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Around

CONCORD

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PASSION & FASHION

Page 24





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Emelyne Adios is setting her own style



Cover photo
by Geoff Forester

A close-up photograph of a young man and woman smiling and embracing each other. The woman is leaning over the man's shoulder, and both are looking towards the camera with bright, happy expressions.

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A reason to celebrate

Meet Emelyne Adios.

She's a 30-year-old fashion designer and health care worker from Burundi who runs her own small clothing business, Style by Emelyne.

Her colorful clothes will be among the many things featured at this year's Concord Multicultural Festival, held on the third Sunday in September at Keach Park on the Heights.

She's also on our cover this issue. You can read her story, written by Eileen O'Grady, on Page 24.

The festival, which runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 19 features foods, performances, art, activities, and a parade of flags. It's both a way to welcome newcomers to the Concord community and for long-time residents to see and appreciate the city's growth.

Hopefully, this issue arrives to you in time for the event. Even if it doesn't, there are plenty of ways to connect with this thriving community.

New Census data shows that Concord has grown to contain one of the most racially diverse neighborhoods in the state in the Heights area around Loudon Road. One out of every three residents is non-white, with 14% Asian, 13% Black or African American, and 5% two or more races.

That gives the city a lot to celebrate, for sure, but some of the healthiest communities have racial and economic diversity spread across wide areas, as opposed to confined in pockets, which gives Concord even more room to grow.

The theme of this year's celebration of diversity is "this is us."

"The theme emphasizes the fact that each of us is a unique and beautiful thread, woven together creating a vibrant social fabric that makes our community so special," wrote festival organizer Jessica Livingston.

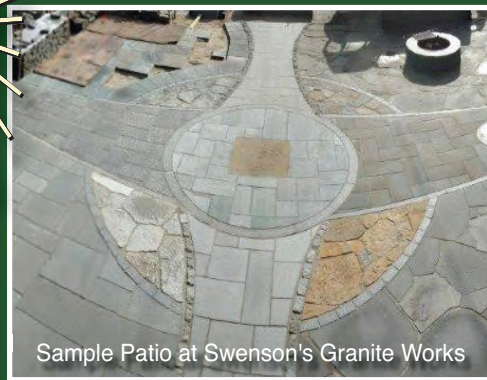
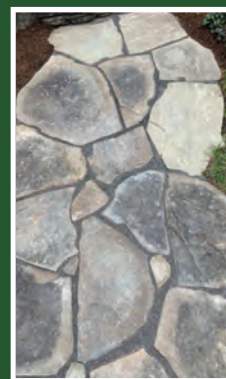
Adios, who lives in Manchester and works in Concord, hopes to make more connections, grow her business, and remain rooted right here in the Granite State.

"This place gave me an opportunity to be who I am," Adios said. "If I am going to be big, I am going to be big here, because this is home."

Jonathan Van Fleet
Editor

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READER CONTEST



Joe and Shelley Speer

TAKE A RIDE! WIN A WATCH!

There was a time when the best way around Concord was a ride in a Concord Coach. This issue we continue a reader contest: Find the four wheels of a Concord Coach hidden within four different ads in this magazine. All winning submissions received by Nov. 15 will be entered into a random drawing for a New Hampshire Watch Company wristwatch, up to \$400 retail value, supplied by Speer's Fine Jewelry.



There are two ways to enter:

- Write down the page numbers of the ads in which the wheels appear on a sheet of paper with your name, address, phone number and email and mail to: Advertising Sales Manager, Around Concord, P.O. Box 1177, Concord, NH 03302-1177; or
- Go to the online form at aroundconcord.com/coach and submit the page numbers of the ads along with your name, address, phone number and email.

Limit one entry per household. The winner's name will appear in the fall issue. Good luck!

Employees of Newspapers of New England and their families are not eligible to enter.



Joe and Shelley Speer of Speer's Fine Jewelry congratulate Patricia Andrews of Concord on winning a \$400 New Hampshire Watch Company watch as part of the Take A Ride! promotion in the summer issue of *Around Concord* magazine. Patricia was especially eagle-eyed. Rather than the usual four hidden icons, there were five that issue. The Concord Coach wheel was embedded in ads in the summer edition on pages 7, 30, 31, 33 and 63. **The contest continues this issue and the winner will be announced in the Winter edition.**



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THE TIP LIST

Fast faves

Jane Presby, owner of Dimond Hill Farm, is no stranger to the joys of autumn in New England. The Victorian farmhouse will soon feature fall favorites like native pumpkins, squash, gourds, ornamentals, sweet corn, cider and other produce as well as walking trails and picnic tables that are dog-friendly (as long as they're on a leash, of course). But when the weather turns cooler, Presby turns to downtown Concord for fun things to do.



Happy to be living in the hub of the state

"Concord is an exchange between north, south, east and west. It's easy to hop off the highway and get a bite to eat. You can always stay over if traveling through. You're between all three highways, it's kind of the hub. The capital really is a hub of the state," she said. "I think this is (a good place to) walk down through Main Street and see shops and offerings."



Books, film and history

As a self-described read-a-holic, Presby loves visiting Gibson's Bookstore. "Red River Theatre is good too. We have lots of things to do that are interesting, especially in the long winter," she said, like the New Hampshire Historical Society. And performing arts "is a really important part of Concord itself."



A bite to eat downtown

For dining, she's into Chinese and Mexican food lately (both of which you can find multiple options for downtown).



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The arts take over

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Capital Arts Fest Sept. 24 to 26

Downtown will be humming with activity for this fall's Arts Fest. League members will be showcasing their skills in booths along Main Street. This event provides the opportunity for residents and visitors to immerse themselves in stimulating and joyous arts experiences featuring contemporary and traditional craft, live music, pop-up street theatre, dance performances, intimate theater performances and presentations by authors and poets. Other arts and cultural institutions will be joining in the festivities such as Red River Theatres, the Capitol Center for the Arts and Bank of NH Stage, Kimball Jenkins School of Art and the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, with more joining still.

The Capital Arts Fest has been hosted annually since 2017 by the League of NH Craftsmen, Capitol Center for the Arts and Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce.

More info: nhcrafts.org/event/capital-arts-fest

TRY THIS



Geoff Forester

The corn maze at Beech Hill Farm is open for business. But you'll have to wait until October to get this striking view.

Built to amaze

Your autumn order – a fresh corn maze with a side of ice cream

Visitnh.gov does a nice job of listing corn mazes worth visiting across New Hampshire. Some of the best in the state, though, are within a short drive from Concord.

The most local is Beech Hill Farm in Hopkinton. Now in its 22nd year of building corn mazes, the farm always delights with two challenging mazes, plenty of farm animals to gaze at and row after row of pumpkins to pick from.

Around Concord fans usually make this an annual

stop, and some of us will tell you their ice cream is among the best around (The folks at Richardson Farm in Boscawen, Page 28, may have something to say about that!). If you're stopping in for the first time, give yourself an afternoon to really soak in the small-farm vibe. And when you're done, stop in for a cone. You can't go wrong with the pumpkin ice cream.

A bit farther away, but still within an hour's drive are the corn mazes at Beans and Greens in Gilford and Moulton Farm in Meredith.

THE SIT-DOWN



Monitor file

Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tim Sink started his career as a music teacher, and here he's playing the flute as part of a Concord community event back in 2016.

QA

Concord Chamber of
Commerce director
Tim Sink has made
a career of hitting
the right note

For almost 30 years, Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tim Sink has led the organization dedicated to advancing the business of Concord. He's seen lows – a moribund economy in the early 1990s with flagging Chamber membership – to exhilarating highs, including a renewed downtown and the Concord Chamber becoming New Hampshire's largest. He sat down for an interview with former Congressman Paul Hodes on WKXL's Capitol Closeup to reflect on that long, winding road, the community's resilience during COVID, and lessons learned for the future.

This conversation has been condensed and edited.

What was your path to the chamber?

Tim Sink: I kind of fell into it. I started my career as a music teacher. My brother-in-law joined the Manchester Chamber and

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said, "Hey, they're looking for someone to be their membership manager." And so I joined there, and I really loved the environment and eventually became the number two person at the Manchester Chamber. Then a few years after that, the job in Concord opened up. So I thought, yeah, it'd be kind of cool to run my own chamber. And it's a great career. The Concord Chamber is just an excellent organization, has a wonderful board of directors, and everyone really cares about the community.

When did you arrive as the director?

Tim Sink: I got here in 1992. In the early nineties, the economic story in Concord wasn't great.

What do you recall about where Concord and the economy was in those first years?

Tim Sink: It was not a very strong chamber. It had lost a lot of members.

"One of the areas that we saw that was really important was supporting the Capitol Center for the Arts. The economic impact of the Capitol Center, in particular on Main Street, has been one of the best things that's happened for this community."

It was down to about 450 members. It was in a position to grow, I'll put it that way! The economy at the time was coming out of the crazy eighties. But there were all kinds of opportunities to grow the organization and to get engaged. One of the areas that we saw that was really important was supporting the Capitol Center for the Arts. The economic impact of the Capitol Center, in particular on Main Street, has been one of the best things that's happened for this community.

