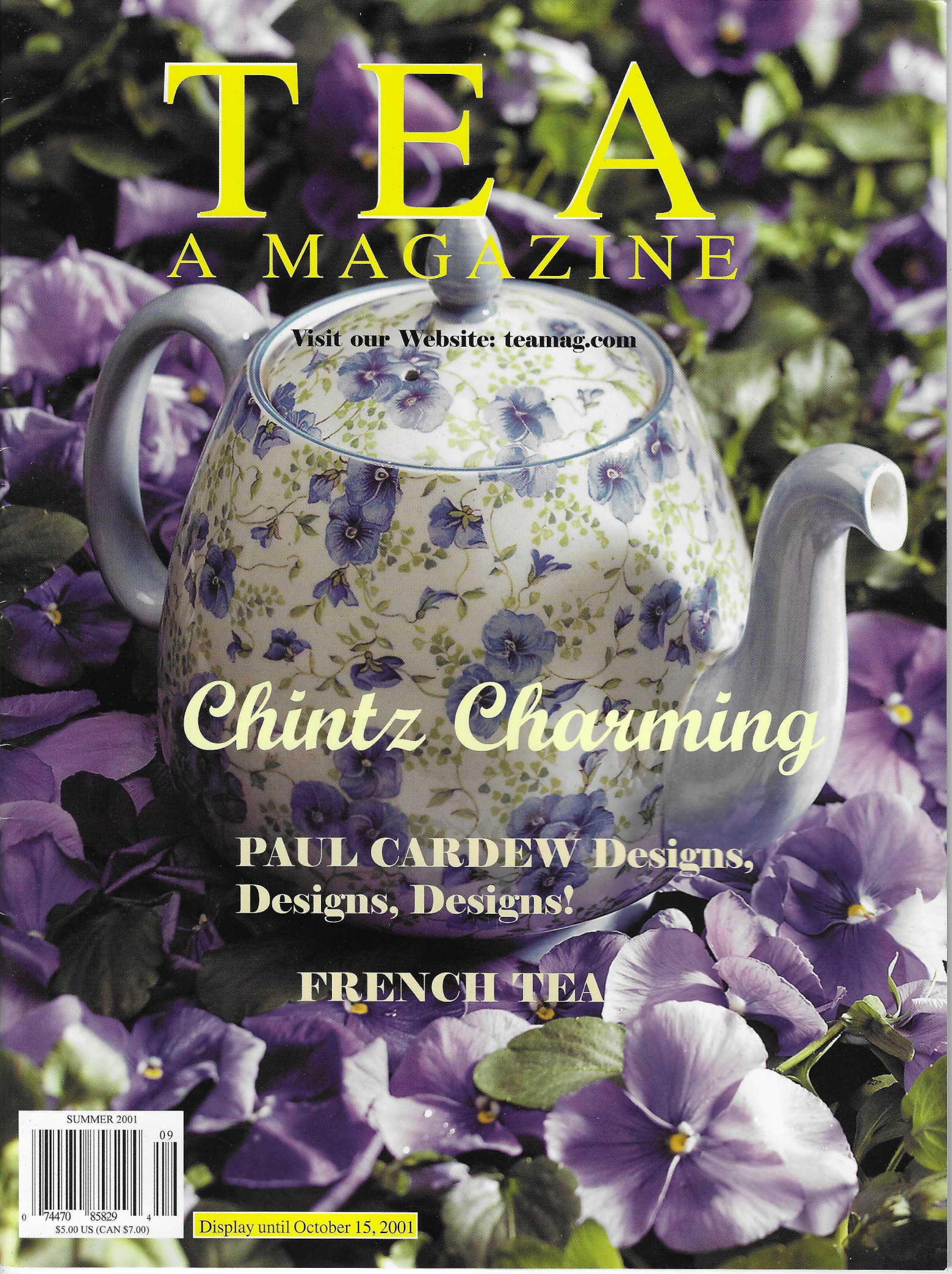
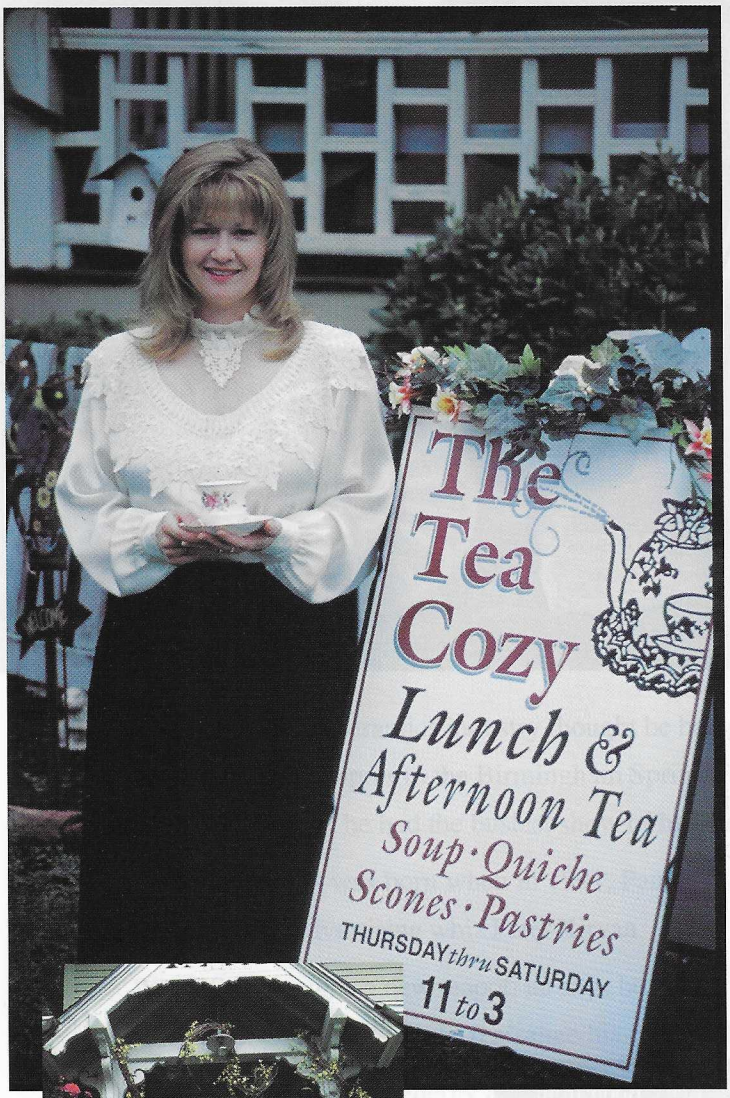
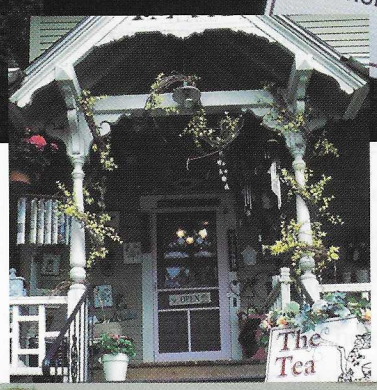


