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January - February 2018



Windham News & Notes

Happy New Year 2018

Caroling, Fun For All Ages

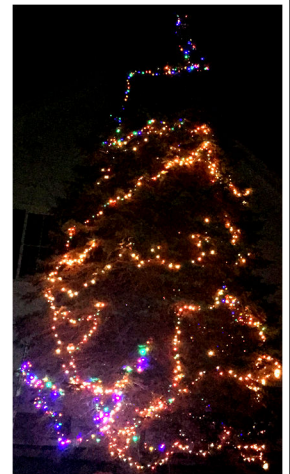
by Kathy Jungermann

This year there was something for everyone at the annual Carol Sing and Tree Lighting. For those of us looking to work off a bit of our Thanksgiving turkey feast, a lively line dance was added to “Deck the Halls”. Christine Dyke taught us some sign language to accompany “We Three Kings” and Maureen Bell explained the history surrounding the dreidel before we sang “The Dreidel Song”. Megan, Anna, Jake, and James donned their flashing red noses and entertained us with “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer”. The children also participated in “The Friendly Beasts” by taking turns acting as the many animals in the song. Of course, the evening concluded with a cardio work-out version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” that included drumming, dancing, swimming and leaping. Hot cider and delicious cookies were served following the sing-a-long.

After dark, we gathered outside on a lovely Windham evening to sing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”. As the countdown reached #1, the

switch was flipped and the twinkling lights burst on. We wished each other season’s greetings and left full of holiday spirit.

Special thanks to Nancy Dyke on piano, and Christine Dyke, our choral leader. These ladies always bring their “A” game, and energize us all. This is a wonderful community event held annually at the Meeting House on the day after Thanksgiving. Please make plans to join us in 2018 for carols and fun!



Megan, Anna, Jake (in back), and James



Scherenschnitte Tree

by Louise Johnson

I hope everyone has had a chance to see the decorated tree inside at the Meeting House. It is decorated entirely with visually stunning, intricate cut-outs with many different motifs and artistic designs, all made of paper.

Paper cutting has been around for thousands of years, and became popular in Germany in the 16th century. Scherenschnitte is the German term for “scissor cuts”, the art of paper cutting design.

All of the ornaments on the tree have been made by Marcia Clinton. Marcia has been doing Scherenschnitte for over ten years. She saw an article in *The Message* about a class being offered locally and decided to give it a try. Now it is one of her many hobbies. There are many traditional patterns available and the ornaments are cut from card stock, or folded paper, using tiny scissors, X-ACTO knives or any instrument that can get into those tiny spaces. The easier designs can be done in about a half-hour and the more intricate ones take an hour or more.

Looking at all the ornaments on the tree at the Meeting House, the only word that comes to mind is WOW.

Thanks, Marcia, for sharing your beautiful Scherenschnitte ornaments!

A Few Parting Thoughts

from Frank Seawright

These are some of my thoughts on things facing the selectboard and my successor.

Having served on the Windham Selectboard for almost two terms (6 years), I have decided not to seek re-election in March at Town Meeting. During my time in office, I have learned a great deal about how local and state governments work, and I feel I also learned a lot about the people of Windham. I was amazed by the amount of talent, determination, and downright smarts collected in our little town. To paraphrase Mae West, Windham is loaded with people who have been things and seen places.

A common thread of discourse in our town concerns Windham's nature and future. "Windham is dying!" say some, while others want to develop a vision for Windham's future, or decide what kind of town we should become. There is often discussion of the question of economic development, and I have thought and read a bit on this topic, so I would like to share a couple of my observations:

The question of Windham's economic development isn't new. A locally written history of Windham, published in 1900, opines: "We are shielded from many of the distracting elements and destroyer influences which are working the ruin of many of the older towns. We are surrounded by fortifications which have been raised by the hand of the Almighty which will forever exclude the idea that our town will ever become the theater of railroad scenes or that we will be noted for Manufacturers. Her glory depends upon the general intelligence of her townsmen." The writer acknowledges that there is little material basis for a town being here at all, and speculates that economic development, at least in that day, was out of the question. I wonder if this still might be true.

In 1954, the Windham Selectmen took on the thorny issue of getting folks to move here in their annual report: "Naturally your Selectmen are concerned with the future of Windham. We have heard many discussions regarding the possibility of attracting some type of industry or co-operative enterprises suitable to our town, in order to secure a more stable population. At present our working

Vermont Residents Must File HS-122, Homestead Exemption, by April 17, 2018

This is usually filed each year with your Vermont State Income Tax return. If you are filing for an extension of your income taxes, you must still file for the Homestead Tax Exemption by April 17 or incur fines and penalties.

people must go far from home in order to obtain employment. This condition discourages home builders from seeking residence in our Town. ... Surely there must be something we can do. If we all try real hard we can't help but come up with a plan..."

But in recent years, "getting folks to move here" has taken care of itself, just not in the way that might have been predicted, or, by some, desired. The current Town Plan reports that between 1990-2000 and 2000-2010, Windham's population increased 31% and 28% respectively. Regarding this increase, our current Town Planners observe: "In the absence of any real change in the commercial or industrial profile of the community over those 20 years, this cannot be considered the result of economic development. *The fact is that Windham has attracted this growth by virtue of its quiet and pristine rural beauty.* (Italics mine.) The growth has been due to a fairly constant trend of seasonal homeowners' becoming full-time residents, and to new landowners' building permanent homes."

Our Town Plan also points out that: "The years 2000 to 2010 have shown a marked increase in the number of residents aged 45 - 64." The US Census estimates that, as of 2016, 64% of Windham's inhabitants are 45 or older. Many of us were in that age band when we moved here. Quiet and pristine rural beauty does, after all, have its charms and its enthusiasts.

From my perspective, Windham's "retirement community" has a high percentage of pretty good citizens: we participate in town government, we create jobs, we pay our taxes on time, aren't raucous (usually) or ostentatious, and we register our dogs. In other words, we're a pretty stable and reliable lot, and our numbers are likely to keep on growing.

Maybe the fates have decided what kind of town Windham should be. Maybe Windham should be exactly the town that it is.

Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 6, 2018

10 AM at the Meeting House

Bring your Town Report (which will be coming to you in late February in the mail), a Potluck dish to share for lunch at Noon and \$1 for paper goods. Please read your annual report ahead so you can ask questions and make informed decisions.

Windham Winter Roads Policy

by the Selectboard and Road Crew

Another winter is upon us! In an attempt to be safe with regards to snow removal and icy roads, the Selectboard and road crew want to remind you of the following winter roads policy for Windham.



Plow routes are set up to first open the school routes and major traffic routes. Operations usually begin at 4:00 AM in order to have the bus route and major roads cleared by 7:00 AM. After 16 hours on the job, the road crew is required to stop operations and get a minimum of six hours rest. In extreme weather, a third part-time employee is available to accommodate this requirement. In most cases, there will be no road maintenance between 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM. Please plan your travels wisely.

Salt will be applied to paved roads, with sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees. Sand only will be applied to the gravel roads.

