

Norwich Kids Change the World One Circus Trick at a Time

Tamar Schreiber

Over February break, twenty American kids, mostly from the Upper Valley, will spend two weeks in Zambia, developing their circus skills alongside kids from Chibolya, an impoverished section of the Zambian capital of Lusaka. For many of the kids from the U.S., this will be a return trip after their first journey there last winter.

The seeds were sown for this unlikely pairing of circus-loving kids from far ends of the earth during a snowstorm in New York City on Valentine's Day of 2014. Norwich resident Brooke

Continued on page 18



Patrick Chikoloma with Lydia Duncan from Norwich painting a mural (and a bit of body painting!) in Chibolya, Lusaka, Zambia

Elder Profile: Terry Appleby

Ruth Sylvester

New Year's Eve will be a big night for Terry Appleby: His first grandchild is due, his eldest son is getting married, and he retires from over 35 years in the coop-grocery movement. During that time, he's seen many changes, in the grocery business and in other systems.

Terry grew up in Bordentown, NJ, as the oldest of nine. He shows pride in his hometown, volunteering that Bordentown had been home to Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, Thomas Paine, the Revolutionary patriot, and Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Its location on a bend of the Delaware River, besides being beautiful, had made it a trading and shipping point.

Terry's father inculcated in him a sense of responsibility for others in his family, and Terry held jobs from the time he was thirteen. He worked as a janitor in a local church, as a busboy, and through college as a waiter. His home, however, "was so crowded," with eleven people, plus for a while his grandmother, squeezed into 4 bedrooms. "When I got the first opportunity to leave, I got out and stayed

Continued on page 12



Tyler Kirschner's Legacy: The Rusty Berrings Skatepark

Jennifer MacMillen

On September 24th of this year, a beautiful thing happened. Close to 350 kids of all ages (2-40+) gathered at Riverside Community Park in West Lebanon to celebrate the renaming of the skatepark and to commit to its revitalization. As with most successful endeavors, this was and continues to be a joint effort between dedicated individuals and public and private entities.

As is often the case, it seems that when tragedy occurs, magic soon follows. Thus is the case with the new life and energy being poured into the recently named Rusty Berrings Skatepark. Yes, "Rusty" knew how to spell "bearing" but being more than a little

unconventional was how he rolled (no pun intended!). An avid skateboarder, artist and overall creative genius, Tyler Kirschner's (aka Rusty Berrings) memory will live on in the Upper Valley's local skatepark. Tyler passed away on November 6, 2015 at 28 years old. An extremely generous and creative guy, Tyler struggled

Continued on page 22



Tyler Kirschner, aka Rusty Berrings

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Epic Avian Migrations Yield Astonishing Insights

Out of sight, out of mind? That mindset may characterize the thoughts of many Upper Valley residents about migratory birds during the extended period when they are far from our area. We welcome them back from far-flung winter homes in April or May, but where exactly have they been? And, how did they get there?

First, bear in mind that most of our familiar and beloved avian summer residents — from the Wood Thrushes in our forests, to the Bobolinks in our meadows, to the Killdeer in our driveways and barnyards — spend a far greater period of time away from their Upper Valley haunts than they do here. Most migratory birds that nest locally grace us for no more than four months. The remainder of their year is spent in transit or in winter quarters that may be more than 5,000 miles to our south. They encounter countless perils en route, and, too often, their winter habitats are threatened by the myriad effects of human-related change. How well a Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Broad-winged Hawk, or Ruby-throated Hummingbird fares during migration and in winter plays a huge role in its overall conservation.

Recent research by VCE has discovered that two long-distance migrants undertake southward fall flights that are among most extraordinary migratory feats on the planet. For both, technology revealed the astounding details. We'll start with the Blackpoll Warbler, a diminutive 12-gram bird that nests on New England mountaintops (including Smarts and Ascutney) and across the vast taiga of boreal Canada. The species had been long rumored, but never proven, to undergo an epic non-stop, overwater autumn flight from the northeastern U.S. to its wintering grounds in northern South America. In 2013, VCE attached light-sensing geolocators to the backs of 19 breeding male Blackpoll Warblers on Vermont's Mt.

Mansfield, while our colleagues in Nova Scotia affixed the same devices to 19 males there. The rest is history. We recovered 5 of these tiny backpacks in 2014 (Blackpolls are very "faithful" to their breeding sites). Downloading the geolocator data confirmed that every bird had struck out in early October from the Northeast coast, winged over the open Atlantic to the Caribbean, then continued on to Colombia or Venezuela. Non-stop flight times ranged from 49-73 hours over distances that averaged 1,580 miles! One Blackpoll's overwater flight covered 1,709 miles in a mere 64 hours.

The Upland Sandpiper is no migratory slouch either. This grassland specialist hasn't nested in the Upper Valley for decades, and, like other grassland birds, is declining across most of its North American range. It spends winters in the pampas of Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay. VCE is spearheading a study of "Uppies" on Dept. of Defense lands, and this past summer we outfitted 15 birds with satellite tags in MA and KS. Four of these are carrying solar-powered tags that send us their daily location via email (that's right, email!). Two tagged birds flew non-stop from MA over the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea to Venezuela, while a female tagged in KS in April has visited no fewer than ten countries and traveled more than 6,000 miles so far on her way south to Uruguay! Results are preliminary, but dazzling, and critically informative to help us understand the year-round ecology and conservation needs of this vulnerable species.

So, as you gaze out at the snow swirling over Upper Valley fields and cloaking our mountains in the months ahead, remember the epic migrations of Blackpoll Warblers and Upland Sandpipers. They'll be back a few months from now; their endurance and grit should inspire us all! ■

~ Chris Rimmer, Vermont Center for Ecostudies



Jason Hill



Jeff Naeffler

• Upland Sandpiper, Fort Riley, KS, June 2016. • Fall migration route of a female Upland Sandpiper, tagged in April 2016, that nested on Konza Prairie, KS. • A Blackpoll Warbler banded by VCE on Mt. Mansfield, VT.

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- February TBA
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- Monday, March 6th, 10-11am
Coffee and Conversation, Norwich Inn
- Friday, March 17th, 6pm
Spring Gala, Tracy Hall, Norwich
- Monday, April 3rd, 10-11am
Coffee and Conversation, Norwich Inn
- Thursday, April 27th, 2pm
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

'Tis the season to be jolly. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go. Dashing through the snow on a one-horse open sleigh, o'er the fields we go, laughing all the way. Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright.

Not to sound old or old-fashioned, but being in any one of the above situations sounds like heaven on earth to me. Having spent some time living in a southern city recently, I have come to appreciate how special it is to live in a safe and simple community like Norwich. Firstly, without the constant noise and 24/7 artificial lights, we country-dwellers can actually experience a silent night, a holy night where all is calm and all is bright from the distant stars. Without the threat of crime or violence as part of our existence, we can let there be peace on earth and it actually can and does begin with us. And, if and when we have the snowfalls of our yesteryears, I can't think of anything sounding more fun than dashing through the snow on a one-horse open sleigh, going over fields and laughing all the way.

The big question of the season is, would our kids find all of this fun and special? Have they been desensitized by the electronic world to the point where they are unable to find meaning and pleasure in the old-fashioned aforementioned notions?

Based on who is featured in this holiday issue, I think it is safe to assume that kids raised in this town are privileged to experience the true joy and meaning of the season because the examples set by their elders make it impossible to do otherwise. The level of civic engagement and the conscious efforts made by Norwich citizens to think and act globally and locally is second-to-none. Read this issue and you will be proud of your neighbors and of yourself.

And, if you happen to have a one-horse open sleigh and will be dashing through the snow, give a local kid a ride...after all, 'tis the season to be jolly!

Have a jolly and peace-filled year-end and new year. *— Jen MacMillen*

Editor's Note

The holidays are upon us again. More importantly, the change of seasons has brought us to the end of another sunny, warm, growing cycle. Though some don't celebrate the various holidays of winter, in Norwich, it is impossible not to feel a major shift as the days get shorter, the landscape turns to shades of brown – and hopefully white – and the air gets dry and crisp (read: cold!). I often feel like our animal instincts emerge in winter – there is a deep pull to hibernate. There's often less social interaction as people spend fewer moments standing around outside while the tips of their noses freeze and faces feel the brunt of the wind. Maybe it is a natural time for introspection and reflection and to find a greater meaning of things. This can be a good thing. Suzanne Lupien, in her article, *On Leaving Norwich*, reflects on her life and the lives of those who came before her in Norwich.

Winter and the holidays are a great time to come together, to collaborate, in work and other areas of the community. We read about this in the piece about Circus Zambia, where very different groups of children are coming together and teaching each other new things, both physically – in performance art – as well as culturally. We also see evidence of this in our profile of Terry Appleby who personifies the term 'cooperative' in his work at the Co-op, especially in the creation of the outpost in White River Junction.

Community can be created anywhere, as illustrated by the deeper message of the development of the skatepark in our cover story...creating something positive out of tragedy, the benefits of which will reach many people for years to come.

Welcome winter – we'll be glad to see you again, and we will embrace the elements of both hibernation and collaboration which you bring to us each year.

— Justine Fahey

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ANIMALS RULE!

Aimee and Her Rescues Teach Compassion and Animal Welfare

Molly O'Hara

Aimee Goodwin, a Norwich local, has been rescuing dogs for many years. The first dog the Goodwins rescued as a family, a German Shepherd named Griffin, is now 14 years old. Now they have three.

