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Home Life Style

NOVEMBER 2008 ♦ VIENNA CONNECTION

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The warm colors of the Williamsburg-inspired mantel and holiday setting at the garden center.

A Victorian Christmas setting

Inside the garden center at Merrifield Garden Center, the elves have been working since the beginning of October. Three plus rooms have been transformed into holiday wonderlands filled with multiple trees each with a different theme and setting.

Ribbon is the garland on a Victorian inspired tree while birds rest on the branches of another. A 'Country' tree is adorned with needlepoint figures while rosters and game bird feathers are features in the Williamsburg setting.

Shopping



Father Christmas carries at branch of green at the entrance to the Woodland holiday setting.

From White House to Your House

The 2008 White House Christmas ornament honoring the presidency of Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893), the 23rd president of the United States was inspired by the Harrison family's Victorian Christmas tree. The cost of the ornament is \$16.95 plus packing and delivery and can be ordered from the White House Historical Association, P.O. Box 96586, Washington, D.C. 20090-6586, or call toll free 1-800-555-2451, or visit online at www.whitehousehistory.org. Each of the 27 ornaments (from 1981-2007) is also available, along with educational brochures.



The County Holiday tree is brimming with needlepoint figures.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT

Festive Colors



Jewel-colored aluminum serving cups at Sur La Table 1101 South Joyce Street, Arlington.



EVE Italian leather chair and ottoman in Festive Red with chrome legs. Available at DESI Pentagon Row, 1101 S. Joyce Street, Arlington VA www.DESISOFAS.com

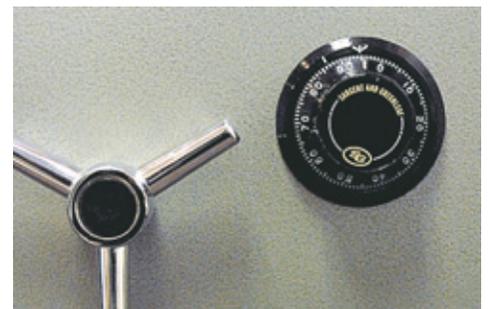


Poinsettia napkin rings, wine red seeded goblets, La Rosa dinner plate with 12" red lacquer charger at Sur La Table 1101 South Joyce Street, Arlington.



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Living a Café Life

BY DONNA MANZ

Every town needs a café where the music rocks, the mic is open, and the guests are friends.

In Vienna, that café is on Park Street. In a house. In a living room.

Vienna builder J.P. Brehony and his wife, Deborah, recreated the type of “beat” café one might find in 1960s London, and when the two front porch lights are on, neighbors are welcome to “drop in.”

“Most people don’t use their living room for much,” says J.P. Brehony. “We thought we’d make something that got a lot of use.”

It’s more than just the three bistro tables and stools and vintage rock posters that set this living room apart from most. It’s



Deborah and J.P. Brehony.



Jakob Drozd on stage.

the stage in the corner complete with microphone, keyboard, guitar, and voice modulator. It’s the accent table that converts to seating or a drum, and velvety chaises lounge on either side of the room. Dramatic theatre-style

drapes frame a doorway and front windows.

“The café brings neighbors together. Especially in these hard economic times, people are looking for fun things to do that don’t involve spending money to

Home ‘café’ serves friends and neighbors.

go out.”

The Brehonys have long been active in Vienna affairs and volunteer organizations. Deborah brings food to the housebound elderly; she is president of the Vienna chapter of AARP, and participates in humanitarian work. J.P. mentors a youth with intellectual challenges. Both volunteer in Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce events.

“Deborah and J.P. are so wonderful, and every time you come to visit, it’s an experience of coming out of your ordinary life,” says Spring Street neighbor Daphne Hendricks. Hus

SEE CAFÉ LIFE, PAGE 6



J.P. Brehony starts off the evening on stage at the café.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT

Home Yoga Studio

BY MIKE SALMON

Great Falls resident Ellen Rule found a way to incorporate her love of people, yoga and community when she first stepped into her new yoga studio in her backyard in August.

The studio is on the second level of her carriage house that has a kitchen and living room on the ground floor, and the studio a few steps up.

