

A FREE PUBLICATION

TRENDY TIMES



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DECEMBER 22, 2020 VOLUME 12, NUMBER 6

Robert J. Chapla, Art Pilgrim

One of Robert J. Chapla's paintings bears the title "The Far Side". It is a painting of cows, which seem not only to have transcended earth, but also evoke in strength and color, the power of the sky, or even a blue ocean filled with waves. It is a far cry from his earlier plein-air paintings. By comparing it to his earlier "The Herd Calls" the viewer can see the progression. "The Far Side" pushes a subject we know so well, especially here in Vermont, into a new visual realm.

The show will take place at the Northeast Kingdom Artists Guild at 430 Railroad St. in St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 In our Back Room Gallery from January 15th to February 27th, 2021.

Robert J. Chapla was Midwest born and raised, educated on the East Coast, and lived for many years in the San Francisco Bay area. As a teacher, and painter the variety of landscapes, physically and emotionally have been reflected in his work. Moving to Vermont 12 years ago, to Robert felt like a return "to my painting 'roots' and to the seasonal changes and scenes that are so important to my paintings."

His paintings range from realistic to abstract, to imbue his paintings with an expressive movement, stating "Lately I have added more fluid acrylic effects—an attempt to achieve an interactive unity to my work."

This show connects older

paintings with his new ones, his Pilgrim's progress as he enriches his art with new vision and color. Among the subject matter chosen to illustrate these changes are freeways, cows, flowers and quarries.

Robert grew up in Lorain, Ohio and graduated from Columbia College in New York City with a degree in Art History. He has taken numerous graduate classes in fine art at several institutions including Cleveland Art Institute, Washington Univ., St. Louis, SF Academy of Art and others. He has exhibited widely and taught extensively over the years, including 6 years in Yosemite Valley and locally at SPA Gallery in Barre, Vt., as well as the



summer adult program at Putney School, Putney, Vt.

The Gallery is open from 11:00 to 5:00 Tuesday-Saturday.

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TRENDY Dining Guide

Iron Rail Pub + Grill

by Gary Scruton

I realize that I have not been able to write very much lately in our Trendy Dining Guide. If you couldn't guess it's because Janice and I have severely curtailed our dining out. We have certainly still done some take outs, but there have been many more home cooked meals of late.

One of those recent take outs was from a new establishment to Woodsville as well as to the Trendy Dining Guide. The Iron Rail Pub & Grill located just off Central Street seems, from the outside like they are doing fine during the current circumstances. The parking lot seems to have plenty of traffic and I have spoken with some others who have visited the Iron Rail and have become regulars.

It was a Friday night when we looked online and found their menu. As you may guess from their name they feature a nice variety of pub fare including burgers, appetizers and pizza. But of course we wanted something different.

We were both happy with their choices off the entree

section of their menu. Janice went to the pasta section and chose Chicken Alfredo & Broccoli. The menu said it was served over Fettuccine with Garlic Bread. I went further down the menu and ordered Derailed Steak Tips, further described as Marinated Beef Tips. They came with a choice of two side orders. My taste buds told me to try the onion rings and the macaroni and cheese.

We called in the order and were told it would be about 15 to 20 minutes. Not a bad wait time for full meals. When we arrived on this particularly cold night there was a parking spot near the front door. The closest spots being reserved for handicap parking next to a handicap "lift" to raise a wheelchair to the porch landing. Janice stayed in the car while I went up the front steps, through the double doors and walked up to the hostesses podium.

I went to pay for the meal with a credit card and the hostess quickly pulled the credit card reader out and was nice enough to assist me with its operation. She then went to check on our meals and came back to say

they would be ready in three minutes.

While waiting I saw another couple come in. When they stepped to the podium they stated that they planned to sit at the bar so they were instructed to sign the tracing sheet and then found their way further into the building.

One more note regarding the building was that the floor looked very much like the original wooden floor that may have been there when the building was used during train days. It gave a nice feel to the atmosphere.

Our meals came out in a bag, I handed the hostess a cash tip (not their fault that we chose to take out rather than eat in), and headed out to the car. It's not far for us to get back home, and we quickly got out plates along

with utensils.

The carry out containers were the biodegradable cardboard type which allowed Janice to eat about half of her meal right from the container. Her garlic bread came wrapped in aluminum foil. The other half of her meal was saved for eating the next day in a smaller container.

My steak tips and onion rings were in the main dish and I put them on a plate to make it easier to cut the tips. My macaroni and cheese was in a separate container.

In regards to the food itself, neither one of us was anywhere near disappointed.

The garlic bread was tasty and nicely toasted crisp. The alfredo sauce was creamy and delicious. There was plenty of chicken and broccoli to finish off the taste treat.

I got about a half dozen nice thick steak tips that were grilled (as seen by the grill marks) that cut easily, tasted wonderful, and pleased my taste buds to no end. The onion rings were also plentiful. The macaroni and cheese was another delight. It was cooked with a cracker crumb topping.

The total cost for our two meals was \$35.97 including the tax.

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Northeast Credit Union Provides Remote Financial Literacy Learning Resources to Local Schools

by Lizzie Fitts
Public Relations

Northeast Credit Union stepped up to make partial or full remote learning in the wake of COVID-19 easier. Thanks to their sponsorship, over 2,800 students and teachers at 8 schools in Grafton County will have free access to Banzai. Sponsored schools include: Plymouth Elementary School, Lebanon Junior High School, Ledyard Charter Academy, Calvary Christian School, Holderness School, Plymouth Regional High School, Mount Prospect Academy, Lebanon High School and Woodsville High School. Banzai is an award-winning online financial literacy program and content library of articles, calculators, and personalizable Coaches. All of these resources are available to students at home or in the classroom via any device that can access the internet.

"Banzai is a web-based financial literacy program.

Kids get their own accounts, and they work through assignments that are based on real life," says Morgan Vandagriff, co-founder of Banzai. "But because Northeast Credit Union is sponsoring it, local schools get it for free. More than ever, it's important that kids develop sound financial skills to prepare them for the real world, and Northeast Credit Union realizes that and they're doing something about it."

Banzai content builds a foundation of practical knowledge and gives students the tools to create a sound financial future. While students learn, teachers can easily monitor and grade their progress remotely. After finishing Banzai, students will know how to track where their money is and what it's for, recognize financial trade-offs, build a budget, and more. At a time when many are facing unprecedented financial challenges, these lessons are invaluable. The Banzai resources are available at northeast.learnbanzai.com.

zai.com.