For many years, Aimee took part in helping transport dogs from high kill shelters to New England and into the hands of various nonprofit rescue groups, foster families, or adoptive families. Every weekend, hundreds of dogs and cats are transported up the east coast to New England. "When my now 16-year-old son was younger, we would meet those transports in White River Jct, VT, where they would switch over, just to walk the dogs, to find a way for him to participate."

Aimee tried being a foster but she said, "we can't really move the dogs along. When we foster we keep the dogs and that's called a "foster fail" in the rescue world. We have two "foster fails" and a total of three dogs."

The second two dogs were added to the family slowly. Maximoto, the first of two foster fails, was a former puppy mill breeding dog in Tennessee. He came from National Mill Dog Rescue, an organization based out of Colorado that travels to puppy mill auctions and purchases all the dogs in hopes of shutting down the mills.

When a dog comes out of a mill situation, they have no experience with anything in the outside world. They are not housetrained, everything can be scary and overwhelming and it can take a long time to build trust. Not all mill dogs require as much work, but some do.

Maximoto is some kind of Chihuahua/Terrier mix, and when Aimee got him, she quickly recognized just how much work he was going to be. He was neurotic and a bolter. She realized that he was likely going to be bounced around from home to home, so the Goodwins kept him -it will be five years this coming February. Now, she says, he is the best dog. "He's hilarious, still has his issues, but he is the baby of the family."

Recently, Aimee has become interested in working with Animal Welfare Foundation Rincon, in Rincon, Puerto Rico. One of the catalysts for this shift was a desire to keep her kids interested in rescue. She was finding that work in the



Southeast was so traumatic for them, having to walk into shelters filled with dogs who only have 5 days to live.

The situation in Puerto Rico is traumatic but not as bad. In Puerto Rico, they have been hit hard by the recession from 2008 and have yet to recover. Because of the socio-economic situation, they are seeing families move to the continental United States at an exponential rate. There are now more Puerto Rican families living in the continental U.S. than on the island.

When these families move, they often can't afford to take their pets, so they take the collars off of their dogs and leave them. Now there are large numbers of dogs on the island reproducing and getting diseases.

The Animal Welfare Foundation Rincon focuses heavily on spaying and neutering these loose dogs and also tries to get some of them to adoptive families or rescues in the U.S. American Airlines, through their philanthropic program, subsidizes the travel for these dogs so they can fly to Logan Airport for \$40. The Puerto Rican rescue dogs provided Aimee and the rest of the Goodwins with their second "foster fail," Playa, a 1 ½ yr old mutt from Rincon, Puerto Rico.

Now, Aimee has set out to educate teens about the animal welfare issues in Puerto Rico. In March 2017, a group of 14 students and Tim Berube, a social studies teacher, and another chaperone from Hanover High School will be

traveling to Rincon, Puerto Rico (where Playa is from) to learn firsthand about animal welfare issues. Aimee's son is just as excited, he and two other students are trip leaders.

While there, the group will be working with Animal Welfare Foundation Rincon, their organizers, veterinarians, and dogs. They will be feeding orphaned puppies and helping local foster families to enhance their properties to support the care of the dogs. They will be helping to put on a fundraising event, learning about the unique economic and political climate in Puerto Rico that leads to pet abandonment and bringing back fully vetted pets to be placed in loving homes here in the Upper Valley. Follow their group by liking their Facebook page Surf N' Sato ("sato" is a Puerto Rican nickname for a stray dog.) ■

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GOODNESS InDEED

Root Schoolhouse Has Come a Long Way This Year: Anticipates 2017 Reopening

Brian Cook

Ever since Root Schoolhouse, a 1937 one-room schoolhouse located across from Hogwash Farm on Union Village Road at the intersection of Goodrich Four Corners Road, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013, interest in this historic treasure has spread far beyond Norwich. This year, Boston-based Historic New England, the nation's oldest, largest, and most comprehensive regional heritage organization, gave the Root District Game Club a \$1,000 Community Preservation Grant to support its efforts to rebuild the schoolhouse's deteriorating foundation and reopen the building for public use.

Every year, Historic New England distributes six awards to historic preservation projects in each of the six New England states. The Root District Game Club, the caretaker and owner of the schoolhouse since 1952 when the building started being used as a community center, is honored to be this year's lone award recipient for Vermont. In October, Historic New England's Ken Turino visited with members of the Game Club at the schoolhouse and presented the award to Jean Lawe. Jean, like fellow Game Club officers Suzie Wallis and John Lawe, has been working to preserve the schoolhouse since the 1960s. All three remain an integral part of the current effort to save the building and hope to see their work completed in 2017.



Ken Turino of Historic New England, third from right, presents the Community Preservation Grant to the Root District Game Club's Jean Lawe. Other Game Club members in the photograph, from left to right: Brian Cook, Suzie Wallis, John Lawe and Courtney Dobyms. The Lawes and Suzie Wallis first became involved with the schoolhouse in the 1960s and have been working to preserve the building ever since.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Rootler, Norwich Historical Society.

Concerns about the deteriorating foundation of Root Schoolhouse are nearly as old as the building itself. In a letter dated November 12, 1975, the officers of the Game Club reported to its members, "We have come a long way this year. This time last year we estimated that we would need over \$1000 to pay for materials for restoration of the Clubhouse alone. Thanks to some very generous gifts of money, and much time and labor by many people, including some non-members, the work on the foundations has been completed." Jean Lawe was one of the officers who signed this letter.

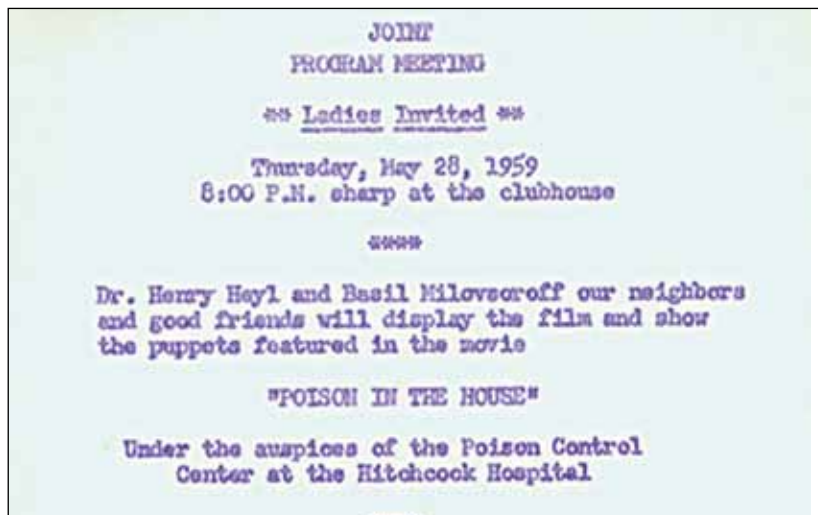
That project, according to a January 17, 1975 story by the Granite State Gazette entitled "Goodrich Schoolhouse Project Restoring Neighborliness Too" led to a "social renaissance" in the Goodrich Four Corners neighborhood. In that article, Game Club co-president Robert Ladd

reports being surprised by the terrific response to the "save-the-schoolhouse" appeal: "We think it's kind of beneficial to the community to keep a place which can be used for a variety of purposes.... Years ago, people used to use their community churches and schoolhouses, and maybe they're coming back to it. Maybe people are more interested in staying closer to home."

Today, the unstable foundation is again threatening the future of the schoolhouse. As it did in 1975, the Game Club is working to save the



Root Schoolhouse, Norwich, Vermont



Since the 1950s, Root Schoolhouse has hosted a range of activities bringing the community together.



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schoolhouse and return it to public use for the first time since 2011, and once again can gratefully report, "we have come a long way this year." In 2016, the Game Club received "very generous gifts of money" from many friends as well as grants from Mascoma Savings Bank, the Norwich Women's Club, and the Country School Association of America. To date, the Game Club has raised

over \$35,000 towards this effort, and is now working to raise another \$5,000 by the end of 2016 so that it can claim the full \$40,000 matching pledge from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation. This should allow the Game Club to completely rebuild the foundation, at last finishing the work started over forty years ago, and have the schoolhouse ready for limited use before the end of 2017.



WORKING TOGETHER--Over fifty Norwich families have recently become members of the new Root District Community Club, and organization of Goodrich Four Corners-area neighbors which formed six weeks ago in an effort to keep the old Root District Schoolhouse for community use. Pictured above are [back row] Sidney Cook, Irma Cook, Robert Ladd. In front: Ruth Cook, Jean Lawe, Barbara [Mrs. Robert] Ladd, Fred Ladd, Sidney Cook and Robert Ladd are

Root District Game Club supporters from 1975, the last time major work on the schoolhouse's foundation was performed, in a photograph first published by the Granite State Gazette that year. Pictured in the back row (from left to right) are Sidney Cook, Irma Cook, Robert Ladd; in the front row are Ruth Cook, Jean Lawe, Barbara Ladd, and Fred Ladd. Jean Lawe remains active with the Game Club today.