One wall is a set of knotted ropes and loops, “for people to do inversions,” she said. The room also has wood floors, a podium, windows for natural lighting, and a sound system for soothing instrumental music.

“The gong is an instrument for healing, it vibrates every cell in your body and helps remove tension,” she said.

Since the carriage house and yoga studio was just finished in August, Rule hasn’t explored the full potential



The class begins with a mantra and then breath-work.

of the structure yet but she’s starting with a few classes and mediation sessions focusing on kundalini yoga.

“It’s kind of evolving,” she said. Kundalini isn’t full of mainstream poses like the downward dog, or the warrior. It relies more on the thought processes and the inner calm that “is great for relieving stress,” Rule said. She has been teaching this type of yoga for seven years.

Herndon yoga teacher Darshan Kaur Khalsa is a kundalini specialist and Sikh who teaches all over Northern Virginia, including a few classes in Rule’s studio. In the yoga world, she is known as just Darshan.

“The studio is calm and peaceful, that’s what the teaching employs. It feels like an oasis of

Home Studio



Kathy Armstrong of McLean relaxes and listens as yoga instructor Darshan Kaur explains what she has planned for the session.



Ellen Rule in the sitting room of her newly completed studio.

SEE YOGA, PAGE 5

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT



Ellen Rule's Yoga Studio in Great Falls.

Home Yoga Studio

FROM PAGE 4

peace," Darshan said. In the studio, Darshan trains yoga teachers and leads special workshops. "It's a beautiful studio, it has a beautiful ceiling painted like clouds, and a gong that is great for relaxation," she said. For the past 20 years, Darshan has also taught yoga at Northern Virginia Community College.

All this stretching and meditating isn't a source of income for Rule though.

"I don't really make money with yoga," she said, adding that her husband's lawyer practice pays the bills. Rule spends her time between teaching yoga, her eight adopted children, and her surroundings in Great Falls.

"Yoga helped me so much, I wanted to help the community," she said. Any money she makes is donated to Yogaville, a yoga facility south of Charlottesville.



Near the conclusion of the morning session Darshan sounds the gong.

Rule's children, ranging from age six to 21, were introduced to yoga through the years but only her 9-year-old daughter Caroline really showed interest. Caroline incorporates singing when she does the poses, and has found her voice through yoga.

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6 Living a Café Life

FROM PAGE 3

band Jimmy, an economist by day, sings vocals for Face the Fish, a Vienna group which occasionally plays Jammin' Java.

"They're so creative with their home and their parties, it's a joy to be included."

All the décor for the "Beat Café" was purchased online, from the cherry-finished tables to the theat-

rical drapes and Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan posters. George Harrison, Paul McCartney, and John Lennon peer out, too, from posters ... no Ringo.

"Nothing was expensive," says Deborah. "We wanted to make it such that nobody who comes would have to worry about spilling their soda or wine, damaging anything. We wanted everyone to be comfortable here, no worries."

When the Brehonys moved into their home about three years ago, they built a house to be used by

the community, as a gathering place.

"We don't just want to live here. We want the community to feel welcome in our house.

"People come here and make new friends."

Neighbors who drop by bring their own refreshments, and Deborah estimates the "Beat Café" welcomes guests twice a week.

J.P. Brehony is comfortable with the microphone and, from it, works to engage everyone in the room, from adults to children.

Ideas? E-mail HomeLifeStyle@ConnectionNewspapers.com

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"Most people don't use their living room for much ... We thought we'd make something that got a lot of use."