For your part, we ask the following: All turn-around areas should be kept clear of vehicles. Park your vehicles in your driveway back away from where snow will be thrown, so they don't get damaged or buried.

When removing snow from your property, please make sure it does not get pushed or thrown into the plowed road. The resulting piles on our roads are dangerous to passing traffic and can lead to accidents.

The crew will make every reasonable effort to plow close to mailboxes, but not so close as to damage or take them down. The more thoughtfully your mailbox is located and maintained, the less likely it will be damaged by the weight of the snow, or by the plow wing itself. The town cannot be responsible for mailbox damage.

When the plows are on the road, please be patient. Don't pass unless absolutely necessary. Remember, the plow drivers are up high above the road, and their primary attention is on the road and the plow, not passing vehicles.

If you see a dangerous situation or a road obstruction, please call the Town Garage, 874- 7025 or the Town Office, 874-4211. We anticipate a safe winter for everyone and thank you for your thoughtfulness.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

A publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

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Many thanks to all who contribute. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to: windhamnews@hotmail.com.

Next deadline: February 15, 2018

Town Office Hours

Monday 12 PM - 8 PM

Tuesday 6 AM - 10 AM

Wednesday 10 AM - 2 PM

Open fourth Saturdays,

January 27 and February 24

8 AM-12 PM

**Closed Monday, January 1,
January 15 and February 19
for Federal Holidays**

Special Town Meeting Held to Elect Town Clerk

On the cold, snowy and blustery evening of December 12, the Meeting House was filled to the rafters with 110 Windham residents gathered to elect one town official, the Town Clerk. The vote was required in response to a petition submitted to the Selectboard in October, Citizen's Right to Petition for a Vote, in accordance with Titles 17 VSA2643 and 24 VSA963 of the Vermont State Statutes. The petition called for a Special Town Meeting to elect a Town Clerk to fill the balance of the unexpired term of the position vacated by

Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis who resigned in May. Michael McClaine had been serving by appointment of the Selectboard, as required by state law which states that the position must be filled "forthwith" by the Selectboard. Upon receipt of the petition for a vote to be held prior to Town Meeting in March, the Selectboard, as required by law, warned a Special Town Meeting to conduct an election for Town Clerk. Two candidates, Michael McLaine and Teresa Farace, were nominated from the floor, and each briefly presented themselves, prior to a properly carried out paper vote. Michael McClaine was elected to fill the remainder of Jo-Jo's term, which runs until Town Meeting, March, 2019.

News From Mike, Town Clerk's Desk

Greetings from the Town Office. Our hours will continue to be the same in 2018: Monday, 12-8 PM, Tuesday, 6-10 AM, Wednesday, 10 AM - 2 PM. Also the office will be open the fourth Saturday of every month from 8 AM - 12 PM. As always, please contact me at home at 875-1550 if you need access to the office at any other time, and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Dog registration for 2018 has begun. Please come in during office hours to get your license and tag for your dog. The cost for 2018 is the same as in past years: \$14 for unfixed dogs or wolf-hybrids and \$10 for spayed/neutered dogs (certificate from vet is required). After April 1, 2018, the costs will increase to \$18 and \$12, respectively. A copy of your dog's current rabies immunization must be presented or on file in the office, or a license cannot be issued.

An annual sticker is required to enter the Londonderry Transfer Station. You can get the sticker from the Town of Londonderry by sending a check (\$10 for residential, \$25 for commercial) and a self-addressed stamped envelope to 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155, or by visiting the Londonderry Town Office. Punch cards only are on sale here at our Windham Town Office.

Finally, Betsey Huffman had a great idea for recycling usable "stuff". There is now a Windham Swap Sheet at the Town Office. If you have something that you no longer need, but could be useful to somebody else, please come in and add it to the Swap Sheet, or just call us at 874-4211 and we will be happy to add it to the list for you. Please come in to find out if your neighbor has a freebie that you just can't live without.

Ellen and I look forward to helping you in 2018!

TOWN MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018 *by News & Notes Staff*

Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March, is our opportunity as voters to participate in town governance. It's our collective way to maintain control of Windham's local issues. Those in attendance discuss and vote on articles that present both the Town and School budgets and other issues that have been warned. Articles to be voted upon will be warned no less than 30 days prior to Town Meeting and will be posted at the Town Office and the Meeting House. The Town Report will be mailed to registered voters no less than 10 days prior to Town Meeting. An article can be requested by a petition signed by at least five percent of the voters of Windham and filed with the Town Clerk no less than 40 days before the day of the meeting.

If you would like to become more involved in serving Windham, please consider running for office. For

**All Dogs Must Be Registered by
April 1 in the Town Office and
Current Rabies Vaccination Must
Be on File. This is State Law!**

**Windham Community Organization
to host CANDIDATES NIGHT,
Wednesday, February 28
at 7 PM at the Meeting House**

any elected position, you must be nominated from the floor at Town Meeting. There are also appointed positions to be filled by the Selectboard on March 19, the first Selectboard meeting after Town Meeting. Please contact the Selectboard if you would like to serve in one of these positions. Both elected and appointed positions will be listed in the Town Report. Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are described in the Vermont State Statutes and are summarized by the Secretary of State at: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/candidates/local-office-descriptions.aspx>. There are many state required duties for each position, and none should be entered without a full understanding of the responsibilities. If you plan to run for elected office, please educate yourself as to the duties, and please submit a short candidate's statement for publication in the next edition of the *News & Notes*, by February 15 to: windhamnews@hotmail.com.

Positions to be elected are listed below along with the term of office and the incumbent:

Moderator, 1 year, Michael McLaine
Selectman, 3 years, Incumbent Frank Seawright is retiring
Lister, 3 years, Incumbent John Hoover is retiring
Auditor, 3 years, Virginia Crittenden
Constable, 2 years, Joseph Lamson
Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Incumbent Ernest Friedli is retiring
Grand Juror, 1 year, James Scott
Town Agent, 1 year, Michael Simonds
Windham Center Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Margaret Dwyer
West Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Diane Newton
North Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Paul Wyman
Library Trustee, 5 years, Cynthia Kehoe
Windham School Director, 3 years, Barbara Davis

A potluck lunch, always delicious, is served around noon. Please bring a dish to share and \$1 to defray paper goods expenses. Town Meeting is a unique opportunity to participate in the democratic process, visit with friends and neighbors, and have a great lunch. We hope you will attend!

Thank You, John Hoover, for Serving

from Alison Cummings and Meredith Tips-McLaine

John Hoover, who has served the town of Windham as a lister since 2015, has stated that he will not run for another term in March, 2018. Listers are responsible for maintaining the Grand List for the town of Windham, which is a key factor in the tax rate that the town sets each year, based on the budget passed at town meeting.

Here's what you should know about the job of lister for Windham, if you are interested in serving:

- ♦ It has a three year term; it is an elected position that is voted on by the registered voters of the town of Windham at town meeting (which is held annually on the first Tuesday of March);
- ♦ It is a paid position with a three hour a week commitment (there may be some flexibility in the hours);
- ♦ A lister must be comfortable with computers and the public;
- ♦ It is a great way to give back to the town, learn more about how town government works, and meet your neighbors;
- ♦ You will learn about property appraisal, how the grand list works, and how it relates to the tax rate for the town;
- ♦ You will work closely with the two existing listers, Alison Cummings and Meredith Tips-McLaine.

