Fund ‘Raising the Roof’

Ruth Sylvester

Everybody needs a friend who can lend a hand in time of need. And if you’re a building – patiently abiding and not seeming to change – it may be hard to find such a pal. Beaver Meadow Chapel, located eponymously at the intersection of Beaver Meadow Road and Chapel Hill Road in West Norwich, found its friend in the nick of time: Donna Wheeler has become the champion of the charming building, and has led the drive to raise funds for a highly necessary new roof. Continued on page 18

Crossing the River: The Building of the Ledyard Bridge

David Callaway

In the autumn of 1765, John Hutchinson tramped over the trails from Ashford, Connecticut to Hanover, New Hampshire with little more than a horse “upon which rode his wife and babes, some clothing and bedding and also another necessary animal to a growing family – a cow.”* From Hanover, the family paddled across the Connecticut River in a log canoe, Continued on page 20

Forever Feminist: Beth Dingman and Claudia Lamperti

Ruth Sylvester

I think today it’s easier to have the label lesbian than feminist,” says Claudia McKay Lamperti. She and her partner, Beth Dingman, are now retired from owning and running New Victoria Printers and Publishers. Founded as a print shop in Lebanon in 1975, New Vic embodied the strong feminist political convictions of its founders, and the belief that “the power of the press belongs to those who own it.”

Claudia grew up on the west coast. She met and married John Lamperti in California, and moved to the Upper Valley in 1962 when he came to Dartmouth to teach mathematics. Two of Claudia and John’s four children live in Norwich with their families; the other two live in California.

Beth, on the other hand, grew up in Massachusetts, and went to the University of Chicago. After graduating, she spent two years in the Philippines with the Peace Corps, and seven months traveling back to the US. Continued on page 10
Native plants – species present in Vermont prior to European colonization – are cornerstones of our environment. In addition to providing food and cover for native fauna including a myriad of beneficial insects, native plant communities provide the genetic and species diversity necessary for ecosystem resilience. Unfortunately, human activities and associated habitat loss threaten many of Vermont’s native plants. One seemingly benign activity, gardening, can lead to habitat loss. When non-native species are planted, they often produce a homogenized landscape devoid of regional character. Some are invasive, escaping cultivation, and outcompeting native plants in natural settings.

In contrast, landscaping with native species celebrates Vermont’s natural heritage by restoring native plant communities. ‘Escapers’ from native plantings pose no threat to nearby natural communities. Plantings are selected based on site requirements (i.e., Orange Milkweed, or Asclepias tuberosa, on sandy, dry soils) so that constant watering, fertilizing, or soil amendments are unnecessary. Carefully chosen native plants are ideal for planting in the most difficult sites on your property (for instance, a wet and shady area) because they evolved under the same conditions. One excellent resource for matching species to site conditions is Native Plants of the Northeast (D.J. Leopold, 2008).

Autumn is the perfect time to start a native plant garden. Native plants can be obtained from many sources, including seed collecting, cuttings, or nursery purchases. Transplanting native plants from the wild into your garden is unethical and often illegal. It depletes natural communities of genetic and species diversity, so please don’t do it! Instead, collect seeds. Examine them to ensure they are mature and never take more than 10% of a population’s seeds. Sow seeds outdoors in autumn because most require repeated periods of cold and moisture to germinate. Reproducing these conditions indoors is difficult. Late summer to early fall is also the perfect time to propagate woody plants from semi-hardwood cuttings. Riparian species, such as willows or dogwoods, are easiest. Hardwood cuttings are taken later in fall when plants are dormant.

Autumn is a great time to purchase native perennials because they are often on sale. Be sure to ask where the plant originated. Some ‘native’ plants are produced from European stock or from those grown in the southeastern US. Refer to plants using Latin names, a binomial consisting of a genus (generalized name) and a species (more specific name). This is not difficult; many genera, (Geranium, Iris) are already part of our gardening vocabulary. Using Latin names ensures that we get the species requested. Ask for Acer rubrum and you will purchase a native red maple, prized for its fall color. Ask for ‘Red Maple’ and you might purchase ‘Crimson King’ a cultivar of the highly invasive Norway Maple (Acer platanoides).

Need inspiration? The native wildflowers in King Arthur Flour’s retention basins are one local example. To view the native plantings at the Montshire Museum, please check in at the front desk. Viewing is free with admission. The Conservation Commission also has native plant resources available through Google Drive. Contact norwich.conservation.commission@gmail.com for links on native plant gardening and spring flora photos. — Jen Goulet
Norwich Women’s Club by the Numbers...

260 members from over
14 towns in the Upper Valley area

8 Coffee and Conversations
at the Norwich Inn each year

3 social evenings held in fall, winter, and spring

4 cultural programs orchestrated annually

4 free Summer Concerts on the Norwich Green
sponsored, and attended by over
600 people in the Upper Valley community

150+ flowers maintained in the Norwich Town Center triangle

650 Norwich phone directories
produced and sold to raise funds for Community Project Grants

240+ volunteers recruited to
work each Nearly New Sale,
where thousands of clothing items are consigned to raise scholarship monies

5 online newsletters a year,
plus a website to keep members informed

$35,000+ in annual scholarships awarded,
the largest non-profit contribution to the Vermont Student Assistance Corp (VSAC).

200+ people attend our Annual Spring Gala
where 200+ items are auctioned to raise Community Project Grant monies

$30,000+ in Community Project Grants
awarded to a wide array of non-profit organizations serving the Norwich community

Only $20 a year to be a member! Anyone can join.
It’s as easy as visiting www.norwichwomensclub.org
As we move from a glorious summer to many-a-New Englander's favorite season, it's hard not to feel something greater than ourselves at work. I, for one, am saying how fortunate I am to be able to live on this part of the planet!

I am quite certain that Norwich residents have felt similarly throughout the town's history. A sense of resilience and dogged determination by our neighbors to make things right and good, on a local and universal (perhaps spiritual) level is apparent throughout this issue.

I invite you to read the cover article about the history and significance of the Beaver Meadow Chapel. This quaint and charming building is teeming with wonderful stories of local and national impact. Who knew?! And please recognize that without its saving grace, Donna Wheeler, this important Norwich institution was in danger of falling by the wayside. Prepare to be moved to help.

Also on the cover, I found the article about Beth Dingman and Claudia Lamperti inspiring (as a publisher, myself!). Rather than wait for times to change, they started an award-winning publishing company in 1975 to provide an outlet for feminist issues and for works by and about lesbians. On a more local level, they also created an informal social network for lesbians in the Upper Valley to connect... long before social media made that easy!

Keep reading; nearly every article in this issue reveals the caring and determination by Norwich people to strive for the greater good. Pay special attention to our new sponsored page, Soul of Money, to see the win/win/win collaboration of sharing time, money, and commitment to doing good in the world.

Take pause... and enjoy the season.  

– Jen MacMillen

Editor’s Note

Here we are again – back to school. The significance of returning to ‘school’ changes as time goes on, but there is a certain rhythm that arrives with early fall. Obviously, it means getting back to routine and work for school age children – some look forward to it and others, not so much. For the rest of us, it means getting back to ‘to-do’ lists that have been put aside in order to take advantage of the warmth and relaxation of summer, buckling down to larger projects and jobs, and inevitably... sigh... focusing on the coming winter freeze.

In this issue, we highlight several amazing instances of hard work and education. In Crossing the River, we are reminded of the challenges faced by merely attempting to cross the Connecticut River to get over to Hanover over the past two hundred years. In addition, it was inspiring to read about the ingenuity and creativity of the many bridge solutions that were attempted throughout the years. I will always look more closely at the Ledyard Bridge now. Also, it is inspiring to read about the hard work and strong will of Claudia Lamperti and Beth Dingman who seemed way ahead of their time in defining feminist literature and running an award-winning publishing business. And some of the most important education for all ages, young to old, can be found in Jay Van Arman’s life of giving back. I think it is an important message to think about and talk with friends and family – the concept of getting back double what you give. We should all apply that to our lives here in Norwich, and be thankful that there are people in town like Jay to inspire this in our lives.

Enjoy the changing leaves and crisp days as they begin to arrive and whatever of sharing time, money, and commitment to doing good in the world.

