods we were always at a run.”

children of that era had become “hardened” in many ways, there were still innate fears. As Susie and I headed up the road through the woods, we were always at a run. That stretch of woods between our house and fellow first grader Dougie Schaefer’s house brought dark shadows and fears of bears, wolves, and, worse of all, the dreaded truant officer.

We learned over time that there were no wolves in Vermont but, to this day, I still question whether the “truant officer” was real or just a mean parental trick to assure our on-time arrival at school! After the run through the woods, we “tied up” with Dougie Schaefer and walked the rest of the way through open farmland (and yes, there were farms back then).

As we went along, our numbers grew and by the time we reached the Center School, we had become a “can-kickin’, stone-throwin’” rag-tag gang of six or seven. It seems “safety issues” are a big concern today but I pity any creepy person



Burr Morse in front of the one-room school house in East Montpelier Center. photo by Claude Stone

who might have approached this group! The afterschool walk back home usually brought the release of some pent up energy and some sort of devilry.

I remember stopping by Willie Barnes farm a few times in the fall of the year. He had some Wolf River apple trees out in his pasture, home also to his prize bull. Dougie and I couldn’t resist the temptation to steal a few of those luscious-looking apples. We’d huddle together and make our plans. “Shhhhh...you go under the fence over there and I’ll head down the road n’git the bull’s attention.” We’d always end up with a few bruised Wolf Rivers, which, by the way are the most inedible apples ever invented, and a very upset

bull. Our fun always ended when Susie and I dropped off Dougie and made our dreaded run the rest of the way home through the woods.

I’m not suggesting that kids today suddenly start walking to school. No, there are definite reasons why that can’t happen, not the least of which is the larger number of “creepy people” out there. I do, however, worry about the level of education kids are getting today. You see, book learning is important but that’s only half of an education; the other half comes from the “knocks” of life, some hard, some soft. For that, a long walk to school was a great classroom. And yep, I made it!

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT and is open year-round. Visit their Country Store, Sugarhouse, Woodshed Theater, Outdoor Farmhouse Museum, and more. For maple products by mail and to order balsam wreaths for Christmas time, call (800) 242-2740 or visit www.morsefarm.com.



Chapman's

Fine Wines
Unique Toys
Jewelry, Scarves

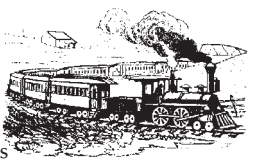
Thanksgiving Weekend—25% Off
Toys, Jewelry, Accessories

Main St., Fairlee, VT • (802) 333-9709
Open Mon–Sat 8–6, Fri 8–7, Sun 8–3

WHISTLESTOP CAFE

176 US Rt. 5 North
Fairlee, VT
(802) 331-1000

Open Fri/Sat 6-9 Sun 8-3
Mon/Tues 6-8, closed Wed/Thurs



Dinner Menu after 3 pm • Beer & Wine available
Espresso & coffee, counter goodies, deli case,
salads & dinner specials, and wifi all day.

Nightly Specials



McQueen's Tack Shop

Over 400
Saddles!

Horses For Sale
on Premises

New & Used Tack and Apparel Bought 'n' Sold
Courbette, Weaver, Devon-Aire, Pro Choice, Leanin' Tree, EQ

Compare My Prices • Open Your Hours
Kathy McQueen • 802-785-4493
www.mcqueenstack.com
2 miles up Gove Hill Rd., off Rt. 132, Thetford, VT

Saffron Paradise of India

“AUTHENTIC INDIAN & AMERICAN CUISINE”

379 Lower Plain, Rt. 5, Bradford, VT
(at the Bradford Motel)
(802) 222-4467 • Facebook

Open for Lunch & Dinner • Beer & Wine
Winter Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 4-10 p.m.
Catering available by request

When He Comes

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums.
Nor the vantage of his airs,
Nor by anything he wears,
Neither by his crown,
Nor by his gown,
For his presence Known,
Shall be by the Holy Harmony
That his coming makes in thee.



—ANON. 15TH CENTURY

SILVER MAPLE LODGE & COTTAGES




Silver Maple Lodge Circa 1920

Old Time Vermont Vacation Value
A Bed & Breakfast Country Inn Convenient to All Season Recreation,
Cross Country and Downhill Skiing and Ice Skating.

\$82-\$119 dbl. occ. Call or write for brochure 1-800-666-1946 • www.silvermaplelodge.com
Route 5, S. Main St., Fairlee, VT 05045 • (802) 333-4326
— Hot Air Balloon Packages Year Round —

- Property Taxes
- Real Estate Prices
- Vermont Laws



When you are considering buying Vermont real estate, there are many factors to consider. Our bimonthly newsletter for owners and buyers of real estate here covers several: market trends, tax and legal matters, state news, listings of recent real estate sales, practical advice, more. Price is \$52.95 per year. Refund if not satisfied. Make check payable to “VPOR” and mail to:

Vermont Property Owners Report
PO Box 1564, Dept. CS,
Montpelier, VT 05601
(Or call (802) 229-2433 to order by credit card.)



Farmstand & Education Center
CERTIFIED ORGANIC
VEGGIES & BERRIES

Pavillion Rd, off Rte 5
East Thetford, VT
802-785-4737

New This Year!
FARMSTAND OPEN WEEKENDS
Nov. 2 through Dec. 15
Saturday & Sunday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our Farmstand is Open Every Weekend through December 15
Grown locally – certified organic

- Organic, farm-grown veggies
- Local, organic meat & grocery items
- Signature small-batch fruit preserves, pickles, pestos, and traditional krauts.

Hello-Cafe-to-Go
Order online for weekend pick-up at the farmstand.
Blueberry Muffins, Ginger Cream Scones, Brown Butter Granola Scones and Morning Buns.

CedarCircleFarm.org

The Squirrel Diaries: Tales From a Wildlife Rehabilitator

by Astrid Helena Nicolay
(Wind Ridge Publishing, Shelburne, VT)

In a lifetime many of us are bound to come upon wild animals, injured or in some form of grave distress, that badly need help, having been hit by a motor vehicle, injured by another animal or maybe just acting in a strange way around a backyard bird feeder.

If these animals are lucky they will have a 50-50 chance of survival if they are quickly rescued and end up in the hands (literally and figuratively) of a wildlife rehabilitator.