If you would like to learn more about what being a lister means, please feel free to stop by and talk to Ali, Meredith, or John at the town office. At least one of us is in the office on Wednesdays from 9 AM to 12 PM most weeks. You can also contact us via the listers email at: windham.listers@gmail.com.



Low Interest Loans Available for Energy Saving Projects

by Marcia Clinton

Want to get an energy audit of your home? Need to insulate your attic or basement? Want to install a cold climate heat

pump to displace some of your heating needs? Do you need to replace your furnace/boiler with a more energy efficient model? Consider applying to the Windham Rehabilitation Loan Program for a low interest loan. All full time Windham residents are eligible and applications are available at the Town Office. The loan program is managed by the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), who are appointed by the Selectboard.

The loan program is a local project with the goal of promoting community development and improving the economic and living conditions of the people of

Windham Fire Company Report

by Marcia Clinton

Fire Calls:

Nov. 1 - Timber Ridge for a chimney fire. 9 responded.
 Nov. 20 - Windham Hill Road, car accident. 5 responded.
 Dec. 16 - Windham Hill Road, assist Londonderry Rescue Squad ambulance stuck in a driveway. 5 responded.
 Dec. 17 - Mutual aid to Bromley for a structure fire. 3 responded.

Jeff Weitzel and Michael Mally both completed the Fire Fighter 2 course in December. The course required 80+ hours of classroom work and practical experience.

Recently requests went out to all homeowners in Windham for donations for the Fire Company. Your assistance is needed for fire fighting equipment, on-going training for the company members, upkeep on the trucks, and general expenses for the firehouse. We appreciate whatever donation you can give, and thank those of you who have already donated.

The Fire Company recently received a grant from the Thrifty Attic for \$4,000, as requested. The money will pay for turnout gear for three new members. Members of the Fire Company are most appreciative of this and all donations.



Thank You, Fire Company!

Vance and Maureen Bell wish to thank all the members of the Fire Company, and especially those who put out their chimney fire in October. Because of your quick response, a disaster was prevented. Thank you again, and please continue to be safe!



the town of Windham. Besides funding energy conservation, other eligible rehabilitation activities include: exterior and interior structural, electrical, plumbing and heating repairs, fire and other safety improvements, septic system and water supply repairs, and other home improvements. After completing the application form, applicants meet with CAC members to discuss the proposed project. The members of the CAC will make a site visit to get a visual assessment of the plans. And if the loan is approved, the CAC and applicants will meet again to negotiate the interest and a repayment schedule for the loan. Call the Town Office for an application, or more information, 874-4211.

New Zoning Regulations Proposed

by Bill Dunkel

The Planning Commission has been working throughout 2017 to update Windham's zoning regulations and bring them into compliance with the most recent iteration of the Town Plan. The current zoning regulations were adopted in December of 2010, and the current Town Plan was ratified in January of 2015.

A summary of the changes the Planning Commission is proposing, and a complete copy of the zoning regulations and the Town Plan can be found on the town website at: townofwindhamvt.com, or in the Town Office. Some of the proposed changes are minor and technical in nature, but others are more significant. In particular, the Planning Commission wants to call attention to changes in permitted and conditional uses, and design standards in Windham's two Historic Districts. We feel these additions are in keeping with the Town Plan's directive to "Promote historic preservation and development that enhances the historic resources of Windham." (Town Plan, p.70) We also have suggested additional guidelines and some changes to permitted, conditional and prohibited uses in Regulated Flood Hazard Areas. Many of the changes in this section of our zoning (Article VII) are necessary in order to comply with FEMA regulations in order to qualify for federal assistance and insurance coverage in the event of a disastrous flood. Relatively few Windham residents

live within Historic Districts or Flood Hazard Areas, but those who do may wish to pay special attention to the proposed changes which affect those parts of town.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to Windham's zoning bylaws on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Town Office. As we get closer to that date, there will be official notices posted in various public places, on the town website and in at least one local newspaper. The hearing is not a formal presentation or explanation of the zoning bylaws by the Planning Commission. Rather, it is an opportunity for any member of the public to comment on our zoning regulations, and for members of the Planning Commission to listen to people's thoughts and concerns. The hearing will be most useful and effective for all parties, if members of the public familiarize themselves with the zoning bylaws and give some thought to their comments in advance of the meeting.

Anyone who has questions about the zoning regulations is welcome to contact Bill Dunkel, chairman, or any other member of the Planning Commission. Members of the public are also invited to email comments or questions to: tow-zoning@townofwindhamvt.com or leave them at the Town Office, by January 24, 2018. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Town Office. All meetings of the Planning Commission are open to the public.

By The Windham Energy Committee

Act 174, which the Legislature enacted in 2016, creates the possibility that towns will have more control over the siting of energy projects within their borders. The Act invites (but does not require) towns to revise their town plans to bring them into agreement with the state's Comprehensive Energy Plan goals. Towns that complete this process and have their plans approved by the Windham Regional Commission will gain "substantial deference" in Public Utility Commission deliberations on proposed energy projects. Windham's Selectboard has assigned the Energy Committee the task of bringing Windham's Town Plan into compliance with Act 174 in the hope that it will give the town greater influence in any future Public Utility Commission hearing.

In order to comply with Act 174, a town is not required to generate a certain amount of renewable energy, but its town plan must be open to, and supportive of, some form(s) of renewable energy generation. A town may designate the type, size and location of the renewable energy projects it favors, or opposes. One way, among many, to actively seek compliance would be to install solar panels on municipal land. The Energy Committee investigated available Town lands and has found only one parcel currently owned by the Town that would accommodate a sizeable solar array. That parcel is located behind (generally East of) the Windham Center Cemetery. To see if this parcel is a useable site, the Committee asked Green Lantern Development, LLC, a Waterbury, VT solar developer, to investigate the site and prepare a preliminary proposal.

Working with Green Lantern and the Windham Center Cemetery Commission, the Committee has found

that there is sufficient space behind the cemetery to fit a solar array of about 650 panels, while maintaining cemetery space that the Cemetery Commission feels will be sufficient for about 200 years at the current rate of burials. The footprint of the array would be less than one acre and would not require a fence. The area could be seeded with plants that attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Due to the slope of the land and mandatory screening, it is unlikely that the panels would be visible from Windham Hill Road. Some trees at the south end of the field might have to be removed to avoid shading the panels. The town would receive rental and tax income from the developer, and some of the electricity could be purchased by the town at a reduced rate, to power public buildings. In addition, residents of Windham could purchase net metering credits which would lower their home electricity bills.



The Energy Committee and the Selectboard do not want to proceed any farther with this project without getting some feedback from residents on whether or not they would support solar panels in this location. The Town website, townofwindhamvt.com, has additional information on the project, and a link where you can express your thoughts. You also may register your opinion in writing at the Town Office.

Providing the polling is generally favorable, the Committee will continue to work on details of the proposal with further information to be presented at Town Meeting in March. If polling is largely unfavorable, the project will be dropped.