As we move from a glorious summer to many-a-New Englander’s favorite season, it’s hard not to feel something greater than ourselves at work. I, for one, am saying how fortunate I am to be able to live on this part of the planet!

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Enjoy the changing leaves and crisp days as they begin to arrive and whatever rhythm ‘back to school’ means to you.

– Justine Fahey

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– Justine Fahey
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**Jay Van Arman:**

*A Life Made Full Through Giving Back*

Molly O'Hara

I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Jay Van Arman of Norwich this week. He is a man who spends much of his time looking to fill needs in his community. He's driven by his volunteer work with the Norwich Lions Club, and by a desire to give as much as he can to Norwich. Jay shared a piece of advice another local farmer gave him, “Jay,” he said, “you get back double what you give.” Then, Jay continued, “I think there is a lot of truth to that. So that’s why I feel fortunate to live in such a community.”

Jay Van Arman has devoted most of his life striving to give what he can to make Norwich a better community. Not long after his new father-in-law passed away and Jay took over operations at the family farm of his wife, Debby Van Arman (previously Pierce), he began driving the school bus for the Norwich School District.

Jay drove the bus from 1971 to 1978, while raising three kids – and a herd of Jersey cows – with Debby. After driving the bus, Jay began to work for the United States Postal Service. At the same time, he was very active in the Norwich Lions Club which is part of one of the largest service organizations in the world. On occasion, they connect with other local chapters to coordinate on events, but mostly the Club focuses on civic volunteerism within the chapter area. He credits the Lions Club with much of his volunteerism since the idea behind the Lions is neighbor helping neighbor.

He served on the Norwich Selectboard as well as the School Board, each for two terms. Jay was also on the Zoning Board. The Norwich Fire Department was lucky enough to have him for 29 years, including a short period he spent as assistant chief. Jay was, and still is, focused on helping create a better town with each small step.

Jay is on the council for the Parish Church and, for some time was also a Justice of the Peace. He understood the idea of giving back as more than just helping Norwich by working on the boards that govern it, but also by providing love and support to those who needed it.

When Jay retired from the Postal Service, one of the first jobs he began immediately after was driving the bus again. “I love kids and I enjoy driving the bus,” he said. The image is one that makes me smile. My own young daughter has a bus driver who is much like Jay; it is wonderful to know your child is in safe and happy hands.

Retired or not, Jay did not slow down. He began delivering Meals on Wheels one day a week; a role he took on when another Norwich figure, William Osgood passed away. Jay has been delivering Meals since 2003.

Debby Van Arman shares Jay’s volunteer spirit as well, and sometimes they work together in various ways, like keeping up the appearance of the town. Jay is the one who puts up the flags on Main Street for Patriotic holidays, with help from a man named Demo, and he decorates the trees with Christmas lights. Debby plants flowers along Main Street and keeps them watered. She is also very involved with the Norwich Historical Society. Their farm was featured in the 2014 House and Garden Tour.

Debby is also present for much of the work Jay does with the Lions Club, helping out where she can. Once a month, the two of them assist with the Lions Club sponsored dinner at the Listen Center. Jay, taking less credit for himself, reiterated the influence of the Lions Club on his dedication to giving back.

As we spoke more about Norwich, I could hear his love for the town in Jay’s voice. He said, “I think people should try to give back to the town they live in. If they live in a town, they should help out wherever they can.”

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See “Spotlight On Our Sponsor” on Page 26
“People often ask me what I attribute the company’s longevity to and my answer is the highest quality service possible. Our highly trained service techs, delivery drivers and customer service reps are the lifeblood of our company. We promise to give you the best possible service that you demand & deserve.” - Casey Cota, President
Norwich Fair Was a Blast!

Literally hundreds of people and organizations pitched in to help with the success of this year’s Norwich Fair, which was run July 21-24 by the Lions Club on the town green.

Special thanks go to Pathways Consulting for helping underwrite the pig roast, and to Twin State Sand & Gravel, Blaktop Inc., and William Smith Auctioneers for sponsoring free pony rides which were once again a big hit. King Arthur Flour sponsored the pie-baking contest, many merchants contributed to the silent auction, and there was music by The Brew Brothers, Socially Awkward, Dave Richardson, Tuck’s Rock Dojo and The Residuals.

Other crowd pleasers included the rides and games (naturally!), Boy Scout concessions, ice cream, the Zambia Circus, the Fire Department’s Touch-a-Truck, the dunk tank, the Meadow Muffin Contest, fireworks and bingo.

See you next year!

Local Author Writes and Publishes Book

Steven Bingel recently wrote and published Mudville, a book of stories for all ages which center on a character, Pinky, who will bring out laughter from all kinds and ages of people as the readers follow his life. Timeless and sometimes ageless, these stories strike home for all ages. Pinky finds a way to capture the spirit and essence of our childhood.

Bingel currently resides in Norwich with his wife Maureen Chase-Bingel. They have a large family of seven children and two grandchildren. He has published numerous stories in The Green Mountain Trading Post, articles for his company’s quarterly newsletter, and several websites. Steven also has a passion for quantum physics and is working on a second book aptly titled Learning to Survive in Infinity. He currently works at West Lebanon Feed & Supply.

NAPC Commission of the Year Award

The Norwich Historic Preservation Commission has been selected as the 2016 Commission of the Year by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The NAPC Commission Excellence Awards honor the outstanding efforts and achievements of local historic preservation district and landmark commissions, and boards of architectural review. The award honors the Norwich Historic Preservation Commission’s outstanding work in raising awareness about Norwich’s rich historic, architectural and cultural resources. NAPC’s Awards Committee was struck by the breadth and scope of the commission’s interests and activities, including completion of a town-wide architectural survey, initiation of National Register nominations, production of a walking tour brochure, development of a website, and the recent effort to document mid-century modern structures in Norwich.

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According to figures from the American Cancer Society, by the end of the current year, over 246,000 women will be newly diagnosed with breast cancer in America. This makes breast cancer the second most common form of cancer for women, with only skin cancer more common. Research over the past two decades has made considerable progress in identifying causes, and treating breast cancer. Still, more breakthroughs can occur with the help of money to fund that research.

One source of that funding is the Making Strides For Breast Cancer walk, which occurs nationwide and here in the Upper Valley. The walk, held in Hanover on October 2, is in its second year in our area. The American Cancer Society's Pam Ritchie says in its first year in 2015, the Upper Valley walk attracted over 200 participants, and raised $24,000. Ritchie, community manager for several of the Making Strides walks in New Hampshire, says this year's goal is 400 participants, and raising $35,000. Breast cancer survivors are encouraged to take part in the event.

Certainly, Vermont is not immune from the high incidence of breast cancer that affects women (and men) in the US. According to the Centers for Disease Control, for the year 2013, the incidence of women developing breast cancer in Vermont is 125.6 of 100,000 women (New Hampshire's rate of 148.4 is even higher). Death rates for breast cancer in Vermont measured 18.7 of 100,000 women, making it the second leading cause of death from cancer among women, after lung cancer.

Nationwide, about 300 Making Strides walks occur, with the funds raised used to assist the work of the ACS. The walk helps fund research grants used by medical centers, including Lebanon's DHMC. Along with providing money for research grants, the ACS provides DHMC with a wide range of educational material for patients.

The Upper Valley Making Strides walk is “a volunteer driven event,” says Pam Ritchie. Besides the many volunteers who work the day of the walk, community volunteers serve on a committee that works year-round to promote and fundraise for the walk. Ritchie says that Lebanon restaurants Chili's and Margaritas both hold fund raising events for the Strides walk. The kickoff event, which included a concert, was held at Lebanon’s Colburn Park in early August. Organizers further promote the event at locations such as area businesses and farmers markets.

The actual walk covers 3.6 miles, and begins and ends at Storrs Pond in Hanover. The course takes participants down Rip Road, to East Wheelock, to Park Street, then along Lyme Road, before returning to Storrs Pond.

Participants, volunteers, and donors are encouraged to sign up online before the walk, but it is possible to register the day of the event. For more information, or to donate or participate, visit the website at makingstrideswalk.org/uppervalleynh.
ELDER PROFILE – continued from page 1

She then returned to Chicago for a degree in social work. Her two-year stint in California after graduate school was a time of major personal and political change for her. She returned to New England in part because it represented a sense of stability she hadn’t found in California.