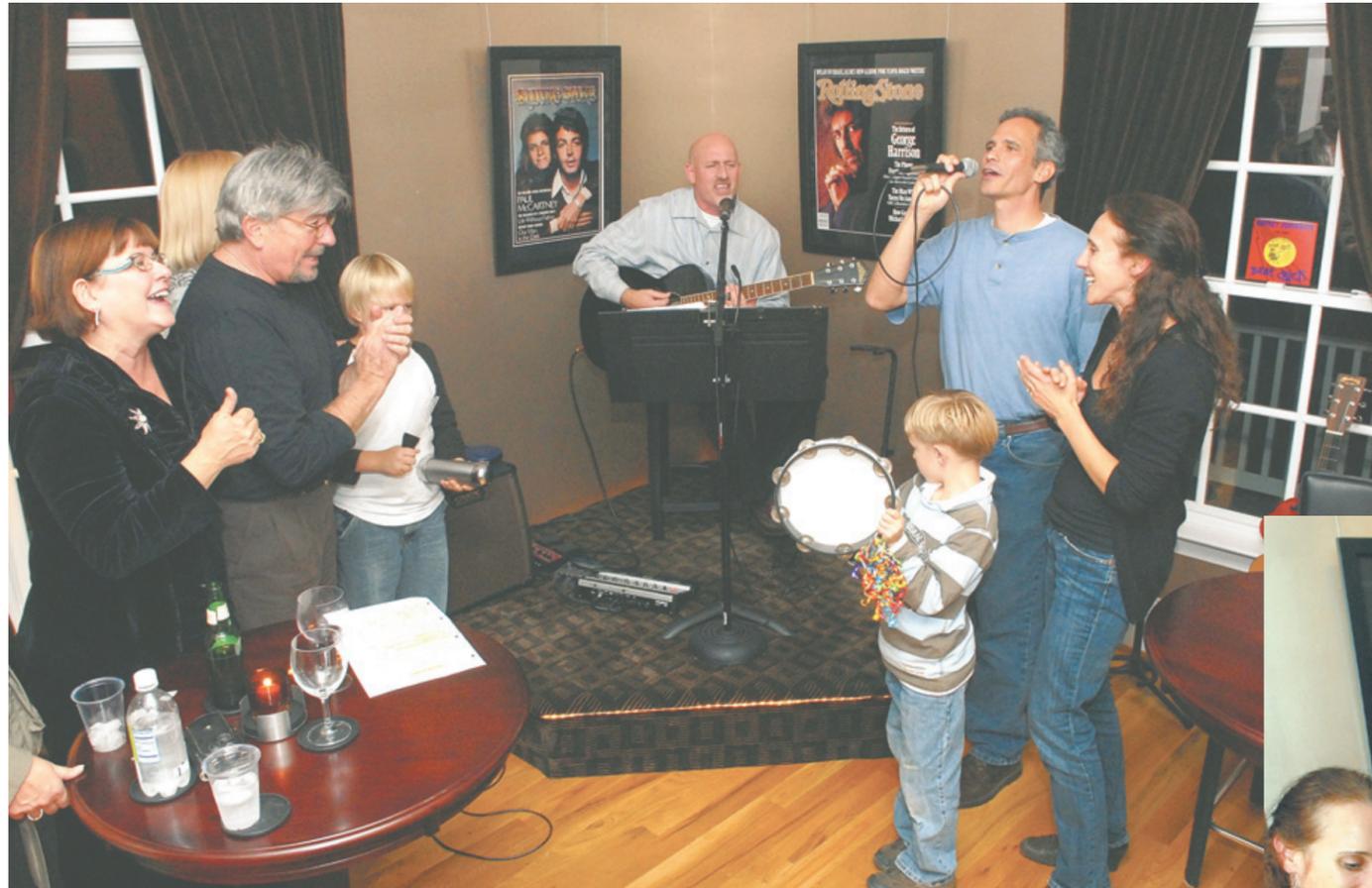
— J.P. Brehony, homeowner and builder



Jim Hendricks accompanies J.P. with a multi gyro and hair comb.



Ike, Max and Scott Butler.



"The Café brings neighbors together."

"Especially in bad times, there's comfort in community."

— Homeowner, Deborah Brehony

Deborah plays a tambourine and beats on the chair/table/drum.

"In this economy, people aren't spending as much to go out," says Deborah. "Instead of spending \$10 on a glass or two of wine, they spend \$10 on a whole bottle, bring it here, and enjoy the evening."

Fat Chance guitarist and vocalist, Scott Butler, takes the stage and the microphone, playing a repertoire from "Brown-Eyed Girl" to Eric Clapton's "You Look Wonderful Tonight." The adults joined in as Butler led them in "Drift Away."

"Spring Street is the most musical street in Vienna per capita," says Butler, a Spring Street homeowner who owns Tango Software in Vienna.