For many years, Northeast Credit Union has worked to build financial literacy in the Grafton County community by investing time, money, industry experience, and a variety of credit union resources. Beyond the Banzai library, Northeast Credit Union also offers virtual or in-classroom presentations from local experts on timely topics. Banzai resources are used by over 72,000 teachers across the U.S. The courses align with New Hampshire's state curriculum requirements, making the program a fun way for students to gain vital financial literacy skills.

Teachers interested in using the Banzai program with their class can visit northeast.teachbanzai.com or call 888-8-BANZAI.

For more information about Banzai visit teachbanzai.com

For more information about Northeast Credit Union visit necu.org

New Weather Station in Northern NH To Assist With Wildfire Prevention

The N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, in cooperation with the N.H. Department of Fish and Game, has installed a new Remote Automated Weather Station at the Warren Fish Hatchery.

RAWS are self-contained solar-powered weather stations that provide local weather data, including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction along with rainfall measurements, solar radiation levels, as well as fuel temperature and moisture. Data are updated on an hourly basis utilizing Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite transmissions. The data are used by fire prevention and management professionals to monitor and calculate daily wildfire danger.

The Warren station is the fourth permanent RAWS installed in New Hampshire; one additional portable weather station is also in service. Together, they form a network that monitors daily wildfire danger factors from the North Country to the Monadnock Region to the Seacoast.

The White Mountain National Forest will benefit from the Warren station's location and will use the information provided when conducting prescribed fires; the National

Forest will assist the N.H. Forest Protection Bureau with the station's maintenance costs.

"Successful wildfire prevention depends on teamwork, not only during an incident, but also when it comes to planning and preparation," said Chief Steven Sherman of the N.H. Forest Protection Bureau. "The White Mountain National Forest and the N.H. Department of Fish and Game continue to be valuable partners for the bureau regarding wildfire management in our state."

The N.H. Division of Forests and Lands was able to purchase the new weather station using funds awarded through an Emergency Management Performance Grant from the N.H. Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

"The funding provided by this grant from New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management has increased emergency preparedness in our state by providing an additional tool for preventing a potential wildfire incident in the White Mountains Region," said Patrick Hackley, director of the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands.

"We were able to match the HSEM grant through in-kind services, including staff

emergency management training and preparation, as well as through our work responding to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This multi-agency collaboration model exponentially raises the level of safety in our state for both our residents and visitors."

The weather data from all five RAWS in the state is available online by visiting mesowest.utah.edu and clicking on New Hampshire on the map.

New Hampshire experiences about 250 wildland fires each year, which burn an average of 250 acres. Another 200-300 illegal fires occur each year that are extinguished before they turn into wildland fires.

Ninety percent of wildfires in New Hampshire result from human causes.

The N.H. Forest Protection Bureau is part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Division of Forests and Lands, which protects and promotes the value provided by trees, forests and natural communities. For more information about the Division of Forests and Lands and the work of its Forest Protection Bureau, visit nh.gov/nhdf or call 603-271-2214.

Take Home Project for 9-14 Year Olds

302 Cares, in collaboration with the Baldwin Memorial Library, are providing a take home project for ages 9-14. Participants will be provided with a FREE kit of materials upon request. The kits will contain the book *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez. The main character, Malu, is going through a rough year. She writes about it with "zines" – her own, published mini-magazine/booklets. We have all been living through an interesting 9 months of pandemic. Participants will be invited to tell THEIR story in a "zine". In addition to the book, kits will also include instructions and materials to make a "zine".

Please email the library at librarian@baldwinlibraryvt.org to request your kit.

The 302 Cares Coalition a subcommittee of WRAP, is

a group of individuals and organizations who agree to work together for the common goal of reducing substance use, misuse and abuse among youth and adults. We welcome new members and would like to hear from you if you would like to be included on our email distribution list. We are also willing to walk you through the process of joining WebEx meetings if this is unfamiliar to you. Meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Wells River Prevention Committee/Coalition is on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. For further information, or to be placed on the email distribution list, contact Cheryl Chandler at c.chandler@nvrh.org or 802-748-7555.

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TRUCK STOP

Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times

December 22, 2020

Volume 12 Number 6

Open Letter to the Biden-Harris Administration: Broadband Is Essential For The Health And Well-being Of Our Communities

by Vermont Lieutenant Governor-elect Molly Gray

“Broadband is the electricity of our time and to imagine homes without it, is akin to imagining homes without heat or water.”

Over the last year, rural Vermont much like rural America has been hit hard by this pandemic. While our small rural state has much to be proud of in terms of the collective sacrifice of our communities in remaining socially distant and abiding by public health guidelines, these measures have most greatly impacted communities lacking proper access to broadband.

There are countless communities where shifts to remote learning have left children unable to properly connect with educators and support service providers, isolated older Vermonters unable to access telemedicine or family members, employees unable to access remote work, and citizens unable to participate in our democracy at the local, county and statewide level. We recognize this is not just the story of rural Vermont, but also of rural America.

Simply put, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us

what rural Vermonters and Americans have always known: that universal access to quality broadband is essential for the health and well-being of our communities. Broadband is the electricity of our time and to imagine homes without it, is akin to imagining homes without heat or water.

Long before this pandemic, however, inadequate broadband access impacted our rural economy. According to the Vermont Department of Public Service, roughly 23% of Vermont, comprising 68,000 homes and businesses, have not had adequate access to broadband. Vermont is one of the oldest states in the country, with more deaths than births in a majority of counties. Vermont’s population and workforce continue to decline, and despite robust efforts to attract remote workers, absent adequate broadband, these efforts have not realized their full potential.

Earlier this year, using funding available through the CARES Act, the Vermont legislature passed H.966 to make needed emergency investments in Vermont’s telecommunications infrastructure. Unfortunately, the

appropriation only met a fraction of the roughly \$293 million needed to close Vermont’s broadband gap. As written in the bill, “With haste and precision, the State must redouble its efforts to go where the market will not.”

As the Biden-Harris Administration has stated so clearly in the “Plan to Build Back Better in Rural America” adequate access to broadband “should be a great economic equalizer for rural America, not another economic disadvantage, just like rural electrification several generations ago.”

With federal support, Vermont can continue to deploy emergency connectivity and expand permanent access so that we recover stronger from this pandemic.

I know I speak for so many Vermonters in applauding the incoming Administration’s recognition that “high-speed broadband is essential in the 21st Century economy”. I would welcome any opportunity to discuss the work underway in Vermont, and yet to be done, in closing the broadband gap in our rural communities.



