The Barnard Bulletin
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VERMONT WRITING

BY MARGARET EDWARDS

This column, usually called A VERMONT WRITER, is an offering of the Danforth Library in Barnard. Its original purpose has been to introduce Vermont writers deserving wider renown. But this month's essay examines Vermont poetry written on a single theme: sugaring.

Derek and His Team Sugaring by Carolyn Egeli
(oil on linen, 48" x 60")

This time-honored New England tradition of tapping sugar maple trees, then gathering and boiling down their sap into a syrup consistency, is a spring ritual. It's called "sugaring," not "syruping," because, in days gone by, the easiest way to transport the product was as a sugar. The maple sugar was shaped into cones before being packed for shipment.

That Vermont writers—in poetry and prose—have celebrated this springtime ritual is no surprise. If the sap is collected and carried by hand to a rough shack or shed (and not pumped there in the modern way through plastic tubes), the scene is one of dedicated outdoor toil. A memorable, redolently sweet smell rises inside the shed where the fire is being tended as pans of sap boil. Steam from the process turns the shed's interior into a sauna. And if the enclosure raises a sweat, you can retreat outside—into a snowy, chilly forest landscape.

The poet Robert Frost (1874 – 1963) creates a narrator who is observing the sugaring process, rather than participating in it in this poem, first published in 1921:

Evening in a Sugar Orchard

From where I lingered in a lull in March
Outside the sugarhouse one night for choice,
I called the fireman with a careful voice
And bade him leave the pan and stoke the arch:
"O fireman, give the fire another stoke,
And send more sparks up chimney with the smoke."
I thought a few might tangle, as they did,
Among bare maple boughs, and in the rare
Hill atmosphere not cease to glow,
And so be added to the moon up there.
The moon, though slight, was moon enough to show
On every tree a bucket with a lid,
And on black ground a bear-skin rug of smoke.
The sparks made no attempt to be the moon.
They were content to figure in the trees
As Leo, Orion, and the Pleiades.
And that was what the boughs were full of soon.

Collecting the Sap by Carolyn Egeli
(oil on linen, 40" x 48")

By contrast, Vermont native Leland Kinsey (1950 – 2016), who spent much of his childhood and youth laboring on struggling Northeast Kingdom farms, was no

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Sugaring - Cont. from previous page

mere observer of sugaring. His full participation in every aspect of the traditional process, year after year, yielded to him the keen, sensory details in this 1996 poem:

Galvanized

I can still hear the galvanized
tin and steel banging,
still feel its chill,
and the slopping sap,
and the evaporating coldness
of the whole operation.
Even the steambath of the sugarhouse,
which could leave you breathless,
chilled you when you stepped outside.
It was all a metal affair:
the spouts rapped with hammers
into the newest wood; buckets hung, sharp-edged
covers snapped into place;
flanged collection pails; the gathering tubs
with collanderlike sieves
to strain out bark and drowned beetles
and mice and squirrels and millers;
the piping like rainspouts that we ran
the sap through into three great holding tanks;
the carefully soldered evaporator pans
with dikes and gates and metal floats;
skimmers to remove the foam;
the glass hydrometer floating
in its metal holder; the syrup drawn off
into a sap bucket, poured through felts
into a fauceted holding tub, then poured
into steel drums, or drawn off
while still warm into plated cans
of many sizes, metal seals pushed tight,
metal caps screwed down.
The residue in the felts is niter,
a crystallized fine sand of minerals
each tree would need. We sold it
to chewing tobacco companies for flavoring.
When young we tried it ourselves,
dared each other to like it.
It had the sour and bitter taste
of the metals that make the world,
and, if attention was paid,
left for a second on the tongue
a thin sweet coating.

Weather plays a large role in sugaring. When temperatures fluctuate—down to 20 degrees Fahrenheit at night, then up to 40 degrees during the day—the sap flows best. Late March in Vermont used to prompt the tapping of the trees, with the gathering and boiling beginning in early April. But beginning at the start of the twenty-first century, and likely as a response to climate change with its milder temperatures and "drastic weather events" (according to Vermont ecologist Michael J. Caduto), the sap in the maples began to flow earlier. Now tapping starts in early February, a full month ahead of the old schedule; and, by early April, the sugaring season is usually complete.

Sugar Snow on Bass Road by Carolyn Egeli
(oil on linen, 40" x 48")

Sugar-making was a widely practiced spring pastime in the nineteenth century. The Reverend Perrin B. Fiske (born in 1834 in Waitsfield, Vermont) authored a popular tribute called "The Vermont Sugar Maker's Song." Composed in 1858, and better known by the other title "Maple Sweet," this rollicking, frolicking ditty has been a favorite Vermont folk song ever since.