Ike Butler performed a duet with J.P. to Leonard Cohen's "Susanne." Cohen's poetry and music was the inspiration for the Beat Café.

"Cohen is a Canadian who wrote some folk music in the '60s," says J.P. into the microphone. "His gift is poetry. He puts his poetry to music."

If a café can have an anthem,

Cohen's Oscar-nominated "Hallelujah," is the Beat Café's.

"The 'Beat Café' was birthed out of 'Hallelujah.' The café was built to contain this song," Deborah said.

At the end of evening, after the last resounding chorus of "Hallelujah," neighbors cut through Brehony's back yard to their homes on Spring Street behind the Park Street address.

"Especially in bad times, there's comfort in community," says Deborah Brehony.



Anna, Michael and Daphne Hendricks and Lukas Butler sing along to a guitar solo by Jakob Drozd.

8 Help Available for Holidays

BY MIKE SALMON

After Sharon Mill's husband died last year, decorating the house for the holidays was low on her priority list. But after talking to Sun Lee at Washingtonian Interiors, Mill found a way to get her house decorated without adding any more stress or bringing back memories.

Lee came in with a crew, and with a combination of



Sun Lee and Will Knicely

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

Mill's ornaments and some new ribbons and garland for the tree, mantle and railings, she created a festive look in Mill's Arlington home.

"It was very nice," said Mill. "I honestly didn't feel like doing it myself."

For many in the area, whether it's a family situation or just the fear of teetering on a stepladder to hang ornaments and lights, there are services that take holiday decorating to the next level.

SEE DECKING THE HALLS, PAGE 9

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- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

Bathrooms

- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

Windows

- Clean entry window, one set of patio door windows
- Clean window over kitchen sink



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Help Decking the Halls

FROM PAGE 8

“So many people are nesting, we take it very personal and do it to fit their needs,” said Will Knicely, the manager at Washingtonian, in McLean.

Safety is just one of the reasons Washingtonian Interiors starts getting busy in the fall.

“I would advise, if you’re older and don’t need to get on a ladder, it’s dangerous,” said Lee. Beginning in October, when the leaves start turning color, the phones start ringing from households in the area that need a little help decorating, or want a

complete interior re-do for the holidays.

Washingtonian does everything from garland around stairways and the family tree, to painting, wallpaper and new furniture. Mill really liked “the warmth of the presentation, it was more of a polished finish,” she said.

Washingtonian can either bring a whole new package, with new ornaments, artificial tree and ribbons of all sorts, or they can come into the house and use the owners existing decorations and arrange them to fit in the given space.

Lee makes a floor plan and then makes a list of materials needed, and it takes off from there. “When we do trees, we like it a certain way,” she said. This year, metallic ribbons are in, she said.

Lee is seeing more households holding back to see what the economy does.

She thinks many will be decorating their trees themselves, cutting costs.

Knicely agreed. “People are being very frugal, they’re doing a lot of their own holiday decorating,” he said.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT



‘Magical winged Santa Fairies’ by Mark Roberts at the showroom of Washingtonian Interiors in McLean.

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PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER

315 LEWIS ST NW
 (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Windover Heights sold for \$1,350,000 on Sept. 23, 2008

In the area, 56 homes sold for \$1 million or more, three are in VIENNA.

- ❖ 315 LEWIS ST NW (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Windover Heights sold for \$1,350,000 on Sept. 23, 2008
- ❖ 9510 FRANCIS YOUNG LN (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Francis Young Estates sold for \$1,325,000 on Sept. 22, 2008
- ❖ 200 TALAHI RD SE (4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Onondio sold for \$1,115,000 on Sept. 2, 2008

Three are in OAKTON.

- ❖ 2605 GENEVA HILL CT (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Hannah Hills sold for \$1,750,000 on Sept. 19, 2008
- ❖ 3106 WHIMBRELL CT (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Willow Creek Estates sold for \$1,734,500 on Sept. 26, 2008
- ❖ 2964 PALMER ST (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Grays Oakton sold for \$1,030,000 on Sept. 15, 2008

Five are in FAIRFAX.

