

Vermont Country Sampler

December
2016

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

Free



THREE STALLION INN

at the  Green Mountain Stock Farm

Randolph, Vermont

Book a room for the holidays or a special occasion.
Or, book the entire Inn - there's space for everyone!

- Comfortably sleeps 41 guests in 14 rooms.
- Luxuriously appointed suites with private baths and dedicated phone lines.
- "The Sporting Life" - X-C Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hiking, Biking & more!
- Hot Springs Hot Tub, Sauna and Fitness Center.
- Breakfast included, Catered meals available.
- Rates from \$98 / night. Only 3 miles from Exit 4, I-89.



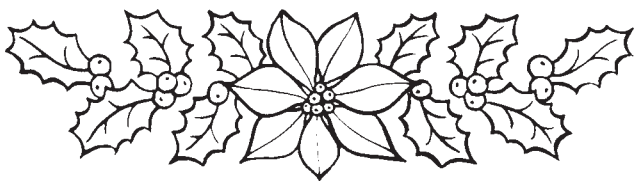
BEAUTIFUL WEDDINGS - FAMILY REUNIONS - CONFERENCES - CORPORATE RETREATS

USB & ETHERNET JACKS - FREE WIFI - MOBILE PHONE SERVICE

GOLF - FITNESS CENTER - SAUNA - HOT SPRING TUB - SWIMMING - SNOWSHOEING - X-C SKIING

802-728-5575 - www.ThreeStallionInn.com - 665 Stock Farm Rd., Randolph, VT 05060

The Sammis Family, Owners



December Journal

Salvation

by Bill Felker

A few days before Christmas, when the weather finally turned cold, I found an earthworm by the side of the road. She had been driven out of her December den by the heavy rain of the previous day. Now, half frozen, she was attempting to traverse a wasteland of pebbles along the sidewalk in front of my house. Her energy was almost gone, and the sun's rays, deadly to worms, were already on her.

Now I have been a fisherman since I was a boy, and there has been enmity between worms and me for as long as I can remember. I have pierced them with hooks an untold number of times, and have watched them die slowly and painfully as I gave in to the passionate pursuit of

bullheads and catfish. I know the small, cold creature in front of me would certainly have preferred death alone to discovery by the giant malevolent god that stood before her.

But this was wintertime, all my darkest urges quieted by the solstice. And like some inscrutable deity who might allow the Holocaust but send His only begotten son to save the world, I knelt and took the earthworm, held her against the warmth of my palm, then set her over in the garden where the sun had heated up the ground a little. I scratched the surface of the dirt to give her a start on her descent. I covered her with grass and twigs to protect her from solar rays, and left her to make her way.



Goats frolic in the snow on a sunny winter day in Bethel, Vermont.

photo by Nancy Cassidy



The First Snow in Vermont



There's nothing anywhere I go
That beats a batch of country snow,
The sort for which you don't prepare,
But when you wake you feel its there;
There's lots more light inside the room,
That noise is grandpa with his broom;
A-towards the barn your eye you cast
And say, "Well, wife, it's here at last;
The way the hitching post sticks through
It's sifted down a foot or two"—
There's nothing like it, high or low,
A fall of good domestic snow.

You hunt your frock and belt your form
And bring the headstalls in to warm;
A crop of snow is jest the thing
Until the wind begins to sing;
The dog jumps in and makes a track
Around the little barn and back;
The stock enjoy it, every head,
The colt wakes up and kicks the shed;

The hens come out, the flirty things,
And powder up their bills and wings,
Jim Blood goes by with face aglow,
Hurrah! for good, old-fashioned snow.

The chores done up—it's middling still—
You guess you'll slip a grist to mill,
And drive around and see Sim Dorr
And get that buck you bargained for,
And find Mel Meiggs, he's pretty good
At helping haul the winter wood,
And fetch the mail and 'range with Rice
To blacksmith up for snow and ice;
It's some expense, but what of that!
A hoss can't haul that's laying flat;
The snow is here and wise men know
That there's a business side top snow.

Tomorrow, if the stage gets through,
You'll see the wood teams starting, too;
You'll see the boys with dovetailed heads
Discussing various sorts of sleds,
And talking 'bout the outs and ins
Of wooden versus iron pins;
Besides, 'twill take 'em several days
To settle on the neatest sleighs;
But life's a joy, though chillblains bite,
The world is loveliest when it's white;
There's nothing from LaMotte to Stowe
That beats good, old, domestic snow.

—DANIEL L. CADY



Green Living
www.GreenLivingJournal.com
A Practical Journal for
Friends of the Environment

ROCKINGHAM ARTS AND MUSEUM PROJECT (RAMP)
Economic Development Through the Arts
7 Canal Street
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
(802)463-3252
www.ramp-vt.org
Bravo!!!
The Exner Block provides live-work spaces for artists and retail spaces supporting the arts:

Teacher Treasures
A Teacher Resource Store & More!
Scrapbooking Materials & Gently Used Books/Lending Library
"A Hands-On Store"
School Year Hours:
2-5 pm Tues-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

Vermont Country Sampler
December 2016, Vol. XXXII
The Vermont Country Sampler is distributed free over-the-counter in and out of Vermont. Advertising rates on request. Deadline the 10th of the preceding month.
Vermont Country Sampler
P.O. Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759
(802) 772-7463 • info@vermontcountrysampler.com
www.vermontcountrysampler.com

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

Visit Taylor Farm

A New Vermont Tradition!
Visit our Farm Store for Vermont cheeses, raw milk, baked goods, honey, syrup and more.
Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides!
825 Rt. 11 West, Londonderry, VT
(20 min. from Manchester or Stratton)
(802) 824-5690
www.taylorfarmvermont.com

Green Living
GreenLivingJournal.com
A Practical Journal for Friends of the Environment

ADOPT A PET

Springfield Humane Society, Inc.
Open Wed-Sat
12-4:30 pm
Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
401 Skitchewaugh Trail
Springfield, VT
(802) 885-3997
www.spfldhumane.org



Belgian draft horses all hitched up for a sleigh ride at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, VT.

photo by Billings Farm & Museum

Woodstock, VT

Billings Farm & Museum Hosts Christmas at the Farm

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 and certainly today. 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 of the period 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, including strands of cranberries, popcorn, or dried apples that circled the tree. Apples studded with cloves, "exotic" oranges, silvered (foil-covered) chestnuts, painted pinecones, and acorns complemented the handmade paper ornaments, which rounded out many a tree's decorations.

In Woodstock, turn-of-the-century businesses advertised their wares for Christmas gifts. Most gifts were useful domestic items: fabric, clothing, umbrellas, linens, crockery, and carpet sweepers. Homemade, handcrafted items including fancy mittens, satin bows, and stockings filled with candies, nuts, and raisins were among the most common gifts given on Christmas Day.

Discover the traditions of a late 19th century Vermont Christmas with a visit to the Billings Farm & Museum this holiday season. Christmas at the Billings Farm will be featured on weekends in December and from December 24 through January 1, 2016, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (excluding Christmas Day). Tour the authentically decorated farmhouse, visit the dairy farm for interactive programs including An

Introduction to Milking and Milking the Herd at 3:15 p.m. each day. Enjoy holiday activities. The Academy Award® nominee film, *A Place in the Land* will be offered.

Highlights of the Holiday Season

December 3 & 4 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Make Christmas silhouettes, poppers & historic ornaments and more; dip candles.

December 9, 10, & 11 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Woodstock's Wassail Celebration: Make historic Christmas ornaments and pomanders; dip candles.

Sunday, December 11 – Woodstock's Wassail Celebration. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

December 17 & 18 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Make Christmas silhouettes, poppers & historic ornaments and more; dip candles.

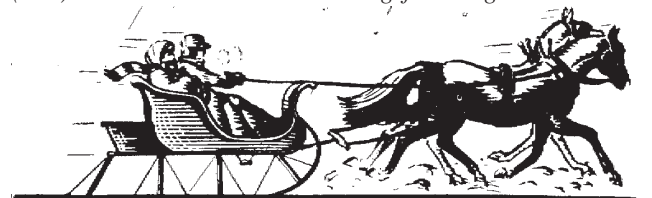
December 24 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Make Christmas silhouettes, poppers & historic ornaments and more; dip candles. Closed Christmas Day – Merry Christmas!

December 26 through January 1 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas Week. Make Christmas silhouettes, poppers & historic ornaments and more; dip candles. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, if conditions permit: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable non-profit institution. Billings Farm is an operating Jersey dairy farm that continues a 145-year tradition of agricultural excellence and offers farm programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. The Farm & Museum has served as a gateway to Vermont's rural heritage.

Open weekends November through February, and Christmas & Presidents' weeks, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily April 1 through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & over \$13, children 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, 2 & under free.

The Farm & Museum is located one-half mile north of the Woodstock village green on VT Rt. 12. For information call (802) 457-2355 or visit www.billingsfarm.org.



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

WINTER FARMERS MARKET

BRATTLEBORO

Every Saturday
 November Through March
 10 am – 2 pm
 Holiday Hours 10 to 3 Dec 3, 10 & 17.
 Open 10 to 2 Dec 24 & 31
At the River Garden
 157 Main St., Brattleboro, VT

Farm Fresh • Local • Handmade • Homemade
 Great Lunches • Live Music • A Wonderful Selection of Gifts
 Accepting Credit, Debit & EBT Cards

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
 ~ By Reservation ~
Great Family Fun at the Lowest Prices Around!

The Fire and the Ecstasy—The Music of Hildegard of Bingen Presented by Immanuel Episcopal Church

Join us at a concert of music by Hildegard of Bingen at the Immanuel Episcopal Church in Bellows Falls on December 10 at 7:30 p.m. Musicians Ruth Cunningham, Melinda Gardiner and Lesslie Lassetter will be performing.

Today we think of Hildegard (1098-1179 CE) as one of the first identifiable composers in the history of Western music.

Hildegard was an extraordinarily accomplished woman: a visionary, a prophet (she was known as “The Sibyl Of The Rhine”), a pioneer who wrote practical books on biology, botany, medicine, theology and the arts. She was a prolific letter-writer to everyone from humble penitents looking for a cure for infertility to popes, emperors and kings seeking spiritual or political advice.

Her character was steely, determined and overbearing at times. But the nuns who flourished under her unorthodox regime were allowed extraordinary freedoms, such as wearing their hair long, uncovered and even crowned with flowers.

Christopher Page, who spent much time researching and editing Hildegard’s music for *A Feather On The Breath Of God*, admits that the circumstances in which she composed are still a mystery. “We don’t know if Hildegard is sitting and humming the songs, or if she’s perhaps humming and writing them down on a white tablet, with a final version then being written by someone else on slate or parchment,” he says.

“We don’t know if the words come first, or if the words and the music grow together in an organic development. We don’t know how much hand in it her male helpers—male secretaries and priests—had. None of that is clear.”

Hildegard had been having visions since she was a little girl, but it was not until she was 42 that she had the courage to speak of them to her church colleagues.

“Heaven was opened and a fiery light of exceeding brilliance came and permeated my whole brain and inflamed my whole heart and my whole breast,” she wrote. A heavenly voice told her to share her insights with the world and in 1141 her abbot agreed that Volmar should help her to record them.

News of Hildegard’s prophetic visions reached Pope Eugenius III and he sent delegates obtain a copy of her work-in-progress, *Scivias*. To the relief of Hildegard’s abbot, after reading it, the Pope blessed the abbess’s enterprise and commanded her to continue writing.

Scivias, which translates as “Know The Way”, took her 10 years to finish. In the next three decades she wrote two more theological books, one on medicine and natural healing, nearly 400 letters, and her great collection of music and poetry, *Symphonia Armonie Celestium Revelationum*.

This is a collection of 77 songs forming a liturgical cycle for the church year, and a music drama, *Ordo Virtutum*, a



Hildegard of Bingen.

morality play whose subject is the struggle between 17 Virtues and the Devil over the destiny of a female soul.

Hildegard’s “compositions” stand out from other liturgical music because of the almost improvisatory nature of her melodies: they are freer, more wide-ranging and elaborate than the simple, one-octave lines advocated by her contemporary Bernard of Clairvaux.

Hildegard’s lack of formal training in Latin means her texts are not confined by grammatical conventions; the words flow straight out of her head like a sort of divine stream-of-consciousness. For religious poetry it is almost indecent in its lushness.

It abounds in colourful images of natural, organic things—gardens, growth, fecundity, flowers, jewels. Take this description of the Virgin Mary in *Ave, Generosa*, which recalls the erotic imagery of the Bible’s “Song of Songs”: “Your flesh has known delight; like the grassland touched by dew and immersed in its freshness: so it was with you, O mother of all joy.”

Hildegard died in 1179 in the monastery she had founded at Rupertsberg, near Bingen.

Though she was known throughout medieval Europe as a stateswoman and a seer, there is no evidence that her music

was ever heard outside her own convent. How ironic that of all her achievements, it is her compositions that have stood the test of time.

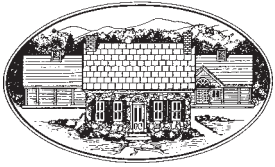


Ruth Cunningham is a classically trained musician, a sound healing practitioner, and a founding member of Anonymous 4. She combines these skills to improvise music that connects people to the healing and spiritual power of music. She accompanies herself on Medieval harp, Renaissance flute and recorder, piano and shruti box.

Ruth received a Bachelor of Music in Performance of Early Music from the New England Conservatory of Music and taught recorder and renaissance flute at the Amherst Early Music Workshops for sixteen years. She is certified as a cross cultural music healing practitioner (CCMHP) by the Open Ear Center where she studied with Pat Moffitt Cook. She has also studied vocal improvisation with Rhiannon.

Ruth will be joined by Melinda Gardiner, harp, hurdy gurdy and vocals and Leslie Lassetter, vocals.

Tickets are \$35, \$17 and \$13. Immanuel Episcopal Church is located at 20 Church St., in Bellows Falls, VT. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.



Stone House
ANTIQUÉ 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.

Stone Village Farmers Market & Garden Center



Your headquarters for all your traditional holiday evergreen decorations.
— Opening November 25 —
Route 103N, Chester, VT
12 miles south of Ludlow, VT
“Our Holiday Wishes to You for Prosperity, Health & Goodwill”

Native Greens for the Holidays

One of the most enjoyable activities of the holiday season is decorating the home with greens fresh from the garden or landscape. We in New England are fortunate to have an abundant supply of evergreen materials. These include balsam fir, spruce, pine, cedar, hemlock, and juniper, to name a few.

Balsam fir is a native species with luxuriant, green, blunt, glossy needles from three-fifths inch to one inch long. Its branches are used for roping and wreaths, its needles for balsam pillows.

It’s a popular Christmas tree because it doesn’t shed its needles readily. Balsam can be used both inside and out.

Spruce is another native tree found throughout northern New England that makes a beautiful Christmas tree but will shed its needles after it dries out. Boughs can be used for wreaths, swags and other outdoor decorations. Spruce pinecones are also useful.

Beware. It’s easy to confuse spruce and fir with one another when choosing or cutting greens. To be sure you’re selecting fir boughs,

more desirable for indoor decorating, grab the needles. If it hurts, it’s a spruce (square needles); if it doesn’t, it’s a fir (flat needles).

Pine is very abundant at lower altitudes throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. White pines have a wonderful, soft and feathery texture. Unfortunately, they’re very resinous, but they do last a long time indoors and don’t drop their needles. Pine and pinecones can be used for wreaths, roping, and decorations.

When pruning boughs or foliage from outdoor plants, don’t prune an excessive amount from any one individual plant. Prune branches as close as possible to the trunk or a main branch, but don’t cut the branch collar.

The branch collar is the point of attachment to the parent branch or trunk. Slant the cut slightly outward and downward. Make a smooth cut. Don’t leave a stub. Stubs, if left on the plant, die back anyway and their presence affords an opportunity for disease or insect infestation. Don’t break off branches as this will leave ragged ends which don’t heal properly.

So now put your jacket on, find your pruning tools and head outside. Gather up your greens and bring a little of New England’s wonderful winter landscape inside your home!

Thank you to Margaret Pratt Hagen UNH Cooperative Extension, for this helpful information.

COUNTRY ON THE COMMON

An Eclectic Boutique Home of Sharon’s Shawls
Clothing from around the world and special treasures from Vermont.

Open Daily, Sunday by Chance
www.countryonthecommon.com

80 The Common, Chester, VT • 802-875-3000



Simply Country

Open: Fri. Sat. Mon 10-5, & Sun 11-4
Closed Tues, Wed & Thurs

Country Décor
Furniture
Primitives

527 North St., Chester, VT • (802) 875-7500

A Litany
After Winter Solstice

You white sky of snow:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

You deep killing freeze:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you seeds, scattered and longing:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you leaves taken from summer:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you shriveled colors and scents,
 Petals and blossoms and berries and fruits:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you ragweed, ironweed, goldenrod broken,
 blackened euonymus,
 burdock and pokeweed,
 hollow and empty,
 sweet rocket, ragwort, celandine, poppies and
 thistles
 curling and waiting:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

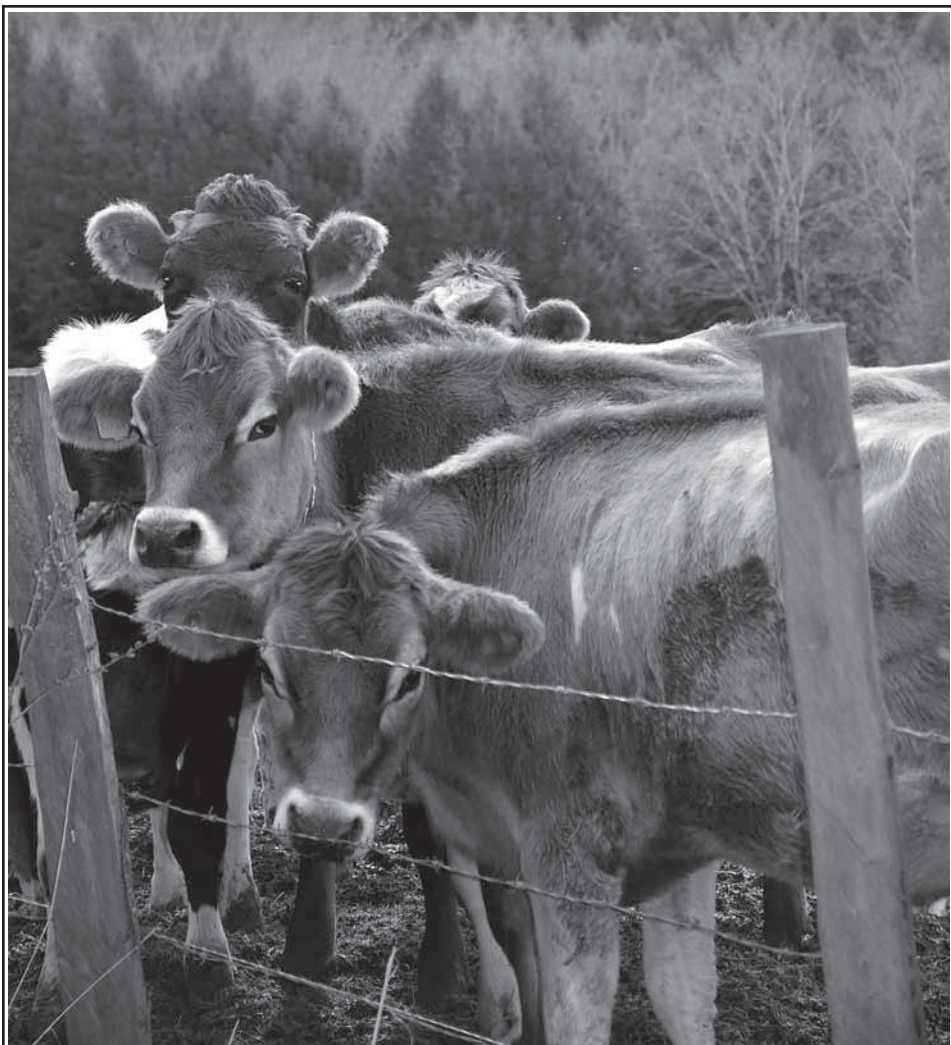
All of you frogs and all of you toads,
 Burrowed and patient, hidden and mute:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you silenced cicadas and katydids,
 All of you crickets still prowling the dark,
 All of you ravening mice in the cupboards:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

All of you creatures gone or to come,
 All of you wings of the birds that have vanished,
 All of you mating calls still to be sung:
Pray for us, Pray for us, Graciously hear us.

All of you crocus, ready to rise,
 Snowdrops, hepaticas, twinleaf, and bloodroot,
 Anemonies, cress and bluebells and squills:
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.
Pray for us. Pray for us. Graciously hear us.

—BILL FELKER



A herd of Jerseys waiting to be fed in Central Vermont. photo by Nancy Cassidy

YOUR HOLIDAY FUN SHOP
THE HUGGING BEAR SHOPPE

WE ARE HAVING A BIG CLEARANCE SALE NOW! thru NEW YEAR'S 50-90% OFF DON'T MISS IT!

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

The finest selection of Teddy Bears in the Northeast

www.HUGGINGBEAR.com **OPEN EVERY DAY**

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

Rural Vermont

Activates, Advocates and Educates for Living Soils, Thriving Farms and Healthy Communities

www.ruralvermont.org
 (802) 223-7222

Join Us in Giving Voice to Vermont's Family Farm Heritage!

Check out our local artist notecards, including this photo from John David Geery!

Rural Needs From A To Z

R. B. Erskine, Inc.
 Grain & Supplies
 Chester Depot, VT
 802-875-2333

Mon. - Fri., 7:30 - 5:00
 Sat. 7:30 - 3:00

- A...Animal Traps & Repellents
- B...Bird Feeders & Bulk Bird Seed
- C...Canning Jars, 4 oz. - 64 oz.
- D...Diamond Farrier Tools
- E...Extensive Electric Fencing
- F...Fence Panels: 1/4" Wire, 16', 4 Styles
- G...Good Gloves & Mittens
- H...High Tensile Fencing
- I...Ice Control Products
- J...Jolly Balls & Jingle Bells
- K...Kids' Gloves & Mittens
- L...Leader Evaporator Dealer
- M...Moo Doo, Moo Start, Moo Mix
- N...No GMOs In Our Seed Catalog
- O...Organic Feeds & Fertilizers
- P...Plumbing Supplies
- Q...Quality Hand Tools
- R...Rosin & Roof Rakes
- S...SELKIRK Chimney Systems
- T...Tanks & Tubs & Totes
- U...USA Pet Supplies & Treats
- V...Visi-Vests for Dogs
- W...Wire, Welded & Woven; All Sizes
- X...Xtra Service
- Y...Yard Hydrants & Parts
- Z...Ziplock Freezer Bags to 2 gals.

POULIN GRAIN A Family Food Company

MUCK THE ORIGINAL

GREEN MOUNTAIN FEEDS Certified Organic Feeds

SCIENCE DIET VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED

MORRISON'S Custom Feeds Certified Organic

WEI.T.N.E.S.S.

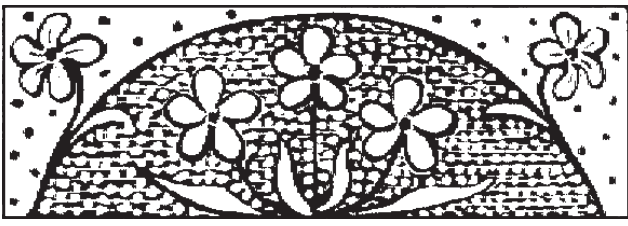
Nutrena Excellence Inside

Loyall

Now Stocking:

- * Blue Buffalo
- * Fromm
- * Dave's Natural
- * Special Orders

Good Service. Everyday Low Prices. Much, Much More



The Natural Calendar

Plants and birds and animals and stars

by Bill Felker

December 1: Moss is still bright green on rotting logs. A few red raspberry leaves and a few red honeysuckle berries hold on.

December 2: The last woolly bear caterpillars mark one of the many borders of autumn—like the silver maple, pear and beech leaves falling, new growth on the spruce, the end of witch hazel flowers, and the first snow.

December 3: In the first week of December, the day becomes shorter by about seven minutes, the last time this year that the day loses that much time. Throughout most of the region, sunset is now the earliest of the year; it will remain at that time until the end of December's second week.

December 4: Gauges of passage appear all across the ground, the Osage fruits decaying, sometimes opened and scattered by squirrels, the hulls of black walnuts pocked and stained, heaps of leaves darkening, settling, contracting, dissolving, buried in snow.

December 5: The sun's position remains within a degree of solstice between December 5 and January 8, producing a period of solar stability similar to the one between June 4 and July 8.

December 6: This is the last day for the chance of temperatures above 70 until January 21. And below-zero lows now remain a possibility until March 1st.

December 7: The Geminid meteors pass through the northeast after midnight between the 7th and the 17th. The full moon, however, will make meteor watching difficult at mid month.

December 8: Almost every leaf has fallen. Only a few beeches, forsythias and decorative pears hold out

December 9: Osage fruits are yellow, scattered across the ground. Black walnut hulls, shredded by squirrels, stain porches and driveways.

December 10: Ohio and Indiana ducks complete migration.

December 11: Most second flowering of forsythia is finished. Basal leaf clusters of carnations, sweet rockets, celandine, garlic mustard, poppies, lamb's ear, and daisies remain green underneath the snow. Brown-barked river birches and white birches contrast with the black trunks of oaks and elms.

December 12: Venus and Mars are the evening stars



Sandy, Ruthie and Denny Friend with Ruth Howard's dog Peggy, sliding in her yard in Randolph, VT in the late 1940s. photo courtesy of Nancy Cassidy

throughout December. Jupiter is the morning star. Saturn will join Jupiter in the east after Christmas.

December 13: Average low temperatures reach freezing throughout the lower Midwest.

December 14: The sun begins to set later, starting its movement toward summer, but double-digit below-zero lows now become possible.

December 15: Catch the last shooting stars of the Geminid meteor shower in Gemini after midnight.

December 16: Fallen leaves are matting down from the rain and snow. Freezing and thawing, their bright middle-autumn colors slowly disappear, faded to a uniform, dull brown.

December 17: Orion is the most obvious of all the winter's constellations, and around him cluster some of the easiest stars to identify. Leading Orion into winter is red Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus. In front of Taurus, the seven sisters of the Pleiades lie almost in the center of the sky. Above the Hunter's raised arms, Capella is the largest light in Auriga. Above and behind Orion, Castor and Pollux, the brightest stars of Gemini mark the east. Trailing along in the southeast is Sirius, the giant Dog Star.

December 18: The gull migration season is usually over by today, ending major bird migration activity for the Lower Midwest. In the northern woods.

December 19: Sandhill cranes continue to travel south along their flyways.

December 20: Watch for the Ursid meteors (near the Big Dipper) as the moon is rising after midnight tomorrow and the 22nd.

December 21: Winter solstice for 2016 occurs at 5:44 a.m. The shortest days of the year are December 19th through the 25th.

December 22: This is the last of the days on which the sun's declination remains steady at its lowest point of the year. Starting on the 23rd, the day begins and ends a little bit further to the north every 24 hours.

December 23: Orchard grass, goldenrod, Japanese knotweed, dock, virgin's bower, pepper grass, penny cress, garlic mustard, velvet leaf, mallow, Queen Anne's lace, parsnip, milkweed, water horehound, motherwort, bergamot, ironweed, jimson weed, mullein, yarrow, black-eyed Susan, burdock, cattail, dogbane, and teasel are some of the most common plants still available for dried winter bouquets.

December 24: An hour before sunrise, Orion has set. Sirius has moved deep into the west, Cancer and Gemini following it. The Big Dipper is overhead. June's Arcturus is coming in from the east, and August's Vega has come up in the northeast.