Maple Sweet

When you see the vapor pillar link the forest and the sky
Then you'll know the sugar-making season's drawing nigh.
Frosty night and thawy day make the maple pulses play
'Till congested by their sweetness they delight to bleed away.

Refrain:
Then bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble goes the pan.
Furnish better music for the season if you can!
See the golden billows, watch their ebb and flow
Sweetest joys indeed we sugar makers know.

Cont. next page - Sugaring

Sugaring - Cont. from previous page

When you see the farmer trudging with his dripping buckets home
Then you'll know the sugar making season it has come.
Fragrant odors pour through the open kitchen door.
The eager children rally ever calling loudly, "More!"

[Refrain:]

You may wax it, you may grain it, fix it anyhow to eat
You'll always smack your lips and say it's very, very sweet.
Had David tasted some 'neath his cedar palace dome,
Maple sweet had got the praises of the honey and the comb.

[Refrain:]

So you say you don't believe it? Take a saucer and a spoon.
Though you're sourer than a lemon you'll be sweeter very soon!
For the greenest leaves you see on the spreading maple tree
They sip and sip all summer and the autumn beauties be.

[Refrain:]

And for home, or love, or any kind of sickness it's the thing.
Take in allopathic doses and repeat it every spring
'Till everyone you meet at home or on the street
They'll have half a mind to bite you, for you look so very sweet!
[Refrain:]

Sugaring Up High by Carolyn Egeli
(oil on linen, 40" x 55")

The calendar days of Vermont's sugar season may have varied, but its satisfactions—the *"sweetest joys indeed we sugar makers know"*—have never changed. "Maple Sweet" was first given formal documentation when it was published in the 1932 compendium of *Vermont Folk-Songs & Ballads* compiled and edited by Helen Flanders and George Brown.

Vermont folk singer Margaret MacArthur recorded a version of "Maple Sweet" on her 1982 album, *An Almanac of New England Farm Songs*. Vermont Folklife provides a link to the late Pete Sutherland singing "Maple Sweet," one of this folk song's many versions: https://www.vtfolklife.org/fieldnotes/maple-sweet-2020

The four paintings illustrating this essay are the work of contemporary artist Carolyn Egeli. To see more of her work, please Google Carolyn Egeli. There you will find her webpage (https://www.carolynegeli.com/) and her Facebook pages and various articles and images related to her work.

ARTISTREE
UPCOMING EVENTS

Acoustic Jam Session

Now thru May 15, 2024

Here's a chance to play with other musicians. Bring your instrument and a few songs or tunes to play. We go in a circle and everyone gets a chance to call the tune (and a key!) and all of us join in the playing and singing. This is not an open mic – all acoustic and all group participation. Come down and give it a try.

For more information in these and other events, go to https://artistreevt.org/artistree-events

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We are seeking a Summer Camp Leader for a seasonal position that runs from June 17 to August 30th. Monday through Friday from 8:00am-5:00 pm. Ideal candidates will have prior experience working with children and teens in a camp or childcare environment and be a positive team member.

See full details at: https://artistreevt.org/employment

ALSO SEEKING Summer Camp Counselors!

Artistree Community Arts Center & Gallery
2095 Pomfret Road/PO Box 158
South Pomfret, VT 05067
802.457.3500 ext. 111 www.artistreevt.org

2024 GLAD RAGS DATES

The last Saturday donation dates is: March 23rd

From 10AM to 1PM at the Simmons House
(lower level), adjacent to the Health Center

Also: by appointment, please call Kitty at 802-457-2182

2024 SPRING & FALL SALES:
SPRING: APRIL 26, 27 & 28 ~ FRI - SAT - SUN
FALL: SEPT 20, 21 & 22 ~ FRI - SAT - SUN

TOWN OF BARNARD, MARCH 5, 2024 VOTING RESULTS

Total Voters	690
School Ballots Cast	355
Primary Ballots Cast	342
Percentage of Barnard voters that cast ballots	51.45%

Repulblician Primary Ballot
FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RYAN L. BINKLEY of Texas	1
CHRIS CHRISTIE of New Jersey	2
RON DESANTIS of Florida	2
NIKKI HALEY of South Carolina	85
VIVEK RAMASWAMY of Ohio	1
DONALD J. TRUMP of Florida	59
Blank	1
Spoiled	0
Total Votes Cast	151