Concord has really become an important cultural destination: the

Capitol Center for the arts, the Red River Theater, the Bank of New Hampshire Stage, the New Hampshire League of Craftsmen, plus the Concord Community Music School, which is one of the largest community music schools in any rural area in the country. In addition to the cultural aspects, you have been part of real growth in terms of the business community. Talk to us a little about the mix of businesses that you have seen develop in Concord over time.

Tim Sink: It is a pretty good mix. The big fish in the pond are obviously state government and healthcare, but there are also a lot of entrepreneurs in this area. There's some under the radar, high-tech manufacturing that's here too. In terms of the Chamber's role in how we go about economic development, we focus on making sure that we have top quality of life here so that people coming here will have a great place to live and work: safety, reasonable cost of living, things of that nature. So we focus on things that maintain that, and the cultural scene is definitely one of the more important things, particularly for trying to attract a younger workforce.

One of the things we've been able to do is measure the impact of the creative economy through a very robust survey mechanism created by Americans for Prosperity, which is a Washington-based organization that measures the creative economy on a national level every five years. We did it probably more than 10 years ago for a starter, counting up all the money generated for the local economy through the creative and cultural in-



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Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
Tim Sink plays the sax at a recent Souperfest in Concord.

stitutions. The first time we came up with very significant numbers. Fast forward another five years, we did the same survey, and the numbers doubled. These were real, hard numbers, and they were huge. So we knew we were on the right track.

We've come through a really challenging time. How are your members dealing with it, and what do you see for the future?

Tim Sink: The last year was pretty scary. We didn't know how we were going to get through this. But we did. And a lot of the chamber's role had to do with working with businesses that needed to access resources, or needed to find out how to access funds. Some needed information on the ins and outs of forgiveness of debt from PPP loans. We were able to help with all of those, although we were also on a huge learning curve. We just did a tremendous amount of education.

We really cannot afford another

full shutdown. And I think we've learned some lessons the first time around that we can be much more selective in terms of how we deal with this, the precautions that we need to take. We know about social distancing. We know about mask mandates or other practices in terms of mask-wearing and what to do in public. And we can be much more selective in terms of how we go about affecting certain parts of the economy.

And these days, how many members does the chamber have?

Tim Sink: We have around 910. So it's a pretty good size chamber. In terms of numbers of members, we're actually the largest chamber in the state. Manchester may be ahead of us in revenue because they've got bigger corporations and we've got a lot of smaller businesses. But, we have a lot of loyal members and it's a great community. This community supports the chamber. And I can't tell you what that means to me. ♦



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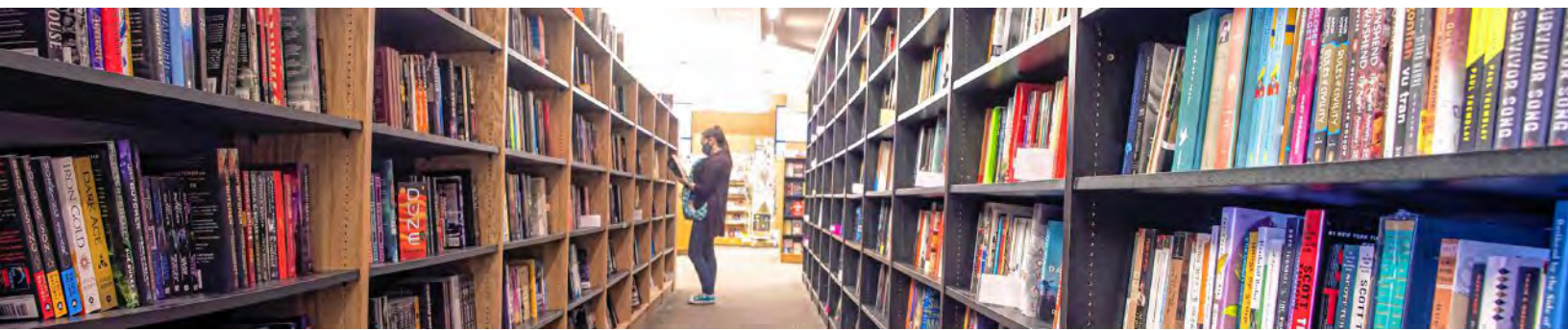
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Off the shelf

The best sorts of books are the ones that leave you feeling a bit breathless as you turn the last page. The ones you stay up with past bedtime, not quite ready to turn off the light yet. The ones you can't wait to figure out the ending to but also don't want to end.

They inspire you. They excite you. They teach you something new.

New Hampshire authors certainly know how to deliver on those fronts. Here are some 2021 books you might enjoy published by Granite State writers.

By Sarah Pearson

Twenty-Five to Life

By R. W. W. Greene

Julie Riley is two years too young to get out from under her mother's thumb, and what does it matter? She's over-educated, under-employed, and kept mostly numb by her pharma implant. Her best friend, who she's mostly been interacting with via virtual reality for the past decade, is part of the colony mission to Proxima Centauri.

Plus, the world is coming to an end. So, there's that.

When Julie's mother decides it's time to let go of the family home in a failing suburb and move to the city to be closer to work and her new beau, Julie decides to take matters into her own hands. She runs, illegally, hoping to find and hide

with the Volksgeist, a loose-knit culture of tramps, hoboes, senior citizens, artists, and never-do-wells who have elected to ride out the end of the world in their campers and converted vans, constantly on the move over the back roads of America.

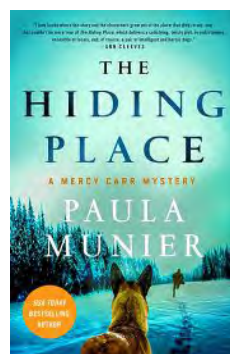
Greene is a New Hampshire writer, which he exorcises in dive bars and coffee shops. He is a frequent panelist at the Boskone Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention in Boston, and his work has been in *Stupefying Stories*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *New Myths*, and *Jersey Devil Press*, among others.



The Hiding Place

By Paula Munier

Bestselling author Paula Munier continues her Mercy Carr series with a third installment that drags the past back to the present.



When her late grandfather's deputy calls Mercy to his deathbed, she and canine sidekick Elvis agree to take on the cold case that haunted him. But finding Beth Kilgore 20 years after she disappeared is more than a lost cause – it's a danger to Mercy, Elvis and all they hold dear.

Meanwhile, Mercy's grandmother goes missing and a man shows up claiming Elvis as his own.

She needs reinforcements, which means forgiving Vermont Game Warden Troy Warner and enlisting his help. With Troy and search and rescue dog Susie Bear on their side, they unravel the secrets of the past.

Munier was inspired to write the first Mercy Carr book, "A Borrowing of Bones," by the hero working dogs she met through MissionK9Rescue, her own Newfoundland retriever mix rescue Bear, and a lifelong passion for crime fiction.

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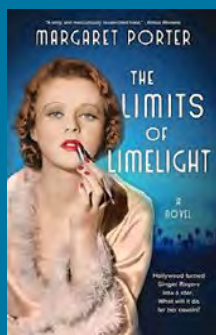
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Limits of Limelight

By Margaret Porter



Pretty Oklahoma teenager Helen Nichols accepts an invitation from her cousin, rising movie actress Ginger Rogers, and her Aunt Lela, to try her luck in motion pictures. Her relatives, convinced that her looks and personality will ensure success, provide her with a new name and help her land a contract with RKO. As Phyllis Fraser, she swiftly discovers that Depression-era Hollywood's surface glamour and glitter obscure the ceaseless struggle of the hopeful starlet.

Lela Rogers, intensely devoted to her daughter and her niece, outwardly accepting of her stage mother label, is nonetheless determined to establish her reputation as screenwriter, stage director, and studio talent scout. For Phyllis, she's an inspiring model of grit and persistence in an industry run by men.

While Ginger soars to the heights of stardom in musicals with Fred Astaire, Phyllis is tempted by a career more fulfilling than the one she was thrust into. Should she continue working in films, or devote herself to the profession she's dreamed about since childhood? Which choice might lead her to the lasting love that seems so elusive?

POETRY

Nothing But

By Alice Fogel



The former New Hampshire poet laureate has released a collection that reveals the disruptions – welcome or unsettling – to our stream of consciousness that occur when we encounter the un-

explainable. In these poems, such suspensions of linear thought become a beckoning toward transcendence, an opening both deeper into, and out beyond, our perceptions in an otherwise prescribed world.

Fogel was poet laureate of New Hampshire from 2014-19. In addition to a half dozen collections of poetry, she is the author of “Strange Terrain,” a handbook to appreciating poetry even for those who don’t “get” it.

Fogel's honors include nine Pushcart Prize nominations, Best of the Web, and a 1997 literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New England Poetry Club's Daniel Varoujan Award, among others.



Indebted to Wind

By L. R. Berger



The poems have a flow and energy through them as they course through Berger's collection, not unlike that of the Contoocook River near her Hopkinton home.

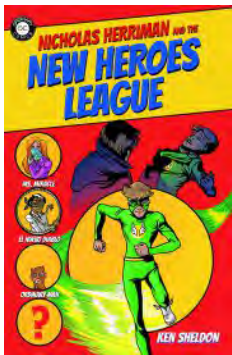
“The wind in these eloquent, elegant, tensile poems is present as spirit, of course; as spirit it can manifest as the longing or fate of the body (it expires), as intellectual momentum (it inspires), as power for social justice (it aspires),” writes poetry professor Stephen Tapscott.