- ❖ 3438 FAWN WOOD LN (6 BR, 5 FB, 2 HB) in Oak Hill Estates sold for \$1,485,000 on Sept. 15, 2008
- ❖ 3505 ROSE CREST LN (5 BR, 5 FB, 2 HB) in Oak Hill Estates sold for \$1,250,000 on Sept. 12, 2008
- ❖ 3438 PRESERVATION DRIVE (4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in PICKETT&Apos;S RESERVE sold for \$1,190,000 on Sept. 30, 2008
- ❖ 10110 DANIELS RUN WAY (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Farrcroft sold for \$1,100,000 on Sept. 08, 2008
- ❖ 3440 PRESERVATION DR (5 BR, 4 FB) in Picketts Reserve sold for \$1,001,890 on Sept. 30, 2008

Eight are in MCLEAN.

- ❖ 8322 WOODLEA MILL RD (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Woodlea Mill sold for \$2,500,000 on Sept. 12, 2008
- ❖ 1511 SPRING VALE AVE (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in West Mc Lean sold for \$1,745,000 on Sept. 9, 2008
- ❖ 1324 WOODSIDE DR (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Woodside Estates sold for \$1,487,500 on Sept. 11, 2008
- ❖ 1880 VIRGINIA AVE (3 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB) in Franklin Park sold for \$1,475,000 on Sept. 15, 2008
- ❖ 1432 WAGGAMAN CIR (4 BR, 3 FB) in Salona Village sold for \$1,395,000 on Sept. 4, 2008
- ❖ 1880 VIRGINIA AVE (4 BR, 3 FB) in Franklin Park sold for \$1,300,000 on Sept. 1, 2008
- ❖ 6529 SOTHORON RD (6 BR, 5 FB) in Salona Village sold for \$1,300,000 on Sept. 30, 2008
- ❖ 1450 EMERSON AVE #502 (3 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB) in Palladium At Mclean sold for \$1,050,000 on Sept. 23, 2008

Five are in GREAT FALLS.

- ❖ 853 NICHOLAS RUN DR (5 BR, 6 FB, 2 HB) in Grovemont sold for \$2,600,000 on Sept. 16, 2008
- ❖ 11553 TRALEE DR (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Tralee Estates sold for \$1,950,000 on Sept. 26, 2008
- ❖ 9708 MILL RUN DR (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Mill Run Acres sold for \$1,600,000 on Sept. 10, 2008
- ❖ 9020 BELCOURT CASTLE PL (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Cheshire sold for \$1,400,000 on Sept. 29, 2008
- ❖ 974 MILLWOOD LN (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Offutt Home Tract sold for \$1,150,000 on Sept. 26, 2008



200 TALAHI RD SE
 (4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Onondio sold for \$1,115,000 on Sept. 2, 2008



11553 TRALEE DR
 (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Tralee Estates sold for \$1,950,000 on Sept. 26, 2008



3507 POTOMAC ST N
 (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Minor Hill sold for \$1,650,000 on Sept. 19, 2008



1511 SPRING VALE AVE
 (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in West Mc Lean sold for \$1,745,000 on Sept. 9, 2008



Kirby Road, McLean, \$2,999,000

This custom home by Georgetown Construction includes every amenity throughout four finished levels. Dramatic two-story foyer, high ceilings, stone and brick facade and faux slate roof. Formal living and dining rooms, paneled library with private terrace, family room off the breakfast area with two-sided stone fireplace. Gourmet kitchen by Lobkovich spares no expense. Upstairs master suite with sitting room, a luxurious master bath with heated floors and closets galore. There are three additional guest suites and a laundry room followed by a second upper level bonus room and full bath. The lower level has a full wet bar, guest suite, billiard, recreation and exercise rooms. Close-in location next to GW Parkway.

Contact Mark McFadden, Coldwell Banker, 703-216-1333.



Round Hill, Loudoun, \$1,299,000

Every possible decorator and build out enhancement has been added to this Round Hill home that has never been lived in. The home sits on three acres with beautiful views. Four-car garage, two sunrooms, 5 baths, two covered deck/porch areas, two patios, large screen media system included, game room, library and office. Gorgeous master suite. Three fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors.

Contact Gloria Stiltner, Prudential Carruthers REALTORS, 703-431-8107 cell.

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