

shopping/services

FALL IS COMING



FEATHER YOUR NEST

THREE OLD BATS

Antiques, Collectibles & Useful Things

207 FLYNN AVE.
BURLINGTON, VT
860-1488

Hours: Tues - Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5, Closed Mon



Vivaldi
FLOWERS
for all seasons

Lori E. Rowe
Proprietor

Flowers for all occasions. We welcome your business.

802-863-2300 • Fax 802-658-2191

350 Dorset Street • South Burlington, Vermont 05403

Maggie Mae's Pet Care, Inc.



- Day Care Days/Evenings -
- Boarding for Dogs and Cats -
- Housesitting for Dogs and Cats -
- Home Pet Care Services -



Home Away From Home

658-5323

3017 Williston Road • S. Burlington, VT 05403

Great Medicinal Herbs
AT THE ONION RIVER CO-OP

Lowest Prices at the Onion River Co-op!

We've expanded our line of
Green Mountain Herbs Bulk Extracts:

Echinacea	\$5.69 oz.
Echinacea Alcohol Free	\$5.99 oz.
Echinacea Goldenseal	\$5.99 oz.
Echinacea Goldenseal Alcohol Free	\$5.99 oz.
St. Johnswort	\$5.69 oz.
Valerian Root	\$5.69 oz.
Kava Kava	\$6.19 oz.
Milk Thistle	\$5.69 oz.
Ginko	\$5.69 oz.
Siberian Ginseng	\$5.29 oz.
Goldenseal	\$7.45 oz.
Astragalus	\$5.69 oz.



The best way to buy tinctures:
• reuse your bottles • purchase the quantities you need
• custom mix your own blend



Food For People, Not For Profit.

WE'RE OPEN EVERY DAY!

274 North Winooski Avenue, Burlington 863-3659
Mon-Sat 9:30-8:00 • Sun 11-7, VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

Meet the Plaintiffs: The OITM Interview with Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh

continued from front page

where in the Midwest." She teaches in the Math Department at UVM as an openly lesbian professor and has lived in Vermont since 1971. Lois, born and raised on a Vermont farm, works as a nurse. She divides her time between a school setting and as a care giver at the Arbors, an Alzheimers facility. They have both spent many years working actively in their community, and more recently, becoming involved with GLBT issues.

OITM: Have you had any history of support or trouble living in Vermont as a couple?
Holly: Support I think has always been there. People have pretty much been "Lois and Holly, Holly and Lois." You know, just like another couple; it might be "Tom and Judy." People have pretty much accepted that we're a pair, we come together. We've been active in the community. Lois has been involved in school things, I've been on the library board.
Lois: Between the two of us, we've been on recreation commission, library board, friends of the library, Girl Scouts, softball, school building committee, parent teacher groups, clean up day, and involved in the church. We're typical. We've been in Milton for twenty years and I think people have just accepted us as members of the community.

OITM: Have you seen any kind of progression in terms of it being easier to be out as a couple?
Lois: Well, it's interesting; a lot of people knew who we were. We didn't advertise it. Obviously once this marriage suit came out, everybody knew. If it was any kind of a secret before it certainly isn't anymore. And since the issue has come out, we've gotten nothing but support. The day after the press conference [announcing the lawsuit], somebody came up to us in the Milton Grand Union and said "didn't I see you on the news last night? Good for you. More people ought to stick up for what's right." And people with small businesses in Milton have asked us what they could do, if we needed them to write any letters or anything. So we've gotten nothing but endorsements since that time. Which is not to say that there aren't those who are against us. I think they may find it more comfortable to say nothing than to come out and say they don't believe in it.

OITM: Have you been involved in the GLBT community in the past?
Lois: Actually not as much as we should have. I got involved about three years ago, I guess



Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh

when we attended the first (VCLGR) Town Meeting.... So we got involved there; we got involved with the Freedom to Marry Task Force, Outright Vermont. We've been foster parents. One of our foster placements we hooked up with Outright.

OITM: How did you get involved in this case, and why did you get involved?

Lois: Well, getting married after almost twenty five years was almost a non-issue, until we realized the many different legal protections that were available if you're legally married — and there's hundreds. So we decided it was time to pursue it; that at this time in our lives, maybe we ought to give something back to the people that had been the activists to get all these benefits.... Since we were now recipients of some of those benefits we thought maybe it was time we became a little bit more involved.... I think people need to realize that there's a lot more of us out there than they think, that there are a lot of [GLBT] native Vermonters, that these people are not coming in from down country or San Francisco or wherever, just to inundate Vermont with homosexuals.

OITM: Was it a difficult decision to take this on?

Holly: Difficult is not the word. It's something we thought about long and hard, because you don't know what's going to happen down the road. So we thought about it.

Lois: We had been warned by the attorneys involved.... There is the possibility that someone could [for example] burn your house down. We finally decided to take that chance. If you acted in fear of taking a stand, nothing would have ever been accomplished in this world. Somebody's got to do that.

OITM: Had you discussed marriage or a commitment ceremony in the past?

Holly: Twenty five years ago nobody talked about it. At the time of our twentieth anniversary,

we talked about it some; and even then they were not real common. I don't think we knew of more than one or two people who had done it. We talked about it, but not real seriously. It's been in the last five years that it's evolved, and a lot of it has been not because of a need to express our commitment....

OITM: You can get married anytime you want to, spiritually.

Holly: Yeah. Right now, we're legal strangers. In the eyes of the law, Lois and I don't know each other and that means that things like my social security, if I were to die — no survivor benefits; pensions. My pension goes directly to a spouse [but] she loses that.

Lois: I do get hospital benefits now through Holly cause she teaches at UVM. However, she's taxed on that benefit. If we were married, she would not be.

OITM: Why do you think this is all happening now?

Lois: I think that whole Hawaii issue brought it to the forefront as far as becoming an issue at all. If there's ever a good time to bring up an issue like this, Vermont is as good a place as any to bring it up.... Vermont's got a lot of firsts, and Vermonters are pretty independent. There's a lot of live and let live [here]. A lot of people just go about their business without a lot of judgment of them.

OITM: How did you two meet?

Holly: Summer session I walked into class and there was this very attractive, gray haired — and remember, it was twenty five years ago — gray haired lady. So after the end of summer session, we started to...

Lois: Socialize.
Holly: Thank you
Lois: After the class was all over.
Holly: Yeah.

OITM: Did one ask the other out?

Lois: I think it was a mutual