Berger's collection of poems, “The Unexpected Aviary” (Deerbrook Editions, 2003), received the Jane Kenyon Award for Outstanding Book of Poetry.

FOR YOUNGER READERS

No. 3: Nicholas Herriman and the New Heroes League

By Ken Sheldon



New Hampshire author and humorist Ken Sheldon released the final book in a middle-grade superhero trilogy, "Nicholas Herriman and the New Heroes League."

Nick Herriman was the most average kid to ever live in Peabody, New Hampshire, until he stumbled on a trunk full of clothes that gave him superpowers. Unfortunately, the clothes came with no instructions, and some were defective. The Losers League series follows Nick's adventures as he figures out how to use his new powers without killing himself,

battles monsters and supervillains, and learns lessons about life, love and friendship.

"I wrote this series for kids who are as obsessed with superheroes as I was," said Sheldon, who grew up on a diet of Superman, Batman, Spider Man and Captain America comics. He especially hopes the book will appeal to reluctant boy readers, who may be able to identify with an ordinary guy like Nick. "In the third book of the series, Nick learns that being a leader isn't always easy, even with superpowers," he says.

Ten Thousand Tries

By Amy Makechnie

Twelve-year-old Golden Maroni is determined to channel his hero, soccer superstar Lionel Messi, and become captain of his soccer team and master of his eighth-grade universe ... especially since his home universe is spiraling out of orbit. Off the field,



Golden's dad, once a pro soccer player himself, is now battling ALS, leaving him less and less physically able to control his body every day. And while Mom says there's no cure, Golden is convinced that his dad can beat

this, just like any opponent – they just have to try.

Golden knows that if you want to perfect a skill you have to put ten thousand tries in, so he's convinced if he can put that much effort in, on and off the field, he can stop everything from changing. But when his dad continues to decline and his constant pushing starts to alienate his friends and team, Golden is forced to confront the idea that being master of your universe might not mean being in control of everything.

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Emelyne Adios is a fashion designer who makes and models her own clothes.

Geoff Forester



SETTING HER OWN *STYLE*

Emelyne Adios
is building a reputation
for her fashion and
her community work

By EILEEN O'GRADY

The first time Emelyne Adios wore kitenge fabric in a runway show, she fell in love.

The New Hampshire fashion designer, who was in her early 20s at the time and working as a model in Burundi, was assigned to wear a jacket made from the vibrant African print fabric at an event that showcased international fashion. She couldn't get enough of the outfit.

"I looked so good," Adios said. "You know, when you have that confidence I had never had in my life. I just fell in love with kitenge, with the fabric."

Adios begged the designer, a Kenyan woman, to let her buy the outfit she had worn in the show, but it was far out of her price range. The disappointment was acute, but it got her thinking.

"What if I can make that outfit for myself?" Adios said. "I can do that and walk in my own clothes."

Adios, now 30, is a New Hampshire fashion designer and health care worker who runs her own small clothing business, Style by Emelyne. Her modern designs, made with bright kitenge fabrics, have been featured locally in

shows at the Concord Multicultural Festival and the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success gala.

"I've always loved fashion, I love color," Adios said. "I think it's who we are. As long as you're comfortable with what you're wearing and you feel good inside, I don't know if I was someone who cares much about what people think. At the end of the day, do I feel confident? Do I feel happy inside?"

Growing up in Burundi, Adios was a self-described "tall kid" who at 6'1" played basketball at her family's suggestion but always dreamed of being a fashion model – a plan her father wasn't initially convinced would be a reputable profession for her.

Itching to chase her dreams, 15-year-old Adios feigned illness one weekend to avoid a family visit to her grandparents, put on her best church outfit and took a bus to a model casting. Although she said she was so nervous she could barely walk straight in

the audition, her daring paid off. She was one of 10 girls chosen out of 189 applicants and got signed to her first modeling agency, Agence Esther – much to her younger sister's envy. Her father got on board with the idea after learning that the agency valued academics and upstanding behavior.

Adios went on to model for fashion shows and ad campaigns in Burundi and Uganda. Filled with creative inspiration after her first experience modeling kitenge, Adios taught herself how to sew from watching YouTube videos. It took her weeks, but when she finished that first project she said she had a smile on her face.

Adios says her fascination with using kitenge in her designs comes from its long tradition of everyday use by women in Burundi, who have historically used the inexpensive and easily-accessible textile for everything from hair wraps to baby slings and even reusable menstrual pads.

"This fabric is just so much more, especially for women," Adios said. "If we can have one fabric that they use for all of this, we are not poor."

Adios, who sews her designs out of her Manchester home, says in an era of fast fashion it's hard to make some customers understand that handmade items cost more because of the time and labor associated with them.

"People don't know how much we put [into] making handmade clothes," Adios said. "They don't really know it takes a lot of time to put all the pieces together."

In her own wardrobe, Adios values quality over quantity and says she would rather buy one unique and interesting piece she loves than an armful of generic fast-fashion clothing.

"To have a lot of clothes is good, if I can afford them," Adios said. "But when you wear those pieces, let's say you're going to work, knowing that your coworker is going to look at you and say 'you look so good.' But do you look good to you? Is that you?"

Since coming to New Hampshire in 2014, Adios has modeled jeans for a Massachusetts company and organized a fashion show in Maine as a fundraiser for Uganda. Her designs have been featured at New Hampshire Fashion Week, the 2018 Black New England Conference at UNH and in an exhibition at the Sarah Orne Jewett House museum in South Berwick, Maine.

Although she is living in Manchester, Adios feels most at home in Concord, where she often works. In the early years of living in New Hampshire, when she felt homesick for Burundi, she would often go to White Park to walk or relax by the pond.

"I love everything here," Adios said. "I used to just watch the water. It would make me feel calm, like I am somewhere where I belong."

While striving to grow her business, Adios has been working as a medical interpreter with Language Bank, including at Concord Hospital and the Department of Health and



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Human Services in Concord. Adios, who speaks five languages, wants to use her skills to help people who face a communication barrier when accessing treatment.

"I don't want to see my people struggling at the hospital," Adios said. She is a big advocate for mental health, and tries to encourage the new Americans she works with to take care of their mental health as well as they would their physical health.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when health care workers were in high demand, Adios became a nursing home aide in Durham and Goffstown. Although Adios has asthma and was afraid for her own life at times, her thoughts were focused on the vulnerable people who needed her help. Adios remembered one particularly difficult overnight shift where she was the only one on the floor due to short staffing, her asthma aggravated by the disinfecting chemicals and only a plastic bag to wear, due to a PPE shortage.

"I'm like, 'I am going to sit here for eight hours in this plastic,'" Adios recalled. "I felt like I was going to die, it was the middle of the night, and I started crying. I was like, 'I am the only one here, and if I go home, nobody is going to help these people.' So I was like, 'you know what? I'm not dead yet.'"

As the virus ravaged her nursing home, Adios said she would leave work not knowing if she would return to find a patient's bed empty. Unable to give hugs or provide much comfort after patients were moved to the COVID-19 unit, Adios began exchanging written notes with one older patient, a lady who had a routine of telling Adios she loved her every night.

"One night I went there I found out she is gone," Adios said. "I stopped going there. It was just killing me. I got attached to people so quick. And COVID was quick."

Adios's passion for helping others permeates every part of her life. Adios sponsors the education of

seven orphan children back in Burundi, who all call her "mom." The oldest is now in college.

She has also started an initiative to raise money for pregnant, unmarried girls in Burundi, so they can pursue their education and support themselves and their children instead of being forced to enter into unwanted or unsafe marriages.

"I don't want anybody to give up because they don't have this help," Adios said. "If I am going to be the one who believes they can be something, I want to do it."

In Concord, she has organized a "pack a purse" drive to collect purses filled with essentials like toiletries and other essentials for homeless women. She also mentors New American girls and started a mentorship program for adults in Manchester, walking in the park and providing company.

Adios says she is looking forward to collaborating with other designers

and putting on more fashion shows here in New Hampshire, so she can see more people wear her clothes. Adios likes her shows to be diverse, with models of all sizes and ages including moms and kids.

"We don't all have to be the same size or have the same style, as long as you're comfortable," Adios said. "For me the beauty is our differences – that we all just be there, get together and we make it fun."

Although friends occasionally encourage Adios to move to New York or Los Angeles, where there is more fashion activity, Adios says she'd rather stay here and work to build New Hampshire's fashion scene.

"This place gave me an opportunity to be who I am," Adios said. "If I am going to be big I am going to be big here, because this is home."