Remembering NH House Speaker, Dick Hinch

Several weeks ago, newly elected Representatives met at UNH for the annual swearing in ceremony marking the start of the 167th Session of the New Hampshire General Court. The swearing in ceremonies took place outdoors on a very cold, blustery December day. Just one week later, Representative Dick Hinch who was unanimously elected Speaker of the NH House, unexpectedly died. Speaker Hinch was a gracious legislator known for his civility and respect for all. After talking with him in his office several weeks ago regarding education policy and associated fiscal matters, Dick sent me a follow-up text message that pinged as I exited I-93 in Plymouth. He stated, “I agree, we need to come out of the gate with legislation that will provide the needed relief and funding to help our children. Thank you so much for your assistance. Dick.” This message speaks to his caring and understanding personality. He was driven by a belief that the K-12 education experience for all families, regardless of background or income, should provide for them to choose a learning environment, public or private, near or far, religious or secular that works best for the child. New Hampshire will miss this outstanding legislative leader.

As a quick update regarding new legislation, the Office of Legislative Services in Concord, has received 773 legislative service requests submitted by newly elected representatives. Among the many bills, focus

will be given to: education funding, the state budget, education choice, alternative learning programs and career technical education. Education savings account bills will provide funding support to families and children who choose to attend alternative learning environments. Education Choice Programs already exist in states such as Florida, Ohio, Tennessee and others. An Innovative Schools bill is designed to provide eligible schools needed waivers from unreasonable and costly state regulations and rules. Legislation has also been submitted to eliminate NH’s Blaine amendment. Blaine Amendments are found in 37 states, and were designed to prevent Catholic schools from receiving state funds in the 19th century. On June 30, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* that the federal Constitution forbids states from excluding religious families and schools from receiving state funds. The removal of NH’s Blaine amendment would open the door to state dollars following students to church run schools. Lastly, another bill has been submitted to determine how to better support student opportunity at career technical education centers. These schools are vital to preparing students with necessary skills needed to effectively enter NH’s future workforce. Respectfully Submitted, Representative Rick Ladd, Haverhill

Volume 12 Number 6 December 22, 2020 Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times

Merry everything.

Holiday Hours

- Thursday, Dec. 24: Closing at 1:00pm
Lisbon & Lancaster Open 9am-1pm
- Friday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day): Closed
- Saturday, Dec. 26: Closed
- Thursday, Dec. 31: Closing at 3:00pm
Lisbon & Lancaster Open 9am-3pm
- Friday, Jan. 1 (New Year’s Day): Closed



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Letter to the Editor: Regarding COVID-19

The first thoughts that came to mind in reading the good doctor's op-ed were "first do no harm" and "don't shoot the messenger". It seemed unusual to have a doctor dismiss the New Hampshire and national deaths from Covid-19 in such a cavalier way. The government officials certainly have a responsibility to protect the health of all Americans within the boundaries allowed by our laws and its authority given by the people who elected them to add or change laws that apply. It seems quite clear that science, worldwide, has identified the virus, learned its transmission method and ways we can help contain its spread. Why the government should ignore these findings is perplexing to say the least. Just because other diseases' kill many of us, shouldn't we work hard to not allow new threats to kill even more? The rationale from your letter seems to say that numbers not people count. Freedom from ignorance is far better

than stifling the press or government agencies that report the numbers. This is a war in a real sense and demands that we all pull together to win just like we did in the world wars. Government rationing may have seemed intrusive or having neighborhood wardens that watched for exposed light at night time in coastal cities but it was accepted as part of our pulling together to win, and we did. We can win this war as well by letting the government do its duty and us citizens as well. Wearing a mask and observing social distancing is an easy way to help. Keeping places where people would normally gather closed or restricted seems reasonable to get us through this trying period. The government also has a responsibility to financially assist those who are the most vulnerable whether a business or a person. I say beware of Doctors that might unintentionally do harm.

Duane Baxter
Littleton

Duane,

I like to compare the rules and regulations that have been given to us during this pandemic to the rules of the road while driving. There are posted speed limits and signs telling us where we should stop. We all know that some people either ignore those signs or see them as "a suggestion". But what if everyone fully ignored those "requests"? If people drove as fast, or as slow, as they wanted, or just blasted thru a stop sign. The road would be a very, very dangerous place to live, or die. I see the same reasoning when it comes to the requests for wearing a mask, social distancing, and group gatherings. Use some common sense.

Gary Scruton, Editor

2021 NH State Forest Nursery Catalog Now Available; Increased Interest In Outdoor Activity Expected To Drive Sales

Winter may be on its way but with spring to quickly follow the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands has begun mailing its 2021 State Forest Nursery seedling catalog.

Due to an expected increased demand resulting from renewed interest in outdoor activity, the Nursery encourages foresters, landscapers, homeowners and others looking forward to planting trees and conservation shrubs in the spring to place their orders as soon as possible. Stock typically ships in mid-April to mid-May.

State Forest Nursery sales increased 15 percent in 2020, with more than two-thirds of orders totaling \$100 or less, reflecting smaller, consumer-level purchases.

Fifty species are available from the Nursery, including several varieties of fir, spruce, pine, cedar, oak and maple as well as black walnut, more than two dozen conservation shrub seedlings and others. Seedlings are sold as bare-root stock, not in pots, and are packaged in sets of 10, 25, 100 or more, depending on the species ordered.

Specialty packages of 25 seedlings, five each of five species, are also available. They include a Christmas tree sampler, songbird/wildlife package, screen/windbreak package, dogwood package and more.

All seedlings are grown onsite, from seed, on the State Forest Nursery's 16

acres of irrigated, outdoor seedbeds in Boscawen. The Nursery, founded in 1910 and located on an 880-acre state forest, also has 20 acres of seed orchards and testing areas.

More than 95 percent of the seed planted at the Nursery comes from local sources, ensuring that seedlings are well-adapted to the New Hampshire climate; two-thirds of the species sold are native to New Hampshire.

To download the 2021

New Hampshire State Forest Nursery catalog, visit nh.gov/nhnursery.

Established in 1910, the N.H. State Forest Nursery's mission is to grow and distribute quality, bare-root seedlings for forestry, conservation and education purposes. The Nursery facility and program are administered by the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, which is part of the N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. For more information, visit nhdf.org.

