

# VERNON COMMUNITY NEWS

Vernon's Free eNewsletter; Editor: Bronna Zlochiver; Contact: [news4vernon@gmail.com](mailto:news4vernon@gmail.com)

January 2016

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## **SAVE THE DATE—IMPORTANT EVENTS IN AND AROUND VERNON**

Jan 4, 6:30 pm	Vernon Selectboard Meeting, Town Office Building, Selectboard meeting room
Jan 5, 6:30 pm	Vernon Selectboard Special Meeting, Town Office Building, Selectboard meeting room
Jan 8, 6:30 pm	Vernon Trail Breakers Meeting, Town Office Building, lower level
Jan 13, 4:30 pm	Vernon Free Library Trustees' Meeting, library
Jan 13, 6:30 pm	Vernon Planning Commission Meeting, Town Office Building, lower level
Jan 18, 6:30 pm	Vernon Selectboard Meeting, Town Office Building, Selectboard meeting room
Jan 19, 6:30 pm	Fiber Optics Information Forum, Vernon Elementary School, cafetorium
Jan 21, 6:30 pm	Vernon Voters Alliance Meeting, Town Office Building, lower level
Jan 25, 6:30 pm	Fiber Optics Committee Meeting, Town Office Building, lower level
Feb 3, 6:30 pm	Planning Commission Second Public Information Meeting on Gas Power Plant, Vernon Elementary School, cafetorium; snow date will be Feb 10 at 6:30 pm

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## **JANUARY TOWN BUS SCHEDULE—TO RIDE THE BUS, CALL REITA at 254-2694**

Please note: If school is cancelled on the day of a scheduled town bus trip, the bus also will be cancelled. You can buy bus passes at the offices of the Town Clerk or the Town Treasurer. All trips will cost 1 punch each, unless otherwise stated. Please sign up for rides at [rides@meeting/ontrips](mailto:rides@meeting/ontrips) or by calling Reita at 254-9624.

Jan 2, 3:30 pm pick up	Winchester Bean & Dogs Dinner, cost = \$9.00
Jan 5, 9 am pick up	Keene Shopping Trip
Jan 7, 10 am pick up	Trip to Yankee Candle & Kringle Candle, lunch at Wolfies
Jan 9, 4 pm pick up	Bernardston Dinner, cost = \$10.00
Jan 11, 11 am pick up	Potluck Lunch, Town Office Building, lower level, lunch begins at 12 noon
Jan 13, 10:45 am pick up	Dummerston Lunch
Jan 14, 10 am pick up	Newfane Lunch
Jan 14, 2:30 pm	Town Bus Transportation Meeting, Town Office Building, lower level
Jan 19, 8:30 am pick up	Holyoke Mall Shopping Trip, Snow Date = Jan 20, pick up 8:30 am
Jan 21, 10 am pick up	Brattleboro Shopping Trip
Jan 22, 10 am pick up	Franklin Tech Lunch

Jan 25, 12 noon pick up	Birthday Social, Town Office Building, lower level, Blood Pressure Measurement at 12:30 pm, birthday celebration begins at 1 pm
Jan 27, 10:45 am pick up	Dummerston Lunch
Jan 29, 10 am pick up	Trip to View Nativity Scenes at Shirley Squires' Guilford Home

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## **ATTEND BUHS ANNUAL MEETING & VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET MEETINGS**

by Lynda Staropinski

The School Budget is the area of the town budget that has the greatest impact on our property taxes. As schools consolidate to being run by the superintendent of schools--and they almost are already--we will have less and less say in how our money is spent (see Act 46 on education spending in Vermont). I am a proponent of public education: I served 10 years on a high school board, as well as serving on a board that advocates for early childhood education. However, as a taxpayer, there is only so much money in my pockets and I cannot afford to keep paying more when I have to be cutting back at home with my own expenses. All of us need to be really aware and involved. Even small savings add up: A penny saved here and a penny saved there eventually is a dollar saved!