December 25: A tree, outbuilding, or neighbor's chimney is suitable for tracking solar movement as December comes to a close. The further north the sun progresses from the chosen landmark, the higher it will be at lunchtime, and the closer spring will be.

December 26: The days start to lengthen today; they will continue to grow at the rate of about seven minutes a week until January 15. After that, night recedes a little better than two minutes every day all the way to early summer.

December 27: If Christmas is especially warm, earthworms will emerge from the ground when the snow melts in the sun. In village fishponds, koi rise for food when the water temperature approaches 60 degrees.

December 28: In three days, deep winter begins - a six week period when high temperatures often stay below freezing and the most snow falls.

December 29: In the cold woods, white-tailed bucks in their gray winter coats are starting to drop their antlers. One or two pussy willow catkins crack in the thaws.

December 30: As the old year comes to a close, Orion lies in the center of the southern sky at 11:00 p.m. Capella is the brightest star overhead at that time. Find it between Orion and the North Star.

December 31: Dark pokeberries dangle on their soft dried stems. Foxtail grasses cling to one another, waving in the wind like lost caterpillars. Japanese honeysuckle leaves are blackening in the frost.

For Current Road Conditions go to
newengland511.org
A Free Service in part by the State of Vermont

Squeels on Wheels



Award Winning BBQ

Two Winter Locations:

Visit our BBQ Headquarters
471 Rt. 103 S., Ludlow, VT
and Snowmobile Fuel • VAST 127
Open Daily 7 am, Closed Tuesdays
and

Get ski-thru BBQ at the base of
Okemo's South Face Lift
Open Daily 10 am - 3 pm

Save Money—Eat at Home
Pre-order for pick up and enjoy our
Award Winning Menu Items
Great Family Dinner Combos Available!

BBQ HQ offers Take Out & Catering,
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner,
Sandwiches, Platters and Salads,
Vermont Cheeses, Homemade Soups & Sides,
Cold Beer & Wines, Vermont 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



Subscribe Now!

To 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 for 12 issues.

Name _____
Address _____

I picked up this issue of the Sampler at: _____

Comments _____

11/16

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

All the Heavens Sun, Stars, Shooting Stars and Planets

The Sun's Progress

Winter solstice occurs at 11:48 p.m. on December 21, and on December 26, the sun starts its ascent toward June, shifting from a declination of 23 degrees and 26 minutes to 23 degrees and 25 minutes

The Stars

By midnight, the Pleiades and Taurus, winter's prophets, will be almost directly overhead, Orion fully visible behind them. Regulus, the brightest star of spring, will be just starting to rise.

The Shooting Stars

December 7-17: The Geminids (in Gemini)
December 21-22: The Ursids (near the Big Dipper)

The Planets

Venus remains the evening star throughout December, sharing that role with red Mars. Jupiter is the morning star.

In late November, Saturn disappeared from the evening sky. It will reappear in the morning during the last week of December.



VERMONT
STATE CRAFT CENTER

Gallery at the
VAULT

Visual Art Using Local Talent

Tues-Sat 11-5 • www.galleryvault.org
68 Main St., Springfield, VT • 802-885-7111

Crafts and
fine arts from
160 artists
in a historic
downtown

A Vermont Almanack for Early Winter

by Bill Felker

Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty night:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go.

—Alfred Lord Tennyson

The Weeks of the Moon

Week One

The Bedding Plant Seeding Moon, becoming gibbous and entering its second quarter on December 7 at 4:03 a.m., grows fatter and fatter until it is completely full at 7:06 p.m. on December 13.

Lunar stress remains relatively low this coming weekend, but seasonal affective disorders may rise sharply as full moon approaches. Continue to finalize shopping and holiday correspondence before full-moon madness strikes on the 13th.

High-pressure systems arrive on or about the 8th and the 15th, and the full moon should aggravate the December 15th high, bringing in precipitation and plenty of cold in the middle of next week.

Week Two

The Bedding Plant Seeding Moon full at 7:06 p.m. on December 13, wanes throughout the remainder of the period, coming into its last quarter at 8:56 p.m. on December 20. Rising in the evening and setting after dawn, the moon will be overhead after midnight throughout the period.

Lunar conditions favor a low-stress Christmas this year. The moon will be waning throughout the days that holiday, and seasonal affective disorders will not be complicated by lunar influence.

As the barometer falls in advance of the December 20th and December 25th cold fronts, fishing and hunting should improve, especially during the early morning hours.

Week Three

The Bedding Plant Moon enters its last quarter at 8:56 p.m. on December 20, gradually waning until becomes new on the new Tufted Titmouse Moon on the 29th at 1:53 a.m.

Seasonal affective disorders should continue to be relatively mild through the period, thanks to the feeble moon, but expect a turbulent approach to New Year's Eve as the moon turns new on the 29th, about the same time that the New Year's cold front approaches.

Week Four

The Bedding Plant Moon becomes the Tufted Titmouse Moon on the 29th at 1:53 a.m. Rising in the morning and setting in the evening, this moon moves overhead in the middle of day, making lunchtime favorable for lunar luck in fishing, hunting and feeding livestock and other family. The moon is auspicious for the seeding of bedding plants throughout the week, especially when it is in Capricorn between December 28 and 30.



A moose with snowy nose in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

photo by Nancy Cassidy

Winter Solstice and Meteors *The Light in the Dark of the Year*

Late in the second week December, December 13, the Geminid meteors arrive out of the northern heavens near Castor and Pollux, the twins of Gemini, to the upper left of giant Orion. Several days after the Geminids, the Ursid Meteors fly out from the Little Dipper, a small constellation just to the east of the North Star.

Most folk stories about shooting stars complement the notion of a Thin Time at the transition between autumn and winter, a time during which the barriers become more fragile between those living on this side of death and those on the other

side. Such a spiritual aura around the meteoric prelude to winter solstice offers a secular mystique to the season of darkness, easily blending with religious liturgies that enhance awareness of the advent of the natural year.

Meteor events were once thought to be miraculous. Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, and Christian Christmas with its star of wonder, dovetail easily with the appearance of December's meteors, follow the shooting starlight with hopeful and celebratory ceremonies which humans often use to face the cold and gloom of the months past solstice.



**Home of
The Silver Spoon**

Functional Art from
Antique Silverware

Featuring Over
150 Artists

Fine arts & crafts, metal sculpture, pottery, hand carved birds, unique silverware art, fiber, jewelry, garden weathervanes, stained glass, folk art, funky clocks, hand made soaps.

*An ever changing display of
the artist's imagination.*

**44 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT
(802) 228-4753 • silverwareart.com**

Grandma
Miller's

~ Homemade Pies ~
24 Delicious Assorted Varieties!

*Fresh Baked or Oven Ready
Take One Home Today!*



Pies also available at:
River Bend Farm Market
in Townshend, VT
Al Ducci's
Manchester, VT
River Valley Farm Market
in Dover, VT
H.N. Williams Store
in Dorset, VT
The Market Wagon
in N. Bennington, VT

Apple • Apple Crumb • Pumpkin • Mince • Pecan
Strawberry-Rhubarb • Blueberry • Summer Berry
Maple Walnut • 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 Mon-Sat, 8 am - 5:30 pm • www.grandmamillers.net



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



David Nunnikoven
Baker & Owner

 Find us on
Facebook

The Festival: Reimagining Grandma Moses Hosted in December by Bennington Museum

November 25th to December 30th

Decorating at the Bennington Museum is underway for the Museum's most anticipated and celebrated fundraiser of the year, the annual Festival.

This year, The Festival: Reimagining Grandma Moses celebrates a joint exhibition of Moses' work with the Shelburne Museum, which will be on view at the Bennington Museum during the summer of 2017.

The annual festival of the season, open from November 25th through December 30th, showcases the innovation and creativity of twenty-seven regional artists who have reimagined, reinterpreted, or responded to the work of Grandma Moses. Their artwork explores the power of memory, place, tradition and change leading to a dynamic and evocative display.

The wonderful works in the exhibition will be available in a closed-bid auction through December 29th. However, that is just the beginning, as the theme carries into the most anticipated celebration of the season, the Bennington Museum Gala on December 3rd.

Participating artists are: Rachele Beaudoin, Josh Blackwell, Gregg Blasdel, Colin Brant, Renée Bouchard, Laura Christensen, Katie Cleaver, Ashley Norwood Cooper, Stella Ehrich, Linda Finch, Sally Gil, Wayne Hopkins, Jennifer Koch, Corwin Levi, Maggie Mailer, Angus McCullough, Jen Morris, Will Moses, Melanie Mowinski, Mark Mulherrin, Karl Mullen, Matthew Perry, Anne Roecklein, Daisy Rockwell, Donald Saaf, Peter Thomashow, and Cathy Wysocki.

The Gala

Saturday, December 3

Bennington Museum hosts the premiere event of the season and the Museum's biggest annual fundraiser, the Gala on December 3rd from 7-10 p.m.

Put on your most festive attire and join us to enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres and upscale comfort food stations, cash bar, and dancing to music by Jeff McRae and Friends. Enjoy spirited bidding on unique and diverse items in the silent auction, all while supporting the region's foremost museum of art, history and innovation. Free childcare on site is offered, but space is limited.

During the evening, enjoy the wonderful exhibition and place your bid on an original artwork. Tickets for the Gala are \$100 per person, and \$175 per person for a Gala Benefactor. Tickets may be purchased by calling the museum at (802) 447-1571 x 204.

Many items have been generously donated for the silent auction. They include wine from private collections, an oil painting by Harry Orlyk, craft brews like Heady Topper from The Alchemist, a tour and tasting for six at Spirits of Old Bennington, a beautiful sculpture by Rita Dee, one year dual membership to Images Theater in Williamstown, Yoga Classes at Fit2Function, a behind-the-scenes tour of Bennington Museum and so much more. And that is just a few of the over forty items that are available to bid on from November 25 through the Gala on December 3rd.

Stop in early and often at no charge to bid on that special gift while supporting the museum's largest annual fundraiser.



Visit Bennington Museum for the Festival Reimagined, a holiday gala celebration. photo courtesy of Bennington Museum

Family Day and Children's Shopping Day

Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate the season with \$3 admission to the museum for everyone! Any child that brings new school supplies for children in need is admitted free. Throughout the day enjoy crafts, a bake sale, and more. Activities require a small additional fee, up to \$5. Visit with Santa from 1-3 p.m. and the Children's Shopping Boutique from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Shoppers' Helpers are on hand to help children ages 4-12 select presents for their friends and family members. Gifts range in price from \$1 to \$10, and free gift-wrapping and gift tags are included.

Also on view are Classroom Creations! Students from the region have worked hard to create an object inspired by Grandma Moses. For \$1, you can purchase a chance to win one of the Classroom Creations! Visit their display and enjoy their contribution.

Adults can go shopping too! The Museum Store is expanding so it can offer a larger selection of artisan products just in time for the holidays. An Artisan Pop-up Shop will be open November 25 through December 30.

On November 25-27 and again on December 10, the Museum Store is offering discounts on all merchandise. Museum members enjoy a 25% discount while not-yet-members receive 15% off their purchase.

The Bennington Museum is located at 75 Main St. in Bennington, VT. Open Thursday thru Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (802) 447-1571. Visit: www.benningtonmuseum.org.

The Nature Conservancy
OF VERMONT
Saving the Last Great Places

Preserving Vermont's Last Great Places Since 1960

27 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Tel. 802/229-4425 • Website: www.tnc.org

Above All!
VERMONT
Peddlers of the Whimsical & Unique
NEW ENGLAND MADE SPECIALTY FOODS FINE GIFTS & FUN STUFF

We Have the Perfect Stocking Stuffers!

— 210 Depot Street, Manchester Center, VT —
(802) 362-0915 • On Facebook • Open seven days 10 am – 6 pm
Order Online: aboveallvermont.com

- Jewelry & Pottery
- Soap & Salves
- VT Maple Products & VT Cheeses
- Wonderful Specialty Foods
- Toys • Bear & Moose Stuff
- Gift Baskets We Ship

H.N. Williams Store
Family Owned and Operated Since 1840

POULIN GRAIN
A Family Feed Company

Equine - Sheep & Goat
Swine & Rabbit - Poultry
General Animal Feeds

6 miles north of Manchester Center on Rt 30 in Dorset, VT
802-867-5353 M-F 6-6, Sat 7:30-5, Sun 8-4

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
1863-1963



Suffolk Punch draft horses all hitched up and ready to take visitors for a ride at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, VT. photo by Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Rupert, VT

Holidays at Merck Forest & Farmland Center

Everyone is gearing up for a holiday crafting bonanza at Merck Forest & Farmland Center, with workshops in holiday decorating, wreath making, and ornament and gift making.

On Saturday, December 3rd, Chris Hubbard will conduct wreath-making classes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and again from 1 to 4 p.m. The fee is \$20 per wreath.

Basic materials and tools including the wreath will be furnished, but participants may bring special items for the finishing touch that makes each wreath unique.

On Saturday, December 17th, the public is invited to drop in between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. for a Holiday Ornament Making workshop (\$5 per person) or for lessons in Felted Soap Making from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (\$15 per person).

Celebrating Henry David Thoreau

The Thoreau Cabin Project at Merck Forest & Farmland Center continues its celebration of the Bicentennial of Henry David Thoreau's birth with a Joinery Workshop on December 10th and 11th. Attendees will be instructed in the techniques of post and beam construction and will then apply their knowledge by preparing the timbers for use in the construction of the Thoreau cabin.

Details of each workshop are listed on the website at www.merckforest.org. Participation for most workshops is limited to ten people. Young people aged 12-16 may participate if accompanied by a participating adult. A nominal fee will be charged.

Project Schedule

- December 10 & 11**—Joinery Workshop: Tool Use, Timber-framing, and Mortise & Tenon Joinery.
- January 2017**—Board feathering, Shingle and Peg Workshop.
- February 2017**—"Overflow, Catch-up" Workshop.
- May 2017**—Cabin Raising.
- May 2017**—Heathing Workshop: Roof and Walls.
- June 2017**—Shingling of Cabin.
- July 12, 2017**—Cabin Dedication (Thoreau's birthday).
- August 2017**—Plaster and Lathe Workshop.
- Date TBD**—Chimney Workshop.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is a non-profit educational organization located in the Taconic Mountains of

southwestern Vermont. The Center's mission is the sustainable management of its forest, the promotion of innovative agricultural practices on its upland farm, the education of local students in outdoor exploration and the study of natural sciences, and the creation of unparalleled recreational opportunities for individuals, families and school groups.

The property is open free to the public daily, from dawn to dusk, year-round.

Merck Forest & Farmland Center is located at 3270 Rt. 315, in Rupert, VT. For more information call the Visitor Center at (802) 394-7836. info@merckforest.org. www.merckforest.org. Directions note: once you reach the top of the hill on 315, turn into Merck Forest's driveway. If you start going downhill, you've missed it.



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



Faller Music Co.

SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS

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

"Life's too short, Don't forget to play"

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



Bob's Maple Shop

2016 Pure VT Maple Syrup

Best Prices All Grades!

Decorative Glass • Maple Candy
Volume Discounts • Large Inventory

Visit our display area and shop at:
591 Richville Rd, Manchester, VT

(At the Red Barn, 3.3 miles from Rt 11/30)

Bob Bushee, Owner • www.bobsmapleshop.com
Open Daily • (802) 362-3882

An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.

Henry David Thoreau



3270 Route 315
Rupert, VT 05768
802-394-7836
www.merckforest.org

Christmas Trees & Wreaths

Evergreen Roping
And Pinecone Wreaths

Come join the season's festivities!
Watch us make our own wreaths and roping.

Tag Your Christmas Tree (Manchester only)
Special Wreath Orders Welcome!

Order Your Holiday Baked Goods—Pies, Cookies, Bread. Our Own Maple Syrup, Jams, Honey, Vermont Cheeses.

Fresh Harvest Produce—Winter Squash
50# Bags of Potatoes, Gilfeather Turnips, Cabbage, Broccoli, Carrots, Beets, Lettuce, Brussels Sprouts, 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—

Dutton

Rt. 11/30,
Manchester, VT
(802) 362-3083

Farm Stand

Rt. 9, W. Brattleboro, VT
(802) 254-0254

Rt. 30, Newfane, VT
(802) 365-4168

"Buy Direct From a Farmer"
Open Year-Round, 9 am - 7 pm Daily
www.duttonberryfarm.com
Dutton Berry Farm on Facebook

Rena's Garden Market

Moved to Rt. 30, Dorset, VT

Reopening daily 9-5, Nov. 18 - Dec. 23

Local Christmas Trees & Wreaths

Garlands, Boughs,

Kissing Balls, Centerpieces.

Honey & Maple Syrup, Crafts

Oriental Food Products

We Sell Firewood by the Cord

Now at Dorset Gardens

Rt. 30 & Morse Hill Rd., Dorset, VT
(802) 362-2517



The Green Mountain Gardener History of Holiday Greens

Dr. Leonard Perry
University of Vermont

Many people usher in the holiday season by decorating their homes with evergreen boughs, sprigs of holly, garlands, and mistletoe but this practice is not something recent, dating back many centuries. The Greeks and Romans were among the first to bring evergreen boughs indoors in winter. They were amazed that the evergreen remained green year-round, even during the bleak winter months, and decided that it must have supernatural powers and the promise of spring.

Evergreens at Christmastime

In the 1800s, greens were used in this country to make memorials to honor loved ones who had died. Evergreen boughs and other greens were woven into wreaths, crosses, and stars and placed on graves in cemeteries. During the Victorian era, the custom of bringing evergreen boughs and other greens into the house at Christmastime was revived. Many people made elaborate arrangements for mantelpieces and tables using boughs, ivy, laurel, yew, and hemlock.

The mythologies of Mistletoe, Holly, and Ivy

A kiss under the mistletoe, another popular American custom, came from Scandinavia, where according to mythology, Balder, the son of Frigga, the Norse goddess of love, was struck dead by an arrow made of mistletoe. As Frigga wept, her tears fell onto the mistletoe and turned into small, white berries. She declared that mistletoe should no longer be used to kill, but to encourage love. Thus, anyone found standing beneath the mistletoe must be kissed.

Mistletoe also played an important role in the Druid celebrations of the winter solstice. Because it appeared to grow in the air—the plant wound itself around the tree, its roots never touching the soil—the Druid high priests believed that it was a sacred plant. During the solstice, they would climb the trees, cut down the mistletoe, and toss it to the crowd below. It was considered bad luck if even a single sprig touched the ground.



Holly and ivy often are used together in holiday decorations, a tradition that stems from a Middle Ages belief that holly was male and ivy female, and so the two should be intertwined forever. Holly also was thought to have protective powers, while ivy stood for love.

The tradition of decorating evergreen trees for the holidays began with Martin Luther in the early 1500s. Legend has it that he was walking through the woods one Christmas Eve and noticed how the sparkly stars shone through the branches of a snow-covered fir. Wanting to share the magic with his children, he chopped down the tree and brought it home. He decorated it with candles to represent the stars.

Christmas traditions brought to America

In the 1600s, families in France decorated fir trees with gold foil, paper roses, apples, and sweet treats at Christmas-

time. German immigrants brought this same tradition with them when they settled in America. However, Christmas trees did not become widespread in America until the 1800s. Although first sold commercially in New York City in 1851, it wasn't until four years later, when President Franklin Pierce placed the first tree in the White House, that many Americans adopted the tradition. Electric Christmas tree lights were invented in 1882 by Edward Johnson, Thomas Alva Edison's assistant.

This year, as you deck your halls with holiday greens, think of the history behind these traditions and of the many before you who incorporated greens into their rituals and celebrations.

We thank the University of Vermont Extension and New England Grows for sharing this piece by Dr. Leonard Perry with you.

Northern Forest Canoe Trail
740 miles of lakes, rivers, & streams connecting the Adirondacks to Northern Maine
Canoes, Kayaks, & Standup Paddleboards Welcome!
Guidebook • Maps • Membership • Volunteer
northernforestcanoetrail.org • (802) 496-2285

Priscilla's Sweet Shoppe
Sugar Plums & Peppermint Pigs are Here!
Fine Chocolates • Old-Fashioned Candies
Handmade Truffles • Gift Certificates
Tea Ware and Gifts
Gift Baskets Made to Order
We Ship & Deliver Locally
Open now till Christmas
Call for Hours
199 Main St, Poultney, VT
(802) 287-4621
priscillasweetshoppe@gmail.com

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
THE WHEEL INN
Just Over the Hill in Benson, VT • (802) 537-2755
"Wheel" Cater to You. Let us bring our famous food to your next party.

Vermont skiing. Locally written.
Drop into SkiMaven.com
Vermont skiing blog
SKIMAVEN™
alpine + backcountry + nordic

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, \$24/yr.
Complete & Mail in this Coupon
Please send a free sample copy to:
Name _____
Address _____
I picked up this issue of the Sampler at _____
Comments _____
12/16
Mail to:
The Vermont Country Sampler
P.O. Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759

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
at Brown's 4 Corners • Open daily • (802) 468-2297

Stop In & Check Us Out!
Matthew's Solo Cam Bows
Archery • Guns & Ammo
Air Rifles & Lacrosse Boots
Muck Boots • Fishing Gear
Mart's Sporting Goods
Hunting & Fishing Supplies
85 Main St., Poultney, VT • Open 7 days
(802) 287-9022 • Martin VanBuren Jr.

We don't just sell WINE... WE know WINE.
• Great prices
• Knowledgeable staff
• Personal service
• Big city selection in a country store
We are the area's premier wine spot.
Castleton Village Store (802) 468-2213
Open 8am - 9pm Daily
www.CastletonVillageStore.com

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



Walking in Castleton's Winter Cemetery

by Pamela Hayes Rehlen

I've been walking in Castleton's Hillside Cemetery since I was a teenager. At that time in my life, it was just filled with picturesque Victorian tombs, little fluttering Civil War Grand Army of the Republic flags, and the gravestones of people I didn't know, or didn't realize that I knew. But it's not like that anymore.

The approximately thirty acre cemetery lies to the west of the village at the end of a rutted road and beyond an iron bridge over the Castleton River. It was established in 1851. Poignantly, the first burial here was that of Charles Rice, a three-year-old who died in February.

James Joyce wrote 'The Dead,' a short story about a Christmas dinner party in 1920s Dublin. An artistic, mostly elderly, family gets together as they do every year, but it's clear that for several of them this will probably be their last holiday gathering. John Huston directed a film version of the story, and he closed it with a long lingering shot over snow falling on graves and graveyards all across Ireland.

This time of year, at this point in my life, when I walk in Castleton's Hillside Cemetery, I am always reminded of that long closing shot, because now I look around me with a more disconcerted eye. I knew and feel the loss of many who are in this burial ground.

Here, along with the Civil War veterans, the town fathers, a few out-of-staters who moved to Castleton's Lake Bomoseen in retirement, and the local families who have lived in Castleton for generations, lie my ancestors, my relatives, my one-time neighbors, and my oldest friends.

The Hillside cemetery in December is a place of the three colors of cold: black, gray, and thin-new-snow white. Approached from the south, twenty four granite steps inscribed, "These steps in memory of Laura Griswold Smith 1904." rise up a steep hillside.

At the top of the steps, the cemetery is table-top-flat with very old maples, some severely battered in the windstorms of the past few years. In this oldest part, which has straight, sunken, carriage paths and lies south of a Victorian-era tool shed, many of the marble, granite and slate headstones are presently unreadable. However, a substantial stone, put up here in 1913, is clearly dedicated, "To the Unknown Dead and Our Soldiers of the Civil War 1861-1865."

Near the cemetery center, a giant spruce and an equally large specimen white pine keep the ground beneath them snow free. A ring road leads past and on to the Grady graves.

I have a soft spot in my heart for the Gradys, the life-long bachelor twins, cozy, chatty Jeremiah, stern, macho Jerome, and their mother Mary Kelly Grady, one of the town's 'Old Irish.' She went to school with my mother, came in and out of our Castleton Village Store on endless minute quests, and died in 1988. This close-knit, but volatile, family of three—right out of a Charles Dickens novel—lived together like a pot on the boil all of their lives.

At the western edge of the cemetery under a stand of Norfolk pines, lies town patriarch 'Old Ed' Ellis, born in his



Hillside Cemetery in Castleton, VT.

photo by Andrew Donovan

Adam's family's hotel in the center of Castleton in 1886. He owned and operated the local hillside Ellis Apple Orchard and had a decisive say in every aspect of town business until close to the end of his life.

Also lying here, his son 'Young Ed,' continued to operate the family orchard. Hands-on and civic-minded, I remember Young Ed helping in the cemetery, driving a backhoe to open new graves. I sometimes wonder who drove the backhoe to open his.

After the Ellis family plot, the road passes the head stones of Grazianos, Woodburys, Balches, Rogers and Kinneys. The dark, rusty Grand Army of the Republic flag holders give way to American Legion markers for later conflicts.

In this part of the cemetery, my Gibbs grandparents, who died in the 1950s, and my parents, my aunts, and my uncles are all together in another family plot.

This last summer my Barre cousin, Sally, told me that the grave of my Great-Grandfather Dana Fish, born in 1840 is here too, and she took me to the spot.

I didn't know Grandpa Fish was buried in Castleton. I'd always heard about this troubled Hubbardton ancestor who wandered all night among the dead bodies at the Civil War Battle of the Wilderness and came home a broken man.

Now it surprises me to realize how gratified I am to be able to stand under his gravesite cedars and see that he's buried just hailing distance from his oldest daughter and her family.

So many townspeople I've known have moved up the hill to this place. These dead are gone from my life, but sometimes

when I walk here it feels as if they are in the next room. I remember them so powerfully they don't seem far away.

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

"Here, along with Civil War veterans... lie my ancestors, my relatives, my one-time neighbors, and my oldest friends."

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.

In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air—
But only His mother, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him—
Give my heart.

—CHRISTINA ROSSETTI
1872



FLANDERS
FARM STAND & GREENHOUSES
NATURALLY GROWN PRODUCE FROM OUR FAMILY FARM IN CASTLETON & POULTNEY

Christmas Trees & Wreaths
Winter Squash, Onions, Peppers, Garlic
Homemade Pickles, Jams & Jellies, Honey

Grass-Fed Beef & Pork
Open Daily 10 am to 7 pm
Rt. 30, Castleton, VT • ½ mile south of Castleton Corners
802-747-8119 • flandersfarm@gmail.com

RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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

It's Always Maple Time at
Green's Sugarhouse

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

Many Quality Maple products to choose from.
From Our Trees to Your Table Naturally.
Mail Order • We Ship
We Make Holiday Gift Giving Easy and Fun!

Gift Boxes for the Holidays!

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

**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.

FORT ANN ANTIQUES



WHITEHALL ANTIQUES MALL
10120 Route 4 • Whitehall, NY

518-499-2915
OPEN DAILY 10-5
whitehallantiquemall.com

Jewelry • Glass • China • Tools • Paper
Furniture • Glassware • Vintage Clothes
Coins • Ephemera • Books • Garden Statuary

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.rathbunsmple.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.