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Calendar of Events

EVENTS FROM LOCAL NON-PROFITS, SCHOOLS AND TOWNS. *PRESENTED FREE BY TRENDY TIMES.*

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

NORTHEAST KINGDOM ARTISANS GUILD ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE
11:00 AM - 5:30 PM Seven Days a Week
430 Railroad Street. St. Johnsbury
See Article on Page 13

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE DRIVE-THRU PILGRIMAGE
7:00-8:00 PM
North Haverhill United Methodist Church
See Ad on Page 6

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICE
10:00 am with communion
3 Church Street, Woodsville

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

HAVERHILL SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM Virtual Meeting
Clifford Memorial Building, Woodsville

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

ROSS-WOOD POST #20 AMERICAN LEGION MONTHLY MEETING
6:00 PM
4 Ammonoosuc Street, Woodsville

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

ROBERT J. CAPLA, ART PILGRIM
11:00 AM - 5:30 PM Tuesday - Saturday
430 Railroad Street. St. Johnsbury
See Article on Page 13

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

VFW POST #5245 MONTHLY MEETING
7:00 PM
VFW Hall, North Haverhill

The Trendy Times Calendar of Events Is Free for all Non-Profits, Schools and Towns to list your upcoming event for FREE. NO CHARGE to tell our readers about your upcoming event, whether it is free or not.

Deadline is the Thursday before Publication. Call or Email your information today.

Snapshot of the Retail Industry in New Hampshire December 2020

*Op-Ed by Nancy C. Kyle,
President/CEO New Hampshire Retail Association*

In speaking with retailers in New Hampshire, the one word that best describes retailing during this pandemic is UNCERTAINTY. This pandemic has winners and losers. Some retailers are doing well, many are not, but all are uncertain about the holiday season, how the year will end, and what's going to happen for 2021.

People are staying home and realizing that they want a better home environment, new furniture or appliances, a television, or improved electronics for their home offices. So appliance, furniture, home improvement and electronics stores are doing well.

A furniture and appliance store in Gorham is doing well sales wise. But manufacturers can't keep up with the demand. Manufacturers were closed for months in the spring, and with Covid cases spiking across the country, they are closing again, or working at very limited capacity. Orders are currently taking 15 - 19 weeks to

come in. Their biggest fear is that customers won't wait and will cancel their orders. Because of this, the store has stopped taking large deposits for orders, which is impacting their cash flow.

This problem with the supply chain is happening all over the state. Very hard for retailers to get inventory and manufacturers can't get what they need to make products or packaging. A candy store in downtown Portsmouth said one of their top holiday sellers is Hot Fudge Sauce she makes - they can't get lids for the cans. A pool and patio store in Amherst has their key category - hot tub sales at \$0, off \$300,000 due to supply chain constraints, and they won't get more tubs until late spring. They launched gas fireplaces to try and fill the gap, and now that supply chain is backed up for three months.

We continue to see the shift to online sales that has been hastened by the pandemic. It has been a boom for larger retailers, but many Main Street retailers still do not have an online presence, and some are only seeing a few sales a day online. Overall, online shopping for Thanksgiving weekend was up 44%, but not for the small independent retailers.

With consumers moving to online shopping, the number of in-store shoppers has drastically fallen. On Thanksgiving Day store traffic dropped by 55% from last year and on Black Friday dropped by 37%. And store traffic has continued to fall since Thanksgiving. Rising Covid numbers and the media reporting (today - ABC) that health officials are urging people to avoid going in stores and transfer their shopping to curbside pickup and home delivery will continue to thwart store traffic.

Because of our lack of a sales tax, New Hampshire is dependent on a large amount of cross border shopping. Customers are unsure of traveling to New Hampshire. Massachusetts declared NH a high Covid risk state and now makes people coming to NH for non-essential travel quarantine for 14 days when they return to Mass. A store in the Mall at Rockingham Park said that there really isn't any cross border shopping happening. Store traffic has been so slow in the mall they scaled back their holiday hours, opening an hour later and closing two hours earlier. That will impact their employees who will have their hours cut and get less pay.

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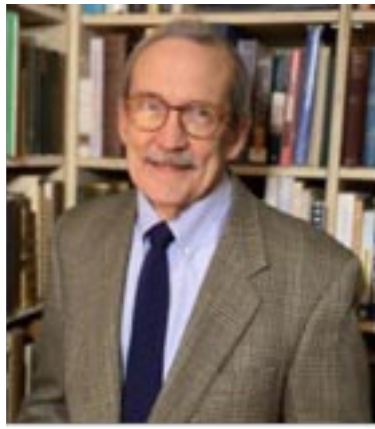
New Executive Director Joins Havehrill Heritage, Inc.

HAVERHILL, NH – The board of directors of Haverhill Heritage, Inc. (HHI) is delighted to welcome Dennis McFadden, of Sugar Hill, NH, as the new executive director to lead the non-profit organization. “With over 30 years of experience leading arts, museum and cultural organizations, McFadden will be able to hit the ground running,” says Pat Buchanan, the president of HHI’s board. As executive director, McFadden will oversee the two signature initiatives of the organization, Court Street Arts at Alumni Hall and the Wentworth-Brown Project.

First a seasonal and now a permanent resident of New Hampshire, McFadden found himself drawn to the organization’s focus on the intersection of arts and culture within the context of a historic local community. “I feel privileged to play a leadership role in HHI’s important work in the region, contributing to the cultural vitality of the Upper Valley,” says McFadden. Court Street Arts, which got its start in 2005, is a performing arts venue based in Haverhill’s rehabilitated historic Alumni Hall, bringing music, comedy and theater performances to the region. The Wentworth Brown project is a more recent initiative which aims to ensure the survival of an important anchor structure in the Haverhill Corner Historic District.

McFadden has previously been the curator of the Heinz Architectural Center in Pittsburgh’s historic Carnegie Museum of Art; a senior administrator at the Davis Art Museum at Wellesley College; and director of a community historical society on Cape Cod and of an art center serving a five-county region on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He currently serves on the committee that advises the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy on the preservation, interpretation and management of Fallingwater, Frank Lloyd Wright’s extraordinary house for the Kaufmann family.

“We were naturally very impressed with Dennis’ years of experience as a leader of cultural non-profits, and the knowledge and expertise that he brings to preserving historic architecture, managing rehabilitation and renovations project and incorporating arts into the community,” says Jane Quigley, chair of HHI’s search committee. “But even more important, he’s just the right person to lead this organization – he’s pragmatic and sensitive to environment and place, and genuinely pas-



HHI Executive Director
Dennis McFadden

sionate about our work. He brings imagination, curiosity and a wonderful sense of excitement about the future.” McFadden’s first day as HHI’s executive director was Tuesday, Dec. 1st.

