

## FEATURES

### From the Merrimack to the Seine 26

This is the first in a series by Valley native Rebecca Spolarich, who will be living and teaching in Paris for the next ten months.

### Open Season: Four days on the campaign trail with Andy Smith 36

Every four years New Hampshire becomes a very important place for some very important people. Andy Smith goes inside the Granite State to observe the flurry of political events leading up to the NH primary. And Chris Markuns shares his view from the MA side of the border (p.42).

### The Allure of Handmade Soap 48

This Buy Local feature tells you not only where to go for Valley-made soap, but why it is so good for you. By Barbara C. Bourassa

### Design Fit for a Castle 54

Bert Ford shows *MVM* how to dress up a fireplace mantel and dining room with stunning winter-inspired floral arrangements. By Brigid C. Casellini

### An Icy Exercise in Creativity 58

Tara Masih reveals the story behind a brilliant artist among us—ice sculptor Donald Chapelle of North Andover.

### Green is the Color of the Season 60

Do you want to make your holidays a little bit “greener” this year? Michelle Xiarhos Curran interviews some local experts who advocate following the three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle.

### Honoring Whistler for Art’s Sake 64

The Merrimack Valley is graced with several museums housing unique art collections. Brian Kologe takes a close look at the Whistler House Museum of Art in Lowell, and the intriguing history behind it.

### Cooking Up a Spicier Holiday 82

Local chefs share their secrets for livening up your traditional holiday meal. By Michelle Xiarhos Curran



58



26



36



48



54



82



64

### Cover Image

Kate Harper is the artist responsible for the beautiful cover illustration that reflects her impression of the Merrimack Valley and includes several of the things we wrote about during our first year of publication.

# Contents

HOLIDAY 2007

Merrimack  
Valley  
MAGAZINE

## DEPARTMENTS

### COMMUNITY:

#### Happenings

Recent events and notable people in the Merrimack Valley,  
by Gillian Roberta Swart

12

#### Business Spotlight

Making Arrangements, by Matt Robinson

28

#### Community Spotlight

A place where goodwill toward man is shown year round:  
Lazarus House, by Chris Markuns

30

#### Practical Matters

Leaving Your Job? Take Your 401 (k) With You! by Peter DiBenedetto

32

#### Get Outside

Old-fashioned sleigh rides at Charmingfare Farm, by Gregory Norris

34

#### Downtown

Something that Sparkles, by Karen Sackowitz

44

#### Holiday Gift Guide

Valley shops offer unique gift ideas for the holidays.

46

#### Remembrances

Gregory Norris interviews longtime Lawrence residents Helen and Ken Wall.

96

### CULTURE:

#### River Roundup

Your guide to arts and entertainment opportunities in the Valley this  
holiday season, by Gillian Roberta Swart

68

#### Spotlight on the Arts

The Andover Chamber Music Series, by Brett Cromwell

73

#### Native Prose

*A Miracle at St. Mary's*, by Helen Wall

74

#### Book Review

*City In Amber*, by Jay Atkinson (reviewed by Brigid C. Casellini)

76

#### Portrait of the Valley

"Jasper's First Taste of Winter" by Carla Johns of Andover

98

### CUISINE:

#### Wine Notes

Rich Collins takes a look at the seductively sweet taste of icewine.

78

#### Good Eats

Charlton Becker reviews George's Restaurant of Haverhill.

80

#### Dining Guide

A directory of Valley restaurants that appeal to all tastes.

88

