



UPPER VALLEY PRESENTS

CELEBRATING NEIGHBORHOOD
through arts and educational programs.

Volume 1, Issue 1
April 28, 2007

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Hello Neighbors,

While a student at Dartmouth, I took advantage of the arts, music and cultural offerings found here in our Upper Valley: concerts by the Indigo Girls and PHISH, The Tempest and other plays at the Hop, art exhibits at the Hood, musical performances at Rollins Chapel.

Having relocated back to the Upper Valley with my young family, I am pleased to be serving as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Upper Valley Presents, a non-profit established in 2006 with the intent of celebrating neighborhood through arts and educational programs. It is my hope, through this newsletter, to give you some history of Upper Valley Presents, share with you some of its past and upcoming programs, and inspire you to join our neighborhood by becoming a member.

Janna and Bruce Genereaux moved to the Upper Valley in 2000 with a vision: a cozy house on a safe street where friends would come and go, games would be played outside until streetlights turned on, arts and crafts projects and kitchen experiments would be daily occurrences and neighbors would gather at block parties throughout the seasons. The Genereaux' began hosting events that became annual traditions in their neighborhood: the back-to-school costume party and spaghetti dinner, sledding down their hill with the first snow, and coming together for the annual pond party's neighborhood snow sculpture competition. As the years went by and their neighborhood bonds grew, Bruce and Janna felt more strongly about the need for more programs and events in the Upper Valley that would bring similar results: give children safe, non-competitive outlets for play, demonstrate the accessibility of art, showcase the breadth of talent right here in the Upper Valley—all in ways that promote our

connectivity and ultimately make friends of neighbors.

With these goals in mind, in 2006, Bruce and Janna officially launched Upper Valley Presents (UVP), a non-profit organization with the mission of bringing "artistic and educational programs that enrich the Upper Valley." This year, UVP continues with many of its favorite programs like Summer Days Camp, Family Fair, and Open Air while adding new programs like Rock School (see Page 3).

After 15 years away, I returned to the Upper Valley with my husband and three young children. My children are part of a special neighborhood of friends and playmates at Summer Days Camp. At the Open Air Summer Family Concerts, my husband and I continue to meet new friends—and increasingly socialize with old—as we enjoy local music and performers we may not have experienced otherwise. I look forward to cultivating new programs that will bring families closer together within this neighborhood we call the Upper Valley. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I encourage you to become part of the Upper Valley Presents neighborhood by becoming a member (see Page 4), and I hope you enjoy this edition of *In Our Neighborhood*. We welcome your feedback and comments. Reach us online at www.uvpresents.org or feel free to call us at (802) 526-1046.

Angela Stafford, Chair
Upper Valley Presents
Board of Trustees

Dates to Keep

- ♦ **April 27-May 31**
Look for our display at the Howe Library, Hanover, NH.
- ♦ **May 2**
Rock School Recital, Middle Earth Music Hall, Bradford, VT, 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ **June 25**
Summer Days Camp in Summer begins and runs through August 24th.
- ♦ **July 12**
Cheryl Wheeler kicks off Open Air Summer Family Concerts (See Page 3).

Upper Valley Presents

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Our Mission

To create artistic and educational programs to enrich the Upper Valley.

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Summer Days Camp in Winter and Spring!

For the past two summers, Artistic Director Janna Genereaux and her staff have provided days filled with Art Smart, Fair Play, and Kitchen Science at the Upper Valley Events Center in Norwich. In February, that feeling of “summer days” became “winter days” as camp was conducted during the February school vacation week. With a full house, Janna and her team of counselors and counselors-in-training kept over 20 campers busy and happy at arts and problem solving, baking and snow experiments, stories, puppets, indoor games, sledding and outdoor play. “The children are so happy to be back together,” says Janna of the many return campers, “And the new children have no problem diving right in and adding to the excitement and fun.”



This February and April, parents were able to select which days—and what length of days—to send their children, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. or extended days until 3:00 p.m. Camp will be held for nine weeks this summer. Register now!

Summer Days Camp is provided for children ages 4-12. Camps are held indoors and out at the Upper Valley Events Center. Registration began in December for Summer Days Camp alumni families and is ongoing until all spaces are filled. To register for Summer Days’ summer sessions, visit www.uvpresents.org or contact Bruce Genereaux at 802-649-2772.

Fire and Ice Melt the Competition!