Haverhill Heritage, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Haverhill, New Hampshire with the mission to identify community needs and locate underutilized, but significant spaces within the historic district to create vibrant community centers and improve the cultural and physical landscape of a region. For more information about the organization, please email HHI’s board of directors at info@alumnihall.org.

Some Scenes of the Holiday Season



(Top Left) Santa found himself a treat after delivering toys! Wells River VT

(Top Right) A Joyful Season: The Nativity in Pike NH

(Bottom Left) Wonderful Community decorations! of a Deer and Tree in Pike NH Merry Christmas from photographer Cyndi Wellman cnb.pics07@gmail.com



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Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times
December 22, 2020
Volume 12 Number 6

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Volume 12 Number 6
 December 22, 2020
 Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times

Letter to the Editor: Dissolution of the Consolidated Oxbow Unified Union School District (OUUSD)

To the Editor:

On December 29th there will be a special town meeting where the voters of the Town of Newbury will be asked to vote on whether the Newbury School District should withdraw from the Oxbow Unified Union School District (OUUSD). We encourage voters to vote yes to withdraw from OUUSD. A yes vote would begin the process of the dissolution of OUUSD and a return to separate school districts and boards for Bradford Elementary School (BES), Newbury Elementary School (NES) and Oxbow Union High School (OHS)/River Bend Career and Technical Center (RBCTC). Prior to the formation of OUUSD two years ago, each school was governed by its own school board. The consolidated OUUSD was formed as a result of the Vermont Act 46 School Consolidation statute resulting in a single six member school board overseeing BES, NES and OHS/RBCTC.

Why should Newbury School District withdraw from OUUSD and call for the dissolution of OUUSD?

• There are currently six board members on the OUUSD board overseeing a \$17MM budget and four

educational entities. Dissolution would result in a return to three separate school boards with much closer connections to the schools and more effective liaisons between community and the schools.

• Budgets have increased more over the first two years of OUUSD than in prior years as separate entities. More oversight is needed which can be better managed with smaller budgets and more local input and involvement.

• As a consolidated board, OUUSD is severely under represented on the Orange East Supervisory Union (OESU) board resulting in significant financial implications. Currently, OUUSD has only a 25% representation on the OESU board. However, based on student population OUUSD is responsible for approximately 47% of the OESU budget. With a return to three separate school districts, Bradford and Newbury OESU representation would increase to 50%. With concerns over OESU central office spending and oversight, this would provide Bradford and Newbury with representation more equal to its interests.

• The OUUSD 2020-21

budget has been defeated three times. With three separate and independent school districts, a budget failure for one school would not impact the other three schools.

• A locally governed school provides closer two-way communication between the principal, parents and community. Issues within school buildings can be better addressed with local boards.

• At a specially warned meeting, Newbury voters overwhelmingly voted against consolidation. Despite that, the state mandated the consolidation.

An information meeting will be held via Zoom on 12/21 at 6PM. To join the Zoom Meeting go to:

• <https://bit.ly/newbury1221>; Webinar ID: 830 0001 5819; Passcode: 213375

• To join meeting by phone: 1- 312-626-6799

In person voting will be held at Newbury Elementary School on December 29 from 10AM-7PM. Contact the town clerk at 866-5521 for mail-in ballots.

Kathy Damon
Emmy Hausman
Bud Haas
Marvin Harrison
Paul Jewett

Kathy, Emmy, Bud, Marvin & Paul,

I want to thank the five of you for your letter. It spells out clearly your views about OUUSD and the upcoming vote. It also gives details to residents of Newbury as to how they can learn more, ask questions, and eventually vote on the matter whether they are in favor of, or opposed to, your suggestion.

I feel it very important that before voting each individual should have their questions answered and have the information they need to make an informed decision. It is your tax dollars as well as the education of our children that is at stake. That should be enough to get everyone interested.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Letter to the Editor: Newbury, Wronged, Can Make It Right

To the Editor,

Newbury has been wronged by the State of Vermont. Newbury voters have the chance to right the wrong by voting Yes on December 29.

It's all about the Forced Merger of our school district two years ago under the pretext of Act 46. And ultimately, it's about a consolidation of power achieved by trampling on local democracy.

Mergers were supposed to save money and enhance educational opportunity. Instead, taxpayers are seeing two years of dramatic increases in school budgets and, even before COVID, no substantive changes in educational opportunity.

I'm a 49-year resident of Newbury, but I can barely remember a time when our town voted down a school budget. But there are at least two reasons why town voters have joined in defeating the merged school district budget three times this year: 1) the jaw-dropping budget increases, and 2) the loss of Newbury Elementary as "our" school.

Act 46 provided that merged districts must have 900 students. Our district was forced to merge though

it has far short of 900. Act 46 also provided for "alternative governance structures" that might have protected Newbury's interests. The unelected State Board of Education, in its superior wisdom, denied our petition for an alternative structure, as it did for most other petitioning towns.

Back in September 2018, at a Special District Meeting, Newbury voters rejected the proposed merger 117 to 17. But the State Board of Ed brushed aside Newbury's benighted voters in its zeal to impose its view of a better structure.

Now comes our chance to begin unravelling the damage. Newbury voters, please consider attending an informational session via Zoom to be held on Monday, Dec 21 at 6 pm. To join: <https://bit.ly/newbury1221>; ID: 830 0001 5819; Passcode: 213375. By phone: 1-312-626-6799

MOST IMPORTANT: In person voting toward dissolving the merger will be held on Tuesday, Dec 29, at Newbury Elementary from 10 am to 7 pm. Contact the Town Clerk at 866-5521 for mail-in ballots.

Rick Hausman
Newbury

Rick,

Readers will see that yours is the second letter on this subject to come to me for this issue of Trendy Times. So as I did with the other letter I want to say thank you for getting information out for other Newbury residents to be aware of the upcoming informational meeting and eventual vote.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Letter to the Editor: Trump Needs To Leave

To the Editor,

Joe Biden won the Presidential Election. We the Americans came out in droves for this election. Watching the results come in election night it was very clear who was going to win. Jo Biden won over and over again.

As Trump lost state after state, Trump the most corrupt President ever was so unhinged he started with his out of his mind attacks on our Democracy. He never had proof because it simply is not there. This Trump idiot is the biggest liar and dishonest corrupt person and he knew this as he thinks he can pardon himself - Really. He doesn't care about

the damage he is doing to this country. He only cares about himself and he should be worried as he has to face the state of New York and possibly going to jail.

