WINTER 2008

Our Country HOME

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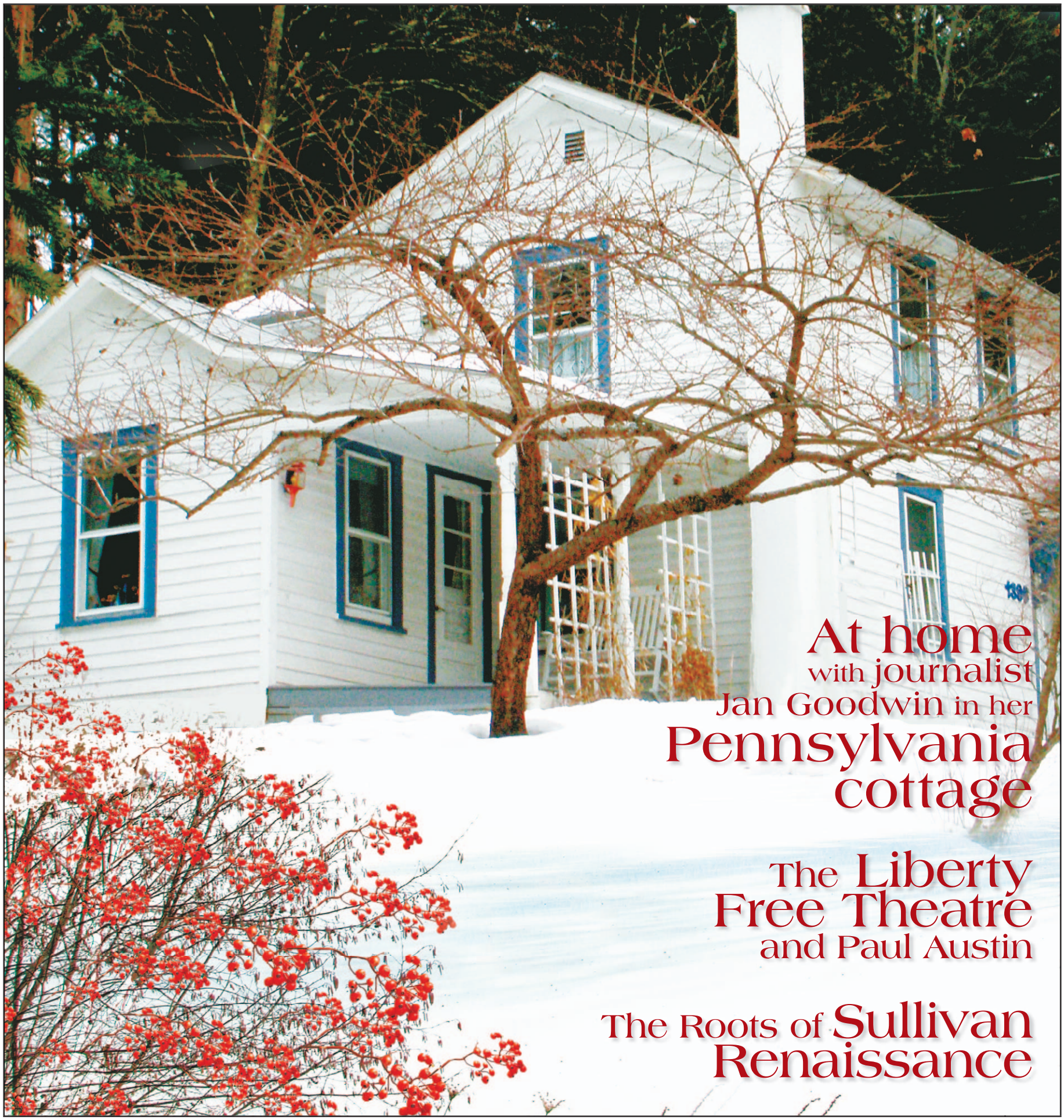

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The Liberty Free Theatre and Paul Austin

The Roots of Sullivan Renaissance

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contents

OUR COUNTRY HOME winter 2008

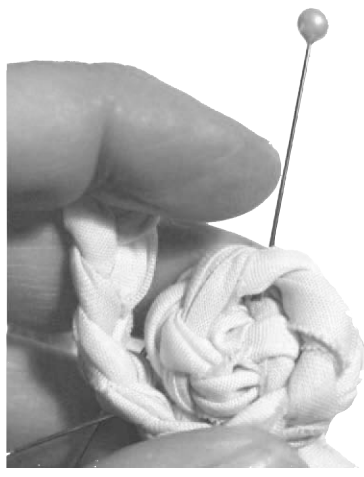
features

18 **Cover Story**
At home with journalist Jan Godwin in her Pennsylvania cottage
By Dorothy Hartz

22 **The Roots of Sullivan Renaissance:** Community building in Sullivan County
By Glenn Pontier

32 **The Show Must Go On:** Paul Austin and The Liberty Free Theatre
By Erin Vanderberg

18



10

The old classic braided rug weaves a new spell

20

Transform your shopping bag with fair trade goods

departments

6 **Design and Décor**
Get organized: transforming your space
By Cynthia Toliver

10 **Craft Corner**
Braided rugs: the old classic weaves a new spell
By Nancy Dymond

12 **Do It Yourself**
Snap, crackle and pop: transforming dull funiture with a crackle finish
By Cass Collins

14 **Entertaining and Country Taste**
Ushering in spring: an Easter dinner to remember
By Leslie Rutkin

16 **Family Life**
The winter fort: an easy, fun way to fire the imagination inside
By Liz Huntington

20 **Sustainable Living**
All's fair: transform your shopping bag with fair trade goods
By Marcia Nehemiah

24 **Gardening and Outdoor Living**
Spring transformations: forcing the season
By Anne Hart

34 **Outside the Box**
A walk in the woods: off the beaten path in Forestburgh, NY
By Erin Vanderberg

We Want Your Home

If you have a unique country home and would like to see it featured in this special section, call 845/252-7414 or e-mail marygreene@riverreporter.com.

Dear Reader,

"Personal transformation can and does have global effects. As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us. The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one."

This quote by author, lecturer and spiritual activist Marianne Williamson reminds me that the focus of our daily concerns is never as small as we might like to imagine. How we spend every day—the choices we make, the words we speak, the work we engage in—has an effect that reaches out to our families, friends, communities and, eventually, our country and our world.

We have chosen "transformation" as the theme of this issue of **Our Country Home** to honor this time of year when the earth begins its slow climb from winter into spring. The long, dark, quiet days of winter are almost behind us, and we invite you to get in tune with the season and try your own brand of transformation, whether it be a new craft project, a refinishing project, a new recipe, a new hike or a room makeover. We also bring you stories of people that inspire and that are working to transform our region in ways that are positive and long lasting.

Enjoy!

Mary Greene, Editor
Our Country Home

TRR photo by Tom Lasher

Section editor Mary Greene.

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COUNTRY HOME ON WITH A 50-ACRE HORSE FARM

This unique property with country home and 50-acre horse farm is definitely worth a look! A private lane leads to a 2-story country home with a Pennsylvania Bluestone exterior. This 1950s country home has been totally and tastefully renovated on the interior knotty pine adds a rustic flair while the cathedral ceilings and Pennsylvania bluestone fireplace are very impressive. There are 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, an enormous screened-n front porch that is great for entertaining guests and for admiring the view to the 5-stall horse barn. The pastureland has been fenced in for horses and boasts a 2-to-3-acre pond w/woods and stream! Call today!!

Ref# 2760 $479,000

RAISED RANCH IN COUNTRY

Remodeled kitchen, dining and living areas on lower level with 4 bedrooms on 2nd floor. Enjoy a large deck and play room for entertaining. Boasts magnificent views of the countryside. Just Reduced!!

Ref# 5260 $139,900

DUCK HARBOR LAKE FRONT LOG HOME ON 11 ACRES

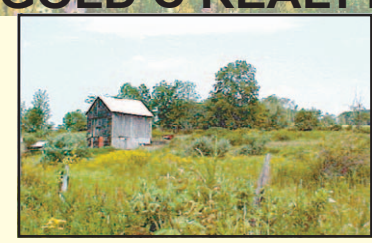
This Duck Harbor Lakefront Log Home on 11 acres has 456 feet of stunning lakefront in a wooded setting. This home boasts a cathedral ceiling in the living room with a fieldstone fireplace, an open floor plan, a spacious master suite, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, and a family room. Overlook the beautiful 200-acre lake from your deck or on your private dock.

Ref #2768 $889,000

CHALET ON 1.63 ACRES WITH DEEDED LAKE RIGHTS

This immaculate chalet on 1.63 enchanted acres with deeded lake rights to Duck Harbor has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. A lovely home with extensive decking, granite countertops, and remote-controlled fireplace. This house has recently been renovated with beautiful new carpeting, enhanced with high-hat lighting, it has been freshly painted and an outside entrance to the basement was added. Enjoy the private setting and 200-acre lake.

Ref #2764 $279,000



66-ACRE FARM WITH POND

REDUCED!!!! This beautiful property is located in the village of Tyler Hill, Damascus Township, only minutes from Honesdale, PA. The nice country views and blend of lovely meadows has enough wooded areas for hunting. The farmhouse, circa early 1900s, has original plank floors. The barn is 100 years old and there is a small pond on the property. This is true country living!

Ref #2697 $379,000

CUTE LAKE CADJAW RANCH

New on the market! This 3-bedroom, 2-bath home has a nice front and back yard surrounded by pine trees for privacy. Enjoy views of the lake while sitting on the front deck.

Ref #2770 $145,000

SPACIOUS DUCK HARBOR RANCH

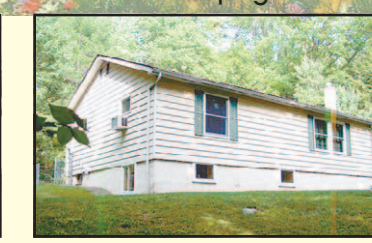
Located at Duck Harbor Pond with deeded access to the lake! This lovely home boasts a cozy living room, big eat-in Kitchen, formal dining area, family room, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, sunroom, and laundry room all on the main level. The basement has a huge rec room and a half bath. The 4-car garage space is a plus, too. Professionally landscaped and in excellent condition. Duck Harbor is magnificent!

Ref #5277 $349,900

PRIVACY ON 6 ACRES IN DAMASCUS TOWNSHIP

This 6-acre parcel is tucked down a private lane and offers plenty of seclusion only 1 minute off of Route 371. Close to Tyler Hill and Rileyville, it is in the Wayne Highlands School District. This beauty offers a small seasonal stream and would make a great building site for your new home.

Ref # 5279 $49,500



COZY RANCH WITH PRIVACY

JUST REDUCED!!! Here it is! A great starter or retirement home!! Living on one level has its advantages. Outside, enjoy lots of privacy only minutes from Honesdale and nestled on over 2 acres!! Inside is a brand-new kitchen, cozy living room, 2 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Need more room? Check out the partial basement with 2 more spare rooms!! Much more! Make an appointment today!!

Ref# 5252 $189,500

RANCH-STYLE ON 3 ACRES WITH PRIVACY

A very private setting on 3 acres! This manufactured home boasts 1400 square feet of living space. Located in a cul-de-sac on a quiet, low-traffic road, it is a pristine wooded setting only minutes form Honesdale and Beach Lake. This home has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a living room/dining room combo with a fireplace, a large eat-in kitchen, laundry/mudroom combo. A rare find this country home offers privacy, yet is close to town.

Ref #5278 $159,900

TRR file photos

Transforming your space:

a jumpstart into spring

This open-concept living space serves as living room, dining room and home office—keeping it neutral with accents of color and fresh flowers creates a clean modern look. Coordinating the open shelving unit with decorative boxes and covering unattractive books with crisp white paper maintains a calm and clutter-free space.

By Cynthia O. Toliver

We are all creative beings, even if we are not artists or inventors. Gardening, cooking, carpentry, fixing a radio, arranging a flower bouquet, building a fence, being a good listener, bargain hunting, keeping a scrapbook, raising a child are all creative acts. Many of us have experienced the sudden inspiration that comes while washing the dishes or driving. When our minds are empty, creativity has the opportunity to enter.

The same may be true on a physical plane. Ever wonder what that messy room in your home or at work, or the overgrown, cluttered spot in the side yard, has to do with your lack of inspiration? Could it be that all that clutter is holding you back? Well—you would be right. It's no surprise that any time one enters a temple or tea garden, one instinctively slows down. The mind is suddenly pondering the wonders of the universe. A clutter-free, harmonious work or home environment will ultimately free you from the humdrum of non-productivity. The lengthening days of late winter are a perfect time to revamp your space and get a jump-start on the quickening days of spring, when energy abounds.

