

## Artfully Matched

When our case managers and staff volunteers sit down at the drawing board to create compatible home-share matches, it's not always easy. But when they got the chance to work with Sarah and Shay, it happened almost organically. Creatively would be more accurate.

Shay, quite possibly the first HomeShare Vermont guest with their own Wikipedia page, is a comic journalist from Portland, Oregon who has published a number of zines and non-fiction comics. Among those was "Guantanamo Voices," a graphic narrative account of Guantanamo Bay from 10 different people illustrated by 10 different artists.

Last year, Shay was awarded a fellowship at the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction. That meant getting to attend the school tuition-free, while serving as a resource for other students.

"I decided to homeshare because I like finding connections and would rather live with other people as opposed to on my own and isolated," Shay explained. "My other option was a potentially haunted hotel which is right next door to the school."

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 .....

Shay was matched with Sarah, whose home in East Thetford is a piece of art in its own right. At one time,



Sarah and Shay

Sarah created stained glass windows for churches and mausoleums, "But that was before I had kids. Lead and broken glass don't really go well with small children. Then my house and gardens became my canvas. Most people say it feels like they're in a different world when they come in."

Sarah loves using vivacious colors, inspired by the Cornish Colony artists. "There's this particular color that kind of blew me away that I used in the living room, like smoked salmon or pink grapefruit!" She also enjoys reusing found items, like the corn sheller from her great aunt's farm that is

now the island in the kitchen.

Sarah has a teenager at home – the youngest of her three children – and has been happy to have another adult around to provide support. "I really do love having someone in between my age and my son's, just to round out perspectives. Having Shay as that person is a real treasure. She's really astounding and has made the most of being here."

If someone is thinking about sharing their home, Shay notes that the host family should welcome their guest the way Sarah and her family have. "The host family has to feel as if you're not invading their space but that they are happy to have you there."

And Sarah adds, "It's equally important for there to be some flexibility and open-mindedness by the guest. I think we just kind of hit the jackpot with Shay. It's been really lovely."



One of Shay's comic creations

Courtesy of Shay

# HomeShare VERMONT

HomeShare Happenings  
June 2024

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## A Match With A View

Walk out the front door of Kim's house in Bridport and your knees slightly buckle. The view of Lake Champlain and the Adirondack mountains in the distance is arresting. And just wait for the sunsets!

"One of my favorite pastimes is to sit here and look out at that view," Kim shared. "It actually has a calming effect on me."

Kim is not the first person in his family to homeshare. Over a decade ago, his father, Art, shared this same home. "After my mother died, he had a couple of people homesharing and he had pretty good luck with them."

When Kim decided it would be helpful to have someone around, he called HomeShare Vermont. A month-and-a-half later, he was matched with Eric.

Eric majored in photography at Lyndon State College and spent years as a photographer. So, he's seen some great scenery, but he says, "We had nice views in East Burke, but



Photo by Eric Traaska

this just blew me away from the first time I saw it. And then the first sunset I saw here was absolutely gorgeous. It is one of the nicest views I've ever seen."

Eric now works in Vergennes for the Vermont Department of Labor at Job Corps,



Photo by Kate Bentley

Eric and Kim

so the Bridport location is ideally situated. He also enjoys the outdoors and loves the many camping opportunities nearby.

As part of his homeshare agreement, Eric cleans and helps Kim around the house. "I do the dishes, mop the floors, take out the garbage. Helping out really gives me a sense of purpose."

While Kim is a rabid Boston Red Sox fan, he tolerates Eric's passion for the Baltimore Orioles. That love of the O's came about naturally. Eric's mother grew up in Windsor, Connecticut with Moe Drabowsky, who pitched for Baltimore in the mid '60s. Through Moe, Eric had the opportunity to serve as the team's honorary batboy for a game and sat on the bench with Brooks Robinson, Bobby Grich and Mark Belanger. "You put a seven-year-old kid in that situation and you become a fan for life."

Despite baseball loyalties being divided they can agree that their view and their match are decidedly major league.

## A Letter from our Executive Director

Summer brings us so many things: warm weather, family barbecues, a host of outdoor community events and a pent up "to do" list that bursts out of the garden shed faster than daffodils out of the ground in April.



Photo by Gillian Randall

Whenever we hear from hosts and guests who are spending more time together in their gardens, it brings us a lot of joy. The whole HomeShare Vermont team is proud to play our role in the relationships that blossom after a match is well made. It's a lot like planting a seed, because all the necessary elements are already there. All we do is create some favorable conditions.

As we continue a very busy year here at HomeShare, we take inspiration from all our participants who tried something new, made a new friend and were willing to share parts of themselves with each other. We hope that this sunny season will inspire more Vermonters to share their homes, get that help with their garden or perhaps even plant a new one. — Connor Timmons



# Staycation/Vacation Raffle was **BIGGER** and **BETTER**

This year's HomeShare Vermont Staycation/Vacation Raffle had more prizes and, thus, ticket sales were even more robust than last year. We sold almost 900 tickets this year and **raised just over \$30,000 for our Homesharing Program.**

Our livestreamed drawing was held at the Media Factory studio in Burlington and a recording of the event can be found on the HomeShare Vermont website.

Below is a list of this year's great prizes and the lucky winners.

Please consider supporting these generous businesses when you plan your own Vermont staycation/vacation.

Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets, donated prizes or sponsored the raffle. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our tremendous FunRaising Committee members—Margaret Cicchetti, Mary Gleason, Mary Harwood, and Meg Pond—who spent hours making sure this event was a success.

## Amtrak Gift Certificate/Burton Luggage

Amey Ryan



## Basin Harbor Lake Champlain Cruise

Faye Longo



## Burlington Country Club Golf Package

John Pane & Elizabeth Bassett



## Garden Lover's Package

Elizabeth Anthony



Charlie Nardozi

Gardener's Supply

Element Salon

Runamok Maple

## Lake Morey Resort Stay

Mary Hanrahan



## Middlebury Inn Stay

Keith & Penelope Pillsbury



## North Hero House Stay

Greg MacDonald & Wendy Soliday



## Pamper Me Package

Allan Hunt & Susi Taylor



Johnson Woolen Mills

It's My Day Spa

Shelburne Museum



## Pitcher Inn Stay

Anonymous



## Stay Warm Winter Package

Sarah Carpenter



Johnson Woolen Mills

## UVM Game Night Package

Kathy Gundy



## Woodstock Inn and Resort Stay

Christine Curtis & Clyde Stats



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**HomeShare Vermont: Improving lives and communities  
by bringing Vermonters together to share homes.**



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*Thanks for your Generous Support*

Recently, several organizations have stepped forward to show their support for the work of HomeShare Vermont. As we prepare to shoot a new video that highlights our wonderful hosts and guests, the Rotary Club of St. Albans, the Barre Lions Club, Union Bank and Ben & Jerry's have made generous contributions to help us complete this project.

During the month of April, we were one of the non-profits chosen by City Market/Onion River Co-op to benefit from its monthly Rally for Change program.

And the Northwest Vermont Realtor Association (NVRA) selected HomeShare Vermont as one of four local organizations it supported with the proceeds from its various fundraising events.

We are humbled by the generosity of these outstanding groups in supporting our mission.

**NVRA**



**Rotary Club of St. Albans**



**Barre Lions Club**



**City Market/Onion River Co-op**