Adios's fashions are available for purchase on her website, www.EmelyneAdios.com along with links to donate to her causes. ♦

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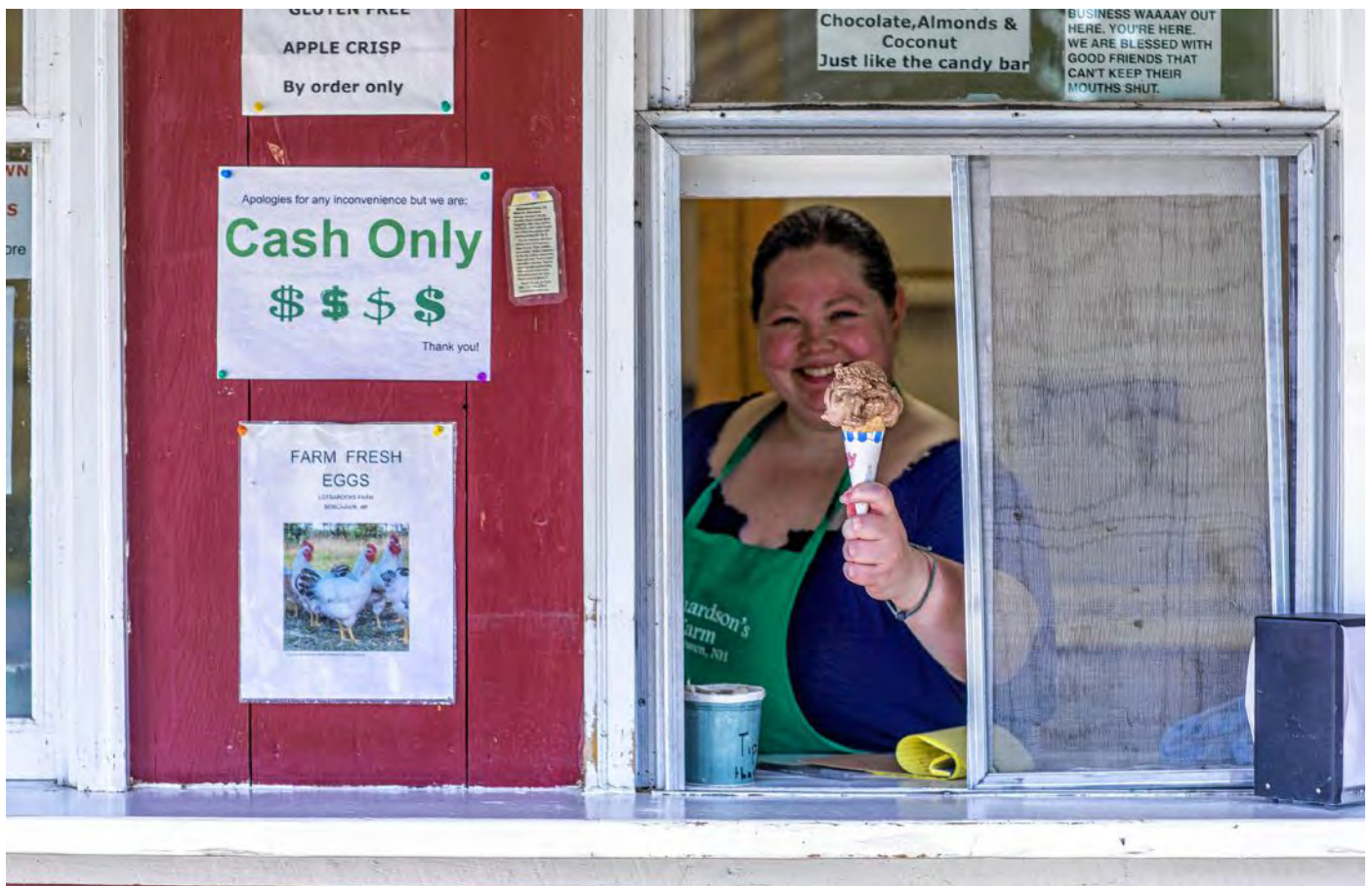


Jim Richardson
uses 275-degree
water to sanitize
milk jugs from
Contoocook
Creamery after
the raw milk is
dumped into
the ice cream
pasteurization vat.



A photo tour of **Richardson Farm** in Boscawen, a family operation that has been making ice cream the same way for the past 65 years

Taste of a different era



TOP: Foster Harrington from Lexington, Massachusetts, digs into his ice cream cone at Richardson Farm in Boscawen. His family comes up just for the ice cream and to visit his grandmother.

ABOVE: Megan Coll serves up ice cream at the Richardson Farm in Boscawen.

Photos by GEOFF FORESTER

A drive far down Water Street off Route 4 in Boscawen will bring you to a farm that's seemingly just as it was when it started in 1956. Of course, plenty has changed, but you wouldn't know that by tasting the ice cream. Richardson Farm concentrates on making high-quality desserts – its ice cream and its equally beloved pies and crisps – with three full-time employees and a collection of part-time help. On this tour, we take you from beginning to the sweet, sweet end.



ABOVE: Jim and Sue Richardson get ready to make pies. Typically, the Richardsons and Megan Coll, along with part-time help around the holidays, produce more than 800 pies during the season.

LEFT: A sign at the farm displays prices from an earlier time.

LEFT: The remaining silo from Richardson Farm in Boscawen.



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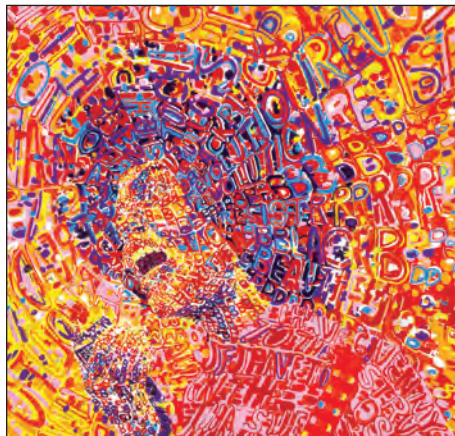
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ABOVE: Jim Richardson pours the raw milk into smaller containers to be put in the vat to be pasteurized.

Left: Megan Coll and Richardson move the jugs for the raw milk to be pasteurized.



Wadsworth Jarrell, *Revolutionary*, 1972



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Jim Richardson adds the non-fat milk solids including sugar plus a stabilizer to the raw milk before it is pasteurized.



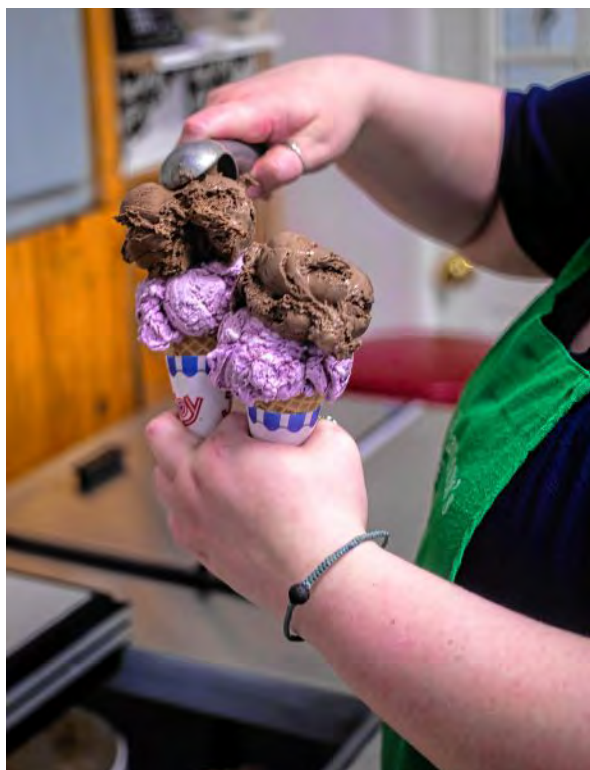
The thermometer that gauges that the mixture reaches 160 degrees for pasteurization.



ABOVE: Jim Richardson looks at the thermometer as the heat and steam rises from the vat that the farm uses to pasteurize the raw milk.

FAR LEFT: Richardson Farm uses steam to heat the vat to pasteurize the milk and other products to make ice cream.

LEFT: The milk jugs get filled with the newly pasteurized milk.




ABOVE: Megan Coll serves up ice cream cones.



RIGHT: Graham Harrington, 8, enjoys the fruits of all the hard work at Richardson Farm.

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**Inside Ron Wirth's
Warner garage sits a
'57 Corvette – a model
that stood the test of time**



Vintage *Vroom*



Geoff Forester photos

The 1957 Corvette owned by Ron Wirth is currently in his Warner barn.

**By JONATHAN VAN FLEET
and GEOFF FORESTER**

Inside Ron Wirth's barn, nestled between the old tools, knick knacks and hundreds of transistor radios, sits an old love.

"I cared for it like my first baby. It was my first baby," Wirth said. "I cared for it. I washed it and polished it every week."

The chrome on the 1957 Corvette hardtop convertible coupe still shines bright after all these years. It sat in storage for a long time, decades in fact, before Wirth brought it home to New Hampshire.

The car is nearly 65 years old – old enough to be a member of the Baby Boomer

generation. It's also a classic.

Wirth bought it back in 1963 when he was 20 and living in California. It had 60,000 miles and he paid \$1,300 for it.

Back then, that was still a lot of money. In 1957, Chevrolet was selling new Corvettes for about \$3,200.

In the right condition, those cars today can sell for 100 maybe even 200 times that amount.

