

MMUHS photographers exhibit photos at Emile A. Gruppe Gallery



Photographers from Mount Mansfield Union High School will exhibit their work at the Emile A. Gruppe Gallery throughout the month of February. Megan Nelson's photo, above, is part of the exhibit in which students present their works of art through "old school" black and white film photography. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Underhill Center actor gets MISGUIDED in L.A.

After graduating from Rice Memorial High School, Underhill Center native Paul Gosselin set out to become a star on daytime television in New York City. In the nine years Paul spent there he followed through with his dream, showing up on *As the World Turns* and making multiple appearances on *One Life to Live*. His ultimate goal was to be a full fledged cast member on *Guiding Light*, his favorite amongst the soap operas.

Sadly, Paul never was cast on *Guiding Light*, but made numerous appearances in promotional videos advertising the show's 70th anniversary. Then in 2009, *Guiding Light* was cancelled and he lost the chance to act alongside his favorite *Guiding Light* stars forever. Or so he thought.

In 2011 with zero daytime dramas being produced in NYC, Paul packed up his life and headed to Los Angeles. "New York and LA are two different cities, and I love them both, but in Los Angeles I have been able to delve deeper creatively and discover more of my potential."

When he was introduced to a storytelling show called *Mortified*, Paul's love of *Guiding Light* was reawakened. *Mortified* is a stage show where participants share artifacts from their angst-y youth (such as diary entries, love letters, poems, etc.) and with the help of the show's curators, Paul pieced together a heartwarming story using actual letters he wrote to the producers and writers of *Guiding Light*.

Paul's book, he says, is finished and in constant edits, but because of this process a rebirth in his love of *Guiding Light* came to be and he needed to figure out how he could still make his dream a reality. Then, after a literary agent encouraged him to create content online to build upon his already growing fan base, Paul finally found his way to act alongside his favorite daytime stars.

Enter MISGUIDED, a web series about a guy from small town Vermont with a dream to be on *Guiding Light*, but then that show gets cancelled. Sound familiar? "Write what you know, they say,

Underhill Center native Paul Gosselin takes a selfie in Los Angeles. After nine years following his dream to become a star on daytime television in New York City, in 2011 Paul headed to L.A. Now he is launching MISGUIDED, a web series about a guy from small town Vermont with a dream to be on Guiding Light, but then that show gets cancelled. MISGUIDED will be released on Monday, February 16 by Paul's production company, cosmopolitan entertainment, and in true soap opera fashion, will continue releasing episodes throughout the week. "There's even a shout out to Underhill Center, VT in one of the episodes!" Follow Paul's series MISGUIDED at www.paulgosselin.net or www.youtube.com/cosmopolitan.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED right," Paul jokes. "I consider my *Mortified* story a love letter to *Guiding Light*, and now MISGUIDED is my way to create my own destiny and feel a part of a show I loved for so long."

Follow Paul's series MISGUIDED, check out his website www.paulgosselin.net and subscribe to YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/cosmopolitan.

Convenient paint recycling comes to Jeffersonville

PaintCare would like to announce that Aubuchon Hardware in Jeffersonville has joined its network of 67 locations in Vermont where residents and businesses from anywhere in the state can bring old, unwanted paint for recycling during their regular business hours.

More than 65 million gallons of architectural paint is sold each year in the U.S., and about 10% is left over and available for recycling. Until now, this paint has been primarily handled by government-run household hazardous waste programs. Many of these government programs are also working with PaintCare.

PaintCare makes it simple for the stores to join the program to be paint drop-off locations

for their community. The stores volunteer to provide a little space for storage bin. When bins are full, PaintCare arranges for the paint to be picked up and recycled.

All brands of unwanted house paint, stain and varnish are accepted at PaintCare sites, even if the paint is 20 years old. There is no charge for dropping off old paint. PaintCare also runs programs in five other states and is planning programs to start this summer in Maine and Colorado. To find other paint drop-off locations and learn more about the program and what products are accepted visit www.paintcare.org/vermont.

Westford's Town Plan

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The Westford Planning Commission has been hard at work revising their 2010 Town Plan, which expires this year. "Ultimately the plan is not too exciting compared to the last plan, which was a total rewrite," said Westford Planning Coordinator Melissa Manka, "but we have made some changes."

Drafting of the 2010 document was aided by the use of a community-wide survey and included the town's first implementation plan. Since that time, Westford has undergone a number of other planning initiatives, including work on new regulations which will include form-based code. Planners focused their attention on economic development with the goal of bringing in new businesses and/or having existing property owners create businesses on their property. "That took five years," said Manka "and now we want to focus on the more rural areas in town." Westford intends to do a natural resources inventory and if they find significant resources, the next step is creating a mechanism to protect them. "Our top priorities for the next two years," said Manka "are adopting the Unified Regulations, pursuing community wastewater in our town center, bringing businesses to the town center, conserving natural resources including viewsheds, looking at emergency services, and continuing with road maintenance and water quality issues."

Planning Commission Chair Jeremy Berger agreed that the majority of the 2015 rewrite consisted of clean-up, goal reevaluation, and updating of census statistics and other numbers. One improvement is in the way the objectives and implementation plan is presented. "The 2010 implementation plan was quite large," said Manka "because we didn't want to forget anything." Berger believes the new format makes it more readable, searchable, and understandable to citizens. He said the bigger changes will come when the Unified Regulations, including the form-based code, are presented to residents. Berger is pleased there has been consensus on the board about the proposed changes. "We're really lucky in Westford," he said. "We don't have that contentious feeling that some other boards have. Even

though we all have different visions, it's been a great process."

The revised plan proposes three changes to Westford's current districts. The first is to reconfigure and consolidate the Town Common, Town Village, and Town Center Districts into two districts (Common and Village districts) with form-based code. There would be some increased density and traffic associated with the change, which might require more public facilities and infrastructure, but there is also the potential for an increase of the tax base. The goal is to have businesses in the Common District and greater density in the Village District, with the distinction being based on transects that were developed via the form-based code.

Another proposal is the creation of a Forestry District within the current AFR 1 district. Manka said there are undeveloped areas, which used to have roads that have since been discontinued. The area has steep slopes and poor soil and the proposed natural resources inventory will determine the extent to which important resources are present. The commission is considering increasing the size of the lots, encouraging property owners to take part in the current use program, or perhaps instituting conditional use review for new developments. "We're not sure what direction to go," said Manka, "and I'm sure there will be a lot of discussion about that. It's very important that we have a local level natural resources inventory."

The last district change is the proposal for a Fluvial Erosion Hazard Overlay District, which would include areas already in the Water Resource Overlay and Flood Hazard Overlay Districts. "It won't have a huge impact," said Manka, "because we already have very progressive water resource regulations. Most of this has already been mapped and it won't be a big change."

A public hearing in January about the proposed plan attracted an audience of 14 people, which pleased Berger since it was more people than he had expected. "We got some good feedback," said Manka. "We'll make some minor changes and hopefully ship it off to the Select Board to review in March for a public hearing in April."

You can see a draft of the plan at <http://westfordvt.us/draft-2015-town-plan/>.

Half K Fun Run/Walk at Smugglers' Notch February 8



Kids at the starting line of last year's Half K Fun Run/Walk at Smugglers' Notch. This year's 14th annual Northern VT Snowshoe at Smugglers' Notch Nordic Center, with a 4K Fun Run/Walk and a challenging 8K Run, will be held on Sunday, February 8 at 11:00 AM. For more information, call Zeke, 802-238-8464. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

2nd annual Cochran's Nordic X Challenge

The first Nordic Ski Cross Event in New England will be held Sunday, March 15 at Cochran's Ski Area in Richmond. Start time is 11:00 AM for kids, 12:30 PM for adults in a festive and competitive citizens Nordic Ski Cross Race for all ages. The event promises to be hilarious, challenging, and loads of fun!

Uphill, downhill, slalom gates, jumps, and obstacles, all on one pair of skis. Spectator friendly! Don't want to race? Come watch and bring the whole family! Free pancake feast with hot Slopeside Syrup for all competitors.

Interval start. Selection based on ability, age, and sex. Shorter course for kids 12 and under. Prizes for top three in all age categories. Kids \$20 (12 and under), adults \$40; Register online at www.cochranskiarea.com by Wednesday, March 11; registration limited to 250 adults and 50 kids.

For more information contact Laura Farrell, laura@cochranskiarea.com or 802-291-1348, or Pennie Rand, mrand@gmavt.net or 802-373-7204.