Power and the Press

In 1975, Beth and Claudia joined with three other women to found New Victoria Printers, after several of them were fired from another local press for suing for sex discrimination over unequal pay. The name of the business honored England’s Victoria Press, founded in 1860, owned and operated entirely by women.

In the pre-desktop-publishing days of the 1970s, New Vic printers was busy with posters and newsletters, doing a lot of work for Dartmouth and other local businesses. The shop soon became a hangout for women – both straight and lesbian – as the women’s movement of those years awoke a surge of interest and awareness about gender equity. The group soon decided to publish as well as print, and started the non-profit New Victoria Publishers. Their first book was a collection of writing and art by women from northern New England entitled TILT.

In 1985, Beth and Claudia closed the print shop and moved the publishing business into their home in Norwich. They ran New Victoria Publishers with the help of Rebecca Beguin until 2007, when they retired and sold the company. During that time, they published over 100 books, primarily fiction by and about lesbians. They won three Lambda Literary Awards, among other honors. The University of Massachusetts at Amherst has recently acquired their archives and artifacts. The partners are pleased with this recognition of the historical importance of their efforts... and by the large amount of space that has opened up in their garage and living room!

Theory and Reality in Politics

Beth and Claudia tend to take a progressive yet practical view of politics. “The left wants purity,” says Beth, “and if we can’t have it, we take our toys and go home. But governing doesn’t work that way.”
The pair insert remarks back and forth in the conversation, as Claudia says, “We’re happy about Hillary [being nominated],” and Beth adds, “Hillary and Bill were in the movement like us back in the seventies, but decided that the left wouldn’t take us where we wanted to go.” They are probably right, Beth admits, that to get things done it is necessary to compromise and cut deals.

Commenting on the Democratic convention and Obama’s list of behaviors “that’s not who we [Americans] are,” Beth says. “I’ve often felt that I’m not ‘who we are.’ I’ve been outside the usual set of American symbols.” In spite of this outsider feeling, she’s never felt oppressed because of her sexual orientation. Perhaps people simply reflect to her what she feels, since, as she says, “I never felt bad about myself, but I wondered, “how am I going to be this way when everyone rejects it?”

In the 1970s and ‘80s, the pair were leaders in an effort to form a women’s community and also a lesbian community. New Vic Printers had always been an informal social center for feminists and lesbians, so they were used to welcoming people. A small ad in the Valley News, “Lesbians, meet your sisters” with a contact mailbox, offered gatherings to many who were lonely in the shadows. Events like games, parties, hikes, and beach trips were organized, and proved to fill a deep social need. “The connections we made, and that other women in the Upper Valley made, are still strong, even though people have moved away. People stay in touch,” says Beth.

Nowadays, the couple spends much of their time ‘grandma-ing’ (they have four grandchildren in Norwich) and traveling. They live some of the winter in Arizona. Beth is involved with the sailing club on Lake Mascoma, where she teaches women to sail.

Beth and Claudia continue to watch the world with bemusement. “Sometimes I look at The Bachelorette and think, ‘What happened to feminism that this show even exists,’” says Beth. “Every twenty or thirty years women have to relearn their feminist history. It’s something we’ve thought about – two steps forward and one step back. Progress gets made and then we forget, and there’s always some backlash, which persists. They’ve made feminist a dirty word, the way people say ‘I’m not really a feminist, but...’” Beth and Claudia are ready for the next step forward. They hope it’s a big one!

---

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—George R. Porter, Founder

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Elaine Livingston
Beaver Meadow Road

Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
Where would you prefer to spend the most time?
I definitely spend the most time at home. Dan and Whitt’s, Marion Cross School, the Library and Huntley Meadow are all tied for second place.

Who was your favorite grammar school teacher and why?
Mr. Heinechen for second grade (all the kids called him ‘H’). He not only taught us all the regular second grade school things, but also how to build electromagnets and other fun mechanical things.

What is your favorite girl’s name? Boy’s name?
Girls: Rory and Alix

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
Caring community

Which Disney or cartoon character best describes you?
Goofy

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
Dan & Whit’s, for their hiring practices and caring ways with employees and customer.

Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
My mother. She was an alpine skier in the 1952 Olympics, and, at 84, she is still going strong.

Vicky Fish
Wolley Hill Road

Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
Where would you prefer to spend the most time?
In my backyard and walking on Maple Hill. Lucky for me, I spend the most time exactly where I want to be spending it!

Who was your favorite grammar school teacher and why?
Miss O’Brien, 3rd grade. She saw the potential in everyone; she made us all kinder to each other. And I loved her hair.

If you were to write a book, what type would it be?
I would write a book about my experiences as a farmer and a mother.

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
Weightlessness Books

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
Caring, resourceful, generous

Which local institution do you believe has the most positive impact on the Norwich community?
Dan Fraser definitely. He cares about the town of Norwich and the community of Norwich and the people of Norwich.

Nordic or downhill skiing or snowboarding or winter mountain biking?
None of the above. I spend a lot of the winter sitting in various ice rinks around VT and NH watching my daughters play ice hockey!

Who is your favorite contemporary sports hero?
This summer it is the US women’s gymnastics team… Five strong, confident women from different backgrounds who are fierce competitors and loyal teammates. They’re great examples for my daughters.

Which local arts organization is your favorite? Northern Stage- a great place to see plays!

Donna Pereira-Mackall
Goodrich Four Corners Road

Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
Since a good amount of my time is spent in the car, I’m always happiest on the drive home, along the Connecticut.

If you were to write a book, what type would it be?
Does a cookbook count? The working title is Found Food. Just don’t Google that, because you’ll end up with a slew of sites listing gross things found in food!

What is your favorite girl’s name? Boy’s name?
Nicknames are preferred in my world: Mere, Hen, Mikey, and Hilly

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
Caring, resourceful, generous

Who is your favorite actor or actress of all time?
Hands down, Meryl Streep: The Deer Hunter, Kramer vs. Kramer, Manhattan, Sophie’s Choice, Mamma Mia and The Devil Wears Prada are just a few examples of why she gets my vote.

Do you see the forest or the trees?
Neither. I’m always the one looking at the tiny flowers on the forest floor.

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
To which local business are you most loyal and why?
Neither: I’m always the one looking at the tiny flowers on the forest floor.

What is your favorite quote?
“When life gives you lemons, keep them because hey, free lemons.”

If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would it be?
Anywhere with my family. I’d love to go to all 58 of our national parks.

If you could have super powers for a day, which would you choose and what good would you do with them?
Maybe I would opt to have the power of mind control. I could enter the minds of all the leaders who have us at war with one another and make them drop their hate.

What is your favorite quote?
“And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: What is essential is invisible to the eye.”

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
A Brief Moment of Weightlessness is my first book of short stories. You can find it at the Norwich Bookstore or the library.

Who is your favorite girl’s name? Boy’s name?
Jane Jetson

Which Disney or cartoon character best describes you?
Jane Jetson

My favorite girl’s name? Boy’s name?
Caring, resourceful, generous

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
Caring, resourceful, generous

Which local institution do you believe has the most positive impact on the Norwich community?
To which local business are you most loyal and why?

Who was your favorite grammar school teacher and why?
Miss O’Brien, 3rd grade. She saw the potential in everyone; she made us all kinder to each other. And I loved her hair.

If you were to write a book, what type would it be?
Lucky for me, I did write a book. A Brief Moment of Weightlessness is my first book of short stories. You can find it at the Norwich Bookstore or the library.

What is your favorite girl’s name? Boy’s name?
A friend briefly changed her name to Xochimilco in high school. I’ve never forgotten that.

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
Upper Valley Yoga, Norwich Recreation (yoga), and Tini Yoga. Yoga is going to help me grow old gracefully.

Do you see the forest or the trees?
I guess I see the trees. As a writer, I think I like to see what is unique in each moment and each character... and then extend that to the universal.

If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would it be?
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To which local business are you most loyal and why?
A Brief Moment of Weightlessness is my first book of short stories. You can find it at the Norwich Bookstore or the library.
This summer, a new restaurant, the Latham House Tavern, opened its doors in Lyme. The restaurant is part of Dowds' Country Inn, a long-established area lodging and event center.