Windham Act 46 Survey Results

by Carolyn Partridge

First of all, the Local Act 46 Study Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill out and return the Survey. We sent out approximately 290 surveys and received 88 back, which is a really good return, at just over 30%. The Survey Subcommittee was able to tabulate the results, though the comments have not yet been registered. Our hope is to get that done in the near future.

In terms of results, the answers to the first five questions indicated the following:

- ♦ 77% of respondents valued keeping Windham's local, community-based School Board.
- ♦ 84% valued maintaining our current level of budgetary transparency as afforded by the school budget report and discussion at Town Meeting.
- ♦ 80% valued maintaining the current level of control of the cost of educating Windham's children as afforded by the school budget report, discussion, and vote at Town Meeting.
- ♦ 77% are satisfied with the quality of education and opportunities that Windham students are currently offered.
- ♦ 77% prefer that all hiring and staffing be done on the local level by the Windham School Board.

The top three issues/priorities were: 1) Keeping the quality of education high, 2) Keeping decision-making about our school at the local/town level, and 3) Keeping the K-6th grade students attending Windham School close to home.

By a wide margin, respondents named *Windham News and Notes* as the way they would like to get news about the Windham School. Next, was through school newsletters and regular mailings, and third, though within one vote of each other, were face-to-face at public meetings, and by email.

Questions 8-12 showed strong support for the connection between Windham Elementary School and the community, but we will be looking for ways to improve, and are open to suggestions. The vast majority of respondents identified themselves as no longer having school children in Windham, but continuing to care about opportunities for Windham's children: most having moved to Windham after having school aged children, but continue to care about opportunities for Windham's children; or having never had children, but are still concerned about the Windham School.

Ninety percent of respondents felt that students attending high school at either Leland and Gray in Townshend or Green Mountain in Chester, should be able to attend their respective high schools for 7th and 8th grade, as well. Finally, 35% indicated being in favor of leaving the Leland and Gray High School Union, 26% opposed leaving, and 39% wanted to learn more.

The Local Act 46 Study committee has prepared the Act 46 Alternative Governance Structure Proposal for the Vermont State Board of Education to review. It requests allowing Windham to maintain our local budget and School Board. The deadline for submittal was December 26. You can review the proposal in its entirety on the town website at: <http://townofwindhamvt.com/act46agsproposal>.

Visioning Work Continues by Nancy Dyke

The new West River Modified Education District School Board has met three times since the last report in *News & Notes*. For two of those meetings the Board met with Nicole Mace and Susan Holson from the Vermont School Boards Association who led a process to help build a new vision for the unified district.

In forming a vision, the board needs to determine the roles of the School Board, the superintendent, and the community. To build a context for this, the consultants talked about good education for the 21st century, and then talked about demographic realities in Vermont:

- ♦ No population growth this decade.
- ♦ 2nd oldest state population (26% decline in ages 25-39 since 1990)
- ♦ Vermont lost population three of the last four years (2012-2016)
- ♦ Only 24% of VT households have school age children
- ♦ Declining student enrollment since 1997 - losing 1% per year
- ♦ The lowest student to teacher ratio in the nation
- ♦ Property taxes increasing faster than the cost of living

Also in building a vision, the group reviewed the main benefits for students in the Unified School District:

- ♦ Elementary School Choice
- ♦ Cross-school participation
- ♦ Sharing of instructional materials and lessons
- ♦ Flexibility in assigning staff

A number of ideas were discussed related to these and other benefits.

In the interest of moving the process forward, three Study/Learning Groups were formed: Student Learning, Communication and Engagement, and Facilities and Transportation.

In addition, a DRAFT Strategic Vision Statement was formed. The West River School District board is committed to providing effective oversight of a transition to a unified district that celebrates a culture of innovation, exploration and community partnership. The board envisions a district that will provide the following for every student: student-centered learning, lifelong learning, civic engagement, and a safe and inclusive environment.

The West River Education District board is also committed to providing effective oversight by maintaining a focus on the following goals: efficiency, sustainability and value, on-going professional development, integrating the larger community into the educational system.

In the new year, community members will be asked for their input into a new vision for the Unified District.

Don't Miss Out on Grace Cottage's Online Auction

From 6 AM on February 14, 'til the clock strikes 9:00 PM on Wednesday, February 28, you can bid on many special items through the Grace Cottage's Annual Cabin Fever Auction.

Check it out at: www.32auctions.com/gracecottage .

News from Leland & Gray

by Howie Ires



Leland and Gray had their winter concert on Thursday, December 13. Windham's own Mary "Sunshine" McDonald soloed with the Middle School Chorus to a full house at the Leland & Gray gym. She was wonderful!

The board is presently evaluating the proposed budget for FY 2019. The proposed budget cuts \$145,831 from the 2018 budget by re-organizing the administrative and counseling teams. Check the L&G website at: <http://www.lelandandgray.org> for up to date information, as the budget is a work in progress as of the *News and Notes* deadline. No date has been set for the budget vote as *News & Notes* goes to press, but look for a notice to attend the budget review meeting and the budget vote around the first of February.

News from Windham Elementary

by Gail Wyman

At the Fall Harvest dinner, Sally's Ukulele Group had been asked for the third year to play for everyone after dinner. They had done a warm up dance at school to be ready, and when their mini concert was done, they joined the square dancers on the floor. If you have never been to the Harvest Dinner, it is an evening of good food, a time to chat up neighbors and friends, linger to listen and watch the ukulele show, followed by lively square dancing to the music of Sally and Friends.

The kids had a fun active week at the end of October. A couple of days were perfect for playing hide and seek. This involved hiding in all sorts of out of the way places and racing back to get "home" before the "IT" person tagged you. Lots of laughter and rosy red cheeks. The week before vacation, the children made snowmen. Very changeable weather here!

For the third year, Drew Dryden mowed our overgrown section of field out back, making it again possible for the kids to run around the field. During the winter, they have fun hanging out in the grove of trees. Perry Ryan (he is a more than enthusiastic coach) kept parents apprised of soccer practice, games, and transportation; and was inspiring with his undeniable passion for all sports. Our bus driver, Kord, was kept busy with extras, like checking and adjusting the heat. Scott Carson made our beautiful new sand box. Jan Wyman dressed up a pumpkin totem pole for the kids to enjoy. Craig Bailes has been helping us build a shelter in the woods behind the school. Susan Persa invited the kindergartners to pick potatoes at her farm, and has hung her beautiful homemade holiday wreath on the front of the school. In the spring, we will have more parents helping with school trips. Thank you, everyone!



Fourth and Fifth Grade Science at the Windham School

by Sally Newton

Every Thursday afternoon I leave my five kindergarten students in the capable hands of Gail Wyman, and teach science to Mr. Parker-Jenning's class. This gives him a chance to do principal work, and me the opportunity to work with the older students, while the younger ones listen to stories, do puzzles and art or cooking projects with Gail.

In planning for science class, I use the Next Generation Science Standards, my own ideas about what is important for young people to learn about the world around them, and the interests of the students themselves.