NEWS BRIEFS

UNDERHILL-JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Kitty Clark

EMERGENCY CALLS:

Friday, January 16, 1:33 PM – Responded to 67 Old Pump Rd., Jericho for CO detector activation
 Friday, January 16, 2:00 PM – EMS, Underhill
 Saturday, January 17, 8:57 AM – Responded to 394 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, fire alarm problem with furnace
 Monday, January 19, 10:53 AM – EMS, Jericho
 Tuesday, January 20, 8:20 AM – EMS, Underhill
 Tuesday, January 20, 9:48 AM – Responded to 3477 Stage Rd., Bolton, smoke alarm due to burnt food
 Wednesday, January 21, 8:16 AM – EMS, Jericho
 Wednesday, January 21, 9:56 AM – EMS, Jericho
 Friday, January 23, 1:46 PM – EMS, Underhill
 Saturday, January 24, 2:36 AM – VT Rt. 15 and Browns Trace, Jericho for a one-vehicle accident
 Wednesday, January 28, 8:36 AM – 52 Cloverdale Rd., Underhill, structure fire
 Thursday, January 29, 7:15 AM – VT Rt. 15 and Browns Trace, Jericho for a two-vehicle accident
 Thursday, January 29, 1:27 PM – EMS, Jericho
 Thursday, January 29, 2:57 PM – EMS, Underhill

MEETINGS AND DRILLS:

On Tuesday, January 13 the UJFD held its Annual Meeting, with 36 members present. First on the agenda was election of Moderator and Clerk for a one-year term. Phil Surks was elected as Moderator and Kitty Clark was elected as Clerk. Officers Reports: Chief Todd will not seek re-election this year. A big thank you to Chief Todd for serving the UJFD for the past four years. This is not an easy job, taking many hours away from his family, but a job well done by Chief Todd. Election of officers are as follows: Chief Mat Champlin (two year term), 1st Assistant Chief Tim Clark, 2nd Assistant Chief Loni Morse, Captain Dwight DeCoster, Captain Parker Ripley, Lieutenant Sean McCann, Lieutenant Calvin Caswell, (these are one year terms), Treasurer Randy H. Clark (two year term).

On Tuesday, January 20 the UJFD held its Business Meeting, with 33 members present. Chief Mat went over fire calls with some discussion, followed by all the Officer's reports. Each Committee gave a report. Three new apprentice members were voted on: Alex Angelino, Samatha Atwood, and Gerald Russin, they will start their training in March – welcome aboard. Committee elections were held as follows: Auditor (three year term) Sean McCann; Bylaw (three year term) Nate Goldman; Safety (three year term) Randy E. Clark; Sick (one year term) Cis Dumas; Boy Scout, Dwight DeCoster and Trisha Stevens; Fire Prevention, Erick Kasprick and Greg Leech; Finance: Jordan Jillson (three year term); Uniform, Todd Fischer (two year term); Membership: (two year term) Greg Leech and Shawn Martell.

UJFD's Annual Awards Banquet was held on Saturday evening, January 24. Following dinner a video was shown of the events of 2014, put together by Randy H. Clark. Those receiving awards are as follows: Perfect attendance at meetings and drills for 2014: Calvin Caswell, Mat Champlin, Randy H. Clark, Kitty Clark, Lee Dumas, Nate Goldman, Sean McCann, Erick Kasprick. The UJFD Muster Team received a plaque with their group picture. Support Member of the Year went to Frank Popeleski; Fire Officer of the Year went to Mat Champlin; and Firefighter of the Year went to Todd Hallock. Thank you to the Essex Fire Department for standing by at our station while we were at the banquet.

Also a big thank you to our Mutual Aid departments – Essex Fire Department, Cambridge Fire Department, Fairfax Fire Department, Westford Fire Department, Williston Fire Department, and Air Guard, who sent their tankers to our structure fire on Wednesday morning, January 28 at 52 Cloverdale Dr. in Underhill. Also thanks to Richmond Fire Department for standing by in their station ready to respond to our area if there was another call. This demonstrates true brotherhood among firefighters. Essex Rescue stood by at the fire scene.

Remember to Practice Fire Safety Every Day – and check those smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Voluntary timber harvesting guidelines adopted

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FP&R) is pleased to announce that Commissioner Michael Snyder has adopted a set of voluntary harvesting guidelines for private landowners to help ensure long-term forest health and sustainability.

In 2013 the Vermont General Assembly passed Act 24 requiring the Commissioner of FP&R to “develop voluntary harvesting guidelines that may be used by private landowners to help ensure long-term forest health and sustainability.” The Commissioner and staff with FP&R began this process with the formation of an Advisory Committee, which represented a broad group of stakeholders interested in the sustainability of Vermont's forests. The Advisory Committee, along with technical experts including some within the Agency of Natural Resources, reviewed current research and drafted guidelines for the Commissioner's review. Throughout the process, FP&R and the Advisory Committee offered multiple opportunities for public comment.

“These voluntary timber harvesting guidelines will help forest landowners make wise decisions on the management of one of their most valuable assets – their forest,” said Steven Sinclair, VT State Forester. “We are excited to be able to provide a comprehensive list of positive actions and things to avoid when conducting harvesting operations.” The 62-page guide is broken into six chapters covering planning for a harvest, conducting a harvest, protecting water quality, protecting soil health and productivity, biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and planning for uncertainty.

FP&R also acknowledges the hundreds of landowners, foresters, and logging contractors whose work in forest management and harvesting shape the landscape of Vermont and the contents of these guidelines. Their commitment to forest stewardship is demonstrated every day.

The Voluntary Harvesting Guidelines are available on the FP&R web site, www.vtfrp.org/HarvestGuidelines.cfm. For more information, contact Steven Sinclair, steve.sinclair@state.vt.us.

Caution feeding jerky treats to pets

By M. Kathleen Shaw, DVM

Vermont Veterinary Medical Association

Earlier this month, a major pet store chain announced it will no longer be selling any jerky treats made in China, effective in March. This is following reports to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from owners who reported at least 5600 dogs becoming ill and more than 1000 dog deaths after eating such treats. While the majority of reports concern dogs, there are reports of 24 cats getting sick as well. Although the FDA has not established a link between these treats and illness, many veterinarians and pet stores are no longer recommending these jerky treats.

This is not a new concern. Since 2007, the FDA has been receiving complaints of illness in pets after consuming the jerky treats. While no specific brand has been named, all complaints have centered on chicken, beef, or sweet potato jerky treats obtained from China. Lab investigations with more than 1200 samples have ruled out heavy metals, mycotoxins, Salmonella, antibiotics, pesticides, and a variety of other normally problematic substances. Melamine, the toxic chemical involved in the 2007 massive pet food recall, has been ruled out as a cause of these illnesses.

Symptoms of illness from the jerky treats include vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy. Increased water consumption and increased urination are also noted in many cases. It is important to remember that these symptoms can arise with a great many medical conditions, so even if your pet has not consumed a jerky treat, but is exhibiting any of these symptoms, you should contact your veterinarian for advice and treatment. They are your best source for factual information and are well-equipped to help make sure that your pets will receive the highest level of medical care.

Pet owners should report any illnesses associated with the feeding of any sort of jerky treats (or any other suspected pet food) to www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary. For more information, contact your veterinarian or the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association at www.vivets.org or 802-878-6888.

Careers in food service in Lamoille County

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in Morrisville is trying to determine how many people in Lamoille County might be interested in a career in the Food Service industry. If there is enough interest locally, there may be an opportunity to provide transportation to the Community Kitchen Academy (CKA) in Barre for training.

The CKA is a free, 13-week program designed to prepare unemployed and underemployed Vermonters for a career in the food service industry. The CKA is an intensive learning program that includes career readiness and job placement services. Students actively develop and apply new skills by creating wholesome meals for those at risk of hunger (prepared meals go to the Vermont Food Bank).

If you are interested in working in the food service industry and would be interested in learning the skills necessary to do this work, please contact Dawn at the United Way office, 888-3252.

Jericho-Underhill Lions Club pancake breakfast

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will hold its pancake breakfast on Saturday, February 14 at the United Church in Underhill, from 7:30 – 11:00 AM. Treat your Valentine(s) to a breakfast they don't need to cook! Adults \$6, seniors \$5, children \$3. Proceeds fund our service activities. As part of our World Wide Service effort to fight hunger, we ask participants to bring a non-perishable food item.

Red Cross, Dunkin' Donuts continue blood drive

For the first time in eight years, the American Red Cross and Dunkin' Donuts are extending the “Dunkin' Donors Make a Difference” campaign, launched on January 1 and originally scheduled to conclude January 31. The campaign will now run through Sunday, February 15 to allow more Red Cross blood and platelet donors to participate in the wake of repeated snowstormy weather in New England and severe winter weather across the Northeast since the beginning of the year. Those who come out to donate at participating blood drives will receive a free Dunkin' Donor Card, good toward the purchase of any item at participating Dunkin' Donuts.

Due to the most recent storms, 100 drives have been cancelled and 3300 donations went uncollected. This is on top of a collections shortfall of several thousand donations due to storms earlier in January. Despite the weather, hospital patients still need blood and platelet donations. Blood donors with all types, especially O negative, A negative and B negative, and platelet donors are urged to make an appointment to give now.