Patrick Dowd said work on the Latham House Tavern began in November of last year, and the tavern was ready to welcome diners in early July. Providing a place for guests of the inn as well as area residents which offers good food at reasonable prices in a comfortable setting was the goal in establishing the new eatery, said Dowd. “We want to provide a good variety of menu items and have things that are affordable,” Dowd said.

The atmosphere for the 80-seat tavern is very appropriate for its northern New England setting. The feel of the tavern “is a continuation of the inn,” said Dowd. In constructing the tavern, repurposed lumber, and lumber from local forests was used in the building’s interior. Large beams from old area barns adorn the ceiling of the Latham House Tavern.

A complete kitchen remodel accompanied the construction of the new restaurant. The new kitchen not only serves the tavern, but also the various weddings and conferences that take place at the inn.

Whenever possible, ingredients for the menu come from local sources. Patrick Dowd said many of the vegetables found on the menu this time of year come from the inn’s gardens. Beef and lamb products come from the local Tensen Farm in Lyme. Though the menu will have favorite standbys, there will also be seasonal menu changes.

The opening of the Latham House Tavern resulted in an increase in staff at the inn, Dowd said, with several full- and part-time staff added to serve diners. The Latham House Tavern has a full bar, and an extensive offering of beers and ales on tap.

My wife and I had the opportunity to take some out-of-town guests to the Latham House Tavern recently. We enjoyed the comfortable, casual setting, and the service was very good. Three of our party ordered the Latham Tavern burger, topped with bacon, and all found it exceptional, and cooked to order. I’ll add that the sweet potato fries that come with the burger are excellent – large, crispy, and flavorful. Three of us had the French onion soup with the meal, while one of us ordered the clam chowder, and we all thought the soup offerings were excellent – rich and tasty. We will certainly return for future meals.

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Fall 2016 Page 13

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT

Latham House Tavern

Frank Orlowski

Author’s note: Beginning this issue, The Norwich Times will spotlight restaurants throughout the Upper Valley that our readers may enjoy visiting. Our first profile is of the new Latham House Tavern in Lyme.

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This list represents gifts received July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

This past year, the Norwich Public Library opened its doors in September through May on Sunday afternoons, thanks to a generous challenge grant matched by the enthusiastic support of our more than 400 donors as well as Norwich residents. We are pleased to announce that the library will be open Sunday hours again starting September 11. During the past year the library also circulated almost 59,000 items (a record number!) and 55,000 people came through our doors another record!), both of which we like to think are attributable to a welcoming environment with high-quality materials and engaging programs that resonate with patrons and community members of all ages. On behalf of the trustees and staff, we thank the Norwich community and patrons for making this possible, and we look forward to strengthening our mission with your continuing interest and support in the coming year. Stephanie McCallad, President, Trustees of NPL.

This list has been prepared with care, but if your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please let us know so we can correct our records. Thank you!

2016 ANNUAL GIFT REPORT
The following individuals generously gave to the Library’s Annual Fund and/or to special appeals throughout the fiscal year. We are deeply appreciative of their support.

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Pam & Ed Piper
Penny McConnel & Jim Gold
Susan & Buffalo McLaughey
Penny McConnel & Jim Gold
Susan & Dick Haerich

Thank you to NPL Volunteers!

This past fiscal year 2016, NPL is pleased to announce that our Volunteers rendered over 2,500 hours of their time and energy—behind the circulation desk, processing new books, shelving, and a myriad of other activities rendered over 2,500 hours of their time and energy—behind the circulation desk, processing new books, shelving, and a myriad of other activities that support the Library’s strength and vitality as a community resource. Our 45 volunteers accomplished all of these duties with good humor, hard work, and a shared passion for books in all their forms. Trustees and staff are fortunate indeed to have their support. Thank you!

Ruth Addante
Laurie Halpern
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Penny McConnel & Jim Gold
Sister Danielle Cohen & Stephen Pidgeon
Onita Connington & Vijay Thadani
Becky Cook & Natalie Boze
Catherine & John Girard
Ann & Nick Greenwald
Susan & Dick Haerich

Thank you to the Friends of the Norwich Public Library!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Friends of NPL for their enthusiastic dedication to the Library. Funds raised by the Rubber Ducky Race, Bread & Soup Luncheons, and Mother’s Day Plant sale help strengthen many of our most popular services, including First Wednesdays, the Summer Reading Program, and museum passes. We deeply appreciate your hard work and commitment. Thank you!
Hearing about High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program and the programs they run for people with special needs, one might think it is just about learning to ride a horse. But it is more than just a ride. You only have to see people overcome with smiles and tears to know you are seeing lives changed – everyone from the riders, to the volunteers, to the staff. What moves volunteers is what they see in the riders they help: the growth of confidence and self-worth, the moments of delight and love, the thawing of mental prisons of isolation, the reaching out of tender tendrils of trust.

High Horses, incorporated in 1993, offer different types of therapeutic riding programs for seniors, veterans, adults, teens, and children with physical, cognitive, or emotional issues. The close physical connection of riding, grooming, or even just patting such a large creature expands anybody’s world, and particularly that of people whose abilities or opportunities have separated them from such connections. The non-judgmental energy of the horse is in itself soothing, and participants learn to see, in the horse’s reactions, an image of the calm or tension that they themselves are emanating. The rhythmic motion of the horse helps riders engage large muscles for strength, balance, and coordination. Games such as tossing a ball while on horseback further develop unconscious muscle use and relaxation.

Many programs require a volunteer leading each rider’s horse, with two more walking on either side, in addition to the trained instructor. Such an arrangement creates the need for a large number of volunteers, but the work is compelling and people turn out for it. Paula Schleicher of Norwich has been with High Horses almost from the beginning. She began “leading a horse one day a week, then two, three...” and next thing she knew she was serving on the board, doing presentations to spread the word — and cleaning up as needed. But she doesn’t feel High Horses owes her. On the contrary, “I was lucky to find them,” she exclaims. “It’s a remarkable organization.” Paula grew up in Wisconsin with horses — and with volunteering — and has raised her children with both habits, as she was raised. Growing up, she volunteered with children with special needs. “I think everybody should volunteer,” says Paula. Even busy people like parents used to volunteer as a matter of course, perhaps in their kids’ schools, or in the local library. If they were too busy during the week, they’d find a few hours on Saturday. “I’d hate to see America lose that,” she says, pointing to the growth of solo activities like hiking and running. Giving creates happiness for the giver as well as building strong communities.

High Horses has been leasing space at Brookside Farm on Route 5 for over 15 years, but their dream has always been to own their own facility. And now they’ve found it. They have purchased a former Morgan horse breeding facility in Sharon, right near the I-89 exit. Instead of one ring for a max of six hours a day, they’ll have two large outdoor rings and an indoor arena, says program director Sue Miller. There are attractive paddocks for turning out the horses. There’s even space for a multi-sensory trail, which features stations with such things as wind chimes, or a game of TicTacToe, or a wooden bridge that echoes with the horse’s footsteps. The new property has space to eventually double the number of horses they keep. They’re delighted with the attractive space and with the opportunity to grow, especially as they add and expand newer programs for older riders and veterans struggling with PTSD. The group held an open house over Labor Day Weekend and the fall session of lessons at the new site began on September 6th.

“There was no time to launch a capital campaign,” says Paula, “though we’re proud to say we have money in the bank.” But that money is operational, not the level of funds needed to commit to an $800,000 property. The capital campaign has since launched, having already raised $1.2 million of their $2 million goal, but Paula provided the guarantees necessary for the acquisition to move forward. “They needed help right now,” she explains. “Most people have a passion for something. You want to be involved, and if you’re lucky enough to be able to help...” She’s delighted to find an organization that unites her interests the way High Horses does, and being able to see progress every day both for clients and for the organization makes it that much sweeter. She loves the feeling of success from group effort that volunteering and donating give. “It’s very rewarding,” she says. “It’s such a group effort, and it’s fun to be part of it.”

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The Pig That Travels Around Town

Have you been lucky enough to meet Dudley, the not-so-mini mini-pig? Many in the Upper Valley have. Michelle Carbonneau and Zebulon Jenks of Vershire, VT are the proud owners of 3-year-old Dudley Winston Jenks, a miniature pig. Dudley is not a pot-bellied pig, but a Juliana pig, also known as the Miniature Painted Pig. Unlike the more commonly known pot-bellied pigs, Juliana pigs are leaner in appearance, generally taller, and they lack the belly of other miniature pigs.