I don't understand how anyone could support Trump

1. He lies about everything
2. He calls our service members suckers and losers
3. He is the most evil person on the planet
4. He makes fun of disabled people. He doesn't want them around him.

This list is so long that I don't have time to list.

I watched him at his rally in the state of Georgia and

he acted and sounded just like Hitler. He is spreading such hate between every American, this is what Hitler did.

I just can't understand how people can follow him.

American people are loving good people who help people in need. We have never had to deal with a president who speaks hate and lies. He will be responsible for all the hate and lies he is spreading.

He needs to be STOPPED NOW. I for one am so sick of him and his hate and lies.

Betty Nickles,
Benton

Betty,

One thing seems to be quite true with our current President. It appears that whether you like him or not you are passionate about that feeling. There seems to be little middle ground.

Another fact is that come January 20, 2021 Joe Biden will be sworn in as the new president, and there will be plenty of people who will not be happy with that occurrence either.

Gary Scruton, Editor

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Investment Lessons from 2020

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that we've all learned something about the social, political, physical and environmental forces that have affected everyone. And, in some ways, our lives will be changed, perhaps permanently. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020?

Here are some to consider:

- The markets look ahead.

Here's something many investors discovered in 2020: Investment prices don't always move in the same direction as the overall economy. This might not have seemed apparent right after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-February, as the overall economy and the stock market took big hits. But just about five weeks later, the markets began a rally that lasted several months. During this time, the economy also recovered somewhat, but still remains on weak footing.

What can explain this discrepancy between the markets and economic activity? Essentially, economic numbers, such as the unemployment rate and gross do-

mestic product (GDP), reflect what's happening today, but the markets are always looking toward tomorrow, which means they are anticipating a stronger economic recovery and the results that come with it, such as greater corporate earnings in 2021. No one can say for sure what the future holds, but you can usually know the market's opinion by its performance.

• Opportunities will always exist for investors. Although the coronavirus seems unprecedented, the equity markets have rebounded from many crises before it. From war to global financial meltdowns, the market has seen it all. But even at the height of these events, when the markets might be most affected, individual segments or industries can do well.

For example, in the current environment, when many people have been forced to work and shop from home, and get their entertainment online, it's probably not surprising that some parts of the technology sector have seen their economic activity grow, along with their stock prices. Here's the key point: Investment opportunities always exist, especially in times of market stress – and smart investors will find them and incorporate them into their port-

folios in a way that's appropriate for their goals and risk tolerance.

• Patience and discipline can pay dividends. As mentioned above, the stock market dropped sharply in the weeks immediately following the pandemic, but then gained steadily for months afterward. Investors who tried to "cut losses" and exited the market likely did so at the wrong time and missed out on the beginning of the upturn. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon – investors who overreact to market declines often find themselves on the investment sidelines just when a new rally begins. Rather than being reactive in this way, you may be better off sticking with a long-term investment strategy, and buying and selling investments only when it makes sense for your situation, such as when you need to diversify your portfolio.

For many reasons, it's unlikely that we'll see anything exactly like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year – so keep them in mind for 2021 and beyond.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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2020 + and -

by Elinor Mawson

It is with much relief that 2020 is almost over. Some would say it was the year from hell. And they could be right.

Looking back over the past year it is easy to remember all the negatives. We had to leave the antique business after 50 years. My husband had to find another barber. We had to wear a mask when we went out--which was not very often. We couldn't go into Vermont. The list goes on.

We have stayed at home most of the time. It is a nice place to be, thank heavens. We have done some needed work--not enough! but it's done now. There was

no fourth of July parade and no North Haverhill Fair or Thanksgiving -- all family times, and we missed them. And as octogenarians we realize that there aren't many of those left to look forward to.

There have been several deaths in our family, which had no services that we couldn't attend anyway. And we couldn't hug the people most affected from losing their loved ones.

On the other side of the coin, though, there have been some good things. We have a new great granddaughter and look forward to our first great great grandson in April. We've had a few "dooryard" visits here and there. My husband and I have shared "wine time" every afternoon along with a lot of good conversations. Instead of eating out several times a week, we have planned and shared a lot of good, old-fashioned home cookin'. I have read many days away. Our grandson, the sportswriter, has initiated Facetime with us every Sun-

day, and we are able to hear about the stories he writes before we read them online. And then there's the phone! Some of our calls last an hour or more.

I am sure that most of my readers see some familiar events that they've experienced. None of us are in this alone. Times have been rough. I worry about the businesses that have suffered through this pandemic, and I hope they will be able to continue. I wonder how long it will be before we can get the vaccine, and if everyone will decide to take it. How long will it be before things are back to normal. And what will "normal" be? Will everything be the same as before?

All I know is that when the ball drops on New Year's Eve I will bid a fond farewell to 2020 with great hopes for 2021. Knowing what we know now, HOPE is all we have for a better year. Somehow we have lived through a terrible time and aren't the worse for it.

BEEZWAX

By John Martin

Merry Christmas From the Bezwax Gang



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Letter to the Editor: President TRUMP'S Accomplishments Realized, and Recognized!

To the Editor,

While there is still some debate over the legality of the results of the 2020 Election, one thing remains perfectly clear ... President Trump achieved many accomplishments during the first 2 years in office, and especially during his first 6 months in office. Let's review a partial list of some of these as of September, 2018:

***OPERATION WARP SPEED !!** ... creation of a safe COVID vaccine in record time.

· Almost 4 million jobs created since election in 2016.

· More Americans employed than ever recorded before in our history.

· Creation of more than 400,000 manufacturing jobs.

· Manufacturing jobs growing at a faster rate in more than 3 decades.

· Economic growth hit

4.2% during one quarter.

· New unemployment claims recently hit a 49-year low.

· Median household income has hit highest level ever recorded.

· African-American unemployment has recently achieved the lowest rate ever recorded.

· Asian-American unemployment recently achieved the lowest rate ever recorded.

· Hispanic-American unemployment is at the lowest rate ever recorded.

· Women's unemployment recently reached the lowest rate in 65 years.

· Youth unemployment has recently hit the lowest rate in nearly half a century.

· Lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for Americans without a high school diploma.

· Veterans' unemployment recently reached its lowest rate in nearly 20 years.

· Almost 3.9 million

Americans have been lifted off food stamps since 2016.

· The Pledge to America's Workers has resulted in employers committing to train more than 4 million Americans promoting a commitment to Vocational Education.

· Retail sales surged last month, up another 6% over last year.