Those who come out to donate by Sunday, February 15 at Red Cross blood drives in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, and Vermont will receive a \$5 DD Card as part of the new “Dunkin' Donors Make a Difference” campaign. The DD Card can be used toward the purchase of any item at participating Dunkin' Donuts – including coffee, hot chocolate and baked goods, among other items. The Dunkin' Donor Card features a Red Cross logo, is reloadable, and can also be enrolled in the DD Perks® Rewards program. Lastly, it will serve as a badge of honor throughout the year for those who donate blood.

How to donate blood – download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Conference addresses interest in hops production

For growers to profit from growing hops commercially, the key to success is having access to both practical and research-based information on production, management strategies, and the latest industry developments.

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension has invited a number of experts from Vermont and throughout the country to speak to growers at the sixth annual Hop Conference, Friday, February 20 at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in S. Burlington. Registration begins at 8:30 AM, with the conference getting underway at 9:00 AM.

The deadline to register is Tuesday, February 17. Information including cost and registration may be found at www.uvm.edu/extension/hopsconference. Anyone requiring a disability-related accommodation to attend should contact Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 or 800-639-2130 (within Vermont) by Friday, February 6.

Landscape architect to keynote at Flower Show

United Kingdom native Jane Knight, an internationally acclaimed landscape architect, has been invited to be the keynote presenter at the 2015 Vermont Flower Show.

Knight is scheduled to give two presentations at the show, on Friday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1, both at 1:30 PM, at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction held Friday-Sunday, February 27-March 1. The event is sponsored by Green Works-Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association in collaboration with University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and other organizations.

Since 2002, Knight has been the in-house landscape architect of the Eden Project Eden Project, a global garden in Cornwall, England. In her first talk, she will describe the Eden Project, opened to the public in 2001 on the site of a former quarry. It consists of a number of different gardens, hands-on exhibits, life-sized sculptures, and two biomes, one featuring the world's largest indoor tropical rainforest, the other a Mediterranean environment.

AARP offers free tax assistance and preparation

AARP Foundation is again providing free tax assistance and preparation for taxpayers with low to moderate income through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure their knowledge of revisions to the U.S. tax code. Some 160 Tax Aide volunteers participated last year in Vermont, helping more than 9200 people file their federal and state tax returns. The program is offered at approximately 66 sites in Vermont including senior centers, libraries, and other convenient locations.

Preparation of tax returns under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rules will require additional documentation from taxpayers this year. The good news is that for taxpayers on Medicare or Medicare Advantage for the full year, no further information is required. Otherwise, taxpayers need to bring along their family's health insurance coverage information, including information about Marketplace/Exchange purchases, and health care exemptions.

For more information on required documentation or to locate an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site, visit www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp or call 1-888-AARP NOW (1-888-227-7669). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Characters

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Broadly put, the word *character* has two meanings: how one chooses, develops, matures, finds peace within self and can exhibit this publicly so that one says: “She has such strength of character.” There is admiration, observation, and some distancing due to the idea that you, personally, have not attained quite the degree of character you might like... that’s called envy. And may be justified or not, but either way, it is a growing, pushing force to “do better.” The other common definition of character is a person who does not always conform, who develops traits that are outside the social norm, and, heaven forbid, does not seem to care. And the environment is important: one is perhaps more able to maintain an unusual, slightly egomaniacal style of deportment if one is given plenty of lebensraum. Character seems to be more accepted where there is plenty of room... country coverage and a laissez-faire attitude. A city person may not be allowed to be a character, but rather a “homeless bum,” a “derelict,” an isolated “intellectual” without specific direction... all effective distancing methods for our small conceits. To me, “character” is not a pejorative term, but rather a descriptive and interesting one. Therefore, with this protective preamble, I have some “characters” in my mind that I have pulled out of memory and wish to introduce in brief vignettes. They may be recognizable, but that does not mean that your definition of character needs to match mine. In other words, to each his own.

We were visiting from Yale/New Haven, having just completed hours and weeks of research, trying to insert artificial valves into dogs, testing materials for suitability in a permanent living environment such as human hearts. We stood, sometimes for hours, dreaming of the next move: UVM and rural Vermont. In no way were we prepared for our first visit with Mert Sage: “Yes, I have some land for sale up this hill. Let’s head up.” And he strode ahead, lean and in excellent shape for hill climbing, with our city legs dragging behind him. Of course, the likelihood of getting a road up what looked to us like a mountain rather killed the deal, but we became friends. He wrote a column for *The Suburban List*, the sturdy local paper with a somewhat euphemistic title. “*Sage Sayings*” was highly personalized and opinionated, and although biased, was good writing and reading. When we had settled into a drafty old farmhouse, we asked him for dinner one night. He told stories about the families who had lived in the house, about how to keep warm in a house with antiquated heating, who to trust and not trust in the area. He declared that he was not a “true Vermonter.” “There aren’t many genuine ones. I was born across the border in New Hampshire, so I don’t qualify.

Some people who move here would like to say they are, but if you put a bunch of kittens in the oven, you wouldn’t expect to pull out biscuits.” (I was never sure how this could be anything but horrifically irrelevant.) We played a record of *Bert and I*, a parody of accents from West Machias, northern Maine. We found it amusing, but Mert sat impassively through it all, and then said: “I didn’t see anything different about it!” So much for regional accents. Another time he popped in with a huge brass bucket. “It’s yours as long as you live in Vermont. When you’re done, give it back.” I still have it.

Mert’s neighbor lived high on a hill, with a spectacular view down Pleasant Valley into Cambridge, and also looking up to the nearby mountains. As with every person who moved to the area and wanted to settle in the country, Frank Corbett’s property was seen as a potential new house site. Who would want to hang on to an old house with no electricity? He might just take an offer. “I get a lot of visitors that way,” he said with a smile. My husband made numerous trips to see Frank, who of course would not sell his old homestead, but who delighted in having Bert stop by. “You have to drive back tonight? Why don’t you stay here? I can get the dog out of the bed and you can have it.” With its blackened walls from kerosene smoke, and blankets which hadn’t seen the light of day for months, it was still his bedroom and he was offering it with generosity and concern for others. In later years, Frank got electricity and Bert was asked to make a house call: “I can’t seem to get anything but these damn lines on this tellyvison.” With a few spasmodic turns of a dial, Bert turned into “a great doctor from Gooseberry (DeGoesbriand) Hospital. I had a friend there once, who had Tuberculoc. Did you meet him?” His neighbor, Mary, said that most every morning he went down to the dip in the road where beavers had built a dam, so he could knock it down and keep them living in their old house. One day, he never made it back up the hill. He and the beavers had kept their homes.

She ran a farm until she knew she couldn’t keep it going. Her husband, Joe, had been paralyzed by multiple sclerosis, until he could move only his head. Liz called one day: “I’ve got something. I’m as weak as a new calf. I can’t manage anymore. Can you come and help?” I grabbed my neighbor, Rachel, like me a working nurse, since I knew Joe would take moving that I couldn’t do by myself. We stayed, worked and helped, and returned again, while Liz gave instructions from the couch. Joe could still speak and he had a good sense of humor. As we turned him, Liz staggered off the couch on her knees, pulling away the wet sheets. Above her, we were lifting Joe, Rachel noticeably pregnant with number four. “Don’t drop me!” he said. “I’ve got enough troubles!” We started to laugh, and almost reversed his

order. It taught me a wonderful lesson about my new neighbors and community. After my first husband died, I would take an excuse in the form of a fake pile of “School Board papers” over to her house. She put on the teapot when she saw me coming. “Sit,” she ordered, and said not much else. I would unburden and cry in a safe place where it wouldn’t unnerve my three kids, and she would listen. She was able to put her own questions and struggles with life on the back burner: one of the best listeners I have ever known.

They lived next to the church in Jericho Center... two elderly women who, after years of living with each other, actually looked like sisters: their white hair was curled into matching tiny bundles from their weekly outing to the beauty parlor. When we shared a hugged greeting, their skin was soft as warm air, papery, finely divided into wrinkles. As my son said: “It feels like flannel sheets after you’ve slept in them for a while.” They were both tiny, and lived in a nest of peaceful, darkened rooms, where everything was in the same orderly nook. Obviously, with three children, I delighted in sharing a peaceful cup of tea with them. My excuse to visit was a good one: they both were knitters of considerable skill, and my boys needed some warm, heavy ski sweaters. Paul’s was to be yellow and blue in hefty horizontal stripes, to match the ski hat he wore for the Madonna Ski Club. Karl, not to be outdone, put in an order for the Stars and Stripes to be emblazoned in loud reds and blues. Of course, we had to visit once a week for fittings, and the kids were as delighted as I was to visit. The “sisters” lit up when they saw us coming, and usually had some cookies dripping with chocolate chips... “just baked!” They told me the history of the area, where Snowflake Bentley had lived, how the small grocery store “just a hop and a skip away” had been a refuge on lonely winter days with a round squat stove to keep the coffee drinkers warm, playing checkers. I learned the genesis of the names of the gravel roads, the solitude they felt in the coldest of winters: “Oh my, do you remember that? We just stayed in this one room and hoped the stove and the electricity didn’t break down!” Their obvious joy in having some kids bouncing around, the attachment to the townspeople passing by their front porch, and the enduring solidity and blessing of the church next door, represented an older, quieter time, when stories were gracefully woven around simple events.