By transforming your space into one that is free of clutter, and surrounding yourself with motivating influences, you will bring an increased level of focus and purpose into your life. The resulting positive energy will enable you to concentrate on what makes you happy—and will bring your hopes and aspirations to fruition.

How to begin

Where do you want to focus? Begin with a small, contained area rather than your whole house or yard. Accomplishing a small, doable task will provide a sense of achievement, and also practice, if you plan to move on a larger space. Perhaps you will begin with a closet or bathroom, and then take on a bedroom, study or kitchen.

Once you have chosen your space, take inventory. What needs to go? Be brutal. Be fearless. Remember, nothing new can come in your life if you do not make room for it, whether on the emotional, spiritual or physical plane.

Using common sense goes a long way. Valeria Henry of Liberty, NY, an artist and homemaker, recently did a major makeover of her home. Tons of items flew out the door, via numerous garage sales and charity donations. She realized that you have to "let things go in order to have new things come your way." And let's face it, unless you are planning to open up a museum or second-hand store, it's time to make your mini-fortune through Ebay or a good old fashioned yard sale. Money does not cure all ills, but it sure does help ease the pain of giving up that treasured popsicle stick collection.

Nourish the senses

Once your space is relatively clear and uncluttered, affirm your creativity by surrounding yourself with things that motivate and please you. A shelf of favorite books to ponder. A vase of fresh flowers to admire. A windowsill with seashells, birds nests and other special objects for a refreshing vista. A jar of your favorite scented oil to sooth and calm. Pictures of family or loved ones to remind you what is important. A magazine clipping about that dream job or vacation to keep going forward. A fresh coat of paint on the wall, perhaps in a vivid, unexpected color, to lighten the spirit and inspire the senses. A variety of textures will energize the space and provide visual interest. Light, color, texture, white space: a blend of these elements will create a place where you can work, study, meditate and dream.

Keeping it clean

Maintaining a clutter-free environment can be a challenge for those of us who are pack rats. On a regular basis, once a month or so, take a firm inventory of your

continued on page 7

Transforming your space *continued from page 6*

space. Are there things collecting that will impede the flow of your concentration and mar the beauty you have created? If you cannot bear to throw things out, having a large brown box or storage container to hold such items in the closet or under a bed will keep your space in its pristine condition. Maybe once a year or so, go through the box and discard what you truly don't want or need.

Did you Feng shui today?

Feng shui is an ancient Chinese discipline, over five thousand years old. The name means wind-water. At its core is the belief that everything has a yin and yang, an ebb and flow, a lightness and darkness. For our lives to function properly, there must be a balance of all things, including your physical surroundings. Wikipeida tells us that "Feng shui is a discipline with guidelines that are compatible with many techniques of agricultural planning as well as internal furniture arrangements. Space, weather, astrology, and pseudo-geomagnetism are basic components of feng shui. Proponents claim that feng shui has an effect on health, wealth, and personal relationships." How your walkway curves toward your door, which direction your bed is facing, where you work on your finances all have significance, according to Feng shui practitioners.

The application of the principles of Feng shui to one's home or workspace is relatively easy and pain-free. With some study, you may be able to experiment on your own. Start small, with a bedroom or an entryway, and gradually expand your Feng shui spaces as your knowledge increases. By carefully removing items that stifle productivity and replacing them with items needed for inspiration, you will find harmony within your environment.

Resources

If you prefer to work with a Feng shui expert, there are several in our community who would be glad to assist you.

Sue Thompson (Soulscaping by Susan, 570/253-4006) has been a Feng shui practicioner since 1998. She notes that "the first thing one sees when they enter your space should be what you are about." For example, if you are a painter, display one of your favorite pieces. If you garden, let a fresh bouquet of flowers or house plant speak for you. If books are your thing, display them proudly. Let the universe know that you are a talented being. Affirm your creativity.

Whenever possible, says Thompson, have your desk or workspace situated so that you will be facing the entrance. Ever talk to anyone whose back is turned to you? May as well be talking to a brick wall. Having your back to the door sends a subliminal message that you are not open to new opportunities that may come your way.

Kelley Gibs (Gardens by Kelley, 845/436-4634) is a self-titled earth artist who specializes in creating outdoor living spaces. She finds that by using the five found elements already in your surroundings—stone, wood, fire/metal, water and earth—you can "create a sense of curiosity" that will keep you in a state of constant discovery. Try putting in a small water fountain. Plants are a symbol of growth, and if you are a beginner, begin at the beginning. Do not try to grow that green thumb overnight!

Other resources

On line

www.fengshui.about.com
www.home.ivillage.com
www.thespiritualfengshui.com
www.fengshui.happyhomezone.com

Books

"Feng Shui Home," by Gill Hale, Stella Martin, Josephine De Winter
"101 Feng Shui Tips For Your Home," by Richard Webster
"The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Feng Shui: The Complete Guide to the Art and Practice of Feng Shui," by Lillian Too
"Simple Feng Shui," by Damian Sharp

DVDs

"Feng Shui Demystified" with Alice Inoue
"Discover Feng Shui" with Jenny Uu
"An Introduction to Feng Shui: Enhance Your Home - Enrich Your Life"
"Feng Shui For Dummies"

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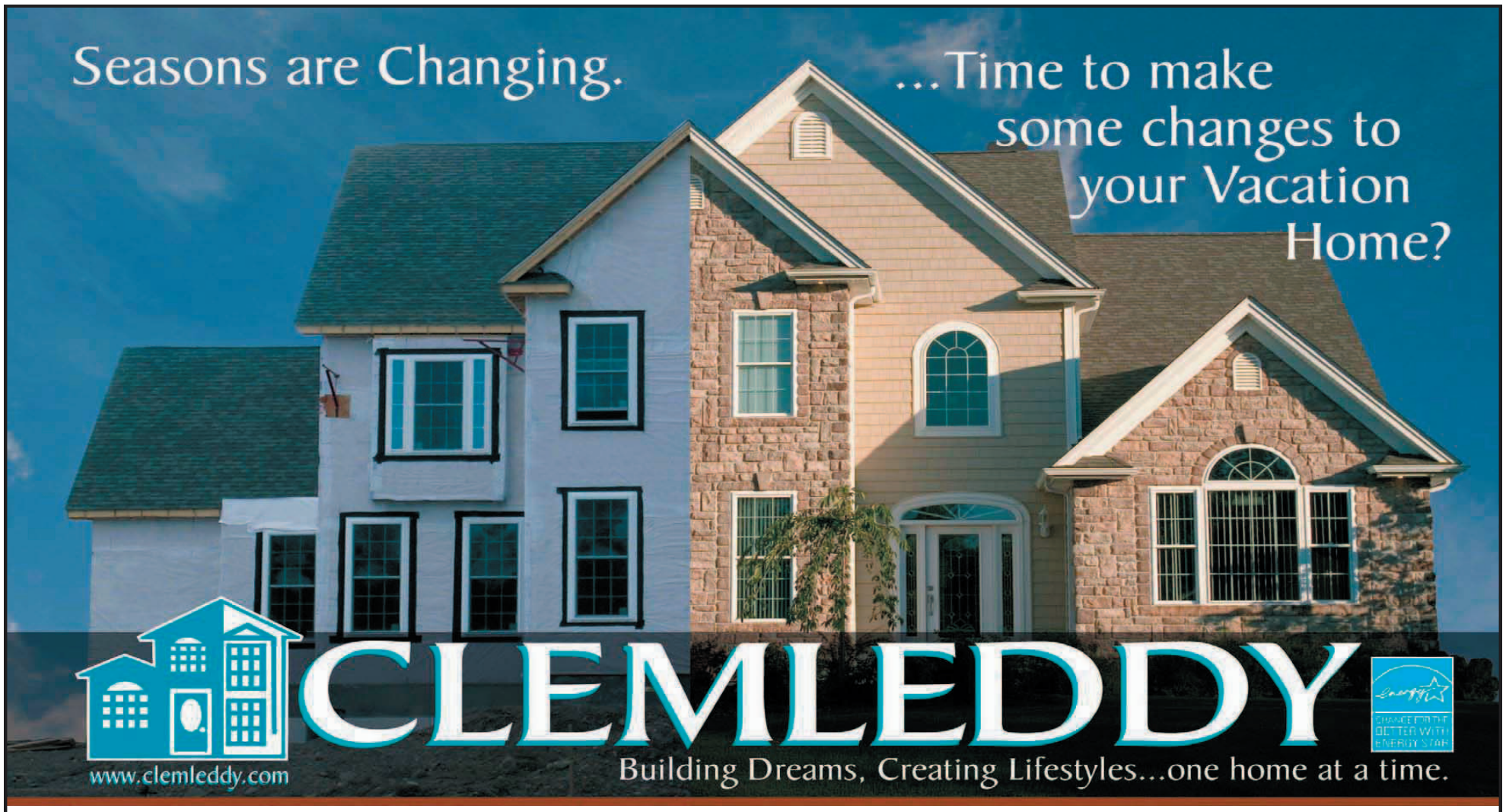

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WITHOUT A QUESTION, A TRULY SPLENDID PROPERTY
Town of Deerpark
Adorable ranch on 4 acres w/ a beautiful scenic view off the spacious deck. Home features a new kitchen & roof. It also offers 3 bedrooms & 1 BA, a finished basement & fireplace in the living rm. Horses are allowed. The property has 3 outbuildings, including the corral and an AGP. Must see to be appreciated. $279,000. Ref # 434883.

MANY UNIQUE FEATURES
Town of Lumberland
What a unique home. Starting with the Canadian wood exterior to the 2 fireplaces within the interior. The home features 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, one with a Jacuzzi, along with floor-to-ceiling thermo windows that views the greenway outside. The balcony off the master bedroom is great for the 1st morning coffee and enjoy the deck for the many cookouts. Plenty of closet space. This home is a treat. Call for an appointment. $225,000. Ref # 430429.

OVERLOOKS THE TROUT STREAM
Town of Lumberland
Bring your pole to try out the natural trout stream and settle into this charming raised ranch, nestled in the Glen Spey countryside. This home offers 2 bedrooms, 1½ baths, hardwood floors, formal dining room and living room with a fireplace, along with a 2-car garage. Great for year-round or a second getaway home. Call for details and a showing. $179,900. Ref # 429167.

LOCATION PLUS CHARM PLUS VALUE
Town of Deerpark
This 4-bedroom, 2-bath with its family room, fireplace, hardwood floors, ceramic tile and a great kitchen all adds up to a special brand new hilltop home. It is situated on 2.6 acres. Home is not far from a major highway and train station. Call for more details and an appointment to see. $283,500. Ref # 401518.

ACCENT OF VALUE
Town of Highland
This 4-bedroom, 3-bath Cape Cod is brand new and waiting for owners who seek beauty and privacy. The full, walk-out basement and 2-car garage, affords lots of extra room. Don't miss the views of the stream and wildlife from the back deck or the front rocking-chair porch. A must see. $269,999. Ref # 382438.

EXCELLENT INSIDE & OUT
Town of Lumberland
This great ranch offers a new upstairs kitchen w/ all appliances and a summer kitchen downstairs. Some other features include: 3 BR, 2 BA, hwd flrs, track lighting, wood stove in finished bsmt, wrap-around deck & a koi pond. Home has been inspected and passed w/ flying colors. Come see this move-in condition home on 2 acres of wooded property. $199,000.