**Earth & Time
Gift Gallery**

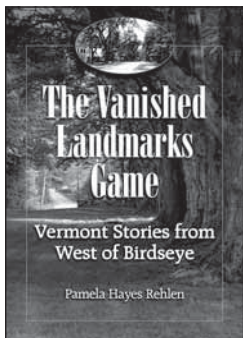


- Fine Art
- Crafts
- Antiques

Exclusive 'Robert Hamblen' Gallery
Open Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5
Closed Mon & Tues

37 Capron Lane/Route 30
Wells, VT • (802) 783-8025
2 miles north of Wells Village

Captivating Stories from Castleton

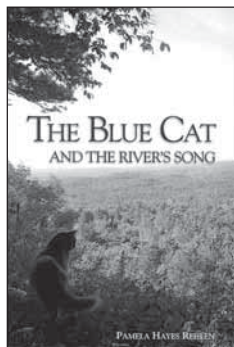


The Vanished Landmarks Game
Vermont Stories from
West of Birdseye
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen
\$20 (plus \$5 s&h)

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

**The Blue Cat
And The River's Song**
by Pamela Hayes Rehlen
\$17 (plus \$5 s&h)

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



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

Vermont Map



Fashion Corner



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
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday 10 am - 3 pm

Brenda's Hidden Treasures

Crafts
come see what you can
find or create today
also offering crafting classes

Open Mon-Sat 10-5
31 Main St., Granville, NY
(802) 353-1773



The Pharmacy, Inc.

The Pharmacy-Northshire

Corner of North & Gage Streets
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 442-5602

34 Ways Lane
Manchester Center, VT 05255

(802) 362-0390

- ♦ Full Service Pharmacies
 - ♦ Medical Supplies
 - ♦ Orthopedic Supports
 - ♦ Diabetic Supplies
 - ♦ Mastectomy Supplies
 - ♦ Delivery Available
- Monday through Friday
Locally owned since 1969

Hours:

8am-7pm	Monday-Friday
8am-6pm	Saturday
9am-12:30pm	Sunday-Bennington
9am-3pm	Sunday-Manchester



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

Vermont Country Calendar

See the end of the daily event calendar for ongoing activities and museums, exhibits, and galleries.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

BURLINGTON. 23rd Annual Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Coat Drive. Coat drive starts at 8 am (last year 1000 were given away). Dinner from 10 am – 5 pm. Sweetwaters, 120 Church St. (802) 864-9800. www.sweetwatersvt.com.

MONTPELIER. 44th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone is welcome. For delivery to the homebound in the Montpelier area or for more call (802) 229-9151. 11 am – 3 pm. Bethany Church, 115 Main St. www.wcysb.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

BENNINGTON. The Festival: “Reimagining Grandma Moses”. Celebrating the creativity of twenty-eight artists as they respond to the works of Anna Mary Robertson “Grandma” Moses. Free. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org. Through December 31.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also November 26 & 27; December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.

NORWICH. 22nd Annual “Pods for the Pulpit” Juried Crafts Fair. Crafts by over 40 vendors. Music by guitarist Chief Noda. No admission fee. 10 am – 4 pm. Tracy Hall on Main Street. (802) 649-8828. Also November 26.

POULTNEY. Christmas Craft Fair. Beautiful handcrafted items and gifts, quilts, soap, jewelry and paintings, home baked goods and country treats, locally produced specialty foods, local fall apples and fresh cider, fresh balsam wreaths, maple syrup and Christmas decorations. Free admission. Sponsored by the Lakes Region Farmers Market. 10 am – 4 pm. Poultney High School Gym, 153 E. Main St. (Rt. 140) just off Rt. 30. For info call Jamie Condrill at (802) 287-9570. Also November 26.

PUTNEY. The 38th Annual Putney Craft Tour. See blacksmiths, glass blowers, potters, jewelers, weavers, woodworkers—even artisan cheesemakers, a custom bicycle maker and winemaking. 10 am – 5 pm. Start tour at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. for info and maps. (802) 258-3992. www.putneycrafts.com. Also November 26 & 27.

SHELburne. Deck The Halls. See our festive trees; participate in art activities, enjoy the sounds of the season, explore the grounds by horse and wagon. Admission: adults \$10, youth ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am-4 pm. Shelburne Museum, 6000 Shelburne Rd. (802) 985-3346. shelburnemuseum.org. Also November 26 & 27.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. Brendan Taaffe on guitar and George Wilson on fiddle with David Kaynor calling. Admission \$10, \$8 for teens, 12 and under free. Refreshments. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. (802) 446-2928. Tinmouthvt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Musical: *Choir Boy*. Broadway veterans to perform in the Vermont premiere of Tarell Alvin McCraney’s timely play. Tickets \$18-\$30. 7:30 pm. Briggs Opera House, 5 S. Main St. (603) 276-9338. www.jagproductionsvt.com. Thursdays through Sundays through November 30.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House. Holiday food programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Through November 27.

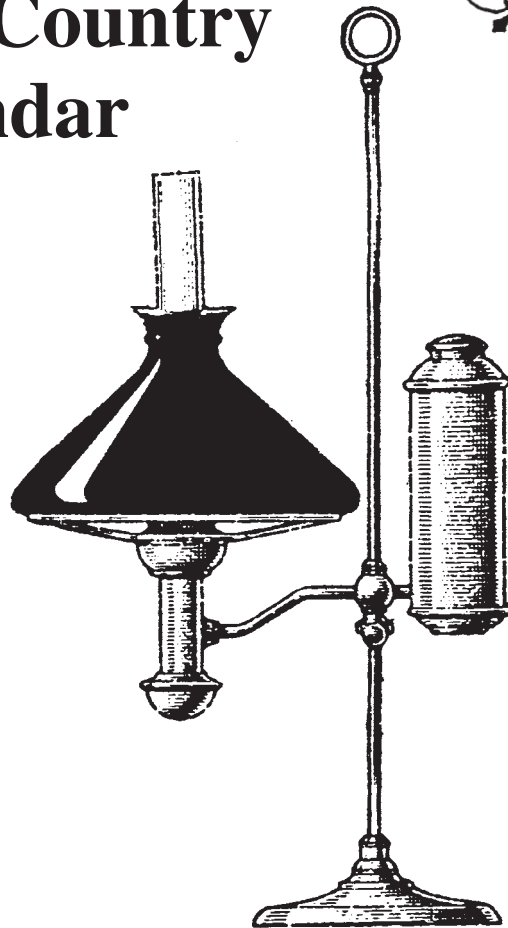
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

BARRE. 36th Annual Winter Festival of Vermont Crafters. Sponsored by the Greater Barre Craft Guild. Free parking and free admission. 9 am – 5 pm. The Barre Auditorium, Auditorium Hill. Greaterbarrecraftguild.com. Also November 27.

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: Neptune’s Car. Holly Hanson and Steve Hayes, an acoustic duo from Massachusetts and New Hampshire play original, contemporary folk music. Tickets: \$17, senior & student/child \$13. 7:30-9:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BENNINGTON. Special Holiday Market. Sponsored by the Bennington Farmers Market. Exclusively craft and food vendors, no produce vendors. 10 am – 2 pm. Inside at The First Baptist Church on E. Main St. info@walloomsac.org.

BRANDON. Maple View Farm Alpacas Holiday Open House. Guests are welcome at the farm and the Vermont Fiber Mill & Studio. Visit with 20 alpacas, including several cria born this summer. 11 am – 4 pm. Maple View Farm Alpacas, 185 Adams Rd. off Arnold District Rd north of town. (802) 247-5412. www.mapleviewfarmalpacas.com.



BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also November 27; December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.

BURLINGTON. Up-Close with Sled Dogs! Welcome the Siberian Sled Dogs to ECHO! Admission: adults 18-59 \$13.50, children 3-17 \$10.50, seniors and college students \$11.50, 2 and younger free. Presentations at 11 am 12:30 pm, and 2 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6386. www.echovermont.org.

BURLINGTON. Performance: *The Nutcracker*. Albany Berkshire Ballet presents its annual holiday classic. Tickets \$42-\$19. 3 & 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. Also November 27.

BURLINGTON. The 27th Annual Women’s Festival of Crafts. Vermont-made jewelry, pottery, greeting cards, clothing, art work, herbal products and more. Free. 10 am – 5 pm, Burlington Town Center, 49 Church St. (802) 864-7528. womensfestivalofcrafts.com. Also November 27.

EAST POULTNEY. Autumn Walk. Post-turkey road walk. Work it off with a safe-hunting season walk on dirt roads. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. For meeting place, contact leader Diane Bargiel at (413) 687-1109. greenmountainclub.org.

HUNTINGTON. Black BIRD Days Gift Shop Sale at The Birds of Vermont Museum. View live birds at the feeders and visit the grounds. Gift shop offers cards and carvings by Vermont artists and crafters, puzzles, T-shirts, books for birders and kids, coloring books, children’s toys and stories. Visitors can drop in between 10 am and 3 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. www.birdsofvermont.org. Also November 27.

KILLINGTON. Audi FIS Ski World Cup Weekend. Women’s giant slalom and slalom races and is expected to bring U.S. Ski Team superstars to compete against the best women’s technical alpine skiers in the world. Free standing room access near the base of the Superstar trail. 7 am – 6 pm. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. www.killington.com. Also November 27.

LYNDONVILLE. Northeast Kingdom Craft Fair. Handmade Vermont products and artisan pieces, pottery, wood and metal works, specialty foods, quilts, home décor, knitted items, maple products, jewelry, VT wreaths, photos, basket weaving and more. Stop by the authors’ table where you can purchase books by local authors, then relax with a treat in the Rotunda Café. Free and open to the public. 9 am – 3 pm. Rita Bole Gym, Lyndon State College. (802) 274-8935.

MIDDLEBURY. The Internet Cat Video Festival 2016. 50% of the proceeds go to benefit Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society. Admission \$10, students \$5. Screenings at 2 & 5 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222. Monday-Saturday 12-5 pm. www.townhalltheater.org.

NORWICH. 22nd Annual “Pods for the Pulpit” Juried Crafts Fair. Crafts by over 40 vendors. Raffle of a colored woodblock print donated by artist Matt Brown. Music by guitarist Chief Noda. No admission fee. 10 am – 4 pm. Tracy Hall on Main Street. (802) 649-8828.

NORWICH. Contradance. Featuring music by “Wild Asparagus” with caller George Marshall. Admission \$15, students \$10, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.



West Rutland, VT

St. Bridget’s Christmas Sale

Come to St. Bridget’s Church in West Rutland, VT on December 10th for their annual Christmas Sale in the Parish Hall from 9 am – 2:30 pm.

Twenty vendor tables with varied homemade crafts, photography, Pampered Chef, Avon, jewelry, and white elephants. There will be a bake sale and several large baskets and trees for raffle. Enjoy a wonderful lunch with many homemade soups and sandwiches while you shop.

St. Bridget Church Parish Hall is located at 28 Church St. Please call Jody for more information at (802) 438-5584. www.westrutlandcatholic.org.

GENE’S BARBER SHOP

Angeline M. Joyce—Master Barber
Over 50 Years Experience

Open Tues-Fri • Men \$10-12 • Ladies \$15 • Under 10 \$8-10
292 West St., Rutland, VT • (802) 747-4773

Conditions At Your Favorite Mountain?

SKI VERMONT
NEW ENGLAND’S BEST, NATURALLY

Visit the Ski Vermont website at:
www.skivermont.com



131 Strongs Ave. Rutland, VT
(802) 775-2552
www.emporiumvt.com

Humidified Premium Cigars
Hand Blown Glass Pipes
Hookahs & Shisha
Roll Your Own Tobacco & Supplies
Vaporizers & Concentrates
Smoking Accessories
E-Cigarettes, E-Supplies
& E-Liquids



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

Usul & Karuna Reiki
Healings & Classes
Lyme Disease Remedies
Tai’ Chi Gung Classes
at the store
Mon 2:30 p.m., Tues 5 p.m.



Meditations at the Store Wednesdays at 5 p.m.
Handmade Herbal Medicines
Crystals & Gemstones • Teas, Lotions, Capsules

518 Main St., W. Rutland, VT • (802) 438-2766
Tues & Wed 1-6, Thurs 11-4:40, Sat 1-6, Sun 1-4, closed Mon & Fri.
See us on Facebook and Twitter • www.vermonthherbal.com

Timberloft Farm Store

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



Open daily 10 am – 5 pm til December 24

Christmas Wreaths

— Handmade by Mary —

Apples and Winter Squash,
Jams and Pickles,
Wooden Tool Boxes and Aprons

Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, November 26, continued)

POULTNEY. Christmas Craft Fair. Beautiful handcrafted items and gifts, quilts, soap, jewelry and paintings, home baked goods and country treats, locally produced specialty foods, local fall apples and fresh cider, fresh balsam wreaths, maple syrup and Christmas decorations. Free admission. Sponsored by the Lakes Region Farmers Market. 10 am – 4 pm. Poultnery High School Gym, 153 E. Main St. (Rt. 140) just off Rt. 30. For info call Jamie Condrill at (802) 287-9570.

PUTNEY. The 38th Annual Putney Craft Tour. 10 am – 5 pm. Start tour at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. (802) 258-3992. www.putneycrafts.com. Also November 27.

QUECHEE. 3rd Annual Quechee Artisan Fair. Free admission. 10 am – 4 pm. At The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. quecheeclub.com. Also November 27.

RANDOLPH. Performance: No Strings Marionette Company Presents Jack and the Beanstalk. Tickets \$6. 11 am. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.

ST. ALBANS. 8th Annual Festival of Trees. Annual tree lighting in Taylor Park. A family event with activities, Christmas movies, music, and more, all in downtown St. Albans. 5 pm. (802) 309-4487. www.festivaloftreesvt.com. Through December 4.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Country Crafters Craft Fair. Over 50 crafters, bake/lunch sale and Christmas auction. Sponsored by the St. Johnsbury Area Lions Club. 10 am – 3pm. St. Johnsbury Academy Field House, Main St. (802) 274-3543.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House including preparations, menu, and entertainment. Holiday food programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also November 27.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

BARRE. 36th Annual Winter Festival of Vermont Crafters. 9 am – 3 pm. The Barre Auditorium, Auditorium Hill. Greaterbarrecraftguild.com.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.

BURLINGTON. Performance: *The Nutcracker*. Albany Berkshire Ballet presents its annual holiday classic. Tickets \$42-\$19. 1 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org.

BURLINGTON. The 27th Annual Women's Festival of Crafts. Free. 10 am – 4 pm, Burlington Town Center, 49 Church St. (802) 864-7528. womensfestivalofcrafts.com.

HUNTINGTON. Black BIRD Days Gift Shop Sale at The Birds of Vermont Museum. View live birds at the feeders and visit the grounds. Gift shop offers cards and carvings by Vermont artists and crafters, puzzles, T-shirts, books for birders and kids, coloring books, children's toys and stories. 10 am and 3 pm. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. museum@birdsofvermont.org. birdsofvermont.org.

KILLINGTON. Audi FIS Ski World Cup Weekend. Includes the women's giant slalom and slalom races and is expected to bring U.S. Ski Team superstars to compete against the best women's technical alpine skiers in the world. Free standing room access near the base of the Superstar trail. 7 am – 6 pm. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd. www.killington.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Concert: Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary. Tickets \$45-\$60, reserved seating. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Box office: (802) 382-9222, Monday-Saturday 12-5 pm. www.townhalltheater.org.

PUTNEY. The 38th Annual Putney Craft Tour. A Thanksgiving weekend celebrates food, cultural and artistic endeavors including a craft tour lunch or dinner "specials," performances by Next Stage Arts Project and Sandglass Theatre. 10 am – 5 pm. Start tour at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main St. for info, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans' works. (802) 258-3992. www.putneycrafts.com.

QUECHEE. 3rd Annual Quechee Artisan Fair. A juried craft fair with local artisans displaying and selling their wares. Free admission. 10 am – 2 pm. At The Quechee Club, 3268 Quechee Main St. (802) 295-9356. quecheeclub.com.

SOUTH ROYALTON. Christmas Lights Ceremony. More than 200,000 Christmas lights on display with lighting ceremonies with live animal program at 7 pm. Display runs thru New Year's Day. Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial, 357 Lds. Lane. (802) 763-7742. Also Nov. 28.

ST. ALBANS. 8th Annual Festival of Trees. Activities, Christmas movies, music, and more, all in downtown St. Albans. (802) 309-4487. www.festivaloftreesvt.com. Through December 4.

WOODSTOCK. Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm. Discover how Thanksgiving was observed in the 1890 Farm House including preparations, menu, and entertainment. Holiday food programs and activities. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

BURLINGTON. Performance: *Peter Rabbit*. Presented by Enchantment Theatre Company. Tickets \$15-\$25. 6 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-7992. flynncenter.org. Also November 27.

HANOVER, NH. Easy Fall Hike. South of Mink Brook. 2-3 miles, mostly level. Free, newcomers and non-members welcome. Sponsored by the Green Mountain Club. For meeting time and place, contact leader Inge Brown at (802) 280-8017. www.greenmountainclub.org.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

ST. ALBANS. 8th Annual Festival of Trees. A family event with activities, Christmas movies, music, and more, all in downtown St. Albans. (802) 309-4487. www.festivaloftreesvt.com. Through December 4.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

HANOVER, NH. Cirque Mechanics perform "Pedal Punk." Steampunk-inspired circus features spectacular feats on wheels of all sizes in a heart-racing ode to the bicycle. Tickets: \$13-\$40. 7 pm. Post-performance discussions with the artists. The Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. Also December 2.

Make It Sew

Dressmaking
Tailoring • Alterations

69 Center St., Rutland, VT
802-775-8200

Open Tues-Fri 10am-6pm,
Saturday 11am-4pm



Jennifer@makeitsewvt.com



Champlain
Appliance
Service

Bob Rogers
(802) 776-4148

**PARTS AND
SERVICE
FOR
MOST
MAJOR
BRANDS!**



15 YEARS
EXPERIENCE!

132 Granger Street • Rutland, VT

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

Rutland, VT

Vermont Farmers Market Holiday Shopping!

'Tis the season when the list of gifts, decorations and provisions for festive gatherings grows longer as the days grow shorter – so many purchases, so little time! And so many choices for your shopping needs.

This year, before you go online or get in line, why not visit Vermont's first, largest and most diverse all-winter farmers market now in full swing at the Vermont Farmers Food Center in Rutland, VT?

With its incredible variety of locally handmade prod-

ucts, including leather, glass and wood crafts, knitted, felted and crocheted items, the market is one-stop gift shopping at its finest. Cheeses, meats and an ever-changing bounty of seasonally available fruits and vegetables complete your holiday table.

Thanks to all the prepared and preserved foods, and baked goods of all kinds, you can count on some of your purchases not making it home. With Rutland's own talented singers and strummers providing background music, you can take a break,

have a seat, visit with friends or make new ones, and enjoy some lunch—or dessert.

And the best part is being able to have a conversation with the farmer, baker, or artisan whose heart and hard work went into what you're buying. When you shop at the farmers market, you're not just buying local products, but enjoying local stories, local connections, and well-being for one and all.

This year's Christmas Fair is held on December 10th at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, VT from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features an expanded selection of holiday vendors, while the farmers market has its regular hours on the same day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Vermont Farmers Food Center. Meet up with family and friends, make a day of

it and visit both locations. Prepare to smile a lot. You'll cross a lot off your holiday shopping list and will definitely bring home some new stories to tell.

The Winter Vermont Farmers Market is at the The Vermont Farmers Food Center at 251 West St. in Rutland. (802) 342-4727, e-mail marketmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org or visit www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

Check the Vermont Farmers Market Facebook page for updates on special happenings and lots of photos of what's available from week to week.

For more information on the Christmas Holiday Fair call (518) 796-2609 or (802) 342-4727. specialshowsmanager@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

RUTLAND AREA
Flea MARKET
INDOORS! YEAR-ROUND!

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Saturday & Sunday

December 3 & 4

10 & 12 17 & 18

10 AM 4 PM

Everything Antique,

Vintage, Retro,

New & Gently Used!

Choose from 1000s of unique items for

all your holiday shopping!

Traditional, funky or functional,

you're sure to find something special!

200 WEST ST. • RUTLAND

Corner Forest St. at R.R. Crossing

802-770-9104

Free Parking • Handicap Accessible

Watch for 2017 Schedule! Call or

www.facebook.com/RutlandAreaFleaMarket

Thank you, Friends, for your

continued support! We all wish for

you a most blessed Holiday Season!

Roseanne, Julia, Beth,
Barb, Martha, Rose, Debbie,
Boyd, Brenda, Tracy, Vicki,
Wendy, Courtney, and Tucker

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



Vermont
Campground
Association

32 Main St., #368
Montpelier VT 05602

info@campvermont.com
www.campvermont.com

**BOARDMAN HILL
FARM**
FRESH VEGETABLES
MEATS AND POULTRY
VERMONT CHEESES & MAPLE SYRUP

Boardman Hill Farm, West Rutland, VT

Over 25 varieties of organic products available through our CSA or Subscription Gardening. See us for local farm-raised beef, pork, and chicken. For information call (802) 683-4606.

Order Your Vermont Turkeys Now!

— See us at the —

Winter Farmers Market

Wednesdays 3-6 pm, starting November 2

Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, starting November 5

Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St

Vermont Country Calendar

LEBANON, NH. Performance: City Center Ballet presents *Clara's Dream & Clara's Tea*. Based on the classic ballet story, *The Nutcracker*. Tickets: adults \$32, \$24, \$16, student/children (18 & under) \$16/\$8. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org. *Also December 2, 3, 4.*

STOWE. Film: Bach's Christmas Oratorio. Performed by the Hamburg Ballet and Orchestra. Tickets: \$16. 7 pm. Running time: 180 minutes. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

BRATTLEBORO. Vermont Jazz Series Concert: The VJC Big Band and Wanda Houston: A Tribute to Ella. 17-piece big band pays tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, one of the greatest jazz singers of all time. Tickets \$20-\$40, students \$15 w/valid ID. 8 pm. Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill. (802) 254-9088. www.vtjazz.org.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. *Also December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.*

CHESTER. Meet the Grinch! Children and kids-at-heart will get to meet Dr. Seuss's meanest and greenest creation when the Grinch himself visits. 4 pm. Phoenix Books Misty Valley, 58 Common St. (802) 875-3400. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

ENFIELD, NH. Christmas Lights Display. 5-9 pm. No admission charged, donations accepted. Refreshments in cafeteria. La Salette Shrine, 410 Rt. 4A. (603) 632-7087. www.lasaletteofenfield.org. *Through December 31.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont International Festival. Crafts from all over the world, ethnic and gourmet foods, and international music, dance and stories. Admission: \$7, seniors and children \$5, under 6 free. 5-8 pm at Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. vermontinternationalfestival.com. *Also December 3 & 4.*

HANOVER, NH. Cirque Mechanics perform "Pedal Punk." Steampunk-inspired circus features spectacular feats on wheels of all sizes in a heart-racing ode to the bicycle. Tickets: \$13-\$40. 8 pm. Post-performance discussions with the artists. The Moore Theater, The Hopkins Center, 2 East Wheelock St. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu.

HANOVER, NH. Tree Lighting on the Dartmouth Green with Quebecois Singing & Dancing. Join Revels North at 5:30 pm singing carols as the holiday tree is lit. Free, with cookies and hot chocolate. 4-8 pm. Dartmouth Green. (866) 556-3083. hop.dartmouth.edu. revelsnorth.org.

KILLINGTON. Vermont Holiday Festival. Santa's Workshop: decorating ornaments, reading stories and Santa! Festival of trees. Sleigh rides. Jack Frost Marketplace. Live music. Free admission with non-perishable food item, \$10 per adult without a donation, \$5 ages 12+ without a donation, 11 & under free; Santa's Workshop \$10 per child. 4-8 pm. Killington Grand Resort Hotel, 228 E. Mountain Rd. (802) 773-4181. killingtonpico.org. *Also December 3.*

LEBANON, NH. Performance: City Center Ballet presents *Clara's Dream & Clara's Tea*. Based on the classic ballet story, *The Nutcracker*. Tickets: adults \$32, \$24, \$16, student/children (18 & under) \$16/\$8. 7:30 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. www.lebanonoperahouse.org. *Also December 3, 4.*

SHELburne. Artisan Market. For adults and older teens. Over 60 artisans, decorate your own wreath, savory treats and live music. Admission free. 10:30 am - 3 pm. Lake Champlain Waldorf School, 359 Turtle Lane. (802) 985-2827. www.lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org.

STOWE. A Traditional Christmas—Annual Alpine-style Christmas Festival. Lantern parade and tree lighting, artisan market, "The Gingerbread Man" puppet show, visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus and a real-life reindeer, ugly sweater party, holiday author's reading, carolers, hay rides, candy cane twisting and holiday cookie decorating, indoor free skate, warm holiday beverages & sweet treats. 10 am - 5 pm. Downtown Stowe. (802) 253-7321. www.stoweivibrancy.com. *Through December 3.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

BENNINGTON. The Festival Gala: Reimagining Grandma Moses. Music and conversation, festive cuisine, fine wine, delicious cocktails and, of course, the silent auction. Free babysitting on site. 7-10 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. A Christmas Carol: Readers Theatre Style. Director Gary Meitrott adapts Readers Theater to include costuming and movement by the actors. With simple, yet elegant, Victorian furniture and costuming, five actors bring all of the characters to life using Dickens' original words. \$15 adults, \$9 age 11-18, children under 10 free. 7:30 pm. Oldcastle Theatre, 331 Main St. (802) 447-0564. www.ShakespeareOnMainStreet.org. *Also December 4.*

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Royalton Pre-School is holding a bake sale in the heated Christmas Barn from 9 am - 3 pm. Hot food, hot beverages and delicious array of baked items are available. Eat well, take some home, all for a worthy cause. Local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. *Also December 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.*

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont International Festival. Crafts from all over the world, ethnic and gourmet foods, and international music, dance and stories. Admission: \$7, seniors and children \$5, under 6 free. 10 am - 6 pm at Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. vermontinternationalfestival.com. *Also December 4.*

GRANVILLE, NY. 5th Annual Slate Valley Festival of Trees Opening Celebration. See our decorated trees. Hear carolers, enjoy cookies and hot chocolate. Free holiday art activity for children, free children's bag of goodies. 10 am - 4 pm Saturdays. 1-5 pm daily, The Slate Valley Museum, Downtown at 17 Water St. (518) 642-1417. slatevalleymuseum.org. *Exhibit through December 10.*

KILLINGTON. Vermont Holiday Festival. Santa's Workshop, festival of trees, sleigh rides, Jack Frost Marketplace, music. Free admission with non-perishable food item, \$10 adult without a donation, \$5 ages 12+ without a donation, 11 & under free; Santa's Workshop \$10 per child. 4-8 pm. Killington Grand Resort Hotel, 228 E. Mountain Rd. (802) 773-4181. killingtonpico.org.

LEBANON, NH. Performance: City Center Ballet presents *Clara's Dream & Clara's Tea*. Based on the classic ballet story, *The Nutcracker*. Clara's Dream was created especially for our Upper Valley audience. For Clara's Tea enjoy a light bite before the performance. Tickets: adults \$32, \$24, \$16, student/children (18 & under) \$16/\$8. 1 & 4 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org. *Also December 4.*

LUNENBURG. Annual Gingerbread Bazaar. Door prizes, games and contests, with great prizes. Vendors offering decorations, birdhouses and other woodenware, ornaments, dried soup gift jars, candles, Scentsy items, Angry Coffee Roasters goodies, painted products, Historic items and Lunenburg T-shirts. Homemade delicacies. Soup and bread luncheon. 10 am - 3 pm. Lunenburg Primary School, right off Route 2 in the center of Lunenburg. (802) 892-6654. www.topofthecommon.org.

