New Dining Hall Gets the Green Light
Thanks to Three Extraordinary Donations to Keewaydin Forever

At the spring meeting of the Keewaydin Board it was unanimously decided that construction of the new dining hall will begin as soon as camp is over in August. This project has been in the planning stages for more than three years, and is central to Songadeewin’s long-range plans. It is being made possible through the generous donations of Stuart Fraser (K ’72), David Corkins (K ’78) and Howard Lutnick, a close friend of Keewaydin. The building will be officially named “The Fraser Dining Hall.” A groundbreaking late this summer with campers and a grand opening in 2011 will give us opportunities to fully celebrate this momentous gift and these donors’ support.

The dining hall will be large enough to seat 200 for meals with a full kitchen and dish washing facility. This building will become the centerpiece in our campus sitting at the north end of the “great lawn.” A large wrap-around porch will provide spectacular views of the lake. Construction will begin as soon as camp is over and will be complete in...

Songadeewin Celebrates its First 10-year Staff

After twelve years on Lake Dunmore we have three staff who will celebrate their tenth Songa summer this year, all arriving in the summer of 2001. Erica Harlow arrived from New Orleans via school in Colorado. Her mother, Felice Tillman Harlow, had been a camper at the original Songadeewin on Lake Willoughby. For several years Erica was a staff in Blueberry, one of the cabins in Wabasso. Erica’s natural effervescence and child-like embrace of all things camp have made her a favorite in the Longhouse of our youngest campers. As Erica transitioned from college to work and then to graduate school we asked her to join the Leadership Team as Longhouse Leader for Wabasso, where she’s guided staff and campers...

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time for the 2011 spring session of the Keewaydin Environmental Education Center (KEEC) which hosts over 550 children, mostly from Vermont schools, each spring and fall on the Songadeewin campus.

Work began on this project a couple of years ago when electric lines to the site were buried, an access road was cut through the woods to allow access and deliveries from Rustic Lane, and the extensive septic system was installed. This advance work and construction through the winter will allow us to keep on schedule and have our building ready on time. The building is designed by John Berryhill of Nimtz, Berryhill and Figiel Architects of Rutland, Vermont. John has designed a building which will fit nicely into our landscape and is in keeping with the rest of our camp buildings. At the same time it is energy efficient and brings a sense of the outdoors inside. Construction of the building will be overseen by Naylor and Breen of Brandon, Vermont.

The construction of the new Dining Hall is one of the most ambitious capital projects undertaken by the camp, and is part of our long range plan to eventually have 140 campers each session at Songadeewin. “Our ability to serve more campers and to be able to accommodate all of our KEEC students during the spring and fall is critically important to our mission and to our ongoing financial stability,” said Pete Hare, Executive Director of the Keewaydin Foundation. Keewaydin Forever: The Second Century Campaign has an optimum goal of $18m for capital improvements, scholarships, endowment, and preservation at all three Keewaydin camps. For more information about the campaign, go to www.keewaydin.org and click on the Alumni link, or contact Pete Hare at pete@keewaydin.org or Ellen Flight at ellen@keewaydin.org.

10 Year Staff
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with warmth, knowledge and a spirit of fun for five years. We are delighted that she is now a full-time teacher and hope that means many more Songa summers with Erica leading Wabasso.

Sarah Harrison Lynn came to us as a driver for our tripping program. She lives locally in Middlebury, Vermont, works at the Ripton Community School and coaches the Middlebury High School Tennis team each spring. Once we met Sarah we realized she had many talents beyond driving, and so she became our first and only “day staff.” This meant that on the days we didn’t need her to drive a trip she joins us to teach activities and life guard. During the summer, when she is not behind the wheel of one of the vans, we can usually find Sarah on
the tennis courts or out on the raft teaching diving.

We were delighted when Sarah brought her daughter, Elsie, to camp to join the staff in 2006. Sarah’s dog, Polo, also joins her at camp, following her closely and keeping an eye on the woodchuck holes by the tennis courts. Sarah brings a ready smile and enthusiasm for camp to all she does at Songa.