If you are interested in supporting the effort to save and reopen Root Schoolhouse, you can find information about donating on the Game Club's website: www.rootschoolhouse.com. (The Game Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.) You can also support the schoolhouse by purchasing a DVD of the 2015 Historic New England/CATV documentary "Back to School: Lessons from Norwich's One-Room Schoolhouses" at Dan & Whit's. This DVD was made possible thanks to a Community Projects Grant from the Norwich Women's Club. ■

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the Game Club at (802) 331-0677 or at rootschoolhouse@gmail.com.



NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Concrete Octopus: The Interstate Reaches Norwich

Dave Callaway

Just over 50 years ago, Norwich faced one of its biggest challenges. In 1964, Interstate 91, the new super highway that would run between Connecticut and the Canadian border, approached the village. The state of Vermont had announced its intention to build two on-ramps and two exit ramps at the shortest and most direct route between Norwich and Hanover. The proposal did not sit well with the community and a four-year battle over the proposed interchange and where it should be located began.

The controversy included petitions, meetings, town votes, letters from the governors of New Hampshire and Vermont, and protests from Hanover and Dartmouth College. Some were upset about the destruction of the hamlet of Lewiston, the loss of Norwich's small town innocence, while other welcomed the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a modern transportation system.

The proposed Norwich interchange with new intersections and two traffic lights would make it easier and quicker to reach the area. But it would double the traffic over the Ledyard Bridge and that meant that the existing road from the Ledyard Bridge to Norwich, Route

10A, would have to be re-routed to cope with the extra traffic. "At that time," according to *Norwich, Vermont: A History*, "going toward Norwich, 10A forked immediately to

location of the interchange. One Norwich board member in a *Valley News* article from June 17, 1964, termed the interchange proposal a "monstrosity" and added that with

Bridge." A bridge there into Hanover would leave "clear the present commuting route between Norwich and Hanover; and for Hanover it would offer many advantages—convenient access to CRREL, to Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital (which was then located in the town of Hanover), and Dartmouth dormitories ...to say nothing of easing the load on West Wheelock St."

A couple of days later, a *Hanover Gazette* editorial supported moving the interchange north but noted that a new bridge, "across the Connecticut River, directly involves the State of New Hampshire since New Hampshire owns the river bed along its borders up to the high water mark on the Vermont side and would have to bear the expense of the bridge. However, it is expected that most of the cost would be reimbursed by federal interstate highway funds."

In July of 1964, Farrell sent a telegram to Philip T. Hoff, the governor of Vermont. "I respectfully request your excellency's personal intervention in matter of final location of the Norwich Interchange on Interstate 91," he began. Farrell wrote that the interchange would be "a serious blow to our newly formed Interstate Union High School and a deterrent to the future development of Norwich." He



View of I-91 Under Construction. Building in the lower right is now The Car Store.

the right after the railroad tracks. It climbed up the hill behind the railroad station, crossed McKenna Road, and traveled down toward the village, entering town at the approximate site of the present Norwich sign."

From the beginning, the board of selectmen, planning boards of Norwich and Hanover and Dartmouth officials opposed the

the extra traffic "school bus transportation would be practically impossible, and many students who now commute on foot would no longer be able to do so."

The chairman of the planning board, Anthony Farrell, offered an early alternative plan recommending that the interstate designers shift the interchange to the "Loveland district, about two miles north of the Ledyard

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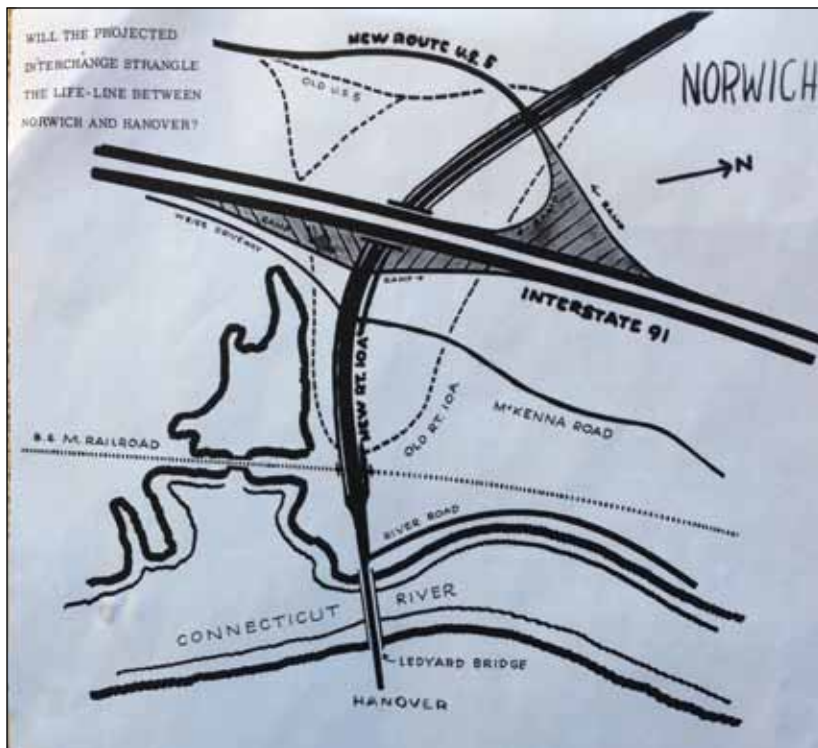
added that “any change in the easy commuting facilities between the two towns would discourage people working in Hanover from living in Norwich and from shopping in Norwich as so many of them now do.”

Governor Hoff met with Farrell, heard his concerns and asked that Norwich hold a meeting where their conversation could be shared with the residents. A few days later, Farrell outlined the governor’s comments at an open meeting of the Norwich Planning Commission and a straw vote was taken to get a sense of the community’s feelings. The vote was 130-3 in favor of delaying construction of the interchange so alternative locations could be considered. Borden Avery, the owner of the Norwich Inn, voted in favor of the interchange because he thought the state highway department had studied the options completely. Another dissenter, Lucy Bridges, who owned a small “motor court” south of Norwich, said that if “the interchange was not located in its projected site the town would be throwing away a chance for sound business growth.”

Bridges, who grew up in Massachusetts, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar, and moved to Norwich in 1957, continued to lob salvos at those opposed to the state’s plan. The next day she sent off a lengthy letter to Governor Hoff that was reprinted in the *Hanover Gazette*. She wrote that construction of the interchange would eliminate the hill leading down to the Ledyard Bridge from Norwich, “widen the road to a divided road, and correct the intersection with Route 5. If a sidewalk is included, the new road will be vastly safer than the existing one, both for children walking (how few of them walk nowadays!) and for local traffic.” She added that delay was dangerous. “The center of Norwich, with a large grade school and houses, is a major truck route. Let us get the highway going and eliminate the through traffic.” The interchange belonged where the Highway Department had planned it, she concluded. “Let us have it there. The objections to the location seem ill-thought-out and rather hysterical, ‘let’s keep life as it is’.”

In the same issue of the *Hanover Gazette*, the Norwich Planning Commission, the selectmen and the school board wrote they were “unanimously on record as being opposed to...the proposed Interstate 91 interchange.”

In November 1964, the Norwich Planning Commission suggested the possibility of relocating the interchange in the “general vicinity of the C-B Oil



I-91 Interchange Petition

Co. (Grassroots Soccer is located there today) where I-91 intersects Route 5 with an overpass over the Boston & Maine tracks, and direct access to and from Hanover on the River Road. This would be far better traffic access to the Ledyard Bridge than the old railroad bridge at Lewiston and would keep the interstate traffic separated from the local Hanover-Norwich traffic as far as Ledyard Bridge.”

Bridges quickly shot down the alternative plan. First, she wrote, to be effective an interchange to the north of the Ledyard Bridge would need a bridge

Continued on page 10

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f e ♿

NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY – continued from page 9

across the Connecticut at that point. But New Hampshire “flatly refused to entertain the idea of building one.” Without a bridge, all traffic heading to Hanover would have to double back on the River Road, “a two-lane road with a railroad crossing and enter Ledyard Bridge on a left turn, now a blind corner, which would have to be completely re-built.”

When it became clear that the interchange north of town was not feasible, someone suggested that the answer might be to eliminate the interchange in Norwich entirely. After all there were five interchanges within six miles of the Ledyard Bridge, pointed out one writer to the *Valley News*. “Certainly the choice available would guarantee easy access to Hanover and Norwich.”

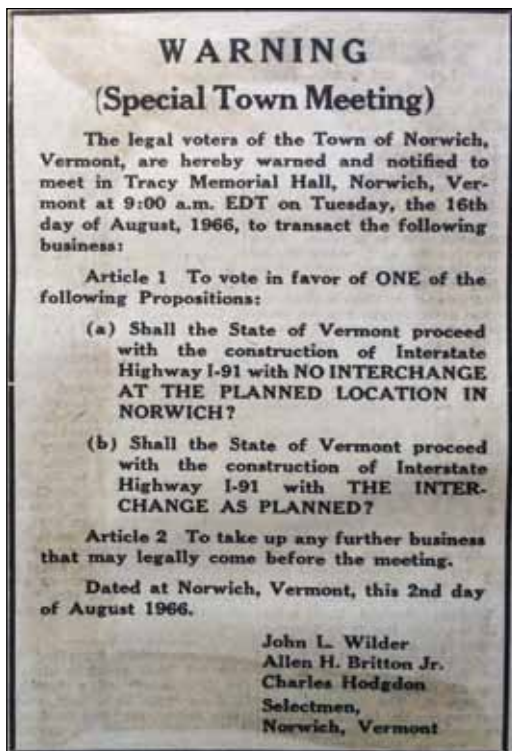
Bridges responded a few days later. “If the interchange is omitted some of this traffic will come across the river at West Lebanon and come up Main Street to the Inn corner instead of up Wheelock Street to the Inn corner. A great gain!”