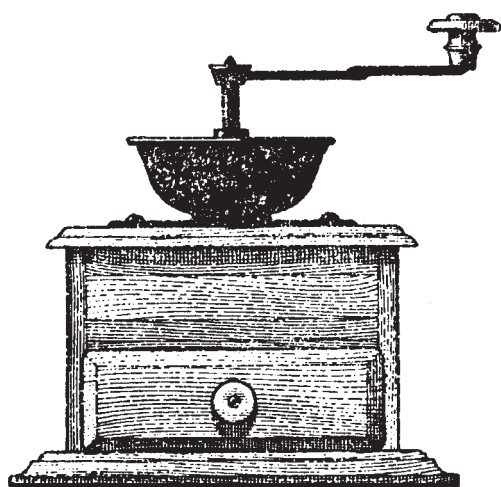
MANCHESTER. Tractor Parade Weekend. From Memorial Ave. to Equinox Terrace. 5-6 pm. (802) 362-6313. visitmanchestervt.com.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Holiday Open House. 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 the early 1900's. Museum store in our 100-year-old carriage barn! Apple cider, Vermont tastings & fresh cider doughnuts. Open daily 9:30 am-4:30 pm. Admission \$20 adults; children 6 to 14, \$5; under 6, free. No admission for welcome center and museum store. Rt. 7A. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. www.hildene.org. *Also December 4.*

PERKINSVILLE. Live Music Friday. With Steve Ellis on guitar. A truly unique farm-to-table dining experience. 7-9 pm. The Inn at Weathersfield, 1342 Rte 106. Call for reservations: (802) 263-9217. www.weathersfieldinn.com.

PERKINSVILLE. Cookies and Cocktails Cooking Class. With chef/cooking instructor/baker Molly Pam. Menu: eggnog spritz cookies, cranberry rugelach, gingerbread snowflakes with juniper royal icing, toffee bars, chocolate rum balls. Cocktails: eggnog, pear and ginger bellini, cranberry whiskey sour. Fee: \$55. 10 am - 1 pm. The Inn at Weathersfield, 1342 Rt. 106. Call for reservations: (802) 263-9217. www.weathersfieldinn.com.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Floating Bridge Food & Farms Annual Holiday Market & Tree Cutting. 11 am - 3 pm. At the Red Schoolhouse at the Vermont Technical College Campus. Christmas tree cutting at L.H. Stowell & Son Tree Farm in Brookfield. (802) 276-0787. floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com. *Also December 4.*



Be the star of your next holiday party

VT cheeses | fresh produce | quality snacks | great wines

Rutland Area Food Co-op
Open daily | 77 Wales St., Rutland
802.773.0737 | rutlandcoop.com

Jump Fore Fun

Indoor Family Fun & Party Center

Indoor Mini-Golf • Party Rooms
5 Bounce Houses • Rentals
132 Granger St., Rutland, VT
(802) 772-7339 • www.jumpforefun.com

Public Play Hours — call for times

Pyramid
Holistic Wellness Center

Give the GIFT of WELLNESS...

Pyramid Gift Certificates available for Massage, Salt Cave or for the Wellness Marketplace.

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

Bald Mountain Farm
Commercial & Custom Cut Meat

Fresh • Local • Home Grown • Humane
Specializing in Black Angus Beef
Poultry, Venison & Exotic Meats

Black Angus Meatloaf Made to Order
Homemade Crème Brûlée
Lemon & Apple Cakes

Farm-to-table: we use only local ingredients.
Wed-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-2
28 Cold River Rd., N. Clarendon, VT
Theo Hubbard, III • HubbardTheo@gmail.com • 802-417-4922

VERMONT FARMERS MARKET

Rutland Winter Market
251 West St., Rutland, VT
www.vtfarmersmarket.org

Come See What We Offer!
Do Your Holiday Shopping Here. Everything For Your Holiday Table!

Fresh, locally-grown farm products and hand-crafts!
Winter Squash, Pumpkins, Onions, Potatoes, Kale, Broccoli, Cabbages, Carrots, Beets, Lettuces, Herbs.
Apples, Pears, Cider, Jams & Jellies, Maple.
Baked Goods including Gluten-free.
Farm Fresh Eggs, Poultry and Meats.
Many Kinds of Vermont Wines and Cheeses.
Delicious Prepared Foods. Crafts, Jewelry, Knits.

Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm, thru May 6
Wednesdays 3-6 pm, thru May 3

Vermont's first, largest and most diverse all-winter farmers market!
— EBT, DEBIT, & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED —

Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, December 3, continued)

RIPTON. Open mic followed by featured performer: Jory Nash. An award-winning singer-songwriter, storyteller, and recording artist who blends elements of folk, jazz, blues, pop & soul. Delicious homemade baked goods, tea & coffee. \$10 admission, \$3 kids under 12. 7 pm. Ripton Community Coffee House, Rte. 125. (802) 388-9782. rccch.org.

RUPERT. Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop. Fee: \$20 per wreath. 9 am – 12 pm and 1-4 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Meet the Grinch! Children and kids-at-heart will get to meet Dr. Seuss's meanest and greenest creation when the Grinch himself visits. 10 am. Phoenix Books Rutland, 2 Center St. (802) 855-8078. phoenixbooks.biz.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.

SHELBURNE. Annual Holiday Fair. Huge artisan market, holiday singing, children's craft making, storytelling, magical activities, games, African drumming, homemade bistro food and more! Admission free. 10:30 am – 3 pm. Lake Champlain Waldorf School, 359 Turtle Ln. (802) 985-2827. www.lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org.

SO. BENNINGTON. Holiday Wreath Making Workshop. Music, cocoa and cookies while you work. May be outside; please dress for the weather. Fee. Please pre-register. 10 am – 1 pm. One World Conservation Center, 413 VT Rte. 7 South. (802) 447-7419. oneworldconservationcenter.org.

STOWE. A Traditional Christmas—Annual Alpine-style Christmas Festival. 10 am – 5 pm. Downtown Stowe. (802) 253-7321. www.stoweivibrancy.com. Through December 3.

STOWE. Concert: Scottish master fiddler Alasdair Fraser & cellist Natalie Haas. Haunting laments from the Gaelic tradition to classically-styled airs. Tickets: \$20, \$27 & \$31 regular, \$37 premium. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

ST. ALBANS. 8th Annual Festival of Trees. Annual tree lighting in Taylor Park. Activities, Christmas movies, music, and more, all in downtown St. Albans. 5 pm. (802) 309-4487. festivaloftreesvt.com. Through December 4.

WEST WINDSOR. Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon. Fiddle music in the morning by Adam Boyce. 9 am – 2 pm. Town Hall, 22 Brownsville-Hartland Rd. (802) 484-5944. www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION. Selections from the 2016 Maine International Film Festival with special guests Ken Eisen and Karen Young. 3-10 pm. Briggs Opera House, 5 S. Main St. (802) 281-3785. wrif.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 4, 17, 18 & December 24 through January 1.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Bake sale hosted by the East Randolph Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary with chili, mac 'n cheese, homemade soups, pies, baked goods, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.

BURLINGTON. Music for the Winter Holidays with Full Circle, a group of five women who play medieval, Renaissance, Celtic, folk, and holiday music. Listen and browse. Free. 2-4 pm. Phoenix Books, 191 Bank St. (802) 448-3350. www.phoenixbooks.biz.

COLCHESTER. Concert: "Vermont's Own" 40th Army Band Concert Band performing "Holiday Treasures." Free. 2 pm. St. Michael's College's McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall, One Winooski Park. (802) 338-3480.

ESSEX. Meet the Grinch! Children and kids-at-heart will get to meet Dr. Seuss's meanest and greenest creation when the Grinch himself visits. All ages are welcome to bring a camera and get a photo taken with the Grinch. 12 pm. Phoenix Books, 22 Essex Way. (802) 872-7111. phoenixbooks.biz.

ESSEX JUNCTION. Vermont International Festival. Crafts from all over the world, ethnic and gourmet foods, and international music, dance and stories. Local cultural and ethnic organizations provide information about their programs with exhibits, demonstrations and workshops. Admission: \$7, seniors and children \$5, under 6 free. 10 am – 5 pm at Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St. (802) 863-6713. www.vermontinternationalfestival.com.

LEBANON, NH. Performance: City Center Ballet presents *Clara's Dream & Clara's Tea*. Based on *The Nutcracker*. For Clara's Tea enjoy a light bite before the performance. Tickets: adults \$32, \$24, \$16, student/children (18 & under) \$16/\$8. 1 & 4 pm. Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. (603) 448-0400. lebanonoperahouse.org.

MANCHESTER. Hildene Holiday Open House. 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 the early 1900's. Apple cider, Vermont tastings & fresh cider doughnuts. The fragrance of pine boughs & sounds of the season. Distinctive holiday gifts in the Museum Store. Open daily 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Admission \$20 adults; children 6 to 14, \$5; under 6, free. No admission for welcome center and museum store in our 100-year-old carriage barn!. Rt. 7A. (802) 362-1788. info@hildene.org. www.hildene.org.

RANDOLPH CENTER. Floating Bridge Food & Farms Annual Holiday Market & Tree Cutting. 11 am – 3 pm. At the Red Schoolhouse at the Vermont Technical College Campus. Christmas tree cutting at L.H. Stowell & Son Tree Farm in Brookfield. (802) 276-0787. Floatingbridgefoodandfarms.com.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am – 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. Every Saturday and Sunday.

SHELBURNE. Winter Gifts. Learn how to make easy, holiday goodies, and create "green" crafts with natural and recycled materials. Children ages 5 and up. Registration required. Cost: \$23, \$17 each additional child. Two sessions: 9:30-11:30 am & 12:30-2:30 pm. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. (802) 985-8686. cwright@shelburnefarms.org. www.shelburnefarms.org.

ST. ALBANS. 8th Annual Festival of Trees. Annual tree lighting in Taylor Park. A family event with activities, Christmas movies, music, and more, all in downtown St. Albans. 5 pm. (802) 309-4487. www.festivaloftreesvt.com. Through December 4.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings 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. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 17, 18 & December 24 through January 1.

Give the Gift of
MOBILITY
this season!

Give a gift your loved ones
may never give themselves...
A loving helping hand
that they'll appreciate
for many years to come!



Lift
Chairs
on SALE
\$595
NOW THRU
CHRISTMAS

Smilin' Steve's

RUTLAND PHARMACY
75 Allen St., Rutland, VT • 802-775-2545
SPRINGFIELD PHARMACY
262 River St., Springfield, VT • 802-885-6400
LUDLOW PHARMACY
Okemo Marketplace RT 103,
Ludlow, VT • 802-228-2500



www.smilinsteve.com

Vermont Farmer's Market presents its

Christmas Holiday Fair

Holiday Inn, Rte. 7, Rutland, VT
Saturday, December 10th • 9 am - 4 pm

DISTINCTIVE CRAFTS

Fresh Balsam Wreaths, Christmas Decor, Art Work, Paintings, Fabrics, Recycled Crafts, Wooden Ware, Pottery, Dog Items, Felt Tote Market Bags, Herbal Items, Soap, Jewelry, Candles, Dolls Clothes, Hats and Quilts.

COUNTRY BAKER'S TREATS

Sweet Breads, Pies, Pastries, Cookies, Fudge, & Cider Donuts

GOURMET SPECIALTY FOODS

Maple Syrup, Sugar, & Specialties. Jams, Jellies, Salsas, Fudge, Meats, Marinades, Dressings, Distilled Spirits.

PREPARED FOODS

FALL VEGGIES

Apples, Cider, Brussels Sprouts, Potatoes, Squash.

ALWAYS FREE ADMISSION

www.vtfarmersmarket.org  Find us on Facebook

See more crafts at one of the largest
and most diverse farmers markets in Vermont:
The Rutland Winter Farmers Market
Every Sat 10-2 thru May 6 and Wed 3-6 thru May 3
251 West St., downtown Rutland, VT.



103 Artisans Marketplace

We are filled to the brim with
handcrafted gifts for all
12 days of Christmas!
Stocking stuffers, office,
and hostess gifts, as well as those on
Santa's 'nice' list.

Enjoy a delightful lunch freshly
prepared in our **GreenLeaf Cafe**.
Open Thursday-Sunday 11 am - 4 pm
Menu changes weekly on FB.

The Marketplace

Open every day 10 am - 5 pm
(closed Tuesdays)

Route 103, Chester, VT
One mile south of the green
802-875-7400

103artisansmarketplace.com



Vermont Country Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

BURLINGTON. 12th Annual Winter Tales. Produced by Vermont Stage. Pour yourself a cup of hot cider and grab a plate of molasses cookies. Featuring poetry by the Young Writers Project, and songs written and performed by Patti Casey and Pete Sutherland. Tickets: \$28.80-\$55. 7:30 pm. FlynnSpace, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnntix.org. Also December 8, 9 & 10.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

BRANDON. Concert: The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble. An a cappella group from Russia presents "Masterpieces of Russian Choral Music: From Baroque to Classical." Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. brandon-music.net.

BURLINGTON. Vienna Boys Choir Concert. Tickets: \$15-\$55. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

BARRE. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert. Excerpts from Messiah, traditional favorites, and a carol singalong, the program includes a marvelous piece by Sowah Mensah from Ghana that features African percussion. Tickets: \$30/\$24/\$10. 7:30 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also December 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.

PERKINSVILLE. Live Music Friday with Draa Hobbs on guitar. A truly unique farm-to-table dining experience. 7-9 pm. The Inn at Weathersfield, 1342 Rte 106. Call for reservations: (802) 263-9217. www.weathersfieldinn.com.

WILLISTON. Concert: Brick Church Music Series—Carol Ann Jones Quartet, country/swing for the holidays. Tickets: \$14/\$12. 7 pm, doors at 6 pm. Old Brick Church, 100 Library Ln. (802) 764-1141. www.town.williston.vt.us.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend at Billings Farm. Tour the festively decorated 1890 Farm House and make an historic ornament as a memento of your visit. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides (weather permitting) on Sunday. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. Through December 11.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

BELLOWS FALLS. Concert: The Fire and the Ecstasy—The Music of Hildegard of Bingen. With Ruth Cunningham, Melinda Gardiner and Lesslie Lassetter. Tickets: \$35, \$17 and \$13. 7:30 pm. Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. (802) 460-0110. www.stonechurcharts.org.

BENNINGTON. Family Day at The Festival: Reimagining Grandma Moses. Enjoy crafts and more. Any child who brings school supplies to be donated, is admitted free. Children's Shopping Boutique, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, for children ages 4 to 12, price range from \$1 to \$10. Free gift-wrapping and gift tags included. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 1-3 pm. Bake sale. Children's Creative Classroom Creations—take a chance on pieces designed by children and inspired by Grandma Moses artwork. Sale for adults, 15% off. \$3 admission. 10 am - 3:30 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. benningtonmuseum.org.

BENNINGTON. St. Peter's Episcopal Church 76th Annual Christmas Tea. Fundraiser, with our best cookies and tea sandwiches along with tea, coffee and punch. The parish hall has been transformed into a beautiful candlelight tea room adorned with pine trees and wreaths, and the breathtaking high tea table. Christmas Shop for holiday shopping. Admission \$7.50, children 4-10 \$4.50, under 5 free. 3-5 pm. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St. (802) 442-2911.

BRANDON. A Christmas Carol. Readers Theatre Style. Director Gary Meitrott adapts Readers Theater to include costuming and movement by the actors, adding a dramatic element to the performance. With simple, yet elegant, Victorian furniture and costuming, five actors bring all of the characters to life using Dickens' original words. \$15 adults, \$9 age 11-18, children under 10 free. 2 & 7:30 pm. Brandon Town Hall Theatre, One Conant Square. (802) 282-2581. www.ShakespeareOnMainStreet.org. Also December 4.

BRANDON. Concert: Sarah Blacker, singer-songwriter. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. info@brandon-music.net. www.brandon-music.net.



BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. The United Federated Church Youth Group is conducting a bake sale in the heated Christmas Barn barn from 9 am - 3 pm. Hot food, hot beverages and a very tasty array of baked items such as whole pies are offered. Local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also December 11, 16, 17, 18, 23.

BURLINGTON. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert. Tickets: \$15-\$52. 7:30 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. flynnntix.org.

ESSEX. Second Annual Barn Lighting and Flock Move-In-Day. Hot chocolate, cider and a bonfire. Farmer John and Laddie, the Sheepdog read Sweet Pea's books. Free. 4-6 pm. Moonrise Farm, 15 Gray Way. (802) 899-2000. john@brickhousestudios.com. www.sweetpeafriends.com.

MANCHESTER. Inn Tour Weekend. Historic inns throughout Manchester, Dorset, and Arlington will be open for visitors. Each location plays host in a unique way, making for a cozy and fun Saturday afternoon in the country. Inn tours with 13 participating inns, 1-5 pm, tickets \$15/\$35. (802) 362-6313. visitmanchestervt.com.



Hidden Springs Maple Farm Store

Maple Syrup Tasting Table • Samples
Gifts • Hand-Dipped Ice Cream
Sales Table



162 Westminster Road, Putney, VT
See website for current hours
802-387-5200 • hiddenspringsmaple.com



VERMONT

MARBLE
MUSEUM
&
GIFT SHOP

CHRISTMAS SALE!

December 3, 10, 17 & 24
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Danby White
Oval Boards
ALL Cheese Tools
Verde Mini Bud Vases
Verde Paper
Towel Holders
Verde 6" Salt Shaker
& Pepper Mill Set

Great selection of special Vermont Products

52 Main Street, Proctor, VT
Tues-Sat 9-3 • (802) 459-2750
www.vermontmarblemuseum.org

STONE REVIVAL



Gallery & Gifts

1354 Route 100, Stockbridge, VT
(10 miles north of Killington on Route 100)
www.stonerevival.com • (802) 746-8110



NORTHSHIRE BOOKSTORE

Thanks
for
shopping
local!

Gifts

FOR ALL AGES

A WHOLE FLOOR JUST FOR KIDS!

SHOP ANYTIME ONLINE:

www.NORTHSHIRE.com

4869 Main St, Manchester Center, Vermont | OPEN 10 AM-7 PM DAILY, Fri/Sat to 9 PM | 802.362.2200

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 will be open December 2nd, Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10-3 or by appointment or chance.

580 Route 140W, Tinmouth, VT
vermontwreath.com • (802) 446-3333 • vtwreaths@vermontel.net

Vermont Country Calendar

(Saturday, December 10, continued)

MANCHESTER. Concert: Northshire Voices performs its inaugural concert entitled Winter Serenade, with members of the First Congregational Church's Chancel Choir and Tall Spire Ringers. 4 pm. First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. (802) 768-8144. dolivoanne@gmail.com. fecmanchester.org.

MONTPELIER. 12th Annual Touch of Vermont Holiday Gift Market. Nearly 45 Vermont artisans and specialty food makers. Admission free. 9 am - 4 pm. City Hall, 39 Main St. www.touchofvt.org.

NORWICH. Contradance. Featuring music by "Clayfoot Strutters" with caller Mary Wesley. Admission \$12, students \$9, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8-11 pm. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org. Also December 31.

PEACHAM. Annual Santa, Crafts and Latkes Party. For the whole family. Start the morning with crafts, followed by a visit from the man in red, and end with a feast of latkes and applesauce. 10 am - 12 pm. Peacham Library, 656 Bayley-Hazen Rd. (802) 592-3216. peachamlibrary.org.

PLYMOUTH. Coolidge Holiday Open House. 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: adults \$9, children 6-14 \$2, children under 6 free, family pass (up to 8 people) \$25. 10 am - 4 pm. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 VT Rt. 100A. (802) 672-3773. historicites.vermont.gov.

RANDOLPH. Sweetback Sisters Country Christmas Singalong Spectacular. Audience participation. Tickets: adult \$22, student \$11. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org. www.thesweetbacksisters.com.

RUPERT. Thoreau Cabin-Building Joinery Workshop. Tool use, timber-framing, and mortise & tenon. Nominal fee. Call for details. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.

RUTLAND. Christmas Holiday Craft Fair. Sponsored by the Vermont Farmers Market. Distinctive crafts, baked goods, gourmet specialty foods prepared foods, fall veggies. Free admission. 9 am - 4 pm. Holiday Inn, Rt. 7. www.vtfarmersmarket.org.

ST. JOHNSBURY. Victorian Holiday Open House. Holiday sweets, crafts for giving and for decorating, singing, special planetarium presentations, and lots of good cheer. Free. 1:30-4 pm. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.discoverstjohnsbury.com.

WEST RUTLAND. St. Bridget's Christmas Sale. Twenty vendor tables with varied homemade crafts, photography, Pampered Chef, Avon, jewelry, white elephants, and bake sale. Enjoy lunch with many homemade soups and sandwiches while you shop. 9 am - 2:30 pm. In the Parish Hall, The Parish of St. Bridget, 28 Church St. (802) 438-5584. www.westrutlandcatholic.org.

WOODSTOCK. Concert: Irish Christmas in America. Irish ballads, lively instrumental tunes and Irish dancing, with singer Séamus Begley and Sligo's Niamh Farrell. Adults \$35, seniors \$30, 17 & under \$15. 8 pm. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. (802) 457-3981. pentanglearts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend at Billings Farm. Tour the 1890 Farm House and make an historic ornament. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides (weather permitting) on Sunday. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also December 11.

WOODSTOCK. Concert: Cello by Candlelight. An evening of solo cello for the Solstice with Eugene Friesen. Tickets \$15 at the door only. 7:30 pm. North Universalist Chapel, 7 Church St. (802) 457-2557. northchapelvt.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Bake Sale sponsored by Ineract, a Rotary-sponsored program. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also December 16, 17, 18, 23.

POULTNEY. A Christmas Carol. Director Gary Meitrott adapts Readers Theater to include costuming and movement by the actors. Five actors bring all of the characters to life using Dickens' original words. \$15 adults, \$9 age 11-18, children under 10 free. 2 & 7:30 pm. Stone Valley Arts Center, 145 E. Main St. (802) 282-2581. www.ShakespeareOnMainStreet.org.

RUTLAND. Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert. Tickets: adults \$32-\$20; AARP \$20-\$16; students \$10. 3 pm. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

WEST PAWLET. Pancake Breakfast. To benefit the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept. Pancakes and local maple syrup, waffles, home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon, coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. \$10 for ages 12 and up; \$5 for 5-12; free under 5 yrs. 7:30-11 am. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept., Rt. 153, Main St. (802) 345-4312.

WOODSTOCK. Wassail Weekend at Billings Farm. Tour the festively decorated 1890 Farm House and make an historic ornament. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.

WOODSTOCK. Annual Messiah Sing. A stirring rendition of the Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah. The audience joins in for the choruses. Suggested donation \$10. 4-6 pm. Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, 7 South St. (802) 457-2322. www.ourladyofthesnows.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

RUTLAND. Annual Gingerbread Construction Competition. This year's theme is Animal Kingdom. Entry Deadline: Saturday, December 10 by 3 pm. See the exhibit on Wednesday-Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday, 11 am - 3 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. rfranzoni@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. Through December 23.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.

WARREN. Holidays with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet/Counterpoint. Enjoy the spirit of the season with a perfect blend of voice and brass. 7:30 pm. Warren United Church. For tickets: (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

BENNINGTON. Museum ABCs: Paintings and poems inspired by paintings, paintings inspired by poems. Story time in the galleries for preschool children and their families. Free. 1:30-2:30 pm. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org.

Mendon Mountain ORCHARDS

Homemade Apple Pies \$14

Order Now

For the Holidays!

Fresh Apple Cider
Apples • Pumpkins

Open 7 Days • Route 4, Mendon, VT
3 miles east of Rutland
(802) 775-5477

Head over Heels In Business Since 1996
Gymnastics, Tumbling
Cheerleading, Fitness
Open Gyms, 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, 2014, 2015

Brandon, VT

St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble Hosted by Brandon Music

The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble, an a cappella group from Russia, presents a concert of "Masterpieces of Russian Choral Music: from Baroque to Classical" at Brandon Music Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. as part of their popular annual tour through the U.S.

The first part of the program will be sacred music of the Russian Orthodox Church with pieces from the early 17th to the 20th century including part of Rachmaninov's 'All Night Vigil'.

Hailed as Rachmaninoff's finest achievement and "the greatest musical achievement of the Russian Orthodox Church", the piece was composed in less than two weeks in 1915.

The second part of the concert presents Russian art song, from such well known

composers as Glinka, Arensky, Tchaikovsky and others.

The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble formed as an independent group in 2003. This talented quartet has developed an extensive repertoire encompassing works from ancient Russian chants and chorals of Western Europe to modern music. The Ensemble is comprised of Kirill Sokolov, Sergey Shapinskiy, Andrei Volikov, and Vadim Smantser.

Tickets are \$20. A pre-concert dinner is \$25. Reservations recommended for the show, required for dinner. Venue is BYOB.

Call (802) 247-4295 for reservations or for more information.

Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. Brandon, VT. www.brandon-music.net.

HOLIDAY POPS

VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHORUS

José Daniel Flores-Caraballo director
Anthony Princiotti conductor

December 9, 7:30 pm Barre Opera House, Barre
December 10, 7:30 pm Flynn Center, Burlington
December 11, 3:00 pm Paramount Theatre, Rutland

VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Jaime Laredo Music Director
vso.org

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 41 Years in Business

Vermont Country Calendar

HANOVER, NH. The Christmas Revels: A French Canadian Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Tickets: \$25/32/38/46, 18 and under \$11/13/15/20. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. RevelsNorth.org. Also December 16, 17 & 18.

STOWE. Holiday Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet and Counterpoint Vocal Ensemble. 7:30 pm. Stowe Community Church, 137 Main St. For tickets call (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

BARNARD. 6th Annual Winter Carols. Choir and instrumental performances and community sing-alongs in a candle lit 18th Century Church. Free. 7 pm. First Universalist Church, 6211 VT Rt. 12. (802) 234-1645. info@barnarts.org. www.barnarts.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Performance: *The Flying Nut—Bratt in the Bayous.* The Nutcracker featuring performers from Youth Performance troupes and New England Center for Circus Arts Professional Training programs. Cost: \$10–\$25. 7–9 pm. New England Center for Circus Arts, 209 Austine Dr. (802) 254-9780. necenterforcircusarts.org. Also December 17 & 18.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. lhstrees.com. Also December 17, 18, 23.

HANOVER, NH. The Christmas Revels: A French Canadian Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Tickets: \$25/32/38/46, 18 and under \$11/13/15/20. 7 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. RevelsNorth.org. Also December 17 & 18.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Does Christmas. The best area singers present the songs you know and love (and several you don't know) in jazzy new arrangements, backed by a swingin' 6-piece band. Tickets \$20. 7 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. www.townhalltheater.org. Also December 17.

RANDOLPH. Concert: Darlingside. A widely popular Boston-based Americana quartet. Kris Gruin, from Montpelier Vermont, opens the show. Adult \$22, student \$11. 7:30 pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. (802) 728-6464. www.chandler-arts.org.

TINMOUTH. Contra Dance. The Tartan Raiders with Joanne Garton on fiddle and Brendan Taaffe on guitar, and Mary Wesley calling. Admission \$10, \$8 for teens, 12 and under free. Refreshments. 8-11 pm at Tinmouth Community Center, Rt. 140. (802) 446-2928. tinmouthvt.org. Every third Friday through May 2017.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

BRANDON. Concert: Maple Jam, a cappella. Tickets \$20. Pre-concert dinner available for \$25. Reservations recommended for the show and required for dinner. Venue is BYOB. 7:30 pm. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. (802) 247-4295. www.brandon-music.net.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. lhstrees.com. Also December 18, 23.

BURLINGTON. Vermont's Own "Nutcracker." Presented by the Vermont Ballet Theater. Tickets: \$36–\$23. 2 & 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org. Also December 18.