We are most fortunate to have Dee Kasper returning for her tenth summer as head chef and kitchen manager. Dee lives in Brandon, Vermont and when not at Songadeewin she cooks for The College of St. Joseph in Rutland, Vermont as a year-round employee of Fitz-Vogt, the food service company we hire to run our kitchen. During her ten years the size of the camp has changed several times. In 2006 the largest group at any one time was about 130 campers and staff, and in 2010 that group will be about 180. These numbers do not include the ever increasing number of family members that are served each midseason weekend.

Since Dee’s arrival we added a full service salad bar to each dinner, introduced more whole grains to the menu, and replaced the dishwasher. Dee’s homemade soups, sauces, meatballs and lasagna are delicious and many staff and campers comment on how good the food is at Songadeewin. Dee has been very responsive not just to the needs of the camp, but also the changing palettes of the campers and staff. A testament to her skills as a kitchen manager is the large number of her staff who return for multiple summers. There have been several who have worked with her for five or more summers in the kitchen.

We are truly delighted to celebrate the tenure of these three amazing women. Look for follow-up photos of them in their 10-year jackets in the fall edition of this newsletter. We will also interview them for an article.

Ojibway is a family lodge at the north end of Devil’s Island on Lake Temagami. Ojibway shares the island with Keewaydin Temagami.

Lodging accommodations include rustic yet comfortable cabins with bath, cabins or rooms without bath and platform tents.

We are offering a special rate this summer for first-time guests.

Please contact Sandy Chivers at 603-643-9326 or sandy@keewaydin.org to make your reservation.
Songadeewin has received a wonderful gift for our new dining hall. Lona Gabree, one of our camp nurses, has made a beautiful hooked rug, inspired by our Verendrye trip. This work of art will arrive at camp this summer and eventually will be hung in the dining hall in a place of honor. Below Lona describes the inspiration for the piece and how it came to be. It should serve as an inspiration for the generations of future Verendrye trippers and will be an amazing addition inside our new building. Warm thanks to Lona for creating such a grand piece and making such a loving gift to Songadeewin.

Now I see the secret of making the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth. ~ Walt Whitman

As in nursing anywhere, a nurse’s greatest joy is in caring for her patients. At Songadeewin my joy is witnessing the growth of 120 girls, and keeping them lice and blister free. This growth hits me in the face when a camper returns from her trip with her head held high, shoulders back, standing tall and with a grin from ear to ear. The sense of accomplishment and pride actualized is an honor to witness and what makes me feel blessed to be a tiny part of this process. And, it is the girls going on their Verendrye trip that inspired my piece.

It happened one night when the Verendrye trippers had returned and all gone through the “check in” process at the Health Center… many blisters, a gazillion bug bites, no sunburns, no fungal feet or head lice. The overwhelming consensus: “The trip was awesome!”

Later that night, it was 10 pm, lights were out; the serenading counselors had angelically sung the girls to sleep. I grabbed my headlamp and gingerly dashed up the road to the laundry room where health center towels awaited me. Laura Patch, one of the Verendrye trip leaders, was standing waiting for her dryer load to finish. Enjoying the one-on-one comradeship and quiet (which included the background language of crickets, frogs, and fireflies); I sat on a washing machine and asked how her trip had gone. The reply was long and finely detailed, often emotional and personal, always moving. I followed the map of Laura’s face as she spoke - I was struck by how one’s emotions are so closely related to facial expression, body language and muscle tone. It was a map rich in terrain. Her words, a roller coaster of musical notes in verbal form, shared the highs, the lows, the ups, the tears, the rejoicing and teamwork of a trip whose challenges were ambitiously and happily met.

Having known wilderness survival, I was touched in those moments of listening- so proud was I of that group of girls who epitomized all that Songa has striven to foster. This was the making of good citizens, strong women, stewards of the earth and ripples of hope for the planet.

While laying in bed later that night, unable to let certain images of this Verendrye trip escape me, I came upon the idea of making something to honor the spirit of Songadeewin and as well as a gift to its planned new dining hall. Thus, this was the beginning of my piece “Verendrye - Strong of Heart.”