In the late summer, just as it seemed that the highway project might proceed, another stumbling block occurred. Originally, the plans for the interchange assured the residents of Lewiston, the little hamlet on the Norwich side of the Ledyard Bridge, that they would not lose their homes. But that changed when the planning commission agreed with the state to build a four-lane road from the interstate to the Ledyard Bridge. With a wider road, the buildings in Lewiston had to go. By October of 1965, three Lewiston residents were in court “protesting the condemning of their properties.”

Through the fall of 1965 and winter of 1966, the interchange controversy raged and new solutions surfaced. One letter to the editor suggested that an interchange at Pompanoosuc, 5 miles north of Norwich might be the answer. A forum was held at St. Barnabas Parish House in November where it was hoped that, “a reasonably dispassionate discussion will clear the air.” Prior to the forum, a radio panel discussion on WDCR, which included a Dartmouth professor, Lucy Bridges and Anthony Farrell was held to discuss “points of view regarding the proposed interchange.”

From this November forum, two new petitions signed by nearly half the town’s registered voters were sent off to Governor Hoff. Over 300 residents were in favor of looking for a new location for the interchange, while 100 others asked the governor to have the work proceed on the interchange as planned. Another petition to block the interchange was circulated and signed by 500 Hanover residents and presented to Governor King of New Hampshire.

Governor Hoff failed to be swayed by the new petition. “I am going to tell this group that they will have to present an overwhelming case for us to hold this up again,” he told the *Valley News*. “We have been through this for a protracted period of time and we have held it up deliberately to give the



1966 notice of Town Meeting to decide the fate of the I-91 Interchange

people a chance to say what they want.”

By June, Hoff had reached the end of his rope. “I believe that the facts are clear,” the Governor wrote in a letter to the Norwich selectmen, either accept the “present interchange or no interchange will be built in the for-seeable future.” Hoff added that a “more northern interchange was only feasible if New Hampshire was willing to build a new bridge and that Gov. King has given no indication that they were planning a new bridge.”

Norwich followed the governor’s cue and selected August 16, 1966 as the day the town would vote to either have the interchange as planned or not to have an interchange. Meetings were lined up to discuss the options and a drawing of the proposed changes was mailed out with the dire heading, “Will the projected interchange strangle the life-line between Norwich and Hanover?”

A Hartford selectman spoke at a public hearing on August 9th and stated that without the Norwich interchange, all of Hanover’s traffic would be channeled through the Wilder loop, which he said was not built for it. Another official from Fairlee pointed out that if there was an accident or an illness, “it can be life to us in Fairlee if there is an interchange in Norwich or death if there is none. The Hanover Hospital will be that much closer via Route 91.”

The ‘letters to the editor’ section took up extra columns as many spoke out against the “concrete octopus” with opposition to any interchange that would increase traffic across the Ledyard Bridge, increase taxes and according to one

letter “turn the town into an Asphalt Jungle.”

On August 16, 70% of Norwich’s registered voters turned out to vote. Those in favor of building the interchange won by a narrow 347 to 311 margin. Governor Hoff, after hearing the results, said the construction of the “Lewiston interchange will go forward as planned...I have considered this issue a local matter from the start. A majority of voters have backed the plan, so that is that.”

Opposition to the interchange continued, but the battle was over. The final chapter of the interstate saga came in April of 1967, when five homes and several other buildings in Lewiston were leveled by bulldozers so Route 10-A could be expanded. By 1969, the Norwich I-91 interchange had opened.

While hindsight is always 20-20, it appears the Lewiston location was the best choice for the interchange. Although it took more than four years of debate for the wheels of democracy to grind out a final decision, the citizens of Norwich did so in a civil and orderly manner that would have made their ancestors proud. ■

Norwich Historical Society offers walking tours of the old Route 10A road and Lewiston each summer. Watch the calendar!

Don't Miss These Events at the Norwich Historical Society

Holiday Exhibit

Deck the Halls:

Holiday Collections from Norwich Families

Special holiday hours: November 25-27, 11a-2p

Then Wednesdays and Thursdays 11a-3p, November 30 through December 22

Holiday reception: December 11, 2-4 pm

NHS Annual meeting

January 29, 1:30p

Talk: *1816 and Froze to Death: How the Upper Valley Dealt with Short-term*

Climate Change with Larry Coffin

Sunday Winter Workshops

Researching the History of Your House

with Sarah Rooker and Alan Berolzheimer

January 22, 1:30-3p

Finding Your Roots with Ancestry.com with Dan Collison

February 5, 1:30-3:30p

Follow-up Ancestry.com sessions

February 12, 1:30-3:30p

February 19, 1:30-3:30p

Memoir Writing Workshop with Kesaya Noda

March 26, 1:30-4:30p

**For information or to register,
email sarah@norwichhistory.org
or call 802-649-0124**

AROUND TOWN

Gingerbread Festival

The Family Place's 14th Annual Gingerbread Festival will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 10am – 3pm at Tracy Hall in Norwich, Vermont. The Gingerbread Festival is a fun-filled, family-friendly event offering: a display of over 80 Gingerbread Houses, a silent auction of the Gingerbread Houses and other auction items, a store with handcrafts and gift items, a café for a delicious lunch, a gingerbread house making demonstration, cookie decorating and fun activities for children. Admission is \$10 per family or \$5 per individual, and all proceeds benefit The Family Place. Please call 802-649-3268 or email Gingerbread@the-family-place.org with any questions.

* * * * *

55th Annual Norwich Nativity Christmas Pageant



This year, the 55th Annual Norwich Christmas Nativity Pageant will take place on Thursday, December 15th, 2016, beginning at 7 pm, in front of Tracy Town Hall on Main Street, Norwich, VT.

Everyone is invited to this traditional carol-singing pilgrimage re-enacting Mary and Joseph's journey to the manger. From Tracy Hall, Joseph leads a donkey carrying Mary to the Norwich Inn; the procession follows. The Innkeeper tells them there is no



room at the Inn and sends them to a nearby stable. Along the way, a multitude of angels brings good tidings to a group of shepherds. The journey continues to the stable where the nativity scene is complete with sheep and oxen. It concludes with the arrival of the three Wise Men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. High school seniors from Norwich play the roles of Mary, Joseph, the Angels, Shepherds and three Wise Men.

Gifts of non-perishable food and clothing for The Haven will be collected during the Pageant (at the stable). Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and bring a flashlight or headlamp. Song books will be distributed.

Following the pageant, everyone is invited to continue the merriment at the Norwich Inn for hot cocoa, cookies and more caroling with piano accompaniment. All are welcome. Co-sponsored by The Norwich Inn and Norwich Recreation Council.

Dan and Whit's will be selling a children's book about the Pageant and holiday greeting cards with scenes of the Pageant painted by local artists. Proceeds benefit the Norwich Pageant to cover expenses. A Haven collection box will also be in the Town Clerks Office at Tracy Hall early December. For questions, please contact jastrohbehn@gmail.com. ■

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ELDER PROFILE – continued from page 1

out,” he says. He went to LSU in Baton Rouge, pursuing an interest in Latin America, and studying Mexican politics and government, but, he adds meditatively, “Life took me in other directions.”

“When I was younger,” Terry adds, “I didn’t appreciate family as I do today. There was so much chaos and hustle and bustle. Just getting by took up all the time.” But now, he says, “We have a family that gets together a lot. Our parents instilled a strong feeling of family and group responsibility.”

In 1975, just before Thanksgiving, Terry’s father, only 49, died suddenly of what was later found to be a genetic syndrome leading to multiple organ failure. Terry hurried home from Baton Rouge, where he’d been working on graduate studies, to help out. There were still four children living at home. After things stabilized at home, he returned to LSU to finish his degree. He had a special incentive to sever the knots holding him to Louisiana, because he had renewed his acquaintance with Mary Ryan, whom he’d known casually when he was a senior in college in Philadelphia and she was a high school sophomore. There was something about her—and



when she was in college in Olympia, WA, they wrote letters back and forth for a year. They married in 1979, and moved to Washington state, where Mary was doing graduate work in Comparative Literature. At one point, Mary studied in Germany for a year and they wrote every day. “There was no Skype or cell phones then,” says Terry, “and long distance calls were very expensive.”

At first, in Washington, Terry waited tables, but “one day I walked into a natural foods store, and they



Terry Appleby chipping in at the Hanover Co-op’s e-waste collection

hired me.” The following year he moved to the Puget Consumer Coop, which had started as a buying group in 1953. By the late 1970s, PCC was growing fast, increasing sales and opening stores. “They were fond of democratic control,” recalls Terry, “and they didn’t like the term ‘manager.’ They preferred ‘coordinator.’”

Terry held various jobs in management at the store. In 1992, he

saw the Hanover Coop’s ad for a general manager. Mary said, “You have to apply!” She had fond memories of the Upper Valley area from childhood camp on Lake Fairlee and outdoor education training near Peterborough during college, and by then, the family’s three children had been born. “We were schlepping the kids back and forth to see family on the east coast,” says Terry, with a rueful smile.

