



A VERMONT WRITER

BY MARGARET EDWARDS

This column is an offering of the Danforth Library in Barnard and a chance to introduce a Vermont writer who deserves wider renown. This quintessential Southern author was widely praised and popular while he lived, and his little-known association with Vermont came about late in his life.

Robert Penn Warren

1905 - 1989



Robert Penn Warren circa 1955

Some American writers deny being associated with “place”—whether it’s where they were born and grew up, or where they settled while working to make a living and writing to gain recognition. The settings of their novels can vary; the imagery in their poems can span oceans and continents; yet despite whatever resistance they have to being categorized, some become defined by a specific region or country. Even an American writer living abroad can find the tag “expatriate” tenacious. Think of Ernest Hemingway’s being forever associated with Paris, Spain, and Cuba.

Robert Penn Warren, born in Guthrie, Kentucky, was a Southerner through and through; no surprise he is labeled a Southern writer. Even so, in his fifties, when Warren began to summer in Vermont, the Green Mountain state surfaced in his imagination. Southerner though he remained, here is where Warren took ill and died. There’s a memorial cenotaph bearing his name in his family’s burial plot in Kentucky, but he is buried in Stratton.

Warren was the eldest of three children born to his Kentucky banker father and his schoolteacher mother. In Warren’s youth, his left eye was badly injured when his younger brother threw a rock, an event that changed the course of Warren’s life. Instead of training to become an officer in the U. S. Navy, he went to Vanderbilt University and soon gravitated to a study of literature, deeply influenced by his teacher, the poet John Crowe Ransom. Warren graduated in 1925 *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. His poetry made him an influential member of a group of Southern writers who resisted the looser

rules that were becoming popular in modern verse and called themselves The Fugitives.

In time, Robert Penn Warren became known for his versatility, emerging as a celebrated novelist, a well-published poet, and a formidable literary critic. He helped usher into academia a revolutionary school of thought known as the New Criticism. (No longer “New,” however—it was replaced by ideas on aesthetics from France in the 1970s.)



Robert Penn Warren circa 1929

At Heaven’s Gate, Warren’s second novel, published in 1943, grew out of the author’s years in Nashville during a period of political and financial scandals much like those later portrayed in his Pulitzer-Prize-winning *All The King’s Men*, published in 1947. That novel, set in Louisiana during the Depression era, depicts the rise and fall of an oligarch modeled on the populist Huey P. Long.

While Warren taught at Louisiana State University, he observed Long closely, and from these observations he created the fiction that made his fame and fortune. *All the King’s Men* has lived a remarkable life beyond its author: twice made into feature films—first in 1949 and

Cont. next page - Warren

Warren - *Cont. from previous page*

much more recently in 2006 (starring Sean Penn); also refashioned into a Russian TV mini-series in 1971; and used as the basis of an opera, "Willie Stark" by Carlisle Floyd, first performed in 1981.

Vermont is far from Robert Penn Warren's fiction. In fact, Vermont makes its appearance only in his late poetry. But the subtle evocations of a land and a people that Warren found somewhat exotic make fascinating reading. Here is an example:

Summer Rain in the Mountains

A dark curtain of rain sweeps slowly over the sunlit mountain.

It moves with steady dignity, like the curtain over the Great window of a stately drawing room, or across a proscenium.

*The edge of the drawn curtain of rain is decisive
Like a knife-edge. Soon it will slice the reddening sun across with delicate*

Precision. On the yet sunlit half of the mountain, miles of massed trees,

*Glittering in green as they forever climb toward gray ledges,
Renounce their ambition, and shudder and twist, and The undersides of leaves are grayly exposed to crave mercy.*

*The sun disappears. Chairs are withdrawn from the sun deck.
A whisper is moving through the wide air. The whole event
Is reminding you of something. Your breathing becomes irregular,
and*

*Your pulse flutters. Conversation dies. In silence, you peccantly
Spy on faces that were once familiar. They seem
To huddle together. One has a false face. What,*

*In God's name, are you trying to remember? Is it Grief, loss of love long back, loss of confidence in your mission? Or
A guilt you can't face? Or a nameless apprehension*

*That, doglike, at night, in darkness, may lie at the foot of your bed,
Its tail now and then thumping the floor, with a sound that
Wakes you up? Your palms may then sweat. The wild*

Thought seizes you that this may be a code. It may be a secret

warning.