Thus, they came and have gone, people who gave spice and obstinacy and presence to my life. I am honored that some people now think of me as a local character; it is a nice compliment for one who feels her influence and wisdom has taken a short nap.

Hurray for characters.

May we all have many of them!



I Love

Chocolate

By Bernie Paquette

I love chocolate. There I said it. Truth be told, I am addicted to sugar. I crave it constantly; seek its sweet, savory, sensory, salutations eagerly. I am nearly a servant to the serpent’s tantalizing offerings as

though there were no other fruit on the tree, no other meal other than desert.

Valentine’s Day chocolate gifting sheds a thin veil between caring for another and caring for oneself, at least in my case. If ever there were a temptation to obtain for my sweetheart that which I most certainly crave for myself – now is when I am most likely to succumb. Hershey’s Kisses are nearly as tantalizing as the shared kisses I hope will follow.

Hearts molded in amber, wrapped in frilly red foil and ribbons remind us that our beloved need special recognition and caring, every day of the year. This is our once-a-year reminder. Whom we love, we must cherish, not take for granted, not misuse or abuse, not neglect. Most importantly, we must never forget to show and communicate our love unselfishly.

My dear wife would no doubt confess my kisses are not all wrapped neatly in shiny foil, tied with a delicate twist. My lips are not creamy, smooth, and altogether sweet. I am not premium, nor gourmet, and certainly no truffle. Conversation hearts are my only romantic dialogue. Some say chocolate is the confection of choice on Valentine’s Day because of its aphrodisiac properties. I am no Robert Redford; I need all the help I can garnish. Yet, I only ask Cupid, winged angel of love, to dart me every so often with an infusion of compassion, heartfelt caring, empathy and understanding, listening and sharing that says “I love you Barbara.” She deserves such a kiss every day.

Flowers boast of my sweetheart’s beauty best. “*After women, flowers are the most lovely thing God has given the world.*” ~Christian Dior. Beauty begets beauty. Bringing my wife flowers is to pay homage to the color of her eyes, those dreamy pools of tranquil cloudy waters with their compelling mysteries swimming about. Each petal represents her boundless willingness to provide comfort and joy to others and her exuberance in doing so. Through the green stems flow life, and vitality of a loving mother and wife. I planted hundreds of flower bulbs this fall – tulip, crocus, daffodils – purples, reds, yellows. They will remind me of beauty that runs deep, and that beauty requires nourishment, rest, and enrichment.

I love chocolate. I love my wife. I love where I live – not all in the same way, not at the same level all the time. It is up to me to remember to moderate how much I seek for myself in the name of love, and insure I care for the woman I love – every day.

Wrap love sweetly on Valentine’s Day. Relish the savory, mouth watering, heartwarming, happiness brought forth when you care for someone enough to know their needs and give of yourself.

“*Having a place to go – is home. Having someone to love – is family. Having both – is a blessing.*” ~Socrates.

Remember also, to love where you live. Care for your community by picking up any litter you see – every day. Our home is a shared earth, worth keeping clean of littered trash.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Bernie Paquette publishes essays and photos reflecting Vermont values of Green and Clean and Community. He urges us all to pick up litter and maintain a litter free environment through caring, community, and contribution in order to protect our water, wildlife, and human health.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Time to sign up for the Jericho Underhill Open Studio Tour, held on Memorial Day Weekend in conjunction with the statewide Vermont Crafts Council Open Studio Tour. Deadline to sign up is Saturday, February 21 with a fee of \$25, check made out to Jericho Underhill Open Studio and sent to Emilie Alexander, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho, VT 05465. Artists who have not participated before are encouraged to join. For more information, please contact Dianne Shullenberger, 899-4993 or Emilie Alexander, 899-3111.

Thirty Darkroom students from the Darkroom Photography 1 calls will exhibit their work at the Emile A. Gruppe Gallery for the month of February. Students are presenting their works of art through “old school” black and white film photography as opposed to digital. Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho. Gallery owner Emilie Alexander. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment. Information, www.emilegruppegallery.com or 899-3211.

First Friday Art happens in Burlington on Friday, February 6, this month featuring Northeast Kingdom artist Katlin Parenteau, Williston-based painter Julie A. Davis, collage photos for Valentine’s Day by Megan J. Humphries, monoprints by a variety of artists, and more. Over 40 galleries and art venues stay open late to welcome walkers and share the art scene. Pick up a copy of Art Map Burlington as a guide, or go online to www.artmapburlington.com for a list of venues. For information, 802-264-4839 or email info@artmapburlington.com.

Jericho artist and gallery owner Dianne Shullenberger’s work is on exhibit through Saturday, January 24 as part of the show *Preoccupied* at Burlington City Arts, 135 Church St., Burlington. *Preoccupied* features visually stunning work that demands careful study. Each artist has accomplished incredibly ornate scenes that are impressive at first glance and upon closer inspection illustrate tiny features diligently cut, sewn, hashed, and drawn with the utmost attention to detail.

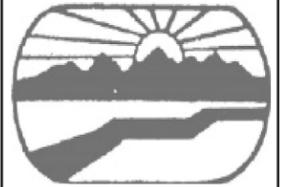
Helen Day Art Center in Stowe invites artists to submit proposals for *Exposed*, the 24th annual outdoor sculpture exhibition. In addition to sculptural objects, we encourage innovative and broad approaches to sculpture such as, but not limited to: site-specific installations or interventions, and participatory or exchange based works. There are also opportunities for artists to collaborate with local businesses. Sculptures will be installed on the Helen Day Art Center property, on Main St., and along the five-mile Stowe recreational path. The *Exposed* curator will assign sites to the artists. For more detailed information, www.helenday.com or exposed@helenday.com. Helen Day Art Center, 90 Pond St., Stowe, 802-253-8358, www.helenday.com. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM, and by appointment.

Bryan Memorial Gallery presents *Romancing The Garden*, a juried exhibition, on exhibit Friday, February 6 through Sunday, March 29 featuring paintings, photographs and sculpture by over 50 gallery artists. One hundred artworks conjure wintertime fantasies of spring: flowers, fauna, farms, gardens, bouquets, climbing vines, plants, buds and blossoms. Juried from over 200 works, there were no limitations to submissions except for a broad interpretation of the subject matter, resulting in works small to expansive, realistic to abstract, and solitary and reflective to explosive and exuberant. An Artists Roundtable on Sunday, February 8 at 1:00 PM is open to the public, with an artists’ reception from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. There is no charge for these events. The gallery is open Thursday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM and by appointment, 802-644-5100. School and seniors groups are encouraged to arrange in advance for a free guided tour. To preview the exhibit, visit www.bryangallery.org. Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville. Information: Mickey Myers, 644-5100. Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville, www.bryangallery.org. For information, 802-

644-5100.

Exhibits at the VT Metro Gallery: *In Motion*, an exhibition on display through Saturday, March 7, 4th floor, features Vermont artists Nancy H. Taplin and Ethan Bond-Watts, capturing the kinetic energy of color and light. *Taking Pictures*, through Saturday, April 4 on the 1st and 2nd floors, features Pictures Generation Artists Gretchen Bender, Dara Birnbaum, James Casebere, Sarah Charlesworth, Nancy Dwyer, Jack Goldstein, Louise Lawler, Robert Longo, Allan McCollum, Cindy Sherman, and Laurie Simmons. Burlington City Arts Center, 135 Church

Art / Music / Theater continued on page 5



Mountain High Pizza Pie

Monday - Wednesday
11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Tuesday - Saturday
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Sunday 4:00 - 8:00 PM

899-3718

Route 15, Jeri-Hill Plaza
Jericho

Area Worship Services

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian Community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. 372 VT RT 15, Jericho Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Rev.

Regina Christianson Rector Karen Floyd, Parish Administrator, 899-2326 www.calvarychurchvt.weebly.com

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“An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message”

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Jericho (red barn across from Packard Road)

on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of September -

All are welcome.