That style of Corvette, introduced in 1955, are sought after by automobile enthusiasts, even though they weren't the fastest or

the most powerful. The 1957 came with 250 horsepower, which pales in comparison to 460 horsepower output of the 1967 Corvette





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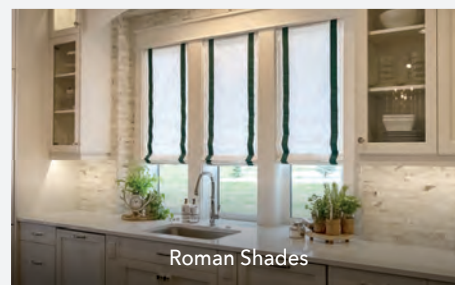
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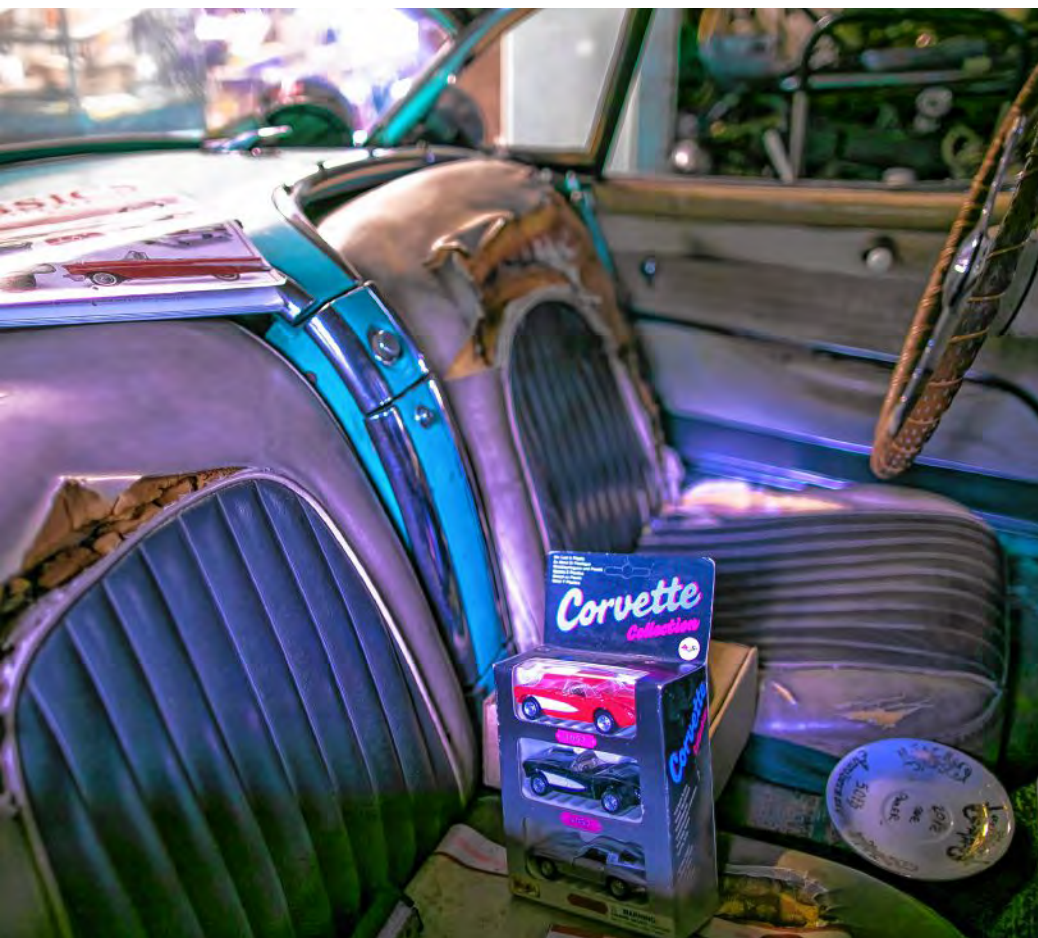
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Ron Wirth looks under the hood of his 1957 Corvette in his Warner barn. Wirth paid \$1,300 for the now-classic in 1963. The 240 horsepower pales compared to the far more powerful 1967 Corvette's 460 horsepower. But the sleek '57 model helped usher in a new era for sports cars.



and the sheer power of the muscle cars of the 60s. It's desired by collectors because it symbolizes a different time in automotive history, as car manufacturers realized there was a new breed of automobile driver that was looking for something different than the large, heavy sedans, like the Chryslers, Buicks and Lincolns that ruled the road.

Their market was young men who wanted to be James Dean.

"It's a guy's car," Wirth said.

Chevrolet went more European with the Corvette's design in the 50s, smaller with just two seats, a rounded trunk and lots of chrome. Its lines still hold up as one of the greats in a long line of greats.

Wirth's vehicle – in a rare cascade green – shows its age in places. It's got 126,000 miles now. The seats are a little torn, there's a

The interior of Ron Wirth's 1957 Corvette is all original including the steering wheel and manual shifter.

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Ron Wirth bought his 1957 Corvette in 1963 when it had 60,000 miles on it. It's now up to 126,000.



scratch here, a nick there. The old canvas top that came with the car has disintegrated. On the plus side, it's got all its original parts, including headlights, hubcaps and even the license plates it came with the day it rolled off the lot when it was brand new.

Of the 6,000 or so Corvettes produced that year, Wirth says about 300 came with that color.

Wirth, who considers himself a fancy technician or even an inventor – isn't sure he's going to sell his rare beauty, or fix it up, or both.

He's sure gotten an earful of advice on what he should do.

"We have people already – I haven't seen friends in years – now they're calling me on the phone to give me advice. We've done the research and we see they're selling for \$50,000," he said. "And I'm going 'yeah, sure.'"

The original headlight on the 1957 Corvette. It has never been driven in a New Hampshire winter.

Wirth, who considers himself a fancy technician or even an inventor – isn't sure he's going to sell his rare beauty, or fix it up, or both. He's sure gotten an earful of advice on what he should do. "We have people already – I haven't seen friends in years – now they're calling me on the phone to give me advice. We've done the research and we see they're selling for \$50,000," he said. "And I'm going 'yeah, sure.'"



Inventor and engineer Ron Wirth in his workshop in the barn of his Warner home.

After decades in storage in California in an old building he owned, Wirth brought the car home to Warner, where he's lived the last 30 years. He recently got it registered with the state but it would need about a week in the shop before it was ready for the road again.

He's not too worried about thieves. Whoever wanted to take the car would have to clean out the barn first because it's tucked away snugly in the corner.

"I want the world to know it exists," he said. ♦

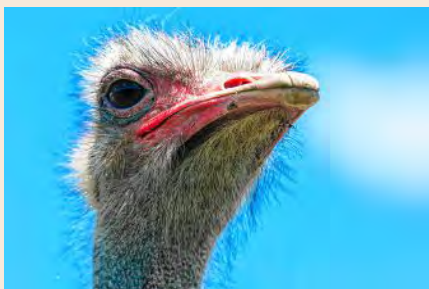


A model of Wirth's 1957 Corvette in this barn.



FARM LIFE *DISCOVERED*

Nothing about Michael Bedford's resume points to an ostrich farm in Gilmanton, but he couldn't be happier with his new direction



Michael Bedford raises ostriches on Fowl Language Farm in Gilmanston.

Geoff Forester photosa

By THEODORE TAUSCHER

It's easy to be awe-struck more by the ostriches that reside at Fowl Language Farm in Gilmanston, than the farmer who tends to them.

His name is Michael Bedford and he would love to tell you about his flock of "prehistoric toddlers" and their dinosaur-sized eggs.

Yet, his own story is perhaps more extraordinary. He is an engineer of sorts, an executive in a cyber security company and maybe even a child genius, although he would never agree to being called that.

Bedford is not the type of guy to brag. He has a small farm and likes to play in the mud. But even before he was a teenager, he started showing a rare intelligence. Bedford was born in 1979 in California and at the age of 11 he started taking classes at Yuba Community College. A few years later, he moved on to Cali-

“My farm is my obsession now and I figure I can put all the energy into it. I don’t look at farming as a way for income, which makes it a lot less stressful for me.”

Michael Bedford
of Fowl Language
Farm checks his
ostrich eggs.



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fornia State University.

As an enterprising elementary schooler, Bedford learned how to use his smarts to make money.

“I was doing homework for people for five bucks a paper and I was good enough to make it so that the teachers wouldn’t know that it was me who was writing it,” said Bedford, who made sure not to overdo it, usually aiming for B’s.

In college, Bedford pursued his passion – space exploration – majoring in aerospace engineering. But Bedford started to struggle as he navigated social concepts far beyond his age.

“When you take an 11-year-old and you put him in school with a bunch of adults, you don’t fit in there and don’t fit in with the 11-year-olds anymore,” said Bedford.

While bright beyond his years, he struggled to find where he belonged.

The experience levied a massive weight onto Bedford.

“When you do something like that, at that young of age, you’re on the

news in the newspaper and all that stuff, you kinda get hyped up,” he said. “People have the expectation that you are going to solve cancer or something like that, you’re going to do something great and you want to live up to that, to some degree. So I was like, ‘gosh that’s a lot of pressure for a kid that’s just barely turned, not even an adult yet,’ ” said Bedford.

