

# Shelburne News

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Volume 40 Number 5

"What Shelburne Reads"

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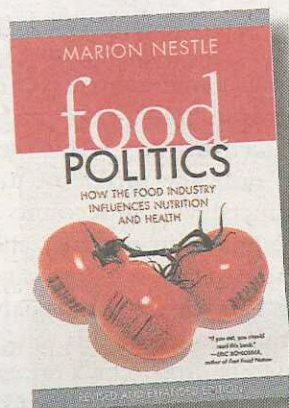
February 5, 2009

## Inside this week:

### Caught being Green:

Art show at SCS connects student artists to larger social themes: food, farm, nutrition, and art part of school experience.

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### The Melanine threat:

It's been found in pet food and baby formula. And it is poison. Our nutrition columnist Lyn Carew spells out the threat it poses.

- Page 7

### Roller derby ladies lace up:

Had enough football and hockey? Meet the Green Mountain Derby Dames - they're on a roll this Saturday at the Expo Center in Essex Jct.

- Page 9

### Money. It's on our minds:

Our first installment of "On the Money" focus page. Learn how your energy efficiency efforts pay off at tax time.

- Page 11

### Handy (timely) hints from Cupid:

Valentine's Day next Saturday...bring on the chocolates, "Chocolat" and serenades. Ideas to make lasting, loving impressions.

- Page 20

## The world's emotional landscape

Study on emotions by researchers with Shelburne connection airs on VPT

by Danielle Frawley

Who is happy? How do you measure human emotion as determined by gender, geographical location, age, or by what the weather is like?

Jonathan Harris originally of Shelburne and his creative partner, Sepandar Kamvar, have come up with an innovative way to collect data from the internet and show the trends on a global scale.

"We wanted to try to humanize the web," said Harris.

### Web-based emotional data

Five years ago Kamvar and Harris did not believe that the web would be used solely for commerce purposes.

"I thought differently," said Harris.

They envisioned that the web would be used as a social tool whereby people from around the country and the world would communicate not just facts but



These images are posted on the We Feel Fine website by viewers from around the world.



Jonathan Harris



Sepandar Kamvar



Chris Danforth

Harris and Kamvar have co-authored a book on their findings to be published around the holiday season. The book will be called, "We Feel Fine: An Almanac of Human Emotion."

"It will be filled with several hundred illustrated spreads devoted to different feelings, cities, age groups, genders, holidays, and topics, exploring the emotional landscape of each," said Harris. "The spreads will consist of photographs and sentences from real people talking about their emotions, accompanied by highly visual statistical infographics that provide scientific insights into the world's emotions."

emotional content. Their plan was to develop "techniques to extract human elements from the web," explained Harris. They created a website, www.wefeelfine.org, designed to scan

the World Wide Web every five to ten minutes for the phrases, "I feel" or "I am feeling." Typically, these phrases are found in blogs across the world's many countries and cultures. Kamvar and Harris'

program then automatically recorded the full sentence containing the phrase, and information from the blogger's profile such as the writer's age, gender, and geographic location. Additionally,

local weather conditions at the time the blog was written were extracted and saved. To date, data has been recorded from approxi-

FEEL FINE continued on page 18

## VSA benefit this Saturday at Shelburne Vineyards

The VSA (Vision, Strength, Access) Arts of Vermont has an ambitious mission: to make the arts accessible to all people, in particular those dealing with physical or mental disabilities. To promote the VSA and educate the people of Shelburne and surrounding areas about their programs, they will hold a benefit at Shelburne Vineyards on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Ken and Gail Albert, owners of Shelburne Vineyards, are excited to offer the organization the use of the vineyard's tasting room as a gathering space.

"We believe in the work of this organization," said Gail Albert.

Entertainment will focus on the arts, as well as food tastings from local producers and vendors: Vermont cheeses from Shelburne Farms and meats from Vermont Smoke and Cure are on the menu. Pianist Michael Arnowitt will perform, as will



Shelburne Vineyards will be the site for the VSA benefit this weekend.

the Awareness Theater Company. According to Marcela Pino, president of the VSA board of directors, the event also hopes to highlight one of VSA's newest programs, a horse therapy and arts program called Adaptive

Horses and Arts (AHA), which serves children with disabilities in elementary and middle schools. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling the VSA Arts Executive Director Judith Chalmer, at 655-7772.

## Waldorf campers learn survival skills laced with Beowulf



10th graders from the Waldorf School faced frigid temps and relied on a wood fire, tended by Zak Breckenridge, for illumination and warmth during their six day camping trip in the Green Mountain National Forest. See story on page 5.

# MILE-STONES

Compiled as a  
Community Service by  
The Shelburne News

## ENGAGEMENTS

### Kimball-Hathaway

Randall and Patricia Kimball of Williston and Lynn Bates of Rutland announce the engagement of their daughter, Meagan Kimball, to Geoffrey Hathaway, son of Alan and Betsy Hathaway of Shelburne. A May, 2010 wedding is planned.