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Deacon: Peter Brooks Religious Ed. Coordinator: Laura Lynch Wells,

899-4770 Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras Phone: 802-899-4632,

email: stthomas5@myfairpoint.net, Website: www.stthomasvt.com

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men, women and youth Streaming audio sermons:

www.becauseyoumay.com

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

OBITUARIES



Roger Emilien Nadeau, 73, of Underhill, VT went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, January 17, 2015 after a courageous and lengthy battle with several forms of cancer. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was born February 6, 1941 in Orleans, VT to Emmanuel and Celinda (Roberts) Nadeau. In his younger life, he farmed and practiced carpentry in Barton, VT. In 1973, he helped build and run the family business, Nadeau Lumber Inc., in Jericho, VT. The business thrived until 1986 when it was sold. In the years following, he returned to his love of carpentry. He built and remodeled homes until recently, retiring due to his health. Roger was very involved in church functions at St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, VT and was a Third Degree Knight of Columbus. In 1961, he fell in love with his soul mate, Diana Paris. They were married at St. Theresa's Parish in Orleans on October 6, 1962. They later moved to Underhill to grow their large family. Family and his faith were the most important things to Roger in his life. He is survived by his wife, Diana; his precious six children, Rita and James Greenia, Betty and Martin Danaher, Sherrie and David Adams, Roger Jr. and Shelley Nadeau, Michelle and Thomas Pendris, and William and Jennifer Nadeau; his precious 14 grandchildren, Jennifer and Shane Kelley, Julie Greenia, Danielle and Michael Kidder, Emily and Justin Robert, Jessica Adams and her fiance,

Michael Kretovic, Kaitlyn Adams and friend, Eric Crucitti, Meghan Adams, Derek and Marina Nadeau, Randall Bishop and Christopher Pendris, Mary-Margaret, Sabrina and William Nadeau Jr.; two great-grandchildren, Landon Kelley and Nora Charlotte Kidder; his brother, Armand and Theresa Nadeau; sisters, Alice Locke and Cecile Auger; sisters-in-law, Beverly and Roger Atkins, Pamela and Thomas Custeau, Suzanne Baker and Mark Hinton, Beverly Nadeau and Gail Nadeau; his special nephew, Roger Adams; and his very special feline friend, Molly; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Emmanuel and Celinda Nadeau; and brothers, Maurice, Raymond, and Paul Nadeau. Roger was an extraordinary example of how to live a Christ-like life. He was devoted to his church, being a role model for his family and for his community, and always put the needs of others before his own. He was a humble man with a heart of gold. Services were held Thursday, January 22, 2015 at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Underhill Center. Interment will be in the spring. Online condolences may be made to www.minorfh.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Vermont Cancer Society or to the Vermont Special Olympics Foundation.

John Alton Learned Sr., 78, of Jeffersonville, VT fell asleep in death Wednesday, January 28, 2015, surrounded by his loving wife and children. He was born in Burlington, VT on November 19, 1936, son of the late Raymond Alton and Gladys (Lapan) Learned. He was married for 58 years to his high school sweetheart and best friend, Beverley. He left a legacy of integrity and moral



values to his five children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. John was truly a farmer at heart, and was known by many generations in the agricultural industry as the "Bolt Man." He was a gentle man with a strong faith in his God, Jehovah. He loved sharing his faith with family, friends, and neighbors. He is survived by his loving wife, Beverley (Blaisdell) Learned of Jeffersonville; three sons, John "Jack" Learned Jr. and wife, Catherine, of Cambridge, VT; Marshall Learned and wife, Cheryl, of Jeffersonville; and Jeremy Learned and wife, Rani Celina, of Brooklyn, NY; two daughters, Cheryl Terpstra and husband, Ty, of Alum Creek, WV, and Dianne Tinker and husband, David, of St. Albans, VT; two sisters, Ruth Brandt and husband, Bob, and Donna Stelmach and husband, John, both of Prescott, AZ; 14 grandchildren, Seth, Kyle, Mikayla, Zachary, Becca, Jared, Erin, Lauren, Ethan, Logan, Alicia, Sarah, Jordan, and Brandon; seven great-grandchildren, Isaac, Isaiah, Kasaya, Bryleigh, Camdyn, Ryder and Mason; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visiting hours were held on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at A.W. Rich Funeral Home. All were invited to attend the celebration of John's life at a memorial service on Sunday, February 1, 2015 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Jeffersonville. The family invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting www.avrfrh.com.

CAMPUS HONORS AND GRADUATIONS

Brent Adair of Jericho, VT, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.

Jeffrey Barr of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Robert Beauregard of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Benjamin Roger Bliss of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Davis Bodette of Cambridge, VT has been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Marina Bowie of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List with Highest Honors at the University of New Hampshire.

Maia Buckingham of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. Buckingham is majoring in Graphic Design Communications.

Tess Bugbee of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List at Castleton State College in Castleton, VT.

Jalen Campbell of Cambridge, VT has been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Christina Clark of Underhill, VT has been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Spencer Alan Dodds of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Carole Frey of Jericho, VT graduated from Castleton State College, Castleton, VT on completion of the fall semester in December 2014, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Erica Fuller of Underhill, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Daniel Anthony Giangreco of Jonesville, VT has been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Dalton Gomez of Cambridge, VT has been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Kemper Gottshall of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Erin Hanley of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Harriet Hevrin of Jericho, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Katherine Hobart of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List at Castleton State College in Castleton, VT.

Spencer Hunt of Jeffersonville, VT graduated from Castleton State College, Castleton, VT on completion of the fall semester in December 2014, with a Bachelor of Science in Communication.

Lauren Irish of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List with High Honors at the University of New Hampshire.

Nicole Irwin of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List at Castleton State College in Castleton, VT.

Benjamin King of Jericho, VT, a junior majoring in civil engineering, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.

Andrew Lange of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. Lange is majoring in Visual Art Studies.

Sarah Leclair of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Jennifer Lowney of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Travis Maney of Richmond, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Kyle O'Grady of Jericho, VT, a freshman majoring in computer science and digital arts & sciences, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.

Emma Oliver of Jericho, VT, a senior majoring in psychology, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.

Brian Nicewicz of Jericho, VT, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, has been named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2014 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.

Ryan Peden-Spear of Jericho, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. Peden-Spear is majoring in Architecture.

Corey Rainville of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Taylor Reynolds of Westford, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List at Castleton State College in Castleton, VT.

Saege Robinson of Underhill, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List with Honors at the University of New Hampshire.

Grayden Shand of Jericho, VT, a freshman majoring in financial information & analysis, has been named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2014 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.

Casey Sheredy of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List with Honors at the University of New Hampshire.

Abigail Stritzler Russell of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Erin Stokes of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Marilyn Tagliavia of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the President's List for the Fall 2014 semester at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT.

Justin Yergeau of Jericho, VT has been named to the President's List for the fall 2014 semester at Davenport University, Grand Rapids, MI.

BEAUTY

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COMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 5

Community Soup and Bread Supper, 4:30 – 7:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex. Stop in on your way home to eat in, or take out. Variety of hearty soups, breads, and a sweet dessert. Call Pastor Peter Norland, 879-4313, for more information. Donations accepted.

Woof! Dog Communication in the Human World, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Memorial Hall, Essex. Is a yawn always just a yawn? Can a growl actually be a good thing? Are tail wags always friendly? Fun, informative multi-media lecture. Free or low cost to support healthy dog-human relationships and dog safety. Sponsored by Essex Rec. Information, deb@goldstardog.com or www.goldstardog.com. Also offered Friday, February 27, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, S. Burlington City Hall, sponsored by S. Burlington Rec; and Thursday, March 26, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, St. Abans Barlow Community Center, sponsored by St. Albans Rec. Some locations are free, some have a small fee (\$5-10) or ask for donations for the sponsor. Pre-registration required in some locations.

Saturday, February 7

French Canadian Supper, 5:00 PM, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church Hall, Richmond. Pea soup, meat pie, mashed potatoes, dessert, beverages. Suggested \$10 donation to benefit charities of the Rosary Council of the Knights of Columbus 4684. For information, call 777-5302 (evenings) or 434-2521 (days).

Beginning Genealogy, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, VT Genealogy Library, Hegeman Ave., Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. Learn how easy it is to find your ancestors – how to get started and find free sites on the Internet, and where to find local resources. Sheila Morris will discuss methods and best practices for research and organizing the information you find. Later, volunteers will show you our library. Class is \$5. Parking and entrance are across from the VT State Police Building. Information, www.vtgenlib.org or 802-310-9285.

Family Night Owls, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Venture out into the winter woods, awakening your night-time senses as we look and listen for owls. We'll leave our flashlights behind and travel by the light of the moon on a family-friendly walk, stopping for stories and calling out to the night birds. We'll come back from our adventure to warm up around the glow of a winter campfire. For families with children age 5 and up. For pre-registration and information including fee, 434-3068 or vermont@audubon.org.