A friend is addressing you now. You miss the words. You

Apologize, smile. The rain hammers the roof

Quite normally. The little group is quite normal too, some

With highballs in hand. One laughs. He is a philosopher.

You know that fact because a philosopher can laugh at

*Anything. Suddenly, rain stops. The sun Emerges like God's calm blessedness that spills
On the refurbished glitter of mountain. Chairs*

Are taken again out to the sun-deck.

Conversation becomes unusually animated as all await the glory

Of sunset. You pull yourself together. A drink helps.

After all, it's the sort of thing that may happen to anybody.

And does.

By the time Warren is writing this sort of poem—without strict meter or rhyme, in a free verse that's close to conversational—he is carving out a new topic. Vermont's mountainside, with its "mile of massed trees" climbing to "grey ledges," evokes the poet's "nameless apprehension" that he tries but fails to define.

Another of Warren's poems, this one titled "Function of Blizzard," is another exploration of that same "nameless apprehension" that grips him. Here the mood interrupts his sleep and strips away whatever complaisance he's been trying to salvage. This time, not a sudden rain but a heavy snowfall prompts a troubled interlude. These are the first lines:

*God's goose, neck neatly wrung, is being plucked.
And night is blacker for the plethora
Of white feathers...*

In the course of the poem, Warren describes what a snowfall sounds like back in New York City ("Bless snow, and chains beating undersides of fenders"... "Bless insane sirens of the Fire Department"), then juxtaposes that urban noise with the snow's silent fall where he is, miles from there. He imagines the snow in the city falling on tragic "black ruins of arson" and on "three infants locked in a tenement in Harlem." The city snow is beatific, helping with "coverings-over" and "forgettings."

In the last lines of "Function of Blizzard," the poet brings the snow from the imagined city into the countryside where he observes it:

Bless snow! Bless God, Who must work under the hand of

Cont. next page - Warren

Warren - *Cont. from previous page*

*Fate, who has no name. God does the best
He can, and sometimes lets snow whiten the world
As a promise—as now of mystic comfort to
The old physicist, a Jew, faith long since dead, who
is getting*

*High-lonesome drunk by the frosted window of
The Oak Room bar in the Plaza. And bless me, even
With no glass in my hand, and far from New York, as
I rise
From bed, feet bare, heart freezing, to stare out at
The whitening fields and forest, and wonder what*

*Item of the past I'd most like God to let
Snow fall on, keep falling on, and never*

Melt, for I, like you, am only a man, after all.



Robert Penn Warren circa 1977

In his poetry, Robert Penn Warren quite often depicts himself as a man with good friends, a host familiar with in-home gatherings who treasures good conversation and likes liquor. But he also emerges from certain poems as a man with a family. His first marriage in 1929 to Emma Brescia lasted twenty-two years. His second, to Eleanor Clark, lasted from 1952 until his death thirty-seven years later, and she was the mother of their two children, a daughter (Rosanna) and a son (Gabriel).

This late poem shows the poet with family spending time in their Vermont A-frame, away from Connecticut where they have their principal home. Warren's elegiac mood of sad foreboding becomes brutal. Vermont is named outright in the title:

Vermont Thaw

*A soft wind southwesterly, something like
The wind in the Far West they call the chinook,
About three o'clock, we yet high on the mountain,
Began. Snow softened to burden our snowshoes.*

*If then you stood perfectly still, so still
You could hear your own heart, each stroke by
stroke,*

*You could hear the forest of spruces—drip,
Drip, drip—and you felt that all you had lived was*

*That sound hung in motionless silence. You held
Your breath to be sure you could hear your own
heart
Maintain, with no falter, the rhythm that drops
Now defined. Were you sure you remembered your
name?*