We began the year studying natural resources, learning which are renewable and which are not. We focused on water as an important resource, learning about the water cycle and all the different ways we use water every day. We have been studying weather and have set up our own weather "station". The students have been keeping track of the weather on a daily basis. In January we will be learning about the basic building blocks of all things, atoms and molecules.

Out in the woods behind the school we are working on creating an outdoor classroom, for studying the natural world. Special thanks go to Craig Bailes who has been helping us with this project. We have identified the trees that live there and have been watching for signs of animal life. We will use these woods to understand how energy moves through natural communities.

Along with Thursday afternoons, the older students start out on Tuesday mornings at Meadow's Bee Farm doing farm chores, learning about other important resources, and the plants and animals that feed and clothe us. Thanks to Leigh and Charlie Merinoff, Beth McDonald and the staff at Meadow's Bee Farm for making this happen.

Thank You All for a Fun and Successful Harvest Supper

Windham Community Organization wants to thank all of those who helped in any way with the Harvest Supper, and also thank those who attended. A special thanks to Sally Newton and her Ukulele Group who played "Yellow Submarine" by the Beatles, with a little help from the audience with the lyrics. It was definitely a crowd favorite. Thank you also to Sally and Friends for the music and calling the square dance.

CHRISTOPHER R. KEATING

Attorney at Law

Specializing in
Environmental Law, Estate Planning
and Real Estate



Office
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Grafton, VT 05146
802-843-5473
508-564-1492 (cell)

Email: crklaw89@gmail.com



Legislative Session Starts January 3

by Carolyn Partridge

The 2018 Legislative Session starts on Wednesday, January 3. Typically, the second year of a biennium starts

on Tuesday, but because of the New Year's holiday, legislators don't have to be in Montpelier until Wednesday.

One of the first things we will be addressing is a \$45 million shortfall in the budget. Vermont always runs on a balanced budget, and our annual Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) will make adjustments to our current budget to true things up.

Areas that we will be focusing on this year include mental health and opiates. We want to assure that Vermonters have access to treatment when they need it. Having lost my niece, Megan, to a fentanyl overdose this summer, I know what a devastating effect this can have on families.

Data security and protecting Vermonters' personal information will be looked at, especially given the Equifax data breach. There will be a conversation about education funding, balancing the need to raise the resources for Vermont's public schools that give all our children the

opportunity to succeed, while being mindful of what our families and communities can afford.

We need to continue our work on clean water. The problem has been decades in the making and we can't continue to kick the can down the road. A big question/concern is what the federal government is going to do in regards to its budget. A large portion of funding for the cleanup was to come from the federal government, so their actions are important. I think it is safe to say that the State of Vermont will not be able to take up the slack, if what we were expecting from the feds, is not forthcoming. We need a long-term solution that supports healthy communities and grows the economy. My committee, Agriculture and Forestry, will continue to work on a Rural Economic Development bill.

During the Legislative Session, I can be reached at the State House by phone, toll-free at 1-800-322-5616 or by email at: cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us. If you call the toll free number, the Sergeant at Arms office will answer, take and deliver a message to me, and I will call you back as soon as possible. On the weekends, I can be reached at home at 874-4182. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts, concerns, and/or questions. Remember, together, we govern!

Sad to See You Go! by Imme Maurath

Recently Bev and Tom Carmichael put their house in Windham on the market. It sold very quickly. I wanted to write a farewell piece on them, so I sent an email to Bev with a few questions, one of them being how she transformed the library in to what it is today.

Here is her response. Thank you Bev! We miss you!

"Tommy and I bought our Windham house in 1994, moved there permanently in 2000. It was our dream to retire in Vermont. Then along came the reality of living in a harsh climate after knee and hip replacements, rheumatoid arthritis and now cancer. Tom retired from the teamster's union, and worked painting and repairing houses for the last 17 years.

The new owners are Carolyn and Jeff Rubin from Massachusetts. It will be a weekend getaway for them. So far they love the town, neighbors and the house. As you know, this is bittersweet for me.

The Windham library was started in 1923 with a \$15 grant from the town. When I moved to Windham, it was open summers only, with books borrowed from the regional library in Dummerston. I begged for shelves (Thanks, Ernie and Jerry), and began to accumulate books for a dollar apiece from other libraries. With help from four other trustees, our collection now numbers over 2500 books. I have never been prouder of anything than I am of "my" Windham library.

Our decision to leave Windham was not our choice. I need adequate medical care and it needs to be close by. We will return summers (probably camping) and pick up with our friends right where we left off. I miss you all terribly."

Needed: Green-Up Day Coordinator

Windham is looking for a volunteer to help coordinate Green Up Day with the non-profit, state-wide organization that runs it. Some of the duties are: ordering and distributing bags, and submitting an annual report. For more information, go online to: Vermont-Green-Up-Guide-for-Coordination. To volunteer, or request further information, please contact Maureen Bell at, 875-1024.



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by Leigh Merinoff

It's hard to believe, but Meadows Bee Farm just celebrated our 10th year here in the mountains of Windham! So much has happened these past ten years, and we look forward with great excitement to the next ten.

It is with such pleasure that we welcome the local children to Meadows Bee Farm each week to help out in the orchard, the apiary, the aviary, with the sheep and the cows. The students have grown so much the past three years, their understanding of food and farm cycles is quite profound. This year we welcomed a new group, the WES kindergartners, to work with us on the farm. There are always so many new projects, and these youngsters dive right in and help. Many of the children come with farm experience which they share, and we try to complement this with our experiments in homesteading. All with the purpose of raising multiple types of livestock and perennial crops with ease, while finding pleasure and entertainment being with the animals, and with nature.

Meadows Bee's mission is to ReVision food, farm and forest, by exploring new ways of growing food sustainably in an educational model.

By embracing agroecology, we can grow abundant amounts of healthy, chemical-free food, while balancing the ecosystem. We teach the children lots of new techniques: the huglekulture, rotational grazing, and raising birds, in a forest ecology. We eat lots of new and interesting foods: green leaves from the linden, berries from the cranberry viburnum, cornbread with ingredients they grew and seeds they saved, and yogurt they made from cows they milked. We explore more traditional farm crafts, such as wool craft, ceramics, woodworking and blacksmithing, and give the students a chance to experience these areas as well.

Our badge program is expanding also. In December we awarded the kindergartners badges including; Raising Chickens, and Gardening 1. The older students have already earned lots of badges with bees, cows and sheep, and now just earned Gardening and Orchards badges. They are splitting up into groups and now making lists of the badges they'd like to focus on, and we are guiding our curriculum accordingly. Sally Newton and Mr. PJ have

been instrumental in making this work, and Kord drops the kids off from the bus before school, while Gail is waiting in the background. It's a team effort that is really having profound effects for all of us. As we've seen, farming with children is fun for everyone, and we all enjoy the days our young friends visit, as their love of the work inspires us all to look at chores with fresh smiling eyes.

So from our crew of moms and dads, teachers, drivers, interns Patrick McDonald and Jake Iris, we welcome this chance to explore new ways of creating abundance with the greatest love and ease, all while growing our community, young and old.