LAND & LOTS

Town of Lumberland		Town of Lumberland		Town of Lumberland		Port Jervis		Town of Lumberland	
130 acres	$699,900	1.7 acres	$55,999	.92 acres	$65,000	Commercial	$65,000	2.95 acres	$34,900

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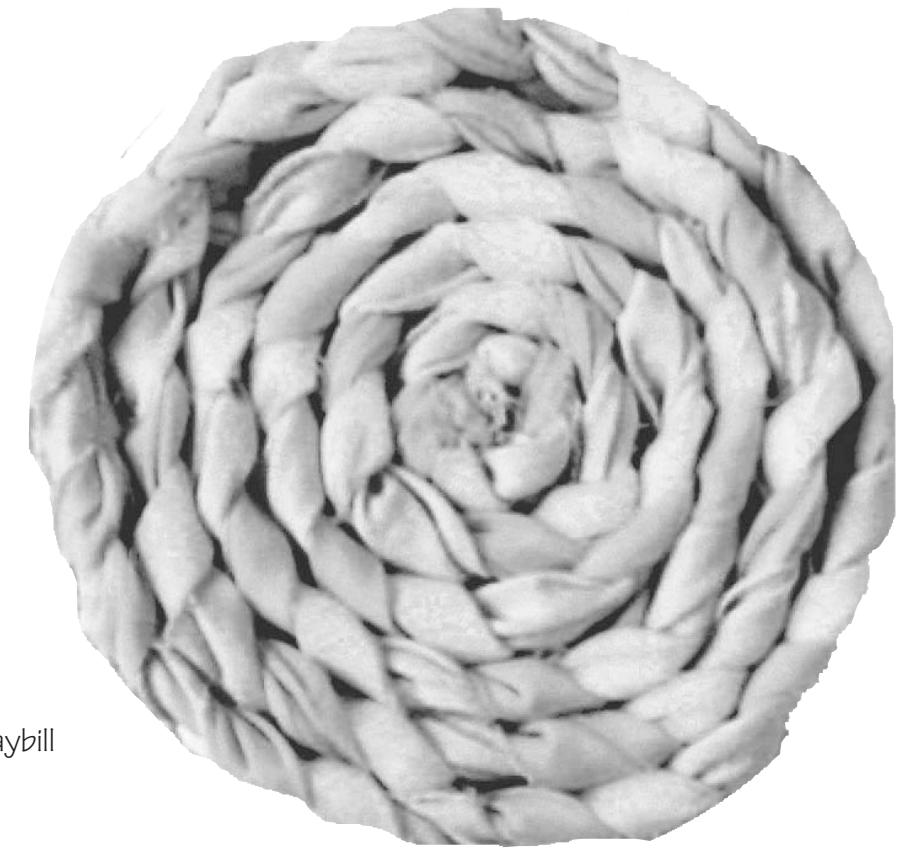
Braided rugs:

the old classic weaves a new spell



TRR photos by Nancy Dymond

"...colors of people's cares, all cut,
turned, and woven into the huge rug

of threads still moving with breath,
with handholds and walking, all the miles..."

—from the poem "Braided Rug in the Front Room"

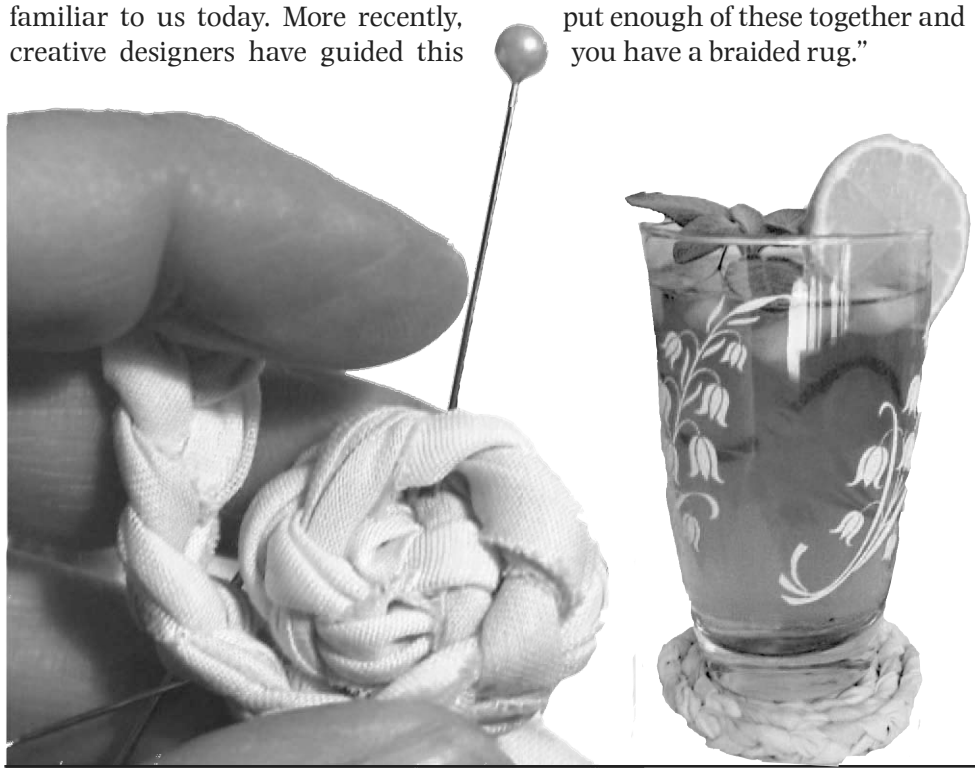
by James Graybill

By Nancy Dymond

The braided rug's charm is not so much in its handsomely crafted symmetry of form, but in its mysterious sense of aliveness. "Listen to the stories we can tell," imply its colors, tones and textures. Within its folded braids lie the stories that give meaning to life: the dress Susie wore to her first day of school, the apron Nana donned on Thursdays when she baked bread, that green bamboo print blouse that Ellen scorched so badly, Daddy's black suit, and eventually his brown suit, too.

Originated by early American colonists who were forced to import scarce wool from England, braided rug designs expanded with the developing capabilities of the textile industry. Plain-hued throw rugs that replaced mats woven from flax and reeds evolved into the large and colorful ovals, rectangles and circles familiar to us today. More recently, creative designers have guided this classic craft in new directions by introducing elements borrowed from other arts. Stunning effects have been created within the process with color- and texture-based patterning techniques, and by utilizing post-process add-ons such as painting and appliqué.

To transform rags into rugs is to feel the pulse of imagination through hands, eyes and brain, with intention driving the creative flow simultaneously toward the past and the future. The braided coaster project presented below offers an easy way to participate in this transformative process. If inspiration moves you to try a larger project, you will have a foundation of basic techniques. Or, if you find yourself addicted to the pleasure of creating one coaster after another, as I was, you might be interested in my brother-in-law's observation: "You put enough of these together and you have a braided rug."



Create a braided coaster

Materials needed:

- Three 2-inch-wide strips of a light- to medium-weight fabric, each 48 inches long, for each coaster
- Two large safety pins and a couple of straight pins
- A needle and thread

To begin:

Fasten the three ends together with one of the safety pins and secure the pin over a utility hook to give you tension for braiding.

Braid the three strands together in the familiar braiding pattern, just the way you would braid hair. If you are interrupted, put the other safety pin through the work. That makes it easy to pick up where you left off.

To finish:

Stitch across the strips at the beginning of the braid. Remove the safety pin and trim off excess fabric. Start the coil with a tight center, but loosen up by the second round to get a nice flat surface without buckling. Push straight pins across the coils into the center to hold it in place. When you are satisfied that it looks good, begin stitching the underside, attaching adjacent braid sections to each other. Taper and weave the excess at the end of the coil into the previous coil. I used a small crochet hook to pull each of the three ends through several braid loops. Stitch to fasten.

Resources

On the Web:
www.bellaonline.com
www.craftown.com
wi.essortment.com/braidedragrugs_rjmn.htm

Books:
"The Braided Rug Book: Creating Your Own American Folk Art," by Norma M. Sturges and Elizabeth J. Sturges
"The Illustrated Guide to Rug Braiding," by Verna Cox
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Snap, crackle and pop!

Transform a dull piece of furniture into a pièce de resistance by adding a creative finish, some new knobs and flourishes

TRR photos by Cass Collins

A plain bench goes from blah to wow with this crackle finish tecnique.

By Cass Collins

This is the time of year I hanker for a change. Short on cash after holiday bingeing, I look for street finds or commandeer neglected pieces of furniture for fresh makeovers. If ever there was a time to paint something pink, it is now!

A fresh coat of paint is perfect for transforming a dull piece of furniture into a pièce de resistance. Add a special finish, some new knobs and flourishes and... voilà!

For a recent project, I used an old pine armoire that had been over-stripped by a furniture dealer years ago. A quick coat of red paint made this old beauty look new again and added some needed punch to a neutral bedroom. Removing the hanging rod and adding a shelf to this piece could turn sweater storage into an entertainment armoire, a bonus dose of Feng shui in your romance corner.

But you don't have to stop there. After a first coat of flat latex or acrylic paint, top the red coat with a crackle glaze (see "How to crackle") and a contrasting top coat of paint. The top coat will crackle like a weather-worn antique, and your new finish will look old in a flash.

Materials needed

- Sandpaper
- Tack cloth
- Primer
- Two colors of latex and/or acrylic paint
- White household glue
- Dishwashing liquid
- Brushes and/or rollers
- Mixing containers

Tips

Experiment with finishes on a scrap of wood first, then graduate to found objects or attic refugees before committing your hand to a finer piece.

Experiment with contrasting colors—white over blue, brown under pink, green over red.

Don't use latex for your top coat; it will spread, not crack.

How to crackle

1. Clean and sand surfaces, using a fine grade of sandpaper. Use a tack cloth to remove dust.
2. Prime surface, using a dark primer for red or black paint, light for other colors. Let dry.
3. Paint first color. This will be your undercoat that will show through the crackled top coat. Let dry thoroughly.
4. Mix a few drops of dishwashing liquid with glue in a container. Brush or roll on the glue. A thin coat will produce fine cracks, while a thicker coat will yield larger cracks. The direction of your brushstrokes will determine the direction of the cracks.
5. When dry to the touch, but still tacky, paint top coat over the glue finish. Drag your brush in one direction, refilling to keep a ready flow of paint. If using a roller, do not drag the roller over the glaze. Do not paint over previous strokes.
6. A hair dryer will let you see the fruits of your labor quickly. When the topcoat is thoroughly dry, seal with another coat of glue or a polyurethane finish. A matte or satin finish looks best.

Left-overs

Another easy paint transformation uses two colors and some hand sanding to mimic an age-worn look. Layer one color, then when dry, another. Sand edges and around knobs or pulls until the bottom layer is visible. You can also rough up the surface with some chain to enhance the aged patina.

This is a good way to use up paint that you have left over, and the colors will work with your decor, since you already have it on hand. I used the shade of green on my crackled bench that is on the trim in my powder room.

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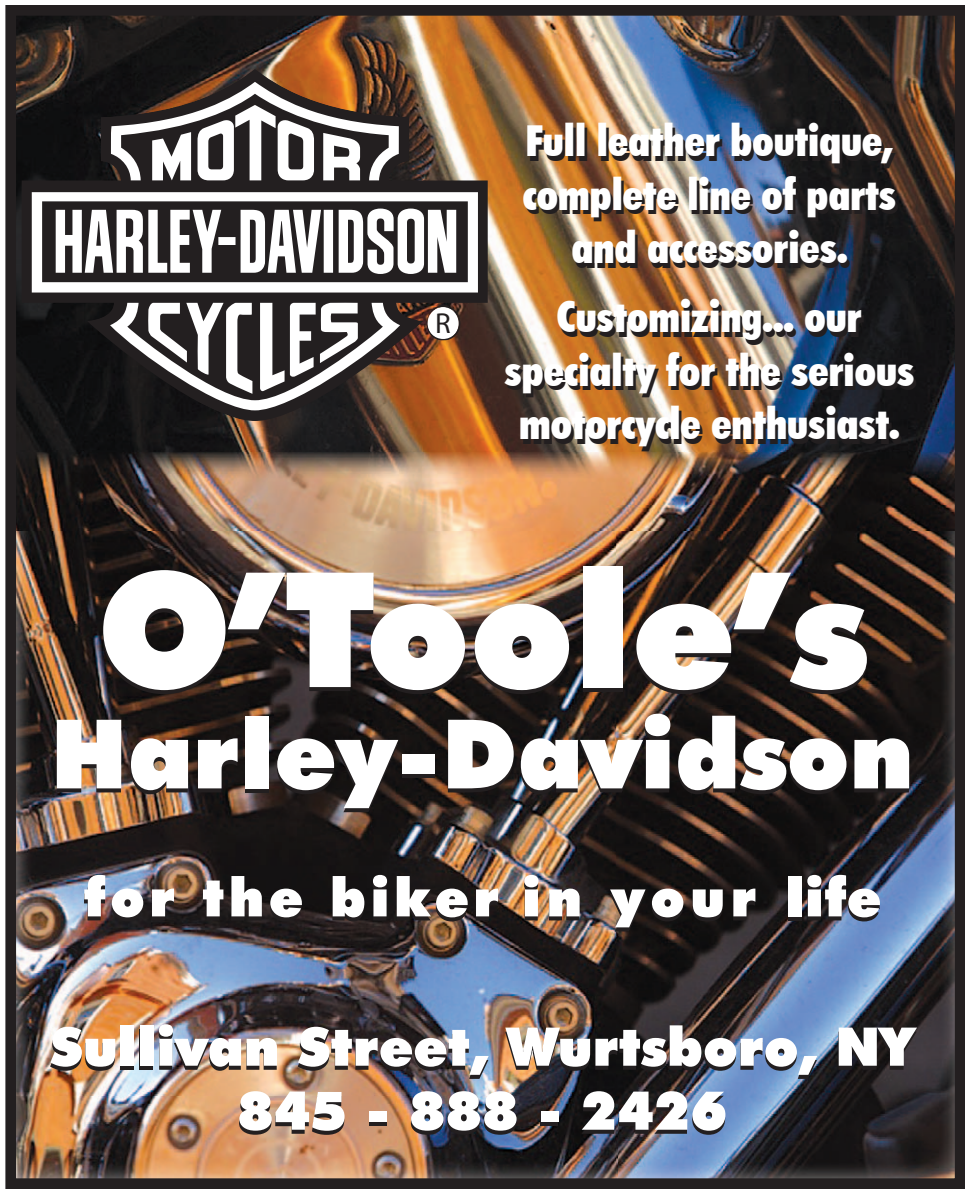

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Ushering in spring: an Easter dinner to remember

TRR file photo

The Menu

Hors d'Oeuvres
Roasted Radishes with Soy Sauce & Sesame Seeds
Plate of cheese, crackers, olives, dip, et cetera

Main Course
Roast Leg of Lamb stuffed with Garlic & Herbs
Green Beans with Ginger Butter
Honey Glazed Carrots & Shallots
Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Dessert
Apple Tart with Puff Pastry & Almond Paste

The Wine
With the hor d'oeuvres, sparkling wine is always a welcome treat. It goes with everything. There are many wonderful choices; a California blanc de blanc or an Italian Prosceco are delicious and inexpensive. Lamb, the main course, is delicate yet hearty. A fruity Pinot Noir goes very well with the richness of the meat. Expect to spend about $15 and up. My two favorites at the moment are Cloud Line Pinot Noir from Oregon and Oyster Bay Pinot Noir from New Zealand.