Also, Michelle and Zeb discovered that if fed and cared for properly, miniature pigs can actually grow to be quite sizable. Dudley has maxed out at a very healthy weight of 185 pounds.

All miniature pig breeders recommend lots of socialization from an early age in order to have a friendly adult pig. Since he was a piglet, Michelle and Zeb have made an effort to bring him everywhere they go. He loves to go for car rides and visit new places. Michelle and Zeb cater events on the weekends, often either weddings or for local fraternities, and Dudley usually goes with them. He’s happy to socialize with the people, dogs, kids, and just about any other animal. “We do a lot of catering for weddings. Sometimes the bride and the groom actually request that he comes along,” Michelle said.

Recently, he was the ‘king’ of Wells, ME when Michelle brought him to the beach there. A lot of people had never seen a pet pig before, so they came up to pet him and many found themselves laying down in the sand with Dudley while they rubbed his belly. He was very happy to oblige. Belly rubs are one of Dudley’s absolute favorite things.

Dudley is also an avid hiker. His most recent hike was seven miles long. He’s happiest when he is wandering around in the woods with them, Michelle noted.

In general, Dudley is a pretty mellow pig, although that might have something to do with the fact that he has acres to roam, ponds to swim in, and Grandma and Grandpa’s house to visit next door. He does not do all this roaming alone, though; his absolute best friend is the couple’s 1-year-old boxer/lab mix, Bailey. The two snuggle and play together, and both are allowed loose in the house during the day while Michelle and Zeb are at work.

Of course, Dudley would rather snuggle with his owners. He used to sleep in the bed with them, but when he outgrew that, he got his own bed at the foot of theirs. When it is bedtime, Dudley will wait by the bedroom door until Michelle comes in, pets him and rubs his belly, and then covers him up, and he will stay like that for the entire night.

The care for a pig like Dudley is much like caring for a dog his size. He visits the vet every year for his shots, eats proper food (including mini-pig food as well as fruits and veggies), and gets the opportunity to graze. Michelle and Zeb had to make some changes to their house in order for Dudley to safely get around. He cannot go up and down stairs anymore, so they built ramps all throughout the house so Dudley could travel with ease. They also had to child-proof the entire house to keep the very smart, and sometimes naughty, pig out of trouble. He has a life expectancy of 20 years, so both needed to be prepared for the commitment.

His hooves have to be clipped, but Michelle trained him early to let her do this herself. Now she just rubs his belly until he relaxes and then she clips his hooves with a toenail clipper. One of the most incredible things, however, is that Dudley is trained to go to the bathroom outside. He arrived using pine shavings in a litter box, but eventually decided he did not want to do that anymore, and now he waits at the door until someone lets him out.

Michelle grew up in Charlton, MA and while her family always wanted a mini-pig, they never had the opportunity to get one. Zebulon, on the other hand, grew up in Vershire with plenty of knowledge of farm animals. The two met while working together at the Elizabeth Mines Superfund Site in Strafford, VT, where Michelle was the on-site engineer for a consulting company and Zeb, the superintendent for Northwoods Excavating, was working on the site as well.

When Michelle moved up here to be with Zeb, it seemed like the right time, and they decided to get Dudley. She enjoys spending her time roaming around with Dudley and educating people on miniature pigs any chance she can get. “I could not be more happy I got a mini-pig. He is like my world,” Michelle said. “He’s a pig who just wants to be around his mom, dad, and family all the time, and any chance I get to share that, I do.”

Stonecliff Animal Clinic proudly supports the ANIMALS RULE! page in order to showcase the powerful ways in which animals positively impact our lives, our community and the planet!
RAISING THE ROOF – continued from page 1

The roof is truly in wretched shape, with shingles missing and eroding away. The building was last roofed in 1999, says Donna, and the company that made the shingles has since been sued for substandard product. Donna and her colleagues are crossing their fingers that the few water spots they can see inside do not mean the sheathing needs replacing as well.

Beaver Meadow is the archetypal ‘normally colder hollow’ which weather forecasters mention when scattered frosts are due. The little settlement near the Norwich/Sharon town line seems unreasonably out-of-the-way, until you remember that early European settlers sometimes stayed away from the big rivers that were thoroughfares for possibly hostile Native Americans. Records tell of houses in Beaver Meadow from the late 18th century, and in 1836 a Methodist Church was built. There were 178 members. After about 50 years, the church fell into disuse, and in 1906 it burned.

In 1915, at the urging of Margaret Kerr, a New York City schoolteacher who had retired to the village, Beaver Meadow residents built the present chapel to serve as a religious and social center. Kerr dreamed up the building project to provide a focus for her neighbors, whom she saw to be “very poor, [with] a good deal of drinking, and rough everywhere.” (Kerr’s 1938 memoir, as quoted in the NRHP application.) With $200 raised largely by local women asking for donations in nearby towns, the men set to work and built the simple-yet-pleasing building in 1915. Eighty years later it gained listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

An enterprising minister, Rev. Allen Clark, rector of St. Thomas in Hanover from 1926 to 1931, had to get creative to deliver sermons. The NRHP narrative recounts the story of Clark’s great invention: “After completing the 11am service in Hanover, he drove some seven miles over mostly narrow country roads to the Beaver Meadow Chapel... Clark wrote that during the warm summer months, he often would preach to some twenty-to-thirty worshippers, but that winter’s deep snows and piercing winds often kept members of the congregation from attending Sunday services. While visiting the homes of his Beaver Meadow congregation, Clark says he noticed that each household received a copy of the Sears, Roebuck catalogue. If Sears managed to reach the homes of...
those who could not travel to one of its retail stores, he reasoned, why not try to reach the homes of his congregation by mail? Clark hit on the idea of a ministry-by-mail that some at first humorously referred to as the "Sears, Roebuck Religion." The system turned out to be a huge success. Clark prepared 'Home Prayers' for the next 50 years, with national distribution growing to over 800 churches.

Use of the chapel has varied over the years. Nowadays, there are gatherings on the third Sunday of each month; some are ecumenical services and some are sing-alongs, which can attract 75 people or so. On October 16, the chapel will host an old-time country gospel sing, “Maybelle Carter-type songs,” says Donna, “from the hills of North Carolina, from little local churches in the ‘hollers.’” This chapel seems a close cousin to such sources.

From January to March, services are generally not held in the chapel, in spite of its impressive woodstove. October features a Halloween party for local children, and the extremely popular two Christmas Eve services close out the year. Advent candles decorate the windows for an extra-long season. “If I take them down too soon, I get complaints,” laughs Donna, so the candles shine from Thanksgiving to late January.

Donna says frankly, “My goal now is to get as much publicity as possible so that more people come.” Already the gatherings are popular. “It’s amazing, the number of people who come here who don’t live here,” she exclaims. “This is such a treasure – unique, I think.”

Fundraising for the roof has been advanced by several major donations. The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development gives grants annually for historic preservation of barns and other buildings, and they contributed $10,000. The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation contributed generously, as did the Mascoma Bank Foundation, and the Norwich Women’s Club. Donna hopes to accumulate a “little cushion” for the roofing project – there’s that worry about the sheathing – since the next project is painting the building.

The chapel lacks running water and thus has no bathroom, but this can be an advantage. “Services are short!” laughs Donna.

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with the animals swimming alongside, to a clearing that was soon to be part of the town of Norwich. Jerome Hutchinson, who was three at the time, “was fond of relating when an old man, his distinct remembrance of the appearance presented of the old white-faced cow as she struggled bravely to keep her head above water while swimming the river.” The Hutchisons, along with another family, hunkered down in a log hut not far from where the cow waddled ashore and became the first settlers to winter in Norwich, a stone’s throw from today’s Ledyard Bridge.

The short gap across the Connecticut River was called the ‘narrow place’ and became an ideal location for settlers to travel by canoe or flatboat between Vermont and New Hampshire. In 1770, John Sargent set up a public ferry and tavern on the Vermont side of the river. Unfortunately for Sargent – disliked by Dartmouth officials for selling rum to the students – he also ran afoul of the law by operating a ferry business. In 1764, King George III had given New Hampshire control of the Connecticut River to the western bank of the river. A few years later, the ferry rights for “the whole length of the township of Hanover” were entrusted to the administrators of Dartmouth College. When he heard this news, Sargent grumbled in a letter to Dr. Wheelock, founder of Dartmouth College. “I am not about to give up my ferry rights. I think Justice and Equity gives it to me. [sic]" Eventually he relented and turned over the business to the college who then leased out the ferry operation. In 1793, a Norwich physician, Dr. Lewis, who also ran a gristmill, obtained the lease and ran the ferry "toll free to the clergy and College officials, as well as to those who use his gristmill."

