Many Voices, Building Peace

For Scott Miller, the world is full of stories from many cultures, waiting to be told. And he thinks that by sharing them, the world has a chance of becoming a better place.

“It started on a study abroad to Spain when I was in college,” Scott explains. “While on the Iberian Peninsula I kept noticing the architecture, the mingling of influences. In Cordoba I saw the La Mezquita Cathedral which was used by Muslims, Jews and Catholics – multiple faiths worshipping in different ways – in different sections of the same building, each section adorned with details from the others’ traditions. I found it amazing.” He noticed that this melding of influences extended to textiles, iron work, tile, and agricultural practices. “Crops brought from the Middle East – lemons, limes, almonds, oranges, date palms”, he explains, “all

Elder Profile: Ned Redpath

I like the day,” says Ned Redpath with his characteristic smile. “I’m up at 5. I like the people I work with – there’s a good energy in the office.” He should know: he’s shaped his business over 36-plus years in the Upper Valley, first as an independent office, then gathering a team of realtors into the Hanover franchise of the Coldwell Banker group.

Not many children would say “I want to be a realtor when I grow up,” but Ned became interested in the profession about as early as anyone. His roommate at St. Lawrence University was the son of realtors in Montclair, NJ, where Ned had lived for his last two years of high school. The two young men talked about the business a lot. After college and a tour in the military (where the luck of the draw put Ned in Germany instead of Vietnam), he went to work for the roommate’s parents. Ned enjoyed living in Montclair, which had some green space and very easy access to the entertainments of New York City, but, he says, “There was just something missing. It turns out it was the lifestyle.”

Have We Got a Book for You!

What I say is, a town isn’t a town without a bookstore. It may call itself a town, but unless it’s got a bookstore, it knows it’s not fooling a soul. – American Gods

Long-time Norwich residents may disagree with Neil Gaiman’s assertion, saying that Norwich’s career as a fine town antedates the arrival of the Norwich Bookstore, but who would not agree that the Bookstore improves the town? Not just books, but community-building ideas hatch at the Bookstore, such as the Book Angels program that provides donors an opportunity

Lisa Cadow (left) and Lisa Christie (right), founders of Book Jam

Ruth Sylvester

Ned Miller

Lisa Cadow (left) and Lisa Christie (right), founders of Book Jam

Ruth Sylvester

Ned Redpath

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11:30 AM–2:30 PM
Food Sampling
Taking It Upon Yourself

A blessing and a curse, I have always been one to take it upon myself to make things happen when I feel super strongly about something. The curse part is that I may miss seeing the big picture of a situation, and then find myself on the other side with some big and scary consequences. The blessing is that somehow my fear steps aside and my Wonder Woman being takes over and I usually find that I am saving the day for someone or something very special or important to me.

This issue has many examples of fellow community members taking it upon themselves to make something happen. Read about Lisa and Lisa in the cover story essentially about spreading the love of reading out to the world. They individually and as a team saw some relevant holes to fill and took it upon themselves to make available their knowledge and recommendations for all to share.

Scott Miller and his wife and business partner, Lindsay McClure, have witnessed the importance of cultural exchange as a means for... nothing less than world peace, among other important outcomes. Together they are taking it upon themselves to engage the talent and fresh enthusiasm of global youth to tell local stories through video and other media, and then exchange those stories with their peers around the world. As a publisher of stories that paint a vibrant picture of local culture, I’m in!

Our village elder, as in one who has life wisdom to impart, Ned Redpath, is a clear example of someone who has taken it upon himself to make and shape his life the way he wants it to be. Personally, Ned has been a business mentor to me. I have always been able to trust him to tell it like it is with me, yet I know that I will receive encouraging and fair advice. In the past, Ned advertised his company’s real estate listings in a full page ad. When I approached him with the idea of sponsoring a page that would align with his and therefore his company’s values, he jumped at the chance! Please enjoy the “Day In the Life” page on page 31 of this issue and appearing in every issue, brought to you by Ned Redpath and his pride in the Norwich community.

Without further ado, please read this issue from cover to cover, and discover how your neighbors are taking it upon themselves to help make our town as amazing as it is. If you see them on the street, take it upon yourself to thank them and see if they need any help. We will then be thanking you! – Jen MacMillen

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**Fall Events at NHS** Details at [www.norwichhistory.org](http://www.norwichhistory.org)

- **Sat. September 12, 10am-4pm**
  11th Annual Norwich Antiques Show
  Quality dealers, Bill Smith appraisals

- **Sunday, September 20, 1-3pm**
  Sunday Walking Tour
  Lewiston: Norwich’s Ghost Hamlet

- **Sunday, October 4, 1:30-4:30pm**
  Sunday Workshop
  You’re Life, Your Family Stories: An Interactive Writing Workshop

- **Sunday, October 18, 1:30-3:30pm**
  Sunday Workshop
  Preserving Family Recipes

- **Saturday, October 31, dusk**
  Halloween Treats & surprises at the NHS barn

- **Sunday, November 1, 1:30-3:30pm**
  Sunday Workshop
  Preserving Family Treasures

- **Sun. November 15, 1:30-3:30pm**
  Sunday Workshop
  Researching the History of your House

- **Thursday, November 19, 7pm**
  The Evolution of a Holiday: Christmas from the Seventeenth Century to 1900

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**NORWICH TIMES**

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**Root District Schoolhouse Update**

The premiere of Back to School: Lessons from Norwich’s One-Room Schoolhouses was a terrific success. Almost two hundred people combined attended the Wilder Center and Marion Cross School screenings in June, raising nearly $1,500 for Norwich’s two surviving schoolhouses, Beaver Meadow and Root. Many thanks to all who attended the screenings. Back to School can now be viewed online at www.rootschoolhouse.org/documentary. A DVD will be available later this fall, thanks to a generous Community Projects Grant from the Norwich Women’s Club.

With interest in the schoolhouses peaking due to the documentary, the Root District Game Club is trying to raise $20,000 by October 1 to qualify for a matching Vermont Historic Preservation Grant. Should they receive this grant, they would be one giant step closer to rebuilding Root Schoolhouse’s foundation and reopening the building for public use. As of September 1, the Game Club had raised $16,000. That’s 80% of its goal.

Please help make it to $20,000 this month. To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.rootschoolhouse.org. To contact a member of the Game Club, please call (802) 331-0677 or send an email to rootschoolhouse@gmail.com.

The musicians are called “Fresh Straw.”

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Ro Wyman
It was a busy year at the Norwich Public Library with over 51,000 people coming through our doors! This increase in visits is part of an overall rise in usage of library materials and services. NPL is deeply committed to offering a welcoming environment, high quality materials, and programs that educate and engage our community. The Board of Trustees would like to thank the over 400 donors and the residents of Norwich for their generous support, including the successful completion of a $10,000 challenge match. As the Trustees and Staff continue to plan for the Library’s future we hope you will share in our enthusiasm and optimism as we move forward.

Lisa Cadow, President, NPL Board of Trustees
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The Norwich Public Library thanks the following donors for their generous support during its 2015 fiscal year. This list has been prepared with care, but if your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please let us know so we can correct our records. Thank you!

* Sustaining memberships • Matching Challenge donors † Matching Challenge donors

In July, Pinto Bella visited and showed us how much fun it is to hula hoop!

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A little further up the trail, we saw how those large, flat stones were fashioned into steps. They appeared to be laid in a very professional manner, and would look just as good leading up to a beautiful home as part of a residential landscape design. Yet here we were on a trail in the woods. Every so often, the stones were laid in a manner to allow water runoff to pass through without damaging the trail. I counted somewhere around 90 of these impressive stone steps on the short trail, with more stones awaiting installation. “How did they get these stones and gravel up here, by helicopter?” asked my hiking companion.

George Clark, a member of the Norwich Trails Committee, said several methods were used to transport materials for trail building up the trail. “In the past they’ve used horses, Belgians,” said Clark. Other methods for transport are a narrow, mechanized wheelbarrow-like vehicle, and zip lines, which can help move considerable weight, said Clark.

Russ Hirschler said the movement of materials for trail building is a big part of the work on the trail. “We’ve moved hundreds of tons of material on the mountain,” he said. Being a short trail has made the job a bit simpler, said Hirschler.