*But there was the A-frame, the camp, snow sliding
Down the steep roof-pitch with the channels of black
Where all winter your eye had loved whiteness, and
now
Roof-edges dripped in a rhythm that redefined*

*Life as blankness. In dingy pink pillows of mist,
Sun sank, and you felt it gasping for breath.
You felt it might suffocate, not rise
Again. Inside the A-frame you found*

*Yourself sweating, though only one eye of a coal
Yet winked. You built it up only enough
To cook by, racked up the snowshoes—all this
With no word. What word is to say when the world*

*Has lost heart, is dripping, is flowing, is counting
Its pulse away? Cooking is but
An irritation. The predinner whiskey
Is tongue-hot but tangless, like rot-gut—not what*

*It is. When you turn on the hi-fi, your friend
Says: "None of that ordure tonight." In silence
You eat—silence except for the eaves-drip.
No need to bank fire on a night like this.*

*You wake in the dark to the rhythm of eaves.
Can you comfort yourself by thinking of spring?
Of summer's fecundity and body's plunge
Into silvery splash-spray? Of gold and flame*

*In benediction of autumn? Of snow's first
Night-whisper, dawn reddening peak-thrust? No—
eaves,
To your heart, say now only one thing. Say: drip.
You must try to think of some other answer, by dawn.*

Warren's depression at the drip-drip of it all is made clear. Perhaps he's giving a poetical tip-of-the-hat to T. S. Eliot's invented modernist Mr. J. Alfred Prufrock who has "measured out" his life "with coffee spoons." It's a rare person living in Vermont who doesn't think the state's spring melt takes way too much time becoming summer. But Vermont's summer is worth waiting for, and, to use Warren's word, it's "hypnotic." In this late poem, upbeat and vivid (although laden with a good many hapless abstractions), Warren aims to do justice to Vermont's sublime summer:

Cont. next page - Warren

Warren - Cont. from previous page

Summer Afternoon and Hypnosis

Lulled by stream murmur and the afternoon's hypnosis

*Of summer, guarded by willow shade while the sun
Westward inclines, you lie. The far world's only
voice is*

The muted music of sheep bells, one by one,

Threading the infinite distance of sunlight and languor.

*Yes, lulled thus, your life achieves its honesty,
In which love, hate, lust, courage, cowardice, and
anger,
With truth torn at last from lies, emerge from the
shadowy*

*Mist of Time and sequence to seek in Timelessness
Each its lonely and naked reality. And your heart,
Bemused as though in a mirror's icy duress,
Seems to suspend its stroke, and your dry lips part*

*In a whisper of slow appallment to ask: "Was this
The life that all those years I lived, and did not
know?"*

Do you really think now the sun's frozen motionless?

Do you really think the stream no longer can flow?

But the heart strikes, and the world resumes its nature,

*And Time swirls back like a tide more sousing than
Fundy,*

*And whatever a man has endured he can endure,
And the shadow of that tall pine names night, and by*

*The moment it touches the mossed stone yonder, you
will have*

roused

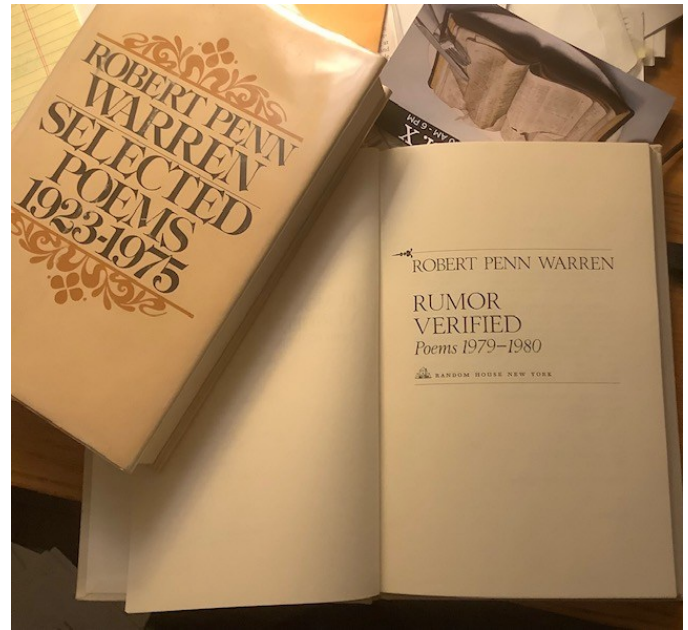
Yourself to yourself, and set foot to the mile