In the 1790s, better transportation was needed for the growing population. Since state laws lacked the power to tax their citizens to build highways, companies were established to build roads and bridges that were paid for by tolls. The White River Falls Bridge Company was incorporated in 1792, and one of its first projects was to investigate the construction of a bridge between Hanover and Norwich.

The citizens of Norwich bristled at the notion of a toll bridge. At the town meeting in 1796, it was voted unanimously, “that we wish there might be a free bridge built over the river at Dr. Lewis’ and in case we cannot have a free Bridge built there, we rather have a ferry kept there than to have a toll bridge built. [sic]” But the town was unable to raise the funds for the project and had to accept the inevitability of a toll bridge. To soften the blow, the builders assured the Vermonters that they could still pass for free over the water in boats or on the ice in the winter. The bridge would also be open without charge on Sundays so people could attend church in Hanover.

The first toll bridge between Hanover and Norwich was an uncovered, single span with an arch twenty feet higher in the center than at the ends, "presenting a sharp ascent on entering and a corresponding downward pitch on leaving." To cross the bridge, it cost 2 cents for every walker. A horse and rider paid 5 cents and "a cart or other wheeled carriage of burden drawn by one beast" cost 8 cents. But even with the tolls, the profits from the bridge were disappointing. A toll road leading to the bridge had not been completed so traffic was light. A rope ferry, located north of the bridge, just opposite of the present Loveland Road, also captured some of the business. The first bridge across the Connecticut had structural problems and collapsed in 1804.

A second bridge was constructed in 1805. But like its predecessor, this bridge was also uncovered which caused the trusses to rot quickly and it soon needed repairs. Money was put into the bridge, and it lasted until 1839 when a third bridge was constructed. During its lifetime, the owners provided discounts for the citizens of Norwich: free passage across the bridge on Sundays, free passage during the winter and half-rates for the people of Norwich and Hanover.

Inexplicably, in the winter of 1852, the bridge company halted all discounts. Citizens on both sides of the river were irate. “We have been accustomed to draw supplies of ice from the river across the bridge,” explained an editorial in the Dartmouth Advertiser, “…and a large proportion of the wood consumed in the village is drawn from the Vermont side.” In addition, the railway depot was located in Norwich, and the added tolls would be a burden for those picking up passengers and hauling freight.

That winter, the residents of Hanover literally took matters into their own hands. Armed with shovels and pickaxes, “the implements of highway warfare,” a group of men plowed out a new path just south of the toll road that led to the frozen river. From there, they marched across the frozen river and avoided the toll bridge. Other residents broke through the tollgates and traveled freely across the bridge. Concerned letters to the editor from owners of the bridge sought to calm the waters. “We wish for harmony with the people of Norwich and Hanover, and are ready to be very forgetful and forgiving of the past FRACAS.”

Tensions rose and boiled over on the night of August 6, 1854 when the bridge was destroyed by fire. Arson was suspected, but no one was arrested. The owners of the bridge felt the atmosphere was too toxic to build another bridge. So for the next five years two boats ferried goods and people across the river at the same toll rate as the bridge. Traffic also picked up again at the up-river rope ferry.

In 1855, the toll road down to the river in Hanover became a public highway, and talk of a free bridge was back on the table. After many meetings and much discussion, Hanover and Norwich agreed to share the cost of a new bridge. Hanover contributed $8,500, Norwich $2,000, and the College kicked in $833 to cover construction costs and the new span – a covered one this time – opened in the summer of 1859.

The most recent connection between the towns was the first free bridge over the entire Connecticut River, and for many years the only one without a charge. Its completion “seemed to demand some special recognition and on the first day of July, a large and highly respectable audience from both sides of the river gathered in the College church to celebrate it.” During the celebration, the new span was christened the Ledyard Free Bridge in honor of John Ledyard. (Ledyard, as a young man, had been a Dartmouth student in 1773, but he lasted just a year before he departed in grand style to explore the South Pacific with Captain Cook. Ledyard cut down a tree near the site of the new bridge “fashioned his own dugout canoe, and paddled it for a week down the Connecticut River to his grandfather’s farm.”)

Dartmouth professor, Dixi Crosby, concluded the
main address by pointing out that the problem with tolls was over. “Long may it stand as a monument of patriotic effort, of generous contributions, of liberal concession, and successful compromises. All parties ought to rejoice that controversy is ended, legal rights protected, and the public welfare promoted.”

From the start, the rugged little bridge showed it could handle its busy location. Goods bound for Hanover were generally shipped to the Lewiston station in Norwich and carted across the bridge. In addition, many Dartmouth freshmen were dropped off at the station, and “walked thru the covered bridge and up the hill to view the Hanover plain for the first time, before making the town their home for the next four years.” The bridge survived a flood in 1869, and stood up to the historic flood of 1927. During the log drives in the later part of the 1800s, “...logs used to jam up so badly against the old stone piers that they had to be dynamited to effect their release – but the old bridge stood.”

Still, by the 20th century, modern transportation began to take its toll. According to a Dartmouth engineering professor, the Ledyard Bridge in 1913 carried more traffic than any other one of the twenty-nine bridges on the Connecticut between the Massachusetts line and Canada. One citizen had reported seeing “five loaded coal carts, four automobiles, and the heavy three-horse buss full of people on the bridge at the same time.” On another occasion, just as a thunderstorm broke at train time, “a crowd of students, several automobiles, several coal teams, stage and wagon crowded it from end to end.” By 1933, the bridge, designed for the horse and buggy, could no longer stand up to the volume and weight of the modern traffic and had to be replaced.

Once again the two towns, although in the midst of the Great Depression, decided to share the $136,000 cost of a new bridge. The old bridge was closed to traffic forever on November 27, 1934. The end of the free bridge was like the death of a family member to folks on both sides of the water. One journalist called it “The Bridge of Sighs.” Another wrote, “It’s passing marks the end of an epoch. For the 75 years that it graced the river with its presence, it was loved and treasured by all... tired old friend that has served long and well.”

The second Ledyard Bridge – a straight-forward concrete and steel structure – was just as tough as the first. It was completed, and stood up to the last great flood on the Connecticut in March of 1936. According to the Hanover Town Report, “For a time, at the height of the flood, it was the only bridge open to traffic for a distance of four hundred miles along the river.” The bridge held up well and only had to be altered once. In 1949, the level of the bridge had to be raised by three feet because the Wilder Dam, which was being developed, raised the Connecticut River by thirteen feet. But time and traffic took its toll, and by 1988, on a bridge safety rating scale of 1 to 100, public authorities gave Ledyard a zero!

By 1994, plans were proposed for a four-lane bridge by the New Hampshire Transportation commission. But residents balked at the idea of a larger bridge, and concerned citizens from both states organized a protest. The group, called Friends of the Ledyard Bridge, spoke to state officials and “expressed concern that the average speed of vehicles entering Hanover would increase, traffic bottlenecks now on the west end of the bridge will move into the center of Hanover, and the number of trucks passing through town will increase.”

A political battle ensued and Vermont Governor Howard Dean threatened to withdraw Vermont’s support for the project if the plans weren’t modified. A compromise was reached and the bridge was narrowed to two lanes. Along with the political squabbles, the completion of the bridge was delayed by cost overruns and the pullout of the original contractor. The bridge was finally completed in the fall of 1999 at the cost of more than $11.2 million.

Yet even after cars were traveling smoothly between New Hampshire and Vermont over the newest Ledyard Bridge, a final controversy dogged the project. Everyone seemed to have an opinion about the decorative stone balls along the bridge. Even three years after the bridge opened, the Valley News still printed letters of protest or ‘Ball Complaints.’ The concrete spheres were called “shockingly ugly,” “blown out of proportion,” and “grandiose.” One person noted that the “12 giant balls present an 83-ton cacophony of concrete.” A final reaction to the balls arrived in early January of 2006 when, according to the Norwich police department, someone drew smiley faces and sad faces on the balls in black spray paint. The Norwich police chief added, “There was a mad face as well.”