---

Frank Orlowski

Have you hiked the Gile Mountain trail to the fire tower recently? If not, you will be surprised to see the upgrades taking place along the trail. On a recent beautiful, late summer August evening, my companion and I took the drive up Turnpike Road to the trailhead, to make the short 1.4 mile round trip to the fire tower and back.

The first thing I noticed upon arriving was the number of cars parked in the small lot, most of which with license plates other than NH and VT. Mid week, late in the day (but not sunset), late August, I did not expect this many fellow hikers, even on a near perfect late afternoon.

I should not have been surprised, however. Russ Hirschler, executive director of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, told me “Gile Mountain gets between 5,000 and 10,000 visitors a year,” making it one of the Upper Valley’s most popular hiking areas.

The first section of the trail is the same as I remember from my last hike on it – a wide, dirt path with numerous tree roots to dodge. It wasn’t until I passed the clearing along the power lines that the changes came into focus. We passed a pile of hardpack gravel, and then encountered an impressive stack of flat stone for building steps. Terraced steps made from landscape timbers, recently filled with the hardpack, ushered us into the woods.
Hirschler said the materials moved to the trail include large, flat stone for steps, crib stone, used to build up the sides of the trail, coarse gravel, and hardpack, both used in creating part of the walkway.

Mechanized vehicles get the material to spots along the power line clearing, said Hirschler, then the material is moved by draft horses pulling a sled, small-scale mechanized wheelbarrows, a zip line grip hoist, which utilizes steel cable, and, of course, volunteers.

Those volunteers have been key to the effort, since the current phase of trail work began in 2011. Hirschler said volunteers from the Upper Valley High School Trail Corps, the Tuck School at Dartmouth, King Arthur Flour, Hypertherm, as well as local volunteers organized by the Norwich Trails Committee have all had a hand in rebuilding the trail. The week we were on the trail, Tuck School students, working on various community projects in the area, were taking their turn trail building.

We weren’t the only ones to notice the high level of maintenance on the trail. We encountered a pair of hikers, returning from the fire tower as we made our way up. Here from Scotland, the couple spent the summer at Dartmouth, and wanted to make the trip to the fire tower before returning to Edinburgh.

“The view from the tower is marvelous, and this trail is in great condition,” one of them told us.

Upon reaching the tower, we saw several others making their way to the top to enjoy the view. Between a healthy fear of heights from open platforms, and a leg that does not always function as it should, I decided to not make the trip all the way up, though my companion bounded up the seven flights of stairs to the top. A younger couple, making their way down, noticed my hesitance. The woman said “I don’t like heights, but I felt okay because there is fencing and railing.” I commended her for going up, and wondered if I was the only one hesitant about going up the tower. I doubted it.

Trail building is not the only project that’s taken place on Gile Mountain. George Clark said the tower itself was refurbished about a dozen years back, keeping it safe for visitors.

Heading back down, the change of direction gave us a different perspective on the trail work, and the step construction. Curious about the cost of the work, Hirschler told me, “We are on our third grant for work on Gile Mountain.” Grant money received through the Vermont Recreation Trails Program has totaled about $60,000, and with matching funds and in-kind labor, the project is up to about $90,000, said Hirschler.

There is still more work planned for the trail. “We’re a couple years away from having everything done,” said Hirschler. “It’s pretty technical work, and slow and steady wins the race.”

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“The Essence of Summer” is a new feature of the Norwich Times which will appear in each fall issue. The aim is to give Norwich residents the opportunity to comment on significant aspects and traditions of their own summer holidays. Mary Otto agreed to write the initial column.

Mary K. Otto

S ee you tonight,” I called to my summertime neighbor as I walked by his house with my dog early one morning in August. I knew he and his wife would be at the annual lobster bake held on the Green of our community here in Boothbay Harbor, and I was looking forward to talking with them. As I ambled on, my penchant for reflection kicked in: What do I value here in Maine? What does this place mean to me?

Of course questions like these will also pepper our conversations this fall in Norwich, as we reconnect to our regular year-round activities. “What did you do this summer?” might be answered by comments about expeditions on local hiking trails, days at a swimming pond, evenings on the patio with grilled burgers and S’mores, or outings to Dan and Whit’s for that luscious chocolate swirl cone we’ve all come to love. Other responses might tell of excursions to the shore, camping trips to treasured spots, or flights to family hideaways in Colorado or Montana. Whatever we say, our summer activities may well be part of a tradition, perhaps wonderfully newish and likely to be repeated, or ancient and entrenched, encompassing events almost ritualistic in their regularity. New or old, the ways of summer show us what we love, help to make us who we are.

In my life, summertime is Maine time. We’re rounding out our 38th year in Boothbay Harbor, and I was looking forward to talking with them. As I ambled on, my penchant for reflection kicked in: What do I value here in Maine? What does this place mean to me?

The questions I contemplated on my walk, about the significance of my Maine summers, made me wish I had a cabin journal to look back on. It would help me recall the events and customs of the community we joined – the annual get-togethers on the 4th of July and in the middle of August, my work on the Sprucewold board and on writing and publishing a book on the history of our colony, our efforts to maintain a central garden and shared beachfront, evenings of casual dinners with neighbors, and, of course, the constant struggles of protecting our sacred coastal “Indian Trail” from the never-ending threat of erosion, as the Atlantic picks away at our shoreline, one storm at a time.

A cabin journal would remind me of how our family has solidified during weeks together each summer in Maine, and of how we became salt-water-swimmers, sailors, creative cooks of lobsters and clams, and avid collectors of sand dollars and sea glass. How our kids connected to a small, rough-and-tumble yacht club on Southport Island for a sailing program and summer fun, and how, now, their children, our grandkids, are there too, repeating the same activities, instructed by adults who were our daughters’ fellow sailors back in the day. And of how we started the tradition of making jam on August afternoons. This year, with three of us in the kitchen, we have 60 jars of blueberry preserves set aside, and we’re counting the days till the blackberries are ripe.

Two Maine weddings would also be featured in the pages of that journal, as well as anniversary celebrations for my husband and me, baptisms on the porch of the cabin or on the rocks at Ocean Point, the engagement of an Iowa brother on the dock one romantic evening years ago, a couple of memorial services, and a boat ride to sprinkle ashes into the ocean that surrounds us. I might also have written of how our family has solidified on the Sprucewold shoreline, one storm at a time.

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Mackie MacMillen
July 4, 2002 - September 1, 2015

A tribute to our beloved Mackie who passed away suddenly on September 1st at the well-lived age of 13.

As the publisher, I am taking some liberties here because, well, because I guess I can! Mackie (real name MacIntosh, inspired by the Canadian caramel candy of same name, to keep with the candy theme since his mother was a Chocolate Lab named Tootsie) was honestly one of those spirits who brought pure love and joy to absolutely every living creature he encountered. I hope these photos will bring a knowing smile to your face, as I am certain your pets bring you similar joy.

And, thank you to Susie, the Nolans and the Mackalls for sharing their fabulous family pet photos!

We are always looking for submissions, so please send in yours!

A tribute to our beloved Mackie who passed away suddenly on September 1st at the well-lived age of 13.

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Jessie (adult female) Siberian Husky
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Maggie (adult female) Plott Hound
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SAVES is now a member of the IVG network of hospitals and proud sponsor of the “People and Pets” Page. Our skilled veterinary team is committed to maintaining regular and open lines of communication with you – the pet owner – and your family veterinarian.
It Happens Every March: Seeing History Through the Norwich Town Reports

There’s no better way to understand the history of Norwich than by thumbing through the town reports. The annual booklet, the first of which appeared before Town Meeting day in 1778, provides an increasingly detailed portrait of the town over the years. By the late nineteenth century the reports are a model of government transparency, covering the town’s financial health down to the penny. But what about the heartbeat of the community: How has Norwich educated its children, treated its poverty stricken citizens, supported its local institutions year after year? By reading between the lines of these detailed fiscal accounts, starting in the 1890s, we can answer each of these questions and in so doing help to illuminate the character of the town.