SUMMER 2001
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Display until October 15, 2001





Above: Diane Lareau AmEnde

The TEA CO

Story by Sallianne Spatafore

Photography by Douglas AmEnde

Reserve one of the twenty coveted seats at the Tea Cozy Victorian Tea Room in Windsor, Connecticut, and you're in for a delightful afternoon. You'll step back into a gentler, simpler time where one's only care is which tea to try first.

The ambiance spills out the door of the richly decorated 1877 Victorian. Proprietor Diane Laureau AmEnde, a perky, petite hostess, is there to greet you. She leads you through an array of tea-themed giftwares to the quaint tea room in the back. Sunshine floods through stained glass as you take your seat amidst the attractively mismatched china and rose chintz tablecloths.

You'll spend some time just soaking in the fine details that Diane has combined to create the authentic feel of a Victorian tea parlor. Her unique touches include vintage clothing on the walls, napkin rings made of vintage jewelry, and a hand-written chalkboard menu of the day's homemade specials.

The tea menu, with its cheerful rose cover, offers over twenty teas. There's Monk's Blend—a rich combination of grenadine and vanilla tea, Angel Falls Mist—a strawberry-lemon decaf tea, and Courtship—an aromatic blend, as well as a Children's Tea of fruit sweetened with honey, and the classic favorites English Breakfast, Orange Spice, and Black Currant.



Left: Diane talking with guests Chris, Russell, and Sandy.
Below: Loriann with daughter Carly.

Photographs by Pearl Dexter



Z Y



Below: Diane in her kitchen.



Photography by Douglas AmEnde



When you finally do decide on a tea, you'll be delighted to see that a generous four-cup pot arrives just for you, dressed in a bright floral tea cozy. The tea is the perfect temperature, properly strained, and especially enjoyable.

While you sip your tea, Diane offers the lunch menu, presented on a paddle like a Victorian fan. Diane bakes everything herself on the premises. Her grandmothers and grandfather were bakers and she's carrying on the tradition. Although she's had no formal culinary schooling, everything she offers on the menu is delicious and prepared with care.

Heart-shaped scones are the highlight of the menu. Served warm with cream and jam, their flaky, meltaway texture will remain with you long after you've left. Vegetarian soups and quiches, as well as a rich chocolate dessert, are always on the menu.

As the bill arrives in a pretty guest book for signing, you'll be pleased to find this saying:

> "Joy be with you in your stay,
> Peace be with you on your way."

The Tea Cozy has welcomed tea-takers from all over the United States, as well as England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Kuwait, and Israel. Diane can accommodate bridal showers or private tea parties of up to twenty people. She also caters her scrumptious creations for off-site parties and offers made-to-order tea gift baskets.

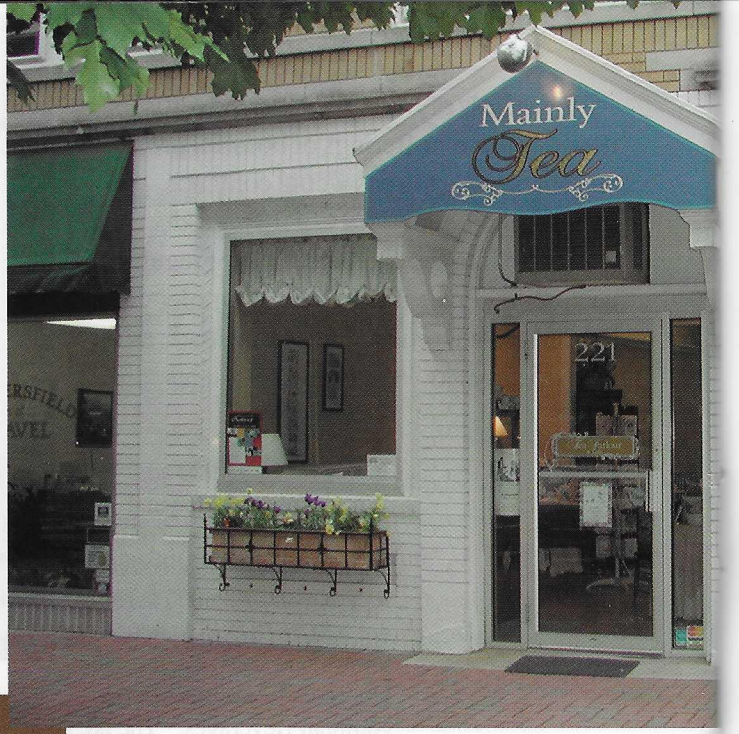
Diane shares the space with her cousin, Elaine Williams, who runs Country Cottage Gifts.

Together the two have made a marriage of fine tea and elegant tea wares for purchase.