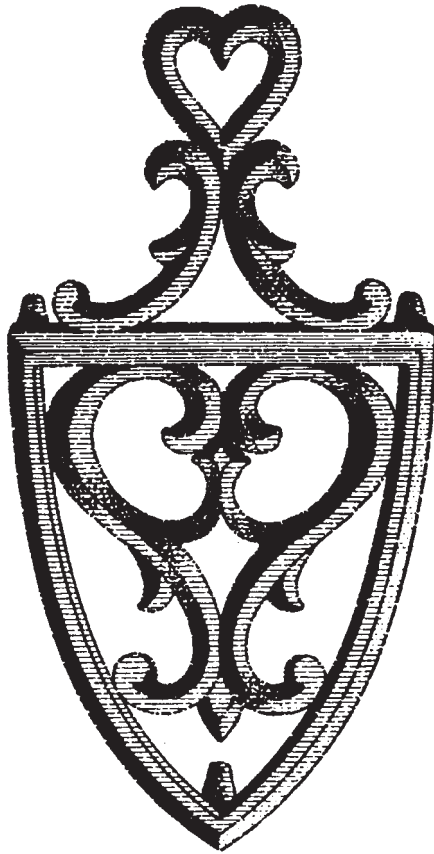
GRAFTON. Holiday Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet and Counterpoint Vocal Ensemble. 5 pm. White Church. Tickets: (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

HANOVER, NH. The Christmas Revels: A French Canadian Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Tickets: \$25/32/38/46, 18 and under \$11/13/15/20. 1 & 5 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. RevelsNorth.org. Also December 18.

MANCHESTER. Elf Express Weekend. Green Mountain Train Rides. Family entertainment on board from Santa and his elves. Entertainment, surprises, and refreshments. Sponsored by The Manchester Lions Club. Departures at 12 pm. R.K. Miles Depot Station, 670 Depot St. (802) 362-6313. visitmanchestervt.com.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury Does Christmas. The best area singers present the songs you know and love (and several you don't know) in jazzy new arrangements, backed by a swingin' 6-piece band. Tickets \$20. 2 pm. Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. (802) 388-1436. www.townhalltheater.org.

ROCHESTER. Opening Reception for Two New Exhibits. "Figuration featuring paintings by Mark Goodwin and Lucy Mink-Covello, and "Landscape and Figure" showcasing Fulvio Testa's watercolors. Reception 3-5 pm. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. BigTown Gallery, 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. www.bigtowngallery.com. On exhibit through Valentine's Day.



RUPERT. Holiday Ornament-Making Workshop. Fee: \$5. 9:30-11:30 am. Soap-making workshop, fee \$15, 1-2:30 pm. Merck Forest and Farmland, 3270 Rt. 315, west of Manchester. (802) 394-7836. merckforest.org.

RUTLAND. Holiday Party and Reception for Annual Gingerbread Construction Competition. This year's theme is Animal Kingdom. 1-3 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. rfranconi@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. Saturdays through April 29.

STOWE. Concert: Christmas in Ireland with the McLean Avenue Band. Traditional Irish tunes and ballads with elements of rock, pop, and r&b. Dancers from the Heather Morris Celtic Dance Academy and singers from the Bishop John A. Marshall School. Tickets: \$20, \$42 & \$48 regular, \$54 premium. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WATERBURY. Solaris Holiday Concert: "Here We Come a Wassailing!" Admission. 7:30 pm. Waterbury Congregational Church at The White Meeting House, 8 N. Main St. (802) 244-6606. director@solarisensemble.org. www.solarisensemble.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings 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. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. Also December 18 & December 24 through January 1.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

BRATTLEBORO. Performance: *The Flying Nut—Bratt in the Bayous.* The Nutcracker featuring performers from Youth Performance troupes and NECCA's Professional Training programs. Dance to washboards and banjos, adventure with voodoo kings, carnival march to the swamp of sweets! Cost: \$10–\$25. 1 & 5 pm. New England Center for Circus Arts, 209 Austine Dr. (802) 254-9780. info@necenterforcircusarts.com. necenterforcircusarts.org.

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am – 4 pm. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com. Also December 23.

BURLINGTON. Solaris Holiday Concert: "Here We Come a Wassailing!" Admission. 3 pm. College Street Congregational Church. (802) 244-6606. director@solarisensemble.org. www.solarisensemble.org.

HANOVER, NH. The Christmas Revels: A French Canadian Celebration of the Winter Solstice. Tickets: \$25/32/38/46, 18 and under \$11/13/15/20. 1 & 5 pm. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center. (603) 646-2422. hop.dartmouth.edu. RevelsNorth.org.

MANCHESTER. Elf Express Weekend. Whimsical holiday Green Mountain Train Rides. Family entertainment on board from Santa and his elves. Entertainment, surprises, and refreshments. Sponsored by The Manchester Lions Club. Departures at 12 pm. R.K. Miles Depot Station, 670 Depot St. (802) 362-6313. www.visitmanchestervt.com. Also December 18.



→ Christmas Morning ←

If Bethlehem were here today,
Or this were very long ago,
There wouldn't be a winter time
Nor any cold or snow.

I'd run out through the garden gate,
And down along the pasture walk;
And off beside the cattle barns
I'd hear a kind of gentle talk.

I'd move the heavy iron chain
And pull away the wooden pin;
I'd push the door a little bit
And tiptoe very softly in.

The pigeons and the yellow hens
And all the cows would stand away;
Their eyes would open wide to see
A lady in the manger hay.

If this were very long ago
And Bethlehem were here today.

And Mother held my hand and smiled —
I mean the lady would — and she
Would take the woolly blankets off
Her little boy so I could see.

His shut-up eyes would be asleep,
And he would look like our John,
And he would be all crumpled too,
And have a pinkish color on.

I'd watch his breath go in and out.
His little clothes would be all white.
I'd slip my finger in his hand
To feel how he could hold it tight.

And she would smile and say, "Take care,"
The mother, Mary, would, "Take care,"
And I would kiss his little hand
And touch his hair.

While Mary put the blankets back
The gentle talk would soon begin.
And when I'd tiptoe softly out
I'd meet the wise men coming in.

— ELIZABETH MADOX ROBERTS



JOIN THE VERMONT COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY

A 501(c)3 non-profit—
donations may be tax-deductible.

Join, donate, and participate
to help preserve our
historic covered bridges!

For more information, see www.vermontbridges.com and
[facebook.com/vermontcoveredbridgesociety](https://www.facebook.com/vermontcoveredbridgesociety)

COUNTRY STOVES

43A Woodstock Ave, Rutland, VT • (802) 775-6289
Complete Majestic—Vermont Castings Product Line

Pellet Stoves

Pacific Energy Products
Fireplace & Stove Furnishings
Metal Chimney Systems

Open Fri & Sat, 10 am – 5 pm



Service calls made on days the store is closed. Alan Currier, Owner.

**WINSLOW
FARMS
CHRISTMAS TREES**

Route 7
Pittsford
802-773-1003

All Sizes
Available

Cut-Your-Own
OPEN
10-4 Friday, Saturday, Sunday
After Thanksgiving

Vermont Country Calendar

(Sunday, December 18, continued)

MANCHESTER. Holiday Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet and Counterpoint Vocal Ensemble. Traditional favorites, a singalong, and student composition. 4 pm. First Congregational Church. For tickets call (802) 864-5741. vso.org.

RUTLAND. Albany Berkshire Ballet Presents "The Nutcracker." Tickets: \$30-\$40. 2 pm. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St. (802) 775-0903. paramountlive.org.

WEST WINDSOR. Advent Concert and Carol Sing. 5 pm. Brownsville Community Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd. (802) 484-5944. www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

BROOKFIELD. Christmas Tree Cutting. Already-cut or Choose & Cut. Wreaths and evergreen brush. Christmas Barn with local farm goodies, refreshments, maple, and more. See our electric train layout. 9 am - 4 pm. Call before coming after 12 noon. L.H. Stowell & Son Christmas Trees, 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. (802) 276-3382. www.lhstrees.com.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. (802) 342-4727. vtfarmersmarket.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. Also December 26 thru January 1.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

BURLINGTON. Reindeer Up Close. Vermont Reindeer Farm visits with live reindeer. Adults 18-59 \$13.50, children 3-17 \$10.50, seniors and college students \$11.50, 2 and younger free. 11 am, 12:30 pm, and 2 pm. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6386. www.echovermont.org.

STOWE. Film: Warren Miller's *Here, There and Everywhere* (2016). On-screen interviews with the original ski bum and filmmaker. Tickets: \$16. 7 pm. Running time: 90 minutes. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings 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. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Wednesdays through April 26, 2017.*

STOWE. Performance: Flip Fly Fun! by Nimble Arts. Jugglers, acrobats, aerialists and clowns. Recommended for all ages. Tickets: \$20, \$38 regular, \$48 premium. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

STOWE. Ski With DC Adventures Film Festival. Two hours of epic ski and snowboard films from around the world. Tickets: \$12. 7 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

PERKINSVILLE. Live Music Friday with Dave Clark on guitar. A truly unique farm-to-table dining experience. 7-9 pm. The Inn at Weathersfield, 1342 Rte 106. Call for reservations: (802) 263-9217. www.weathersfieldinn.com.

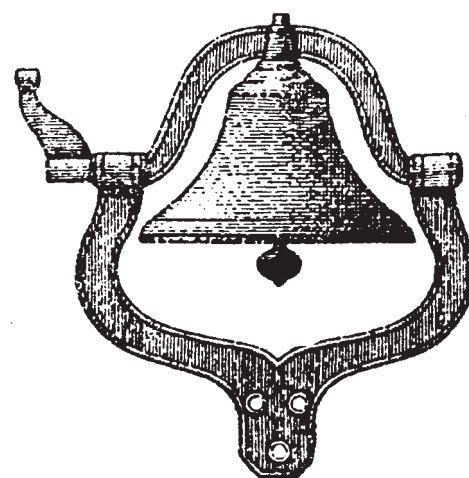
STOWE. Green Mountain Mahler Festival Concert: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 "the Choral." Tickets: \$25; \$20 for persons 60+ years of age, \$10 students. 7:30 pm. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 122 Hourglass Dr. (802) 760-4634. sprucepeakarts.org.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings 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. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Through January 1.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

BRATTLEBORO. Last Night Celebration. 20-minute horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, rain or shine, music, free skating, fireworks. Retreat Meadows, 1 Anna Marsh Lane. (802) 257-7705. www.brattlebororetreat.org.

BURLINGTON. First Night Burlington. Alcohol-free New Year's eve celebration and Vermont's largest one-day arts festival, attracting 20,000 people. Musical performances, dance, theater, circus arts, puppetry, visual arts, storytelling, comedy, fireworks and a parade. A First Night Burlington button admits one to all events all sites, on a first-come, first-served basis. Adult button \$18, children \$5. Festival 11 am December 31 to 12:30 am January 1. (802) 863-6005. www.firstnightburlington.com.



Subscribe to the Vermont Country Sampler

"Bring Home the Vermont We All Know and Love"



Please enter the following subscription. I enclose payment of \$24 for 12 issues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

I picked up this issue of the Sampler at: _____

Comments: _____

Mail to:

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

Way Back Then

A Christmas Trip to Costa Rica

by Charles Sutton

Christmas may be celebrated much the same way all over the world but if one is fortunate enough to be in a foreign country on that date one can experience how the tradition has its own special surprises.

In the mid 1980s a small group of us took a two-week trip to Costa Rica that included white river rafting, camping and hiking in four national parks with emphasis on experiencing the rain, cloud and dry tropical forests. We also visited the famous active volcano Poas north of San Jose.

We soon became aware that this was the Christmas season on a train ride from the Atlantic coast port of Limon to San Jose, the capital. Along the way (which included 40 stops) we passed by countless houses that had cedar Christmas trees or wreaths made from cypress branches on their porches or on the steps outside their homes. These were decorated with red coffee beans and ribbons. Many homes also displayed Christmas lights. Large posters of Santa and reindeer were on display.

We who enjoy apples year-round were surprised to learn that the main Christmas treats for Costa Ricans were apples which were imported from Washington State and grapes from California.

Christmas there is a time of festivals, parades, and special concerts. In the evening we saw people in the streets and there was confetti everywhere.

The Christmas meal after Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve (called Noche Bueno) included chicken or pork tamales that were wrapped for cooking in plantain leaves. Costa Ricans have their own versions of fruitcake or plum pudding called

queques navideno (Christmas cakes) filled with dried fruit soaked with rum, and a Spanish original tres leches sponge cake.

Another custom during Christmas time is the "portal," a nativity scene constructed of mosses, colored sawdust and nativity scene figurines.

Of all the central America nations, only Costa Rica (and Uruguay) are democracies. Costa Rica has the healthiest economy although poverty persists. With no standing army to support, the country has been able to invest in education, medical services, transportation and electric power. It also has been able to protect two-thirds of its rain forests from exploitation.

On visits to the different kinds of forests we discovered a naturalist's paradise. A lifetime could be spent trying to identify the insects, birds, plants and animals that included white-faced and howler monkeys, sloths, several types of land crabs and butterflies, and leaf-chopper ants. We did get bitten by chiggers, ticks and black flies. (I even discovered a tick on my back a week after I got home!)

At the end of our visit we were in a jungle near Panama. Monkeys were chatting and playing above us. I was intrigued by the large insects hovering or dancing in the sunlight that filtered its way through the trees. Their charm entered my camera in a tight 35mm roll to be savored later.

That night in our simple quarters, lizards were crossing the ceiling. My roommate feared they might drop on us. I was amused and admired their gravity-free existence. I wrote in my journal: "It doesn't get any better than this." What a Christmas trip this had been.

Poulin Grain Dealer



Maple Leaf Farm & Garden Supply, Inc.

Rt. 100A, Bridgewater Corners, VT

Christmas Trees & Wreaths

Winter Squash • Livestock Feed • Fresh Eggs

Dog & Cat Food • 2016 Maple Syrup

Mon-Sat 8:30-4:30, Sun afternoons for Christmas Trees

(802) 672-6223 • Bruce & Alice Paglia

NEWHALL FARM ICE CIDER

The New Classic Vermont Flavor
Enhancing cocktails, cheese, dessert,
or enjoyed as dessert itself!

Very Local • Reading, VT

Find out where to buy near you:
www.newhallfarmvt.com



Vermont Country Calendar

BURLINGTON. First Night Burlington Presents "A Celtic Celebration." Tickets: \$5, age three and up. 7 pm. Flynn MainStage, 153 Main St. (802) 863-5966. box@flynncenter.org. flynnntix.org.

MANCHESTER. Manchester Music Festival 6th Annual New Year's Eve Concert. Family concert at 3:30 pm—tickets: adults \$13; 18 and under free. Evening concert at 5:30 pm. At the First Congregational Church, 3624 Main St. For tickets or information call (802) 362-1956. www.mmfv.org.

MONTPELIER. New Year's Eve Celebration. Something for everyone. Many restaurants and bars offering a special dinner, music or just a drink. Marko the Magician at Montpelier High School 4:30-5:15 pm (magic show). 5:45-7 pm (hypnosis magic show). 7:30 pm. Fireworks, best viewing from the State House lawn. Dave Keller's New Years Eve extravaganza concert, 8 pm. City Hall. (802) 223-9604. montpelierlive.org.

NORWICH. Contradance. Featuring music by "Pete's Posse" with caller Adina Gordon. Admission \$15, students \$12, seniors by donation; under 16 free. Sponsored by Muskeg Music. Dance starts at 8 pm. 7:45 pm for walk-through. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. Potluck snacks. 8 pm till 2017. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St. (802) 649-1419. uvdm.org.

PERKINSVILLE. Live Music Dining with the Peter Concilio Trio. A truly unique farm-to-table dining experience. 7-9 pm. The Inn at Weathersfield, 1342 Rte 106. Call for reservations: (802) 263-9217. www.weathersfieldinn.com.

RUTLAND. New Year's Early Eve Event for Children. Live music, local foods, family crafts, face painting. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. (802) 773-1860. rutlandfree.org.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am - 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

RUTLAND. Winter Vermont Farmers' Market. Local produce, crafts, prepared foods. Live music. EBT and debit cards. Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 3-6 pm. Vermont Farmers, Food Center at 251 West St. in downtown Rutland. (802) 342-4727. info@vtfarmersmarket.org. www.vtfarmersmarket.org. *Saturdays through April 29.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. 24th Annual First Night St. Johnsbury. A New Year's Eve festival of the arts. Street entertainment, music, dance, magic, circus, fireworks, food, free shuttle. Button admission \$16, \$10, 5 and under free. 4 pm - 12 midnight. (802) 748-2600. info@firstnightstj.com. www.firstnightstj.com.

WAITSFIELD. Mad River Glen New Year's Family Celebration. Bonfire (bring x-mas trees and wood if you got it), potluck dinner (last names starting A to M bring heavy appetizers, chili, soups, stew, etc; N to Z please bring a dessert). Flag football in the snow (we hope!), kids' movie, and torchlight parade. 6:30-10:30 pm. Basebox, Mad River Glen Cooperative, 57 Schuss Pass Rd. (802) 496-3551. www.madriverglen.com.

WEST DOVER. Mount Snow Torchlight Parade & Fireworks. Immediately after, be sure to join us in the base lodge to get your holiday photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus! 5:45 pm. The best place to watch is between the Clocktower and the Cape House. Mount Snow, 39 Mount Snow Rd. (800) 245-7669. Mountsnow.com. *Also January 15 and February 22.*

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings 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. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org. *Also January 1.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

BURLINGTON. Run Vermont's Annual First Run 5k and Youth Fun Run. Through downtown. Presented by UVM Medical Center. Prizes awarded in several costume categories. (802) 863-8412. runvermont.org/events/first-run.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at Billings 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. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. info@billingsfarm.org. www.billingsfarm.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES 2016

CHESTER. Monthly Square Dance and Rounds. Refreshments on sale in the kitchen. 50/50 tickets on sale; drawing held for free admittance for the next month's dance. \$5 donation at the door. 7-11 pm. Breakfast 8-9:30 am for \$7. Gassetts Grange Hall, junction of Rt. 10 & 103N. (802) 875-2637. *Monthly on first Saturdays.*

DUMMERSTON. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Christmas Tree Sales. Ready-cut or cut-your-own. Fresh Balsam wreaths, centerpieces, and greenery! Country Store open with fresh certified organic produce. Free hot cider, hot chocolate & pretzels. Open Saturdays and Sundays 10 am - 4 pm, Mondays through Thursdays 12-4 pm, Fridays 12-7 pm through December 24. Walker Farm's Elysian Hills Tree Farm, 209 Knapp Rd. (802) 254-2051. elysianhillstreefarm.com. *November 26 through December 24.*

ENFIELD, NH. Christmas Lights Display. 5-9 pm. No admission charged, donations accepted. Refreshments in cafeteria. La Salette Shrine, 410 Rt. 4A. (603) 632-7087. www.lasaletteofenfield.org. *December 2-31.*

PLAINFIELD, NH. The Attic Shop. New and used items include antiques, books, gift items, collectables, jewelry, furniture, glassware, artwork, and gently used clothes. Free coffee. Free admission. 10 am - 3 pm. Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Rt. 12A. (603) 448-0773. *Every Saturday.*

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open April 9-October 31: 10 am - 5 pm. November 1 - April 8: 10 am - 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd., Route 4. (802) 359-5000. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. 15th Annual Holiday Market. Shop for holiday gifts: works by both perennial favorites and new exhibitors. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. chandlermarket@gmail.com. *November 17 through December 21.*

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.

RUTLAND. Rutland Area Flea Market. Indoors, year-round, clean & friendly! Cozy cafe offers refreshments and light lunch. 10 am - 4 pm. 200 West St. corner of Forest St. (802) 770-9104. On Facebook. *Every Saturday and Sunday.*

SHELBURNE. Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides. 20-minute rides from the Welcome Center (weather permitting). If there's not enough snow, we'll have wagon rides. Fee: \$10 adult, \$8 children, 2 and under free. 11 am - 2 pm every half-hour, first come, first served. Shelburne Farms, 1611 Harbor Rd. off Rt. 7. (802) 985-8686. www.shelburnefarms.org. *Daily December 24 (except Christmas) through January 1.*

SOUTH ROYALTON. Christmas Light Illumination. See 200,000 Christmas lights illuminated for the first time this season. Live enactment and singing. Free. 4:30-11 pm November 27 through New Year's Day. Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial, 357 LDS Lane. (802) 763-7742. www.hsjsmemorial@ldschurch.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Vermont Herbal General Store. Owned and operated by a registered pharmacist. Tai' Chi Gung classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm at the store. Free intro classes. Meditations at the store Wednesdays at 5 pm. Usul & Karuna Reiki Healings & Classes. Handmade Herbal Medicines, Oils, Essences, Crystals, Gemstones & Books. Teas, Lotions, and Capsules. All are welcome. Open Tuesday & Wednesday 1-6, Thursday 11 am - 4:30 pm, Saturday 1-6 pm, Sunday 1-4 pm, closed Friday and Monday. Vermont Herbal General Store, 578 Main St. (802) 438-2766. info@vermontherbal.com. On Facebook and Twitter. www.vermonthherbal.com.



40th Army Band to Perform a Holiday Concert in Colchester

The Vermont National Guard and the Office of the Adjutant General are proud to present "Vermont's Own" 40th Army Band Concert performing a free concert on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 2 p.m. at St. Michael's College's McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall in Colchester, VT.

The program, "Holiday Treasures" will feature seasonal favorites including Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Chanukah Is Here" and "A Holiday Sing-

A-Long." This concert is free and open to the public.

Members of the 40th Army Band serve one weekend a month and two weeks of annual training each year

McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall is located at St. Michael's College, One Winooski Park, Colchester, VT. For further information about the 40th Army Band, call the unit's office in Colchester, weekdays, at (802) 338-3480, or you can find them on Facebook and Twitter at 40th Army Band.

The Christmas REVELS
A French Canadian Celebration of the Winter Solstice

REVELS NORTH
A Production of Revels North
Find out more at RevelsNorth.org
TICKETS AVAILABLE: 603-646-2422 | hop.dartmouth.edu

CHRISTMAS AT Billings Farm & Museum
Gateway to Vermont's Rural Heritage

December Weekends & December 24th - January 1st • 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. (excludes Christmas Day)

Discover the traditions and simplicity of a late 19th century Christmas in Vermont.

- 1890 Farm House
- Dairy Farm
- Holiday Activities & Programs

Horse-drawn sleigh rides: Dec. 26th - Jan. 1st

Old River Road • Woodstock, VT
802-457-2355 • www.billingsfarm.org

MORSE FARM MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Come for the Morse Farm Experience!

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

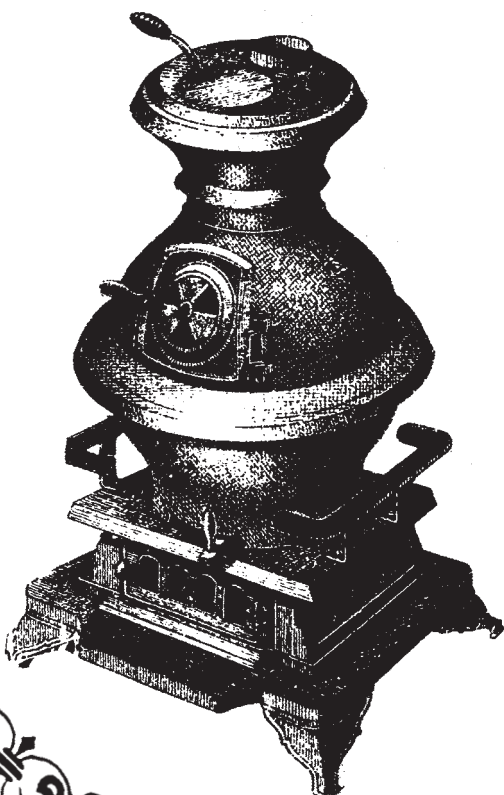


Original Maple Kettle Corn
Don't miss our maple creemees!



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 Country Calendar

(Ongoing activities, continued)

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.

WOODSTOCK. Christmas at the Farm. Learn how Christmas was celebrated in late 19th century Woodstock in the farmhouse. Holiday programs and making historic ornaments. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, weather permitting. Admission: adults \$14, 62 & up \$13, ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. 10 am - 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org. December 3 & 4, 17 & 18 & December 24 thru January 1.

WOODSTOCK. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. 20 miles of trails and carriage roads are open year-round. Gardens and mansion. Vermont's only national park. Guided tours \$4/\$8, under 15 free. Walk the grounds free. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, 54 Elm St. (802) 457-3368 x 22. nps.gov/mabi.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS & GALLERIES

BARRE. Studio Place Arts. Exhibits, classes, workshops, and artists' studios. Free. Tues, Wed & Fri 10 am - 5 pm, Thurs 11 am - 7 pm, Sat 9 am - 5 pm. 201 N. Main St. (802) 479-7069. www.studioplacarts.com.

BARRE. Vermont History Center and Leahy Library. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St. (802) 479-8500. vermonthistory.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. (802) 681-3767. dollhouseandtoymuseumofvermont.com.

BENNINGTON. Annual Festival: "Reimagining Grandma Moses". Twenty-eight artists respond to the works of Anna Mary Robertson "Grandma" Moses. Collage art, paintings, textiles, videos and more. Open Thursday through Tuesday, 10 am - 5 pm (closed Wednesday). Admission: adults \$10, seniors (62+) and students 18 and over \$9, under 17 free. Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. (802) 447-1571. www.benningtonmuseum.org. November 25 through December 30.

BRANDON. Exhibit: The Spirit of the Season—"My Favorite Things". A holiday themed show by the ensemble company of the Brandon Artists Guild with reasonably priced items. Opening reception 5-7 pm on November 4. All are welcome to enjoy the art, the company, and the refreshments. Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. (802) 247-4956. www.brandonartistsguild.com. On exhibit November 4 through January 31.

BRANDON. Exhibit: "Peace on Earth." Works by Stephanie Whitney-Payne, Joan Curtis, Mary Fran Lloyd, Ruth Hamilton, B Amore, Robert Black, Fran Bull, Louise Kenney, Denise Letendre Bach, Sandy Mayo, Judith Reilly, Alice Sciore, Jessica Scriver, Lowell Snowdon Klock, Christopher Sommer and students from the Leicester Central School. An exhibit of paintings by Stephanie Stouffer will also feature works related to the theme. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Dr. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org. Through January 7.

BRANDON. Compass Music and Arts Center. Arts businesses and studios, workshops & classes, exhibits, concerts, and community events. A gift shop features art and music related books, collectibles, and the music of the classical recording company, Divine Art Records. Onsite café. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. Compass Music and Arts Center, 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, 1.5 miles north of downtown. (802) 247-4295. www.cmacvt.org.

BRATTLEBORO. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Open daily 11-5, closed Tues. Admission \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, free for youth 18 and under. 10 Vernon St. (802) 257-0124. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, One College St. (877) 324-6385. info@echovermont.org. www.echovermont.org.

BURLINGTON. Fleming Museum of Art. More than 20,000 objects that span the history of civilization, from early Mesopotamia through contemporary America. Admission: adults \$5, family \$10, students and seniors \$3, children 6 and under free. Tue, Thu, Fri 10 am - 4 pm, Wed 10 am - 7 pm, Sat-Sun noon - 4 pm. Fleming Museum of Art, 61 Colchester Ave. (802) 656-0750. fleming@uvm.edu. www.flemingmuseum.org.

CHESTER. 103 Artisans Marketplace. Hand crafted gifts, decorative accessories, small batch Chocolates and Vermont Maple products. Greenleaf Café now open. Owned by artists Elise & Payne Junker, exclusive showroom of Junker Studio metalwork. Open every day 10 am - 5 pm, closed Tuesday. Located at 7 Pineview Dr. and Rt. 103, south of town—look for the life-size moose! (802) 875-7400. www.103artisansmarketplace.com.

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, exhibits, children's programs, gift shop, video, restrooms and trails with maps available. Admission: adult \$7, senior \$6, child 3-17 \$3.50. Open by appointment from November 1 through May 1. The Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd. (802) 434-2167. birdsofvermont.org.