The 1891 report, twenty-two pages long, described a town that took care of itself. The men of Norwich maintained the town roads and bridges. “Labor on Highways” payments ran anywhere from $1.50 to $75. The town paid $4.68 to Mrs. Lewis for providing lamp oil for the Hanover Bridge. Mr. Loveland earned $21 for driving the town hearse. The folks who were down and out took refuge at the Town Farm. But in 1890, the farm paid for itself by selling its “produce and provisions,” everything from hay to cider.

Schools were a major cost and concern to Norwich from the start. In 1898 the cost to run the schools was $3,275. A good deal of money was spent on teachers’ salaries, transporting “scholars” to school and working up wood to heat the buildings. In 1898 the school superintendent wrote his annual summary in the last pages of the town report. “We live in an age in which the cultivated mind is the controlling influence in the affairs of men,” began, J.E. Badger, the superintendent that year. “The education of our children is of the highest importance.”

By 1918 the destitute were aided by an “Overseer of the Poor” who, in the case of one woman who died that year, covered the cost of her casket and the digging of her grave. Two additional dollars went to Rev. Searles who provided a memorial service. The superintendent of schools commented on national events as the United States entered World War I. “Students,” he wrote, “should be taught to appreciate the sacrifices now being made… Patriotism, loyalty, and obedience should be emphasized as never before.”

The 1927 Vermont Flood propelled Norwich further into the 20th century. The flood damage that year was so extensive that Norwich accepted the highway dollars offered by the state. The report detailed how the state helped with up to two thirds of road repair bills. That year the state also began to chip in to help pay for education. The cost per pupil in Norwich was $49 that year; of this amount the state paid $4.91. In a nod to the literacy of its citizens, an article was proposed “To see if the Town will appropriate the Sum of One Hundred Dollars for Library to keep the books free for all.”

By 1936 the Town Report reflected how Norwich dealt with the Great Depression. The poor had obviously grown in number. The “Overseer’s Account,” which stretched over eleven pages, covered the rent and board for over half those listed. The total paid out that year by the town was $4,598, which would equal nearly $80,000 today. At the end of the report a list of those who were delinquent in taxes was published for all to see; between 1927 and 1936 the town was owed $3,399. Since prohibition had ended, the town report listed articles asking whether “malt, vinous beverage and spirituous liquors” could be sold in town. Thirty years later these articles still had not passed. Other articles questioned if the town “will operate on Daylight Savings Time the same dates as Hanover, NH.” This question took several more years to be accepted. But the town did okay permission for “… baseball…moving pictures, lectures and concerts…” to be enjoyed on Sundays.

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In 1937 estimates for construction of a town hall were first mentioned. The town applied for a loan from WPA “to be used in connection with the Trust Fund created by the will of the late James B. Tracy,” who donated the land upon which Tracy Hall was erected. The loan was approved and the building completed by the spring of 1939.

The challenges of World War II reached Norwich in 1942. Three hundred dollars was approved for Civil Defense. The following year a plan to buy War Bonds was outlined at the close of the town report. Vermonters had already purchased $18 million worth of War Savings Bonds. But more bonds needed to be sold. “When you read this town report,” wrote Fred C. Martin, the director of the state bond drive, “and realize that you manage your own town affairs because this is a free country, just ask yourself, ‘Am I putting enough into this war effort to insure a continuance (sic) of freedom?’”

Inside the front cover of the 1944 Town Report was the Norwich Honor Roll, a list of the 114 citizens in uniform, out of a town population of 1,475, of whom 43 were fighting overseas.

In 1946 the war had ended and people returned to peacetime concerns. The district schools were in need of repair; the Root School closed because there were only four students; the village school was overcrowded. The Superintendent suggested creating a centralized school that would provide a teacher for each grade. A fifteen-cent hot lunch program to be subsidized by the federal government was approved, sponsored by the Norwich Women’s Club and run primarily by volunteers. The town voted to let the program use the Town Hall as the cafeteria. The students helped out by “sweeping the floor each day, washing the chairs and tables and generally policing the dining room.”

Typical of the nation, marriages and births, always listed in the town reports, increased in Norwich. Between 1946 and 1949 there were 94 marriages in town and 138 new babies!

By 1950 the village school was stretched to its limit. Four emergency classrooms were being used at Tracy Hall, so discussion about a school expansion highlighted the town report. Once again Norwich citizens stepped up to help the community. Margaret and Marion Lewis donated two and a half acres, between the school and the Episcopal Church to the town. The land provided space for new classrooms and the addition was completed in 1951. The district schools then closed and were sold to local community clubs. A “good used school bus of forty-eight pupil capacity was purchased” to provide a ride into town for students.

The final piece of the educational expansion came in the early 1960s. According to the town report, “1963 will go down in Norwich history as the ‘Year of the Merger’ – the joining across State lines of the two school districts of Norwich and Hanover.” Norwich voters decided to share a high school with Hanover rather than building one in town. The new Dresden School District “appears to be actually the first fully legalized interstate school district in the United States.” President Kennedy signed the bill on Nov. 13, 1963.

The Norwich Town Reports, which are available to the public at the Historical Society, provide a detailed view into how Norwich has handled its day-to-day affairs as well as the challenges of floods, financial hard times, and war. The reports describe citizens like James Tracy and the Lewis sisters who stepped forward and offered their land to aid the community. They show the compassion of the village and its democracy. They show a town where every year its citizens approve $100 or more for the Norwich Library “to keep the books free for all.”

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Before long, he had a job with Linwood Bean, owner of Webster Associates. Bean's son Clint was also just out of the military and joining the business. Before long, they bought out Clint's father. "I had the experience and Clint had the bloodlines," laughs Ned. "It was much better here than in Montclair – in 1972 there was only one stoplight" in Hanover.

After about five years, Ned took a year off to be executive director of a regional professional tennis tour, a fundraiser. He would line up about 20 players for a specific tournament, paying them with seed money from a sponsoring charity. Selling lessons, exhibitions, and tickets to the tournament would recoup the seed money, and more. Sometimes Ned would play to fill out the draw, a challenge he enjoyed. "These guys were good, they weren't on the circuit, but they were very good," he recalls.

"Tennis has been a phenomenal door-opener most of my life," notes Ned. When he moved to the Upper Valley, he joined the Varsity Courts Club, which rented time on the Dartmouth courts. It was a good way for him to stand out. "I guess I was OK – people said, 'Oh my god, who is this guy?'" Ned recalls. He adds, "My hero was Chuck McKinley. He was a smaller stature guy, like me, and he played serve and volley too." At the nearby squash courts he met Cathie DeYoe, and eventually the pair realized they were a good match. Next year they will celebrate 30 years of marriage.

In late 1978, Ned opened his own office in Hanover on Main St. in a third floor walkup, but moved to more convenient quarters on Main Street above the old Peter Christians, then moved 10 years later to his present site on West Wheelock. Over 30 years ago he joined the Coldwell Banker franchise. National franchises give local business-people national reach, explains Ned: "If someone sells their house in Texas to move here, and they're looking to buy, say they've had a good experience with Coldwell Banker selling their house, they're more likely to turn to us." Success breeds success, he finds; now over 70% of clients are repeat customers. The office sells between 400 and 500 units each year.

Though Ned himself now spends more time in administrative work, and less time listing and selling, he enjoys helping people and is willing to flex to meet the expectations of others. "You can't just be yourself," he says. "You have to be apolitical, a-religious. You dress up, not down. And have a clean car, no dogs!" He admits that his family's fondness for Labrador retrievers has clashed with this stricture.

Ned is happy with the community he's found in Norwich. "Definitely, without question, we're dirt-road people," he says. "We have a post-and-beam, Norwich mentality. In Montclair it was wing-tips, suits, and camel-hair coats."

Ned is in a line of work that makes him keenly aware of development pressures, though it would be shooting the messenger to think that realtors cause growth. He recalls a trip to Tucson: "It was all parking lots and shopping malls and golf courses; the poor desert was really taking it." Fairly recently Norwich was a small farming town, he says, but now the land "is a little bit in danger, because it's just too valuable" unless it's in conservation.