Terry got the job, of course, and

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has seen the Hanover Consumer Coop through many changes. Major projects have been the construction and opening of the Lebanon store in 1997, and the addition in 2000 of the commissary kitchen in Wilder, which makes prepared food for all the stores. An unusual challenge was the expansion into White River Junction, in 2010. The Upper Valley Food Coop, smaller than Hanover, but full of fervent members, worried that Hanover's move into the old P&C supermarket would put them out of business. One of the things that made dialogue possible, says Terry, was that he and UVFC managers Kye Cochran and Sharon Mueller had worked together on scenario planning. "We had a cordial relationship and had built trust, so Kye could make a statement, saying 'I know Terry Appleby.' We figured out how to make it so both coops could survive and thrive. Hanover agreed to limit its product line—and tell its members why. We put signs on some of the buses around, 'One great village—two great coops.'" Hanover's board made it part of Terry's job to stay in touch with UVFC (as he

had in fact been doing).

Changes in the industry have only added to the challenge of running a grocery store. "When I came to Hanover in 1992," says Terry, "Walmart had zero food sales. Now they sell more groceries than anyone. Amazon sells food. Twenty percent of cereal sales are over the internet. We want to help people think about the value of preparing and sharing meals. Still, you have to meet people where they are. Maybe Monday evening when they're rushing around, it's prepared food, and on Sunday a family dinner that everyone helps prepare."

We're all so trained to compete and to defend our turf that it's hard to trust that sharing will work. "Cooperation is

a compelling idea," says Terry, "but it's also very difficult. It takes so much work to organize cooperatives and to raise the money. It takes a long time, and it takes people with a lot of patience." He is himself one of those people. He's given his expertise—which also means he's given hours of time—helping coops start up in South Royalton, VT and Littleton, NH. He's been an effective force in developing affiliations among coops, to share and improve information and techniques. His equanimity and ready smile have smoothed the way for cooperation and progress.

Speaking the morning after the presidential election, Terry noted, "We need smart compassionate people to start thinking about the next economy. Trump tapped into the resentment and anxiety of whites; there are other large groups left behind. There's something about our national character that in one way is very greedy, and wants to acquire things, always more. This has been true since colonial times. There's also a compassionate piece that tempers it. That's what we need to tap into." ■

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Wayne Norse
Goodrich Four Corners Road

*Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
Where would you prefer to spend the most time?*
Marion Cross Elementary School with my daughter Olive.

Who was your favorite grammar school teacher and why?

My math teacher Mr. Bonikowski who just knew how to talk to kids.

If you were to write a book, what type would it be?
It would be fantasy fiction like *Harry Potter*.

What is your favorite girl's name? Boy's name?
Olive. Tomahawk.

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
A town where you can just be yourself.

Which Disney or cartoon character best describes you?
Tarzan.

Who is your favorite actor or actress of all time?
Clint Eastwood. No brainer.

Do you see the forest or the trees?
First I see the tree. Then I see the forest.
Then... I see the BUCK.

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
Dan & Whits for the McWhit.

If you could choose to have super powers for a day, which would you choose & what good would you do with them?
My superpower would be the ability to smile at people making them happy for the rest of the day.

What is your favorite quote?
"As you think, you shall become." - Bruce Lee

If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would it be?
El Chalten in Patagonia, Chile to climb Fitzroy.

Which local institution (civic, business, individual) do you believe has the most positive impact on the community?
Marion Cross Elementary School for the way they approach education. Mr. Bill for bringing unique leadership skills, and the faculty for being enthusiastic role models. For me, this educational institution is the most important part of living here.

Which local arts organization is your favorite?
Main Street Museum, The HOP, The Lebanon Opera House.



Katie Kitchel
Sugartop Road

*Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
Where would you prefer to spend the most time?*
With three young boys, and their multitude of extra-curricular activities, it feels like I spend most of the time in my big red Suburban, affectionately called Roxanne. I'd prefer to spend more time walking or running in the woods with my family and friends...and our dog, Ruby, would add an enthusiastic bark of approval as well.

If you were to write a book, what type would it be?
A comedic autobiography entitled "7 Minutes Late" that captures with wry humor and razor sharp insight the highs and lows of parenting in the UV, and why, try as I may, I always arrive to events 7 minutes late.

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
A community of caring, thoughtful, crazy-talented people, with strong opinions about bridge balls and speed humps, who do Halloween really well.

Which Disney or cartoon character best describes you?
Goofy, always and forever. But Elastigirl is my Avatar...she is the mom I wish I could be. When I first saw her turn into a parachute to save her children, I burst into tears...because I wanted to be able to do that, and I couldn't!

If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would it be?
I'd like to visit Patagonia or Nepal with my family. My mom died three years ago, and there are places that she wanted to visit, but never got to in her lifetime. I've wanted to travel to these places with my family...holding close the memory of my mom.

Which local institution do you believe has the most positive impact on the Norwich community?
Dan & Whit's and The Norwich Bookstore. Both businesses reach deep into their pockets to give back in financial ways, supporting valuable institutions within the community. But, just as important, they both also provide places for conversations to happen...where people with similar and different opinions can connect, debate, learn, and grow.

Which local arts organization is your favorite?
Ahh! Don't make me choose. I love the theater though, and truly appreciate both the on-stage and off-stage experiences with NCCT, Revels North, Parish Players, Pentangle, LOH, Northern Stage, UVMC, and The Hopkins Center. Everyone: lend a hand to one of these organizations...the gift of participating in a live theater or musical production enriches your soul and the soul of the community.



Ryan Gardner
Four Wheel Drive

*Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
Where would you prefer to spend the most time?*
Probably my office at home, which at least has a nice view! If given the choice, I love going up and down Gile Mountain.

Who was your favorite grammar school teacher and why?
It's hard to pick just one, since MCS had so many great long-time teachers in the late '80s – Fran Stone, John Girard, Clare Forseth, Lorraine Kelly, Cam Cross, to name a few. Particular mention to Peter Anderson (MCS 5th grade English), who was an early adopter in his use of computers in the classroom and encouraged my interest in the subject.

If you were to write a book, what type would it be?
Probably science-fiction. Exploring the ethical implications of new (and theoretical) technologies fascinates me.

What is your favorite girl's name? Boy's name?
For a boy? Easy – my son, William! My favorite girl's name is probably Elizabeth – classical and lots of permutations.

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
To ape Dan & Whit's motto, "if Norwich doesn't have it, you don't need it."

Which Disney or cartoon character best describes you?
Probably George Jetson – or possibly Yosemite Sam.

Who is your favorite actor or actress of all time?
Cary Grant. The epitome of cool and class.

Do you see the forest or the trees?
I like to think I see the forest, though it's super-hard to avoid seeing the trees on a daily basis.

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
Dan & Whit's. An unbeatable resource for just about anything. And I do mean anything.

If you could choose to have super powers for a day, which would you choose & what good would you do with them?
It may be overdone, but definitely flying.

What is your favorite quote?
"Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense." – Winston Churchill, 1941

If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would it be?
Antarctica. I love remote places.

The Moods of Wine

Too often we try to look at complex matters in the simplest way possible. We reduce them to black and white, rather than complex grades of color. If we compare two similar objects, one must be 'better' than the other. Nowhere is this more true than in the world of wine. Well-written descriptions can make wine sound like something it is not; but more importantly, the way a wine tastes is entirely dependent on the situation.

Many people have the experience of tasting the same wine on two occasions, and having such dramatically different experiences that one bottle is thought to be flawed. You first taste a wine on vacation, travelling to Sonoma or Provence, and after enjoying a few glasses on a beautiful afternoon, surrounded by other happy, relaxed people, you decide it is your new favorite wine in the world. Months later, after a frustrating day at work and having just burned dinner, with dogs barking and children crying in the other room, you open a bottle of exactly the same wine. It tastes thin and acidic, lacking all the delicate aromas and flavors that are now just a fond memory, and you immediately conclude the wine 'didn't travel well' or suffered some such malady. It is the same wine, from the same producer, bottled from the same vintage. What could possibly have happened?

The reality is that the senses of smell and taste are connected in a way that is much more complex than we can imagine. The setting, the company, the weather, and our emotions can make a simple wine taste phenomenal or a great wine seem disappointing. 98-point scores and criticisms of 'poor vintages' do not take into account any of these factors. In fact, most people who taste wine professionally will tell you that outdoor humidity and barometric pressure can play a large role in accounting for how different a wine can taste from one day to another, or when tasted in different locales.



Before you decide that all is lost and you should just give up on wine, let me suggest a different approach. Consider the idea that there is a perfect wine for every situation! We all have 'favorites' and 'house wines' – the ones we turn to again and again the same way we might love certain comfort foods, like a simple roast chicken or macaroni and cheese. Just as we love certain foods only on special occasions, there are also particular wines we may enjoy with certain people or when we put on our nicest clothes. The most exciting wines, to me, are the ones I try without any preconceived notions. These are experiences, like ordering a particular dish for the first time, or having a great conversation with someone you have just met, or taking a wrong turn on a Sunday drive and discovering someplace you've never been before. ■

~ Peter Rutledge

Peter Rutledge has owned and operated Norwich Wines and Spirits since 1996. A 1988 graduate of Dartmouth, he became fascinated with wine while in the restaurant business and spent several years in Sonoma before returning to the Upper Valley. Living in Norwich with his wife Charlotte and daughter Sophie, he continues to try new wines and broaden his horizons whenever possible.