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## **SAVE THE DATE—SCHOOL BOARD AND SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR**

Be sure to attend the January 4, 6:00 pm, Public Information Meeting on the Proposed FY 2016-2017 BUHS Budget in the Windham Regional Career Center Conference Room, sponsored by BUHS #6 Board of Directors. This is our first opportunity to ask questions and share our concerns about the BUHS budget. The Public School District Annual Meeting on the proposed 2016-2017 BUHS budget will be on February 9, at 6:00 pm at Brattleboro Union High School; this is where and when we Windham County voters get to vote on the school district budget.

We Vernon voters will have three opportunities to ask questions, share our concerns, and voice our opinions on the proposed FY 2016-2017 Vernon Elementary School budget: on January 25, at 6:30 pm in the Vernon Elementary School cafetorium; on February 22, at 6:00 pm in the Vernon Elementary School cafetorium; and on the first night of Town Meeting, Monday, February 29, at 6:30 pm in the Vernon Elementary School cafetorium.

Be sure to attend these meetings, our tax dollars depend on it.

Jan 4, 6:00 pm	Public Information Meeting on Proposed FY 2016-2017 BUHS Budget, Windham Regional Career Center Conference Room, sponsored by BUHS #6 Board of Directors
Jan 7, 2016, 6:00 pm	Act 46 School Consolidation Study Committee Meeting, Dummerston Elementary School
Jan 11, 6:00 pm	Vernon School Board Meeting, Vernon Elementary School, lounge
Jan 21, 2016, 6:00 pm	Act 46 School Consolidation Study Committee Meeting, Putney Central School
Jan 25, 6:00 pm	School Board Review and Approval of Vernon School Budget, Vernon Elementary School, lounge

Jan 25, 6:30 pm           Public Information Meeting on Vernon School Budget, Vernon Elementary School, cafetorium  
Feb 9, 6:00 pm           Public School District Annual Meeting, Brattleboro Union High School  
Feb 22, 6:00 pm         Public Information Meeting (Official Hearing) on Vernon School Budget  
Feb 29, 6:30 pm         Town Meeting Vote on Vernon School Budget

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### **March 2016 Election**

We are approximately two months away from the 2016 Town Meeting. The deadline for candidate petitions to be turned into the Town Clerk's Office is Monday, January 25, 2016 at 5:00PM. There are fifteen Town elected positions on the ballot for reelection in March of 2016. They are listed as follows:

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR – 1 Year Term  
1ST CONSTABLE – 1 Year Term  
2ND CONSTABLE – 1 Year Term  
GRAND JUROR – 1 Year Term  
LISTER – 3 Year Term  
SCHOOL DIRECTOR – 2 Year Term  
SCHOOL DIRECTOR – 3 Year Term  
SELECTBOARD – 3 Year Term  
SELECTBOARD – 2 Year Term  
SELECTBOARD – 3 Year Unexpired Term (ends in 2018)  
TOWN AGENT- 1 Year Term  
TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK – 3 Year Term  
TOWN MODERATOR – 1 Year Term  
TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR – 1 Year Term  
TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER – 3 Year Term

The Town Clerk's Office has candidate petitions available for anyone who is interested to run for one of these positions. Please feel free to stop by or call us for more information.

Thank you,  
Vernon Town Clerk's Office  
257-0292

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### **NEWS FROM VERNON'S CHURCHES**

**Vernon Advent Christian Church**, located at 4554 Fort Bridgman Road at the VT/MA state line, meets every Sunday at 9:15 am for Sunday School classes for all ages. Morning worship begins at 10:30 am and Youth Group and Intercessory Prayer meet at 6:00 pm. Adult Bible study begins every Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the church and other Bible study meetings are held throughout the week. The building is handicapped accessible. Email: [accvern@together.net](mailto:accvern@together.net); website: [www.vernonadventchristianchurch.com](http://www.vernonadventchristianchurch.com); and FaceBook: Vernon AC Church.

**Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church**, located at 1002 Fort Bridgman Road, Vernon, VT, meets every Saturday at 9:40 am for Sabbath School classes for all ages. Church service begins at 11:15 am. All are welcome. Pastor Art Miller. [802-490-0751](tel:802-490-0751).

Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church will host the Cheshiremen Chorus of Keene, NH. The Cheshiremen Chorus will share their Christmas program (it's not too late!) January 16, 2016, at 6:30 pm. Their barbershop harmony touches hearts because they sing with their hearts. All are welcome to enjoy this annual favorite.

**Vernon Union Church**, located at 2631 Fort Bridgman Road (next to Vernon Hall), Vernon, VT. Meets every Sunday: 8:00 am, prayer time; 9:00 am Bible study; 10:00 am, morning worship, followed by a social hour. Childcare is available. The church is fully handicapped accessible. Rev. Terry Robinson, minister, 802-258-2228. Church phone: 802-257-8523.

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### **ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED**

BC and Beverly Current announce the engagement of their daughter Michelle to James Van Lommel. Michelle is a 2000 graduate of BUHS. She is living in the greater Los Angeles area of California.

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### **AINA'S PECAN NUT BALLS**

#### **Ingredients for Pecan Balls:**

1 cup ground pecans  
2 cups Italian seasoned bread crumbs  
3 eggs lightly beaten  
1 medium onion chopped fine  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 tablespoon butter  
8 ounces shredded mozzarella

#### **Directions:**

Sauté the chopped onion in the olive oil and butter.  
Place all other ingredients in a bowl and add the sautéed onions.  
Mix well.  
Form mixture into small balls.

#### **Cooking:**

The balls can either be fried in olive oil, turning while cooking, or baked at 350 degrees for 1/2 hour, turning at 15 minutes.

#### **Ingredients for Sauce:**

3/4 cup chili sauce  
1 cup jelly – you can use grape jelly or other berry jelly

#### **Directions:**

Combine the two ingredients and simmer on low.  
Add pecan balls and enjoy!

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## **HOLIDAY GIVING TREE**

by Peggy Farabaugh

This year, the Vernon Town Clerk's Office, along with the Vernon Free Library and Vernon Girl Scout Troop #40907 joined forces to organize a "Giving Tree". The "Giving Tree" was a way for people in the Vernon community to donate gifts and items to those in need. The project was so popular that the Town Clerk's office quickly ran out of recipient gift tags! Isn't it great to live in a community that comes together in a big way to help their neighbors and friends?

On a bone-chilling Monday (one of few this year), Vermont Wood Studios staff headed to the Town Hall where the Town Clerk and local Sheriff's department helped us unload our gifts. From here we let Santa do the rest!



*Megan (far right) from Vermont Wood Studios, stands in front of The Giving Tree alongside Nancy Gassett and Aina Linquist of the Town Clerk's office, and Deputy Upton from the Windham County Sheriff's Office*

Happy New Year, everyone!

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## **SNOWSHOEING ANYONE?**

by Bronna Zlochiver

I never set foot on a pair of snowshoes until I moved to Vermont and was invited to try it out. The winter of 2009-2010 was perfect for venturing out on snowshoes for the first time, which I did in Guilford with my former neighbor Mikey Caron and another friend. I was immediately smitten, what a great way to be outdoors and get some fantastic aerobic exercise, too.

I know there are some good trails in Vernon and neighboring towns, though I do not know where they are. That is why I want to get a group together. If you know some good trails and are interested in joining me, please contact me by phone at 579-1567 or by email at [bronna.zlochiver@gmail.com](mailto:bronna.zlochiver@gmail.com). I hope to be out there after the first good snow.

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## **“HUNTING” DOWN HISTORY (part 5)**

by Barbara Emery Moseley

The recapture of a Yorker’s cow in Guilford, coupled with another power play by New York sympathizers in Vernon, likely precipitated Jonathan Hunt’s resignation as Sheriff. Still, he would have been watchful of the following incident.

On May 3, 1778, a mysterious event occurred in Vernon. (Its site roughly encompassed the area between today’s Post Office and the east end of Newton Road.)

On that date, the granary of Ensign Stratton was broken open during the night and a quantity of gunpowder and lead stored there, belonging to Vernon, was stolen. The patriots in the area were alarmed by what appeared to be a threat of British infiltration in the locality.