That leads to the roof whereunder you find enoused

The mystery of love's redeeming smile.

Journalist John Baker, who interviewed Warren late in his life, wrote that the writing of poetry and fiction were Robert Penn Warren's "main concerns throughout his long career, with poetry having edged out fiction as the author's preferred genre since the mid-1950's." In that interview, Warren suggests he is no longer interested in formal literary criticism. As he puts it, "I'm interested in trying to understand this poem or that poem, but I'm not interested in trying to create a system" for such understanding.

Instead, Warren insists: "I'm interested in a different kind of understanding, [which is] you might say, a more limited kind of understanding. I'm interested in my enjoyment—put it that way—more than anything else. I'm just not a professional critic... But writing fiction [and] poetry, that's serious—that's for keeps."



The Danforth Library of Barnard has in its collection Robert Penn Warren's famous novel *All the King's Men*, but no book of his poetry. *Rumor Verified: Poems 1979-1980*—published in 1981 as the last of Warren's thirty-six books—contains his poems that are set in Vermont. A copy of this rare book, no longer in print, has been placed on order.

Danforth Library News

6208 Vermont Route 12
Barnard, Vermont



Announcing New After School Hours

Mon & Wed 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Hi-speed Wi-Fi

Library Volunteers Welcome

Please consider joining our all-volunteer team.

Cover a two-hour shift once a month? Host a book club?

Offer a children's story hour?

Have other ideas?

We would love to talk with you.

Trustees:

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

Phone: 802-234-9408 Email: charlesdanforthlibrary@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/charlesdanforthlibrary/>

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING TOWN OF BARNARD MARCH 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Barnard are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Road in Barnard, Vermont on Tuesday March 4, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business from the floor:

ARTICLES

1. To elect a Town Moderator.
2. To hear the reports of the Town Officers.
3. To elect the following Town Officers by ballot: one Selectboard Member for three years, one Auditor for three years, a Delinquent Tax Collector for one year, a First Constable for one year, a Second Constable for one year, a Trqstee of Public Funds for three years, a Cemetery Commissioner for five years, a Library Trustee for five years, and all other officers as made necessary by law.
4. Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes?
5. To authorize the Treasurer to collect property taxes due for the ensuing year in two equal payments. The first payment to be due on or after August 15, 2025, with the due date being set by the Treasurer, and the second payment being due on February 17, 2026. Such payments are to be made in United States funds, to be physically received by the Town on or before the due date, or if mailed, legibly postmarked on or before the due date, with interest and penalties to be applied to past due payments as allowed by law.
6. To authorize the Selectboard to reconcile the FY24 General Fund surplus and Highway deficit, and in the event of a surplus, the amount is to be carried forward to the next fiscal year.
7. Shall the Town lease the old Barnard Fire Department building to BarnArts Center for the Arts for a period of fifteen years with an annual rent of \$1?
8. Shall the Town raise \$62,500 for the purchase of a new breathing air compressor and filling station with storage bottles for the Barnard Volunteer Fire Department?
9. Shall the Town transfer \$160,849.09 from accumulated budget surpluses as of June 30, 2024, into the Highway Fund to reconcile the Highway Deficit?
10. To vote a FY26 Highway budget of \$1,760,947.00 of which \$1,617,056.00 shall be raised by taxes, and a FY26 General budget of \$1,039,923.00 of which \$746,508.00 shall be raised by taxes.
11. To do any other business which may come legally before this meeting.