Summer Days Camp/Upper Valley Presents Participate at Occum Pond Party



Summer Days Camp alumni put their best shovels and buckets forward to help create this year’s winning sculpture at the annual Occum Pond Party in Hanover February 10th. Working the preceding weekend and up to the evening before, campers shoveled, hauled, and patted snow to make the sculpture—the door to Wonderland through which Alice slides and begins her famous adventures. Add to that a working fireplace and you’ve got a winner! Campers emailed ideas to Janna Genereaux, UVP’s Artistic Director, who organized and coordinated the effort. “We had some very interesting, creative thinking going on and we had a great time!” Participants at the pond party

could warm their hands at the fire before ducking through the door and slipping down the slide. Upper Valley Presents was joined by neighborhood teams from Blueberry Hill, Dresden, CRREL, and the Girl Scouts.

Rock School Rocks the House

The pulse of electric guitar, bass, drums and vocals rocks the Upper Valley Events Center in Norwich on recent Monday and Wednesday evenings. Inside, Tuck Stocking, Berklee College of Music graduate, renowned guitarist and founding member of the popular local band *Connption Fits* instructs budding musicians how to coordinate and contribute to an ensemble performance. In its first run, Rock School provided six aspiring musicians, ages 13 to 16, hands-on instruction and practice over eight classes. The session culminated in a recital that was recorded with each student receiving a CD of the performance to share. "It's been incredible. The students are enthusiastic, serious, and committed," says Tuck who notes that the class is not just for teens and not just about rock 'n roll, "It's really a musical exponential—it's all experience levels, all kinds of music, all styles." Tuck makes it all happen.



The second session began February 26 and brought together nine students from various towns including Barnard, Fairlee, Hanover, Lyme, Norwich, Thetford and White River Junction. The students were thrilled to learn they would have the opportunity to perform at this year's Open Air Summer Concert Series on July 26th. And this May 2, Rock School musicians will perform a recital at Bradford, Vermont's Middle Earth Music Hall.

As the home of the Open Air Concert Series, the Events Center offers the musical reputation and expertise to provide a safe, professional environment in which aspiring musicians of diverse ages, experience, and styles can interact with each other while gaining valuable experience with Tuck. Students wishing to add their name to the waiting list for the current session or to inquire about the next session may do so by contacting Bruce Genereaux at 802-649-2772.



OPEN AIR SUMMER FAMILY CONCERTS

This July and August, prepare to laugh, dance, be entertained, and amazed when you join Upper Valley Presents on the lawn at Norwich's Upper Valley Events Center. With opening performances by local artists and one night dedicated entirely to aspiring new local performers, these are six Thursday nights you won't want to miss. Tickets range in price from \$10—\$15 in advance. **Upper Valley Presents members enter free to all Open Air concert events with \$50 membership donation.**

- July 12th:** Cheryl Wheeler (Chloe Brisson and Band opens)
- July 19th:** Lydia Gray (Upper Valley Music Center opens)
- July 26th:** Rock School (Friends of Upper Valley Presents open)
- August 2nd:** Gabriel Q (Puppet-making workshop to follow)
- August 9th:** Marko the Magician (Meet Marko after the show)
- August 16th:** Black Beans (Salsa Dance Instruction!)

For advance tickets, visit www.uvpresents.org. Gates open at 5:30, shows at 6.

Upper Valley Presents: Join Our Neighborhood!

As a non-profit organization, UVP depends on membership contributions, underwriting, and grants to support its programs. Please consider becoming an Upper Valley Presents member for 2007. **With a \$50 donation, members receive one free family pass to each of the Open Air concert events, advance registration for Summer Days Camp and invitations for special member events.** Contributions may be unrestricted or directed to specific programs including the Summer Days Camp Scholarship Fund and Open Air Musicians Fund.

Amount of Donation:

- \$50—minimum for membership benefits (including free family pass to each Open Air concert event)
- Other amount \$ _____
- Please call me so I may direct my gift to a specific program/fund.

Please make checks payable to: **Upper Valley Presents** and mail to: **UVP, PO Box 75, Norwich, VT 05055**

Please print your name as you would like it to appear in our annual report, or check here " " indicating you would prefer to remain anonymous.

Name: _____

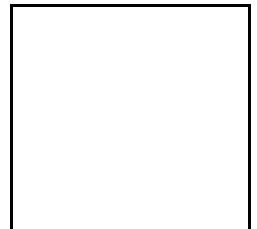
Street Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

(E-mail addresses are held in strict confidence and are used for some communications and notice of events by UVP).



Upper Valley Presents
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If we can continue to bring people together and awaken them to the joys of art, music and creativity and, in so doing, enrich them as neighbors and friends, then we have accomplished much indeed.

—Janna Genereaux, Artistic Director