LEBANON, NH. AVA Gallery and Art Center. 11 am - 5 pm. 11 Bank St. (603) 448-3117. avagallery.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 Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. Summer home of presidential son, Robert Lincoln. House, gardens, Pullman car, working farm and cheese-making facility, floating boardwalk, walking trails, museum store and welcome center. Dressed in holiday finery, the spirit of the season abounds in our 100 year old Carriage Barn. Admission: \$20 adults; \$5 children 6-14; under 6 free. Open daily 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Hildene, off Rt. 7A, (802) 362-1788. www.hildene.org.

The Nature Conservancy
OF VERMONT
Saving the Last Great Places

Preserving Vermont's Last Great Places Since 1960

27 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Tel. 802/229-4425 • Website: www.tnc.org

Free Calendar Listings


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

Vermont Country Sampler
P.O. Box 197, N. Clarendon, VT 05759
info@vermontcountrysampler.com
www.vermontcountrysampler.com

In the Stable

By rights this factory should close tonight
So that we too could have our holiday,
But you ladies would get too full of milk
If we should skip our evening chortime. So
Let's get to work as usual, you and I.
Our customers will want their Christmas milk.
We should be glad of their demand and our
Supply—which brings me in not quite enough
To buy you ladies all gold chokers. However,
Maybe you'll take the Christmas thought for the deed.
I can put extra molasses on your feed,
And after, fork you out some premium hay.

—JAMES HAYFORD
Orleans, VT 1984



DANDELION ACRES

Local Christmas Trees
Wreaths & Gifts

Reopening November 19 thru December 23 (closed Thanksgiving)

Garden Center
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! —

GERRY L. WHITE SNOWMOBILE PARTS & SALES

Biggest Inventory and Best Prices in the Area.
Large Selection of OEM and Aftermarket Parts.
Also, Many New & Used Small Engine Parts.

Open Evenings and Weekends: (802) 234-9368


31 Arctic Cat Road, Bethel, VT
gwhite1948@myfairpoint.net



VERMONT CENTER FOR ECOSTUDIES

UNITING PEOPLE & SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION

info@vtecostudies.org • www.vtecostudies.org
VCE, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055 • (802) 649-1431



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.

Winter Holidays!

Fudge in Many Holiday Flavors
Maple Products
Winter Home Decor

VT Maple Truffles • Stuffed Gnomlins are Here!
Windchimes • McCalls & Woodwick Candles
Aussie Soaps • Sweet Grass Farm Soaps & Lotions
Linens • Healing Touch Mugs • Vermont Food Lines
Willow Tree Figurines • Braided & Woven Rugs
Silver Forest Jewelry • VT Tee-shirts & Sweatshirts
Naked Bee Lotions • Beer Soap, Candles & Candy

Rt. 107, Royalton, VT
(802) 763-2537 • I-89 Exit 3 (Bethel)
Open Daily 10-6 • We Ship • VISA, MC

Jewelry • Braided & Woven Rugs • VT & NH Handcrafts



Mills Hardware

Main Street, Bethel, VT • (802) 234-7250

Vermont Castings
Wood & Gas Stoves • Grills • Parts
Authorized Dealer

New Owner:
Brad Andrews

Hours: Mon-Fri 7-6, Saturday 7:30-5, Sunday 8-1



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



Locust Creek Outfitters

Vermont Hunting Licenses
Vermont Weigh Station
Archery • Guns & Ammo

802-234-5884
1815 River St., Bethel, VT
www.locustcreekoutfitters.com

Open Daily:
8-5:30 Mon-Fri
8-3 Sat • 9-1 Sun

See us for
Muzzleloader Season!



PITTSFIELD GARDEN CENTER

Christmas Trees
Wreaths • Kissing Balls
Fresh Holiday Arrangements.

Call or stop by. Open daily, closed Tues.
Rt. 100, Pittsfield, VT • (802) 746-8100

Vermont Country Calendar

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. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 5-12 \$2, kids 4 and under are free. Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm weekends. Rt. 9, Hogback Mountain. (802) 464-0048. www.vermontmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Middlebury College Museum of Art. Free. Tuesday through Friday 10 am–5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12–5 pm, closed Mondays. 72 Porter Field Rd. (802) 443-3168. museum.middlebury.edu.

MIDDLEBURY. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont. The oldest chartered community history museum in the United States, welcoming visitors since 1882. Exhibits, research center, and museum shop. Admission: adults \$5, youth 6-18 \$3, senior \$4.50, family \$12, under 6 free. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, One Park St. (803) 388-2117. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

MIDDLEBURY. Vermont Folklife Center. Gallery, archives & research center, programs, and Heritage Shop. Free admission. Open Tues-Sat 10 am – 5 pm. Vermont Folklife Center, 88 Main St. (802) 388-4964. www.vermontfolklifecenter.org.

MIDDLEBURY. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse. Jeanne Mellin Herrick's original paintings, works of art, drawings, and artifacts relating to the history of the Morgan horse breed, *through December*. Exhibit: Stacey Stanhope Dundon's oil paintings, functional pottery, and full size horse heads, and local artist Gayl Braisted's paintings of barns. Gift shop full of Morgan horse t-shirts, books, and posters. Free admission, donations accepted. Open Thursday & Friday 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse, 34 Main St. (802) 388-1639. www.morganhorse.com/museum.

MONTPELIER. Vermont History Museum & Bookstore. One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont History Museum and the Vermont Heritage Galleries. Adults: \$5; families: \$12; students, children, seniors: \$3; members and children under 6: free. Open 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Pavilion Building, 109 State St. (802) 828-2291. vhs-info@state.vt.us. www.vermonthistory.org.

NORWICH. Montshire Museum of Science. Trails, programs, and museum store. Open 10 am – 5 pm daily. Admission \$14 adults, \$11 children 2-17, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. One Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org.

NORWICH. Exhibit: "Dinosaur Revolution." Undertake three Mesozoic Missions spanning 150 million years, mimic dinosaur behavior, and live large in reptilian role-play activities. Admission: adults \$15, children \$12, under 2 free. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Rd. (802) 649-2200. www.montshire.org. *Through January 1.*

QUECHEE. Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Wildlife exhibits, workshops, and special events. Wildlife rehabilitation. Admission: adults: \$14.50, seniors (62 plus) \$13.50, youth (4-17): \$12.50, children 3 and under free. Open April 9-October 31: 10 am – 5 pm. November 1-April 8: 10 am – 4 pm. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 6565 Woodstock Rd. (802) 359-5000. info@vinsweb.org. www.vinsweb.org.

RANDOLPH. 15th Annual Holiday Market. Shop for holiday gifts: work by both perennial favorites and new exhibitors. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71-73 Main St. chandlermarket@gmail.com. www.chandler-arts.org. *Through December 21.*

ROCHESTER. BigTown Gallery. Exhibits, readings, events. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10-5, Sat 12-5, Sun-Tues by appointment. 99 N. Main St. (802) 767-9670. info@bigtowngallery.com. www.bigtowngallery.com.

RUTLAND. Exhibit: The Syrian Experience as Art. Twelve Syrian artists express their individual and varied responses to the devastation of their country. Open Thursday through Saturday, 12-6 pm. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row. (802) 282-2396. *Through January 2017.*

RUTLAND. Annual Gingerbread Construction Competition. This year's theme is Animal Kingdom. Entry deadline: Saturday, December 10 by 3 pm. Wednesday-Friday 11 am – 5 pm; Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. (802) 775-0356. www.chaffeeartcenter.org. *December 14-23.*

RUTLAND. Chaffee Downtown Art Center. Exhibits, workshops, classes. Open Tuesday-Friday 12-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Chaffee Downtown Gallery, 75 Merchants Row. (802) 775-0062. info@chaffeeartcenter.org. www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

RUTLAND. Castleton Downtown Gallery. Free admission. Open Wed through Sat 1-6 pm. Center Street Alley. For info call Bill Ramage at (802) 468-1266. castletoncollegegalleries@gmail.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. River Artisans Cooperative. Over 50 craftspeople keep the shelves stocked with a wide variety of handcrafted items. Year round, weekdays from 12-5 pm and weekends from 10 am – 3 pm. The River Artisans Cooperative, in the center of Saxtons River on Main Street, across from the Saxtons River Inn, 26B Main St. (802) 869-2099. www.riverartisans.com.

SAXTONS RIVER. Main Street Arts. Exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, and classes for adults, teens and children. Community Art Show running October 17 through November 11. Main Street Arts, 35 Main St. (802) 869-2960. www.mainstreetarts.org.

SHELburne. Shelburne Museum. Renowned for its collection of American folk art and quilts. Home to holdings of decorative arts, design, decoys, and carriages. The paintings collection includes French Impressionists as well as over 400 18th-20th century American works. Over 20 gardens. Historic houses and community buildings. Admission: adult \$24. Ages 5-17 \$5, under 5 free. 10 am – 5 pm daily. Shelburne Museum, 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. vtcat@shorehambellmuseum.com. www.shorehambellmuseum.com.

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. Tuesday - Saturday 11 am – 5 pm. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St. (802) 885-7111. galleryvault.org.

SPRINGFIELD. Exhibit: "Signs of Life". Contemporary paintings and intricate collages. Mary Welsh's collages are made of found materials; Roger Sandes's paintings look like silk and feel like eggshell. The Great Hall at One Hundred River Street. (802) 885-3061. [Facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield](https://www.facebook.com/GreatHallSpringfield). *Through April 21.*

STOWE. 2016 Members' Art Show and Festival of Lights. 12 noon – 5 pm. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St. (802) 253-8358. www.helenday.com. *December 2-31.*

ST. JOHNSBURY. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Exhibits, programs, special events, wildflower table, collections. Admission: adults \$8, seniors and children under 17 \$6, under 5 free. Open every day 9 am – 5 pm. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, 1302 Main St. (802) 748-2372. www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

WEST RUTLAND. Carving Studio and Sculpture Center Gallery. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-1 pm, or by appointment. 636 Marble St. (802) 438-2097. info@carvingstudio.org. carvingstudio.org.

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 Tues & Wed 4-7 pm. Parking adjacent to the rear of the building. Located at 58 Bridge St., Studio 6, near the underpass. (802) 356-2776. www.mainstreetmuseum.org.

WOODSTOCK. ArtisTree Community Art Center. Exhibits, classes, music, special events. Tues 11 am – 8 pm, Wed-Sat 11 am – 4 pm. Mount Tom Building, 1206 Rt. 12. (802) 457-3500. info@artistreevt.org. www.artistreevt.org.

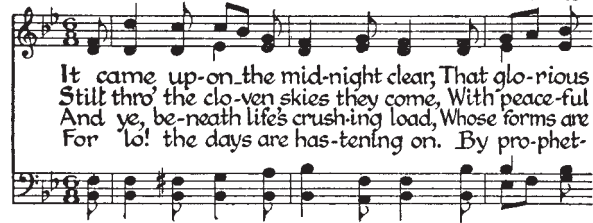
WOODSTOCK. Billings Farm & Museum. Visit the Jersey herd, draft horses, oxen, and sheep and tour the restored and furnished 1890 Farm House. Adults \$14, age 62 & up \$13, children ages 5-15 \$8, 3-4 \$4, under 3 free. Open May 1 through October 31, 10 am – 5 pm. Open weekends November through February and Christmas and vacation weeks, 10 am – 4 pm. Billings Farm & Museum, Rt. 12 & River Rd. (802) 457-2355. www.billingsfarm.org.



It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears

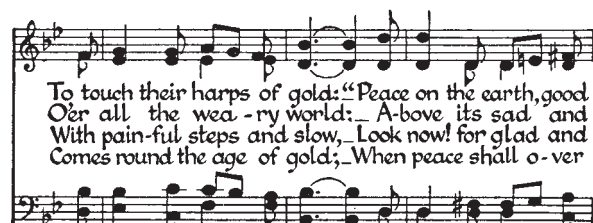
Richard S. Willis



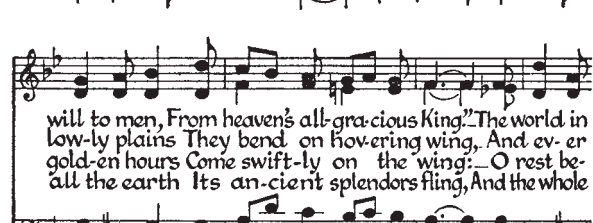
It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-ri-ous
Still thro' the clo-ven skies they come, With peace-ful
And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are
For lo! the days are has-ten-ing on. By pro-phet-



song of old, From an-gels bend-ing near the earth
wings un-furled, And still the heav-en-ly mu-sic floats
bend-ing low, Who toil a-long the climb-ing way
bards fore-told, When with the ev-er-cir-cling years



To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good
O'er all the wea-ry world: A-bove its sad and
With pain-ful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and
Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall o-ver



will to men, From heav-en's all-gra-cious King." The world in
low-ly plains They bend on hover-ing wing, And ev-er
gold-en hours Come swift-ly on the wing: O rest be-
all the earth Its an-cient splen-dors fling, And the whole

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



English Country Dance

Music by Trip to Norwich

Carol Compton and Thal Aylward

David Milstone, caller

All dances taught, no partner necessary, all are welcome!
Bring a separate pair of clean, non-marking, soft-soled shoes or socks. Bring refreshments to share at the break.

Sunday, December 11 from 1-4 p.m.

Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Admission \$8, under 25 \$4

Info: (802) 785-4121 (Chris)

Sponsored by Muskeg Music



Tozier's
RESTAURANT
Tastes of the Ocean
Fresh Seafood
Chicken + Steaks

THURSDAY:

All-You-Can-Eat
Fish 'n' Chips

FRIDAY:

Captain Bill's Seafood
Chowder & Prime Rib

Rt. 107, Bethel, VT
(802) 234-9400

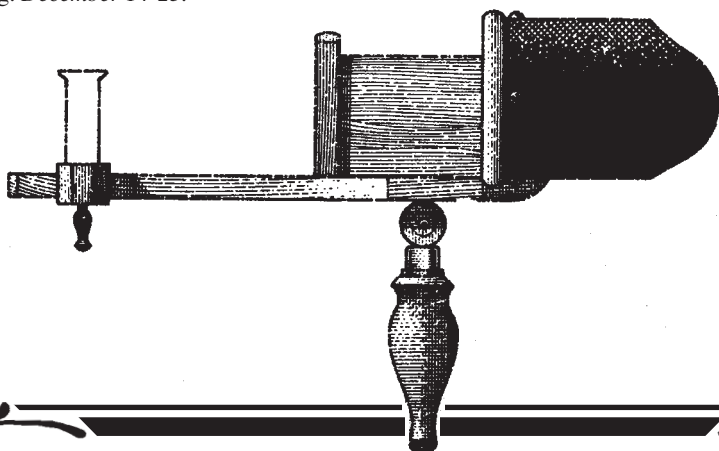
Window
Service Open

Maple
Creemies
Gifford's
Ice Cream



Hours:
11 am – 8 pm
Thursday
thru Saturday
Sunday 8 am-2 pm

Find us on
Facebook



Harry and Dot Continue to Inspire Us All

by Burr Morse

"Buy me a ticket on the last train home" sings Al Stewart in his song "Time Passages". And I say "indeed, time passes all too quickly these days". In dog years, my Black Lab Averill and I are about the same age. Yesterday Avie tried to navigate the steep stairway that leads to our business office and had to abort her attempt on step number two...yikes...how far behind am I? I can still work an eight hour day and feel like I did twenty years ago, but as my wife Betsy says, "it seems there are minutes between Mondays and Fridays now, instead of days". That's wicked scary!

Seems as though we're never quite prepared for it when, without warning, that fast-forward button gets pushed. Reminds me of an experience we had with our dad one time after his life got set at "warp speed". The ravages of strokes had confined him to a wheelchair and, although he had lived quite comfortably for the ten years after those strokes started, he was in pretty tough shape the day of his brother's 70th birthday celebration.

We all arrived at the Adamant Community Hall early enough to lift him up the three steep steps to the old one-room schoolhouse. Our Uncle Bernard was twelve years younger than our dad and was still in pretty good health. The hall bustled with the chatter of Bernard's friends and neighbors, some bolstered by spirits of one kind or another. Many of us took turns at the microphone

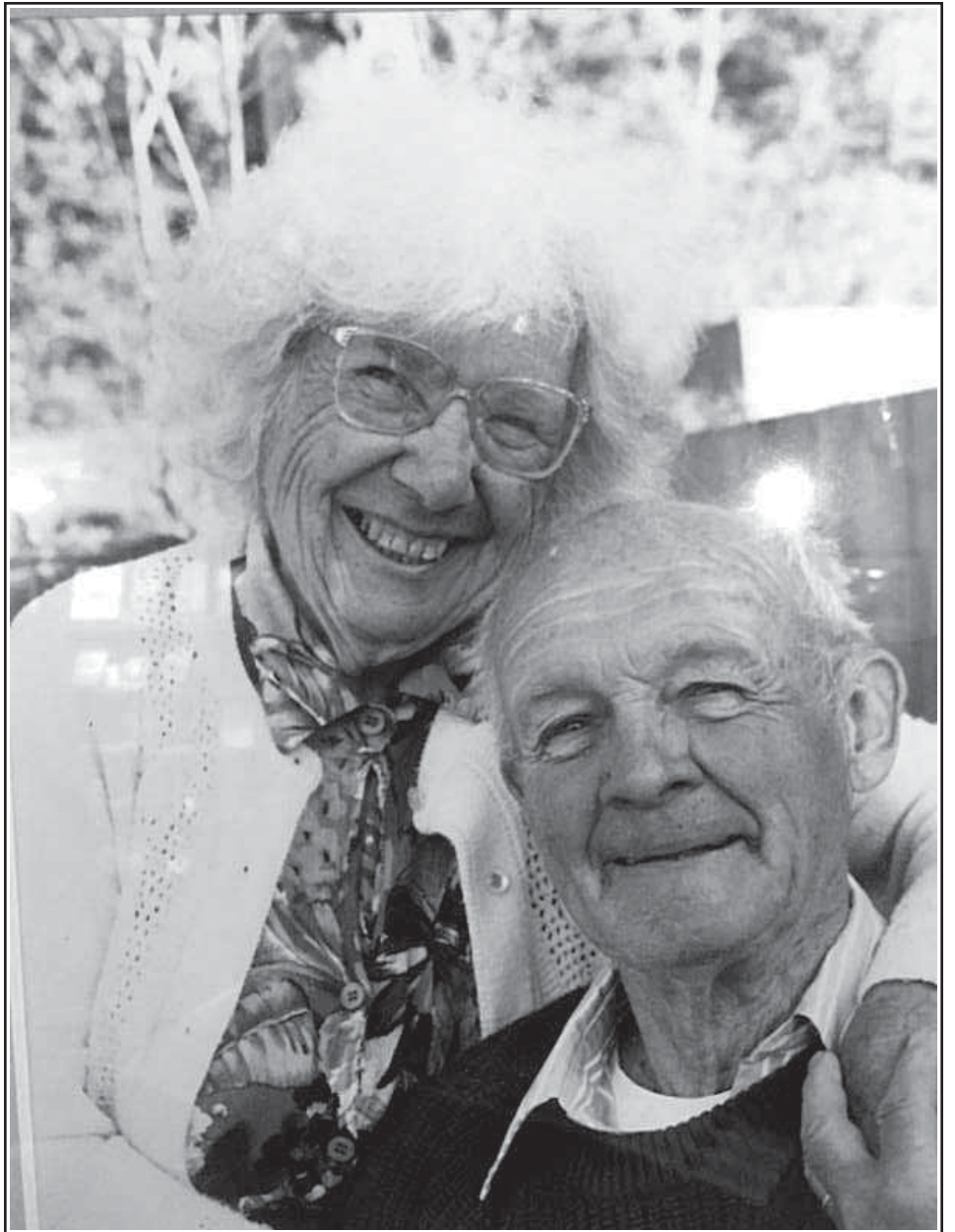
with stories about Bernard's life, a life that demanded song and stories often humorous and off-color. Just as things were getting quite raucous, we realized that Harry Morse was being wheeled up to the mic. All of a sudden the place became "pin drop" quiet as Harry's feeble voice cut through: "Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home". Although our dad's voice was weak, he could still carry a tune with the best of 'em..."A band of angels comin' after me, comin' for to carry me home". I looked around me

"All of a sudden the place became "pin drop" quiet as Harry's feeble voice cut through..."

at lots of teary-eyes and at the faces of burly men, now softened and calmed..."If you get there before I do...tell all my friends I'm comin' too". It was only nine months before our dad got "carried home".

Our lives are all precious like gold, but when that fast-forward button gets pushed, the warning is served. As Robert Frost wrote, "nothing gold can stay". Whether it's a last train or a sweet chariot, my own fare has been paid and that's OK. I'm still in the pre-"warp speed" stage and having a great life...so full in fact, that I intend to stay away from that man with the ticket punch as long as I can!

Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks is located at 1168 County Rd., Montpelier, VT. Open year-round with Vermont products, pasture-raised beef, bacon, and gifts. Order Cabot cheddar cheese, Maple products, Balsam Wreaths, and much more at (800) 242-2740 or www.morsefarm.com.



Dot and Harry Morse, Montpelier, VT.

VERMONT CENTER OF ECOSTUDIES

UNITING PEOPLE & SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION
Visit our website at www.vtecostudies.org
VCE, PO Box 420 • Norwich, VT 05055
(802) 649-1431 • info@vtecostudies.org

Judith Irven Landscape & Garden Designer

Helping people create beautiful gardens

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



GREEN MOUNTAIN FEEDS

Certified Organic Feeds:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 21% Poultry Starter
Grower Mash | 16% Pig Grower Pellet
16% Pig Grower Mash |
| 17% Poultry Grower Pellet | Whole Roasted Soybean |
| 19% Broiler Grower Crumbles | 16% Sheep & Goat Pellet |
| 20% Calf Starter | 26% Turkey Starter Mash |
| Cracked Corn | 21% Turkey Grower Pellets |
| Whole Corn | Whole Barley |
| 16% Dairy Pellet | Whole Oats |
| 20% Dairy Pellet | Molasses (Lb) |
| Natural Advantage 12 - Pellet | Redmond Salt |
| 16% Layer Mash | Redmond Blocks (44 lbs) |
| 16% Coarse Layer Mash | Kelpmeal |
| 16% Layer Pellet | Scratch |

Also Non-GMO Conventional Feed
All products available in standard 50# bags
Bulk available upon request



Certified Organic by VT Organic Farmers
Store Hours:
Mon-Fri, 8 am - 5 pm
Sat, 8 am - 12 noon

Green Mountain Feeds
65 Main Street, Bethel, Vermont 05032
Phone: (802) 234-6278 • Fax: (802) 234-6578
www.greenmountainfeeds.com

Brookfield, VT

East Randolph Fire Department Bake Sale at L.H. Stowell & Son

The East Randolph Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a bake sale on December 4th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at L.H. Stowell and Son Christmas Tree Farm in Brookfield, VT. Come choose and cut your own Christmas tree and then

warm up in the Christmas Barn and enjoy the model train. There will be chili, mac 'n cheese, homemade soups, pies and baked goods along with hot chocolate, coffee, and tea.

The East Randolph Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

was founded in 2009 in order to support and assist the Fire Department. The Auxiliary is comprised of firefighter wives and significant others as well as community members. Through fundraising and community events, the auxiliary strives to bring

the community together and increase support to the East Randolph Fire Department.

L.H. Stowell and Sons Christmas Trees is located at 1591 Twin Ponds Rd. in Brookfield, VT. Visit www.lhstrees.com. (802) 557-0400.

Useful Vermont Websites

- Vermont Tourism Site: vermontvacation.com
- Vermont Chamber of Commerce: visitvt.com
- Vermont State Parks: vtstateparks.com
- Green Mountain National Forest: fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl
- Discover Vermont Vacations: discoververmontvacations.com
- Vermont Outdoor Guide Association: voga.org
- Hunting & Fishing: vtfishandwildlife.com
- Vermont Campground Association: campvermont.com

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 -



WANTED Wild Ginseng



Paying Top Cash Price
for Quality Roots!

Contact Dave Hicks
NYS Registered Ginseng Dealer #5
Vermont licensed Ginseng dealer
Granville, NY • 518-632-5422



FAIREST LORD JESUS

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thee, my soul's Glory and Crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

—FROM THE GERMAN,
17th Century

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

vermont wild

Great Gift!

Stories Loved by Ages 9 to 99!



Four volumes of very funny
best-selling, true game
warden adventures!

Raucous raccoons, hungry bears,
wily poachers and much more.

Available at all bookstores,
Kinney Drugs, gift shops or
online at VermontWild.com

Chandler Music Hall Hosts Some Great Winter Music

Chandler Center for the Arts is proud to present another exciting season of diverse performances. In addition to our Main Stage series, we offer Live & Upstairs, a series of smaller, more intimate performances in the renovated Esther Mesh Room in Chandler's Upper Gallery. Plan to come and enjoy an event this season at Central Vermont's historic music hall.

December 10th, 7:30 p.m.—The Sweetback Sisters' Country Christmas Singalong Spectacular. Tickets: \$10-\$35.

For eight years running, the Sweetback Sisters have been selling out theaters across the Northeast with their signature take on the holiday sing-along. This wildly popular show requires a bit of audience participation and a love for all genres of holiday music (Fear not! Songbooks are provided). Add in a healthy dose of trivia, prizes, and matching outfits and we think it's safe to say you've got yourself a bona fide spectacular!

Sweetback Sisters Emily Miller and Zara Bode may not be blood relations, but their precise, family-style harmonies recall the best of rock and country music from the 1950s and 60s. Together with their fine band of brothers, the Sweetback Sisters carry the torch of country music's finest golden era performers. www.thesweetbacksisters.com.

December 16th, 7:30 p.m.—Darlingside. Tickets: \$10-\$22.

The new and widely popular Boston-based quartet features four distinct voices clustered around a single microphone, their tightly-arranged tunes drawing from the unexpected, including strains of bluegrass, classical, and even barbershop. Accompanied by an arsenal of classical strings, guitars, mandolin, and percussion, these four close friends swap instruments from song to song and offer a sound that defies standard genre classifications. www.darlingside.com.

January 14th, 7:30 p.m.—Bill McKibben and Amy Goodman. Tickets: \$10-\$50 (VIP pass).

Amy Goodman is the host and executive producer of Democracy Now!, a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program airing on over 1,400 public television and radio stations worldwide. The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard honored Goodman with the 2014 I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence Lifetime Achievement Award. www.democracynow.org.

Bestselling author and environmental activist, Bill McKibben, will join Amy Goodman on stage at Chandler for an evening of motivating and thought-provoking discussion. Bill McKibben is an author and environmentalist who in 2014 was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the 'alternative Nobel.' His 1989 book 'The End of Nature' is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has appeared in 24 languages; he's gone on to write a dozen more books. He is a founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world in every country save North Korea, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement. billmckibben.com.

This presentation will be followed by a VIP (\$50 ticket holders and sponsors) reception meet & greet with McKibben and Goodman in Chandler's Upper Gallery.

January 21st, 7:30 p.m.—Pianist Simone Dinnerstein. Tickets: \$10-\$35.

Simone Dinnerstein is a critically lauded pianist whose thoughtful and compelling interpretations have captivated audiences all over the world. She gained international acclaim following her brilliant interpretation, recorded in 2007, of Bach's Goldberg Variations. A searching and sensitive artist who is dedicated to finding the soul of each musical work she plays, she returns to the Chandler stage with an all-Bach program, Diverse Faces of Bach, including the Adagio BWV 974, the Sinfonias, Partita #1, and the Bach/Brahms Chaconne for piano left hand. www.simonedinnerstein.com.

February 4th, 7:30 p.m.—The Davydov-Fanning Duo. Tickets: \$20-\$22, free for kids and students.