· Signed the biggest package of tax cuts and reforms in history. After tax cuts, over \$300 billion poured back into the US in the first quarter alone.

· Trump tax bill produced lowest top marginal tax rate in more than 80 years for small businesses.

· Record number of regulations eliminated.

· Enacted regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions.

THANK YOU, PRESIDENT TRUMP !!!!

Nick De Mayo
Sugar Hill, NH

Nick,

Isn't this a great country we live in? Every person in this country is allowed to voice their opinion. In fact I strongly encourage all of our readers to voice their opinion in the form of a "Letter to the Editor".

Another part of this great country is the calm and orderly change of leaders. We recently had an election and according to the rules a new

leader was elected. That new leader will take office on January 20, 2021 with a term of office set to expire in four years. At which time we, the American people, will have a chance to once again vote for our leader.

This process has happened for over 200 years and I truly trust that it will continue for many, many more years to come.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Richard H. Emerson: OBITUARY

Wells River, VT - Richard H. Emerson, 92, of Main Street in Wells River died Monday, December 7, 2020 at his home.

He was born May 24, 1928 in Newbury, VT the son of Harold and Katherine (White) Emerson. He attended schools in Newbury and East Corinth, VT.

On October 25, 1952 in Newbury, VT he married Royal Highness Wheelock who predeceased him. After their marriage they lived in Corinth, VT.

On January 7, 1953 he entered the US Army and was honorably discharged December 14, 1954.

Mr. Emerson first worked for D. C. McLam Sawmill in East Corinth, and later transferred to the D. C. McLam Lumber yard in Bradford, where he worked for 28 years, becoming store manager. He was later employed at Gove & Morrill Hardware in Bradford, Conval Lumber in Ely, VT and Newman Lumber in Woodsville, NH.

He was a member of the American Legion Post #20 of Bradford, VT.

Survivors include a son,



Stewart (Barbara) Emerson of Woodsville, NH, two daughters, Debra (William) Carbee of North Haverhill, NH and Barbara Hatch of North Haverhill, NH, 9

grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, a brother, Lawrence (Naomi) Emerson of Greenfield, MA, a sister, Christina Jacobs of Bondsville, MA, and many nieces and nephews. Richard is also survived by many special friends, Fred Spooner, Wendy Doane, and his little friend, Abby Tellier.

He was predeceased by sisters, Mildred Clifford, Irene Bushaw, Ivis Peterson and Beverly Tucker, and brothers, Alfred Emerson, and Earl Emerson.

Private graveside funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. Burial will be in the New Cemetery in East Corinth, VT. Arrangements are by Hale Funeral Home in Bradford, VT.



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Adam W. Smith

Martha Heath Wiencke: OBITUARY

Martha Heath Wiencke, 90, of Hanover, NH, passed away on December 7, 2020, at Kendal at Hanover.

Martha was born on June 9, 1930, in Dedham, MA, to Clark W. and Katharine Calef Heath. She attended Milton Academy, and earned an A.B. in classical archaeology with honors from Bryn Mawr College in 1952. She went on to complete a Ph.D. in archaeology at Yale in 1957 and studied at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece, as a Fulbright scholar.

She married Matthew I. Wiencke on September 6, 1958, in Medford, MA. They moved to Thetford Center, VT, in 1960, raised four children there, and traveled widely in Greece, Europe, and the United States, often with the family.

Early in her career, she joined a team of archaeologists working at Lerna, one of the most important prehistoric sites in Greece and said to be the place that Hercules slew the 9-headed Hydra. Excavations at the House of the Tiles at Lerna, where an unusual collection of Bronze Age seals was discovered, became her life's scholarship. She served as editor of publications for the project and wrote *The Architecture, Stratification, and Pottery of Lerna III*, published in 2000.

She taught Latin, German, and French at Thetford Academy and Latin at Dartmouth. During her 16 years at Kendal, she tutored Jessica Londa in Homeric Greek and Latin every Wednesday. She was also vice president of the Thetford Historical Society, where she did extensive archiving of early town records.

She was an avid reader of mysteries, 19th-century novels, Proust, and biographies. She loved flower gardening and never failed to find the lady's slippers on her family's property each spring.

Music and art were al-



ways important. She enjoyed concerts at Tanglewood and played violin in string quartets and in the Kendal orchestra. She learned watercolor painting from her grandmother and sketched throughout her life, particularly on Cape Cod, where she spent summers as a child.

She was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hanover, NH, where she sang in the choir for many years and played violin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Matt, and is survived by her son Lawrence Wiencke and daughter-in-law Denise Noda of Golden, CO; daughter Katharine Wiencke of Hancock, MA; daughter Charlotte and son-in-law Gil Varney Jr. of Atlanta, GA; son Matthew Wiencke and daughter-in-law Christine Neely-Jones of Thetford, VT; grandchildren Meilin Noda Wiencke, Gregory and Jacob Varney, and Christian and Elliott Jones; sister, Emily Wilson of Fairfax, VA; brother Clark Heath of Woodbine, GA; brother Everett Heath of Lynchburg, VA; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Kendal staff for their loving care.

A private family service and burial were to be held on December 11. A memorial celebration will take place at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Thetford Food Shelf, P.O. Box 126, Thetford Center, VT 05075; or to Lutheran World Relief (lwr.org). Arrangements are by Hale Funeral Home in Bradford, VT.

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What About Ma?

by Kellie Quackenbush

All About This Christmas Season

I am so thrilled to see we now will have the "White Christmas" that we all dream about. I am not so thrilled to be scooping snow, going out in the cold and having to turn the heat on. Welcome to New England. With so many people worrying about the COVID-19 and the dustings of snow we have had through November, I think we all got a bit remiss in our attention to the winter season.

Nobody wants to think about the need for winter preparations that we all must do to drive and thrive in the winter. If you have not gotten snow tires, it is time to make a call and get that taken care of. If you were

home during the big snow storm -- lucky you, but for everyone else it was white knuckle driving. Did you have a shovel in your trunk to dig yourself out if you landed in a ditch?? Did you have a bag of kitty litter beside the shovel to help some one else out?? Do you have emergency snacks and water in the back seat just in case you get stuck for awhile?? How about a blanket and hand warmers?

"7 Things to do When Your Car is Stuck in The Snow" by <https://www.lesschwab.com> says:

1) Start your vehicle, roll down your window and take off your hat or earmuffs so you can hear clearly. Put your vehicle in the lowest gear. Move forward just a bit. Now slowly back up. Repeat the forward and backward a bit at a time and you may be able to move out of the stuck spot.