Astrid Helena Nicolay, the author of this book, has made a career of healing and rehabbing wild animals so they can be returned to their natural habitat. She relates in a positive and sometimes humorous way, the loving care she has given to one species of wild animals—injured or ailing squirrels, and why she chose such work:

“Wild animals are unpredictable and I’m always surprised and appalled when people try to tame them. There is no taming a wild animal. One either breaks its wild spirit and it appears tame because it has no other recourse, or the animals is intentionally lured to approach people with food incentives, and people are later shocked when the animals behave in a wild manner. Many of these animals end up being destroyed. When they try to reclaim or act within their wildness, they are considered a threat and killed.”

A tribute to the rescued

As a special tribute to all the hundreds of squirrels she has worked with, the final two pages of her book show two large drawings of hearts enclosing the names in alphabetical order of those rescued squirrels starting with Alex, Alexander and Alvin and ending with Zipper, Zucchini and Zuki.

The names include squirrels who have whole chapters in the book devoted to them and their endearing or not-too-endearing ways when they lived with the author and her ever-willing-to-help husband Bill.

Among those given special attention are: the wild, healthy and beautiful Effy, who inspired Astrid to become a wildlife rehabber; Nena, both deaf and blind who became a “bouncy, happy squirrel, running up and down”; Dudley, an adult gray squirrel severely injured when hit by a car, who finally could chose to live among the “wind and trees” rather than a man-made shelter and food; Lanie, who made multiple nests through the house and caching nuts everywhere: “in the cat’s litter box, in my sock drawer, inside my pillow case, behind books, inside the bunny hay, inside potholders, and on window ledges”; and Eddy, six ounces of cuteness with huge almond-shaped eyes, and a short fluffy tail. He played the “kamikaze” game for hours, jumping from the top of the six-foot screen door in their bedroom.

Squirrel lore and squirrelly habits

Many of us have admired squirrels for their big bushy tails. Astrid tells us the tail is an incredibly versatile tool: it releases excess heat, acts as a sunshade in summer or a blanket on a cold night. It is used as a rudder in jumping from trees, and it “flicks” when danger is perceived.

One may wonder how such small animals can crack open hard nuts. Astrid explains that squirrels, being granivores and herbivores, eat all this stuff with powerful jaws and teeth that include two pair of chisel-sharp, ever-growing incisors. She adds: “squirrels live and die by their incisors.” That is one reason they grind their teeth to keep them sharp.

Her basic food recipe for squirrels in captivity is rodent chow or monkey biscuits, some fruits and veggies, and a few nuts and seeds, and courses of calcium but not cow’s milk, as they are lactose intolerant. Her book includes a six-page list of foraging foods for squirrels. Astrid also gives a complete spectrum of their habits including mating, nest building, caching nuts and other foods.

Squirrels often get a number of diseases as well as parasites like lice, mites, ticks and maggots. They have many diseases shared by us humans: constipation, dehydration, diarrhea, hypoglycemia, stress and fear, trauma. A shortage of calcium causes metabolic bone disease that often ends in death if not treated.

Squirrels on the move

Her narrative is interspersed with fascinating facts about squirrels that may not be common knowledge.

We learn that “squirrels know when they are not wanted and they leave town, sometimes in mass migrations!”

Mass migrations that numbered in the millions occurred in the falls of 1933, 1935, 1968 and 1995 and 2004. The main reason for leaving is loss of tree habitats including nut trees.

Since 1999 Astrid holds a federal and state of Vermont permit as a wildlife rehabilitator, and she is director of North Stream Wildlife Rehabilitation serving Ferrisburg and Monkton, VT, a facility that admits more than 100 wild animal patients a year.

The Squirrel Diaries by Astrid Helena Nicolay is available for \$16.95 at your bookseller or can be ordered from Wind Ridge Books of VT, 233 Falls Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482. (802) 985-3091. lin@windridgepublishing.com. www.windridgebooksofvt.com.

North Stream Wildlife Rehabilitation can be reached at (802) 236-3541. For more information you can also visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Book Review by Charles Sutton

millions occurred in the falls of 1933, 1935, 1968 and 1995 and 2004. The main reason for leaving is loss of tree habitats including nut trees.

Since 1999 Astrid holds a federal and state of Vermont permit as a wildlife rehabilitator, and she is director of North Stream Wildlife Rehabilitation serving Ferrisburg and Monkton, VT, a facility that admits more than 100 wild animal patients a year.

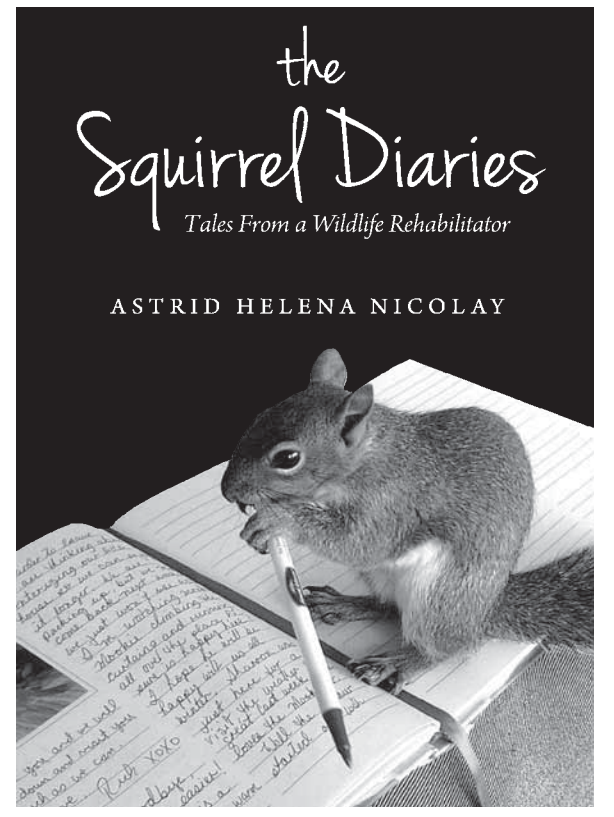
The Squirrel Diaries by Astrid Helena Nicolay is available for \$16.95 at your bookseller or can be ordered from Wind Ridge Books of VT, 233 Falls Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482. (802) 985-3091. lin@windridgepublishing.com. www.windridgebooksofvt.com.

North Stream Wildlife Rehabilitation can be reached at (802) 236-3541. For more information you can also visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

God Bless the Little Things

God Bless the little things this Christmastide
All the little wild things that live outside
Little cold robins and rabbits in the snow
Give them good faring and a warm place to go
All the little young things for His sake who died
Who was a little thing at Christmastide.