After he graduated with a degree in aerospace engineering, he dreamed of working in space exploration, but the jobs in that field were dwindling and so was his desire to spend the rest of life behind a computer. So, he did what any bored teenager would do. He joined the Army.

“So I was young, stupid and I said ‘you know what, I am going to try and see how I can challenge myself in ways that school can’t,’ ” Bedford said. “Physically, emotionally do I have what it takes?”

Bedford’s family also had a history of service he was trying to uphold.

He spent the next few years trudging through swamps and gullies training in Army Air Assault. He gained an appreciation for the mud and grime that he would return to many years later.

“We would be sleeping out under the stars and there is something to being out in the middle of nowhere and it’s all quiet and peaceful looking around. You might be in a foxhole,

you might be covered in mud and disgusting stuff. But you take it all in and this is living buddy, this is what it is all about,” said Bedford.

But before he would be a farmer, Bedford would return to computers. He got out of active duty just before the turn of the century at a time when the Y2K panic about whether computers would malfunction in the new decade. Bedford traveled up and down the California coast retrofitting both the software and hardware of computers at hospitals.

Bedford remained a man of passion, with big ideas. While he climbed the corporate ladder he also tended to his own pet projects, like trying to regrow temperature resilient coral and reintroduce it in the ocean.

Nowadays Bedford’s time is spent split between his farm and his cyber security job.

“My farm is my obsession now and I figure I can put all the energy into it,” he said.

Like most of Bedford’s obsessions, it is not about the money. “I don’t look at farming as a way for income, which makes it a lot less stressful for me.”

His ostriches return his boundless energy, even if they aren’t the brightest birds.

“They explore the world much like toddlers do – through their mouths. They don’t have hands so they use their beak to try and sample things. They are very inquisitive creatures,” he said.

In farming, Bedford has finally found his purpose.

“I got a jump start on my career. I got a jump start on a bunch of stuff, yet I find myself at 42 realizing that the most important things in life had nothing to do with what I thought was important back then,” said Bedford. “It’s out there working in bird shit.”

For more information, visit fowllanguage.farm. ♦

“I got a jump start on my career. I got a jump start on a bunch of stuff, yet I find myself at 42 realizing that the most important things in life had nothing to do with what I thought was important back then.”



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EVENTS



SEPT. 10-26

White Rabbit Red Rabbit

"White Rabbit Red Rabbit" is an absurdist adventure that sits on the boundary of comedy and drama. The script itself is unknowable. Actors and audiences alike are encouraged not to talk about it at all. To this day, there is virtually nothing online about its content. It's not being coy to say we can't describe the plot; it's a requirement of the license.

Hatbox Theatre,
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.,
Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com

SEPT. 17

Blue Light Rain

Blue Light Rain is a high energy celebration of the music of the Grateful Dead. Brought together in 2008 by Rob Farquhar (bass/vocals), and Andy Laliotis (guitar/vocals) for a one off gig on Jerry Garcia's birthday, they've continued to perform together for the past 12 years.

Bank of NH Stage, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

SEPT. 19

Concord Multicultural Festival

The Concord Multicultural Festival is an annual event to celebrate the beauty of diversity in the Capital Region, featuring foods, performances, art, activities, and parade of flags, all presented by our local community members.

Keach Park, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

concordnhmulticulturalfestival.org



SEPT. 18

Monthly Concord Arts Market

In a new location this year in sprawling Rollins Park, the monthly summer arts market brings together talented art and artisan vendors, food, musicians and more. It'll be a nice warm-up to the Capital Arts Festival throughout the city Sept. 24-26 (More on Page 14). The final market of the monthly summer series will be on Oct. 16.

Rollins Park, 10 a.m.
to 3 p.m.

concordartsmarket.net



SEPT. 19

Walk for the Animals

A 1-mile and 3-mile walk; a blessing of the animals; music, caricaturist, raffles and prizes; animal demonstrations and more. The Walk for the Animals is the largest and longest running fundraiser for Pope Memorial SPCA, with proceeds helping over 1,400 animals a year.

Northeast Delta Dental, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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SEPT. 19

John Hiatt and the Jerry Douglas Band

In the midst of a global pandemic, John Hiatt walked into Historic RCA Studio B and opened up a lifetime full of leftover feelings. Those songs will be available on his new album "Leftover Feelings." A half-century ago, Hiatt lived in a ratty, \$15-a-week room on Nashville's 16th Avenue, less than a mile away from the RCA and Columbia studios that were the heartbeat of what had come to be known as "Music Row." In the ensuing 50 years, he went from a scuffling young buck to a celebrated grand master of song.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre, Sunday at 7 p.m.

ccanh.com



SEPT. 19

Kimayo

Kimayo is a folk-pop artist, performing in New England since 2019. Her authentic and personal songs depict a humanity that is relatable and comforting. She is creating music that merges adult contemporary with singer/ songwriter.

Fletcher-Murphy Park (rain location Bank of NH Stage), Sunday at 3 p.m.

ccanh.com

SEPT. 24

Blaggards

Hear Stout Irish Rock, traditional Irish music mixed with rock n' roll, informed by everything from Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley to Thin Lizzy and Black Sabbath. Blaggards are guitarist/vocalist Patrick Devlin, bassist/vocalist Chad Smalley, and drummer Eric C. Hughes.

Bank of NH Stage, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

SEPT. 24

Eaglemania

Eaglemania has evolved into a nationally touring tribute to The Eagles, performing to sold out audiences everywhere they go. Their music appeals to a wide variety of age groups, and the combination of heartfelt ballads, rock anthems laden with guitar harmonies, and the unmistakable sound of vocal harmonies as only the Eagles can do, has propelled the band for the past 40-plus years, positioning them as one of the most successful and popular bands in music history.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

SEPT. 25

Artisan Market

This event is a celebration of artisanal, handcrafted work, with live music, and demonstrations. Come admire artisans' work and find unique gifts or something special for yourself!

Canterbury Shaker Village, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

shakers.org

SEPT. 26

An Evening with David Sedaris

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's preeminent humor writers.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre, Sunday at 7 p.m.

ccanh.com



SEPT. 29

Galileo, The Starry Messenger

"The Starry Messenger" is a dramatic, fun-filled adaptation of Galileo's short treatise *Siderius Nuncius*. Galileo (Michael Francis) presents a public lecture on his most recent discoveries made using his newly-devised spyglass. As he describes those discoveries, Galileo explains his new method of observation and measurement of nature.

Concord City Auditorium,
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

walkerlecture.org

SEPT. 30-OCT. 3

Deerfield Fair

This annual event fair returns with all the things you love about traditional New England fairs – fair food, demonstrations, rides, music and plenty more.

Deerfield Fairgrounds

deerfieldfair.com



OCT. 1-10

Greater Tuna

The long-running off-Broadway hit features two actors creating the entire population of Tuna in a tour de farce of quick-change artistry, changing costumes and characterizations faster than a jack rabbit runs from a coyote. Two actors, twenty characters, and a barrel of laughs, y'all.

Hatbox Theatre,
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.,
Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com

OCT. 1

GA-20 / JD Simo

Feeling a void in current music, the trio of GA-20 have set out to write, record and perform a modern version of this beloved art form. JD Simo melds classic electric blues, the power of heralded British trios like Cream and the expansive sonic explorations of jazz and even The Grateful Dead into a vintage vibe that blurs the lines between genre and generations.

Bank of NH Stage,
Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 2

Lotus Land

With the true set up and sound of the Canadian power trio, Lotus Land delivers the thrill that people expect when they see RUSH in concert.

Bank of NH Stage,
Saturday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 2

Bruce in the USA

Much more than just another tribute, Bruce In The USA is a high-energy, note-perfect, and visually accurate musical experience of a Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band show.

Capitol Center for the Arts,
Chubb Theatre

ccanh.com

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OCT. 3

Follies

Tracie Bennett, Janie Dee and Imelda Staunton play the magnificent Follies in this dazzling production. Featuring a cast of 37 and an orchestra of 21, Stephen Sondheim's legendary musical was directed by Dominic Cooke and filmed live on stage at the National Theatre in 2017.

Bank of NH Stage,
Sunday at 12:55 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 6

William Ogmundson

William Ögmundson is an award-winning and EMMY-nominated composer, a lyricist, and a classically-trained solo pianist. For the Walker audience, he will play his "Americana" concert including Gottschalk, Sousa, Joplin, and Gershwin.

Concord City Auditorium,
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

walkerlecture.org



OCT. 6

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes asks men to literally walk one mile in women's high-heeled shoes. You don't have to wear high-heels, but it's part of the fun, and it gets the community to talk about something that's really difficult to talk about: domestic and sexual violence.

New Hampshire State House, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

cccnh.org

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OCT. 10

Capital Jazz Orchestra: Here's to Sinatra

The acclaimed Capital Jazz Orchestra will enlarge its personnel to include a full string section to accurately present the original arrangements of Sinatra's recorded music.

Capitol Center for the Arts,
Chubb Theatre, Sunday at 4 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 15-24

American Son

A Florida police station in the middle of the night. Two parents searching for answers. Estranged couple Kendra and Scott must confront their feelings about their disparate histories and backgrounds after their son is detained by the local police following a traffic stop. "American Son" is a gripping tale about who we are as a nation, and how we deal with family, love, loss and identity.