Eligible residents can register to vote at the town clerk's

office during normal business hours prior to town meeting, and at the town hall during town meeting. Early or absentee ballots are not available for votes "from the floor" at town meeting. Voters must be present to be counted.

Dated this 28th day of January 2025.

Barnard Selectboard:
Rock Webster, Chair
Richard Lancaster, Vice Chair
Robert Edmunds

BARNARTS EVENTS 2025

Antigone by Sophokles, Translated by Anne Carson, February 20-23, Barnard Town Hall.

Starring:

Antigone ~ Bridgette Hammond
Ismene ~ Julianne Borger
Kreon ~ Kevin Donohue
Haimon ~ Aaron Michael Hodge
Eurydike/Chorus ~ Laura Montgomery
Teiresias/Chorus ~ Kyle Huck
Guard/Chorus ~ Olivia Piepmeier
Messenger/Chorus ~ Dory Psomas
Polyneikes/Chorus ~ Fergus Ryan
Chorus Lead ~ Chelsea Paige

Crew:

Erin Bennett ~ Director
August Doughty ~ Costume Designer & Stage Manager
Linda Treash ~ Set Designer & Producer
Corey Doughty ~ Lighting Designer

Masquerade Jazz & Funk, Winter Music Carnival March 1 Barnard Town Hall.

Spring Global Music Residency, w/Pamyua (inuit/soul) May 1-10, Various Schools & a Saturday performance.

Race Around the Lake 5k/10k Fundraiser, May 18, Silver Lake State Park. Registration is open. Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/VT/Barnard/BarnArtsRaceAroundtheLake> for Early Registration.

Feast & Field Music Series, May 29-Sept. 25, Fable Farm
The Sound of Music by Rogers & Hammerstein, June 20-29, Outdoor Summer Theater.

Roald Dahl's Matilda BarnArts SYT, August 1-3, Barnard Town Hall.

Barnard Street Dance, August 23, Barnard Town Hall.

Haunted Village Theater, Oct. 18, Village of Barnard.

Fall Global Music Residency, tba October/November Various Schools & Venues.

Holiday Cabaret dinner & dance, Wassail Weekend, December 13, Barnard Town Hall.

Winter Carols, December 19, First Universalist Church of Barnard.

Registration for BarnArts 14th Annual Summer Youth Theater is now open!

Cont. next page - Barnarts

Barnarts - Cont. from previous page

Our 2025 production: MATILDA

During BarnArts 3-week SYT camp, youth will take on characters, learn songs and dancing, and prepare for the full-scale production to be held at the Barnard Town Hall with original staging, costuming, choreography and a live band! Our team of theater professionals will teach, guide, and inspire your kids in a supportive, ensemble-based environment.

- Camp Dates: July 14-Aug 3
- Performance Weekend: Aug 1-3
- Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30am-3:30pm (possibly until 4:30 during final week)
- Performances: Barnard Town Hall - Aug 1, 2, & 3
- Cost: \$550 thru March 31. \$600 starting April 1.
- For Youth ages 8-18
- Scholarships & before & after care available!

Note: Returning families get first priority, and new registration space is expected to be limited and organized by age group, first come first serve. Confirmations for new registrants will begin after March 3rd.

More info and registration forms: <https://barnarts.org/summer-youth-theater/summer-youth-theater-matilda/>

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 X = Y. The solution is found by trial and error. The CRYPTOGRAM answer is on the last page.

“Z UN MDIDT UR NX ADQR ZM
 RGD DUTEX NSTMZMC,
 DQHDPZUEEX U PSEL NSTMZMC
 ZM RGD XSTBQGZTD QHTZMC
 OZRG U HZDTPZMC NUTPG OZML
 QODDHZMC LSOM JTSN RGD
 JDEEQ, JZMLZMC ZRQ OUX
 ZMQZLD NX PESRGZMC,
 MZHHZMC UR NX MSQD UML
 DUTQ.”
 -FUNDQ GDTTZR

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 first 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: Monday & Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.; and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to Noon. ECFiber Wi-Fi. 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, selectboard@barnardvt.us, 234-9211 x 2. By phone at any time, or by appointment. Office hours coming soon

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, zoning@barnardvt.us, 234-9211 x 2. By phone at any time, or by appointment. Office hours coming soon.