You might wonder if there's a genetic component to choosing to be a realtor. Ned's daughter Amy works with Redpath and Co. His daughter Kelsey is a realtor in Park City, UT. Maybe so, laughs Ned, "it could be, or something learned from watching. It's personality and the ability to be a chameleon." Wanting to help people – and being willing to help them through times of major decision and stress – are necessary traits. It's not about architecture and design features; as Ned points out, "It's a people-oriented business."
The Kellys dreamed of opening an emergency hospital for animals, a service that was not then available; owners of seriously ill pets had to take them to Burlington or Concord, NH. The junction of two interstate highways seemed like a smart location. They started a satellite Stonecliff Clinic at West Lebanon Feed and Supply, since they “really clicked” with the owners there, and in 2010, they opened SAVES (Small Animal Veterinary Emergency Service) in Lebanon near the high school. (The clinic moved into that building, too.)

Success has haunted the Kellys, and as the business grew to almost 30 employees, they found themselves spending more and more time on administrative tasks, and less time with the animal care they love. It was time for another change. Last October they sold the hospital business, staying on to create a smooth transition, which is now accomplished. They have opened the Stonecliff Clinic at 227 Mechanic Street, across from Longacres. (The Bradford clinic was also sold.)

Veterinary surgery and medicine have made astounding advances in recent years. Dan mentions an x-ray they show to children on school tours, of a cat with an arrow shot into both thorax and abdomen. “You wouldn’t believe the things we’ve taken out of dogs,” he exclaims (though most dog owners certainly would). He is pleased to have the skills to heal even extreme cases, though he laments the suffering of the animals he sees.

“Another big concern in general – this is something we worry about – as animal care becomes more advanced, it also becomes more expensive,” Dan says. “We don’t want to see people priced out of caring for their pets. We make a point of working with people to figure out the level of care that will provide the best for the pet and still be workable for the owner. For us it’s never ‘Go big or go home.’”

Dan has a special interest in orthopedic surgery. He’s been trained in a recently developed technique of knee repair for dogs who rupture their ACL. “We’ve created problems without realizing it,” he explains, “by breeding for certain characteristics,” and ignoring changes in conformation. He has studied wild canids, such as coyotes found as roadkills, and seen that the angle of bones making up their knees averages 10° nearer the horizontal than in domestic dogs. The domestic dogs’ steeper angle changes the forces within the joint resulting in torn ligaments. “There’s a paper there,” says Dan, “but I don’t have the time.”

Animal care has always been a family affair for the Kellys, whose four children have all worked in the clinics and on farm calls as well as just spending time with animals. Jodi notes one of the benefits of this involvement: “Many of our clients have been with us for 20 or more years and have watched the kids grow up. The clinic is more like a huge family than a business.”

“My kids have learned so much about life working in the hospital. Lots about how to listen,” says Jodi. Their oldest daughter is now completing a master’s degree in Colorado, aiming for a career in counseling. As far as Jodi knows, none of the children intends to be a vet. “We kind of burned the bridges on that,” she admits. “They saw so much of how it takes so much time. And they have spent many hours cleaning kennels, and waiting for their parents to finish treating just one more sick patient.”

But Dan and Jodi are doing what they love: caring for animals and calming their owners. As the form of their business metamorphoses yet again, they look forward with pleasure to the future, because, says Jodi, “It’s where our heart and soul is.”

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originally came to Spain from Arabia. Farming techniques were brought over, too. The aqueducts built by the Romans are still standing.”

To Scott, these centuries-old elements evidenced the ability of differing ethnicities to live side-by-side and prosper together. “I came to the conclusion that this peaceful co-existence happened because of leadership. If the leaders at the time hadn’t seen the value of co-operation, it wouldn’t have been possible. In fact, diversity is necessary for cultures to flourish.”

Scott himself had a kind of multicultural upbringing. From the time he was a tiny baby until he was 12-years-old, he spent six months of every year in Norwich and six months in Nairobi, Kenya. His dad, anthropologist/political scientist Norman Miller, PhD holds a research professor appointment at Dartmouth Medical School and specializes in global health, the environment and human rights. As part of Dr. Miller’s work, he took his family with him on his annual research trips to East Africa.

“I was always the new kid,” Scott says of his bi-continental upbringing. “I had to be friendly and outgoing. And I learned to make friends quickly.”

Still, he thought of the house in Norwich as home.

“I had everything a kid could ask for,” he says of the family’s house on New Boston Road. “We had woods all around and a pond in the backyard... It was my playground.”

Educated concurrently in the Hanover-Norwich schools and in British schools in East Africa (with a dose of home schooling thrown in), the scientist’s son possessed a good measure of on-board curiosity from the get-go. He did his own kind of field work, right in his Norwich backyard.

“I became a master of catching amphibious creatures,” he says, reminiscing. “I would put on a mask and snorkel, and go down to the pond to look for turtles. I’d swim up underneath them, and watch to see what they did. Sometimes I would catch them and – very, very gently – put them in a bucket for a day or so. But I always put them back in the pond. I never killed things. I was more of a curious gatherer.”

He might not have made the connection himself, but it is clear these two abilities in concert – a knack for adapting quickly to new settings and the practice of close observation without interfering – along with a life-long habit of traveling globally, made Scott particularly well-suited to his chosen profession of photojournalism/ethnography.

On that junior year abroad, the larger questions of how people from very different cultures and opposing religious views work together and prosper captured his imagination.

Then 9-11 happened. Suddenly the notion that people from varying cultures and religions might live together in peace took on a new and urgent relevance. Soon after, Scott joined forces with Hanover native Wynne Washburn, and together they launched the Regarding Diversity Project.

In the spring of 2004, Miller and Washburn went back to Spain to document evidence of the pluralism that had been the norm centuries earlier. They photographed buildings with tile roofs, built with a technology harkening back to the Middle East and China. They captured Spanish citizens practicing Tai-chi in courtyards that were originally modeled on Middle Eastern open-air gardens.

The aqueduct, built in Roman times, modified for agriculture under Arab rule, still brings water from the Alpujarra Mountains onto the arid plains of Iberia where crops such as date palms, citrus and almonds thrive – all crops imported from the middle-east while Iberia was under Arab rule.
patios. They photographed dancers and street-corner protestors, painters and craftsmen. They found evidence of cultural medley everywhere they looked and learned a good deal of history in the process.

“As the variety of artists styles and ideas grew in medieval Spain, the inspiration for craftsmen, musicians, poets and other artists grew exponentially,” they wrote. “Jewish poets began to write verses in Hebrew using the structure of Arabic poems as a base. Musicians from Bagdad were invited to the Court of Cordoba to teach a new form of musical notation – the form we use today.”

During 2005—2006, ten years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, the partners took their cameras to Bosnia-Herzegovina where the former Yugoslavia had been fractured by decades of war. Communities and family members of different religions and belief systems, who had lived and worked side-by-side for generations, were suddenly forced to choose sides. Miller and Washburn traveled from town to town by bus to meet local people and get their perspectives on the aftermath.

La Mezquita/Cathedral (Mosque/Cathedral) was built in Cordoba under Arab rule, with successive Christian rulers keeping the structure intact while adding a gothic cathedral in the middle. The structure remains a site of pilgrimage for both Muslims and Christians.

Scott and his new wife and business partner, Lindsay

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“We were interested in meeting people, learning about the current situation with regard to religious tolerance and understanding how people view the progress of healing within themselves and their country,” they wrote at the time. “We knew the peace accords had physically re-integrated the population that had lived side-by-side in Yugoslavia for 46 years, but we wondered if integration is really what the people wanted.”

What they found was an institutionalized fear of “the other.” In the new paradigm of post war Bosnia- Herzegovina, separate schools were established for each language or dialect. “There were multiple schools in the same village the size of Norwich or smaller, each teaching a different version of the same history in a different language. And each municipality was making up its own rules for its schools,” Scott explains.

They visited a high school in the city of Mostar which had separate classes and teachers for Bosnians, Croats and Bosniaks, though these same students interacted with each other in the hallways and at lunch.

Part III of the Regarding Diversity Project took place in 2006-2007 when they went to India to explore the southwestern state of Kerala where a 5,000-year-old culture had been built on a philosophy of pluralism. Here they explored the harmonious co-existence knitted together by Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Christians. “Our most important finding,” Miller and Washburn wrote, “…was that economic interdependence between religious groups provides an incentive for tolerance.” Muslim fishermen knew that if they fought with their Hindu neighbors as was happening elsewhere in the country during the riots of 1992 and again in 2002, they would lose their customers. “If we riot with the Hindu merchants,” explained the fisherman, “who will buy our fish?”