Guards were placed and an investigation was undertaken. A scouting party that had passed by two nights earlier later found a man asleep against a haystack. He proved to be a Tory, Jonathan Wright, “one inimical to the American cause.” Elijah Elmer, an accomplice, was taken at the same time, but escaped. (Both were descendants of some of Vernon’s earliest settlers.)

The town’s Committee of Safety was immediately assembled. Its members were Capt. Joseph Stebbins, Col. Eleazar Patterson, Capt. Orlando Bridgman (who was also Town Clerk), Moses Howe, and Grad Wait. All were supporters of the government of the New York Colony. Meeting in Vernon, they were joined by three members of the Guilford Committee of Safety, also “Yorkers.”

Jonathan Wright refused to be interrogated. Ruth, daughter of Ensign Stratton, owner of the granary, testified that prisoner Wright had been lurking about the farm. The Committees’ attempt to implicate Ensign Stratton failed and they recessed until the morrow.

The next day, young Jonathan Wright asked to “turn State’s evidence,” meaning his disclosures would give him immunity from punishment. It was granted and he then “spilled the beans.”

He confessed that John Stratton, along with escapee Elijah Elmer, had so arranged the granary that its contents of powder and lead could be easily reached and removed. Then Wright admitted that he and Elmer had broken open the granary, taken the powder and lead, carried them across the river, and hidden them in the bushes.

John Stratton was then recalled, admitted the truth of Wright’s statement, and begged the “mercy of God,” as well as that of the Committee.

The Committee, having spent much time unraveling the mystery, was exasperated and “threw the book” at culprit Stratton. He was to pay fourfold any expenses incurred by Vernon, plus a fine of 100 pounds to New York. He was to be disarmed and confined to his father’s farm for one year. His father was to provide a bond of 1,000 pounds, in case John was ever found beyond the prescribed limits.

He had permission to attend public worship on Sundays and to attend funerals. Also, he could apply to Vernon’s Committee of Safety for a special pass to leave the farm.



Still, many citizens of both towns felt the sentence was too lenient. Threats were made to send the Committees of Safety to Albany, to be tried by the Supreme Court there and urged that Stratton be tried by a Court Martial. (Readers may remember that the July 2015 issue of the *Vernon Community News* carried the story of John Stratton's death by drowning, while spearing salmon at Walpole, NH, he was then 29 years old.)

Now was the time for Jonathan Hunt to turn his attention toward overseeing the construction of his Vernon "mansion."

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The past few months have been busy ones for the students, teachers, and parents participating in the Four Winds Natural Science Workshops. In this issue of the *Vernon Community News*, we feature 4 months' worth of "Nature's News".

## NATURE'S NEWS

From: Four Winds Nature Institute -  
[www.FourWindsInstitute.org](http://www.FourWindsInstitute.org)

A Newsletter for Parents, Teachers, and Students participating in Four Winds Natural Science Workshops



Four Winds Nature Institute  
4 Casey Road  
Chittenden, VT 05737  
802 353-9440  
[www.FourWindsInstitute.org](http://www.FourWindsInstitute.org)

### Topic of the Month: BLANKET OF AIR

Air is everywhere. Though we cannot see, smell, feel or taste the air around us, we cannot live without it! Air is vitally important to all living things.

Air is the invisible mixture of gases that surrounds the earth providing the nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen that are essential to plants and animals.

Air protects planet Earth from harmful radiation and at the same time traps some heat from the sun, making it possible for life to exist. Air transmits sound waves, carries smells, supports birds in flight, and moves pollen and seeds.

Air takes up space and expands when it is heated and contracts when cooled. Air has weight and exerts pressure.

Although we cannot sense the air around us, we can see things moved by the wind, smell scents it carries, feel it when it moves, and know each time we take a breath that air is essential to life.

## RISING ON AIR

When the sun warms the earth's surface, it warms the air close to it. Warm air rises. Rising air can lift and carry things as it moves. Experiment to see this happen.