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Suzanne Lupien: Of the Earth

Ruth Sylvester

You can tell when you shake Suzanne Lupien's hand that she's a farmer. Strong and firm, that hand has been working. Now 60, Suzanne is



Suzanne Lupien was a member of the Norwich Selectboard

beginning again on new land, in Vershire, leaving Norwich with great sadness, as she writes in her essay. She moved here as a small child when her father, Tony, became basketball and baseball coach at Dartmouth. She's lived in other places—various

towns in Europe and the US as she's pursued artistic training and practice, a farm in Oregon—but she's always wanted to put down roots in one spot. "You plant an orchard when you're ten years old," she says, "so you can grow with your trees."

Instead of college, Suzanne apprenticed with a Bauhaus-trained potter in California for six summers. She made pottery for 20 years, and also trained in bronze-casting in the Netherlands, where she worked on the reproduction of the famous Marcus Aurelius equestrian statue, which is almost 14 feet high. In exchange for work, she could get her own pieces cast.

Like all long-time residents in town, Suzanne has seen many changes. "In the '60s, every possible socio-economic level was represented in town," she says. "You could throw hay bales one day and have tea with the chancellor the next."

Many in town have enjoyed the bread Suzanne made in the wood-fired oven she ran for many years. "It's physically very demanding," she notes. "I made 200 loaves a day. I bet I made 35,000 loaves at that oven over the years. I had one experience after another at that oven, making connections. One time a seven-year-old boy came and I gave him the match to light the fire. I told him, 'You are part of making all this bread, because you lit the fire.'"

Suzanne also served on the Selectboard for about four years. "It was murder—a continuous challenge," she recalls. "I'd do it again in a heartbeat, but not here. I kept trying to remind people we're all in it

together. I was on the board with Alison May, and we couldn't have been more different. I said we should do something fun together, and she went along with it. With Joyce Child, we performed Gilbert and Sullivan's *Three Little Maids from School*.



Baking bread in the Norwich Community Oven

But then some people hated me, because I'd worked with Alison." Her sadness at such foolishness shows in her voice, as she proposes what she wishes more people could feel and act on: "The interconnect-edness of everything makes life worth living." ■

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On Leaving Norwich

Suzanne Lupien

It is inconceivable to me that the sum total of meaningful experience of my life here – all the legacies of those before me, attached to me forever in memories, lessons and patterns – can find no venue, no refuge, no home in which to stay and carry on. This to me, is far larger than myself, and of far greater significance than where I will go, or whether or not I will ever find a home again.

It shocks me to think that this rich tapestry of a lifetime in one place cannot get folded back into the community, the community which has given me deep richness, humanity and love.

To me, it will be like absconding with treasure that belongs here, which can only achieve its full meaning in context. To have to haul it away, tucked in boxes between spoons and sieves will feel like stealing, tearing, fraying, losing. For everyone, not just me.

It is to the noble memories of this place and its people that I have always dedicated my heart, my choices, my work. To this soil, this air, this grass. My soil, my air, my ancestors and teachers. It feels like a kind of dying, not just in the actual leaving, but in the loss of these threads, these relics, to my community.

What is mine, so much of it given by those who came before, I had always thought would be yours, rightfully so, in the end. This is my understanding of

continuity, of community, of place. But it will not be so.

For years I have shouted out the names of the ancestors, my town's ancestors. While mowing hay on Dutton Hill, for example, I would shout "Austin Huntley" who loaded hay onto the horse fork to be carried into the great haymow there, generations before my time. I never knew him – he died years before I was born. Nevertheless, he was there and present plain as day when I hayed there.

Some I knew personally like Albert and Louise, Fred and Abbie, Andy and Laura. Still many others I hadn't the chance to know, yet they are here, vividly present in my life. Handsome Charlie Ladd, riding by on his big, black Ichabod, Milton, Coleman, Cora and Frank Bragg. All so much a part of my being, through this common soil and spirit, for having been here, giving so much more to my life than I could possibly have made of it on my own.

In my heart, it feels like a failure, a very important failure of a most fundamental kind. To not prevail, to not have a rooted place to realize my

obligation to this place, to transmit, to teach, to pass on, directly, personally, specifically and actually. Whose failure, I do not know. But it is so strong as to bewilder me, blind me and keep me from moving on which I know I must do. To walk away now with so much I wanted you to have, that all along I was sure you'd be waiting for, expecting, needing. ■



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CIRCUS KIDS – continued from page 1

Ciardelli, who had recently ended her tenure as Founding Producing and Artistic Director of Northern Stage, was directing for a short play festival in Greenwich Village. When she ducked into a bar to get out of the snow, she bumped into an old friend Manual Bagorro, director of the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA). She had met him back in 2008 when she brought a one-man show originally produced at Northern Stage to HIFA. Over drinks, Bagorro invited her to write and direct the Opening Show for the upcoming festival, which – with 185 artists from 35 countries – is the largest arts festival in sub-Saharan Africa. “I’d just gone freelance with no plan so I was in ‘yes’ mode,” says Ciardelli. Within weeks she headed to Zimbabwe.

While there, she hit it off with a group of performers from a theater group from Zambia called Barefeet Theatre (including three founding members of



Circus Zambia performing on the Lebanon Green

About 80 percent of the population of Chibolya is younger than 14 years old and most don’t stay in school and instead spend their days on the dusty streets surrounded by crime and drugs.

“Zambian kids are terrific acrobats because they just need their body and empty space. There are no playgrounds, there are no toys. They do street acrobatics because you don’t need anything. They would take a bunch of plastic bags and wrap them into a ball. I’ve seen them use a rubber tire as a mini trampoline,” says Ciardelli.

“A social circus school focuses on developing social and life skills rather than the tricks,” she explains. “These kids need to learn to become self-advocates, and that takes courage and trust, and a sense that you can actually change your life. The circus part is a conduit. Maybe a few will end up working as circus people but the circus skills build confidence, self-respect and trust, and the ability to stand up in front of someone and



Mwansa leading the finale for Norwich Rec Department Summer Circus Camp (Director, Ted Lawrence)

what is now Circus Zambia). The founder of Barefeet invited Ciardelli to write and direct a theater production in the fall of 2014, and so she returned.

In the few years since that first visit to Africa, Ciardelli’s relationship with Barefeet Theatre and its members has resulted in many enriching collaborations. When Ciardelli learned that Barefeet Theatre had been invited to perform for the UN in June 2014, she brought them to the U.S. a few days early so they could perform on the Norwich Green on the last day of school, visit classes at Marion Cross, and teach a workshop. Ciardelli also produced a Barefeet show off-Broadway, returned to Lusaka, Zambia to write and direct a Barefeet production, and brought a one-woman show with DC based dancer/choreographer Princess Mhoon to perform in Zambia as part of the Youth Arts Festival.

In the fall of 2015, the founders of what is now Circus Zambia shared with Ciardelli their dream of running a social circus school to help the kids who live in their hometown of Chibolya develop the tools they need for a better life.



Lyla Stettenheim, Norwich, learning how Zambian women carry their children on their backs.

perform, to be a child who is given a voice.”

During this conversation, Ciardelli mentioned that the Upper Valley is home to many children who are passionate about learning circus skills, including her own son, William (now age 13) who had taken Ted Lawrence’s Norwich Rec Department summer circus camp. “I somewhat casually said, “Oh! We’ve got a great youth circus program in our town of Norwich - my son has attended for two years - wouldn’t it be great to do an exchange!?”

So, enlisting the help of Lawrence, who also runs Van Lodostov Family Circus, Ciardelli approached other Norwich circus families about the idea of going to Zambia over February vacation, and was met with great enthusiasm. Before departing, Upper Valley families collected donations and each kid brought school supplies, toiletries and gifts for each of their buddy kids. They also gathered circus equipment to use during the exchange and to help start the circus school in Zambia.

Last February break, seven kids from the Upper Valley between the ages of 12 and 18 and four parents joined Ciardelli and Lawrence on the first circus exchange with Circus Zambia and their youth performers. Together the Americans and Zambians created a joint circus and performed four shows, drawing crowds as large as 1000 people.

The kids became good friends during rehearsal, sharing Zambian lunches, including caterpillar, fish head and emu. "They all ate it. All of them," says Ciardelli of the American kids. "We thought it was important that the American kids had a sense of where the Zambian kids are from," says Ciardelli. So they organized trips into Chibolya, including home visits with their buddy's family.

"I don't think any of us expected our children to embrace this so fully," says Ciardelli. "There was no hanging back, no struggle to take in this experience. They just sucked it in. You could see these American kids changing in front of your eyes," she says.

Signe Taylor of Norwich recalls the night she picked up her daughter Lyla Stettenheim, now 16, and her husband Joel, from the Dartmouth Coach after their trip. "She was both really happy to see me and her brother and also a little withdrawn. As we were driving home, she started speaking about her experiences in Zambia. She talked about how [her father and I] have always said that we are privileged and that we live in a wealthy community and that many others in the country and the world don't have what we are lucky to have. She talked about how those words didn't mean that much to her but that getting to know the Circus Zambia performers and kids in Lusaka opened her eyes in a very big and real way to some of the inequalities in this world. I think that's a huge take away..." Lyla will



Training at the Olympic Youth Development Center in Lusaka, Zambia

be returning this year, this time with her mother and her 12-year-old brother Soren, who has attended three sessions of Lawrence's Camp.