By Leslie Rutkin

For those of us living in the cold north, the transformative power of spring and its promise does a lot to keep us going. That's certainly true for me. Unlike some, I am not a lover of snow and ice. But I put up with these realities of winter simply because I know that spring will follow.

When Easter comes around, I think of transformations, not in the religious sense, but in the way a season of renewal begins for all of us. Those brave little bulbs pushing through the earth are only one sign that spring has sprung. I believe that we are all happy to be celebrating a richer season, filled with promise and greenery and flowers and fresh produce.

On Easter, we celebrate at our holiday table with an abundance of food and those we love around us. We celebrate the affirmation of our beliefs, as well as the knowledge that we will soon be walking around in flip flops and of the great meals that we will share, made with ingredients that we've bought from local farmer's markets.

Here's how to usher in spring with a spectacular Easter dinner.

The Table

Spring is gloriously showy and your table can be, as well. I've been collecting vintage plates for years, each one adorned with hand-painted flowers. I will use these on my Easter table, on a crisp white tablecloth, adding grass green cloth napkins. If your special china is all white, use a deep pink tablecloth and watch the whole room light up. Celebrate renewal by adding fresh flowers to the table: a glass vase filled with daffodils or brightly colored tulips is just about perfect!

continued on page 15

The Recipes

Roasted Radishes with Soy & Sesame Seeds

Serves 6
2 to 3 bunches radishes, trimmed
3 tablespoons roasted peanut oil (to roast, pour ¼ cup peanut oil in a heat proof container; roast in 300 degree oven for 5 minutes)
2 tablespoons soy sauce (low salt is okay)
3 medium scallions, sliced thin
2 tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted (toast in small dry skillet on top of the stove, about 3 minutes; watch carefully as the seeds will burn quickly)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Halve radishes lengthwise from stem to root end.

Combine radishes & oil in a zip lock baggie and jostle around until all the radishes are coated with oil.

Turn out radishes onto a rimmed baking sheet lined with foil and roast, turning once or twice, until the radishes are tender & beginning to brown, about 25 minutes.

Drizzle soy sauce over radishes, and sprinkle with scallions. Toss well & continue roasting for 5 minutes.

Turn radishes and any juices on baking sheet into a serving bowl. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and serve with toothpicks. You can make this a little bit ahead and heat for 30 seconds in the microwave before serving.

Green Beans with Ginger Butter

Serves 8
2 pounds green beans, trimmed
1/3-inch-long piece fresh ginger
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
Finely grated lemon zest from ½ lemon
½ teaspoon salt or to taste

Cook beans in an 8-quart pot of boiling salted water (about 2 teaspoons of salt), uncovered, until just tender, 5 to 8 minutes, depending on thickness. Drain in a colander and transfer to a large bowl of ice and cold water to stop cooking. Drain again and pat dry.

Peel ginger and halve crosswise, then thinly slice lengthwise and cut into very thin matchsticks.

Heat butter in a 12-inch nonstick skillet over moderate heat until foam subsides, then cook ginger, stirring, until golden, about 3 minutes.

Add beans and cook, stirring, until just heated through, about 2 minutes.

Remove from heat, add zest & salt, tossing to combine.

Note: Beans can be boiled 1 day ahead and chilled, wrapped in paper towels in a sealed plastic bag. Add to ginger butter right before serving.

Lamb Stuffed with Garlic & Herbs

Serves 8
6 garlic cloves
½ cup of mixed fresh herbs: thyme, rosemary and flat-leaf parsley (do not use dried herbs). Use slightly more rosemary.
1/3 cup olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
1 6- to 8-pound leg of lamb, butterflied (ask your butcher to do this)

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Chop garlic very fine. Using leaves only from herbs, chop very fine. Add to garlic.

Add enough olive oil to garlic and herbs to form a paste-like consistency.

Lay lamb out on a clean surface, skin side down. Spread garlic and herb paste over the entire surface. Close up leg to its original shape. Using a large needle threaded with kitchen twine, sew roast securely shut. (Or, you can loop twine around roast a few times and tie off, but this is tricky and you'll probably need a helper).

Rub lamb with oil and season with salt and pepper.

Put lamb, stitched side down, on a roasting rack set in a heavy roasting pan. Roast in oven for 20 minutes, then decrease oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Roast lamb for 20 minutes more, then decrease oven temperature to 275 degrees. Continue to roast until internal temperature in thickest part of meat registers 150 degrees for medium, about 2 hours.

Turn off oven. Transfer lamb to a heated serving platter, cover with foil and let rest for 20 minutes. Remove and discard kitchen twine and carve lamb across the grain.

Honey-Glazed Carrots & Shallots

Serves 6 to 8
2 pounds carrots (about 10 medium), cut diagonally into ¾-inch-thick pieces.
1 pound small shallots (12), peeled and trimmed, keeping root ends intact
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into bits
¾ teaspoon salt
1 ½ cups water
1 cup chicken broth
1/3 cup white Port or sweet white wine*
1/3 cup honey
2 teaspoons chopped fresh dill (optional)
2 teaspoons chopped fresh chives (optional)
¼ teaspoon black pepper
*Substitute white grape juice for the wine if desired

Spread carrots and shallots evenly in a 12-inch heavy skillet, then dot with butter and sprinkle with salt.

Whisk together water, broth, Port and honey and pour over vegetables.

Cover skillet with lid and simmer over moderate heat until vegetables are tender when pierced with a small knife, about 20 minutes.

Transfer vegetables with a slotted spoon to a bowl.

Boil liquid in skillet over moderately high heat and reduce to about 3 tablespoons, about 15 minutes.

Return vegetables to skillet and gently stir to coat with glaze.

Sprinkle with dill and chives and pepper.

Note: Can be made a day ahead, chilled, then reheated before serving.

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Serves 8
1 or 2 heads of garlic, to taste
8 large Yukon gold potatoes (or any boiling potatoes) unpeeled and sliced thin
½ to 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper
Chopped flat-leaf parsley for garnish

Garlic

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Leave the garlic heads whole and slice off just the very tops. Put them in heavy-duty aluminum foil and drizzle olive oil over the top, about 3 tablespoons. Sprinkle with a little salt. Gather up the aluminum foil tightly.

Put the foil package in the oven and bake for about 30 minutes. The garlic should be very soft. If it's still a bit hard, reseal the foil and bake for another 10 minutes.

Remove from the oven and let cool.

Potatoes

Boil about 10 quarts of water in a very large pot.

Add potatoes to boiling water and cook until easily pierced with a fork. Drain in a colander.

While potatoes boil, take the cooled head of garlic and gently squeeze each clove so that the roasted garlic is pushed out into a bowl. Do one whole head this way. (Add from second head if you like a more garlicky taste.) Mash with a bit of olive oil to a paste consistency. This doesn't have to be perfectly smooth.

Place drained potatoes into a large bowl and mash with a potato masher or large fork. You don't want the potatoes to be perfectly smooth.

Add about ½ cup of olive oil and the mashed garlic paste and mix well. Add salt and pepper to taste. If a moister mixture is desired, add more olive oil.

Sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Warm Apple & Almond Tart with Vanilla Sauce

(Adapted from John Doherty, executive chef at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel)
Serves 6-8
8 ounces Puff Pastry (can be purchased frozen in the supermarket)
4-ounce can almond paste (found in the supermarket baking section; don't buy marzipan)
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, cold, cut into small pieces
1/3 cup all purpose flour
1 large egg
1 tablespoon melted unsalted butter
2 pounds Granny Smith apples
1 ½ tablespoons sugar
1 lemon

Preheat oven to 425 degrees

Thaw puff pastry and roll out to a quarter-inch thickness. You can leave the pastry in a rectangle (trim the edges) or cut into a 12-inch circle. Place on a well buttered baking sheet. With a fork, make many holes throughout dough to prevent shrinkage but leave about ½ inch around the edges with no holes. During baking, this edge will puff up and you'll have a nice rim around the tart.

Peel apples and cut into thin slices. Place slices into a large bowl of cold water in which you've squeezed the juice of ½ lemon.

Mix the almond paste, cold butter, flour and egg until smooth. Spread evenly over pastry.

Drain apples and pat dry. Evenly distribute sliced apples around pastry, pressing gently into dough. If you've made a circle, lay out the apple slices in concentric circles so it looks like a spiral. If you've left the dough in a rectangle, lay out the apples in even rows.

Brush melted butter over the apples and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake for approximately 30 minutes until edges of pastry are puffed up and golden brown and apples are soft.

During baking, brush with melted butter and sugar at least 3 times, every 10 minutes. (You might need more melted butter and sugar.)

When tart is cool, slide onto a fancy serving dish. Cut into wedges or squares with a very sharp knife. Serve with vanilla sauce.

Vanilla Sauce

1 cup heavy cream
1 cup milk
½ vanilla bean, split and scraped. (Whole vanilla beans can be found in the spice section of your supermarket.)
4 egg yolks
½ cup granulated sugar

Combine all ingredients and whisk gently over a double boiler until mixture is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon.

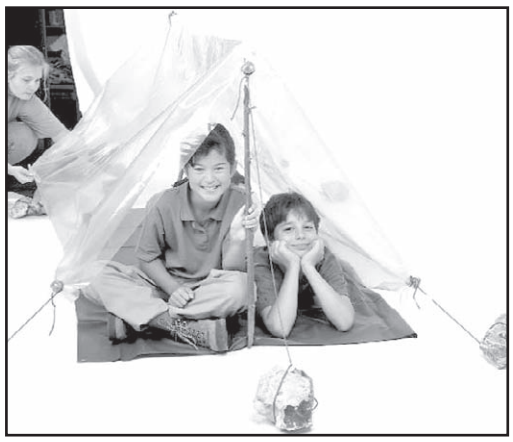
Strain through a fine sieve into a bowl.

Keep at room temperature or gently reheat to serve. Pour into a pitcher and pass around when you serve the Apple and Almond Tart.

The winter fort:

an easy, fun way to fire the imagination inside

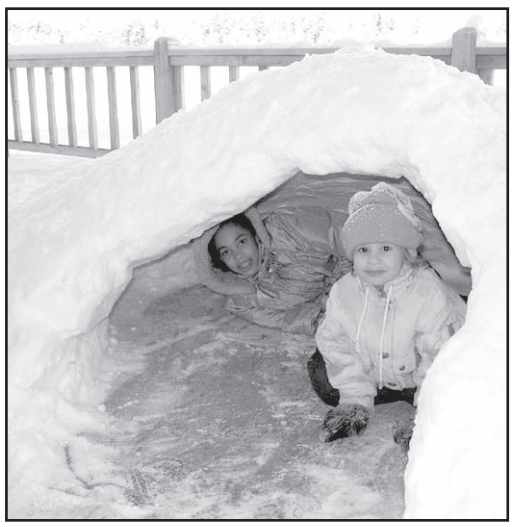
By Liz Huntington



Contributed photos

Tarp and stick fort.

Chairs and blanket fort.



Snow fort.

What is more magical than huddling over a bright little flame in a small, snug shelter? While the rest of the world worries and toils, your child and a friend are hidden away in their safe, secret place, close to the glow of a twig-built fire, whispering and joking and making up new and better worlds in their heads.