Eventually, Miller went to graduate school and earned a Masters degree in International Affairs. For six months, he worked with adults with developmental disabilities for six months, teaching them the basics of filmmaking and helping them to complete video projects about their lives. The result is a startlingly personal record of the everyday lives of these Vermonters. They play sports, they socialize, they talk about what they care about, they make plans – all right to the camera, in their own words.

“My approach has always been to ‘capture’ what I see on film. Appreciating what is all around – wanting to participate but not influence,” Scott says about his work. “As a photographer and explorer, my work begins with a question: how can we all live together in peace?”

Lately Scott, along with his wife and business partner Lindsay McClure Miller (they were married this past August) work together on a project called World Story Exchange in which they “…invite all people to observe their place and create documentary art for global exchange.”

Scott and Lindsay travel around the globe, putting cameras in the hands of children, showing them how to use the equipment and then inviting them to make mini-documentaries to tell their own stories or those of their families and friends.

“There are two basic philosophical foundations for my work,” Scott explains. “First, I am interested in using youth-made media to create bridges of communication, and thus foster new understandings and appreciations between participants. These bridges can connect people from different generations, different cultures, different socio-economic groups, and others.

“Secondly, I am interested in fostering active citizens through the creation of documentary artwork. My students are typically assigned some type of community questioning, either making interviews with others or asking students to critically assess the positive, and negative, aspects of their community. Through these acts of on-the-street questioning and engagement, the student is no longer a passive body, no longer a bystander, but is now an active participant in the social order, a citizen, perhaps an activist in the making.”

They have traveled to Vietnam, Brazil, Cambodia, Thailand, Nicaragua, Indonesia, and all over the state of Vermont, teaching children to use still photography, video and audio equipment. Working with the Vermont Folklife Center through its Education Outreach program and “a wide variety of organizations, including K-12 public schools, homeless shelters, teen & parent-child centers, senior centers, public libraries, and organizations for adults with differing abilities,” they have made over 200 short documentaries.

“I continue to be fascinated by humanity,” Scott writes, “I am simultaneously inspired and saddened by our capacity to create and destroy, socially and ecologically, the groups we live among, and the places we share.”

Above and below are photos from a workshop Scott and Lindsay taught earlier this year in the town of Kuta, on the Island of Lombok, Indonesia.
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to give books to children at Christmas. And, through the energy of two book sellers, “The Book Jam,” a jazzy blog, was born in 2010 to spread news of good books. Lisa Christie and Lisa Cadow stated their mission: “We’re here to help you out of those troublesome ‘book jams.’ You’re in a ‘jam’ when you ask: ‘What should I read next?’ ‘What’s the best new cookbook to give Mom?’ ‘What do I, rural girl in a flannel shirt, give my sophisticated best friend who lives in New York City or Seattle?’ We aim to put the right book in the right hands at the right time.”

The Book Jam’s roots are both practical and idealistic. Christie explains, “The blog started because the Bookstore needed a stronger internet presence. And we both really strongly believe in the power of books and stories to change lives.” She adds, “Basically, we decided the blog would not be ‘work.’ We’re not book critics per se – if we don’t like something, we don’t review it.” Enthusiasm shines through the blog and makes you want to abandon other projects and run to the library or the Bookstore or your “to read” shelf and start reading!

The two Lisas read whatever catches their fancy, whether because of reviews, events in the news, or their own family or travel plans. There have been posts on Pakistan, natural disasters, and Iceland’s Nobel-prize winning Haldor Laxness. After reading independently, the Lisas consult with each other and find a theme developing for the blog. There’s a new post every other Monday, except in the summer, when they take a “Gone Reading” break from posting – but never from reading. The blog has over 500 subscribers and gets about 1,000 hits a month.

Eventually the Lisas decided to put on a live event, and in April 2012 introduced Pages in the Pub, a sort of speed-dating for books, and a fundraiser for the Norwich Library, held at the Norwich Inn. Four local book mavens each reviewed three books; admission tickets covered a drink and a donation to the library. The Bookstore took book orders. The event sold out and then some, and in later years Lisa Christie has taken it on the road, linking up with independent bookstores in northern Vermont and Rhode Island to spread enthusiasm for good books. (Early notice is here given: Norwich’s next Pages in the Pub will be the week after Thanksgiving.)

Lisa Cadow, who is on the board of the Norwich Library, discovered “Tables of Content,” another fundraising idea. Hosts pick a book they love – “in that year, or in their lives” says Cadow – and guests sign up for a dinner gathering based on the book, not knowing who the hosts are. “Almost more important than the book discussion is the community-building,” Cadow says, though the several thousand dollars each event raises are helping the library achieve opening on Sundays during the school year.

Lisa Christie currently devotes most of her time to parenting, but B.C. – Before Children – she spent several years donating her talents to a non-profit called “Everybody Wins!” which links adult volunteers with children for a once a week reading session. “It’s a great story, how it got started,” says Lisa, launching into her story like the Ancient Mariner. “It began in New York City in 1992. A businessman in the garment district walked by a school every morning on his way to work, and he went in to the principal and said he’d like to read to some of the kids. I guess she looked at him as though he had twelve heads, but he persuaded her and eventually she said OK. He had so much fun doing it, he talked about it at work and got everyone doing it.”

The model is simple: one adult meets once a week with one child to share reading and discussion of a book. Meetings are at lunch or recess, so they don’t disrupt the school program, and it’s supposed to be fun; if the child doesn’t like one book, help them pick out another.

The program attracted the attention of Senators Jeffords and Kennedy, who headed the HEW committee, and they sicced their staffs on investigating. The report came back, “It’s fabulous!” so the senators challenged colleagues and staff to try it at a local elementary school. Apparently the school nearest the Capitol is not a high-performing school, but rather, says Christie, the kind of place where there are shots on the street corners. The program was a success in D.C., and spread to several other cities. An effort was made to bring it to Vermont, but failed.

When she moved to Vermont in 1999 and couldn’t find a paid job, Christie took up the challenge to restart an “Everybody Wins!” program in the state. The first year she established the program in Rutland and Barre. A $2,000 grant from CVPS covered the cost of local coordinators. Her goal was to have 20 volunteers working in each city; by the end of the year she had 40 in Barre and 100 in Rutland. After 4 years she had 17 schools on board, with about 600 volunteers. In the White River School, the closest participating school to Norwich, there has been a volunteer for every kid in the school.

“Teachers in Vermont consistently say, no matter what school, that the people who benefit most are not the highest or lowest performing students, but the average kids in the middle. Is it because they usually don’t get much attention? Who knows, but they become more confident, and more interactive in the classroom.”

Christie is not fussy about formats: paper, e-reader, audiobook – she enjoys them all. With her characteristic gusto she exclaims, “Anything that gets people reading, I’m all for it!”

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Killedeer Farm
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When I got home Sunday night, I was too euphoric to sleep,” said Jeannette Birge, program director for Child and Family Services of NH (CFSNH).

On the evening of August 23, Birge arrived home after a night spent under the stars for her agency’s event, CampOut for the Cause, the first fundraiser of its kind for CFSNH. The event was organized to raise funds for a much-needed supervised visitation center serving families of the Upper Valley. As of August 23, the CampOut had raised $25,000.

In 2014, Emerge Family Advocates, a supervised visitation center in Hartland, VT, closed its doors. In its wake, the center left many children separated from their families without a way to safely visit their parents. CFSNH serves primarily VT and NH families who are at risk of losing their children and “require some intensive intervention to keep the family intact,” Birge explained. When children are “in jeopardy,” perhaps due to abuse or neglect, they are often separated, but visitation between child and parent remains important.

“Children grow up a lot healthier when they have safe connections with their parents,” Birge said. “That’s what supervised visitation is for.”

Birge said there are hundreds of area children and parents who will benefit from the supervised visitation center and fundraisers like the CampOut are important in making it happen.