Hatbox Theatre,
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
and Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com



OCT. 8-10

Warner Fall Foliage Festival

Since 1947, the Warner Fall Foliage Festival has brought its community together, both with an annual celebration and by using proceeds to help build and support local nonprofits, schools and cultural activities. Some of the big events, including the Grand Parade and the Children's Parade, won't be happening this year, but there is still plenty to see and do.

wfff.org

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Concord Monitor, Concord Insider, Monadnock Ledger-Transcript, Valley News, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Greenfield Recorder, Athol Daily News, Valley Advocate

OCT. 15

The Mallett Brothers Band

The Mallett Brothers Band is an independent rock and roll / Americana / country band from Maine. Their busy tour schedule since forming in 2009 has helped them to build a dedicated fanbase across the U.S. and beyond while still calling the state of Maine their home. With a style that ranges from alt-country to Americana, country, jam and roots rock, theirs is a musical melting pot that's influenced equally by the singer/songwriter tradition as by harder rock, classic country and psychedelic sounds.

Bank of NH Stage, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 15

Ben Folds

Ben Folds is widely regarded as one of the major music influencers of a generation. He's created an enormous body of genre-bending music that includes pop albums with Ben Folds Five, multiple solo albums, and numerous collaborative records.

Capitol Center for the Arts,
Chubb Theatre, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 16

Brooklyn Charmers

Brooklyn Charmers is a Steely Dan tribute band comprised of some of Chicago's top players. With masterful precision and obsessive dedication to the music, Brooklyn Charmers injects a new energy into the beloved catalogue; bridging the gap between new and lifelong fans alike.

Bank of NH Stage,
Saturday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 17

Cyrano de Bergerac

James McAvoy ("X-Men," "Atonement") returns to the stage in an inventive adaptation by National Theatre Live of Cyrano de Bergerac, captured in 2020 from the West End in London.

Bank of NH Stage,
Sunday at 12:55 p.m.

ccanh.com



OCT. 15-17

Barefoot in the Park

It's the 1960's, and newlywed lovebirds Corie and Paul behold their first home – a tiny 5th floor walk-up in a crumbling Manhattan brownstone. Corie, a free-spirited optimist, is excited by its possibilities. Paul, an uptight young lawyer, sees only its flaws – like the hole in the skylight and leaky closet. When Corie's straight-laced mother makes an unannounced visit, Corie arranges a blind date for her with their quirky, bohemian neighbor. Chaos and comedy ensue because while opposites may attract, adjustments may be needed to keep them together!

Concord City Auditorium,
Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

communityplayersofconcord.org



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OCT. 17

New England Half Marathon

There are plenty of races across the region in the fall. This one in particular is both challenging at 13.1 miles and scenic. You start in Hopkinton and move east until you arrive at the State House in Concord. If a half marathon is too short, try the New Hampshire Marathon around Newfound Lake in Bristol on Oct. 2.

OCT. 20

ABBA: The concert

Many critics consider ABBA The Concert to be the most amazing and authentic ABBA tribute show in the world. Come dance, sing and have the time of your life.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 21

Patty Griffin & Gregory Alan Isakov

These two profound American voices are celebrating their first live, in-person performances since early 2020.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre, Thursday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 22

Start Making Sense

If David Byrne is one of the geniuses of modern times, then Start Making Sense is a nod to genius with a 7-10 piece Talking Heads Tribute.

Bank of NH Stage, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 22

Piff the Magic Dragon

After earning national acclaim as the standout star of NBC's "America's Got Talent" and "Penn & Teller: Fool Us", Piff The Magic Dragon continues to win over audiences across the globe with his mythical mixture of wizardry, wit and sarcasm that ignites a one-of-a-kind comedy magic show you have to see to believe.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 23

Almost Queen

The most authentic Queen live show since the days of Queen themselves. A deliberate four piece band, Almost Queen delivers a live performance showcasing signature four part harmonies and intricate musical interludes.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Saturday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 24

Daniel Sloss: Hubris

Daniel Sloss is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning Scottish comedian. (Age 16 and up.)

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre, Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 27

Marlin Darrah presents Southern England

Join Marlin Darrah – the world's most traveled filmmaker – to see Southern England's diverse cultural, historical, and scenic sites: Southampton, the White Cliffs of Dover, Canterbury Cathedral, the Cotswolds, Stonehenge, Cambridge and Oxford, Big Ben, and the Parliament Buildings; Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, and more.

Concord City Auditorium, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

walkerlecture.org



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OCT. 29-NOV.7

Wonders

Welcome to the Finger & Wood Recovery and Rehabilitation Clinic, dedicated to serving the physical, spiritual, and mental health of those unfortunate individuals who have lost their super powers. The facility is on high alert. There is a highly reliable threat leveled against the clinic, reducing the staff to a minimum of four highly trained professionals. It is likely that the threat is aimed at one of the residents; Nemi, formerly the human avatar of Nemesis, the God of Vengeance and Retribution; The Agent, who used his invisibility powers to steal for the highest bidder; or the mysterious new client due to arrive at any moment. Tension is high, nerves are on edge, and the food just isn't as good as usual.

Hatbox Theatre,
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
and Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com

OCT. 29

Bad Bad Habits

Bad Bad Hats are an indie rock trio from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Known for bringing a joyful, exuberant presence to their live shows, touring with The Beths, Margaret Glaspy, The Front Bottoms, Hippo Campus, and Third Eye Blind, the group took specific care to bring their fun-loving spirit to their third LP, "Walkman."

Bank of NH Stage, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

OCT. 31

Friends! Musical Parody

The comedic musical that lovingly pokes fun at TV's "Friends," celebrating the adventures of your favorite group of 20-something friends as they navigate the pitfalls of work, life, and love in 1990s Manhattan.

Capitol Center for the Arts,
Chubb Theatre,
Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

ccanh.com

NOV. 3

Old Time Piano Concert with Adam Swanson

Adam Swanson is one of the world's foremost performers of vintage American popular music, including ragtime, early jazz, the Great American Songbook, and more. He holds a bachelor's in classical piano and a master's in musicology from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. Although he is only twenty-seven years old, Adam has been a featured performer and lecturer at ragtime and jazz festivals across the United States, and he is the only four-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest.

Concord City Auditorium,
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

walkerlecture.org

NOV. 5

I Am Kawehi

Kawehi is a new breed of musician, a one-woman-band from Lawrence, Kansas who uses technology to carry the weight of a full band on her own.

Bank of NH Stage,
Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

NOV. 5-6

Bob Marley

Bob loves being a comedian. He's wicked good at it! He lives in Maine, which is the best state in the world maybe even the universe.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Chubb Theatre,
Friday at 6 and 8:30 p.m. and Saturday
at 6 and 8:30 p.m.

ccanh.com

NOV. 12-21

9/12


On the day after the World Trade Center attacks, a conflicted Boston couple proceed with their plan to host a birthday party for their two year old daughter, but the fragile veneer of normalcy is shattered as the enormity of the tragedy awakens the guests to their own helplessness, anger, internal resentments, and shocking beliefs.

Hatbox Theatre,
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and
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hatboxnh.com

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Bounty of memories

By JAMES W. SPAIN

There is a time of year, a very special time. You retire to bed one night with thoughts of summer only to awaken to cool air, bountiful colors of foliage, the season's last smell of cut hay and a distant fire burning. Summer has officially ended and the fall harvest is now upon us. It is time to welcome autumn like an old friend.

Seasons bring a flood of memories, days from the past. There was a time many years ago when I was very fortunate to spend time with my grandfather, a gentleman that knew the value of a life well-lived. It was not the words spoken but the simple

tasks in life that he held in great esteem.

His hundred-acre farm was his domain where he spent his days managing all that nature provided. Grandfather and grandmother were married on the old farm and a small tree was planted in recognition of their union. A wedding tree that was nurtured and grew into a well-rooted strong sugar maple that produced fine maple syrup each spring as the planting season was planned. The wedding tree witnessed many joyous occasions as well as sad ones too for life is unknown and it is only the future we behold. A small sapling that grew to be strong, as strong as the two young lives that were



joined nearby.

It is this day many decades later that I spend some time on the old farm, long abandoned and beautifully returned to the forest from which it came. The buildings are now gone and the fields overgrown but still sheltered by the bordering stone walls. Walls that were built by my grandfather and his grandfather before, each stone dry-fitted for eternal life. The cool autumn air has returned to the top of the hill, the sun shines bright on this cloudless day. I walk the hundred acres in a leisurely manner with melancholy moments at each stop. It is deep in the forest that I still see the old sap bucket long grown into the tree, my elderly grandfather cherished his tools and equipment but missed this lone bucket many decades before. I find the stones piled into a crude hearth where he would enjoy his lunch by the warmth of a fire late into the harvest season, the perfect spot to sit for a time and admire the abundant colors of the New Hampshire fall foliage season. I spend some time here myself remembering those moments, now long bittersweet, for he is gone and I am only left with the old memories growing older.