If you go, plan to stay, sip, and shop. And bring cash. The Tea Cozy does not accept credit cards (although Country Cottage Gifts does). The Tea Cozy is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations are required and accepted by phone. Diane will personally call you to confirm. Country Cottage gifts is open Monday through Saturday.

The Tea Cozy
Victorian Tea Room
40 Bloomfield Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095
860-688-1450
www.windsorteacozy.com

Mainly Tea



Story by Sallianne Spatafore



Left: Karen Nemmott and Dana Spicer.

Inset: Aileen McDonough.



Left: Murals by artist Sue Gallagher.

On April 26, 2000, Karen Nemmott, Dana Spicer,and Aileen McDonough, three church friends, decided to renovate the old post office building in historic Old Wethersfield, Connecticut, and turn it into a tea room. They opened the doors to Mainly Tea and have been serving tea nonstop since.

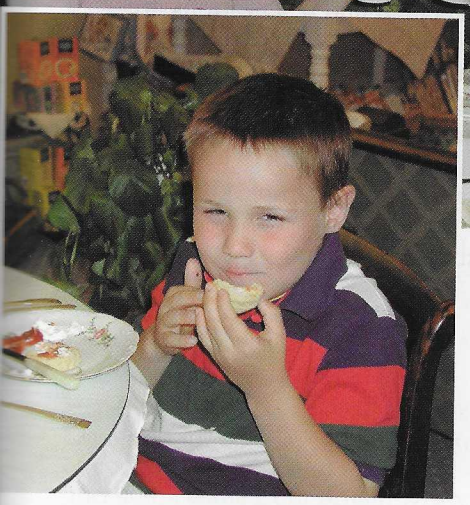
The three ladies, none of whom had any formal culinary training, have created a tea room that exceeds expectations. Stepping inside this cheery, airy tea room is stepping into a sunny spring day. Its pale yellow walls (some with murals painted by artist Sue Gallagher), tinkling china, crisp yellow and rose chintz table-cloths, starched vintage linen napkins, and tastefully chosen classical music all invite you to linger.

Photography by Jeff Burnham









Above: Spencer Burnham having tea with Brenda Ruoppo Shippee.

Top right: Karen and Dana serving guests Bernadine and Priscilla Franco, Brenda Ruoppo Shippee and Spencer Burnham, Linda Murray, and Ashleigh and Meghan Spicer.

No matter which kind of tea you're in the mood for, you'll find it on the menu. Over fifty varieties of hot tea and two iced teas (peach or black) await your decision. It's painful to choose just one. Some of the tempting teas offered are: Keemun, Darjeeling, Russian caravan, Dragonwell, Formosa oolong, and Sencha. Flavored teas and herbal infusions are also on their tea menu: Moroccan mint, blueberry vanilla, and apple crumble.

When your individual pot of tea arrives steaming hot at your table, it's cradled in a demure tea cozy hand made by Aileen.

With eight antique tables spaced nicely throughout the ample room, you can have a comfortable conversation over your tea. And you'll surely be discussing the cold cucumber soup, asparagus and turkey sandwich, and the scones with cream and jam. All are made and served by the three owners, who flit from table to table like butterflies in pearls.

The fixed price menu includes your tea, soup, sandwiches, and scones. And as if that weren't enough, there's dessert. Mainly Tea serves the most generous dessert portion of any tea room I have found. And with choices of homemade meringues with fresh strawberries, chocolate ice cream cake, and coconut cream pie, you're sure to leave with your sweet tooth satisfied.



Photography by Jeff Burnham



On your way out, you'll want to browse the tea wares. From china tea pots to teapot gift wrap and note pads, you'll find a little something you just have to have.

Mainly Tea is open Wednesdays through Fridays from noon to 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. They also offer private bridal and baby showers and retirement teas. Credit cards are accepted and reservations are recommended. If you go, arrive hungry. You'll kick yourself if you're too full to sample all of the succulent treats!

Above: Royal Doulton classic chintz yellow breakfast set.

Left: Royal Doulton "August" teacup.

Mainly Tea
221 Main Street
Old Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-529-9517