—MARGARET MURRAY



Piermont Plant Pantry

Farm Stand • Open Daily
Rte 25, Piermont, NH
603-272-4372

~ Abby, Ai & John Metcalf ~
info@piermontplantpantry.com
www.piermontplantpantry.com

Balsam Wreaths & Garlands
Christmas Trees after Thanksgiving.
Kissing Balls—Ready-made or Custom-made
Order online at www.piermontplantpantry.com

~ Corn Barn Gift Shop ~
Jams, Jellies, Pickles, Dried Flowers, Crafts
Winter Squash • Gift Certificates

Windfall Clothing & Consignment Shop
Open Tues-Sat 10-4
Jct. Rt. 10 & 25A, Orford, NH
(603) 353-4611

Featuring **Katie's Korner**—Brand Name Teen Clothing!

ROUND BARN

SHOPPE

Unique 16-Sided Building
New England Gift Ideas
Candles • Dolls • Pewter • Paintings
Candy • Garfield Smoked Bacon & Cheese
Specialty Foods • Fine Cheeses • Maple Syrup, Candies, & Cream • Our Own Fudge
Emu Products • Wooden Things & Tons More
Great Stuff! We Ship our Fudge and Other Products You Have Seen Here!

Open Thursday, Friday
Saturday & Sunday 10-5
Rt. 10, Piermont, N.H.
(603) 272-9026

Farmer Hodge's Roadside Stand & Country Christmas Shop

A farm family enterprise
Over 62 years in the same location!
Buy direct from the farmer and save Vermont's family farms!

We Are Not Just a Roadside Stand & Gift Shop.
We Have Gardens & a Reg. Holstein Dairy Farm.

~ Old Fashioned Country Gift Shop ~
Vermont foods, crafts & gifts. Our own jams, jellies, Vermont cheeses, and pickles. Maple Syrup. Gift Baskets. Yankee Candles, dried flower arrangements, greeting cards, gift certificates, and much more!

CHRISTMAS TREES & WREATHS
Our Wreaths are Hand-Tied and Made of Fresh Greens
And We Ship Them Daily!

Gift Baskets
Custom Made or You Select!
Order Your
Holiday Gift Packages
And Take-Home Goodies Now!

Save Gas—Shop Locally!
Visitors Always Welcome!
Open 7 Days a Week, 8:30-5:00

Route 5, Fairlee, VT
(802) 333-4483
(2 miles north on Rt. 5 off Exit 15, I-91)

We Ship UPS Anywhere

Country Christmas Shop
Next Door
Our Shop is a House Filled with Retired Heritage Village Homes, Byer's Choice Carolers, Snow Babies, & Many Other Christmas Items.

North Country Book News

BookReview

French Macarons a Special Treat for Christmas!

It's Christmas cookie baking season! We all have our old favorites but we usually look for something new to add to the magical assortment on our holiday plates or for that special gift box.

This year try French macarons. This is not the gooey coconut chocolate-covered confection we know as macarons. This is the popular Parisian merengue-based sandwich cookie that comes in a myriad of sizes, shapes, and flavors.

To learn all about it (you

may not get beyond turning page after page of gorgeous full-color photos), read *Gourmet French Macarons* by Mindy Cone (*Front Table Books, Cedar Fort, Inc., \$24.00, www.cedarfort.com*).

Read about the confection's history, anatomy, ingredients, and techniques. Then the fun begins with chapters on seasonal and holiday macarons, designs, and delicious fillings.

For Christmas, try a spritely little Christmas Tree, Mint Candy Canes, Rudolph the

Red-Nosed Reindeer, jolly Snowmen, Christmas Stockings, Gingerbread Men, Santa Hats, and Winter Snowflakes.

There are 17 more seasonal chapters for year-round baking. Enter a world of over 75 festive shapes—Hearts, Shamrocks, Bunnies and Baby Chicks for Easter, and even Seashells. The colors you learn to use are clear and bright—like painting on canvas, only probably easier.

Learn to make wedding cookies with monograms, brushed icing flowers, and animals of every description.

The variety of fillings will delight you—jams, curd, seasonal specialties, and more.

Author Mindy Cone tells us that making macarons is less about the recipe and

more about the technique and lessons that you learn along the way. She says, "But don't worry—I'll dish all my tricks and tips to you! This book will not only guide you through the process of making a perfect macaron—in taste, texture, and appearance—but it will also open your eyes to a world of creative dessert opportunities!"

And what do these cookies taste like?

Mindy tells us, "If you've never had a Macaron, you're in for a surprise! It's quite the experience! There is a crisp, thin outer shell, which gives way easily to a moist, chewy, almond merengue, followed by a silky center of flavorful filling. It is chewy yet soft, delicate yet flavorful, small yet satisfying!"



Music Night at Hinesburg's Brown Dog Books & Gifts

Drop by Brown Dog Books & Gifts in Hinesburg, VT on December 6 at 7 p.m. for some great tunes and a little holiday shopping. It's Music Night with Bluebird—Kim Provost (bass and vocals) and John Penoyar (guitar and vocals), entertaining you with classic country and rock 'n' roll with an emphasis on harmony singing.

Come in, have a seat, enjoy complimentary refreshments and take in a free evening of great live music. Bring the whole family!

Brown Dog Books & Gifts, a locally and independently-owned store, is Hinesburg's own one-stop shop for books, gifts and cards for all ages. With over 150 local vendors,

they are a great spot for Vermont handcrafts, music, artwork, and photography. Unique, hand-picked gifts are scattered throughout the store. And our store is dog-friendly!

Brown Dog Books & Gifts is helping the local food shelf again this year for the holidays. Want to donate a book? They offer a 15% discount on any in-stock children's book that is purchased for the Hinesburg Food Shelf.

Brown Dog Books & Gifts (next to Rae Harrell Art Gallery), is located at 90 Mechanicsville Rd #2.

For information call (802) 482-5189. www.browndogbooksandgifts.com.