On Saturday, August 22, more than 100 people gathered at Storrs Pond Recreation Area in Hanover, NH, for a day of outdoor activities – from making fairy houses and building sandcastles, to three-legged races and swimming. There was a visit by the raptors from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, a treasure hunt, tennis, and fire truck demonstrations by the Hanover Fire Department. Live music by Jenni Johnson and ArtisTrio provided a festive mood throughout the day, Birge said. About 30 families, Birge estimated, stayed overnight for a campout including s’mores, songs around the campfire, and ghost stories told by children.

The campout raised funds specifically for CFSNH’s goal of providing the supervised visitation center, with each overnight family paying $100 or more for their campsite. Some families raised additional money on their own to donate or paid $10 to spend the day participating in the activities.

Support was also provided by corporate sponsorships and area businesses pitching in at the event. ArtisTree – an art center and gallery in South Pomfret travel for over an hour to get to a visitation center, and some can’t even get there.”

McCampbell camped out for the night with her daughter after a full day at the event. “It turned out to be great fun and very family-friendly,” she said. McCampbell, who attended with three friends, their two children, and met up with her sister at the event, said she plans on getting more families involved next year.

But will there be a Campout for the Cause 2016? Birge answered with a resounding “Yes!”

Birge said during the event she had a few moments to steal away and look upon the campground from a little hill.

“Every now and then I got a chance to just stand still … and the vista brought me to tears,” she said. She saw families playing games, a little boy rubbing the belly of his yellow lab, children sitting in the grass talking. “It was so emotional for me to see that, because that is my work.”

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See “Spotlight On Our Sponsor” on Page 28
Norwich Hosts Annual Labor Day Run

Frank Orlowski

Since the mid 1980s, Norwich has heralded the annual Labor Day holiday with a fun, yet competitive run for everyone in the Upper Valley to enjoy. This Labor Day marked the 31st year for the run, said Jill Kearney Niles, recreation director for the town. Kearney Niles is well acquainted with the annual event, as she has headed up the Labor Day Race for 21 of those 31 years.

The run is actually two separate races, a shorter 2.2 mile event, and a traditional 10k event. The 2015 event was the first actual certified 10k race, Kearney Niles explained. In past years, the longer race was described as “10k plus.” This year, however, with the assistance of Jim Burnett of the Upper Valley Running Club, Kearney Niles said they mapped out a true 10k course. For competitive runners, having a race certified a certain distance is important when comparing times and results.

The shorter 2.2 mile event is more of a fun event, said Kearney Niles. “It’s pretty low key,” she said. “We really encourage kids and families in that one,” she added.

Not only is this race family friendly, it is stroller friendly, as some participants run while pushing their little ones in a stroller. Not completely lacking competitiveness, though, this fun race does offer prizes in two categories for the kids, and a prize for the winning adult.

The 10k race offers prizes for winners in three age categories; 34 years and under, ages 35 – 49, and age 50 and over, plus awards for the overall male and female winners. Though Kearney Niles said in the 10k race “there are more men than women competing,” the 2014 race saw women as the top three finishers. Last year’s overall winner was Sara Donahue, a nationally known competitive runner with strong ties to Norwich.

Putting on a race such as this requires a considerable amount of organizing, with much assistance needed, said Kearney Niles. Logistics and safety are particularly important, and Kearney Niles said the Norwich Police do a great job ensuring the safety of the runners, and making sure traffic moves smoothly.

“We stop traffic for a short time at the beginning of the race, but we don’t close off the roads,” said Kearny Niles. Traffic cones, route markers, and volunteers at key points assist the runners during the race. The race begins and ends at the Norwich Green.

Several area businesses help sponsor the race, and provide prizes to the winners, said Kearney Niles. Among those are Bakewell, King Arthur Flour, and Stateline Sports of West Lebanon.

As expected, volunteers prove critical in making this event succeed. The town’s recreation council members, and many individual volunteers, provide great support said Kearney Niles. One race volunteer with a long history of involvement in the Upper Valley running scene is former Hanover High cross-country coach, Jim Eakin. In 2014, Eakin was the official race starter.

“I want to send a huge thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers,” said Kearney Niles. Asked if the event has changed over the 21 years Kearney Niles has organized it, she replied “not all that much.” That includes the entry fees, which are noticeably low; $2 for those under 18, $5 for those over 18, and $10 for families. “We want to keep it affordable and let everyone take part,” said Kearney Niles.

Author’s note: As the 2015 race happened September 7, we were unable to include race results in this article. To check on results, please visit the Norwich Recreation Department’s website.
There Was a Lot to Celebrate This Summer

Summer Concert Series
The Summer Concert series included three different shows: the big band sound of Red Hot Juba, classic rock from The Flames, plus folksy Out On A Limb. Each concert drew a crowd to Norwich Green, where adults enjoyed picnic dinners while the kids played on the lawn. The Norwich Business Council provided ice cream and watermelon at the July concert.

Norwich Traffic Circle
Mary Holbrooke and a dedicated group of volunteers kept the Norwich traffic circle looking lovely and welcoming all season long.

Upcoming Coffee & Conversations
Don’t miss Coffee and Conversations at the Norwich Inn on Main Street. It’s a great chance to meet new friends and reconnect. All welcome.
  Monday, October 5, 10-11am
  Monday, November 2, 10-11am

Nearly New Sale
The Fall Nearly New Sale will have a “new look” this year with an improved floor plan, more racks, and fewer tables to make shopping easier. A plus-size department will also be available. The Nearly New Sale is a win-win for participants and the community. Consignors receive 50% of sale price for each garment and the remaining proceeds benefit the Norwich Women's Club Scholarship Fund. Last year over $24,000 was awarded to Norwich residents for post secondary education, thanks to this initiative. Check out this fall's schedule for the Nearly New Sale:
  9/16-10/7, 8am-8pm: Pre-consignment packets available
  Wednesday 10/14, 12-8pm: Inspection/acceptance of pre-consigned garments
  Thursday 10/15, 9am-8pm: Consignment and Inspections at Tracy Hall
  Friday 10/16, 9am-2pm: Consignment at Tracy Hall
  Friday 10/16, 4-6pm: Workers Sale
  Friday 10/16, 7-9pm: Nearly New Sale Grand Opening
  Saturday 10/17, 9am-4pm: Nearly New Sale Continues
  Sunday 10/18, 10am-1pm: Nearly New Half-Off Sale
  Sunday 10/18, 1:30-3pm: Nearly New Bag Sale

Becoming a Member
Becoming a member of the Norwich Women’s Club is as easy as going to www.norwichwomensclub.org/membership.html. No need to be asked to join. All women from the Upper Valley are welcome. It’s a great way to connect with the community.

Coffee and conversations

The Friends of the Morrill Homestead Presents

19th Century
Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015, 11AM-3PM
Justin Morrill State Historic Site
Strafford, Vermont

Celebrate Johnny Appleseed's birthday with...
- Heirloom apples & Vermont artisan cheeses
- Old-fashioned cider pressing
- Face painting & period games
- Live Music
- Apple pie contest
- Hand-cranked ice cream
- Hiking & Valley Quest

Lunch included with admissions

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National Historic Landmark & State-Owned Historic Site
214 Morrill Memorial Highway, Strafford, Vermont
www.morrillhomestead.org
King Arthur Flour’s 3rd Annual Sundae Sunday

Donations collected will benefit Hunger Free Vermont’s Summer Food Service Program.

King Arthur Flour hosted their 3rd annual Sundae Sunday July 19th from 12-3pm to benefit Hunger Free Vermont. Visitors to the Baker's Store courtyard enjoyed ice cream sundaes featuring Ben and Jerry’s ice cream, along with hot fudge, caramel, whipped cream, sprinkles, and nuts.

This year’s event attracted about 115 people from the Upper Valley and beyond. “This was the best surprise,” commented a group of Dartmouth students, who stumbled upon the event. Each $5 donation collected will go to the Hunger Free Vermont’s Summer Food Service Program, a program specifically targeting childhood hunger. A total of $570 was collected at the three hour event.

“We are thrilled to be the beneficiary for King Arthur Flour’s Sundae Sunday event again this year. When schools close for the summer, many kids lose their source of regular, nutritious breakfast and lunch. The proceeds from this event will help us do our crucial outreach and training to bring summer meal programs to children in communities throughout the state,” says Marissa Parisi, Hunger Free Vermont’s Executive Director.