Stories of My Life, 11:00 AM, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St., Burlington. Join children's author Katherine Paterson for a discussion of her memoir, *Stories of My Life*. Paterson is the author of a long list of favorites, including *Bridge to Terabithia*, *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, *The Day of the Pelican*, *Jacob Have I Loved*, *Lyddie*, and more. Her work has garnered many awards, including two Newbery medals, two National Book Awards, and the Laura Ingalls Wilder medal. Tickets \$2 per person available at either Phoenix Books location. For information, www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350.

Sunday, February 8

A Potpourri of Richmond History, 3:00 PM, Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Richmond. Richmond Historical Society archivist Karen Yaggy presents a slide show of quirky and little-known bits of town history including: the U.S. Cavalry in Richmond, the town's potash industry and dueling smokestacks, one-room schools, and early maps and roads. Free and open to the public; handicapped accessible. Information: Martha Turner, 434-6453 or atrhs@oldroundchurch.com.

Tuesday, February 10

'Snowflake' Bentley's 150th birthday symposium, 7:00 PM, Jericho Elementary School auditorium, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Moderator Mark Breen, Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, and VPR's original *Eye on the Sky*. Panelists Dr. Bruce Berryman, Lyndon State College, Lyndonville; Paul Sisson, National Weather Service, Burlington International Airport; and John Miller, Johnson State College. Following their discussion, the audience is invited to share Bentley's birthday cake. John Dunlop, cellist, and Laura Markowitz, violinist, members of the VT Symphony Orchestra and Jericho residents, will provide appropriate period music.

JSC/VT PBS Community Cinema movie *An American Dilemma*, 7:00 PM, 207 Bentley Hall, Johnson State College, Johnson. The story of Nobel Laureate Gunnar Myrdal, whose study *An American Dilemma* (1944) looked at the dissonance between a society's stated beliefs and what goes on in the name of those beliefs, focusing on the American racial psyche using archival footage, newsreels, nightly news reports, and rare Southern home movies from the '30s and '40s. Information: Emily Neilsen, 802-635-1408 or Emily.Neilsen@jsc.edu.

Wednesday, February 11

Embroiderers' Guild of America meeting, 9:30 AM, Living/Dining Room, The Pines, 5 Aspen Dr., S. Burlington. The Green Mountain Chapter of the Guild welcomes people of all abilities to this stitch-in meeting – bring something to stitch. First meeting complimentary. Bring

a bag lunch. Carpooling available from many areas. Information: 372-4255 or gmc.vt.ega@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 12

Food, Farms, & Community: Exploring Food Systems, 6:30 PM, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St., Burlington. Where does food come from? How is it produced? How does that production affect individuals and communities? Explore these questions with Lisa Chase, natural resources specialist at UVM Extension and the director of the VT Tourism Research Center. Lisa's new book, *Food, Farms, and Community*, takes an in-depth look at critical issues, successful programs, and challenges for improving food systems spanning a few miles to a few thousand miles. Free. For information, www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350.

Friday, February 13

Queen City Contras' regular dance, 8:00 PM, Shelburne Town Hall, 5376 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne. Music by *Shindy*; caller Luke Donforth. All are welcome, all dances taught, no partner or experience necessary. Beginners' session at 7:45 PM. Adults \$8; under 12 free. Please bring clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Information: 802-371-9492 or www.queencycontras.org.

Richmond Farmers' Market 2015 Annual Membership Meeting, 3:00 - 4:30 PM, Richmond Town Hall Meeting Room, Richmond. Vote on this season's dates, officers, and budget; share ideas to improve the market; re/connect with old/new friends, and meet the RFM board and staff. Pick up a vendor application packet (due by Wednesday, April 1.) All interested in the market are welcome to attend and share thoughts. Voting privileges are limited to seasonal vendors and others who have paid 2014 and/or 2015 membership dues (which can be paid at the meeting.) Board terms are for one year, all seats are open.

Saturday, February 14

Lions pancake breakfast, 7:30 – 11:00 AM, United Church, Underhill. Treat your valentine(s) to breakfast and benefit the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club service activities. Adults \$6, seniors \$5, children \$3. Please bring a non-perishable food item.

Bird Monitoring Walk, 8:00 – 10:00 AM, Green Mountain Audubon Center, 255 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Discover which "winter irruptives" are visiting Vermont from the far north. Check in on our "winter regulars" to see how they're surviving in the snow. Following a monthly monitoring route, we track bird populations in every season. All Ages; donations appreciated. No pre-registration needed.

DNA Tests: Maternal & Paternal Lines, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, VT Genealogy Library, Hegeman Ave., Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. Learn how tests for maternal & paternal lineages work, their power and their limitations, as well as when we should use them. This class will cover costs, support tools, websites and how to analyze the data. Actual test results will be used to demonstrate the application of these tools to genealogical problems. Class is \$5. Parking and entrance are across from the VT State Police Building. Information, www.vtgenlib.org or 802-310-9285.

Valentine's Wine Pairing Dinner, 7:00 PM, Shelburne Vineyard, Shelburne. Enjoy a romantic four-course prix fixe wine-pairing dinner in Shelburne Vineyard's softly lit cherrywood. Live jazz by duo Art Hertua and Stephen Morabito; menu by the chefs of Lazy Farmer, a locally based caterer with foods sourced primarily from local producers. Menu features a French styled carte du jour, pairing each course with a Shelburne Vineyard Wine. Dinner options include a vegetarian option. Seating limited; reservations required, 802-985-8222.

Sunday, February 15

Pancake Breakfast, servings at 8:30 and 10:30 AM, Grace United Methodist Church, 130 Maple St.,

Essex Junction. Scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, coffee or tea, juice. All are welcome; free or donation. For information, call Elizabeth at 878-5923 or the church office, 878-8071.

Tuesday, February 17

Board of Water Commissioners of the Village of Jericho, Inc., monthly meeting, 7:00 PM, Old Red Mill, 4B Red Mill Dr., Jericho.

Thursday, February 19

Legislative Forum, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho. Representatives Bill Frank and George Till will hold monthly legislative forums to discuss and answer questions about what is happening in the legislature this session. Thursday, February 19. For more information, contact Representative Frank at 899-3136 or RepBillFrank.com.

Moses Robinson and the Founding of Vermont, 6:30 PM, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank St., Burlington. Superior Court Judge Robert Mello will discuss and sign his new full-length biography about Moses Robinson—perhaps Vermont's most important and least well-known founding father. Robinson appears in books about early Vermont history, but as a minor character with little substance. In this full-length biography – deeply researched in primary sources like state papers, legislative proceedings, court records, and other government documents – Mello restores Robinson to his rightful place as one of the most significant figures in the founding of Vermont and the development of its state institutions. Robinson was a leader of the revolt against New York, one of Vermont's agents to Congress in charge of negotiating statehood, the architect of Vermont's legal system, and served as the state's first chief justice, governor for a year, and then as its first senator. He was an ally of the Allen-Chittenden faction but also was independent-minded, particularly on the issue of statehood. During the last decade of his life, Moses Robinson was widely considered to be Vermont's elder statesman. Free. For information, www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350.

The Lost Shul Mural, 12:00 PM, VT History Museum, Montpelier. In 1910 the interior of Chai Adam synagogue in Burlington was painted, ceiling to floor, by Ben Zion Black, a Lithuanian painter. Decades later the building was sold and later converted into apartment units. The painting was forgotten until 2012 when the mural was uncovered for the first time in 30 years. In this program, Jeffery Potash and Aaron Goldberg will explore this unique mural and the plans to preserve it. Information: www.vermonthistory.org.

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Art / Music / Theater continued from page 3

St., Burlington. Information: bca@burlingtoncityarts.org. Essex Art League meets the first Thursday of the month, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM, at the Essex Junction Congregational Church on VT Rt. 15. The meeting agenda includes a business and social time, and features a guest artist presentation. A detailed calendar of meetings, speakers, and online gallery is published on the League's website, www.essexartleague.com.

The work of artist Michelle Ennis Jackson of Essex Junction is featured at Shelburne Vineyard's Tasting Room Gallery. The show, *Capturing the Essence of Vermont* runs through February 28. Shelburne Vineyard Wine Tasting Room, 6308 Shelburne Rd. (US Rt. 7), open 11:00 AM every day. New exhibits by local artists change every four months. For more information, www.shelburnevineyard.com.

MUSIC/DANCE

The February Westford Music Series concert on Sunday, February 8 will feature 24 year old entertainer and songwriter Eric George, who helps keep the American folk tradition alive. From early country and delta blues to original songwriting, his voice drifts between dirt and clouds, and he entertains folks of any age and background, singing with roots dug deep. Eric has created over a hundred songs, and while his songs often consist of a simplicity rooted in folk tradition they tend to stray off the beaten path. Eric won the 2014 annual Young Tradition Vermont contest. The concert will be at the Westford UCW White Church on the green in Westford, 4:00 – 5:00 PM. Co-presented with Young Tradition Vermont. Free; refreshments following concert. For more information, contact Marge, 879-4028 or mhamrell@comcast.net.