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

AT ARTISTREE

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES BY PAINTING ON OUR WALLS!!

Beginning on Friday, February 14th our gallery will be completely covered in canvas and paper and there will be ample supply of brushes and paint for you to decorate the walls! Bring the family! Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturdays from 10am to 5pm. If you'd like to reserve a time to bring your own group - let us know at gallery@artistreevt.org. Learn more: <https://artistreevt.org/studio-fever-2025>

March 7th is Teen Night from 6-8pm!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SUMMER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

Artistree's week-long summer camps begin June 23rd and run through August 22, 2025. Morning and afternoon camps are available each week. Some weeks offer full day camps as well. Campers can sign up for both morning and afternoon to make a full day of camps!

Camp registration opens on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 9am. Visit <https://artistreevt.org/summer-camps>

Artistree Summer Camps tend to fill up very fast so don't hesitate to register. All camps require a non-refundable deposit upon registration. Camps are refundable up to 14 calendar days before the camp start date, minus the non-refundable deposit per camp. Camps canceled within the 14 days prior to the start date of the specific camp are non-refundable. See all FAQs here: <https://artistreevt.org/faqs>

To save time at checkout, we highly recommend logging into your account at artistreevt.org to update all your information before registering for camp. If you're new to Artistree, be sure to create your account ahead of summer camp registration to ensure a smooth sign-up process at <https://www.hisawyer.com/artistree/schedules>

About Artistree Scholarships: <https://artistreevt.org/summer-camp-scholarships>

Artistree's mission is to ensure that all interested students have the opportunity to attend programming, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. Artistree scholarships are limited and awarded based on financial need. Scholarship Initial Deadline: February 14th.

If you would like to apply for scholarships for more than one child, please do so by submitting an application for each child individually.

Scholarship Deadline: Friday, February 14, 2025.

Scholarship Recipients will be notified beginning February 17th. Recipients are required to call the Artistree office between Feb. 17-26 to pay the non-refundable deposit to reserve their child's spot in a camp.

About Artistree's Payment Plans

- Secure your child's spot in the camp of your choice by

paying a non-refundable deposit at time of registration

- Pay the remaining amount due in three equal installments, due April 1, May 1, and June 1
- Your credit card on file will be charged automatically for each installment
- There is no additional cost to selecting a payment plan

Note that all Artistree camps are subject to change.

Artistree Community Arts Center & Gallery

PO Box 158, South Pomfret, VT 05067

Located at: 2095 Pomfret Road, 802.457.3500 ext. 129

<https://artistreecommunityartscenter-bloom.kindful.com/>.

WOODSTOCK NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

ENROLLING CHILDREN AGES 3-5

Come meet our teachers, see our space, and learn more about Woodstock's oldest and only nature based preschool!

Our open house dates are from 9:30am-11:00am at 54 River Street, Woodstock, on: March 8.

Please register for our open house dates at: <https://www.woodstocknurseryschool.org/open-house-dates>

We are enrolling now and accept Act 166 and Child Care Financial Assistance Subsidy, making WNS an affordable, accessible option for all.

<https://www.woodstocknurseryschool.org/>

2025 GLAD RAGS SPRING SALES DATES

Our Spring Sales will be on Friday - Sunday, April 25 - 27, 2025.

The donation collection dates for the Spring sales are the following Saturdays: February 22; March 8; March 29; April 5.

For more information about the sales and what donations we accept, please visit - <http://www.gladrags.org>

For updates please join our Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/145529065206/>

The Glad Rags Sale Association, Inc. supports agencies that provide health and welfare services to the greater Woodstock Community.

- The Glad Rags Volunteers

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

"I am never at my best in the early morning, especially a cold morning in the Yorkshire spring with a piercing March wind sweeping down from the fells, finding its way inside my clothing, nipping at my nose and ears."

- James Herriot