If you are interested in getting involved at Meadows Bee Farm, we welcome you to come for a visit. We have an agriculture library and book club, ongoing ceramics, blacksmith and wool craft workshops. At the Field House, we have ceramics Wednesday and Sunday, 5-8 PM, open to the public, \$5.00 for drop-in. Cindy Kehoe comes every week, often with Kylie. We are also opening up the Blacksmith shop again for classes, as soon as we get some heat from a woodstove.

The next few book club discussions at the Field House are:

Tuesday, January 30 at 6pm - We are reading *Eating on the Wild Side* by Jo Robinson.

Monday, February 26 at 6 PM - We are reading *Lean Logic* by David Fleming.

Books are available for checkout at the Field House Library.

Congratulations Photo Contest Winners

The winners are:

Christopher Smith -

1st Prize for "Sunset";

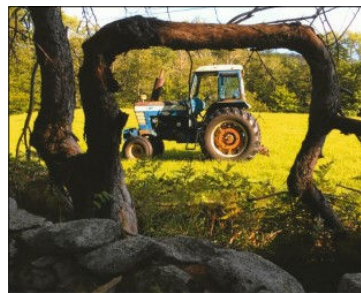
Christine Dunkel - 2nd Prize

for "Ready to Work";

Beverly Carmichael - 3rd

Prize for "Autumn in the Woods".

2018 Calendars are on sale in the library every Wednesday



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The Main Ingredients *by Nancy Dyke*

Bill Koutrakos 1934 - 2017

Bill's cooking was legendary. Just as we often guessed the ingredients he used in his creative concoctions, we, in Windham, upon hearing of his passing, thought about the varied ingredients that made up his life. At Bill's Memorial Service on November 27, here in Windham, a large number of friends and neighbors gathered to remember Bill, and to share their thoughts about him, and experiences they had had with him.

In the service, I talked about observations Jerry and I made based on the fifteen years we knew Bill. The first, was that he was not a lukewarm person. His energy and zest for life were always shining through, even during the frustrations of his health challenges. He wanted action, to get the job done. The projects he initiated or was involved in, make for a long list, including the lift in the Meeting House. He was involved in a number of organizations, such as school boards and the Friends of the Meeting House. For a number of years, he was a very well-informed Lister and an Assistant Clerk. One ongoing interest was how to improve the way business meetings were conducted. Those who knew him longer, can easily add to the list and many did just that at the service.

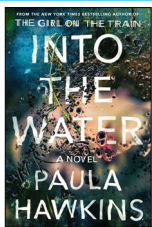
In the midst of these activities, he kept a sense of

humor and always enjoyed talking and laughing with people. Evenings at his home included wonderful meals, great conversation, lots of laughter and often a variety of games, in which he loved to compete.

There is one area, though, that was not mentioned at the service that I would like to highlight. Bill Koutrakos was a good listener. People in Windham have remarked to me that they went to Billy when they needed information on a wide range of topics, another perspective, or someone to brainstorm with. He was able to listen carefully, and then give his frank opinion. One person told me about a period of a few years when Billy was supportive, encouraging and lent a listening ear, while this person was being heavily criticized.

The cooking metaphor suits Billy to a tee. Most of us have a number of standard recipes, and then we might have a few unique ones. Billy had many exceptional ones, and his life, also, was anything but standard. It's a challenge, as I learned when preparing for the Memorial Service, to bring together in one large pot, all the ingredients and flavors that made up his life. I will not be surprised if we continue to hear stories and tidbits about Bill Koutrakos many times in the months and years to come!

(Next Issue: *Gentleman! Start Your Engines!* by Ernie Friedli)



Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, February 7, 3:30 PM

A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged. Paula Hawkins delivers an urgent, twisting, deeply satisfying read that hinges on the deceptiveness of emotion and memory, as well as the devastating ways that the past can reach a long arm into the present. Beware a calm surface.



Windham Library Book Club Selection
Wednesday, March 7, 3:30 PM In a sweeping, erotically charged story that moves gracefully from the intimately personal to the great stage of world history, Anchee Min renders a powerful tale of passion, betrayal, and survival and creates a finely nuanced and always ambiguous portrait of one of the most fascinating, and vilified, women of the twentieth century. Madame Mao is almost universally known as the "white-boned demon", whose bid to succeed her husband led to the death of millions.

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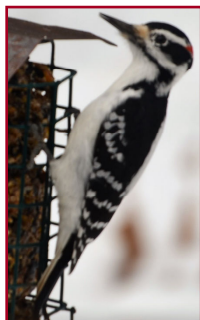
Windham News & Notes
5976 Windham Hill Road
Windham, VT 05359

Windham News & Notes
welcomes submissions. Send
articles of about 300 words to the
above address or by email to:
windhamnews@hotmail.com.

Please keep us informed of any
name or address changes.

**STRONG LIVING, Monday & Thursday
10 AM at the Meeting House**

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS



Town Clerk: 874-4211
Monday: Noon - 8:00 PM
Tuesday: 6:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
**Closed all Thursdays, Fridays
January 15 & February 19**
Open Saturday, January 27 &
February 24, 8 AM-Noon.

Planning and Zoning:
Second Wednesday of the
month at 6:30 PM at the
Town Office; Jan 10 & Feb
14. Open Meetings. Agenda
posted. Call Bill Dunkel at
874-4131 for more info.

Select Board: Usually
1st & 3rd Mondays, but
Jan 8 & 22 and Feb 5 & 19
at 6:30 PM at the Town
Office, due to holidays.
Open meetings. Agenda
posted.

Library:
Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM
at the Meeting House.
Book Club: 1st Wednesday
Jan 2 & Feb 7 at 3:30 PM
at the Meeting House.

School Board: Usually
1st Mondays, January 8 and
February 5 at 4 PM at the
Elementary School, due to
holiday.
Call Antje Rupert at
874-4759 to confirm.

Volunteer Fire Company:
First **Wednesdays** of the
month, Jan 3 & Feb 7 at
6 PM at the Firehouse.
Heavy refreshments
served.

Windham Community Organization:

Last Wednesday of the month,
Jan 31 & Feb 28 at 7 PM at
the Meeting House. Candidates
night on Feb 28 at 7 PM. Call
Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183
for information.

Windham Congregational Church (UCC):

Sundays: Worship Services
at 9:30 AM at the Meeting
House. Call Dave Crittenden
at 874-4049 for info..

Valley Bible Church:

Sundays: Sunday School,
9:55 AM; Morning Worship,
11 AM; Potluck, 12:10 PM;
Sun. Afternoon Service,
1:10 PM; Tuesdays, Bible
Study/ Prayer, 7 PM.

Listers: Subject to Change
Every Wednesday 9 AM-
Noon at the Town Office.

WRMU Union School District:
Third Mondays Jan 15 & Feb 19
at 7 PM at Leland & Gray.

SAVE THESE DATES!