You can find this magic in a wilderness camp, a high plains tepee, a nomad's yurt or... a fort in your family living room or den. The raw materials for a great adventure need not be exotic or hard to acquire. Sometimes, they are right under our noses, waiting for a good dose of time and imagination. While adults sometimes feel in very short supply of these two commodities, children are richly endowed with both. Call it a clubhouse, a winter camp or a pirate cave; there is no game or movie that will command the attention of children more than the idea of moving into a fort they make themselves. It's perfect entertainment for the cold, short February days or wet, windy March weather.

Materials needed

The basic materials for indoor fort building are found in every household or can be acquired from a hardware store, home supply store, thrift or second-hand store. Pick and choose the items you want for your fort:

- A sturdy table that can be commandeered from above and below
- Chairs that can be turned on their sides or upside down
- Blankets, tarps, sheets, rugs and towels
- Pillows (especially chair and sofa cushions)
- Crates
- Plastic flashlights with extra batteries
- A folding wooden drying rack (or two)
- Colorful rugs or mats
- A bag of wooden clothes pins
- A length of clothesline
- Lots of cardboard and duct tape
- Wallboard or paneling that can be drawn on
- A large roll of brown paper
- Paper, crayons and colored markers for signage, map drawing, etc.
- Assorted containers and bowls

Tips for creating a fort

Help, but don't lead. For anyone old enough to drive to the hardware store for duct tape, a word of caution: don't build this for your kids. Let them build it for you. They may need a nudge to get started, but they will know what they want to do.

- Do not use items that need to be preserved in good condition.
- Create a box to hold the fort items for future use once the fort is dismantled. Keep as many items as possible for this exclusive purpose. This allows the fort to stay up longer and be reassembled more easily.
- Reserve a spot for fort-building that will not interfere with general house activity. It should also be close enough to the family hub that kids do not feel frightened or isolated in their fort.
- Create an atmospheric "campfire" with a scrap of red bandana or any thin red cloth lit by one of the fort flashlights. Have your child bring in a few twigs and small branches from the woods to arrange around this "fire." Then, it will be perfect as well as perfectly safe.
- Stay involved. Nothing is better fun for a youngster than to see her big dad or mom squeezing into the tiny world she has made herself.
- Don't intrude**.** Nothing is more satisfying to the disgruntled child than to retreat to his "secret" cave and lounge there in private until he feels like calling for company.
- Let your children play, eat, read, do homework and even sleep all night in the fort, if they wish. Why not? If you're lucky, they might invite you (or at least your head and shoulders) in for a story or afternoon nap.

We all love sharing the intimacy of the camp and its fire circle. We love the simple and immediate act of sitting on the ground to hear a story or gaze into the shadows. In the language of dreams and symbols, the fort is an archetypal equivalent of the soul's camp, within which can be found solace and renewal. Fort building is great fun for kids and can fill hours with creative, collaborative, emotionally satisfying play that is not bought, but hand made all at home.

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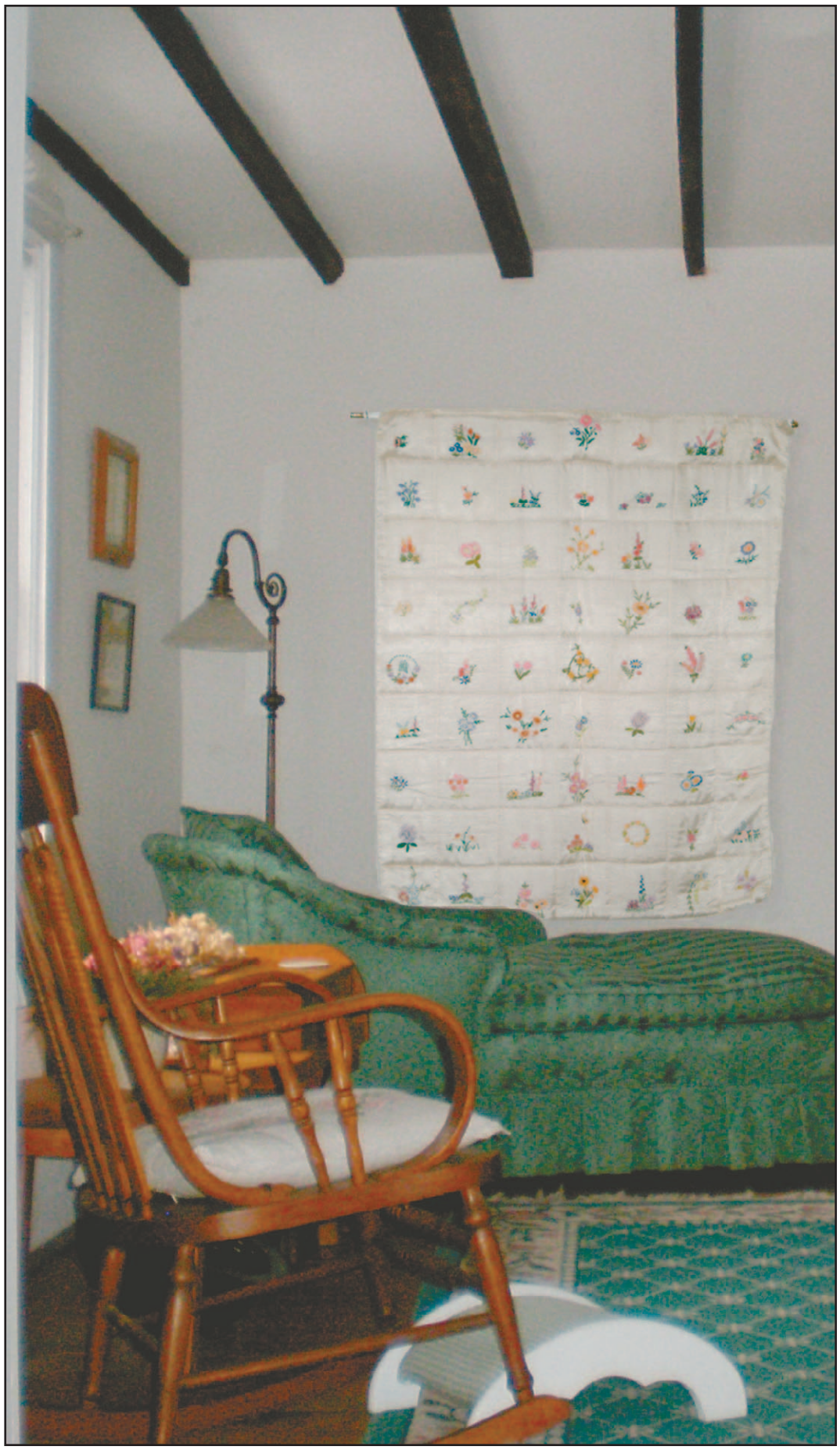
At home with journalist Jan Goodwin in her Pennsylvania cottage



TRR photos by Tom Lasher

Jan Goodwin.

By Dorothy Hartz

Jan Goodwin wasn't looking for a country home. She thought she was merely accompanying a friend who was looking at real estate for herself, and who didn't think the 1880 house on one acre in Damascus Township was suitable. Jan thought it was. Rather, she saw the house's affordable potential and the character of its creek-side setting. In a heartbeat, she offered to buy it.

Her serendipitous impulse brought her into a neighborhood of quaint houses surviving history. In one direction, a neighbor enjoys a renovated village icehouse. In the other direction, owners have dressed a former one-room schoolhouse with flower gardens and espaliered fruit trees. But in 1982, all Jan Goodwin knew was that she had suddenly acquired 1,200 square feet to call her own—and to remake in an image of home. Helping to shape that image were lovely dark exposed beams, wide plank floors, odd but interesting angled kitchen walls and a farmhouse sink. The two-level yard offered herb gardens, mountain laurel, a catalpa and peach trees, as well as a rubbish dump, dignified by age and a wisteria screen: a mother lode for the antique glass bottles that today fill most of the downstairs wide windowsills.

Exit the orange shag carpet and plastic laminate paneling. Re-enter a clawfoot bathtub. Two tiny bedrooms became one decent sized one, albeit with challenging door configurations. With walls stripped down to clapboard and mummified snakes, et cetera, removed, Jan envisioned "rough plaster," a concept that translated only approximately to its erstwhile creator.

Goodwin, a New York City resident, was encountering the typical difficulties of long distance renovation—time limited by a demanding work schedule, and contractors who came and went, and sometimes came back and misunderstood. Still, after little more than a year, her new home looked much more like an English cottage than an experiment in affordable living. Not surprisingly, Goodwin credits her youth in England with her penchant for renovation, having grown up in a 250-year-old house in London. She claims for her fellow Brits, "Barns will be lying flat and we'll turn them into houses. It's the way we are."

"The way she is" has purchased a quarter-century of much needed respite from a remarkable career. A journalist and author, Goodwin entered educational publishing while still living in England, where she also worked for the **BBC**. Once across the pond, she settled in Manhattan as an executive editor for **Ladies' Home Journal**. After 10 years, she needed a change. A stint with Save the Children, an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of children the world over, gave her the opportunity to use her award-winning talents in journalism and publishing in the service of human rights. Her experience with the organization led to independent travel, four years of residence abroad and her

continued on page 19

Attention to delail marks all aspects of Goodwin's home.

An inviting porch welcomes visitors.

A side view of Goodwin's cottage, a la melting snow.

current status as author of, and lecturer on, two extraordinary and well-received books.

"Caught in the Crossfire: A Woman Journalist's Breathtaking Experiences in War-Torn Afghanistan" (1987) chronicles the Afghan war during the years of influence of Senator Charlie Wilson, currently featured in the film "Charlie Wilson's War."

"I saw the movie," says Goodwin dryly, implying "before there was a movie." Indeed, Goodwin testified before Congress in support of Wilson's efforts.

Her second book, "Price of Honor: Muslim Women Lift the Veil of Silence on the Islamic World" (1994), is now required reading in many colleges' curricula and examines how Islamic extremism is affecting the lives of Muslim women.

Goodwin currently writes for a variety of publications. Though she treks to rural Pennsylvania to escape the pressures of city life and work, she has brought prized mementos with her and appointed her retreat as only a globetrotter can. (Appropriately, her city home is near the U.N.) Her many photographs lining the staircase, some developed on the premises in a closet darkroom, narrate her time in Afghanistan, as does an Afghan tent hanging. A Nepalese beer pot accents the living room, friendly as the tea cozy in service on the tea tray. A carved bit of Siberian reindeer antler decorates a dresser. A rustic cobbler's bench, the only article of furniture brought from the city, harmonizes well with other rustic wood pieces, most of them acquired locally at auctions and flea markets at bargain prices for the fixing. Fortunately, Goodwin fixes very well. Her single treasure from England is a finely embroidered baby quilt displayed as a wall hanging. It was made from a bridal gown, which in turn had been fashioned from a silk parachute salvaged during World War II.

As comfortable as she has made her country home, Goodwin comes to it for more than nesting. She loves the topography of the Upper Delaware River valley and, of course, the river. An experienced kayaker, she is equally enthusiastic about having tested the waters of Mongolia and the Delaware. She is also appreciative of the wildlife here, especially the larger species not found in England. There, "it's all hedgehogs and rabbits—Beatrix Potter creatures—you can hold all of them in your hands." Above all, she comes for peace, quiet and a quality of spiritual experience. Relaxation has come to mean pulling into her driveway, turning off the car and listening to birdsong and the tumbling of the creek fronting the property. Then, she stresses, "I literally feel my brain decompress." Being here has strengthened Goodwin's suspicions that there is validity in the lore of energy vortexes—related theories that some locations on the earth, aligned to electromagnetic force fields called ley lines, exude a more positive energy than exists elsewhere. Reputedly, they have been conducive to spiritual development since ancient times.

With or without vortexes, Goodwin hopes to live here full-time eventually. The transition will require a substantial home office; consequently, a search for a larger house and the prospect of renovation, with all its attendant pleasures and challenges, is on the horizon. When she does make her next home, she has promised herself, "It will be green," acquired and maintained with consideration to energy and the environment.

Jan Goodwin's making and remaking of home reveals a sustaining constant in her life. "When I'm off covering a war, this is where I come back to for tranquility." As her countryman Winston Churchill said, "We shape our buildings and afterwards they shape us."

"When I'm off covering a war, this is where I come back to for tranquility."

Old stone steps invite exploration.

This stone bench invites contemplation.

Trees and fencing create a charming, texured winter garden scene.

All's fair

TRR photos by Anne Hart

By Marcia Nehemiah

We all know about fair trade chocolate and coffee. But did you know that you can purchase other fair trade foods such as tea, sugar, fruit, wine, rice, olive oil and spices, along with a wide variety of other goods?

When you purchase a fair trade certified item, you can rest assured that farmers and artisans receive a fair wage for their work and that the products are grown in an environmentally friendly way. Because they are grown on small farms or hand-produced with care and attention, fair trade items are often superior in quality.