Cut a spiral out of a piece of paper. Balance the center of the spiral on the point of a pencil. (Make an indentation, not a hole, to keep the paper from slipping off.) Take the shade off a lamp and turn on the light bulb; wait a few minutes until it gets hot. Then hold your pencil with the balanced spiral just above the bulb. As the air is warmed around the bulb, this hot, light air will start to rise, creating a mini wind that turns the spiral. Turn the light off; it will stop.

Go outdoors to watch for warmed and cooled air moving, pushing, and lifting things. Can you spot a soaring bird riding rising air currents or a breeze lifting leaves off the ground?

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## Topic of the Month: EROSION

The shape of the landscape is constantly changing as a result of erosion, the process by which rock and soil particles are worn away, carried off, and deposited elsewhere on earth. The most important agents of erosion are water, glaciers, wind, the pull of gravity, and weathering by chemical and mechanical processes.

The force of erosion works to create soil by wearing away rocks, breaking them down into tiny fragments. Erosion shapes the land, carving out areas and smoothing surfaces, wearing away and building anew.

Wherever plants and trees are removed, soil becomes vulnerable to the action of erosion. Wise use of the land and attention to erosion is essential in order to conserve topsoil.

## WATER EROSION

Have a little fun with water and at the same time watch to see how it plays a part in shaping land. Find a spot that is slightly inclined and with relatively bare earth; under some pine trees or along the edge of a sandy, gravelly driveway would be good



places. Use a garden hose or tip a big watering can on its side to let water flow through the area, like a miniature river. Use sticks, rocks and mud or sand to build dams, ponds, and canals and watch how the course of the water flow may change and how the water cuts into and moves earth as it moves downhill. Are there ways to keep soil from washing down the slope? Visit a small stream or river and see how the water flow is shaping land in the streambed and along the banks. Are there places where erosion control measures are being used?

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## Topic of the Month: ROCKS AND MINERALS

Every pebble and rock represents a piece of the earth's history and may be millions of years old. Rocks are grouped according to the way they were formed: igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic. Natural forces of heat, pressure and erosion that break them into pieces and cement them together again continually change rocks.

One rock type is differentiated from another by the way in which the rock was formed and the kinds of minerals in it. Simple tests are used to identify minerals, such as color, hardness and luster. Sedimentary rocks often contain fossils of ancient plants and animals that give us clues about Earth's past climate and the history of life on our planet. Underlying all the Earth's land and water, rocks provide a foundation that supports the living world, gives clues about past life forms, and provides us with many materials that we use in our everyday lives.

## ROCK DETECTIVE

Rocks are at the bottom of it all, the entire surface of the earth is underlain by bedrock. Sometimes we see this bedrock exposed along ledges, especially in mountainous places, or we see it along roadways that have been blasted through a rocky hill. More often, the bedrock is covered with layers of soil that contains finely ground rock that generally comes from the bedrock of the area. Do some investigating to find out about the kinds of bedrock present in places near home. Ask at the library about maps that tell about local geology. Can you find places where bedrock is exposed? Are there rocks and boulders around that are different than the bedrock?

Start a collection of pebbles and small rocks from around home. Could people or natural forces have brought some of these rocks to the area?

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## Topic of the Month: SUNLIGHT and SHADOW

Even though it is 93 million miles away from Earth, the sun provides enough heat and light energy for all living things on the planet. Energy from the sun powers the water cycle, generates weather systems, provides visible light and is essential to life as the basis of food chains. Sunlight energy is also important as a source of fuel for human activities.

The earth rotates on an axis as it makes a 365-day-long revolution around the sun. The sun's rays reach only the part of the earth that is facing the sun at any given time; this causes us to experience night and day. Because the earth is a sphere, some of the sun's rays shine directly on the earth while others reach the earth at an angle. This means it is much warmer at the earth's equator, where sunrays are the most direct, than at the north and south poles.

The earth's axis is tilted at  $23^\circ$  with respect to the sun. This results in variations in the amount of sun energy reaching the surface of the earth at any given point. These variations combined with the movement of the earth around the sun give us seasons.

We cannot live without the sun!