JACARANDA BOOKS
First & Limited Editions
Collectibles • Out-of-Print
Open Daily 10-3
7137 US Rt. 4, Bridgewater, VT 05034
(802) 672-4260

On the Green, Chester, VT
(802) 875-3400
mvbooks@vermontel.net
www.mvbooks.com

Misty Valley BOOKS

New Voices 2014
20th Anniversary
Come hear five newly-published authors
Saturday, January 25, 2 p.m. • \$10
At The Stone Church, Chester, VT
See the New Voices weekend schedule at www.mvbooks.com

nextchapter BOOKSTORE
www.NextChapterBooksVT.com
158 North Main St., Barre, VT 05641
(802) 476-3114 • info@NextChapterBooksVT.com

—Book Orders Welcome—
Visit our Tree House/Reading Loft!
We have a little of everything. Sit down and browse, and go next door for a great cup of coffee!
Open Monday-Saturday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Join us for Children's Storytime
Saturday mornings at 10:30 am

Hermit Hill Books
Used, Rare, & Collectible Books
For the Whole Family
Buy • Sell • Book Searches
95 Main Street • Poultney, VT
(802) 287-5757 • Tue-Sat, 10 am-5 pm

Over 18,000 Books
Special Orders
Gift Certificates
Book Searches

Black River Used Books
37 Main St., Springfield, VT 05156
Tues-Fri 10 am - 5:30 pm • Sat 10 am - 4 pm
(802) 885-1819
Bill & Linda Mattoon
Member of VABA

Sustainable Living Book Exchange
Self-service—take a book, leave a book.
Donations accepted.
Neshobe Farm
142 Steinberg Road
Brandon, VT
Off Rt. 7 just north of the village. In the winter, come to the house
(802) 310-8534

The Bookmobile
Used Books
Cards • Gifts
Now Open
Mon-Fri 10-6
Sat 9-3
58 Merchants Row
Downtown Rutland, VT
(802) 342-1477
www.bookmobilevermont.com
Find us on facebook

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOOKS & PRINTS New, Used & Rare Books
Special orders & browsers always welcome.
Open Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5
(802) 626-5051
www.GreenMtnBooks.com
1055 Broad Street, Lyndonville, VT

The Eloquent Page
35,000+ Used & Collectible Books
In All Subjects for Readers of All Ages

70 N. Main St., St. Albans, VT
(802) 527-7243 • Tues-Sat 10-5:30
www.theeloquentpage.com

GOOD USED BOOKS

THE BOOK SHED

One of the "Best in New England"
—Yankee Magazine

2 Floors of Good Books
(On Every Subject) & Music
At Discount Prices
Open Wed-Sun 10-6
winter hours vary
802-537-2190
LAKE ROAD
BENSON, VT 05731
www.thebookshed.com

BULWAGGA BOOKS & GALLERY
Whiting, VT (877) 206-1357 Wed.-Sat. 12-6 or appt.

10 miles south of Middlebury

WHITING VERMONT
U.S. POST OFFICE

EXETER VERMONT RD
ROUTE 30

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON THE INTERNET - middlebury.net/bulwagga

USED BOOKS AND ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

Merriment, Wonder, and the Magic of Christmas

Families looking for Christmas stories for their children will find many wonderful new books as well as the old classics this season.

A collection of favorite books has been compiled into *The Family Christmas Treasury: Tales of Anticipation, Celebration, and Joy*, (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$18.99, www.hmhbooks.com), and will provide many hours of happy story time reading.

In the Treasury's Christmas settings, meet again such unforgettable characters as Lyle the Crocodile, Tacky the Penguin, Curious George the Monkey, and Ollie the Gosling. There are grown-ups, too, Fireman Small, Strega Nona, and Tree Farmer Tuttle.

Especially eye-catching drawings tell the story of how Tuttle loses his business as his former customers are now buying plastic Christmas trees—they can be used year after year. To make the situation worse his only customer is a sawmill that wants the trees to make toothpicks and clothespins. There's a surprise happy ending: you'll never guess who wants his trees and what they leave behind.

Beautifully illustrated pages of Christmas carols separate each story as well as a bonus CD of the carols on the inside jacket. A special Christmas treat is the price of only \$18.99 for the nearly 300-page Treasury. The CD of Christmas carols also is available for free download at www.hmhbooks.com/freeloads.

Mice like getting into lots of mischief but it might be more judicial during the Christmas season to join the fun. Instead there may even be some happy surprises as we find out in *Christmas Mouse* written and illustrated by Anne Mortimer (HarperCollins, \$12.99, www.harpercollins.com).

Colorful full-page watercolor drawings and simple but catchy rhymes follow this mouse in its tiny red and green crown as preparations are made for the arrival of Santa: lights and holly are hung, ornament arranged, and presents placed under the tree. The tiny mouse is pictured right at home disguised among the ornaments.

Mouse enjoys the Christmas Eve dessert treats, sings carols with mouse friends, and leaves Santa a huge wheel of blue cheese and a red envelope stating his Christmas wish. (Readers will have to wait and see what the wish is and what Santa's response will be).

Children ages 4 to 7 will especially tune in to the rhymes such as

"Christmas Day is nearly here,
There's magic in the air,
Mouse is hanging festive lights
And holly on the stairs."

The author and artist Anne Mortimer, who lives in southwest England, also illustrated two other Christmas books: *Santa's Snow Cat* by Sue Stainton and *A Pussycat's Christmas* by Margaret Wise Brown. Visit her at www.annemortimer.com.