## DEATHS

### George Edward Little Jr. -Burlington

George Edward Little Jr., died at home on Feb. 2, 2009, following a battle with cancer. George was born in Burlington on Sept. 8, 1921, to George Edward Little Sr., and Susan Aurilla Mead Little. He attended Pomeroy and Adams grammar schools, and graduated from Burlington High School in 1939, where he lettered in track and played clarinet in the band. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1943; at UVM, George was editor of the Cynic, a member of Boulder Society and

Delta Psi fraternity. That year he married the love of his life, Barbara Elaine Burns of Rutland, who survives him. George enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942, and went on active duty in 1943, going overseas to New Guinea. He served in the Air Force Reserves for over 20 years, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel. After attending printing school at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh in 1947, George went to work for the Free Press Printing Company, leaving in 1950, with his father to start the George Little Press on Mechanics Lane and later on Pine Street. George served with distinction as a member of the Burlington Board of Aldermen (1961-1966), the Vermont House of Representatives (1969-1972) and the Vermont Senate (1983-1992), George received the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce's Thomas Chittenden Citizen of the Year award and the Lund Home's Father of the Year award. He was perhaps best known and will be most remembered for his devoted and tireless volunteer work and leadership on behalf of our less fortunate citizens and our community's nonprofit groups. Among his survivors is a son Thomas Arthur Little and his wife Susan, of Shelburne. A service of thanksgiving and Eucharist will be celebrated at 11 a.m., on Feb.

6, 2009, in St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington. The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m., on Feb. 5, 2009, in Corbin & Palmer Funeral Home, 71 South Union Street, Burlington. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to ECHO at the Leahy Center, the Converse Home, the Visiting Nurse Association, or the charity of one's choice.

## FEEL FINE

continued from page 1

mately 13 million entries at a rate of 18,000 records per day.

### What do you do with all of those "feelings"?

If you are Kamvar and Harris, you study them: extract the information and data, ask the right questions, and make the connections. Do Europeans feel sad more often than Americans? Do women feel fat more often than men? Does rainy weather affect how we feel?

About two years ago, Chris Danforth, also a Shelburne resident, contacted Harris and Kamvar to see if he too could study the statistical data gathered from their website. Danforth is an associate professor at UVM in the department of mathematics and statistics. He has a PhD in applied mathematics and scientific computation.

Danforth and his team pro-

ceeded to analyze the data in relation to additional questions such as how are age and happiness related? Does money buy happiness?

Danforth stated that they found "happiness is strongly linked to age." The group's further findings will be featured on Vermont Public Television on Feb. 10 at 9 p.m.

### The men behind the project

Jonathan Harris was born in Shelburne, and spent most summers and holidays here. His education was in New York City and he graduated from Princeton in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in computer science. Every once in a while he finds himself back in Shelburne and enjoys the beautiful summers. He is currently living in New York City.

Sepandar Kamvar resides in San Francisco, and is a consulting professor of computational mathematics at Stanford University and managing director of Wildflower Capital, a seed-stage venture fund.

## LIBRARY

continued from page 2

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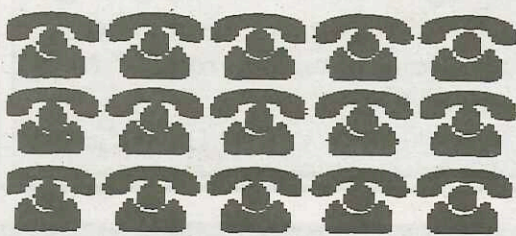
The Library will offer free, simple tax advice to seniors and to those with low to middle incomes. Meetings will be scheduled by the individual with the tax advisor. This free service is made possible by AARP. Please call the Library for more information at 985-5124.

The Library has income tax forms and booklets available. Our display is stocked with the most commonly used and requested forms and booklets. For supplemental forms or instruction booklets, log on to IRS.gov. The Library staff would be happy to assist you with the website.

Love is in the air! Stop by the Pierson children's room the week of Monday, Feb. 9 to decorate valentines for friends and family. We'll have everything you need to create some heartfelt artwork. Stop in on the big day (Saturday, Feb. 14) to decorate a valentine's cupcake.

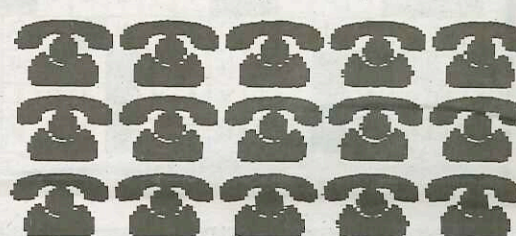
Interested in books about Vermont or by Vermont authors? Whether you are interested in Vermont history or people, or just want to find a great new local author or novel about our state, we would be glad to help you search our collection for a book that suits your needs and interests. Our Special Collections include an assortment of vintage Vermont literature and historic items.

Reminder - The Library will be closed Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents' Day.



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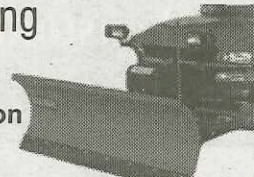


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