The 5th Annual Dance Showcase will benefit Puppets in Education (PiE), a nonprofit program that teaches children how to keep themselves safe and healthy and to appreciate each other's differences. With life-sized puppets, PiE brings programs to kids in VT, NH, and NY, including topics like disability awareness, bullies and school safety, healthy bodies, and environmental topics. The showcase is Saturday, February 7 at 7:00 PM at Main Street Landing Black Box Theater, 60

Lake St., Burlington. For more information including ticket cost, www.PuppetsInEducation.org or www.FlynnTix.org.

THEATER/FILM

American Place Theatre will bring literature to life on Monday, February 16 in the one-woman show *Zora* at 7:00 PM in the Dibden Center for the Arts, Johnson State College, Johnson. Cheryl Howard plays writer Zora Neale Hurston, one of the most important and celebrated figures to emerge from the Harlem Renaissance. Outspoken, spirited and gifted, Hurston wrote books defining the black American experience. In this dramatic biography, Zora invites the audience into her exemplary life, rich with folklore, intimate portraits of her contemporaries, and excerpts from her significant body of literary work. Teaching artist Lisa Strum will introduce the show and lead a discussion afterward. For information on the events, contact Emily Neilsen, 802-635-1408 or Emily.Neilsen@jsc.edu.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON LIBRARY, UNDERHILL
 The art displayed in February is by grade 3-4 students from Underhill Central School. They made snowflakes using the method of quilling under the instruction of their art teacher Kim Aueter.
 The silent auction item for February is earrings crafted by Oma Herbal Creations. Stop in and make a bid!
 The DRML Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, February 19, 7:00 PM in the meeting room. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!
 Thank you so much for your patience and understanding during the extended installation of the additional shelving at our library. The DRML Board of Trustees invites you to come see the changes at "Sweet Open House" on Sunday, February 8, 1:30 - 3:00 PM. Desserts will be served. All are invited!
 A request for the assistance of all patrons of Deborah Rawson Library: Since we changed our computer systems in October, we have the added convenience of being able to contact you by email when you have items that are ready to be picked up or overdue items. Please be sure that we have your current email. When we don't have the accurate address, these notices will bounce back to the library's mail. Also, when your email providers - especially AOL and gmail - do updates, your email notices will get caught in your spam file. Please be

sure to add drawsonlibrary@gmail.com and drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com to your contact lists. This step will help you get notices addressed to you in a timely fashion. Thanks in advance for your assistance.
 Through the work of DRML, our local school libraries, and the generosity of Vermont READS and The VT Humanities Council, our library community has been awarded multiple free copies of the 2015 Statewide One-Book Community Reading Program Book of the Year, Haroun and the Sea of Stories by Salman Rushdie. Drop in and pick up a copy at the front desk and sign up to be part of the events we are planning to celebrate this book. Save the date for our first event, a book discussion on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 PM in the Fireplace Room. Haroun will be the Deborah Rawson Book Lover's March read! Hope to see you then!
 Deborah Rawson Book Lovers (DRBL) will meet on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM. DRBL is an adult book discussion group that meets every month. The book for February is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting - always the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information about book club, contact Christine Staffa at Christine@cstaffa.com.
 Adult Writers Group, Wednesday, February 11 at 6:00 PM. Whether you've been working on your novel for years or have just picked up a pen, we would love to welcome you to our community of writers. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month. For information about the group, please contact Elise Doner, 899-2644 or bustfeet4kids@gmail.com.

Tax season is upon us! Do you have questions about the new health care laws? Join representatives from H&R Block on Thursday, February 12 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM for free tax advice! Call 899-4962 to sign up.
 Parlez-vous Français? French Conversation Group will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 6:30 PM. Join the group for casual conversation and some cultural exchange! For more information call Henry, 899-3349. A bientôt!
 Calling all Scrabble players! Come join your neighbors Monday, February 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM for an evening of challenging word fun and laughter!
 Join Montpelier's Helene Lange for a living history performance of Agatha Christie: Creator of Miss Jane Marple and Hercule Poirot on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 PM. "Ms. Christie" will share how a typewriter in Torquay spawned over 80 mysteries and created both Miss Jane Marple and Hercule Poirot. Learn about her life and walk in her footsteps in England. Discover why she was so knowledgeable about the poisons used in her stories, what influences in her life informed the creation of her famous leading detectives, personal information about her family, and why she went to Yorkshire under an assumed name. Presented by The VT Humanities Council and the Friends of DRML.
 Join Janice Solek-Tefft and Kenneth Tefft on Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 PM to discuss the book *The Kaya Girl* by Mamle Wolo. Set in Ghana, this is a fictional story of two young girls from two startlingly different worlds who manage to connect on a level that goes beyond words and past experiences. The presenters will discuss this book from within the frame of their experience in Ghana as part of the Peace Corps. Multiple copies of the book are available at the DRML front desk.
 Legislative Update with Bill Frank and George Till on Thursday, February 19, 6:30 PM in the Fireplace Room. Our local representatives will discuss topics of political interest from the 2015 Legislative

Session.
 Join the Jericho Energy Task Force for the second film in their annual movie series on Friday, February 20, 6:30 - 8:30 PM with the film *Vanishing of the Bees*. This documentary examines the disappearance of honeybees and the meaning it holds about the relationship between mankind and the earth. Local beekeepers will join us for the film and discussion.
 Join The Mystery Book Group on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 PM. February's pick is *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie. All are welcome!
 February StoryTime! Drop in for stories, projects and a nutritious snack! Wednesdays, February 11 and 18 at 10:30 AM and Thursdays, February 5, 12, and 19 at 10:00 AM. No registration required.
 Baby Time! Tuesday, February 10 and Saturday, February 28 at 10:30 AM. Infants and babies up to 18 months are introduced to the wonders of language with nursery rhymes, songs, fingerplays, and board books. This is a great time for parents and childcare providers to connect, chat, and share ideas. Older siblings welcome. No registration required.
 Join friends for Family Movie Night on Friday, February 13 from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. Plan to bring the whole gang for the family-friendly movie, *The Boxtrolls*. Bring your pillow and blanket and we'll provide the popcorn!
 Join friends on Thursday, February 19 from 3:00 - 4:30 PM for TINKER TIME! Do you like creating new things from craft materials, recyclables, scraps, etc? Curious about how to make things work, enjoy taking things apart, and experimenting and inventing? Kids in grades 3 and up can join Thad to take things apart and look inside and then use the parts to build something else! Call 899-4962 to sign up and reserve your spot in the workshop.
 Designers Club, Friday, February 20 from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. "Think it, Bring it, Make it, Share it, Take it!" Have an idea? Are you interested in something but have yet to delve into it? Your reading, writing, gaming, collecting, organizing, digital project? Bring your necessary supplies and come share with others as they delve into their project interests. Middle schoolers and up. Call 899-4962 for details and to sign up.
 Legos! Join Thad for three Lego building sessions this month - Friday, February 13, 2:45 - 4:15 PM; Tuesday, February 24, 10:00 - 11:30 AM; and Saturday, February 28 from 12:00 - 1:30 PM in the project room. Sign up for any or all of the sessions by calling 899-4962 to register.
 Are you a teen filmmaker or director? Are you up for the 2015 TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE? The VT Department of Libraries and the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) are sponsoring the 2015 VT Teen Video Challenge. Teens 13-18, individually or in teams, are invited to create a short Public Service Announcement promoting the 2015 teen summer reading slogan, "Unmask!" The winner of the Vermont challenge, when approved by CSLP, will receive \$150 and his/her sponsoring library will be awarded prizes worth \$50. Entries are due by Monday, March 2. See more information <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/srp/childrenteen/teenvideocontest>.
 For more information on the programs and services available at Deborah Rawson Memorial Library visit www.drml.org. You can also find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!
 Library hours: Tuesday 12:00 - 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 - 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 PM; closed Monday. For information on any of the library's programs, call 899-4962.

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TOWN OF JERICHO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Town of Jericho is seeking individuals interested in serving on the town's planning commission or development review board. Individuals interested in being considered for a position must notify the town in writing, detailing the reason for their interest and any relevant experience they may have. Notice can be provided through email to pcarrier@jerichovt.gov or via mail to Paula Carrier, P.O. Box 39, Jericho, VT 05465. Requests for consideration must be submitted by February 13, 2015.