The story of the bridges between Norwich and Hanover is really a shared history between the two towns. The bridges revealed how roads went from private to public ownership, how bridge construction evolved, and how people adapted to trains and then automobiles. But above all else, it displayed the cooperation – although bumpy at times – between the citizens of the two communities in solving the problem of how to get from one shore to the other.

And to think it all came about in 1765 as the Hutchinsons watched their cow struggle to keep its head above water and thought there had to be an easier way across the Connecticut River.

*Quotes come from the biographical sketch of the Hutchinson family in The History of Norwich, written in 1905 by M.E. Goddard and Henry Partridge. Quoted material came from The Story of a Bridge by W.R. Waterman and the Norwich Historical Society’s files on the Ledyard Bridge.
Several talented educators will join MCS staff this fall. First grade teacher Danielle Scully joins us from the Lyme School, where she was a kindergarten teacher. She taught in London as well. Karen Trombley, our new third grade teacher, most recently taught kindergarten in Alta, WY, and has also taught first and third grade. Rebecca Charttrand will teach French on a part-time basis to fifth graders after she returns from maternity leave in November. She is recently here from Stowe. Our new school counselor Katie Cormier, who is relocating from Sacramento, CA, has been a counselor in Vergennes and Chittenden, VT, and Somers, NY.

Each of these newcomers received glowing recommendations from their previous principals, and Mr. Bill is excited to welcome all of them to MCS. “I am confident that students and families will really enjoy these new staff members, and that they will contribute positively to our school culture.”

Field Trips for MCS Teachers and Staff

The MCS faculty and staff recently took a field trip to the Dartmouth Life Sciences Building. “At the beginning of each year, I’ve been taking teachers and staff somewhere to give them a sense that we have a school that is not limited to the walls of this building,” says Mr. Bill. Previously they visited the Montshire, the Norwich Historical Society, the Hop and Hood museums, Thayer and VINS. This year, they spent several hours with Kevin Peterson, professor of Biological and Earth Sciences at Dartmouth. “Dr. Peterson is very excited about working with elementary school teachers to help bring dinosaurs to life for children,” says Mr. Bill. Last year, Professor Peterson invited first-graders to his building to examine dinosaur bones and he plans to invite the new batch of first-graders this year. He and his team approach scientific learning not just by lecturing, but by showing students (and teachers and staff!) how to pay close attention and ask questions.

Visible Learning

Mr. Bill attended several conferences over the summer. One that really excited him, Visible Learning, looked at the most important influences on student learning. Over the past 15 years, professor John Hattie has synthesized more than 800 meta-studies measuring the effect of different factors on educational outcomes (examples of topics include: is homework good or bad? what is the optimal class size? how important is the relationship between the teacher and student? how much does the teacher’s knowledge of a subject matter knowledge affect how the students learn?). He then ranked the factors by importance.

The current top-ranked factor according to this research is teacher expectations. “If teachers have high expectations for what their kids can learn, their kids will learn.” Another is collective teacher advocacy. “Even if the teachers are talented, it’s difficult to go forward as a school if the teachers aren’t all rowing in the same direction. That’s where a principal can have a big influence,” says Mr. Bill. There are currently 195 factors that are ranked, and the rankings always change. In fact, number one has changed twice in the last two years, notes Mr. Bill. This is why it’s important, he says, to look at the big picture, and not just focus on the top 10.

“I think the kinds of changes we will see in schools based on the information Hattie is producing is extraordinary,” says Mr. Bill. “The influences are things that educators and administrators are already doing, but this study is looking at where we might most effectively place our emphasis.”

Coming Soon to a School Near You: Math Night!

Parents in recent years have had a lot of questions about the MCS math program. To help answer some of these questions, fifth grade math and language arts teacher Ania White is planning a math night at the end of October. “The goal of the night is to provide parents with a better understanding of how their children are learning math today,” says Mr. Bill. Students will be the docents and parents will be asked to participate. Stay tuned for more information!
Nurturing the Spirit in a Permanent Home

CREATING COMMUNITY

Margo Nutt, member of the UUCUV

On June 12, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley held a dedication ceremony for their new sanctuary and renovated 19th century meetinghouse on Route 5 South in Norwich.

Over the years, the core strength of the UUCUV has been its persistent sense of becoming the congregation we aspired to be. Our current congregation was incorporated in 1984 as the UUCUV. We have held Sunday services in members’ homes, Rollins Chapel, the Howe Library, the Hanover Community Center, the Marion Cross School, and the United Methodist Church of Lebanon. But in all the years of our Unitarian Universalist presence in the Upper Valley, we never had a spiritual home of our own that held all of us while signaling our presence to the world. Previous efforts to build such a home were not successful, but we never gave up. Instead, we not only overcame, but learned from hard times, adversity, and conflict.

In May 2014, the congregation empowered a three-person steering committee to hire an architect, contractor, and project manager to explore the possibility of building a new sanctuary. By December 2014, enough information had been gathered for the congregation (at that time consisting of approximately eighty members) to vote unanimously to embark on a capital campaign. In record time, $1.1 million had been raised or pledged.

Project manager Shawn Donovan, Norwich architect Andrew Garthwaite, and contractor Estes & Gallup were asked to put together final construction plans and cost estimates. In March, the congregation again unanimously voted to proceed. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 31, 2015. Site work started the very next day. After holding services in the Richard Black Center in Hanover during the summer and fall, the congregation held its first service in the new sanctuary on December 6, 2015, only seven months after the groundbreaking ceremony.

As one church member said of the dedication ceremony, “It’s not just the dedication of a building; it is the congregation re-dedicating itself to our Unitarian Universalist values and how we carry those into the larger community.”

Led by current minister Rev. Dr. Patience Stoddard, the June dedication ceremony included participation by the UUCUV’s former minister, Rev. Dr. Nancy Crumble, Rev. Paul S. Sawyer from the First Universalist Society of Hartford, VT, as well as Joe Sullivan of the Leadership Team, New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

This past spring, Congregation president Cappy Nunlist and Rev. Dr. Patience Stoddard gave part of the keynote address at the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Northern New England District annual meeting, explaining the success UUCUV has had these past couple years in achieving its goals. They later shared their speech with the congregation. Lessons learned included: 1.) Ask members and friends to share their dreams for their congregation, but also ask what they are willing to do now to help achieve those dreams. 2.) Create systems that make serving the congregation fun and rewarding. 3.) Practice collaborative leadership, from ministry to fundraising to community service. 4.) Have high expectations. 5.) Don’t be afraid to try new things, to take risks, even to fail. 6.) Create an environment that is safe and welcoming: listen to each other, respect other viewpoints, and don’t sweat the small stuff. 7.) Finally, whenever possible have fun. Laughter is a spiritual practice.

The UUCUV mission is: We strive to be a joyful, inclusive congregation that nurtures spiritual and intellectual growth for everyone while encouraging lives of service and integrity.

We hope that our new home will facilitate fulfillment of our mission.
Antioch University New England has named the recipients of the 2016 Horace Mann Spirit of Service Awards. Each year winners are selected in three categories: the Citizens Award, the Staff/Faculty Award and the Alumni Award. This year’s awards going to Jim and Judy Putnam, Michael Simpson, and Carmela DeCandia, respectively. The awards will be presented at the sixth annual Horace Mann Spirit of Service Awards event on Friday, September 16, at the Keene Country Club.

The Horace Mann Spirit of Service Awards are named in honor of Horace Mann, Antioch College’s first president and a noted abolitionist and educator. The award program recognizes individuals “who have won victories for humanity,” through their work and volunteerism. By celebrating these individuals and honoring Mann’s ideals, AUNE continues its commitment to public service, community engagement, diversity, lifelong learning, sustainability, and social justice.

Michael H. Simpson, chair of the AUNE Environmental Studies Department, earned his Master of Science in Resource Management and Administration from Antioch University New England in the 1980s. Since 1985, he’s been a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Studies and currently serves as chair and as director of the Resource Management and Conservation program, and director of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change concentration. As founder and co-director of the Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience, Michael helped establish AUNE’s reputation as a national expert in climate change and preparedness. He also earned a Master of Arts in Science from Dartmouth College and certification as a wetland scientist from New Hampshire.