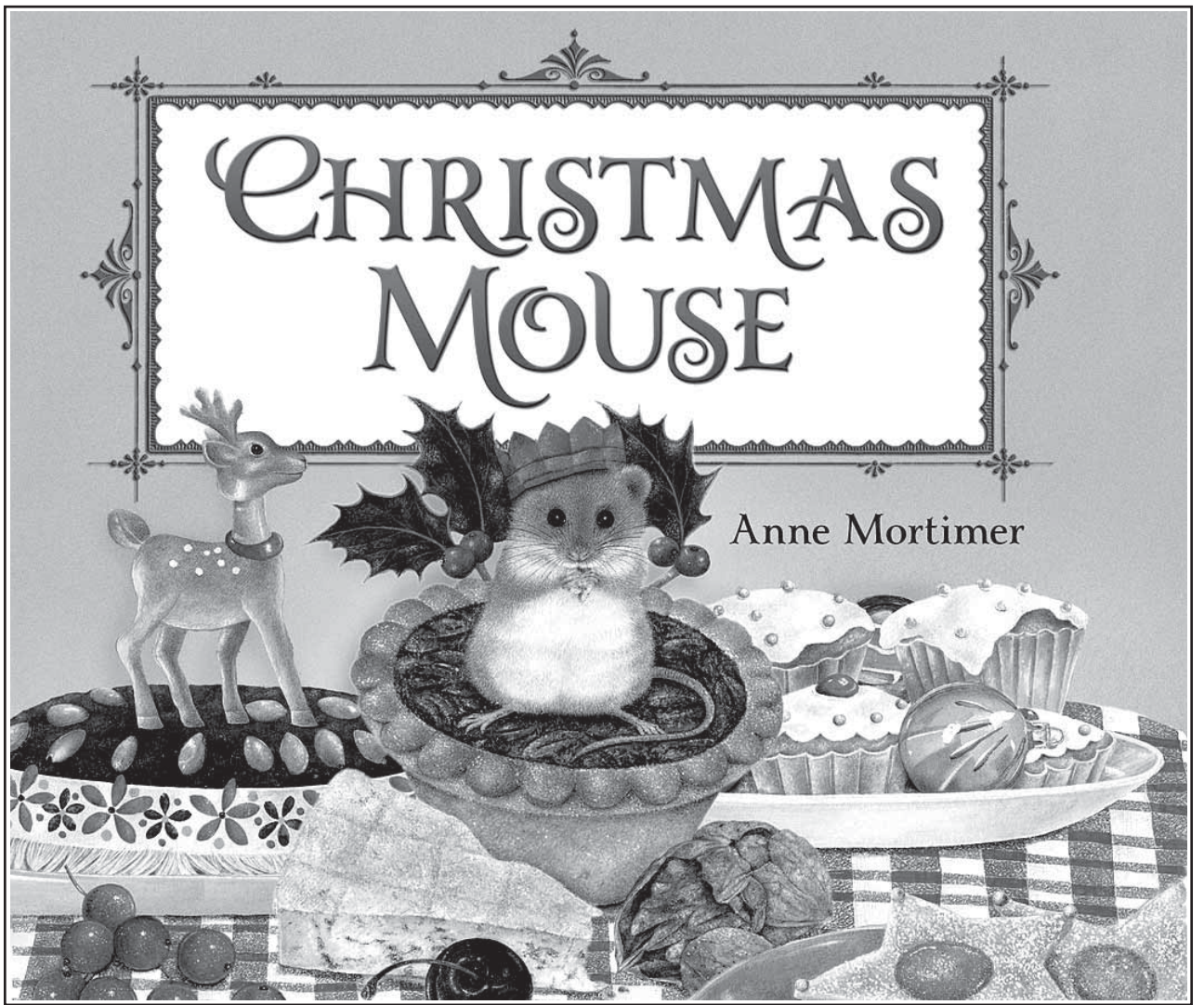
Foreign lands often expand the Christmas theme so it is always a pleasant surprise to see how their stories appear in children's books. For a seasonal adventure in Finland see how a lonely little sprite's wish comes true in *Little Tomte's Christmas Wish* by Inkeri Karvonen and Hannu Taina, (Floris Books, \$17.95, www.florisbooks.co.uk).

We meet little Tomte who lives alone in a tiny, wooden house, and who makes a wish. "Even though it's only me, please let Christmas come."

In an attempt to cheer himself up he starts to make cookies, but the syrup jar is empty and the plum jam filling all gone. He can't even cook Christmas porridge because he lent his big, big pot to field mice for their harvest festival. Trying his best to make the best of it he stays up all night making Christmas candles which he puts on his favorite tree outside. Their sparkle light up the night sky and animals from miles around come to his tree, and bring him presents. His big porridge pot is returned, with syrup and jam inside. He can make cookies and pastries after all. He wished for Christmas and it has come!

Witches usually make their presence known at Halloween, but see how well they behave in this amusing story, *Merry Christmas Little Witch!* by Belgium author Lieve Baeten (NorthSouth Books, Inc., \$16.95, www.northsouth.com).

Lizzy the Little Witch is trying to get her home ready for Christmas but she keeps getting interrupted. First it's Christmas Witch leaving off her unruly niece Trixi. And then three bears come in to get out of the snow, followed by four giant vultures. Through all this Lizzy bakes Christmas cookies which her strange guests enjoy. The happiest moment comes when magical, brilliant tree lights go on, making Lizzy's wish come true: "Hocus-pocus, with all my might... Give me a tree full of blinding light!" The drawings portray a wonderful Christmas time, even for witches and their guests.



Young children will be tickled by all the things Olivia (a little pig who wants to be a ballerina) does in preparation for the holidays in the board book, *Olivia Helps With Christmas* by Ian Falconer, (Simon & Schuster, \$7.99, www.simonandschuster.com). We soon find out that Olivia's pre-Christmas antics can be a little too helpful. Her way of helping to set the Christmas dinner table is to decorate it with a small Christmas tree. Where did that come from? She sawed off the top of the regular tree! But she's still lovable even when she gets tangled in the tree lights, feeds her little brother too much blueberry pie, and sings carols oh so loud. This family of pigs sure has a loving and amusing life.

Anyone who has ever seen cats attacking Christmas tree ornaments will thoroughly enjoy this humorous story with its wonderful drawings, entitled *A Very Fuddles Christmas* written and illustrated by Frans Vischer, (Simon & Schuster, \$15.99, www.simonandschuster.com).

The lovable Fuddles is a fat, pampered, and totally spoiled cat who believes all the Christmas gifts and goodies are just for him, including the roast turkey, presents, and Christmas tree with its twinkling lights and glittering stars. In the process of knocking the tree over Fuddles runs as fast as he can and slips outdoors when guests are entering. He doesn't like that white 'stuff' and is miserably cold. He makes great circles in the snow trying to find a way back into the house, but no luck. He then spots and chases two pesky squirrels from tree top to house chimney. The squirrels escape, but Fuddles falls down the sooty chimney. The drawings are just perfect and we see in a two-page spread just what the trip down the chimney might have looked like! Fuddles gets a warm bath, a soft towel, a sweet scent, and a home-cooked Christmas feast...just for him, and all's right with the world again.

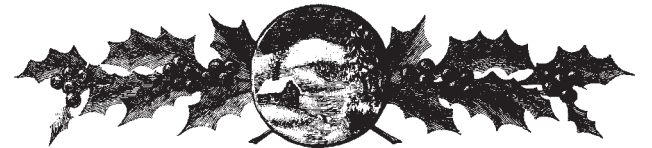
It may be fun every Christmas to spend time at their grandparents's farm, but for a pre-teen brother and sister, the farm just didn't seem quite right with its only remaining white cow standing all alone in a big meadow. In *The True Gift* by Patricia MacLachlan and illustrated by Brain Floca (Simon & Schuster, \$5.99 paper, www.simonandschuster.com), Laim and Lily realize their best Christmas gift would be to

get a companion for the white cow. Pooling their savings from odd summer jobs and selling a book collection, they put together enough to get a brown calf companion for the white cow. You'll be delighted with the story's surprise ending when white cow gets even more company than one brown calf for Christmas eve. This chapter book is an easy page-turner for young readers.