Pianist Diana Fanning and cellist Dieuwke Davydov have been acclaimed in the U.S. and abroad for their virtuosic brilliance, musical insight, and remarkable rapport as a Duo. Besides touring in New England, the Duo has



Darlingside will entertain at Chandler in Randolph, VT this December 16th.

undertaken extensive concert tours of Europe, which have included recordings for Radio Netherlands. Radio audiences throughout the Northeast and Canada have heard the Duo on the "Morning Pro Musica" Live Performers Series over WGBH-FM, Boston. Davydov and Fanning have also been featured in live concert performances on WNYC, New York, and on Vermont Public Radio. They recently celebrated 30 years of performing together with a series of concerts and the release of a CD of live concert performances.

February 10th, 7:30 p.m.—Vermont Fiddle Orchestra With Young Tradition Vermont Touring Group. Tickets: \$13-\$15.

The Vermont Fiddle Orchestra is a community orchestra of musicians who come from a variety of musical backgrounds and include fiddlers, violists, cellists, bass players, mandolin players, guitarists, flute/penny whistle players and accordion players. The VFO was started in 2003 by Sarah Hotchkiss. Since the Fall of 2013, the VFO has been under the directorship of David Kaynor. www.vtfiddleorchestra.org.

The Young Tradition Touring Group is a group of teen players, singers and dancers who focus on learning and performing traditional music and dance repertoire over the course of a nine-month, September through May session, culminating in an April performance tour. Group members are supported by an Artistic Director (Pete Sutherland in 2015/16) and guest musicians (Pascal Gemme, Andrea Beaton, Andre Brunet) and dancers/dance leaders (Mary Wesley, Kristin Bolton). www.youngtraditionvermont.org.

February 25th, 7:30 p.m.—Musicians from Marlboro. Tickets: \$10-\$35.

Celebrating its 52nd seasons, the Musicians From Marlboro touring program was created as an extension of Vermont's Marlboro Music Festival. Musicians from Marlboro tours are noted not only for their joyous and thoroughly prepared performances, but also for offering valuable touring experience to artists at the beginning of their careers, and for featuring programs of unusual as well as beloved chamber repertoire. Thomas Adès's Arcadiana is the centerpiece of a memorable program that also features piano trios by Haydn and Fauré and Brahms's String Quintet in G Major, Op. 111.

March 11th, 7:30 p.m.—Vishten. Tickets: \$10-\$35.

Vishten is a contemporary Acadian traditional group. Pastelle and Emmanuelle LeBlanc and Pascal Miousse have become a distinctive and powerful international voice for traditional music from Prince Edward Island and the Magdalen Islands. From their traditional roots, these three creative island musicians have been crafting their own brand

of new traditional music and a trademark sound that combines original compositions and traditional French-Acadian songs with driving rhythms. All highly accomplished multi-instrumentalists and singers, their unique blend of fiddle, guitar, accordion, harmonium, whistles, piano, bodhrán, jaw harp, Moog, electric guitar and percussive dance make for a unique tour de force, weaving together traditional and contemporary sounds. www.vishtenmusic.com.

March 25th, 7 p.m.—10th Annual Mini-Mud. Tickets: \$5-\$15.

This annual youth variety show celebrates young talent from across the region. Almost 50 young performers from at least 11 communities and two states will share their talents in up to 20 acts for this annual celebration. Performers range in age from 8 to 18. Mini-Mud is an important fundraiser for youth programming offered at Chandler throughout the season.

Chandler Center for the Arts is located at 71-73 Main St., Randolph, VT. Chandler's Main Hall and galleries are handicapped accessible. Box office hours: 12-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1.5 hours before the show on the day of a performance. For tickets call (802) 728-6464. For information call (802) 728-9878. www.chandler-arts.org.



**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
Sat & Sun 10-6, closed Mon. CERTIFICATES

Route 12, East Braintree, VT
(802) 728-5252

snowsville.com

**SILLOWAY
MAPLE**

"It Runs in the Family" Family Operated Since 1942

**Maple Syrup, Cream, Sugar, Candy
And Maple Sugar Covered Almonds
—Perfect for Christmas Gifts!—**

Purchase online or at the sugarhouse. We Ship!
1303 Boudro Rd., Randolph Center, VT
(802) 272-6249 • www.sillowaymaple.com

**Year 'Round Tours
Solar-Powered • Traditional Wood-Fired**

**L.H. Stowell & Son
Christmas Tree Farm**

1591 Twin Ponds Rd., Brookfield, VT

You Choose, We Cut

Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir, and 6 other species
Sizes from Table Top to 20'

Enjoy our heated Christmas Barn and
See our electric train display

Open Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 25 through Dec. 23

For more information go to
www.lhstrees.com
or call (800) 557-0400

Old Time Sweets of the Season

Whether we bake them or whether we buy them, Christmas cookies spell the magic of the season. We all have our traditional favorites but we also search for that long-lost flavor of the past—something our great aunt used to make, or our grandmother, perhaps now deceased, used to talk about, something we can't quite remember but hunger for. Here are a few recipes that might fill the bill.

Norwegian Doughnuts

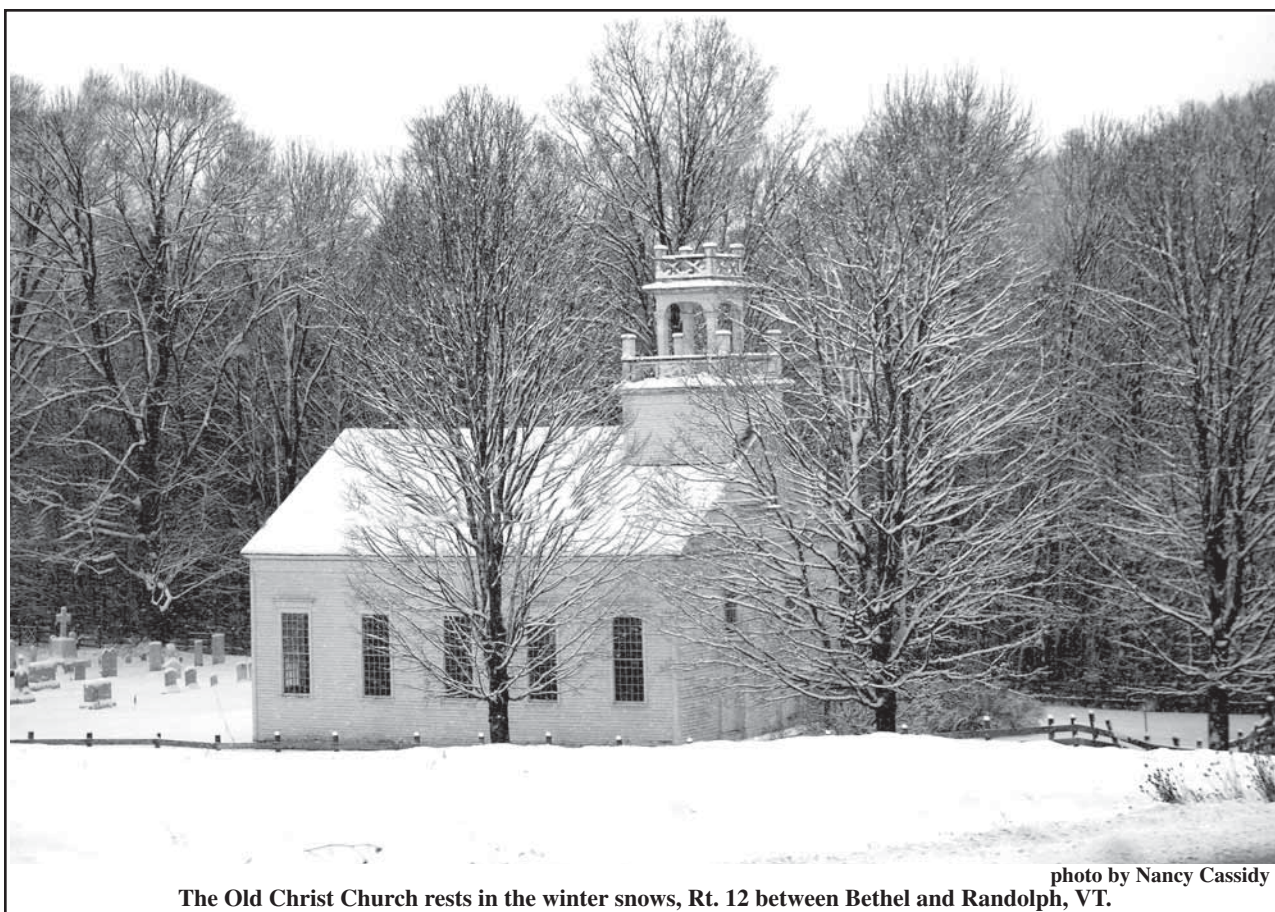
Rub four ounces of butter into three pounds of flour; add one pound of sugar, one teaspoonful of powdered cinnamon and one whole nutmeg, grated. Whisk four eggs, and mix them gradually with a gill of yeast and as much of a pint of new milk, flavored with rosewater, as will make the flour into a soft dough. Cover warm to rise and when risen make into balls, or into any form liked, and drop them into a saucepan of boiling lard. When of a fine brown color they are done, and should be laid before the fire on a sieve to dry.

—Mrs. A. Myers

English Plum Pudding

Take one and one-half pounds of suet, one and one-half pounds of dry light brown sugar, one and one-half pounds of currants washed and dried thoroughly, one and one-half pounds of raisins, four nutmegs grated and sifted through a small tea strainer and thoroughly mixed, so they will not be lumpy; one-quarter of a pound of candied lemon peel, one-quarter of a pound of citron, one heaping teaspoonful of fine salt, mixed in the same way as the nutmegs, baker's bread enough to make a quantity equal in bulk to the suet. Use only the crumb of the loaf, rejecting the crust. It will take nearly one and one-half loaves of ordinary size, one-half pint of flour, nine eggs beaten very light and milk enough to wet the mixture. Chop the suet first, then add the bread-crumbs, sliced citron and peel, raisins and currants. Sift the salt and nutmegs in, stirring thoroughly. Next add the sugar and next sift in the flour. Then pour in the eggs, mixing thoroughly as before. Now comes the milk. You only need sufficient milk to wet the pudding about as moist as mince meat for pies should be made. Then butter your tin basin well, put in your pudding, leaving room for a stiff batter of flour and water which must be spread over the whole top of the pudding to exclude the air and water. Then take stout, unbleached cotton, tie it firmly over the top, round the rim of the basin, and bring the corners that hang down back again over the top, pinning them securely. Then put the pudding into boiling water and let it boil without cessation, eleven hours. The best way is to make them two or three days before needed, and then put them on again the day they are to be eaten, and boil from two to three hours more. A pudding prepared and cooked in this way is "fit to set before a king." Use cold sauce made of sugar, butter and wine, or hot brandy sauce. These puddings will keep a year.

—Annie R. White



The Old Christ Church rests in the winter snows, Rt. 12 between Bethel and Randolph, VT. photo by Nancy Cassidy

Sand Cookies

One-half pound of powdered sugar, five eggs, beaten separately. Stir yolks and sugar one hour, then one-half pound of corn-starch, flavored with lemon. Bake thirty-five minutes.

—Mrs. Lizzie Mooney

Sprengela

Four cupfuls of powdered sugar, eight eggs. Stir one-half hour; beat whites separately. Take two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, the rind of two lemons, flour enough to roll out. Cut them out with a cake-cutter and let lie over night. Then sprinkle anise seed over them and bake.

—M.O. Baldwin

Peppernuts

Take four cupfuls of fine sugar, eight eggs, stirring them for nearly one-half hour. Beat whites by themselves; rind of two lemons, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, flour enough to roll, two teaspoonfuls of cinnamon, one teaspoonful of ground cloves, one teaspoonful of allspice, one grated nutmeg. Cut them into any shape you choose and put two drops of brandy on each cake. Next morning turn them over and bake.

—Mrs. J. Fuller

Fairy Ginger Cookies

One cupful of butter, two cupfuls of sugar, one cupful of milk, four cupfuls of flour, one-third teaspoonful of soda, one tablespoonful of ginger. Beat the butter to a cream; add the sugar, gradually, and when light, the ginger and the milk in which the soda has been dissolved, and finally the flour. Turn baking pans upside down and wipe the bottoms very clean. Butter them and spread the cake very thin upon them. Bake in a moderate oven until brown. While still hot cut into squares and slip from the pan. Keep in a tin box. Remember to spread it as thin as a wafer and cut it the instant it is taken from the oven.

—J.I.C.

Baked Indian Suet Pudding

Scald three cupfuls of milk and pour over five tablespoonfuls of cornmeal. Add one cupful of molasses, one-half cupful of chopped suet, one-half of a nutmeg grated, one teaspoonful of ginger and a little salt. Butter a pudding dish, pour in a cupful of cold milk, then the mixture and bake well for two hours.

—Mrs. Hattie Long

Stolla (Raised Cake)

Take nine cups of flour and set with two cents' worth of yeast, three cups of milk. Set this about one hour before making stiff. Put the yeast and milk in the center of the flour. When raised add two eggs, one and one-quarter cups of butter, one and one-half cups of sugar, salt, rind of a lemon, a little sugared or candied orange, one-quarter of a pound of citron, one-quarter of a pound of almonds, two tablespoonfuls of brandy, one pound of seedless raisins. Cream the butter and sugar, then add the eggs, and mix this with the other ingredients, and then work all the flour in. Let rise over night. In the morning make into loaves and let rise again. Then bake a little more than an hour.

—Mrs. Casper

Black Fruit Cake

One pound of butter, two pounds of raisins, stoned, two pounds of currants carefully washed and one pound of dark brown sugar, one-half pound of citron, one teaspoonful each of cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg, cloves and soda, one tablespoonful of New Orleans or black molasses, seven eggs, one pound of flour and enough sour milk to mix it quite still. Bake slowly.

—I. M. Dell

These recipes are shared from *Woman's Favorite Cookbook* by Annie R. Gregory, circa 1902.

Interlude

I'll dream the northern winter through,
And hope to waken in the spring
When that first faint soft twittering
Comes in my elm beside the way,
When piles of snow slip fast, and gray
Of winter turns to sunny hours,
And little buds swell full to flowers,
And roses bloom, for they too slept
And waited while the winter crept
Upon them in their blooming prime.
So I shall sleep through winter time
And wake, earth's nectar in each vein
When Spring comes winging North again!

—NELLIE S. RICHARDSON
Springfield, VT, 1936



Chapman's
Fine Wines
Unique Toys
Jewelry

Gift Shop Open
Candles, Cards, Accessories,
Natural Skin Care Products

Main St., Fairlee, VT • (802) 333-9709
Open Mon-Sat 8:30-6, Fri 8:30-6, Sun 8:30-3



Cedar Circle Farm
EAST THETFORD, VT

Feed • Inspire • Change


Fall Hours!
THROUGH DECEMBER 18

FARMSTAND	CSA
EDUCATION CENTER	KITCHEN
DOUGHNUT FRIDAYS!	3PM-6PM

FARMSTAND open through DECEMBER 18
Fridays 12pm-6pm, Saturdays & Sundays 10am-3pm
OPEN MON, TUES, WED OF THANKSGIVING WEEK

225 PAVILLION RD • EAST THETFORD, VT
CEDARCIRCLEFARM.ORG


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, Downhill Skiing & Ice Skating.
Hot Air Balloon pkgs all year. \$89-\$119 dbl. occ. Call or write for brochure.
Route 5, S. Main St., Fairlee, VT 05045
(802) 333-4326 • 800-666-1946 • www.silvermaplelodge.com

Muskeg Music
Presents a
CONTRA DANCE
with
Pete's Posse
Caller: Adina Gordon



Dec. 31, 2016 • 8 pm
Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT
Admission \$15, students \$12, seniors by donation, under 16 free!
Bring a separate pair of clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing.
uvdm.org/dances

~ Circa 1893 ~

December Stowe Notes

by Edward Martin Taber

This morning clear and beautiful; thermometer about thirty-two degrees, cold steady northwest wind.

In the afternoon to the village. At the blacksmith's shop, waiting for Polly's shoes to be changed and the points sharpened. I took the opportunity to walk up F's hill, where I have not been now for over a year. The moment I set foot in the little plateau, its peculiar charm was upon me. I think of all places this must always seem the most beautiful to me. I picked a few white violet leaves half hidden under the snow, where the white violets have never failed me before.

I took off my coat, for it is always warm and balmy in this spot, sheltered from winds (all except the northeast), and sat down at the foot of one of the naked old maples. The view was at once strange and familiar. The bare trees threw open much that was formerly obscure, the course of the river in particular. The only snow visible from this point lies along the pastures on the slopes of Hogback.

Walking around the plateau, I renewed my acquaintance with the trees, the gnarled old apple trees, the majestic group of maples in the center, the white birch, aspens, and cherries that crown the knoll.

I even climbed the crest in search of a beech that I once thought of painting, and so had a view of snow-crowned Mansfield.

What lends an added charm to this solitary nook and makes its repose doubly appreciable is that although it is so cozily hidden, and seems to lie lonely, belted with hill and wood and open only to the sky, yet the sounds of the village penetrate its quiet; they rise to it softened by distance—the crowing of cocks, the rattle of wagons, the ringing of forges.

Coming out from the wood on the meadow east of the farm buildings, elevated much

above them, a perfect picture of Winter—the sky a uniform leaden gray, the mountains slaty-blue against it, the snowy outline of Mansfield, that from this point holds the center of the picture with an effect of towering grandeur, faintly indicated. The sun must already have set; there is no light in the southwest, but directly south there is a faint gleam. The thin smoke from the farm rises against the Mountain; the picture is rapidly dissolved into the wintry dusk.

It was at sunset when I drove up the hill, and suddenly, startled by the sound of sleigh-bells, a large flock of birds left the ground, springing up from the snowy undulations of a pasture, and by the sudden display of white wings I knew them for snow buntings. They flew vigorously, some fluttering, dropping down the air, and dashing on again like flakes on a wild northwest wind.

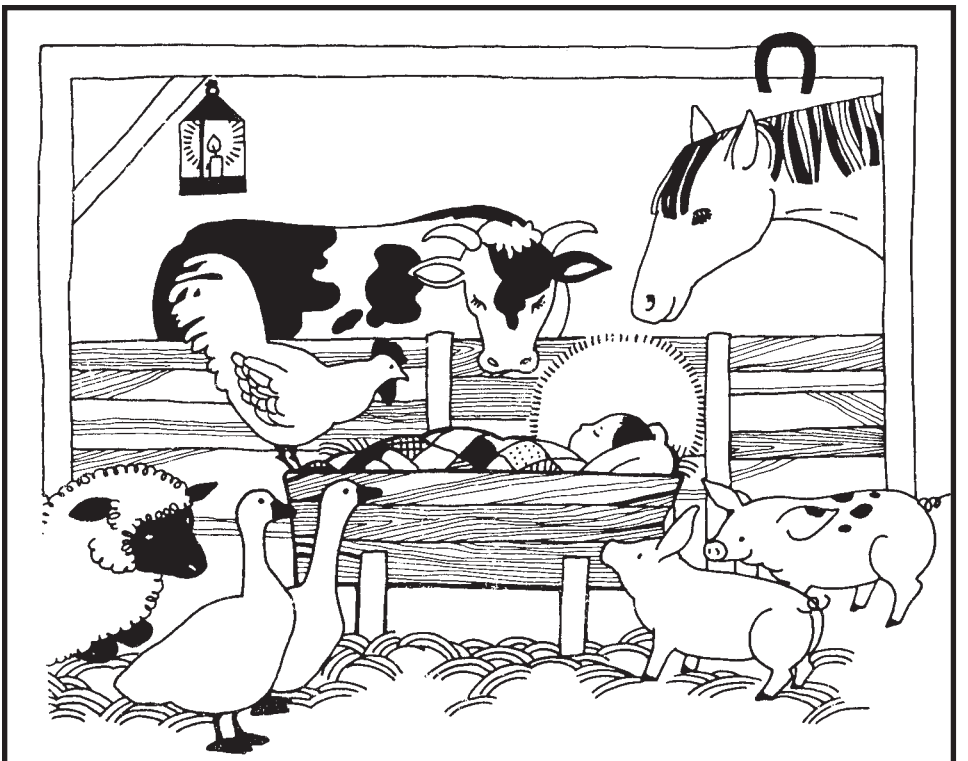
i i i

I learn that it was twelve degrees this morning in the village.

Every day I am delighted at the appearance of the cranberry bush in the dooryard. Every leaf has left long ago, but the clustering crimson cranberries remain, defying frost and thaw, unwithered, and of as bright a color as when they first ripened in the autumn.

No blue jays. To exemplify the rarity of birds just now, I may mention that my horse shied at a chickadee that darted down from a barn roof abutting on the side of the road.

A sudden change to extreme cold. Last night the south wind made a great deal of noise in the trees outside of my window and under the eaves. How colorless are these winter skies! The mountains bathe in a cold glory. The horizon sparkles in a flood of sunshine, cold, cold as the streamers of the northern lights.



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!"

"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."

"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."

"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



Windfall Clothing



Open Tues-Sat 10-4
Jct. Rt. 10 & 25A
Orford, NH
(603) 353-4611

Featuring **Katie's Korner**
Brand Name Teen Clothing!

Consignment Shop

GARDENHOUSE
Studio vintage by design

Vermont's Premier Retailer for...

- *Miss Mustard Seed Milk Paint
- *Old Town Paint Chalk Style Paint
- *Fusion Mineral Paint

Antiques * Painted Furniture * Home Decor * Garden Items
Classes & Workshops - www.gardenhousetudio.com

159 Main Street, Bradford, Vermont 05033
Mon-Wed-Thurs-9-5 * Friday 9-6 * Saturday 9-4
Closed - Tuesday & Sunday 802-449-3171

McQueen's Tack Shop



Over 400 Saddles!
New & Used Tack Bought 'n' Sold

- New & Gently Worn Apparel • Courbette • Weaver •
- Devon-Aire • Pro Choice • Leanin' Tree • EQ.

Compare My Prices • Open Your Hours
Kathy McQueen • 802-785-4493
www.mcqueenstack.com

**Two miles up Gove Hill Rd., off Rt. 132
Thetford, VT**

BRAGG FARM



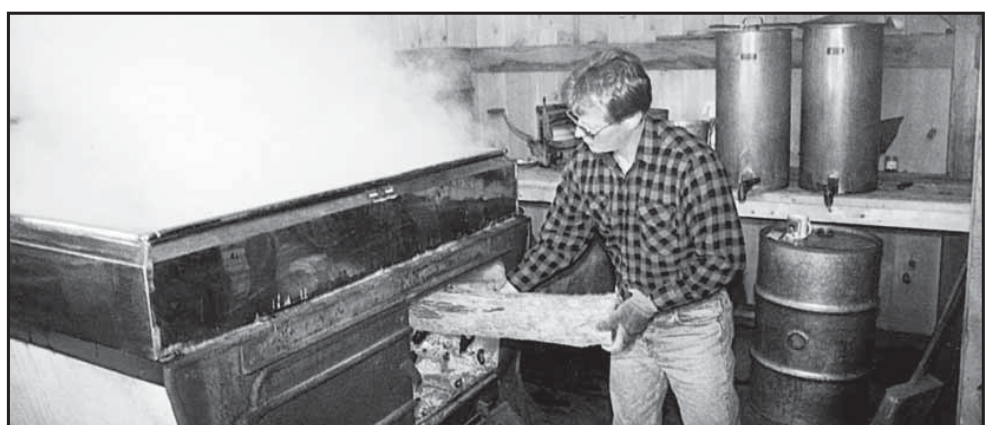
**SUGARHOUSE
& GIFT SHOP**

*The Bragg Family has
been producing pure
Vermont Maple Syrup
for eight generations.
Visit our Quality
Family Farm Shop and
sugarhouse nestled in
the pine-clad hills of
East Montpelier, VT.*

Free Maple Tours & Tastings

Maple Syrup, Candies & Cream

Take Some Home or Have It Shipped! • Call for Free Catalog
Unique Gift Shop • Great Mountain Views • Farm Animals
Maple Ice Cream Parlor: Maple Creemees, Home of the Maple Milkshake!
1005 VT Rt. 14 N. • E. Montpelier, VT • www.braggfarm.com
(802) 223-5757 • (800) 376-5757 • Open Every Day 8:30-6:00



Sugarmaker Doug Bragg tends the fire during sugaring season.

North Country Book News

Children's Book Reviews by Charles Sutton

Tales of Light in the Dark of the Year

Wintertime has come and with it the dark of the year, a time when we celebrate Winter Solstice, Advent, and Christmas. For some it is a time of joy, for others a time of reflection. For kids, it can be sledding and Christmas trees and presents to give and get, hopefully. Here are some stories that celebrate all of this and are worth sharing with your little loved ones.

This Christmas season, as we follow the three Wise Men in our pageants or our thoughts, enjoy *Babushka—A Christmas Tale* by Dawn Casey and illustrated by Amanda Hall (\$16.99, Skyhorse Publishing, www.goodbooks.com). This folktale is about an elderly Russian woman living alone with her cat who is invited to join the three travelers on their way to see the newborn king—"The Prince of Peace. The Light of Love."

Babushka initially declines as she is much too busy clearing up the dishes from the meal she served them. A day later she has second thoughts and sets out to follow them with her own basket of gifts and good things to eat like rosy apples, sweet nuts and spicy gingerbread. The wisemen's footprints are covered in snow but Babushka travels on, helping needy children along the way with food and warm clothes. And we learn: "Babushka kept on walking and walking, and found children all over the land. She is still journeying. And everywhere she goes, she gives a gift. Her basket is full and her heart is light."

Enjoy artist Hall's drawings which are very "Russian" with winter landscapes, colorful clothing, huts with unique wood stoves, samovars, and unusual toys like nesting dolls.

Santa is usually so busy delivering gifts to children at Christmas that he rarely has a chance to visit and give presents to the elderly. Not their turn, but in *The Christmas Boot* by Lisa Wheeler and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (\$17.99, Dial Books for Young Readers, www.penguin.com), Santa has lost one of his black boots which is found in the mountain snow by the elderly Hannah Greyweather. She is delighted

to have at least one warm foot—and the giant boot suddenly has become a perfect fit. Such magic continues the next morning as she finds the boot's match next to her bed, also a perfect fit. With both warm feet she happily goes wood-gathering in the snow.

The next morning two warm red mittens are tucked inside each boot. Now any wish she has comes true, like a big house with a warm fluffy feather bed. Santa comes to visit, with his one boot missing. She serves him tea and chestnuts and they talk of "everything and nothing, deep into the night." When it's time to leave, she lovingly gives him back his boot (now a perfect fit for him.) Suddenly the fancy house, fluffy bed, fabulous feast, the right boot and mittens are gone. "I'm sorry," says Santa. "Is there anything I can give you?" Hannah says she truly desires someone to talk to, but warm boots and mittens would be mighty fine. With a wink of his eye, Santa produces a pair of red boots and bright green mittens and says goodbye. Later her other wish comes true when she discovers a wiggly puppy in her boot. Large cold winter scenes contrast the magical warmth of Hannah and her visitor.