January 24 - Deadline to submit comments on proposed Zoning Regulations
February 7 - Zoning Regulation Hearing at 6:30 PM at Town Office
February TBD - Leland & Gray Budget Vote all day at Town Office
February 15 - Windham News & Notes deadline to submit Candidacy Statement
February 28 - WCO Candidates Night at 7 PM at the Meeting House
March 6 - TOWN MEETING at 10 AM at the Meeting House



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: C.J. King, 802-365-9109; info@gracecottage.org

Grace Cottage's Online Auction – Don't Miss Out!

Need a massage? A trip to Mexico or South Africa? An evening at the theater, or some new artwork for your walls?

**From 6 AM on February 14, 'til the clock strikes
9 PM. on Wednesday, February 28,**

you can bid on these items and many more through the Grace Cottage's Annual Cabin Fever Auction.

An awesome array of more than 70 items has been donated by generous businesses and individuals, with all proceeds benefitting the Grace Cottage Patient Care Fund.

There's something for every taste and budget, including treasures you can't buy anywhere else. Auction items range in value from \$20 to Priceless, including gift certificates to favorite local restaurants, practical items like an oil change for your car, ski passes, rounds of golf, catered dinners, sailing, your name in Archer Mayor's next book, and plenty more!

Bid low and get notified when someone outbids you, or "Buy Now" and make it yours today! Either way, you can feel good supporting this annual fund-raiser, which helps to provide free care to those lacking adequate resources. Check it out at www.32auctions.com/gracecottage



Photo Caption:

Auction items include artwork by Georgie Runkle; luncheon day sail aboard the Mystic Whaler; \$100 gift certificate to WW Building Supply.

Town Contacts

Town Clerk: Michael McLaine, phone: 874-4211; email: windham.town@gmail.com

Town Treasurer: Peter Chamberlain, phone: 874-4211; email: windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com

Town Road Crew: Josh Dryden and Jon Gordon, phone: 874-7025 at the Town Garage

Lister and Zoning: Alison Cummings, 874-7223; cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com; John Hoover, 875-6224; johnjhover@vermontel.net

E911 Coordinator and Lister: Meredith Tips-McLaine, 875-1550; meredithtipsmcclaine@gmail.com

Select Board: Frank Seawright, chair, phone: 875-1555; email: fseawright@vermontel.net

School Board: Antje Ruppert, phone: 874-4759; email: antje@sover.net

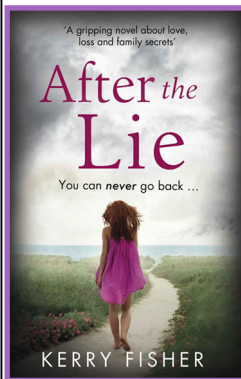
Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 874-8183; email: eflockwood@aol.com

Windham Volunteer Fire and Rescue: Rick Weitzel, phone: 874-4104; Ralph Wyman, phone: 875-3373

Health Officer: Marcia Clinton, phone: 875-3531; email: mclinton@vermontel.net

Planning and Energy Commission: Bill Dunkel, phone: 874-4131; email: bdunkell1455@gmail.com
(lower case L, then number 1455)

Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, **January 3, 2018** – 3:30 PM

Sometimes a lie can split your life in two. There is "before", and there is "after". Try as you might – you can never go back.

When **Lydia** was a teenager, she made a decision that ruined her family's life. They've spent the last thirty years living with the consequences and doing their best to pretend it never happened. Lydia's husband, the gorgeous and reliable **Mark**, and her two teenage children know nothing about that summer back in 1982. And that's the way Lydia

wants it to stay. The opportunity to come clean is long gone, and now it's not the lie that matters, it's the betrayal of hiding the truth for so long.

When someone from the past turns up as a parent at the school gates, Lydia feels the life she has worked so hard to build slipping through her fingers. The more desperate she becomes to safeguard her family, the more erratic her behaviour becomes. But when the happiness of her own teenage son, **Jamie**, hangs in the balance, Lydia is forced to make some impossible decisions. Can she protect him and still keep her own secret – and if she doesn't, will her marriage and family survive?

From the author of *The Island Escape* comes a powerful and heartbreaking story, perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty and Diane Chamberlain.

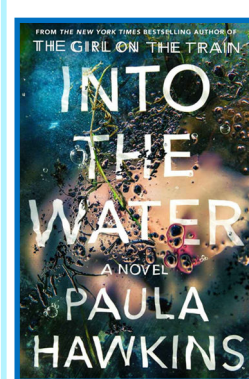
Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, **February 7, 2018** – 3:30 PM

A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged.

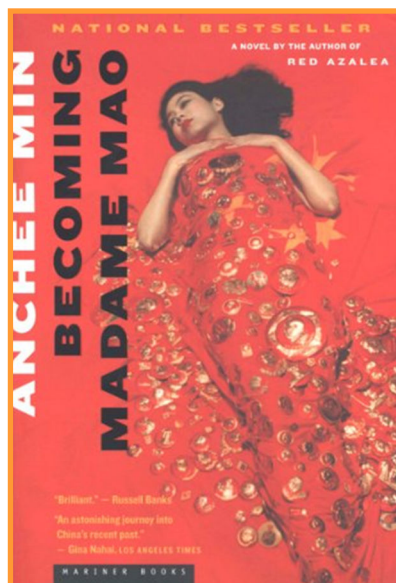
Left behind is a lonely fifteen-year-old girl. Parentless and friendless, she now finds herself in the care of her mother's sister, a fearful stranger who has been dragged back to the place she deliberately ran from—a place to which she vowed she'd never return.

With the same propulsive writing and acute understanding of human instincts that captivated millions of readers around the world in her explosive debut



thriller, *The Girl on the Train*, Paula Hawkins delivers an urgent, twisting, deeply satisfying read that hinges on the deceptiveness of emotion and memory, as well as the devastating ways that the past can reach a long arm into the present.

Beware a calm surface—you never know what lies beneath.



Windham Library Book Club Selection

Wednesday, **March 7, 2018** – 3:30 PM

In a sweeping, erotically charged story that moves gracefully from the intimately personal to the great stage of world history, Anchee Min renders a powerful tale of passion, betrayal, and survival, and creates a finely nuanced and always ambiguous portrait of one of the most fascinating, and vilified, women of the twentieth century. Madame Mao is almost universally known as the "white-boned demon" -- ambitious, vindictive, and cruel -- whose bid to succeed her husband led to the death of millions.

But Min's story begins with a young girl named Yunhe, the unwanted daughter of a concubine who ignored her mother's pleas and refused to have her feet bound. It was the first act of rebellion for this headstrong, beautiful, and charismatic girl. She later fled the miseries of her family life, first to a provincial opera troupe, then to Shanghai and fame as an actress, and finally to the arid, mountainous regions of Yenan, where she fell in love with and married Mao Zedong. The great revolutionary leader proved to be an inattentive husband with a voracious appetite for infidelity, but the couple stayed together through the Communist victory, the disastrous Great Leap Forward, and the chaos of the Cultural Revolution.

Min uses the facts of history and her lush, penetrating psychological imagination to take us beyond the myth of the person who so greatly influenced an entire generation of Chinese. The result is a complex portrait of a woman who railed against the confines of her culture, whose deep-seated insecurities propelled her to reinvent herself constantly, and whose ambition was matched only by her ferocious, never-to-be-fulfilled need to be loved. A daring narrative with all the compressed drama and high lyrical poetry of great opera, *Becoming Madame Mao* is the most ambitious and provocative work of Anchee Min's career.