Thousands of Christmas trees find homes for this special time of the year. Did you ever wonder where they come from? *Christmas Farm* by Mary Lyn Ray and illustrated by Barry Root (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$6.99 paper, www.hmhbooks.com) takes you to a small Christmas tree farm run by a single lady, Wilma, with the help of a five-year old neighbor, Parker. Follow their five-year tree-farming project with the planting of 744 trees. As the years pass they lose some to storms and animals, but finally when Parker is 10, the trees are ready for Christmas, and we learn:

"Far away, too, in rooms they never saw, in places they never knew, 566 trees that Wilma and Parker had grown wore lights and balls and tinsel in their branches—green balsam branches that smell the sweet smell of Christmas." This is a really delightful story and well illustrated.

In addition to Christmas cakes and cookies this is the season to make crafts, like ornaments, evergreen floral arrangements, and even home-made drawings that could become Christmas cards. Thanks to Ralph Masiello's *Christmas Drawing Book: Simple Steps to Make Anyone an Artist* (CharlesBridge, \$17.95, www.charlesbridge.com), one can easily learn how to draw a trimmed tree, Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus, busy elves, flying reindeer, snowy trees, fireplaces and stockings, sleighs and much more. For example, using 16 simply drawn lines, a whole sleigh is produced carrying a smiling Santa and loads of presents! For artists who want more of a challenge, extra steps are outlined in blue.

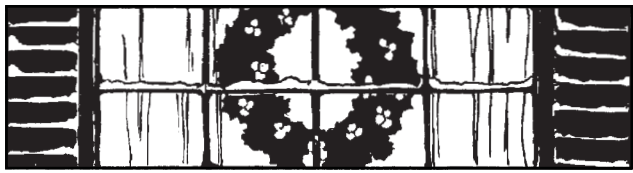


Brown Dog Books & Gifts
An Emporium of Delight!
Eclectic selection of books, gifts, and cards for all ages.
Vermont handcrafts, music, artwork, and photography.
Author Events & Music Nights
90 Mechanicsville Rd. #2, Hinesburg, VT
Mon-Thurs 10-6, Fri & Sat 10-8 • (802) 482-5189 • Facebook
www.browndogbooksandgifts.com • www.indiebound.org

The Book Nook
136 Main St., Ludlow, VT
(802) 228-3238
thebooknookvt@hotmail.com
thebooknookvt.com
We Welcome You
To Come in and Browse.
Free Wireless.

SANDY'S BOOKS & BAKERY
Rochester, Vermont

Books • Bakery • Cafe
Breakfast, Lunch and Early Suppers.
Country Fare—Locally Sourced Ingredients.
Enjoy our Garden with Outdoor Seating
Bookstore—Browse Here or Buy Online
Specializing in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Politics
Open Mon-Sat 7:30 am to 6 pm, Sunday 7:30 am to 3 pm
30 N. Main St., Rochester, VT
www.seasonedbooks.com • (802) 767-4258



Vermont Holiday Farmers Markets

Start your holiday shopping with a trip to a Farmer's Market and you'll be pleased at how much of your holiday table can be from Vermont, locally-grown and better tasting.

You'll find all sorts of crafts and evergreens, just in time for Christmas. At some markets you can enjoy music and entertainment and have a snack while you shop.

Bellows Falls Winter Farmers' Market at the Bellows Falls Railroad Station, Depot St. Third Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m., November 15, December 20, January 17, February 21, March 21. Rachel Ware, (802) 463-2018. bellowsfallsmarket@gmail.com. www.bffarmersmarket.com.

Bennington-Walloomsac Holiday and Winter Farmers Markets at First Baptist Church, 601 Main St. Holiday Markets Nov. 23, Dec. 14 & 21 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Regular Winter Markets the first and third Saturdays: January through April from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Katherine Keys. (802) 681-3501. info@walloomsac.org. On Facebook.

Bradford Farmers Market, Grace United Methodist Church. Holiday Markets: November 23 and December 14. Second and fourth Saturdays October 12 through April. Iris Johnson, (802) 222-4495. hellobradfordfarmers@gmail.com. facebook.com/bradfordfarmersmarket.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market at River Garden, 153 Main St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., November 2013 through March 2014. Open 'til 3 p.m. from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Sherry Maher, (802) 869-2141. farmersmarket@postoilutions.org. www.postoilutions.org.

Burlington Winter Farmers' Market at Memorial Auditorium, corner of Main St. and S. Union. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. November 23; December 7, 14 & 21; January 4 & 18; February 1 & 15; March 1, 15 & 29. Accepts EBT and debit cards. Chris Wagner, (802) 310-5172. info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org. burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Champlain Islands—South Hero Winter Farmers' Market at South Hero Congregational Church on South St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday November 2 & 16 and December 7 & 14. Denise Boutin, (802) 372-3291. deniseboutin@gmail.com. www.champlainislandsfarmersmarket.com.

Dorset Winter Farmers' Market at J.K. Adams Kitchen Store and Factory on Rt. 30. Every Sunday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., October 20 through April 27. Nicole Henry (518) 222-1149. marketmanager@dorsetfarmersmarket.com. www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com.

Groton Growers' Winter Farmers Market at Groton Community Building Gym. Every third Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., from October through May. Mary Berlejung and Sandi Adams. (802) 584-3595 or (802) 633-3031. grotongrowers@gmail.com. www.grotongrowers.org.

Hartland Winter Farmers' Market at Damon Hall, Rts. 5 & 12, Hartland Three Corners. November 15 and December 6, 4-7 pm. Sarah Sincerbeaux. 339-222-1007. hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com. www.hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

Jeffersonville Farmers' and Artisans Market, Rt. 108S and 16 Iris Lane on the way to Smuggs. At the Artful Cup Studio and Sunrise Cafe. 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2



Fat and fuzzy, these Belted Galloway cattle enjoy a winter time munch in Central Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

p.m. November through March. Deb Nevil. (802) 999-8486. jefffarmersandartisanmarket65@gmail.com. jeffersonvillefarmersandartisanmarket.com.

Londonderry—West River Farmers' Market. Floodbrook Union School Cafeteria. Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. thru December 28. Brooke Decker. (802) 875-5004. wrfvmvt@yahoo.com. www.westriverfarmersmarket.com.

Middlebury Farmer's Market at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Saturdays in November & December, and March & April, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. No market in January and February. Jeremy Gildrien & Sharon Kerwin, (802) 989-7223. middleburyfarmersmarket.org.