Presently, he serves on the boards of the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Initiative, and as chair of the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists. He has also served on many advisory committees and conservation commissions.

In addition to his research, teaching, and publishing, Michael consults internationally on climate change, wetlands ecology, watershed management, and energy and materials sustainability. He co-authored an award-winning report to the United Nations.

Congratulations, Michael!

CampOut for the Cause

Despite the rainy weather, a great time was had by those attending the Child and Family Services 2nd Annual CampOut for the Cause to benefit children and families in the Upper Valley. Games, live music, fire truck displays, and a live raptor show by VINS highlighted the event.

Nicole from Vins with a raptor

Alayna McCullock

From small outbuildings and follies to large-scale estates, all our commissions show an appreciation for light, flow and a great attention to detail. View our portfolio at, www.sargentdesigncompany.com, to make an appointment or discuss a project, call 802.649.3230
BAYADA Sponsors Fund Raising Run/Walk in Norwich

On October 1, BAYADA Hospice in Norwich is holding a 5k run/walk in order to raise funds for end of life care. Money raised from the event will go to the BAYADA Foundation Hospice Fund, which focuses on the needs of hospice patients, and their families.

Christiane Dionne, volunteer coordinator at BAYADA in Norwich, said there are many end-of-life needs that the funds raised will help support. Some of these include wish fulfillment of the patients for a final trip or excursion, or to help with funeral expenses. Dionne mentions that many families of hospice patients struggle with paying the funeral expenses for their loved ones.

Dionne said they hope to raise $5,000 in this inaugural run/walk event. Casual runners or walkers, as well as competitive athletes, are all invited to take part in the event, said Dionne. Don’t forget to bring the kids as well; “We really want to make this a family event,” said Dionne.

The registration fee for the run/walk is $25, and participants are welcome to raise further funds from friends and family. Business sponsors are also encouraged to get involved.

The 5k run/walk takes place on Saturday, October 1, in Norwich. Participants can pre-register, or register the morning of the event. Same-day registration begins at 7:30am, with the 5k run/walk starting at 9am, from the BAYADA building in Norwich. Those that may not be able to participate in the actual event can still be virtual participants, said Dionne.

For more information, or to register, go online to www.eventbrite.com/e/bayada-foundation-5k-family-walkrun-tickets-26064763409.

— Frank Orlowski
**Top 10 Event for Fall 2016** - VT Chamber of Commerce

Heirloom apples & Vermont artisan cheeses
Live farm animals
Face painting & period games
Live Music by Out on a Limb
Apple pie contest & prizes
Ben & Jerry’s ice cream
Hiking & Valley Quest

**Lunch included with admissions**

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- Plymouth Artisan Cheese; Spring Brook Farm Cheese;
- Billings Farm Cheddar Cheese

**Stonecliff Animal Clinic – Community Commitment**

Stonecliff Animal Clinic of New Hampshire is committed to caring for its community through education, leadership, and involvement in programs for the less fortunate.

**The Brutus Fund (a 501c3 non-profit)**

Stonecliff created the Brutus Fund in memory of a Great Dane named Brutus whose owner had died leaving Brutus alone in the world. Brutus stayed with his owner until they were discovered, and was brought to Stonecliff to be cared for until other family members could be found. Relatives soon adopted Brutus, but he died the next day of gastric dilatation volvulus. Brutus touched all who knew him.

The Brutus Fund is available to help families with short-term financial issues that cannot afford lifesaving care for their pet in an emergency. Recipients of the fund are asked to contribute back when their financial situation changes so that someone else can take advantage of this service.

If you would like to donate to The Brutus Fund, or to be considered as a recipient, please contact Stonecliff Animal Clinic at 603-448-2611.

**Canine Police Officers**

Another act of community service to which Stonecliff Animal Clinic is proud to commit is to provide full care for the Lebanon Police Department’s canine officers, Max, Cody, and Rolf. It is Stonecliff’s responsibility to make sure these important members of our community are at the top of their game every day. All members of SACHN’s staff donate their time for these officers. Stonecliff is very proud that these organizations have chosen and trust them with these special community servants.

**Pet Health Library**

Although Google has made it easy and fast to find health-related information, sometimes it may be inaccurate or out-of-date. In order to make the most informed decisions regarding one’s pet, it is important to know that information is properly cited and approved. Stonecliff Animal Clinic provides a library of professionally written articles updated by practice experts and reviewed by practitioners to bring its clients the most up-to-date, trustworthy pet health information.

To browse their library of topics, go to stonecliffanchnh.com/client-resources/pet-health to access the easy-to-use search system.

**Mascoma Savings Bank: Billie-Jean Vesper**

Billie-Jean Vesper may be considered the ‘newbie’ at the Norwich branch of the Mascoma Bank because she will be celebrating her one-year anniversary this September working at the local institution. However, it is quickly apparent that the Barre, VT native has adapted quite well to her new environment and it has turned into a perfect match for both.

“I especially enjoy the contact with people on a daily basis,” she explained. “The customers here in Norwich are so nice, and dealing with them face-to-face is what I enjoy most. I came to Mascoma Bank with no teller experience, but I was the finance and insurance manager for Lucky’s Trailer Sales in South Royalton, VT for 15 years. I have a finance background, but had to learn working as a teller. Being at the drive-up window is especially nice and so fast-paced.”

Billie-Jean has also discovered the unique benefit of small town banking in the beautiful state of Vermont.

“Here at the Norwich branch, we alternate teller duties every week at the Mascoma Bank Branch office in Strafford, VT, so that gives me the opportunity to deal with a whole new group of people. We also team up as volunteers, serving senior citizens their lunch at Barrett Hall in Strafford and then cleaning up. That is part of Mascoma Bank’s commitment to serving the communities in the Upper Valley.”

When not greeting customers with a welcoming smile, Billie-Jean and her husband Rick stay very busy. Rick works as an auto mechanic for Gerrish Honda and they have two young daughters, Hailey and Mackenzie. Rick and Billie-Jean share a passion for camping and gardening.

“We don’t prefer the hard core style of camping with a tent and so forth, but
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SPONSORS

we use a camper and like the social aspect of that type of outdoor living. With gardening, we grow both vegetables and flowers. It keeps us busy,” Billy-Jean said. Outdoor activities don’t end there for the Vermont couple. They combine talent to help with a little old-fashioned Vermont farming. “We help raise young dairy cows during the summer months for a nearby neighbor. When fall rolls around we give them back to him, and the following spring we get a whole new bunch to look after. It becomes kind of sad to see them go in the fall, but its fun to see more to look after in the spring.” - Dave Nelson

Otto and Associates:
Financial Planners Celebrate 25 Years – Half in Norwich

“One of our roles – it’s part of our business philosophy – is helping people improve their quality of life,” says Susan Otto Goodell, of Otto and Associates, a firm of certified financial planners in Norwich. They are ‘fee-only’ and do not sell products or accept commissions. When her father, David Otto, founded O&A in Katonah, NY, after a career as a clergyman and pastoral counselor, he could not have imagined bringing the firm to Vermont or inviting one of his daughters to join him as a partner.

Planning your financial life is a dance with the future; uncertainty is a given. A good plan gives clients guidelines about saving, investing, and spending; by showing them the connections between their needs, wants, and resources, a plan can relieve stress about shortfalls. “We use as much hard data as possible,” says Susan. What they find, chimes in David, is that many clients worry more than they need to. Having a complete financial plan can give clients a more balanced perspective.

A frequent feature of the firm’s advice is its support of charitable giving. “We encourage people to recognize the multiple benefits of sharing their financial assets,” Susan explains. “The pleasure is not proportional to the amount given,” she adds; small amounts donated to a valued cause can make a major impact. “Often people start by giving some of their assets to their children,” David notes, “for a wedding or house or baby.”

O&A puts this perspective into practice themselves by supporting local causes of personal interest, including the Montshire Museum, High Horses, the Prouty, and The Sharon Academy. David’s broader skills of being a pastor contribute to a goal of helping clients to work out a good balance between social, spiritual, and financial goals, and he enjoys putting those skills to work for his clients. “I moved to Norwich planning to retire in five years,” he says. “That was ten years ago! I really enjoy what I do.”

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