Food Waste

“You’re throwing away \$1,600 every year!”

That’s right – \$1,600 – you read that correctly. You might be asking “How?” We all know food costs money, and in this case, according the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the food you’re throwing away is costing you around \$1600 annually! To put that into perspective you could buy two season passes to Stratton Mountain Ski Resort with the money you’re currently throwing away. That’s crazy!

Let’s talk about saving you money. Here are 3 easy steps to reducing the hurt in your wallet, and your food waste:

1. Follow the Five Ps - Proper Planning Produces Perfect Pantries

Planning your meals + making a shopping list + sticking to it = PROFIT! The perfect equation to save money and not overload your pantry.

2. Shop your Kitchen

Check your cupboards, fridge, and pantry for items on your shopping list before venturing out to the store. Many times, we forget what we already have, and double buy. This eventually leads to food waste, and wasted money.

3. “Eat Me First!” Boxes

Designate a shelf or crisper in your fridge to your oldest food. Slap a big sign saying “Eat Me First!” to urgently remind yourself and your family that certain food is close to expiration date and/or rot. Most importantly, eat it **before** it goes bad.

Now that you’re following these steps, you can go out and hit the slopes with no shame, and the environment will thank you. Did you know that food waste in landfills creates three times the amount of methane, a pungent greenhouse gas, than other waste materials? Waste less – Save money – Stop climate change. No brainer.

(And if you do have spoiled food, be sure to compost it, or bring it to the Transfer Station for composting.)

Thank you and Happy New Year!



Esther Fishman, Recycling Coordinator
Londonderry Solid Waste Group
100 Old School Street
South Londonderry, VT 05155
PH 802-824-3356-O (sporadic) or PH 802-824-3306-H
londonrecycle@vermontel.net, www.londonderryvt.org



3SquaresVT Boosts Food Purchasing Power

Many senior citizens are cutting back on their food budgets as expenses rise, but good nutrition is a key factor in lifelong health. To encourage healthy eating, the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers the 3SquaresVT program to help eligible Vermonters buy nutritious food.

The benefits come on an EBT card that looks like a debit or credit card. There are no “food stamps” anymore. If everyone in the household is 65 or older or gets SSI, then the benefits may be distributed as cash, or deposited directly into the family’s bank account.

3SquaresVT is open to individuals and families who qualify based on household income. Anyone who is over 60 or has a disability may deduct many medical expenses from their income, which can help with qualification.

To get more information, or help with applying for 3SquaresVT, call the Vermont Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119; or contact Senior Solutions in Springfield, VT at 802-885-2655, 8:30 - 4:30, Monday - Friday.

This message is funded in part by the USDA. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Neighbors are talking on Front Porch Forum

from Michael Wood-Lewis, co-founder

Have you joined our local Front Porch Forum (FPF)?

FPF helps neighbors connect and build community by hosting a statewide network of online local forums. One-third of Vermont households participate with thousands more joining every month. People use their FPF to find lost animals, offer assistance to neighbors in need, organize local projects, draw crowds to events, highlight small businesses, share crime reports, seek contractor recommendations, and much more. Started 10 years ago, Front Porch Forum is a free service, and it's based in Vermont. Learn more at

www.frontporchforum.com.





*Stay Tuned! More to
Come Next Issue!*

Think Burbee Pond!



Harvest Supper November 11, 2017!

Ukuleles!

Harvest Supper
Performance Observers



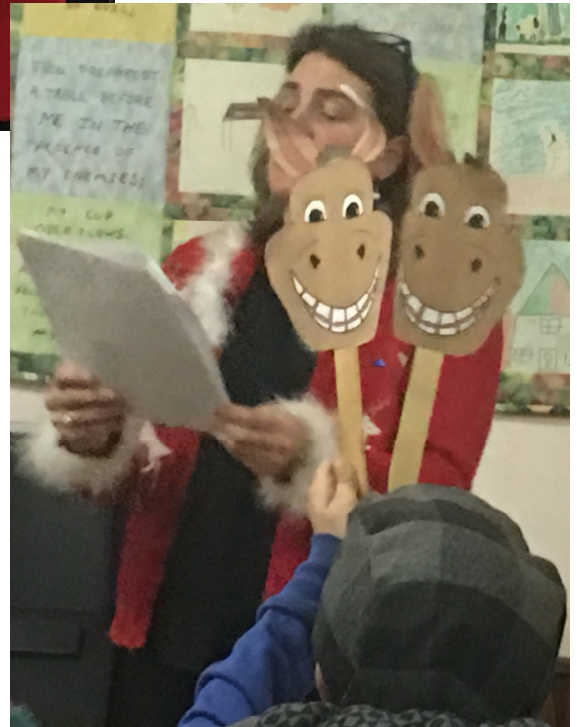
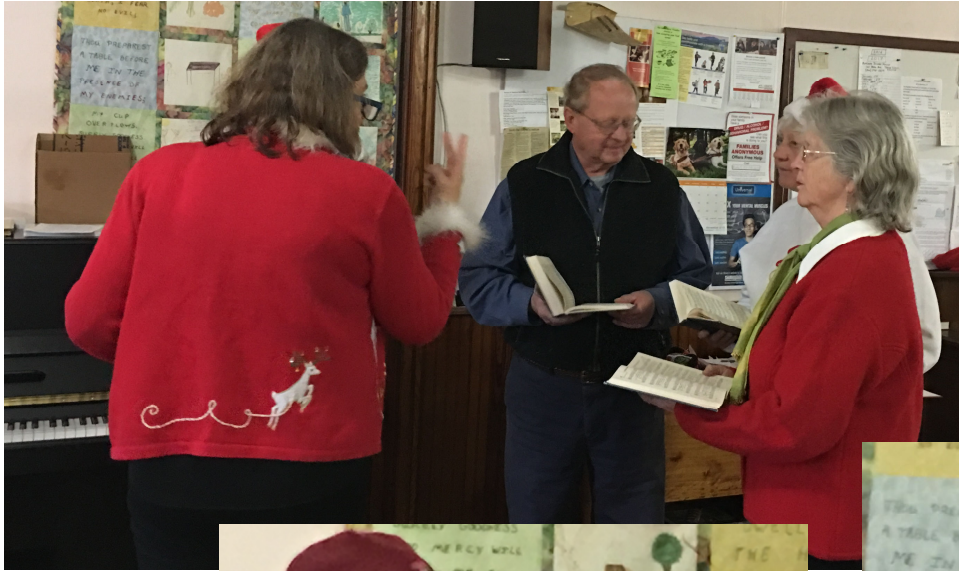


Ukulele
Players!



...and
Promenade!

Caroling, November 24, 2017





Windham Community Organization Loads Up Cookie and Fruit Plates for Community, December 13, 2017





**....More WCO,
Making Merry!**



**We Wish You
a Happy New
Year, Full of
Peace,
Happiness and
Good Health!**