Montpelier Capital City Winter Farmers' Market. Vermont College of Fine Arts gym, 36 College St. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. December 7 & 21; January 11; February 8 & 22; March; 1, 15 & 29; April 12 & 26. Carolyn Grodinsky, (802) 223-2958. manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com. www.montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

Northfield Farmers' Market. Norwich University's Plumley Armory. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 1st Sundays. November 3 to April 6. Crystal Peterson. (802) 485-5563. northfieldfarmersmarketvt@gmail.com. www.northfieldfarmersmarketvt.com.

Norwich Farmers' Winter Market at Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. November 23; December 7 & 21; and 2nd and 4th Saturdays January through April. Steve Hoffman. (802) 384-7447. manager@norwichfarmersmarket.org. www.norwichfarmersmarket.org.

Peacham Farmers' Market, Peacham Guild Building, right next to the Peacham Store. November 27, 2-6 p.m. during Thanksgiving week. Then Thursdays 3-6 p.m. through mid-April. Jane Alper. (802) 592-3161. janealper@gmail.com. peacham.net/market.

Putney Holiday Market at Green Mountain Orchards, 130 West Hill Rd. Sundays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22. Marisa Miller. (802) 387-4052. farmermarisa@gmail.com. www.putneyfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. Food Center Building at 251 West St. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., November 2 through May 3. Doug Patac, (802) 753-7269. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets at Sharon Elementary School. November 16, February 15, March 15, and May 17

10 am – 1 pm, local lunch 11:30 am – 1 pm. Donna Foster, (802) 763-8280. vtfoster@myfairpoint.net.

St. Johnsbury—Caledonia Farmers Market at St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, Railroad St. First Saturdays, November through April. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Holiday Markets November 16 & December 21. Elizabeth Everts, (802) 592-3088. elizabethverts@yahoo.com. sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Welcome to the Gingerbread Bazaar in Lunenburg, VT

The Top of the Common Committee invites you to welcome in the Christmas season with a visit to their annual Gingerbread Bazaar, December 7th, at the Lunenburg Primary School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You'll find something for everyone!

Free cookie stacking, guessing jars, and gingerbread contests with great prizes for the winners. Free cookie decorating with Mrs. Claus who also welcomes you to bring your camera for pictures with your kids. Sign up for free door prizes!

This year you'll find vendors offering a wide range of high quality Christmas theme and gift items in a full price range. Find historical gift items too, including the 2014 Historical Society calendar.

There will be offerings of many homemade delicacies—you can save yourself some holiday baking time with goodies from the Cookie Walk table and fabulous

Fudge Shop. Relax a bit with a homemade soup, bread, and sandwich luncheon offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All the bakers with entries in the Gingerbread House Contest would appreciate your votes for the "People's Choice" winners in each category. It's not too late to gather supplies and enter the contest yourself! Specifics about the contest can be found at the Committee's web site or by calling Chris at (802) 892-6654.

Located right off Route 2 in the center of Lunenburg in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, the bazaar is on the way to wherever you're going and not far from wherever you are! The school building is accessible.

Lunenburg Primary School
Bobbie Mill Road, Lunenburg, VT 05906.

For further information call (802) 892-6654 or visit www.topofthecommon.org.

Ever-Changing Art Exhibit

Fine organic coffees, locally crafted Vermont teas, homemade baked goods including gluten free options, and weekly specials.

THE GRINDSTONE CAFE

102 Depot St., Lyndonville, VT • (802) 535-3939
Open 6 days, Mon-Fri 7:30-6, Sat 8-6

We Now Have Nutty Steph's Fine Chocolates

Photography • Painting • Pottery • Jewelry
Fiber Arts • Wood Products • & More!

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
A COOPERATIVE GALLERY

Featured Artists Reception
First Sunday of Every Month 1-4 pm

Open Thursday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5
321 Main St., Enosburg Falls, VT
(802) 933-6403 • www.artistinresidencecoop.com
info@artistinresidencecoop.com

The Pony Stall Tack Shop

599 N. Danville Rd.
N. Danville, VT 05828
(802) 748-9420
Joyce Benway

New & Used Horse. Pony & Mini Tack including Saddles, Bridles, Harnesses, and other Accessories
SSG Gloves • Helmets • Breyer Horses

VERMONT'S NORTHEAST KINGDOM

Embrace a CHANGE OF PACE

WE'RE BIG ON NATURE

We like getting outside. With a backyard like ours, there's tons of fun to be had no matter the season. It's all about getting out there, doing what you love.

For more details visit travelthekingdom.com or call 800.884.8001

travelthekingdom.com



BREAD & PUPPET MUSEUM

RTE 122, GLOVER VERMONT 05839

OPEN JULY-OCTOBER DAILY 10-6
OPEN IN THE WINTER BY APPOINTMENT

One of the Largest Collections Of Some of the Biggest Puppets in the World

Free admission, donations welcome.
www.breadandpuppet.org • 802-525-3031



Rural Vermont Real Estate

Hearth & Cricket Stove Shop



Much More Than Stoves

—Best Time to Buy—

East Wallingford, Vermont
Open all year. Call for hours & directions
802-259-2841



We have...

**Flags of All Nations...
And All 50 States... & More!**

**Flags, Poles, and
Accessories are the
World's Best Gifts!**

*Always in style
Always the right color
Always fits
Never need batteries*

**Gift
Certificates!**

Free Shipping

**M GREENN
MOUNTAIN
AWNING, INC**

36 Marble St., W. Rutland, VT
800-479-2951 • 802-438-2951 (fax)

**If You Can Dream
It, We Can Do It!**



We Do Camps (pre-built)



We Do Barns



We Do Garages



We Do Cabins

**Lumber & Lumber Packages
for Cabins, Garages,
Houses, Camps, Barns,
Saunas, Sheds, Etc.**

Dick Walker Sawmill, Etc.
Evergreen Rd., Fair Haven, VT 05743
Phone & Fax (802) 273-2077

**Check out our website—lots of pictures,
plus map! www.dickwalkersawmill.com**

Interest Rates Are Lowest in Over 40 Yrs



2092 Orange. Executive Hunting Lodge/Summer Home – 3 bedrooms – ½ bath – gravity spring – gas lights – refrigerator – cookstove – maple floors – pine walls – large decks on 2 sides – 500 gal. septic – very private – 37.9 surveyed land – good moose, bear and deer hunting...**Price \$119,000.**

2076 Corinth. 18x25' Camp, with ½ loft – 90% finished – wired for a generator – 25 acres of land – very private, but access with a car – good views...**Price \$79,900.**

2097 Topsham. 8½ acres of land – surveyed with 990' frontage, on good gravel road. (**Priced over \$5,000 below town assessment**) **\$25,9000.**