What's for supper

You can literally create a meal—from soup to nuts, and then some—using fair trade items. After you've used fair trade foods in your favorite recipes, set your table with fair trade decorative objects from all over the world. For instance, the intricate, contemporary pattern of hand-painted Tunisian ceramic tableware will jazz up each place setting.

Wood cutting boards from Costa Rica are sturdy enough to chop on, but beautiful enough to use as a cheese-and-cracker platter. The combination of woods, including sustainably harvested mahogany and guapinol, a tropical hardwood, create a smooth surface you just have to touch.

To complete the whole-world effect for your table, a wide variety of fair trade textiles is available, from deep blue to beige to lavender block print table runners and tablecloths, to complementary napkins and placemats from Nepal.

The fairest of them all

When you're out and about, fair trade items like colorful hand-knit scarves, made of merino wool in Guatemala or hand woven by artisans in India, are perfect for the last days of winter. Add a hand-knit merino wool hat with a colorful design.

For a formal evening, a Balinese flowing dress or a wide-legged pants set in celadon batik topped with a sensual, ruffled edged sweater will match the elegance of any festive occasion.

The guys can fair trade dress as well, in comfy T-shirts, shorts and pants, or a more trendy, wild hemp vest made in Nepal, or a hand-loomed, cotton striped kurta (a traditional loose fitting, collarless shirt).

Here's the bling

Enamel inlaid bangles from India, wavy earrings from Kenya and a necklace from Peru of cylindrical red jasper beads dangling from a bright, sterling silver chain make perfect gifts to give—or to keep. Accessorize with a purse made in Vietnam. The black fabric creates a striking background for intricate beadwork embroidery to chase away the monochrome palette of winter.

Unique gifts

We all know what it's like to shop for a special gift for that special someone. Many fair trade products fit the bill—something uncommon rather than run-of-the-mill. Try a shoulder bag or purse made from recycled colorful, traditional Guatemalan skirts. Or an eye-catching frame made in the Philippines from recycled newspaper that is coiled around broom bristle, joined with thread and glue, then starched for durability. The same technique is used to make colorful coasters.

Raise the roof

If you've never experienced the fun of a drumming circle, now's the time. You and your friends can make a really big noise by adding other musical instruments made and sold by fair trade cooperatives. Traditional bongos from Kenya, rainsticks from Chile, whistles from Cameroon, Peruvian panpipes, singing bowls from Nepal—a great way to liven up a winter party.

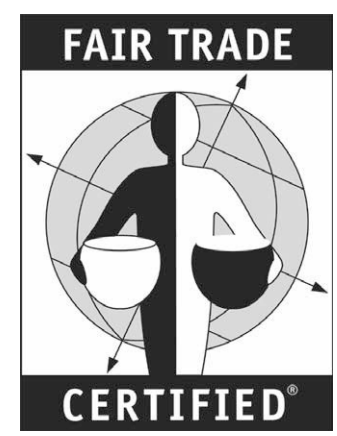
Play fair

Nothing could be more important than treating our children to organic and fair trade baby clothes and toys, and when they're old enough, explaining where their toys came from. Eco-friendly, child-safe interlocking animal alphabet puzzles, eco-adventure card games, puppets and dolls, and organic cotton plush toys are just a few of the items for the kids. Revamp the kids' room with colorful children's furniture like stools, tables and chairs created from certified sustainably harvested hardwood and hand painted using non-toxic paints.

The list of fair trade products goes on and on. Adorn your life and benefit the world's people by selecting fair trade certified merchandise.

An array of fair trade goods, including these fashionable accessories, can be found at The Cutting Garden in Youngsville, NY.

Other area shops carrying fair trade products include Narrowsburg Roasters in Narrowsburg, NY and Catskill Harvest Market in Libery, NY.



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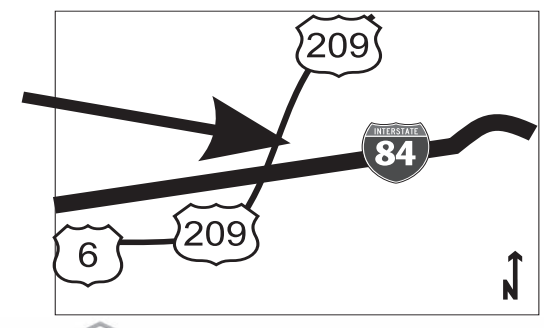

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The Roots of Sullivan Renaissance

Community building in Sullivan County

By Glenn Pontier

A young single mother believes that the public housing in which she lives should have a real name. The woman has little money, few gardening skills and no previous experience. She doesn't even have a telephone. But she does have natural organizing skills, a lot of enthusiasm and courage. So she joins with another single mom to create a garden and put up a new sign declaring the "Eagle Ridge Apartments" to replace the old designation of "Woodridge Housing Authority."

A long-time sportsman decides that his hunting and fishing organization can teach urban children how to fish. So he helps stock a village pond, erects a sign showing what the fish look like and organizes a fishing derby for the kids. The next year, the sportsmen's club is back with a gazebo, bulletin board and several benches—all set among flowers and trees.

Clients at an alcohol treatment center are so excited by a project to clean up their parking lot that they plan an even greater showing the following year. The project spills out onto the main street—as they plant flowers, repair steps and clean buildings. Not only are the lives of individuals being healed, but the neighborhood is being transformed.

These stories are just a few of the hundreds which are Sullivan Renaissance, an aesthetic improvement program that enhances the appearance of Sullivan County, NY while offering lessons about community building and civil society. Called "the single most significant program ever undertaken in the history of Sullivan County" by county historian John Conway, this eight-year-old effort is helping restore what was once one of the most celebrated vacation destinations in America.

A storied heritage

Folks have been going to Sullivan County for hundreds of years. Since the days of the original people (which are what the Lenape Indians called themselves) and the early Dutch settlers, the Catskill Mountains have been the destination of countless waves of visitors. Irving Berlin lived and wrote in Sullivan County, as did Harry Woods. By the 1950s, performers like Neil Sedaka topped the pop charts while calling Sullivan County home. The range of entertainers was large, including Carol Burnett, Sammy Davis Jr. and Tony Bennett. Others, like Peter Frampton and John Lennon, just hid out here.

Stand-up comedy was born in Catskill resort hotels with the likes of Milton Berle, Jerry Lewis and Don Rickles. And it wasn't Hollywood that gave birth to the film industry; it was the Neversink Gorge and Cuddebackville. The 1987 movie "Dirty Dancing" told one view of the Catskill resort story; years later, "A Walk on the Moon" told another.

When Max Yasgur offered use of his Sullivan County dairy farm as a last-minute replacement for an outdoor concert in the summer of 1969, few at the time realized the significance or could have foreseen the impact. The three-day Woodstock Music and Arts Festival drew half a million people and went on to have worldwide impact, changing the cultural measure of the 1960s and defining a generation.

TRR file photo

Decline and reaction

As tourism patterns changed, hundreds of hotels, bungalows and inns fell into disrepair and the county's economy declined. Many of the main streets fell on hard times. Facades, signage, roadside debris, abandoned vehicles and garbage tarnished the countryside. The importance of the county's failed economic state—and the appearance that reflected it—became evident in a 1995 survey conducted by the Sullivan County Planning Board. In September 1996, the county government developed plans for economic revitalization that included a proposal for leaders in business, education and government to spearhead a community effort to polish the physical image of the county.

Three months later, more than 100 residents turned out on the snowiest morning of the year to participate in a forum on "Cleaning the County." Under the umbrella of Sullivan First, communities embarked on grassroots efforts to improve the appearance of their towns

Sullivan First continued its work for the next several years and eventually became the incubator for Sullivan Renaissance, the vision of Sandra Gerry of the Beaverkill Foundation. While Gerry and her husband Alan were traveling in Europe, they visited a village that had won a regional beautification competition. All of the residents had participated with planting, painting and cleaning up. Together they changed the look of their community, filling it with flowers, cleanliness and warmth.

"My thoughts turned to Sullivan County," Gerry said. "Why couldn't we do something like that here?"

Sullivan Renaissance

Sullivan Renaissance works by providing seed grants ranging from $1,000 to $5,000 to communities. The basic criteria is that a minimum of two organizations must work together and also engage the youth of their community in projects such as public parks and gardens, welcome signs and gazebos or main street cleanups and building renovations. Each year, applications are offered in early February and returned in mid-March. Grants are issued at the end of March. In August, judges from outside the county are brought in to evaluate each project and award a second round of grants (or prizes) to the communities that have excelled. Projects are judged for aesthetic improvement, collaboration, youth involvement, permanence and an ability to be maintained.

The change is visible in Kauneonga Lake, Livingston Manor, Youngsville, Jeffersonville, Grahamsville, Wurtsboro and dozens of other hamlets. Visitors returning to the area say they can see a difference. Residents also appreciate the small and large touches that have improved their communities. At the root of the program's success remain the community participants—thousands of them—who participate in every municipality in the county.

What's new

Renaissance continues to add programs. A Municipal Clean-Up Grant Pilot Program and Seasonal Demonstration Grants were introduced two years ago. Solar street lights are being erected on Main Street in the Village of Woodridge, at the waterfront park in Swan Lake and adjacent to the festival monument at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

Also new are Environmental Demonstration Grants, Technical Assistance Grants, additional college scholarships and a Community Enhancement Program to keep communities and volunteers engaged.

Sullivan Renaissance will continue to evolve and expand during 2008—something that happens at the direction and with the support of its volunteers and partners. More gardens and flowers, economic development on the main streets, engaging our young people, alternative energy sources, green building, recycling, improved housing—there is no end to the growth and improvement that can occur in this unique, beautiful county.

For more information and to get involved, visit www.sullivanrenaissance.org or contact Sullivan Renaissance, One Cablevision Center, PO Box 311, Liberty, NY 12754; phone 845/295-2445.

Glenn Pontier serves as program director for Sullivan Renaissance.

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This magnificent home built with 18" Canadian logs sits atop one of the highest pinnacles in Sullivan County and features VIEWS, VIEWS, VIEWS. The home features a large living room w/floor-to-ceiling windows, a massive earthstone fireplace, an eat-in-kitchen along with a master bedroom and a full bathroom. The 2nd level has two large bedrooms and a full bathroom. Every bedroom has it's own balcony which affords views of the Pa & NJ mountain ranges. A lower level has a large 4th bedroom or office and laundry & storage space. A stone patio with gazebo complete this fairytale setting. All this plus access to 3000 acres of state land. $677,900 ID#866J.

2500 sq. ft. Victorian set privately on 5.5 acres. True to its architectural integrity the house consists of a magnificent center foyer, formal dining room and wonderful chef's kitchen with granite counter tops, a breakfast room, a formal living room with cherry mantle and ceramic tile inlay and a half bath. On the 2nd floor a central foyer is surrounded by a master bedroom suite with a bathroom and closet space to die for, along with two additional guest bedrooms and another full bath. Brazilian cherry floors and 9-foot ceilings. See virtual tour on www.treny.com $399,000 ID#906P.

This Zen retreat located on the Shohola Creek which Zane Grey made famous for fly-fishing. Words can't describe the tranquility, peace and serenity that embrace you in this home. There are places in the world that renew... and restore one's soul...the sounds of the creek call out to you from every room and the views are an awakening to nature. A guesthouse allows company privacy and the restoring quality of a mountain stream. $349,000 ID#913G.

This 6 bedroom river- front Colonial home has been lovingly restored. Hardwood floors throughout, with river views from the living room and kitchen give this home its country, "Bed & Breakfast" feel. There's also a large living room, den/recreation room and bathroom. A detached one-car garage could be converted into an artist's studio. Relax on the rocking-chair porch and watch the gently flowing Delaware river which is just outside your door. Enjoy over 75 feet of private beachfront. There aren't many river front properties at this price. $429,000 ID#880D.

You will feel right at home once you step over the threshold and enter this spacious and well-lit home with cedar cathedral ceilings, large open living room and dining room with fireplace. Three very spacious bedrooms, and a full bath complete this home. There's also a nice sized one car detached garage. Walk a few steps to your deeded property on the magnificent Delaware River. Just minutes from one of the areas prime ski resorts. $249,900 ID#925S.

Beautifully situated on 116 acres of rolling fields and pasture, this 4-bedroom Pennsylvania farmhouse needs lots of TLC. There is also a great barn with a silo that is in good condition. The land is absolutely spectacular, offering a blend of rolling fields, woodland, stately stonewalls and a picturesque pond with breathtaking mountain views. The advantage here is the possibility of building a fabulous home up by the pond which overlooks the Pennsylvania countryside. $499,000 ID#917D.

This sweet gingerbread home is perfect for your year round getaway. The home is small but absolutely adorable. Downstairs is an eat-in-country kitchen, a full bath and a large living room with wood stove and a bow window along with an enclosed side porch. A short distance away is a private dock and title to a lakefront parcel of property. Just minutes from recreational amenities including the Delaware River. $225,000 ID#937N.