All participants on both sides of the exchange learned and grew from the experience. Before the U.S. kids came, the Circus Zambia kids practiced only sporadically and hadn't been introduced to clowning, juggling, unicycling, or many other circus tricks. They now have circus equipment and have been gathering two afternoons a week and all day on Saturdays, and their skills have improved immensely, says Ciardelli.

And this past October, Ciardelli traveled to Zambia to help Circus Zambia make an offer on permanent building for the circus school, thanks to funds raised in the Upper Valley. "It's an old disused school with enough outdoor space to put a small-sized circus tent. It

has running water and bathrooms that need love, but that, in Zambian context, are terrific," says Ciardelli. The hope is that it will be a done deal by February.

Having an actual building will allow more children to attend circus training, ensure that they train in a safe environment, and make it possible to expand the hours of training. In addition to the circus training area, the school will include a computer lab, tutoring facilities and library. The plan is that once a child is in the circus program, scholarships will be available to pay for public school fees, books, uniforms and shoes. At the school, children will have access to safe and sanitary bathroom facilities and clean water, which are not currently available in their own section of the city. The school will also have cooking facilities and internet access. Basic life and social skills such as hygiene, communication and sexual education, will be taught.

Continued on page 20

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CIRCUS KIDS – continued from page 19

Toward the end of last year's February exchange the parents of the U.S. kids were so overwhelmed by what they saw that they decided to fund a trip to the U.S. for Circus Zambia. Six Zambians between the ages of 18 and 24 spent the summer in the Upper Valley, doing home stays and observing how the Van Lodostov Family Circus Program is run, so they could bring their knowledge back to Zambia. Three days a week, teachers also helped the young Zambians with English, reading, writing and math, and the Circus Zambia performers did shows and workshops around the Upper Valley.

"Another goal was to expose them to as many other professional circus performers as we could, because many of them had never actually seen a circus," says Ciardelli. (Circus Zambia is the only circus in the country.) They spent a couple overnights with Bread and Puppet, and they did an immersion with Circus Smirkus when they came through. And Cirque du Soleil invited them to be guests to watch them perform on Broadway.

"We had all the performers over on many evenings and those were just very special summer nights," says Signe Taylor, whose family hosted two Circus Zambia performers last summer. "They cooked Zambian food, joked, sang. The Circus Zambia performers are among the nicest young men I've met! They were polite, enthusiastic, eager to learn, kind and helpful. They were also fantastic role models for our son. I got such a kick out of seeing them all on our sofa playing FIFA on our Xbox, shooting hoops, swimming and teasing each other. It was a very fun summer simply because they were here."

Even some non-circus siblings who helped with reading and writing this summer will be heading to Zambia this winter. "We will run half the programs at



Circus Zambia on Lake Sunapee, summer 2016

the school and half at other places, so the parents and kids not involved in the circus can work on renovating the school, painting, putting doors on hinges building benches and school desks," says Ciardelli.

"What I love is that our connection to Circus Zambia both makes the world a smaller place because of our connection to these fantastic young men and also a bigger place because it helps my kids gain a more realistic sense of both the wealth and poverty on our planet," Taylor. "I can't imagine anything more important than gaining that broader connection with and understanding of the world."

"Circus Zambia grabbed my heart and would not let go and I thought maybe some other people would love it but the amount of embrace that has happened from this community is staggering," says Ciardelli.

"Upper Valley kids are worrying about, 'how do I find \$100 so one of these Zambian kids can go to school for a year?' They are organizing bake sales and circus clubs and asking for more chores to earn money to purchase building supplies to renovate the school in Chibolya," says Ciardelli.

"It's citizenship and true cultural diplomacy at its best," she adds. "World leaders need to do their part but really the power is in what you are seeing these kids do. These are the values of the Upper Valley, and I've not seen it more potently illustrated than with these kids. This is the future." ■

For more information, to sign up for Feb 2017 Exchange, or to make a donation to the Capital Campaign to build a circus school, contact Brooke@brookeciardelli.com or make checks payable to Circus Zambia, 3 Loveland Road, Norwich, VT 05055. Follow Circus Zambia on facebook at www.facebook.com/circuszambia.



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SCHOOL DAYS

A Bounty of Fall Field Trips

Tamar Schreibman



MCS principal Mr. Bill

On a recent October morning, Mr. Bill had field trips on his mind. “What I like about field trips is that they are not just about going out to see something and enjoying it,” says Mr. Bill. “It connects back.” Whether it’s kindergartners picking apples and then selling them to the rest of the school to learn a little about entrepreneurship, or fourth graders going to the Tunbridge Fair to see pig races at an old-time fair as part of their unit on Vermont history, the value of these excursions extends far beyond the undeniable fun they provide.

Through field trips, children are able to recognize that “...although a lot of learning happens in schools, schools are not the only source of learning,” says Mr. Bill. “The whole world is our source and we don’t want people to get in the mindset that the only meaningful learning can happen in the classroom.”

This fall, in addition to apple picking, kindergartners picked pumpkins at Cedar Circle and then practiced inquiry science by working together to formulate questions about the pumpkins (Will they float? Does the size determine whether they will float?), hypothesizing, and then experimenting so they could see for themselves. First graders visited the meadow a couple times a week throughout the fall as part of their science study. As part of their unit on social studies, they visited the Norwich Historical Society to learn about community helpers and what their jobs were like a long time ago. They also walked to Tracy Hall on Election Day to quietly watch the process of voting, before returning to their classroom to talk about their observations and then privately vote for president and tally the vote. Second graders regularly visited Blood Brook and then took a tour from its beginning to its end. In October, as part of their study of the forest, third graders visited the Squam Science Center, where they observed many of the mammals that live in the forest. Earlier in the fall, third graders walked around the Norwich Green and identified the different species of trees planted along the fence. In addition to the Tunbridge Fair, as part of the Learning about the Environment through Experiential Education Projects (LEEEP) Program, led by Lindsay Putnam, the fourth graders visited an abandoned beaver lodge up on Chapel Hill Road, and were even allowed to crawl in to see what it’s like inside the beaver lodge. As part of their Vermont history unit, fourth graders went on a tour of the state house. In September, fifth graders took a two-night, three-day trip to the Hulbert Outdoor Education Center where they learned about leadership and group cohesiveness. Sixth graders did the ropes course at Dartmouth to challenge themselves and deepen their cooperation and decision-making skills, as well as their self-confidence.

“People learn in different ways. So the more experiences you give people in different situations, the more likely they will have multiple ways of approaching a new problem or a new opportunity,” says Mr. Bill. “Students who get restless in a classroom are suddenly at home in the forest. Those who are at home in a classroom get stretched by the forest.”

The budget only covers one third of the cost of field trips, says Mr. Bill, but he considers them “a key part of our program.” Parents are sometimes charged for a third of the cost, and the other third comes from grants.

“The primary reason it is so important to take field trips is that direct learning is far more effective than indirect learning,” says Mr. Bill. Students should have the opportunity to touch leaves on the trees that they are learning to identify, look at bugs in a magnifying glass, get their feet muddy in the brook. “You can talk forever about what larvae and butterflies look like,” says Mr. Bill, “but the more direct experience, the more powerful the emotional response. And emotions are such a key component to long-term learning.” ■

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SKATEPARK – continued from page 1

for years with mental illness; he undoubtedly continues to share his genius from a more peaceful place.

Tyler's parents, local concert promoter, Buddy Kirschner, and his wife, Ginny, endured the unfathomable loss of their child. What has risen up from the depths of their pain has been the magic referred to above. From the outpouring of love and support from those closest to them, to the newly-formed connections made with Tyler's online skateboarding group, to the friendships made with construction workers at the skatepark, a

fire has been ignited in both Buddy and Ginny to keep Tyler's spirit alive in their lives and in the legacy that he is leaving behind for others to share.

"It's amazing but true, as one door closes, many more open," said Buddy during our recent interview in the living room at the Norwich Inn.

"This whole year has been about the skatepark. We have put on benefit concerts [see sidebar, next page], worked with the City [of Lebanon], learned how to write fundraising letters..." Buddy continued.

"I've gotten really strong from shoveling dirt and gravel all summer," laughed Ginny, referring to helping out with the first phase of rehabbing the skatepark. "It has been very therapeutic to have this project that is so near and dear to my heart that keeps us connected to Tyler."

When he was 8 years old, Tyler started skateboarding behind the Marion Cross School in Norwich. Skateboarding (and rollerblading) has endured a bad rap largely due to the fact that many of its participants represent a counter-culture of young people. In a recent fundraising letter, Paul Coats, Director of Lebanon Recreation and Parks, wrote:



Lebanon Skate Park was recently renamed Rusty Berrings Skatepark.



Kids on scooters enjoying the skatepark



Work in progress



Pouring cement for the updated park



Old skatepark with wooden ramps in need of much repair



Tyler and Buddy enjoying a father/son moment

"20 years ago these sports were frowned upon because there were no legal public spaces to skate. Instead of shunning these individuals, the City decided to embrace them by pulling the community together to build

Continued on page 24

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Dark Star Orchestra – Keeping The Music *and* a Community Alive

Jennifer MacMillen

I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Dark Star Orchestra (DSO) benefit concert at the Lebanon Opera House on October 12, 2016. As a deadhead, I naturally love DSO. When I heard that the show was put on by fellow Norwich residents Buddy Kirschner and his wife Ginny to raise money to upgrade Lebanon's skatepark in honor of their late son, Tyler, I was even more eager to attend (see cover article).