Flour also has a Bake Truck that visits festivals, grocery stores and events all over the United States, giving out delicious cookies and collecting donations for local food related organizations.

“Giving back to the community is an important value that we hold at King Arthur Flour. And what better way than an ice cream social on a hot summer day, and when proceeds benefit a local organization everyone feels good,” says John Tunnicliffe, Director of Camelot.

To learn of similar events, community members can sign up for King Arthur Flour’s monthly event email at www.kingarthurflour.com/visit.
Vermont’s Farm to Plate Initiative is the statewide initiative created to increase economic development and jobs in Vermont’s farm and food sector... and to improve access to healthy food for all Vermonters. The ten-year Food to Plate Strategic Plan to strengthen the working landscape, build the resiliency of farms and food enterprises, improve environmental quality, and increase healthy, local food access, is being implemented by the Food to Plate network of over 350 farm and food sector organizations from across Vermont!

Ellen Kahler, Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) recently told us, “When we first released the Food to Plate Strategic Plan, the chapter on food system education included an objective to build Vermont’s reputation and marketability as the premier food education location in the United States. It also included a strategy to encourage coordination among institutions of higher education to collectively market outstanding food education opportunities in Vermont. It is wonderful to see ideas that have been floating around for a number of years...get traction and come to fruition.

The Vermont Food System Study Tour of the summer of 2015, was a terrific opportunity for students to get exposed to the many innovative farms and food businesses that are at the heart of Vermont’s agricultural renaissance.”

The Vermont Higher Education Food Systems Consortium was originally launched in November, 2013. This Consortium is comprised of the University of Vermont, Vermont Tech, Green Mountain College, Sterling College, Middlebury College, New England Culinary Institute, and Vermont Law School.

The 404-mile trip included visiting classrooms, the field and the forest. Included on the tour were discussions on bees and climate change by well-known educator, Bill McKibben; panel lectures at the Vermont Food Systems Summit and visits to Thetford’s Cedar Circle Farm and local White River Junction’s Chelsea Green Publishing Company. Sterling College offered a workshop in artisan cheese and rural revitalization. Vermont Tech. featured a dairy, a regional slaughterhouse and a vegetable operation. University of Vermont Extension, and Catamount Farm highlighted its work-in-progress, an urban farm system. Green Mountain College featured Greener Pasture Meats, Champlain Orchards, and Kirk Webster Apiary. A tour blog is available at www.vermontfoodeducation.org/field-day-the-summer-study-tour-blog-3.

One of the tour’s student participants, Sandra Snyder, said, “The summer study tour was rigorous academically and complex logistically. It was a lot of hard work, but also a lot of fun. One of the nicest experiences was having two professors traveling with us. We received on-site education and then had a chance to discuss what we had seen.”

Paul Costello, Ph.D., Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development and Consortium facilitator said, “We built this program collaboratively to celebrate and share Vermont’s leadership as the epicenter of the nation’s food system renewal. Through exposure to education, entrepreneurship, and policy, we invited students to Vermont this summer for a transformational immersion in our food systems. We think this inaugural three-week program far exceeded our expectations.”

Farm to Plate is coordinated by Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, a non-profit organization, based in Montpelier. For information, visit www.vtfarmtoplate.com.

Vernal Pools – Mercury in the Food Web?

Although not conspicuous features of our landscape, vernal pools are small, ephemeral wetlands that provide critical breeding habitat for several species of amphibians and many invertebrates. Like other wetland types in the Northeast, vernal pools are subject to airborne mercury contamination (primarily from Midwestern coal-fired power plants and incinerators) via rainfall and snowmelt. Although widely-known as an environmental toxin, in its inorganic form mercury tends to bind to soil, which prevents it from entering the food chain. Problems arise, however, when chemistry of the local environment creates conditions that allow transformation of inorganic mercury to its more toxic and bioavailable form, methylmercury. This conversion is facilitated by periodic drying and re-wetting of wetlands, and/or low oxygen and pH levels – conditions common to many vernal pools.

Although documenting mercury levels in a variety of wetlands and wildlife has received much attention in recent years, almost no work has been done in vernal pools. To address this data gap, Vermont Center for EcoStudies is collaborating with Dartmouth College Research Associates Dr. Vivien Taylor and Dr. Kate Buckman to investigate mercury levels in Vermont vernal pool food webs. Beginning in 2014, we sampled water from 12 Upper Valley vernal pools. Preliminary results from this pilot season confirmed our suspicions – methylmercury levels were quite high, averaging 28% of total mercury (range = 10-45%), especially when compared to Upper Valley lakes and rivers, which had methylmercury concentrations typically well below 10%.

This past spring we broadened our scope, sampling 20 additional pools across Vermont, including six in the Upper Valley at which we intensively sampled water, soil, leaf litter, as well as invertebrates and amphibians. In April, just after ice-out, we live-captured adult wood frogs and spotted salamanders at each of the six Upper Valley pools and collected a small amount of tissue and blood from each for mercury analysis. In early May, we collected eggs of both species from each pool, and during June we sampled tadpoles at different stages of development. Throughout the spring we collected samples of a suite of vernal pool invertebrates, ranging from detritivores such as caddisfly larvae, to filter feeders like fairy shrimp, to predators such as predaceous diving beetles.

Once all these samples are analyzed by Dr. Taylor using mass spectrometry, we will better understand whether vernal pools are mercury “hotspots,” and how mercury cycles through the food web. For example, do mercury burdens increase (bioaccumulate) as tadpoles grow, and do predaceous salamander tadpoles accumulate higher mercury burdens than herbivorous frog tadpoles (via biomagnification)? Comparing mercury burdens in invertebrates with different feeding strategies will provide important insights as to whether mercury biomagnifies as it is transferred up the vernal pool’s complex invertebrate food web, from detritus to prey to predator.

Stay tuned for additional findings from this groundbreaking study, which will improve our understanding of how mercury moves through the terrestrial environment and, importantly, may inform actions to further regulate this toxic element.

– Steve Faccio, VCE Conservation Biologist
Stonecliff Animal Clinic: Katelyn Rousseau

When the Stonecliff Animal Clinic of New Hampshire was established on Mechanic Street in Lebanon, founder Daniel Kelly, DVM had established a mission statement.

“Our goal is to provide the best veterinary medical care in the northeast with state of the art equipment, the most knowledgeable staff, and a genuine love for our patients and their companions.”

Lebanon native Katelyn Rousseau appears to fit that environment perfectly. Following her graduation from Lebanon High School, Katelyn enrolled in the Veterinary Technician School of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania earning an Associates Degree. That was followed by an internship at the Central Vermont Humane Society in Montpelier, Vermont.

“Animals have always been my passion in life,” Katelyn explained. “After high school, I considered several options, but I wanted to follow that passion. After my internship, I applied here at Stonecliff and was accepted as a Veterinary Technician. I just love it here.”

Along with meeting the mission statement requirements, Katelyn adds another dimension; unbridled enthusiasm. Just what does a Veteranarian Technician do?

“Just about everything,” she declared with a wide smile. “We do so much it's hard to name them all. We are cross-trained and help with about every aspect of veterinary care. I am the most happy when I can be hands-on with everything.”

One requirement of the job includes her interaction with pet owners, a key ingredient in complete veterinary care.

“Dealing with people on a daily basis is very important. I love pets and people and it’s important to treat both with respect. When you love both, it makes your job so much easier and rewarding.”

The next time you bring your four-legged family member into Stonecliff, stop and chat awhile with Katelyn. You are likely to find her just about anywhere on the premises.

Mascoma Savings Bank: Cody Thurston

For Cody Thurston, working at the Norwich branch of Mascoma Savings Bank gives him a sense of belonging while also allowing him to flex his mathematical muscle.

“I enjoy working with people, and numbers have always been my strong suit, (particularly) addition,” Thurston said. “I’ve built strong relationships with my co-workers and friendships along the way.”

Thurston, a lifelong Fairlee, VT resident, is a personal banker. He got his start as a teller at the White River Junction, VT, office on Sykes Mountain Avenue.