This is a real gem of a country getaway. Totally secluded on 6+ acres and fronting on a year-round pristine trout stream, this rustic country cabin is perfect for someone wanting a low-maintenance retreat. A large covered porch opens into a nice sized living room with wood stove, dining area with picture window and country kitchen along with 2 bedrooms and full bath. There is also a small barn which could be converted into a work studio. The main focus here is the magnificent one-of-a kind property which is absolutely breathtaking. $279,000 ID#943L.

This charming home is situated on a quiet corner of Mohican Lake, and includes its own dock, on this 300 acre motorboat lake. The main level consists of a large open living room, a dining area and new kitchen all centered around a wonderful field-stone fireplace along with a bedroom & full bath. The 2nd level has been dedicated to a fantastic master bedroom suite which includes a full bath complete with a Jacuzzi tub and a unrestricted view of the lake. An enclosed sunroom and a huge deck are steps away from 170 feet of private beachfront. There is also a detached 1-car garage $449,000 ID#953F.

This quaint 1890s farmhouse is conveniently located near Rt. 86. This home has 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, with hardwood floors, a large stone fireplace in the living room and the original Dogkash stove in the kitchen. Sitting on 6.98 acres, with 2 large barns which can be used for commercial enterprises. A picturesque mountain steam runs along the rear of the property. Recently renovated in 2006. $199,000 ID#952F.

Crabapple

Forsythia

Flowering Quince

TRR photos by Anne Hart

Spring transformations: *forcing the season*

By Anne Hart

As the days lengthen, we become more and more impatient for the transforming magic of spring. If we're organized, our seeds are ready to plant, our wish list for new plants is completed, our garden has been re-designed and we're ready for anything signaling spring. I suspect that most of us don't fall into the "organized" category. However, we are equally anxious to bring spring into our lives at this time of year.

Forcing the branches of flowering trees and bushes is a great way to anticipate the season. Chances are you've got forsythia, flowering quince, pussy willow, lilac or an apple tree in your yard. If not, a neighbor or a friend surely does. Choose a clear day when the weather is above freezing to forage for some likely branches. You will have better success with blooms if you mimic the seasonal progression of the plant. Early bloomers like forsythia, witch hazel and pussy willow will do best when cut in late February or early March. Cuts of lilac, apple and quince should follow in later weeks.

You won't need much in the way of equipment, just clean, sharp pruning shears and a clean bucket or trug for carrying the branches home. Once inside, you'll need a workspace, a couple of clean buckets, a hammer, a mister and plenty of water. Enjoy your outing and the flowers that follow!

Cutting branches for forcing

1) Select branches with a number of fat buds. Flower buds are larger than leaf buds.
2) Cut the branch diagonally and flush with a large branch, as you would when pruning. Take care not to disfigure the plant.
3) Branches should be about three feet long for optimum bloom.
4) Once inside, cut the stems again, then split them open about one inch up the branch, or smash woody stems lightly with a hammer. This will help the branches absorb water.
5) Remove any buds or twigs that will be under water. This prevents rot.
6) Transfer branches to a bucket of warm water and move to a cool, dimly lit room. Humidity is helpful.
7) Add a floral preservative to the water. Mist and change the water daily.
8) Blooms can take two to four weeks to arrive.
9) When the buds begin to swell and you can see color, transfer to a vase and move to a sunnier room.
10) Flowers will last longer if kept out of direct sunlight and away from heating vents. Change water daily.

Locally available varieties

Forsythia
Pussy Willow
Witch Hazel
Spiraea
Cornelian Cherry
Flowering Quince
Lilac
Apple
Crabapple
Cherry
Plum
Honeysuckle

Sharpening your shears

- Disassemble the blades per maker's instruction.
- Dampen a whetstone with household oil.
- Gently move the blade against the whet stone, careful to maintain the angle of the edge.
- Do the same on the other side, removing any burrs.
- Leave a light coating of oil on the blades to protect them.

Home-made floral preservative

1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons bleach
1 quart of water

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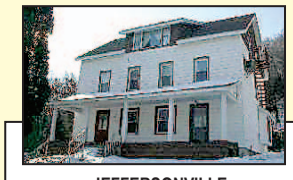

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MLS # 21611
This restored and renovated cape has 3 bedrooms and a full bath. It welcomes you with a lovely front porch. Original hardwood floors and woodwork. Outbuilding could be 2-car garage or studio.
$179,000

MLS# 20112
This lovely restored farmhouse sits on 5 acres with a nice pond. It's ready to move into, with fresh paint in all rooms, hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 1 full bath, and 2 half-baths. Just a quick drive to Bethel Woods and nice restaurants.
$289,000

MLS# 21369
Relax in your country estate! This exquisitely renovated farmhouse on 15 acres with incredible Beechwoods views features 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. Its 3,000 SF boasts a gorgeous custom kitchen, master suite, patios, porch, and finished attic with vaulted ceiling and skylights. Detached 2-car garage and huge barn. Just 2 hrs from NYC, minutes from the Delaware River and Bethel Woods. **$649,000**

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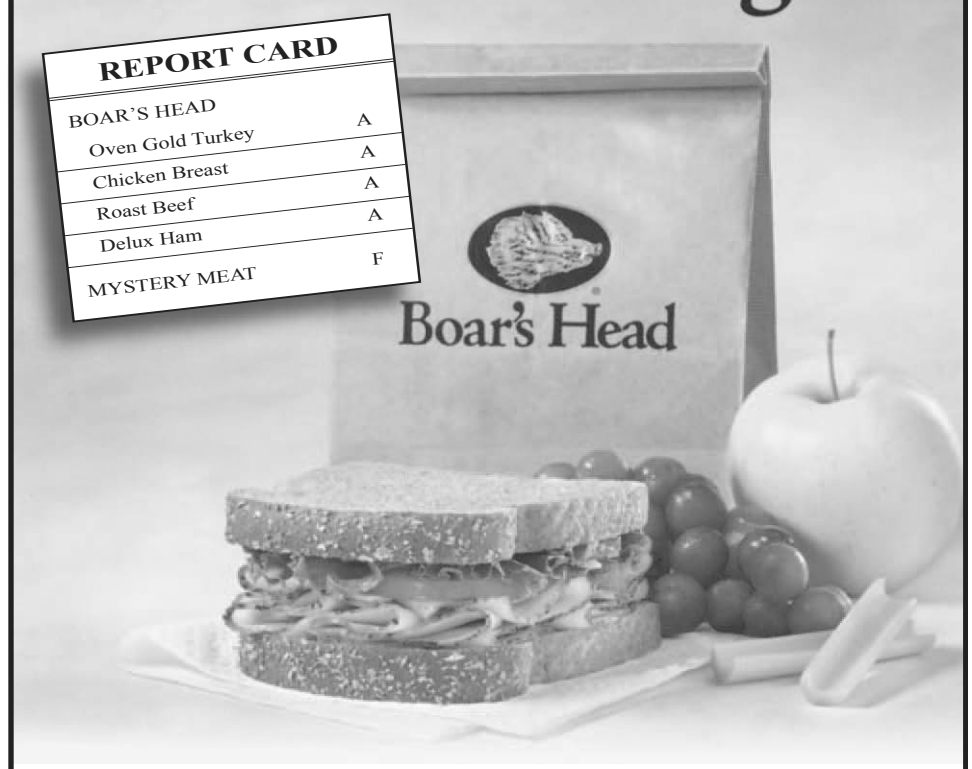

What are your children eating at lunch time?

Public Auction
Valuable Real Estate

Betty Dennis Living Estate
1720 East Street, Honesdale, PA 18431
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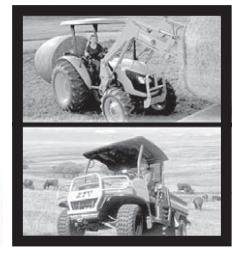

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WINTER 2008

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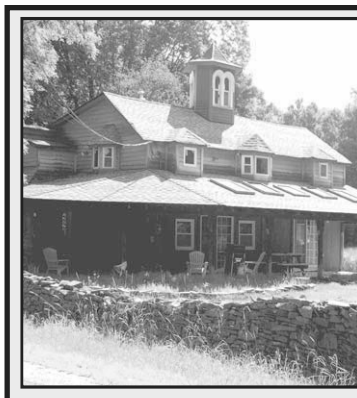

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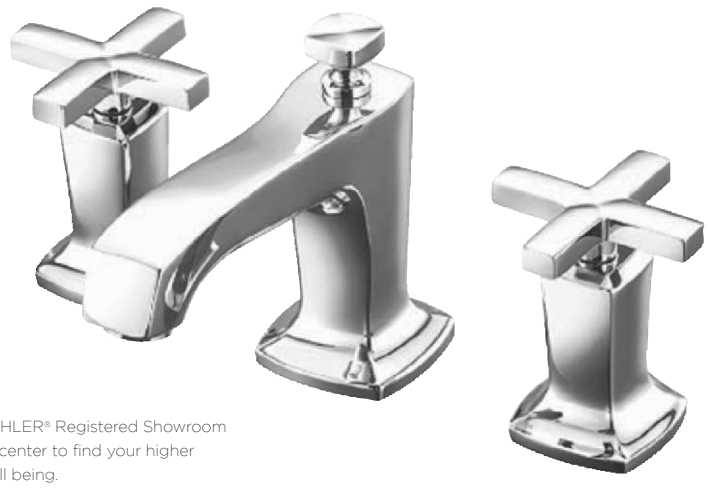

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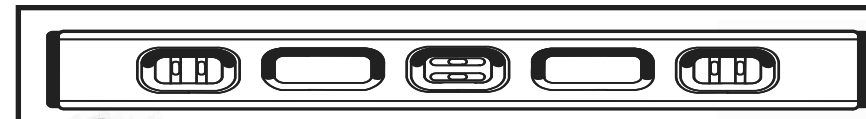

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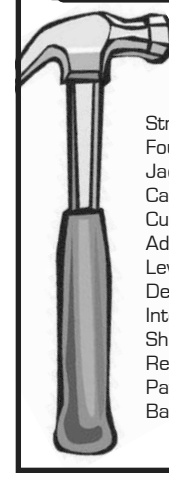

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TRR photo by Erin Vanderberg

The Show Must Go On

Paul Austin and the Liberty Free Theatre

By Erin Vanderberg

When Paul Austin became involved in Sullivan County's Peace and Justice movement which held anti-war vigils every Saturday night in Liberty, NY to protest impending war with Iraq, he had no idea that it would bring him out of retirement to start the third theatre of his career. But that is exactly what happened.

"I was talking with a woman who was deeply involved with the Peace and Justice movement," Austin explains. "She'd become totally disenchanted when the war began. I told her, 'You've got to keep doing your work and it will create change.'" The truth of his advice resonated with Austin, and soon he ditched the writer's desk of his semi-retirement to lay the groundwork for a free—meaning donations accepted and tickets not—theatre.

It took Austin a year and a half to figure out the logistics. To him, "free" was a moot point since running a for-profit social theatre in the area is a tough bargain. "Free" also meant "a greater possibility of inclusivity," capturing audiences that would otherwise be disinclined to attend theatre. He created a motto from the concept, "Everyone Welcome, Always."

He had become familiar with Liberty over the course of the Saturday night anti-war vigils and recognized that it is the perfect sort of town for this experiment: it has a town center so that young and old can make it to the show without driving, the population is diverse, it is an arts and crafts town, it has no casino to compete with, it recently adopted a new governance to revitalize itself and, to Austin's sensibility, it seems a genuinely democratic place.

When he put the word out that he was looking for a place, Dick Reisling, purveyor of Apple Pond Farms, informed him that Sabrina Artell, host of public radio's "Trailer Talk," had recently renovated a place along Liberty's South Main Street. Austin and Artell met and she, a former actress on the West coast, thought his idea was inspired.

> "By making free theatre, what I am without is everything money can buy—staff. But that does not bother me as long as I am happy with the quality of the work."

In 2004, Artell agreed to rent the first floor to Austin—knowing full well his first act would be to paint the newly white walls black—with Austin's guarantee he would restore the space if the theatre didn't work out.

After the first successful year, Austin took over the whole building, which now houses the theatre, two offices upstairs, a kitchen, a restroom, a coat check and a living room area where Austin encourages "community dialogue" by enticing the audience to gather with a free meal and a drink. It is a great pleasure for him to sit back after the acting has finished and to hear people getting acquainted. Austin hopes this environment encourages his audience "to be unburdened by a cultural duty." In other words, he wants the audience to have fun.