Dark Star Orchestra has a loyal following of music-lovers of all ages, shapes, sizes and socio-economic backgrounds. That so many people from all walks of life can gather together and just be free to be themselves as they get lost in the music, is a rare treat for many who face the daily pressures of work, raising kids, and just living the Western Civ life.

DSO is a Grateful Dead tribute band that has been "continuing the Grateful Dead concert experience" since 1997. Their model is to recreate an entire concert from any one of the thousands of shows the Dead performed from 1965-1995. Loyal deadheads from way back try to guess which show is being recreated but won't know for sure until the concert is over when the DSO band members clue them in!

Besides enjoying the concert, I was also fortunate enough to be granted an interview with one of DSO's drummers, Rob Koritz, who has been with the band since its inception. While learning more about the band was intriguing, my mission was to understand how the concept of "community" played a role in the inner workings of the band and in the audience to which they cater.

For starters, Rob noted that DSO loves working with Buddy Kirschner, in particular, because he is the only concert promoter they have worked with who continually leaves a thoughtful token of appreciation – "whether it's maple sugar candy or some other local treat, and a nice note thanking us for being there," said Rob. This gesture, alone, speaks to the impact of creating



Concert promoter, Buddy Kirschner; DSO drummer Rob Koritz; and Ginny Kirschner

community and how little things really do mean a lot in establishing lasting connections.

Besides music being a Universal connector, drawing people from a variety of different backgrounds to a shared interest, I was curious about how being on the road influenced one's sense of place and community. Rob was very honest when he noted that, like all group dynamics, living in close quarters with people is often challenging.

"We all realize that the music is bigger than any one of us," said Rob. "When issues crop up, and we get on stage and start to play, it all goes away. We are there to keep the Dead's music alive."

Because they play to smaller crowds than the Grateful Dead did, they are able to connect nicely with their fans, and the fans, too, can find community among themselves. And, with the online world at everyone's fingertips, many of these connections last long after the music stops.

"We have made some great friendships with fans along the way. There's a dozen or so of loyal followers who we see regularly. It makes being away from my family [he has a 5-year-old and an 11-week-old] a little nicer."

"I am blessed to be able to make a living doing what I love while making others happy," admitted Rob.

"When I was a young man trying to find my path, I remember hearing the [Grateful Dead] lyrics, 'Fare thee well. Let your life proceed by its own design,'" said Rob. And that was it. From there he knew that he could follow his own path and all would be well.

We thank Dark Star Orchestra for recently playing a fabulous show at the Lebanon Opera House and for the many people who contributed to the Rusty Berrings Skate Park fund.

On that note, fare thee well... ■



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SKATEBOARD PARK – *continued from page 22*

Lebanon's first skatepark..."

Thankfully, through its commitment to reinvest in the revitalization and the ongoing maintenance of the skatepark, the City of Lebanon continues to see that by providing a safe and welcoming place for these "non-jock" athletes to practice their moves, other important, albeit less obvious, benefits arise across the board. Kids of all ages and from a variety of different backgrounds gather here to enjoy their passion. Friendships are made; older kids look out for the younger ones and show them moves; kids are engaged in an outdoor physical activity where screens and phones are put away for the time being. Positive community in the making. No arguments here!

Community abounds online, as well. After Tyler's death, Buddy and Ginny learned even more about the world of skateboarders. In going through their son's things, they discovered that he was deeply connected to a forum on SLAP magazine which is an online site for skateboarders from around the world. Rusty Berrings, as he was known online, was Tyler's pen name, so to speak.

Here's an excerpt from SLAP's online forum:

RIP Rusty Berrings

November 12, 2015, 05:03:35 PM

One of slaps most controversial posters passed away last week. He definitely battled some demons, but he was also one of the nicest guys I ever interacted with on here. Some of the greatest posts of all time came from him too. Seems like sometimes he could get



And older 'kid' sporting Tyler's artwork

on top of things, and at these times his insights into mental illness and skateboarding were brilliant (and a little bit out there). He always had a way of making absurd ideas relatable though. I felt for him a lot and now hoping his family and is handling it okay.

The messages of love and support and the positive impact "Rusty" had on fellow boarders around the world inspired Buddy and Ginny to reach out. Using one of Tyler's most recent sketches, the couple had t-shirts, hats and stickers made and then sent them to Tyler's online – and local – friends around the world.



Tyler's sketch was made into t-shirt art

"There isn't a continent on this planet that doesn't have one of our stickers," exclaimed Buddy.

Buoyed by this new-found community around the world and the local community back home, Buddy and Ginny hit the ground running and

have committed to raising the \$200,000 needed to bring the Rusty Berrings Skate Park back to life. Please join them and many others as they invest their time, energy and financial resources towards this revitalized facility which will provide a safe and welcoming place for our youth and young people to engage in healthy



Ginny, wearing Tyler's artwork, next to a poster of Tyler

physical activity while creating lifelong community connections. ■

Donations may be made to the Friends of Lebanon Recreation; PO Box 369; Lebanon, NH 03766. Or online at www.gofundme.com/lebanonnhs skatepark

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Steve Christy

Mascoma Savings Bank's Steve Christy Ends 38-Year Tenure

If you believe that the American dream of rising from the bottom to the very pinnacle of your profession has faded, let me introduce you to Mascoma Savings Bank CEO and President Steve Christy.

Following a legendary career with Mascoma Savings Bank, Steve will retire in January 2017. Steve's incredible journey to the top spot at Mascoma Savings Bank began from his home state of Louisiana, where for eight summers during high school and college, he made the trek to Fabyan,

New Hampshire to work for the Mount Washington Railroad. His exposure to the Granite State led him to apply for a position as a bank teller. The rest, as they say, is history.

"I started out as a teller and worked my way up," Steve explained. "I was elected to the position of President and CEO in 1990. It was a gentleman by the name of Ruben Cole that first hired me. One of the most impressive things about Mascoma Savings Bank is that in their 117-year history, they have only had seven presidents."

Over his 38-year tenure, the bank experienced unprecedented growth. "When I first started, Mascoma had one bank and about \$30 million in assets. Today we have 27 locations and around \$1.5 billion in assets. In the beginning, we doubled our size about every five years. In the late '80s, I recall we experienced 25% growth."

Steve is quick to point out that the emphasis on local communities has played a major role in Mascoma's success story.

"We are very blessed to be located in the Upper Valley," he said. "That has played a huge role in our growth. It is just a beautiful place to live, work, and raise a family. We have found that banks located within walking distances of shopping and residential areas become the most successful. We have been able to offer that."

The bank has long established a reputation for working with local charitable organizations. That was part of Steve's vision as his bank continued to expand and resonates in the mission statement posted on its website: "We are committed to remaining independent and to re-investing our profits back to the community."

"We have always tried to be very generous with nonprofit groups and causes over the years. A charitable foundation was formed back in 1987 when we acquired the National Bank of Lebanon. We made a gift of stock shares to charitable causes, which amounted to around a million dollars at the time. Today that foundation's assets are around the six or seven-million-dollar mark."

So, what lies ahead for the retiring executive?

"Right now, I don't know what I am going to do for sure. I'll address that on January 2nd," Steve added with a chuckle. "I have one main hobby and that is flying. I am a licensed pilot, so I am sure that will take up a lot of my time."

Steve Christy's tenure at Mascoma Savings Bank certainly adds credibility to another part of the bank's mission statement: "We are different than other banks and give you the security of a long-term relationship." ■

~ Dave Nelson



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AROUND TOWN

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The Hartford-Norwich Holiday Basket Helpers needs your help. For over 30 years this local non-profit organization has been helping to provide gifts of warm clothing and cherished toys to children in need in our Upper Valley.

Please go to www.holidaybasketsvt.org and sign up to sponsor a child or donate today.

Bring the joy of the season to



our local Senior Citizens by making a donation toward baskets of non-perishable foods, holiday treats and wishes, and let them know they are not forgotten.

Gifts are due December 6-7. Don't delay. Sign up today! www.holidaybasketsvt.org.

Please follow HNHBH on

Facebook to help raise awareness of our community efforts. Visit www.facebook.com/hartfordnorwichholidaybaskethelpers.

New NHS Director

The Norwich Historical Society announced the appointment of Sarah Rooker as the new director of the organization. Ms. Rooker brings to her new role over twenty years experience in museum administration and history education. Throughout her career she has

worked to connect communities to their heritage. She notes, "Over and over again, I have seen how local history can bring communities together, bridging generations, strengthening organizations and supporting the economy."

As custodians of the town's past, the Norwich Historical Society looks forward to expanding its educational and archiving mission under her leadership. ■

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Pennies for Change

Local charities getting pennies by the millions

Charitable giving doesn't get much easier than this. Since June, more than \$100,000 (yes, that's ten million pennies) has been collected and distributed to 17 Upper Valley charities through a new round-up program at the Hanover Co-op Food Stores. The program is known as Pennies for Change. Each time a customer at our co-op makes a purchase, they can instantly select to round up their purchase price to the next whole dollar. Thousands of shoppers are participating, and all those pennies, dimes and nickels are turning into a donation windfall for local charities.

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