Democratic Primary Ballot
FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR of Delaware	171
MARK STEWART GREENSTEIN of Connecticut	2
JASON MICHAEL PALMER of Maryland	1
DEAN PHILLIPS of Minnesota	2
CENK UYGUR of California	2
MARIANNE WILLIAMSON of Washington, DC	3
(Write-in) Justin Lancaster	1
(Write-in) Rashida Tlaib	1
(Write-in) Bernie Sanders	1
(Write-in) Robert Kennedy	1
Blank	2
Spoiled	4
Total Votes Cast	191

Total Presidential Primary Votes Cast	342

Official Results of WCUUSD/MVSD Australian Ballot
Moderator

(Write-in) B. Sammel	1
(Write-in) F. VanAlstyne	1
(Write-in) P. Doton	7
(Write-in) M. Lancaster	1
(Write-in) D. Doton	1
(Write-in) A. Carpenter	1
(Write-in) C. Park	1
Blank	338
Spoiled	4
Total	355

Clerk

Rayna Bishop	290
(Write-in) J. Lancaster	1
(Write-in) D. Rainey	1
Blank	62
Spoiled	1
Total	355

Treasurer

Calista Brennan	283
(Write-in) D. Rainey	1
Blank	71
Spoiled	0
Total	355

Treasurer Salary

Votes In Favor/Yes	261
Votes Opposed/No	35
Blank	58
Spoiled	1
Total	355

School Director

Heather Lawlor	278
(Write-in) B. Sammel	10
(Write-in) H. Little	1
(Write-in) C. Park	1
(Write-in) M. Lancaster	1
Blank	64
Spoiled	0
Total	355

Proposed Budget

Votes In Favor/Yes	216
Votes Opposed/No	129
Blank	10
Spoiled	0
Total	355

High School Bond Vote (District Wide Count)

Votes In Favor/Yes	1,570
Votes Opposed/No	1,910
Blank	52
Total	3,532

REMINDERS

SELECTMAN'S MEETINGS SCHEDULED AT 7:00PM ON:

March 20th
April 3rd

The Charles B. Danforth Library

3-5 pm: Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
10 a.m. – Noon on Saturdays
High-Speed Wi-Fi

Winter Hours: November 1 – April 30.
Weekdays from 10a.m. – 4p.m.

Solar Eclipse – April 8th

2024 Total Solar Eclipse in Vermont | Vermont Public

April Poetry Reading

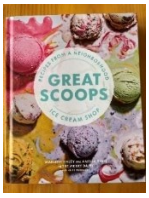
Join us at Danforth Library
4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 28, 2024
With Local Poets

*We now have a **Library Pass to the American Precision Museum**, 196 Main Street, Windsor, VT.*

Free Family Admission for 2 adults and 2 children under 18.
Website: APM - American Precision Museum

Get a head start on summer, courtesy of the Merry Dairy in Ottawa, Canada.

Their new book Great Scoops.



80 easy, custard-style, vegan ice creams and delectable desserts. The book includes a chapter covering everything there is to know about making both dairy and vegan ice creams and frozen desserts at home.

Our March Book Display Honoring National Women's History Month

Where you will meet some of the extraordinary women

Meet Virginia Hall in "*A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win WWII*, by Sonia Purnell. " …. a Baltimore socialite who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed Winston Churchill's "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare." She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and--despite her prosthetic leg--helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare as we know it" (Amazon.com)

Or the female inmate firefighters on the front lines of California's wildfires in: "Beathing Fire," by Jamie Lowe

Contact us: charlesdanforthlibrary@gmail.com

Phone: 802-234-9408 (during open hours)

Trustees: *Berna Donlon, Margaret Edwards, Judy Maynes, Susan McNulty, and Susan Salter Reynolds*

BARNARD MATTERS 2024: SILVER LAKE PROGRESSIVE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Barnard's *Silver Lake Progressive Club*'s tradition is to award scholarships to Barnard and East Barnard students who are continuing their education beyond high school. Since 1986, the club has awarded **$39,500** dollars to **50** deserving recipients.

Although the Progressive Club did offer coffee/tea and pastries at the Town Meeting this year, more support is needed. The *GoFundMe* fundraising campaign is now active and the link is https://www.gofundme.com/f/barnard-matters-2024-scholarship-fundraiser

Community support during our 2023 campaign allowed us to award two scholarships. Please consider donating to this decades-long commitment to our students.