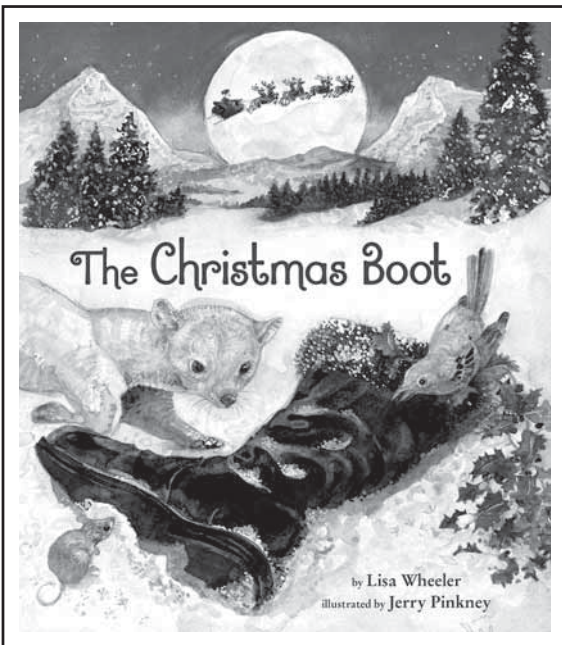
This Christmas could shine as a moment of history when hope, compassion and gratitude are particularly important. We are reminded of these aspirations in *The Christmas Eve Tree* by Delia Huddy and illustrated by Emily Sutton (\$16.99, Candlewick Press, www.candlewick.com).

This is a touching story of a homeless boy who late on Christmas eve is given a crooked and spindly little fir tree that no one would want to buy and will be thrown away.

The homeless boy plants the tree in some riverbed mud in a discarded box which he takes to where he lives, in a large cardboard box under the arches of a railroad bridge. The boy is pleased with his find and the little tree is more cheerful, too. "I belong to someone now, the tree thinks to itself." A passerby gives the boy some coins enough for dinner but instead the boy buys matches and candles for his tree. Musicians are attracted to the scene who play Christmas music and a large number of well-wishers gather. The next day the boy would have a turkey dinner at a soup kitchen.

We hope, too, that the boy will find a happier life. We see the 'left-over tree' being rescued after Christmas by a street sweeper who plants it in a park where against all odds, it grows—if not big and tall, at least cheerfully stout.

You will want to admire the illustrations over and over again. They show how one homeless little boy and his spindly tree can be the spirit of Christmas.




Reminiscent of the famous song of "The 12 days of Christmas", enjoy the ever-increasing number of animals that inhabit *My Wonderful Christmas Tree* by Dahlov Ipcar (\$16.95, Islandport Press, www.islandpotpress.com). Georgetown, ME, artist Dahlov treats us to her uniquely beautiful illustrations of wildlife taking their turns decorating a star-topped Christmas tree in her yard with bears, porcupines, squirrels and birds including 12 chickadees. Each drawing has a fitting poem. Of one kind of bird visitor she writes: "Screeching high shrieks, From their black beaks, Sassy shrill squawks, that's how jays talk, Nine bluejays." Born in Windsor, VT, and now 99 years old, Ipcar still paints and exhibits her remarkable works!

When papa rabbit tells his family how they must share things and help one another, one of the six children takes this to his 'big' heart in a big way in *Merry Christmas, Davy!* by Brigitte Weninger and Eve Tharlet (\$15.95, NorthSouth Books, www.northsouth.com). Follow Davy as he empties the family cupboard of food to help feed the other wildlife trying to find something to eat in the snow. He gives birds a big sack of corn, the deer get a bundle of sweet-smelling hay, and for the wild pigs and squirrels he fills his red hood with apples, carrots and acorns.

Needless to say the parents are more than alarmed when they come home to find an almost bare cupboard. One of the siblings Max shouts: "Are you crazy. What are we going to eat all winter?" Father and mother tell the family not to worry and that Davy meant well and if they are careful they will have enough food to last to spring. "What's important is that we love and help one another."

You'll be happy with the ending when the forest animals come to the rabbit's home on Christmas Eve to share some of their food and promise to show the rabbits the where the best berry-picking and other tasty foods can be found come summertime.

This story is all the more enjoyable for its wonderful drawings, especially the expressions on the animals faces.


 **nextchapter**
BOOKSTORE
www.NextChapterBooksVT.com

162 N. Main St., Barre, VT • (802) 476-3114
Open Monday–Saturday 9:30 am – 6:00 pm
Open Sundays in December through Christmas


Books, Toys, Games, Puzzles,
Puppets, Stuffed Animals,
Gifts, Candles, Calendars & Planners!
Unique & Increased Card Selection!


Book Orders Welcome
Tree House/Reading Loft

Children's Storytime: Saturday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.

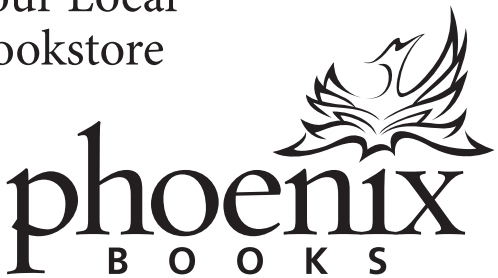


The Bookmobile
Used Books • New Books • Cards • Gifts
Open Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9-3, Sun by chance 11-3
58 Merchants Row, Downtown Rutland, VT
(802) 342-1477 • www.bookmobilevermont.com • facebook


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

 **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
We are celebrating 40 years in business this year!


Your Local
Bookstore


 **phoenix
BOOKS**

2 Center Street • Rutland • 802-855-8078
58 Common Street • Chester • 802-875-3400
191 Bank Street • Burlington • 802-448-3350
21 Essex Way • Essex • 802-872-7111


 www.phoenixbooks.biz

JOIN THE PHOENIX BOOK CLUB
ONLY \$30 A YEAR
**Save 20% off
every book, every day!**
PLUS, you'll get 10% off cards and
stationery, gifts, calendars, and more!





SANDY'S BOOKS & BAKERY
30 North Main Street, Rochester
Open 7 Days: M–Sat 7:30 am–6 pm, Sun 7:30 am–3 pm
767-4258 • www.sandysbooksandbakery.com

 **STAR
CAT
BOOKS**

"GENTLY USED
AND NEW BOOKS"
SPECIALIZING IN:
SCIENCE FICTION &
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

157 MAIN STREET
PO Box 924
BRADFORD, VT 05033
PHONE:
(802) 222-5826

WWW.STARCATBOOKS.COM
STARCATBOOKS@STARCATBOOKS.COM
FOLLOW US EVERYWHERE: STARCATBOOKS

NANCY C. HANGER, OWNER

Holiday Baking!

Recipes from Home and Far Away

Many of us are lifelong fans of folk artist and writer Tasha Tudor (1915-2008) for her books about rural life, many keyed around the comings and going of her pet corgi dogs. She obviously loved life in the country in Southern Vermont where she had her studio, vegetable garden, and a few cows and goats. She also loved to cook simple, homemade meals, many prepared on a wood stove.

Now, thanks to her grandson Winslow, we have *The Tasha Tudor Family Cookbook—Heirloom Recipes and Warm Memories from Corgi Cottage* by Winslow Tudor (\$19.95, Skyhorse Publishing, www.skyhorsepublishing.com).

Here are the meals, breads and muffins, desserts and beverages one might find in a Vermont farmstead kitchen but with Tasha's special touch and care and advice. Her frequent breakfast of oatmeal was made with milk from her own Nubian goats to which she attributed her longevity. She also thrived on a diet of fresh fruits and vegetables.

This is not a gourmet or ethnic cookbook, but is centered around simple, wholesome, New England foods. She is keen on herbs as one can see in her roast chicken recipe that calls for fresh sage, tarragon, bay leaves, and garlic in addition to salt and pepper.

In the Yankee tradition of waste not, want not, she makes chicken soup out of the bones which she later burns in the wood stove and spreads the ashes on her garden to raise its pH level.

Be surprised at how Tasha prepared her Christmas turkey—roasted on a spit in a tin reflector oven facing a bed of coals in the fireplace. This was a labor of love as the turkey had to be turned every 20 minutes for 5-7 hours. But picture and enjoy this:

"By the time everyone gathered for dinner the house smelled of mashed potatoes, gravy, sugar cookies, fresh bread, and roast turkey. The strings of balsam branches around the doorway and the wreath with the red bow smelled wonderful, candlelight gleamed in the copperware over the cookstove, corgis ran around barking, the frequent ring of the telephone from acquaintances to say Merry Christmas was part of the scene."

Recipes (she called them receipts) for all her Christmas foods are in this book. Oldtimers will appreciate the kitchen gadgets of her era: cast iron cookware, wooden spoons, bean crocks, a small three-minute hourglass, hand-cranked egg beater, meat grinder and nutmeg graters. She used the same antique potato masher for some 80 years.

In addition to color photographs of her dishes the book has many of her drawings that so beautifully illustrate her life and times.

Author and grandson Winslow Tudor grew up next door to his grandmother and is involved daily with the preservation of Tasha's house, built by her son Seth, and the garden she created around it. For more about Tasha and the 100 books she wrote and illustrated go to www.tashatudorandfamily.com.

The Tasha Tudor Museum is open May through October at 974 Western Ave. in Brattleboro, VT. For information call (802) 258-6564. Visit tashatudormuseum.org.

Every Christmas those of us who are lucky enough will enjoy the famous treats from Germany—Christmas cookies, gingerbreads, strudels, and a fruit bread covered with icing called stollen.

To find out how to make these traditional treats go no further than the 275-page mas-

terpiece *Classic German Baking—The Very Best Recipes for Traditional Favorites, from Pfeffernusse to Streuselkuchen* by Luisa Weiss (\$35, Ten Speed Press, www.tenspeedpress.com).

The author started baking Christmas cookies as a young girl and later made a career of baking when she married into a German family of chefs and bakers from Saxony. She learned the Christmastime traditions of Germany, Austria and Switzerland which begin the fourth Sunday before Christmas with holiday baking including an assortment of cookies, sweet breads and marzipan. A platter of these homemade treats is called Bunter Teller (colorful plate).

To learn how serious holiday baking is in Germany we read about her friend and assistant Maja who uses 17 different recipes to bake 2,000 cookies that are stored in tins around her apartment awaiting the Christmas season.

For a really early start on Christmas baking try her recipe for old-fashioned German gingerbread, Lebkuchen. The dough rests for up to two months permitting it to ripen fully.

Among her favorite holiday cookies are Springerle from Swabia in southwestern Germany that are flavored with lemon peel and anise. Another favorite is hazelnut-almond batons called Nussstangen, a hazelnut-flavored shortbread studded with pearl sugar and chopped nuts.

In all the author offers 25 Christmas recipes featuring gingerbreads, macaroons, and a variety of spicy cookies. Not to be forgotten are her simple Christmas cookies, Weihnachtsplätzchen, where she uses whole wheat flour to give them a nutty flavor. The dough is infused with lemon peel and vanilla.

This cookbook features full-page illustrations of cookies, cakes, breads and rolls, tortes and strudels and other delights, intertwined with 100 photographs of Berlin street scenes, buildings, and monuments.

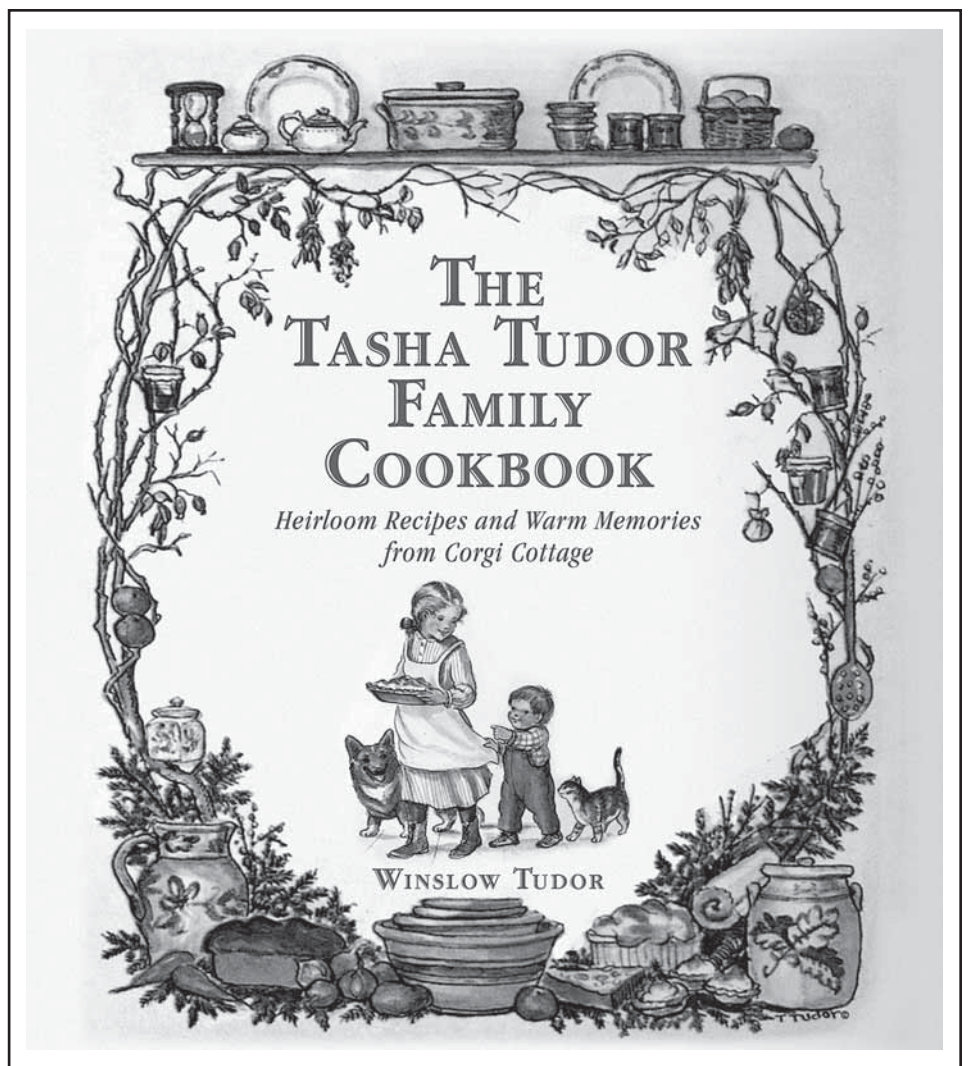
The recipes have interesting names that connect ingredients with the end results. So Zuckerkuchen becomes sugar cake; and Kirschstreuselkuchen, sour cherry streusel cake.

To have an idea of just how tasty German baked goods can be check her list of 'must-have' ingredients: almond paste and marzipan, apples, apricot jam, candied citron peel and orange peel, lemons, lingonberry preserves, almonds, hazelnuts and walnuts, pearl sugar, plum butter, poppy seeds, quark (a sour, fresh cheese), red currant jelly, and sour cherries.

Berlin-born Luisa Weiss lived in Boston for several years. She is the author of *My Berlin Kitchen: Love Story (with Recipes)*.

For those who love to read cookbooks but wish they could buy some German Christmas treats, go to Gillingham's in Woodstock, VT. They carry lots of Bahlsen imported German Christmas cookies including Gingerbread with dark chocolate, Pfefferkuchen and Lebkuchen. And Grandma Miller's in Londonderry, VT makes and sells a delicious Stollen.

Book Reviews by Charles Sutton



We've been enjoying cookies all our lives and have our favorites. Yet we probably have no idea there are hundreds of varieties that we've never tasted or even imagined existed. So be prepared to be enchanted by the 520-page encyclopedic-like *Dorie's Cookies* by Doris Greenspan (\$35, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.hmh.com). You'll be surprised by names like Bee's Sneezie nuggets, cabin-fever caramel banana bars, pistachio-berry slims, and spiced pumpkin jammers.

These unusual cookies were created by the author and many by her son Joshua as proprietors of a gourmet cookie boutique called Beurre & Sel (French for butter and salt) with a mini kitchen in East Harlem, NY and a micro shop on New York's Lower East Side.

Dorie recalls that by accident she discovered using a metal ring to shape her cookies. "They were perfectly shaped and perfectly sized. And they were something else: different." Joshua named them Cookies for Grown-Ups, but the cookie bakers soon found plenty of kids liked their sables, jammers and clunkers. They also developed a line of savory cocktail cookies to go with wine, beer and spirited drinks.

This goes beyond being just a recipe book. Readers are treated to anecdotes about each cookie, its origin, and thank-you to its many contributors.

Dorie even has a recipe for Chinese fortune cookies which she once thought were not "homemadeable." She says there's a learning curve for shaping the cookies and it involves "a few broken ones."

Her Christmas favorites are "gozinaki"

of Eastern European origin that essentially is toasted walnuts held together with honey syrup and cut into diamond shapes. For Christmas spice cookies she uses her Do-Almost-Anything Vanilla Cookie Dough as a starter and adds cinnamon, ginger, cloves and allspice. A childhood favorite is snowy almond crescents called "kipfel" or butterhorns which are dredged in granulated sugar. Another Christmas treat are her snowy-topped brownie drops, a "cookie that is only just set on the outside and moist in the center."

Dorie tells us she sometimes gets up in the middle of the night because she invented a new cookie in her sleep. Sometimes the dream becomes a blue-ribbon winter like The Classic Jammer cookie that has three components: a French vanilla sable shortbread base, a spoonful of jam in the center and a circle of streusel around the outside. There's a full-page photograph of this mouth-watering gem as well as all the other cookies.

A feature of the book are mini-variations of recipes for many of the cookies called "playing around." For example, the recipe for meringue snowballs also explains how to make those snowballs tinted, vanilla, almond, mint chocolate chip, lemon or orange, pistachio, rose, and coffee-chocolate chip!

Dorie won James Beard Foundation awards twice and was called a 'culinary guru' by the New York Times. She has authored several other cookbooks including ones entitled Pancakes from Morning to Midnight and Waffles for Morning to Midnight. She has spent a lifetime creating cookies for well-known chefs. Her secrets are here for us to bake.

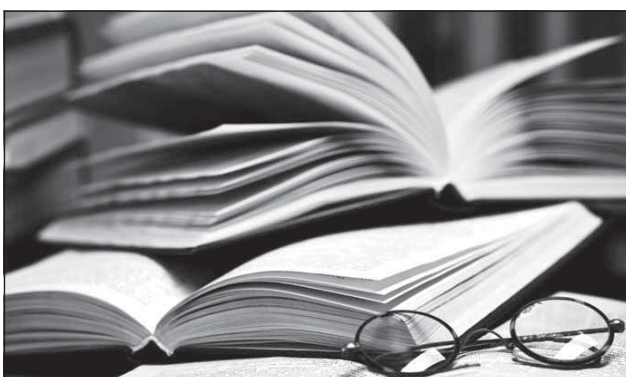


Hermit Hill Books

Used, Rare, & Collectible Books
For the Whole Family

Buy • Sell • Book Searches

95 Main Street • Poultney, VT
(802) 287-5757 • Tues-Sat, 10 am-5 pm



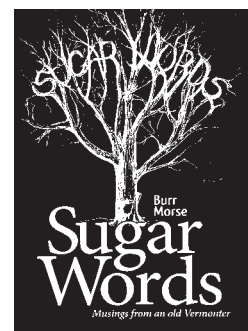
The Eloquent Page

Books - New, Rare and Used
70 North Main Street • St. Albans, Vt.
(802) 527-7243 • Mon - Sat 10 am-5:30 pm

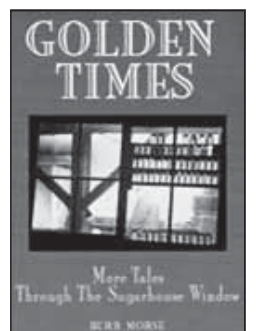


MORSE FARM MAPLE SUGARWORKS

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

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.



Union Christian Church, Calvin Coolidge Birthplace in distance, Plymouth Notch, VT. photo by Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Plymouth Notch, VT

Coolidge Holiday Open House

Celebrating the Traditions of the Season

Celebrate the traditions of the season at Plymouth Notch, VT—one of Vermont’s most picturesque villages—on Saturday, December 10th when the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site hosts the “Coolidge Holiday Open House.”

Most of the museum buildings, including the homestead where President Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as president of the United States, will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Coolidge Birthplace will be decorated as it would have been in 1872, the year the future president was born. The event is free and features special presentations and a wide variety of family activities.

An open house highlight will be a reading by Willem Lange of *Favor Johnson: A Christmas Story* at 11 a.m. Lange is a frequent commentator on Vermont Public Radio and received an Emmy as host of the award-winning “Windows to the Wild” on New Hampshire Public Television. His story about Favor Johnson and the mysterious delivery of homemade fruit cakes on Christmas Eve has become a Vermont classic. Copies of Lange’s CDs and books will be available for purchase and signing.

At 12:30 p.m., poet Carol Johnson Collins of South Duxbury, VT will read poems based on her life growing up on Vermont farms, with Louli Zeichner of Northfield, VT accompanying her on the banjo. Steve Morse of Montpelier, VT will perform holiday organ and piano music throughout the day and lead caroling in the village church at 1:30 p.m.

Other activities include:

- Tours of the Coolidge Homestead with site administrator Bill Jenney at 1 & 2 p.m.

- Stocking stuffers and more available for purchase at the museum stores. Check out our big end-of-season sale!
- Vintage Hat Fashion Show at 3 p.m. Organized by the Black River Academy Museum, Calvin Coolidge’s alma mater. A prize will be awarded to the guest wearing the best “Great Winter Hat”!
- Horse-drawn sleigh (or wagon) rides with Fred DePaul.
- Festive holiday tunes by old-time fiddler Adam Boyce.
- Traditional gifts, treats, and samples of award-winning raw milk Cheddar, Blue, and Original Recipe cheeses at the Plymouth Cheese Factory.
- Paper lantern-making using the earliest known photograph of Plymouth Notch and hands-on history activities and exhibits in the Museum & Education Center’s classroom
- Wreath-making with Terry Gulick. Sales benefit the Coolidge Site’s garden fund.
- Traditional craft demonstrations: quilting, theorem painting, hand-painted ornaments. Make a paper-quilled angel ornament to take home for your tree!

- Special holiday postal cancellation at the historic Plymouth post office—the newest design in the John Lutz series.
- Lunch will be provided at the Wilder House Restaurant.

The Coolidge Holiday Open House is also the last chance to see the 2016 temporary exhibit, “Expressions of Esteem: The Coolidge Presidential Gifts,” which examines the tradition of presenting gifts to our nation’s chief executives.

Calvin Coolidge, unlike his successors who have presidential libraries, was allowed to keep many of the things he received from admirers around the world. The Coolidge family has donated most of these gifts to the Division for Historic Preservation, and there’s lots of “gold & glitter” to feast the eyes!

President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site is located at 3780 Rt. 100A in Plymouth, VT. For more information call (802) 672-3773. E-mail William.Jenney@vermont.gov. Visit historicsites.vermont.gov/coolidge.

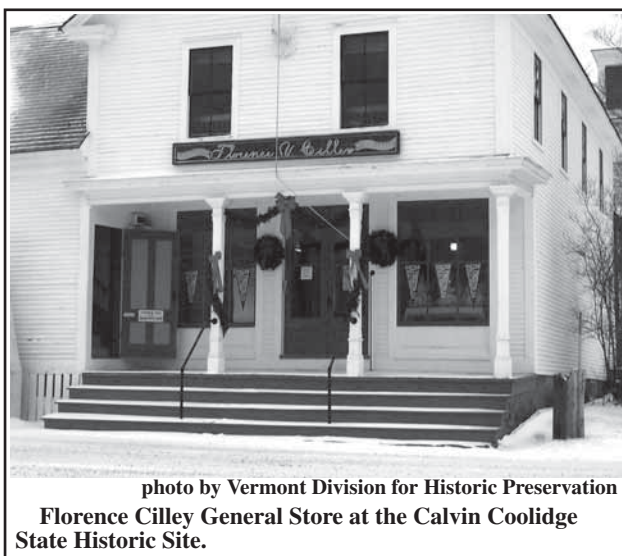


photo by Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Florence Cilley General Store at the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.



photo by Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
State of Vermont historic marker with Wilder Barns in background at the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.



Dog Mountain
143 Parks Rd
St. Johnsbury
Vermont, 05819
1-800-449-2580

Where dogs are always welcome!
Fun for the whole family year-round.

www.dogmt.com



Ever-Changing Art Exhibit



Fine organic coffees, locally crafted Vermont teas, homemade baked goods including gluten free options, and weekly specials.

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

NORTH COUNTRY
ANIMAL LEAGUE

Come find your next best friend.
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!



Tues, Wed, Thurs, and Sat 11 am – 4:30 pm
Fri 12–6 pm • Closed Sun & Mon

16 Mountain View Meadow Rd (Rt 100), Morrisville, VT
802-888-5065 • www.ncal.com • adopt@ncal.com



Rural Vermont Real Estate

If You Can Dream It, We Can Do It!



We Truck Tiny Houses to Their New Location (pre-built)



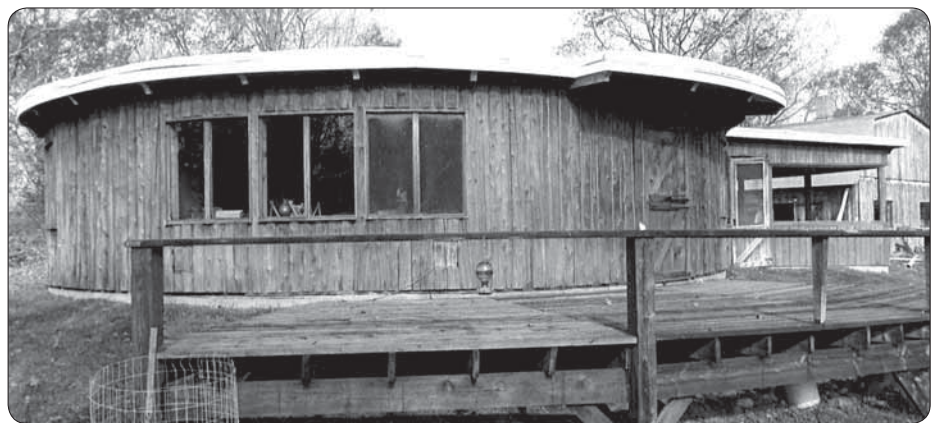
We Do Tiny Houses (pre-built)



We Do Garages



We Do Barns



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



RUDOLPH
THE RED-NOSED REINDEER
THE MUSICAL
TUES | DEC 6 | 6:00 PM



ALBANY BERKSHIRE BALLET
THE NUTCRACKER
SUN | DEC 18 | 2 PM + 6 PM



LEO KOTTKE
& KELLER WILLIAMS
FRI | JAN 13 | 8:00 PM

COMEDIAN
BOB MARLEY
FRI | JAN 20
8:00 PM



LIDIA'S
PBS
AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH...
LIDIA BASTIANICH
SAT | JAN 28 | 8:00 PM

PARAMOUNT THEATRE paramountvt.org 30 CENTER ST • RUTLAND, VT • 802.775.0903

The SHOPS at the PURPLE Picket Fence
Rt. 7 Northend of Rutland / Corner of (24) McKinley Ave.



Mr. Twitter's
Home & Holiday ACCENTS
Seasonal Collectables and WHAT YOU LEAST EXPECTIBLES!
Christmas stocking Ornaments Stuffers Gift Baskets • Pointsettias
www.mrtwitter.com
Face book Mr Twitters
773-0795/800-924-8948



Wreaths and Ribbons, Garlands and greens...
we do BOWS!!
Balsm 12"-72" diameter
Mixed Greens • Pre Decorated and



3 CROWS
vintage ANTIQUES
flea-finds • Salvage
Great odd WEIRD JUNK



Loosey Goosey's CLOTHESLINE
Clothing and ACCESSORIES
for Women who want both COMFORT & Style!

OPEN Year Round
Holiday Hours M-F 9-5³⁰ Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4

SHIPPING/DELIVERY SERVICE
FREE gift Wrapping

Christmas Trees

~ Balsam Wreaths ~

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, Brussels Sprouts, Lettuce, Herbs,
And all your favorite fresh vegetables!
Fruit Baskets. Wine & Beer.

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

DUTTON

FARMSTAND

"Buy Direct From a Farmer"