Austin acted in his first play at age 17 and was hooked when he got his first laugh. From there, he studied theatre at Emerson College, worked in the Boston area and opened his first theatre there, the Image Theatre. Later, he moved to New York City. While acting on- and off-Broadway, he became a consular to the union on housing issues for artists during the 42nd Street Redevelopment project in the mid-1960s. "I am rabid union man," Austin declares. He started up the Image again in 1980 on the top floor of a fifth-floor walk-up on 42nd Street. "I didn't want anyone making noise above the theatre," he explains.

In 1988, he began teaching acting and directing at Sarah Lawrence College as a part-time tenured professor; the college gave him the reins, allowing him to design his own classes, in order to win him over. Then, in 1990, he and his wife of 24 years, the novelist Rilla Askew, started spending weekends in Kauneonga Lake, NY. Weekends became weeks, and he soon closed the door to his theatre in the city, intending to spend his days teaching and writing plays and books about theatre.

continued on page 33

The Show Must Go On *continued from page 32*

In 2006, Austin retired from teaching. His salary had made the Liberty Free Theatre possible at its inception. Austin estimates he has invested $50,000 dollars of his own funds in the theatre over the past two and a half years. The rest of the money comes from grants, benefits and donations. Arts and community grants administered by The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance is the source of most of the grant money. As for benefits, last October at the Fat Lady Cafe in Bethel, NY, the theatre held a gala that around 100 people attended. Donations come in all forms, from money in the jar to framed photography for the walls. "By making free theatre, what I am without is everything money can buy—staff. But that does not bother me as long as I am happy with the quality of the work.

"I consider this to be my life's work," he said.

This year, the Liberty Free Theatre was awarded 501(c)(3) status.

What constitutes good theatre? "The theatre must work on a profound level," says Austin, "without telling you it's profound." Because the space is small, he sticks to one-act plays, which have the additional benefit of being easier for amateur actors to perform. "I choose plays for the resonance of the content, the quality of the play itself and its coincidental entertainment value."

Austin's modest biography in the program notes does not even hint at the body of work he has created over his lifetime, having worked in, taught and written about theatre for over 40 years now. According to Austin, "Theatre has to be true to nature and remain modest. Raising children is a big deal. Going to war is a big deal. Having cancer is a big deal. It is not a big deal to create art." He adds, "If we want a lecture, we'll go to church. Theatre must entertain."

In Liberty, Austin has made a worthy social contribution befitting a life's work, and fortunately, for those who have not yet visited him there, the show will go on.

Showtimes are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m. For more information visit www.libertyfreetheatre.org or call 845/292-2877.

TRR photo by Erin Vanderberg

Paul Austin.

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"To the modern American, it may appear that there is nothing to do here, but I am overwhelmed with options."

By Erin Vanderberg

I live on a ridge carved from the Mongaup and Neversink rivers in south-central Sullivan County. My township had a larger population in 1899 than 2008, but its bygone railroads, tanneries, sawmills and quarries still define the landscape today. In Forestburgh (as the former town historian Elsie Winterberger used to say, "Don't forget the 'h'!"), the well-acquainted community became so over the centuries since the roots of many a family tree were planted several generations ago. The locals here are often chided for their "drawbridge" mentality—"we got ours, now stay out"— but preserving the natural beauty of the area and the rich flora and fauna that the ample water supply in the area supports seems reason enough to be cautious of development.

The forests of Forestburgh call to me to come outside. To the modern American, it may appear that there is nothing to do here: no movie theater (only The Forestburgh Playhouse, a summer stock in the town center), no place to gather (unless you count the Catholic church and the firehouse), the post office is part and parcel of the general store. But I am often overwhelmed with options: walk, ski, skate, swim, paddle or ride? As so many of the best places are located on private property, I consider access a reason for so much of the community's congeniality.

But for the visitor, there exists a public wilderness here: the Neversink River Unique Area. Accessible from Cold Spring Road in Forestburgh, from Hiram Jones Road outside of Monticello or from Katrina Falls and Wolf Lake Roads outside of Rock Hill, the area encompasses 6,682 acres of riparian landscape adjacent to the mighty (albeit shallow) Neversink River. Often, I notice that I am the first to sign my name at the trailhead registry. From my usual departure point at the trailhead in Forestburgh, the path meanders through woodland, then boulder fields, until a short and significant elevation loss drops the trail to the river basin. The river is wide, slow-moving and great for fishing. Personally, I ford the river to explore the Denton and High Falls waterfalls located upriver.

This New York State Forest is managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Hiking, biking, canoeing, hunting, fishing, trapping and cross-country skiing are all sanctified activities of the day. Not allowed is camping, campfires, climbing, motorized vehicles, horses, trespassing on neighboring lands or swimming (now this count is debatable). Count yourself in on a local secret and come see for yourself.

For a map of the area or further information, contact DEC Region 3, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561, 845/256-3000.

Attention Equestrians! **$369,999**
Private & secluded home on 21+ acres offers 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, an attached garage, full finished basement with woodstove, 3-stall barn, extra-large corral & paddock area, with sheds & a turn-out-area. **#21465**

Charming Year-Round Home **$164,900**
Lovely 3BR home in lake community features new enclosed porch w/closet, new hw floors & windows with a large lot, on a dead end street. Within walking distance to park & lake. Don't let this one slip away... **#22082**

Bethel - 12 acres & Privacy! **$299,900**
Privately set back off a country road, this immaculate home offers spacious Living & Family rooms, formal LR/DR, large EIK, fireplace, a master suite, huge basement, attached garage & two decks. **#22009**

Smallwood Sweetie **$139,000**
Charming log cabin in lake community offers hardwood & parquet floors, large LR, woodwork, deck and lake access with beach and boat launch. Sports court offers tennis, basketball and more! **#21897**

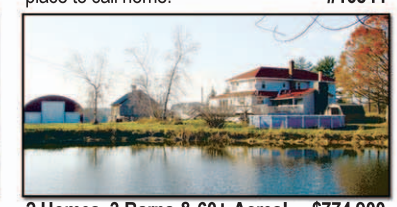
"Home Sweet Home" **$129,900**
Adorable well maintained 3 bedroom home features central air & glistening hardwood floors, a mud room, open floorplan and deck in rear that overlooks lovely yard, the perfect place to call home. **#16844**

Stately & Convenient **$225,000**
Wonderful 14 room, 6BR, 3BA Center Hall Georgian, located in very convenient location, great spot for many uses! New w/w carpet on first floor, hw floors upstairs... simply too many features to mention! **#22207**

MAKE AN OFFER!! **$177,900**
Lovely & spacious 4 bedroom home, features large kitchen, enclosed porch, new carpet & fresh interior paint, features a large 2-bay detached 2-car garage, stream and much more! MOVE RIGHT IN! **#21621**

Country Home on 8+ Acres! **$217,500**
Featuring a bright & open living room, w/stone fireplace, hardwood floors, full basement, 2-car garage, with large decks front & rear (with hot-tub). Near golf, hunting & fishing. Perfect spot for a year-round get-a-way! **#21351**

Private NEW Contemporary **$299,900**
Gorgeous NEW log-sided contemporary home privately on 5+ acres. Beautiful views, lots of glass, fantastic woodwork throughout, with fireplace and style features 3 bedrooms with loft and open floorplan. **#21009**



2 Homes, 3 Barns & 60± Acres! **$774,900**
Spacious 5BR 2.5BA farmhouse (needs renovations) overlooking pond & newer 3BR, 2FB ranch, huge quonset style bldg., 2-story & 4-stall horse barns. 60± Magnificent bucolic acres, w/paddocks & views. **#22042**

Surrounded by Nature **$329,900**
Spacious 3BR 3BA home features skylights, cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, dramatic great room with oak floors, a spacious full finished basement, two decks, stone patios, garage & 2 gazebos. **#21728**

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Farmhouse, barn, acreage... **$389,900**
Wonderful 3 bedroom farmhouse with 2-car attached garage, deck, rocking chair porch, features wide plank floors & a huge barn on 3.5+ open & scenic acres. HURRY THIS ONE WON'T LAST LONG!! **#19947**

Sweet Monticello Village Home **$154,900**
Renovated & completely redone single family home, converted from a 2-family. Easily converted back. Offers 3 bedrooms, 2 full bath on large lot with loads of investment potential. **#22241**

Cute & Cozy... **$124,600**
Lovely quaint river town village home; ready to finish 2+BR with open floorplan features enclosed & rocking chair porches finished attic & basement. Walk to antiquing, movies & dining. **#20174**

Ten Mile River Runs Through... **$249,900**
5 bedroom farmhouse, on 28 acres features great views, a natural wonderland to behold, with large 2-story barn & 2-car garage. In a great spot! Sportsman's delight! More acreage available! **#22353**

Pristine Smallwood Log **$224,688**
Lovely restored log home in desirable lake community features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a fantastic stone fireplace, wonderful woodwork throughout, large enclosed wrap-around porch & more! **#21414**

Designer's Delight! **$219,900**
Gorgeous grounds surround this charming & adorable 3 bedroom lake community cottage with stone fireplace, woodwork & guest quarters. Also features a detached garage, patio & large yard. **#21469**

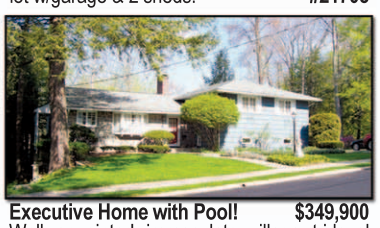
Charming Country Home **$342,500**
4 bedroom 2.5 bath Smallwood home features warm country accents throughout beamed ceilings, hardwood floors, stone fireplace, master suite, deck & much more. Large lot w/garage & 2 sheds! **#21705**

Amazing Value! On 14 Acres! **$289,900**
This well maintained 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home is set back off the road on 14 beautiful acres (w/more available), features a large livingroom w/open beamed ceilings, fireplace & large country eat-in-kitchen. **#19722**

Adorable Cottage **$124,900**
Immaculate & Sweet 2 bedroom cottage features screened in porch set overlooking a lovely yard, w/fireplace, wood floors, modern updates and country charm... enjoy 3 seasons of fun in Smallwood! **#21276**

Simply Adorable **$164,900**
This 2 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom cottage is a sweetheart! Exposed beams, rustic touches, skylights, large deck, detached garage & 0.79 acres! Lake access & sports courts; fun, fun, fun! **#21721**

3 Season Sweetie **$69,900**
Enjoy this lovely 2 bedroom beautiful & friendly Smallwood lake community home for Spring, Summer & Fall. Pristine Mountains Lake for swimming, fishing, boating & sports courts available. **#19881**



Executive Home with Pool! **$349,900**
Well appointed immaculate village tri-level features huge rooms, fireplace, amazing kitchen, bluestone floors & wetbar in huge family room, and an in-ground heated pool with a private yard! **#21939**

Lovely Village Home **$156,250**
Immaculate & convenient 3 bedroom village home, features hardwood floors throughout, w/space to spare, add a family room/office, set on a lovely, level yard w/fruit trees & shed. Price Just Right! **#19268**

Storybook Charmer **$225,900**
Charming interior w/designer's loft. Huge private deck overlooks splendid yard at end of a dead-end street, enclosed porch, fpl, skylights & more! Sweet home w/tons of charm. **#18338**

Lake Community Seasonal **$69,900**
Sweet 3 bedroom, 3-Season cottage features spacious interior, formal dining room, living room w/brick surround fireplace & screened porch. Fantastic buy! Won't last at this price! **#21353**

Custom Cedar Contemporary **$214,900**
3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, custom cedar home, features a huge wrap-around deck & screened porch, on a large corner lot, in desirable lake community, walking distance to lake, park, sports courts & beach! **#20049**

Spacious & Private **$199,900**
3 bedroom Bi-Level in a desirable lake community, features parquet floors, fireplace, family room in basement, 2-car attached garage, deck in back & more, in a nice private wooded setting. **#19724**

Smallwood Sweetheart! **$139,800**
Lovely 2 bedroom home with warm original wool throughout, an enclosed porch, new heating & bathroom, cozy country kitchen w/partquet floor in dining area & pull-down stairs for more storage! **#16075**

Two Homes, Gorgeous Land... **$674,900**
2 3 bedroom homes, each with a detached garage, on 30± acres of gorgeous land! Perched overlooking large stocked swimming pond & 180 degree views, fields, stone walls, fruit trees & more! **#14659**

Value and Privacy! **$189,900**
Fabulous location, close to Racino & "Bethel Woods". Adorable 2BR features loft, large deck & det. garage. Yard overlooks magical wooded setting at the end of a dead end street. **#18677**

Fisherman's Dream **$314,900**
Immaculate 3 bedroom 2 bathroom 2-Story Log, features large deck, set on 4 private and beautifully manicured acres, w/300ft frontage on the Beaverkill; well known for its amazing trout fishing. **#20296**

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