If you prefer, you may send a check
(payable to the *Silver Lake Progressive Club*) to:

Silver Lake Progressive Club
c/o Barbara Kelley
3134 Stage Road
South Pomfret, VT 05067

All proceeds go to fund the Silver Lake Progressive Club Scholarship(s) presented on senior awards night to an outstanding student/s from Barnard and/or East Barnard.

Scholarship Eligibility

Successful candidates must have resided in Barnard or East Barnard for at least one year prior to application and plan to continue their education in the academic year following high school graduation. Students enrolled in public or private schools or those who are home schooled are eligible to apply. Qualifying post-secondary education plans of study include vocational education, associate, and bachelor programs.

All Barnard and East Barnard seniors receive a letter in March inviting them to apply for the scholarship.

Applications are due April 15, 2024

The scholarship committee will review the applications and decide on the recipient/s. Applications must include: 1) An official transcript; 2) A letter of reference from someone other than a family member; 3) A list of colleges or educational institutions to which the candidate has applied and been accepted; 4) A statement from the candidate on how he or she has contributed to the community; and 5) A paragraph describing the candidate's future intentions and how the scholarship will be of benefit.

Contact Barbara Kelley for more information: 802-457-2719 or bKelley321@gmail.com

With many thanks,

Members of The Silver Lake Progressive Club

THE PLANNING COMMISSION meets on the Monday prior to the first Wednesday of every month at 7 PM in the Town Office.

BARNARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION meets the second Monday of the month, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

BEES MEETINGS are held at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the library at the school.

DANFORTH LIBRARY HOURS: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, Saturdays 10:00 am to Noon. ECFiber Wi-Fi. Contact us: phone: 802-234-9408. Email: charlesdanforthlibrary@gmail.com.

SELECTBOARD meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Town offices at 7:00pm.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, Rob Ramrath, selectboard@barnardvt.us, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, Rob Ramrath, zoning@barnardvt.us, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

TOWN CLERK office hours are Monday and Tuesday, 8:00am—3:30pm. Public access is restricted. Call 234-9211 for an appointment.

THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Barnard Town Hall as necessary.

THE BARNARD ENERGY COMMITTEE meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm at the Town Hall

BARNARD GENERAL STORE, Monday-Saturday: 7am-7pm, Sundays: 8am-6pm.
https://www.facebook.com/barnardgeneralstore

BARNARD LISTSERV: to subscribe please send an email to: barnard-subscribe@lists.vitalcommunities.org

RECYCLING Click here for Hours and Regulations

THE BARNARD INN is running a "Feeding Neighbors & Sustaining Community" campaign. Purchase an e-Gift Card and in turn the chefs will feed neighbors. Whole chicken dinners (serves 4-6) and individual sized meals to help feed Vermonters in need. Thank you and please stay safe. E-Gift Cards are available at www.barnardinn.com.

ECFIBER Governing Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm via. Zoom. Contact the clerk of the District. secretary@ecfiber.net, for meeting information or visit https://www.ecfiber.net/virtual-meetings/

HISTORICAL SOCIETY Programs to be announced. Questions? Email: historicalbarnard1761@gmail.com

DELECTABLE MOUNTAIN QUILTERS (DMQ) meet the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Bethel Library from 1-3pm. Contact: Mary Croft 802-763-7074

A VERMONT QUILT SAMPLER EXHIBIT AT BILLINGS FARM SUBMISSIONS OPEN TO ALL VT QUILTERS

Announcing: "A Vermont Quilt Sampler" Exhibition on June 29 – September 2. New this year, submissions are open to all Vermont Quilters. From classic to cutting-edge styles, we're seeking quilts that share stories, forge connections to art and community, and span a spectrum of abilities and techniques. Finish those quilts! Online submissions will be open March 7 – April 6. We encourage all to spread the word, to participate, and to come to the exhibition to be inspired. For more information and submission guidelines, visit
https://billingsfarm.org/quilt-exhibition/

Receive updates on the Quilt Exhibition by subscribing http://tinyurl.com/BFM-Quilt-Updates

Billings Farm & Museum
Woodstock, VT
info@billingsfarm.org

LOCAL CRYPTOGRAM

A cryptogram is a code in which one letter is substituted for another. For example, the word "Church" could be written BWMSBW. The letter B would be the letter C and would be so throughout the entire message. In this message U = W. The solution is found by trial and error. The CRYPTOGRAM answer is on the last page.

"Q MAAI FQS HC ZGAUG HS YLD

BLGNY: QGNCT ULRBAJR EQJYC;

YKCCEB ULRBAJR KTAMLR;

EBQGNC ULRBAJR KTANTCYY;

LGOJLTS ULRBAJR AHVCER;

KJRRLGN RTJYR LG Q

YRTQGNCT; QGX FLYRQZLGN

MACY MAT MTLCGXY."