2) If your vehicle didn't move at all or a tire is spinning, try braking while at the

same time that you're giving a little gas. This should decrease the spinning and transfer some power to that wheel.

3) Sometimes a push from a few Good Samaritans will do the trick.

4) If you're still stuck and you have snow chains, it's time to chain up. That almost always does the trick.

5) Try sprinkling sand or kitty litter in front of the drive tires (and behind them if you're planning on backing out).

6) The last resort is to let a little air out of your tires, just enough so they look visibly lower. Only do this if you have a way to get them quickly refilled someplace close by.

For most of the United States, travel is banned or discouraged but if you are out driving in the snow, it is good to see your mechanic to have your car winterized. The fluids will be checked, the wiper fluid will be changed to a more winter worthy solution and you will have the comfort of knowing that you have done everything to make your travels safe.

Happy Holidays and safe travels. Ma sends you her best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nothing Worse Than A Runaway Train

by Maggie Anderson

Much of life hangs like a giant question mark over the world these days and though life is often difficult, right now it is also wonderful.

When time and circumstance throw shadows over our lives human beings seem to find a light that flickers underneath the gloom the way my brother David and I used to flip the flashlight on under the covers when I wanted to read just one more page or he wanted me to read one last story to him before Dad heard us and threatened to take the flashlight away.

Everywhere I turn people are taking care of each other, checking in with folks who have no way to get around, stopping to help somebody load groceries into the trunk just because they happened to pass at the right moment.

People are reconnecting via long laughter-filled phone conversations with friends and family they could not make time for in those hectic pre-covid days we all took for granted.

Zoom is an appropriate title for the meetings folks are setting up online, not only to talk with others but

also to see those faces. We need to see our friends and loved ones, we can tell more about how they really are by seeing their faces.

Lots of them are like Hank, if he was in the ambulance on his way to the hospital and somebody asked him how he was he would say what he always does, pretty good. We need to see the faces of those we care about how else can we be certain they are in fact pretty good?

My hope is that the vaccines promising an end to so much suffering and confinement will not erase the lessons we have learned in their midst. I don't want to go back to a time when I couldn't squeeze in half an hour of my week just to share a coffee with a buddy I knew I could talk with the next day, a day which often got moved far into the following week or month.

I want us to cling to the moments that made these long months bearable.

I need to believe life will return to a balanced normal, one that gets the world's train running again but slows just enough to keep it on track as it nears the bend so we can stay connected.

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NEK Council on Aging Welcomes New Options Counselor

St. Johnsbury, VT – The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging is pleased to welcome Linda Caamaño as an Options Counselor. The Options Counselor is responsible for both office and field-based work, management of calls sent from the information and referral helpline

staff, and the delivery of person-centered options counseling to clients in the three-county service area of the Council: Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia.

"We are excited to welcome Linda back to her hometown of St. Johnsbury. As a former volunteer man-

ager for hospice, she is well accustomed to finding solutions for those in need," said Meg Burmeister, Executive Director. "She has already become a valued-added member of our team and as someone who grew up in St. Johnsbury, she has long-established relationships to assist her in settling back into the area."

Caamaño served as the Volunteer Manager, Hospice & Palliative Care of St. Lawrence County in New York. She recruited, trained, and managed both direct and indirect volunteers for patients in nursing homes and home environment programs. She assisted with event planning, marketing, and general office management.

She also served as a Health Educator for five years developing and coordinating evidence-based chronic disease self-management programs throughout St. Lawrence Valley, NY.

Her passion for dogs led her to serve as a puppy evaluator for Guiding Eyes for the Blind leading to the start of her own business Take the Lead Obedience and Behavior Training. She



developed, promoted, and conducted group dog obedience classes and private consultation services.

"I enjoy teaching, interacting with people, and working to help others. Outside of work, my passions are dogs, horseback riding, outdoor activities, and family. My home has always been Vermont and I am happy to be back in the Northeast Kingdom," said Caamaño.

She graduated with a B.A. in Clinical Psychology from Lake Erie College in Painsville, OH and is an alumna of the Class of 1980 at St. Johnsbury Academy. She lives in St. Johnsbury with her husband Victor.

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Thank you for your understanding.

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by Cindy Pinheiro
to contact Cindy (aka Cin Pin) write to the editor at gary@trendytimes.com

Almond Biscottis

Hello hello my fellow chefs. Well we got snow and up here in the North East Kingdom I received only 3" but it's still snowing so who really knows. I cleaned my car off and let it run but an hour later and it was covered again. I know southern areas got a foot and more. My son Nick in Coventry, Rhode Island received 10". I feel lucky. New Hampshire and Massachusetts got hit hard. The snow is light texture so my car was easy to do.

So let's get to this edition of this week's recipe. It's easy peasy and "Delicioso".

Ingredients

- 1 cup sliced almonds
 - 2 1/4 cups all purpose flour
 - 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1/2 cup granulated white sugar
 - 3/4 cup light brown sugar
 - 3 large eggs at room temperature
 - 1/2 cup olive oil
 - 1 Tbsp pure almond extract
 - 1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract
 - 1 tsp lemon zest 1 lemon is good
 - 1 beaten egg to brush top
- Preheat oven to 325 degrees

In medium bowl whisk your dry Ingredients (flour, baking powder, salt and

the white and brown sugars.) In large bowl whisk the 3 eggs Then add the olive oil the almond and vanilla extracts and the lemon zest. When you zest your lemon take just the bright yellow not the under part. Whisk together. With a wooden spoon mix the flour mixture until all incorporated. Then fold in the sliced almonds.

With the spoon eyeball 1/2 the dough. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Take 1/2 of the dough and flatten on cookie sheet to about 1". Take the other half and on the other side of the flatten one flatten out the same way. With pastry brush take a beaten egg and brush tops of both. Place in pre heated oven for 30 minutes. They should look brown and shiny. Cool for about 10 minutes. Lift with spatula and your hand to a cutting board. With a good serrated knife cut on a slight diagonal about 1" wide. Place back on cookie sheet and put back in oven for about 10 minutes to crisp a bit. Remove from oven and cool then store them airtight. A great treat to make for Christmas. And that's it! Well folks that's it for today's recipe. Try them with a good cup of coffee or tea or even milk and dunk them in your drink. Yummy!!! Until next time if you have any questions



please contact Gary and I will help you out. You will be a hit when you make homemade biscotti. Merry Christmas to all my readers.

Sincerely, Cin Pin

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