“I started with the bank because it seemed like a great place to work,” he said, adding that any proof he needed was in his neighbor’s decades-long career at the bank: Rita Degoosh just recently retired after 20 years with MSB.

While Thurston enjoys the face-time he gets with clients, stressful situations do arise, but support, he said, is always on hand at MSB.

“I handle stressful situations by delving into the situation and if I can't solve the issue, I can always find someone who can,” Thurston said.

“Mascoma is great in that sense because there is always someone I can call who is happy to help.”

While Thurston said he doesn’t have his future career plans “mapped out” yet, he’s thinking about it. He attended Keene State for two years, but decided to work instead as he was concerned about school debt. MSB may hold a future for him, he said, adding it’s a “great place to work.”

Outside of the office, Thurston can be found enjoying a number of outdoor activities year-round, including golfing, fishing, hiking, and campfires. On a hot summer day, you might find him at Joey Scoops, an ice cream shop in Fairlee. “Joey is one of my good friends,” Thurston said.

“In the winter I enjoy skiing and skating on Lake Morey. Lake Morey has the longest skating trail in the United States, you know!”

Thurston has family in Fairlee, including his parents Peter and Karen, and two cats, Mr. Leo and Little Girl.

SAVE: Mike Barskey

California native Michael Barskey traveled a long way to find his dream job, and the journey was well worth the effort.

Mike started working as a Client Care Coordinator at the Small Animal Veterinary Emergency Services (SAVE) facility on Evans Drive in Lebanon a little over a year ago. Just recently, he was promoted to supervisor. It was a case of destiny fulfilled.

“I have held a lifetime passion and love of animals, especially dogs, and I spotted a help wanted advertisement by SAVES looking for people who would give animals a four-star experience. That really intrigued me…,” Mike explained. “What I especially love here at SAVES is the team approach they use. It is always all about the welfare of pets and their owners on an equal basis.”

SAVES’ Regional Hospital Director, Kristi Cablay, had this to say: “Mike was recently promoted to his position when SAVES was acquired by IVG, Inc. and is playing such an integral role at focusing on client service. It is very important that SAVES keeps its autonomy and place in the local community. As a strong leader and a local person, Mike is the most appropriate person for the position.”

Mike has lived in the Upper Valley for seven years and he and his dog, Guster, currently reside in Grafton, N.H. So, why would someone leave the California lifestyle behind and migrate to the Upper Valley?

“Actually it was the lifestyle here that was the attraction. I very much like the neighborhood attitude of New England with its live-and-let-live point of view. This is a wonderful area.” Mike said.

Being an avid pet lover himself, Mike embraced SAVES’ philosophy where pets and their owners share equal care and compassion.

“Yes, we are here for patient care (animals) but remember these pets are an integral part of the family, so the owners’ state of mind and well-being are equally important. It is a 30-30 situation.”

“I cannot imagine people not having pets. They certainly don’t know what they are missing.”

CB Redpath: Alisa Brisson

Alisa Brisson found her niche in real estate, but prior to helping people buy and sell homes and before her work as a stay-at-home mom, Brisson could be found navigating her way through the sky.

Brisson – a sales associate at Coldwell Banker Redpath in Hanover with 10 years under her belt – received her B.S. in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. After earning her initial
pilot licenses, she flight instructed, flew charters and corporate jets, and eventually took a position with a commuter airline.

“I flew the historic DC-3 and other commuter-sized airplanes,” Brisson said. “Then I flew for US Air and United where I flew large transport jets globally. After having my children, I gave up flying to be home full-time. Ten years later, I got my real estate license.”

Brisson said she was drawn to real estate because she enjoys working with people and providing a professional service.

“I consider myself a source of knowledge, expertise, and guidance during a phase of people’s lives when they need assistance. Buying and selling real estate is stressful on people. There’s the nuts-and-bolts of the move, the process, contracts, and then the emotional upheaval, which can make a move into something multi-layered. I like to tap into what my clients need on all of those levels and try to support each facet.”

Originally from Brockton, Massachusetts, Brisson has lived in New Hampshire for 20 years, where she makes her home in Hanover with her husband Mark, and two daughters, Chloe, who is a jazz vocalist at the New England Conservatory in Boston, and Ella, who is a junior at Hanover High. “I come from a large family of seven and think family is very important,” Brisson said.

In her free time, Brisson finds respite in nature where she hikes and mountain bikes. “I trek in the woods pretty much every day! I like to get out and clear my head and I find being in the woods is a great salve.” “In the summer I try to spend as much time as possible on Squam Lake! In winter, I am usually out skiing or skating.”

She also enjoys making music, meeting with friends, and volunteering for community dinners at the Listen Center.
Gear Up to Give!

The 19 Days of Norwich, 1% for the Haven is gearing up for our third year. Last year, over $231,000 was raised, thanks largely to a $75,000.00 matching grant from The Byrne Foundation, as well as support from the entire Upper Valley and beyond.

By shopping locally at businesses displaying the yellow 19 Days posters, you are not only keeping your money in our community, but also supporting businesses that give back to support The Haven.

We hope to roll out a few new events and activities this year, so be on the lookout for some fun stuff. We are ramping up the online auction and would love donations. It’s never too early or too late!

Finally, please contact me if your business would like to participate – it is fun, easy and helps our community on many levels. (dan@danandwhits.com). Thank you!

– Dan Fraser, Dan and Whit’s

Modern Wood Heat Forum – In Norwich and Online

Forget what you thought you knew about wood pellet heating and consider making your next boiler a wood pellet boiler. Modern wood pellet technology is efficient, renewable, and hands free, with many great rebates available to help offset upfront costs. We’ve pulled together a panel of experts to help you decide whether wood could work for you. Join us on Tuesday, September 15, 6-8 pm at the Montshire Museum, or watch live online.

Looking for a great way to enjoy all the beautiful autumn scenery and eat all your favorite fall foods? Register today for the General Stores Super Quest! You’ll tour of some of the Upper Valley’s best historic downtown areas, and you can sample some delicious treats along the way. You’ll be entered to win one of our fabulous prizes just for registering your team! And if your team solves the puzzle, you could win the grand prize!

Vital Communities is a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, Vermont, that brings together citizens, organizations, and municipalities in the Upper Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire to take on issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential.

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Quality Time on the Porch of the Norwich Inn

Lars Blackmore

On a late summer evening nothing much happens on the porch at the Norwich Inn, and that’s just the way it’s supposed to be. A light breeze keeps the bugs at bay and mitigates the lingering heat of the day. The hum of what passes for downtown Norwich is canceled out by the trickle of water in the fountain on the Inn’s lawn. It is as if time moves a little slower when you ascend the stairs to the porch, your day stretches a little and provides you with a moment or two to relax and reflect nestled in one of the comfortable rocking chairs with a commanding view of everything and nothing in particular.

Some who do it are locals in the know, like the two medical students taking five minutes out of their hectic schedule at the hospital to enjoy ice cream cones from Dan & Whit’s, decompress, and talk about their plans and dreams for the future.

Others are guests at the Inn, smiling in appreciation of the good things in life as they bring cocktails from the pub onto the porch to complement some quality time spent with a good book, or simply to lubricate the pleasant small talk before dinner.

A family from Massachusetts with two young kids checks in at the front desk, then heads over to Dan & Whit’s to explore. Upon returning, they settle down on the porch to enjoy some apple cider donuts and take in their new surroundings. No national monuments or major attractions here, but they seem to like what they see all the same, and mom figures that the family at ease on the porch is worthy of a photo, creating the first lasting memory of a new adventure together.

A couple from Ottawa have picked Norwich and its Inn as a convenient overnight stop on their way back from dropping off their daughter at Smith College. In no rush to be anywhere, they sit in the twilight on the porch, sampling the Inn’s famous micro brews, marveling at the uneventful life of small-town America as it unfolds before them.

This, then, is what the porch at the Norwich Inn has to offer: the chance to slow down, buy a beer, and linger a while with good company. On the porch, you have the opportunity to appreciate the simple, timeless things that makes Norwich such a special place for visitors and locals alike.

See “Spotlight on our Sponsor” on page 28
“A Day In the Life” is proudly sponsored by Coldwell Banker Redpath, a locally-owned real estate company dedicated to community-building initiatives throughout the Upper Valley.

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