As I proceed along, I encounter the fields that once were. He produced the finest corn as well as a very endless supply of pumpkins that won countless blue ribbons at the county fair. As the hot summer days of my childhood ended and we returned to school each year, I knew that it was almost time to visit grandfather and work with him to harvest his crops before the killing frost.

His strong calloused hands would lift me onto the old wooden wagon pulled by his ancient red tractor down the roads and into the fields where he would select a spot to start the harvest. He would tell me each harvest season to pick the largest pumpkin for myself. I would hear him laugh as I made my attempt to lift the pumpkin I selected, outweighing me by many pounds. As the wagon was filled with a bountiful supply of orange pumpkins and the sun started to cast shadows across the edge of the field, we ventured back slowly to the barn to unload.

Grandmother would always greet us from the front porch and the scent of freshly baked pumpkin pie always beckoned me to the kitchen. My pie would be accompanied by a mason jar full of cold apple cider, made fresh on the farm by grandfather.

***I have spent decades
visiting the old farm,
walking the overgrown
fields while still learning
from my grandfather.
I still feel his presence
as I journey for miles
in solitude and recall a
life without boundaries
when fear was simply
not known.***

The world was a simple place all those decades ago, the innocence of youth coupled with loving grandparents provided me with a foundation so very strong. It was during harvest time each year that my best lessons were learned, lessons that allowed me to understand the importance of being honest and hard-working. I learned other things too. Seeds were planted in my youth and some of grandfather's lessons did not sprout until I became older myself. With age I gained a better appreciation for the important things in life. I

developed a better understanding of the harvest. I have finally realized that I was not just gathering pumpkins at the family farm all those decades ago. I was gathering memories, my memories, thoughts that needed to grow within me. It is only at this time that I realize the importance of these memories that I harvest each year when I visit.

Some thoughts are lost to the years while others visit me at the best moments, old thoughts from my early years.

I have spent decades visiting the old farm, walking the overgrown fields while still learning from my grandfather. I still feel his presence as I journey for miles in solitude and recall a life without boundaries when fear was simply not known. When my grandfather passed away, I felt a void, a dark place in my heart, a void that I thought I would never be able to satisfy. Though the loss still invokes sadness within my heart I have found a new appreciation with each passing year.

My pilgrimage to the family farm is greatly anticipated by me. I think about my autumn trip where I walk the hundred acres of hallowed ground once again with my grandfather. I hear his voice and feel his presence. The sweet scent of pumpkin pie and the taste of cold apple cider.

These are the memories that sustain me over the long New Hampshire winters, warm thoughts on cold days.

With this autumn day ending I set course for the wedding tree, a very special place. I walk slowly and gather more of the old memories along the way, harvesting each and every thought from grandfathers' old fields. Upon reaching the mature sugar maple I rest for a moment and think about the two young lives that were joined on this very spot a century before. I leave with so many wonderful thoughts, my harvest from the old family farm has been good this year. ♦



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Crosscurrents of Change

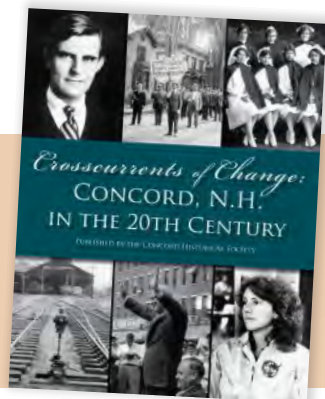
An aerial photo shows Conant Elementary School on the left and Rundlett Middle School on the right.

The making of our modern schools

As the economy improved, Concord School District confronted the long-simmering issues of high-school overcrowding and the 6-3-3 model of education that calls for six years of elementary school, three years of junior

high, and three years of high school. In 1989, a Long Range Task Force calculated that the district's population had grown to the point that no excess capacity existed. The 1980 Long Range Task Force report had predicted a declining population. In 1950, the city's population was 27,988; by 1988 it had grown to 36,721. The district served 4,987 students that year.

The Concord Planning Department predicted that by the turn of the 21st century, the population would exceed 50,000. Perhaps, the most controversial recommendation was to depart from the 6-3-3 model and create a middle school. The middle school concept emerged in the 1960s; by 1989, most educators considered it superior to the junior high model. The recommendation, said the panel, was "not only educationally best but ... has the secondary benefit of relieving some crowding in the elementary schools where the pressure is most immediate." This same recommendation had been made in 1974 and 1983,



Learn More

"Crosscurrents of Change: Concord, N.H. in the 20th Century"

This 400-plus page hardcover edition introduces you to the people who helped shape a city, and it takes you through tragedy and triumph with some of the defining moments in Concord history. To purchase a copy or to learn more, visit concordhistoricalsociety.org/store.



Crosscurrents of Change

The original Concord High School from the last century.

but this time Christine Rath, then the Rundlett principal, supported it.

Patchwork solutions would no longer work for the high school. Because the district had committed to keeping the regional technical center at its Warren Street location until 2000, administrators simply did not have the option of building in a new location. But the high school sat on a mere 7.25 acres, most of it covered by buildings and parking lots, hardly ideal for expansion. Further complicating matters was the Bow problem. The Bow School District paid tuition for Bow students to attend Concord High School under a 1977 contract that required three-year notice for termination. With ninth graders and the Bow students, enrollment at the high school was predicted to exceed 2,000 students. In May 1993, a community group recommended a ninth- to 12th-grade program, which would keep the core of the old high school, while finding “nearby” room for expansion, and address traffic flow and parking issues. A few months later, the board canceled Concord’s contract with Bow. Board member David Ruedig



Crosscurrents of Change

Conant Elementary School on South Street in Concord.

spoke against the controversial decision, observing that the high school would be large without the Bow students – but without the Bow students, the district would lose the substantial tuition contribution from Bow’s taxpayers.

The board considered having two high schools in Concord, but ultimately it rejected this course. Concord High sits in the relatively affluent “Hill” neighborhood, and any new high school would probably have been built on the same parcel as Broken Ground School in the relatively low income “Heights.” One high

school in an affluent neighborhood and the other in a low-income neighborhood, the board concluded, would have contributed to economic disparity. Renovations began on the high school building; a substantial new wing was added; the school for ninth to twelfth graders opened in 1997. Rundlett Middle School became the home to sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

This excerpt was written by Cheryl Bourassa. It was part of Chapter 6: Repeating the Course in “Crosscurrents of Change.”



A pile of leaves on the sidewalk spills onto Concord Street in Concord.

Geoff Forester

The Same Color

The leaves have fallen,
maple, oak, ash and birch,

from the many trees,
near our beloved church.

With foliage concluded,
vibrant colors no longer remain,

unlike in some ways,
but in others just the same.

They are now together,
equal and in the same place,

on the ground under each tree,
wind mixing them together just in case.

Now the same color,
varieties I can no longer tell,

just fallen leaves,
regardless from which tree they fell.

I no longer care.
nor do I search,

the leaves have fallen,
maple, oak, ash and birch.

By James Spain

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THE SCENE



Geoff Forester photos

Concord High School catcher Delany Duford celebrates during a playoff win against Goffstown in June.

Savoring summer



Senior Aakriti Bhattari tries on her graduation cap after picking it up ahead of Concord High's commencement ceremony. Bhattari, who moved to Concord from Nepal at age 6, will attend Duke University where she plans to major in neuroscience.



Above: Emma Harris, 8, picks blueberries at Apple Hill Farm in Concord in July.

Left: Floyd Severance of Pembroke plays a round at the Duston Country Club in Hopkinton in July. At 97, Severance is still playing with the help of a golf cart.



Above: J.J. Huckleberry, road captain for Bikers Against Child Abuse, looks over the crowd at Market Days in August.



Hari Adhikari sells her produce at the farmers market in downtown Concord in June. She works with Fresh Start Farms, which allows Adhikari to grow her crops on the land for free and generate income by selling back to their farm share or at local farmers markets.



Right: New Concord police officer Laura Dzgoeva hands out gifts to kids at the National Night Out at Rollins Park in August.

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NE-349740



Geoff Forester photos

In past years, the annual NAMI New Hampshire walk drew determined supporters eager to stand up and improve the lives of those affected by mental illness. This year's event will be held virtually on Oct. 9.

Two weekends in October

As cars crisscross the state taking in New Hampshire's October foliage, it'll be those walking by the side of the road that'll add the most color to our lives. NAMI NH will hold its annual walk – the state's largest mental health and suicide prevention awareness and fundraising event – virtually on Oct. 9. (You'll surely see folks with their blue "I Walk" signs.) Sign up or donate at naminh.org. Then on Oct. 17, it'll be a sea of pink at Memorial Field in Concord for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. You can take the five-mile loop or a shortened walk. For the first time, this year's event combines all breast cancer walks across New Hampshire into this one event in Concord. Sign up at facebook.com/MSABCNewHampshire.



Mel Shokal with her survivor sash at the 2021 Making Strides kickoff event at Red River Theatre on Aug. 12. This year's walk is Oct. 17.

Contribute >>

Welcome to 'A Thousand Words,' a quarterly feature that ends the magazine with an iconic photo. Share your image with us, and we may be able to use it in a coming issue. Only high-resolution photos are accepted, and despite the intent of the feature, we will need to accompany your image with a few words. So please send your photo and a brief description to editor@aroundconcord.com.

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