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Westford - \$349,000

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Westford - \$338,000

- 10.4 acres with maple trees, barn and sugar house
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- Family rm opens to front covered porch. Master w/ bath up. 3 addtl bdrms & bath
- Walkout lower level with den

Huntington - \$242,000

- 4 bdrms & 2 baths. Open living rm, dining area & modern kitchen w/ island & hrdwd floors on the main level w/ slider to deck.
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Crafters' Circle - Do you find the time to work on your craft projects at home? Join other craft enthusiasts at the Monday evening Crafters' Circle, which meets at the library at 6:00 PM. If you embroider, quilt, crochet, knit, create paper arts, or want to learn, this is the group for you. Join us any Monday - everyone is welcome whenever you can attend. Bring your current projects or try something new. Check our Facebook page for weekly craft ideas: <https://www.facebook.com/JerichoTownLibrary>.
 Wee Read: Jericho Town Library Story Time, Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM, join story teller Elizabeth Bernstein and musician Derek Burkins for an animated story time, a fun filled hour featuring stories, live music, movement, finger plays, craft, and a

Library news continued from page 6

healthy snack. The theme for January 28 is Exploring Shapes. Library hours are: Monday 1:00 – 7:00 PM; Wednesday 10:00 AM – noon (includes children's story time) and 2:00 – 7:00 PM; Friday 1:00 – 5:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM – noon. For more information call 899-4686, go online to www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org, or email Jerichotownlibrary@gmail.com.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY, JEFFERSONVILLE
The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117. Please visit Varnum Library's website, <http://thevarnum.org>.
Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
The library is accepting donations of books, DVDs, and audio-books for the 4th of July book sale. Books in good condition (would you give it to a friend?) accepted; please, no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, cassettes, or VHS.
Early Literacy Storytime every Thursday, 11:00 AM. No registration required. Storytime consists of several stories around a theme and a theme-based craft. All ages and levels of attention are encouraged to come – even if they fidget, they are still getting a lot out of it!
Building Bright Futures Playgroup – Mondays, 9:30 – 11:00 AM. For children 6 and under. For more information contact Janice, Janice@tfish.net.
Library Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Friday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM;

website westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com; Email: westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook. 878-5639, Bree Drapa, Librarian.

RICHMOND LIBRARY
The Love the Library Book Sale will be held at the Richmond Free Library on Friday, February 13, 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Saturday, February 14, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; \$5 bag sale from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Come to Richmond to shop from a fantastic selection of quality books and media for all ages, enjoy live local music, try your chance at great raffle prizes, and treat yourself to a delicious baked item. Raffle prizes include restaurant gift cards, T-shirts, local business gift cards, and more! For information, call the library, 434-3036. The sale is organized by the Friends of the Richmond Free Library and helps to make

Library news continued on page 8

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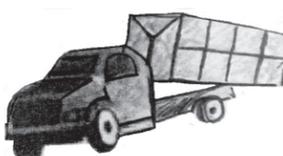
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Moriarty Wool Ski Hats are back!! 3rd generation hats made in homes in Lamoille County! Anabel knit 1st one for her son Marvin to wear in the 1956 Olympics! Johnson Farm & Garden 635-7282.

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Medical Examiner Permit	\$25.00
Certified Death Certificate	\$10.00
Transit Permit	\$5.00

Total Direct Cremation Charges: ~\$1495.00

Also included at no extra charge is a cremation container, your choice of 1 of 3 urns, newspaper obituary notice assistance and life tribute placement on our website. Price effective January 1, 2013. ~No Hidden Fees.

Follow us on Facebook at [f /A. W. Rich Funeral Home](https://www.facebook.com/A.W.RichFuneralHome)
www.directcremationservices.com
(802) 878-2220

Join Us For an Open House

Saturday, February 7, 2015 9:30—11:30 am
7 Red Mill Drive Jericho



Registration Dates for 2015-16

Current Families: February 2-6

Alumni/Sibling Families February 9-13

New Families: February 16-20

Talk with the Director of Education, staff and current families and learn about the community of a parent-cooperative school, as well as more about our wonderful new location.

Saxon Hill School is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy and offers unique NAEYC-accredited programs, including kindergarten, for children ages 3-6.

www.saxonhillschool.org

802-899-2400

saxonhillregistrar@gmail.com

Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District

Established: December 18, 2014

2015-16 Budget Information

FOR

**Smilie Memorial School, Jericho Elementary, Richmond Elementary,
Underhill ID Elementary, Underhill Central School,
Browns River Middle School, Camels Hump Middle School,
Mt. Mansfield Union High School**

On November 4, 2014, the communities of Bolton, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill ID and Underhill Town voted to form the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District. This new school district will serve and govern the current town school districts of Bolton (*Smilie Memorial School*), Jericho (*Jericho Elementary*), Richmond (*Richmond Elementary*), Underhill ID School District (*Underhill ID Elementary*), Underhill Town (*Underhill Central School*), Mt Mansfield Union School District #17 (*Browns River Middle, Camels Hump Middle and Mt. Mansfield Union High Schools*) in grades pre-K through 12 and Huntington students grades 5-12.

The newly formed school board held an organizational meeting on December 18, 2014. Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe, opened the meeting, swore in community members who were elected in November to serve on the new MMMUSD Board and officially recognized Mt. Mansfield Modified Union as a Vermont school district. In addition, a treasurer, clerk and annual meeting moderator were elected from the floor and an annual meeting date established. Secretary Holcombe highlighted the historical significance of the new school district as well as her support for the work of the Voluntary Merger Committee and enthusiasm for the potential of the preK-12 school district.

The MMMUSD School Board wasted no time in beginning its work. On December 20th, the new board gathered at Camels Hump Middle School to discuss roles and responsibilities, set priorities for the next six months, elect officers and initiate the process of forming a new governing body. The Vermont School Boards' Association supported the board in facilitating the meeting. The retreat was productive and resulted in the following:

- MMM Finance and Negotiations Committee members were appointed.
- The Board will meet the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please go to www.cesu.k12.vt.us to view the meeting schedule, meeting minutes, budget information and other information related to the new school district.

In addition to short-term priorities, the MMMUSD Board will be working on a vision, strategic plans/priorities and community engagement plan. The new board will be focusing on optimizing resources and providing a high quality and responsive education to students in preschool through 12th grade. MMMUSD is positioned to advance the needs and priorities of all stakeholders.

On January 5, 2015, the MMMUSD school board approved a 2015-2016 budget proposal to bring to the voters on March 3rd. The community will be asked to vote on a proposed budget of \$42,904,392. The budget supports and funds the education of students in the eight schools in the new pre-K-12 Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District. This information is posted on the Chittenden East School District website at www.cesu.k12.vt.us.

Please plan to attend the MMMUSD Annual Meeting & budget informational hearing on **Thursday, February 26, 2015**, 6:30 pm at Mt. Mansfield Union High School. Other public forums are being held to review the 2015-16 proposed budget on:

- **Monday, February 16, 2015, 6:30 pm at Camels Hump Middle School**
- **Thursday, February 19, 2015, 6:30 pm at Browns River Middle School**

Library news continued from page 7

many of the library's great programs and acquisitions possible.

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 434-3036; 434-3223 (fax); www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org. Open Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 6:00 PM; Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY
All events are free unless noted otherwise. Pre-registration encouraged.

We subscribe to Vermont Online Library, where you can find full text magazines, journals, newspapers, books, articles, images, video, manuals, foreign language courses, and much more. It's a comprehensive set of databases for any research too – better than a broad Google or Bing search – more vetted and focused. There is no cost to you, the user. To access, follow the link at our Online Resources page: fairfaxvtlibrary.org/online_resources.html, password pizza. We will be having a class on how to use these resources on Thursday, February 19 in the evening.

We are now doing community outreach via Legos! Once a month (4th Mondays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM), Annette will bring our Lego bins to the Fletcher school so the kids there can have a Lego Club. During school vacations we'll have it here at the library.

Call for Design Proposals! Project: Create a unique logo to be used to brand the library, and accompany/enhance our new tagline, "Where Community Connects." We chose this slogan because we are a "Community" – combined school and public library – and we felt the word "connect" has many connotations – social, intellectual, digital. For details see the main page of our website.

Parents, did you know that a child needs to be 8 years of age to be in the library without a parent or supervising babysitter?

We have passes! Shelburne Museum and the Museum Store are open year round! Visit now to view our exhibitions of exquisite jewelry, renowned American paintings, and historic Civil War era textiles! Winter admission is \$8. www.ShelburneMuseum.org.

Library closed? E- and audio books are always available via <http://listenupvermont.org>.

February 14 is the annual chess tournament for all current chess club members. Look for a new chess group (without a coach) starting after February vacation, a new games lending library, lots of events around the great book Haroun and the Sea of Stories, informational classes about library resources and VT Health Connect and your taxes... and much more!

School Year Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:00 AM – 3:15 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

For up-to-date information about programs, visit our website www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, where you can find a link to our interactive Google calendar. Fairfax Community Library: 75 Hunt St., Fairfax, VT, 05454; 849-2420. Program Planner Karyn Norwood, knorwood@fwsu.org; Library News: www.bfafairfax.com/pages/communitylibrarynews.html.