-JGZGAUG

BARNARTS EVENTS SCHEDULE

BarnArts is holding auditions for Macbeth By William Shakespeare. Directed by Killian White

Auditions will be Sunday, March 24th 2-5p, Tuesday, March 26th 6-9p or by appointment. at the First Universalist Church & Society of Barnard

We are looking for +20 actors of all ages, genders, & experience levels. Production dates are June 21-30, out-

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doors at Fable Farm in Barnard. If interested please fill out the audition form at https://forms.gle/pw2G5YPc2DSGpspeA

RACE AROUND THE LAKE 2024 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

This fundraiser for BarnArts Youth Programming will be held Sunday, May 19 at the Silver Lake State Park in Barnard, VT. Includes a 10K Run, a 5K Run/Walk and a Virtual 10k & 5k. The 10K Race begins at 10:30am and the 5K Race begins at 11am.

Early Registration Fees are: 10K Adults: $45, 12 & under: $25; 5K Adults: $35, 12 & under: $25; Virtual 10K & 5K: $25 & $15

Sign-up by April 30 to receive a free Race Around the Lake T-shirt!

The Race begin and end at Silver Lake State Park, with courses encircling Silver Lake on town roads, dirt roads and single-track wooded trails with intermittent views of the lake. The challenging 10K route pops out of the woods on Royalton Tpk and loops back to the state park via Tower Rd. After-Race activities along Silver Lake include a Chef's Table lunch free to all racers, live music and an award ceremony. To Race Virtually or register for the in person events, go to: https://runsignup.com/Race/VT/Barnard/BarnArtsRaceAroundtheLake?remMeAttempt=

If your business is interested in being a race sponsor, please contact us at info@barnarts.org.

Contact BarnArts for more information.

BarnArts Center for the Arts info@barnarts.org
PO Box 41 802-234-1645
Barnard, VT 050nces31 www.barnarts.org

HYANNIS SOUND—MARCH 23RD

Hyannis Sound Is Back! Saturday, March 23rd 6 pm at North Chapel

For the first time in five years, Hyannis Sound, Cape Cod's premier professional a cappella group, is returning for a revival of its Spring Tour! On Saturday, March 23 at 6pm, you can see the group live in concert at North Chapel in Woodstock, performing songs from its storied 30-year past and featuring both current and past members of the group.

With numerous members and alumni hailing from Vermont and New Hampshire, Hyannis Sound's presence in the Upper Valley has been felt for nearly three decades; the singers are thrilled to once again perform and reconnect with the wonderful members of the Upper Valley Community.

The Hyannis Sound is a professional a cappella singing group composed of ten college-aged men from across the country who spend their summers singing on Cape Cod. Founded in 1994, Hyannis Sound sees its members live, sing, and work together between Memorial Day and Labor day, staging nearly 100 performances over the course of the summer between public concerts and private functions across New England.

Additionally, the group has amassed a significant following on social media, which has led to Hyannis Sound being noticed by popular acts like Ben Platt, James Taylor, and Alicia Keys (with whom the group collaborated with virtually in 2021). A registered non-profit organization in Massachusetts, Hyannis Sound offers young men the summer job of a lifetime and an environment to grow musically, socially, and professionally, all while contributing to the rich artistic culture of Cape Cod.

Don't miss your chance to see Hyannis Sound live at North Chapel with a diverse setlist of chart-topping pop, classic rock, jazz standards, and musical theater showstoppers!

North Chapel is a welcoming congregation also known as the North Universalist Chapel Society, located at 7 Church Street in Woodstock, VT. https://www.northchapelvt.org/

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AT THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST MARCH 23

Let's come together and celebrate spring and community with a pancake breakfast! We'll be serving up pancakes with local maple syrup, locally made sausage, eggs, home fries, fruit, coffee and more. Proceeds will benefit Barnard Academy.

Where: Barnard Town Hall

When: Saturday March 23 8-11am

Cost: $12 per adult; $6 per child; $30 family rate (2 adults and children 15 and under).

Don't miss this opportunity to have fun with neighbors, celebrate our community and support our elementary school.

See you there!

-The BEES (Barnard Educational Endeavor Society)

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

A fool may be known by six things: anger without cause; speech without profit; change without progress; inquiry without object; putting trust in a stranger; and mistaking foes for friends.

- Unknown