2098 Chelsea. 28x36' – 4 rooms, plus bath Camp – 4 ft. block basement – 1,000 gal. septic tank gravity spring, plus pump – 500 gal. propane tank, plus generator – 10.3 acres surveyed frontage on 2 Town Rds. (**\$30,000 below town assessment**) **\$69,500.**

2101 Washington. 50 acres of land – frontage on Rt. 110 – private road to top with excellent views. (**\$31,000 under town appraisal**) **Price \$51,500.**



2091 Washington. 4 bedroom cape – older home, but in very good condition – rewired – new 3 zone hot water heat – pellet stove – 1,000 gal. septic – attached barn/garage – town water – 1.2 acres of large back lawn/garden – walk to village...**\$149,900.**

2066 Chelsea. 3 bedroom camp – 1 full bath – large fireplace with heatolators, plus wood stove – small stream – 33 acres of land – nice lawn with apple trees – being sold furnished – good gravel road...**Price Reduced to \$99,500.**

2084 Braintree Hill. 3 Bedroom House – full cement basement – drilled well – 2 car garage – 3.5 acres of open field – excellent views of Braintree Mt. Range – close to Randolph...**Price only \$139,000.**

2093 Chelsea. 47.6 Acres Surveyed Woodland – small stream – very private – good hunting area – 1440 ft. frontage on gravel road...**Price \$89,500.**

2083 Chelsea. 50 Acres of Land – good open fields – excellent views to the south – both telephone and electric power on property – good year-round gravel Rd – private building sites...**Price \$200,000.**

2057 Chelsea. 207 acre farm – 2 barns – 4-bay storage building – plus 2 other storage buildings – good pond site, plus trout brook – large, old, 10 room cape with garage – very private...**Reduced to \$595,000.**



2095 Chelsea. 20x28' Camp – cement foundation – 3 rooms, plus loft – covered porch, gas lights, plus gas cook stove – wood stove for heat – 20 acres land – good gravel road...**Priced to sell \$78,000.**

2080 Vershire. 11.1 Acres surveyed land – excellent views – driveway and septic already in – frontage on two roads...**Priced at Town appraisal \$67,300.**

2081 Chelsea. Commercial Property – 33 self storage units – permits for 2 more buildings – 5 acres of land, plus mobile home, hook up, rental...**Price \$149,500.**

2086 Royalton. 2½ acre building lot – surveyed driveway and in-ground septic design – small stream – year-round gravel road...**Price \$49,900.**

2085 Royalton. 6 acres – driveway and pond – 24x18' horse barn – in-ground septic design – good gravel road...**Price \$74,900.**

2094 Chelsea. 30 acres of land – driveway and campsite on good trout brook – year-round gravel road – close to village...**Price \$44,900.**

2096 Orange. 34 acres land – mostly woodland – very private - very good hunting land...**Price \$39,500.**

2100 Corinth. Approx. 15 acres – mostly woodland – very private – good get-away and hunting land...**Price only \$16,900.**

BUTTON REAL ESTATE

Brian A. Button
Broker

Tel. (802) 685-4679 • Fax (802) 685-3001
375 VT. Rt. 110, Chelsea, VT 05038

**All sales subject
to owner's acceptance.**
Write for free list

Please phone for appointment. Licensed Vt. Real Estate Broker for 43 years.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



**Saturday & Sunday
December 7 & 8
10 am – 4 pm**

**REFRESHMENTS
& RAFFLE**

**Win a Holiday
Needlepoint Pillow!**

STOUFFER GALLERY & GIFT SHOP

250 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT

Open most weekends 10 AM – 4 PM or by request

802 259-2686 www.stephaniestouffer.com

MANY GIFT IDEAS! SHOP LOCALLY!



Christmas at the Billings Farm

*Experience the simplicity and traditions
of a late 19th century Christmas in Vermont*

**December Weekends & Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2014
(excluding Christmas Day)
10:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

1890 Farm House • Dairy farm • Holiday activities

**Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides included:
Dec. 26th – Jan. 1st**

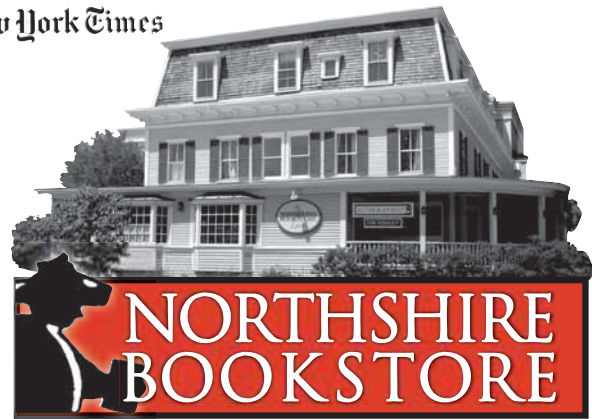
Rte 12 • Woodstock, VT

802-457-2355

www.billingsfarm.org



*"It's worth making the trip to Northshire Bookstore."
The New York Times*



BOOKS + GIFTS + TOYS

Cards + Clothing + Bling + Events + Café

INSPIRATION

for KIDS of ALL AGES

OPEN 10 AM-7 PM DAILY
THU/FRI/SAT TILL 9 PM
800.437.3700

RTES 7A & 11/30
MANCHESTER
CENTER, VT

www.NORTHSHIRE.com

Christmas Trees ~ Wreaths ~

DUTTON



FARMSTAND

"Buy Direct From a Farmer"

Evergreen Roping & Pinecone Wreaths

*Come join the season's festivities! Watch us make our own
wreaths & roping. Special wreath orders welcome!
Tag your Christmas tree (Manchester only).*

Order Your Holiday Baked Goods
Pies, Cookies, Bread, Vermont Cheeses,
Our Own Maple Syrup, Jams, Honey.

Fresh Harvest Produce

Winter Squash, 50# Bags of Potatoes,
Gilfeather Turnips, Cabbage, Broccoli,
Carrots, Beets, Lettuce, Herbs,
And all your favorite fresh vegetables!
Fruit Baskets.

**Apples from Our
Own Orchard
Over 12 Varieties!**

Sweet, Fresh Cider
Free Hot & Cold Samples
Homemade Fudge
In 20 Varieties

—Gift Certificates—

Open Year-Round, 9 am – 7 pm Daily

www.duttonberryfarm.com • Dutton Berry Farm on Facebook

**Rt. 11/30,
Manchester, VT
(802) 362-3083**

**Rt. 9, W.
Brattleboro, VT
(802) 254-0254**

**Rt. 30,
Newfane, VT
(802) 365-4168**