### SUN COMPASS

When there's enough sun to make shadows, you can use the sun to find north, south, east and west - a good thing to know, especially if you get lost. To make a sun compass, first find a stick about three feet long. In a flat, sunny spot shove the stick into the ground standing straight up. Use a stone to mark the end of the shadow the stick makes on the ground. Wait about 20 minutes. Mark the end of the shadow the stick makes now with another stone. Then, stand with your back to the sun. Put your left foot on the first stone. Put your right foot on the second stone (the one with the shadow on it now). You are facing north. If you hold out your arms, your left arm will point west and your right arm will point east. South is behind you. This sun compass gives the most accurate directions in the middle of the day.

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## JANUARY 2016

567 Governor Hunt Rd

Vernon, VT

257-0150

[www.vernonfreelibrary.org](http://www.vernonfreelibrary.org)

[vernonfreelibrary@comcast.net](mailto:vernonfreelibrary@comcast.net)

Find us on FACEBOOK



## WINTER HOURS

November 3 to March 31, 2016

Monday 1—6 pm

Tuesday 9 – noon & 1—5 pm

Wednesday 1—5 pm

Thursday 1 –6 pm

Friday CLOSED

Saturday 9—12 noon

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathy Korb

Janis Pereira (Chair)

David Webb

Dawn Petrovsky

Bronna Zlochiver

### PROGRAMS

#### **BASIC COMPUTER CLASSES**

Call Kris to arrange a class.

#### **KNITTING GROUP**

Every Wednesday @ 1 pm

#### **READING GROUP**

2nd Thursday of the month @ 5pm

#### **RHYME TIME**

Every Monday @ 10:30 am for ages 0 to 5 years old

#### **PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**

4 times a month - check website for dates and times

### POSITION OPEN FOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT

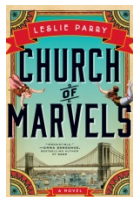
The Vernon Free Library is looking for a library assistant  
15 hrs/wk. including Saturday mornings.

Experience working in a library,  
a strong technology background,  
and good people skills are essential.

Please submit a resume by e-mail to  
[vernonfreelibrary@comcast.net](mailto:vernonfreelibrary@comcast.net)  
or mail to:

Vernon Free Library  
567 Governor Hunt Rd.  
Vernon, VT 05354  
Attn: Kris

### ***JANUARY READING GROUP SELECTION:***



#### **CHURCH OF MARVELS**

by Leslie Parry

The READING GROUP meets next on Thursday,  
January 14 at 5pm in the library.

*Join the discussion!*

### MEET THE AUTHOR

#### **CASTLE FREEMAN JR.**

#### **RETURNS to the library**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm**



**“By the author of the acclaimed novel *Go With Me*, which has now been adapted to a film starring Anthony Hopkins and Julia Stiles, a modern reimagining of *Doctor Faustus*, set in Castle Freeman Jr.’s trademark depiction of rural Vermont.**

In his quiet Vermont home, a man named Taft sits and wonders what’s missing from his life. He’s at a loss until a strange voice startles him from the rocking chair, where a stranger has seemingly appeared out of nowhere: well-dressed and smooth-talking, this man offers Taft the chance to have anything he’s ever wanted—for a price.

So begins *The Devil in the Valley*, the latest novel from critically acclaimed author Castle Freeman, Jr. Placed in his classic setting of rural Vermont, Freeman gives us a story that touches on temptation and greed, and explores what we’re willing to trade to obtain the things we most desire. A memorable story that explores the supernatural while staying rooted deeply in our world, *The Devil in the Valley* is a powerful novel from a master at his craft.” *Amazon*



*Sally Brassor, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach*

*[www.thelovefoodie.com](http://www.thelovefoodie.com)*

*802-490-6875*

*[thelovefoodie@yahoo.com](mailto:thelovefoodie@yahoo.com)*

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**margaret  
shipman**

ART AND DESIGN

painting/murals  
graphic design  
services for artists

802 579 1196

[two.turtles.art@gmail.com](mailto:two.turtles.art@gmail.com)

[margaretshipmanart.com](http://margaretshipmanart.com)



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