Upon my return to New Orleans, I phoned Sibyl Osicka and explained the piece I wanted to hook and the image of it I had in mind. A moose, being part of the Songa and Keewaydin logo, would be the focal point. I envisioned him standing on a mountainside, powerfully looking over Songa paddlers in high mountain waters. Sibyl, master designer that she is, took it from there.
I loved making the pine trees. Sibyl’s colors were so true to life I could smell the forests of Vermont in each loop that I made. Throughout the summer, at five each morning, I would be sipping coffee and studying the laps of water on the lake, each with its own play of sun bouncing from the crest. Each wave seemed individual in its scheme of color and light. Hooking water with a sense of current was a summer-long study.

It was a great pleasure hooking this piece as each loop had its own camp memory or face to go with it. Though the conception of “Verendrye - Strong of Heart” came from the inspiration of the 2008 Verendrye girls, it is in tribute to all Songadeewin girls whether their trip is three-days long or 16, for in the end it is not the number of miles traveled that counts but the journey itself.

Excerpt from the Trip Logs: Verendrye 2009

Day One, Yellow Crew
Sami Briggs
From La Domaine the drive was only an hour so by 8:30 we got to our put-in and unloaded the trailer. Sarah Harrison-Lynn took lots of cute pictures of us while we were all still clean (savor that image) and then we headed off. It was exciting, only very hard to believe THAT I’M ON VERENDRYE. I always looked at those girls and thought they were so old…I don’t feel that old! I think it’s going to take a couple of days to hit me. We had a 12-mile paddle to our campsite. I was boat-partners with Eleanor; actually I will be for a couple of days. We have really good rhythm so we go really fast without paddling uber hard and we talk about everything pretty much nonstop and it’s fantastic.

We stopped and had the greatest lunch in the world, tuna and Craisins on a pita. So perfect. (We’re not supposed to write only about food, so moving on.) We got to our planned campsite and Elsie and Meaghan (the trip leaders) made a smart executive decision to paddle around two or three miles farther to the beginning of our portage tomorrow.

Day Three, Purple Crew,
Julianna St. Onge
The thing with long trips is, in the middle of a portage trail or paddle, you might be thinking; ‘Dear God, how did I get myself into this?’ But at that very second, you know how you’ll get out – yourself. It is inevitable that the time will pass and the trip will be

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Lona Gabree lives in New Orleans.
In addition to her work as a nurse in a psychiatric facility for recovering addicts, she makes and sells her own all-natural health and beauty products under the name Hummingbird Bath Products. We are delighted that she is joining us again at Songa for her third summer working in the health center and taking care of our campers and staff.
over. But no one realizes that it’s not just the countdown that “saves” them from the wilderness, or the van ride picking them up, it is their own sub-conscious realizing that somehow they will have to get through it.

The consequences of “I can’t” are unthinkable. And that sub-conscious realization that you have to do it helps a person understand that she can surpass the best of her abilities. To not just want the next checkpoint, but a call that makes her take pride in doing so. Because when you’re out in the wild, your mother, your God, and your satellite phone won’t save you as well as your own two hands. Taking that belief and sharing it with others is what I think people are talking about when they say Verendrye changes lives. You have to get through certain things in life, but how you do so is up to your own pride and your own two hands.

Day Four, Yellow Crew
Hayley Arader
Hola amigas, its Hayley. Today was a lovely day four in our 16-day journey. The weather was splendid, only some drizzling once we got to the campsite. We had three portages, and the terrain was glorious. Everyone has definitely found her rhythm for paddling; we all stay pretty close and go pretty fast. Thanks to Meaghan for reminding us to keep our top hand below our fin! I’m off to make some tuna casserole with Jordan’s awesome fire, yum yum.

Day Five, Yellow Crew
Lauren O’Connor
I really enjoyed being leader of the day today, with Sam. Now I fully appreciate the work our great staff Elsie and Meaghan do in the morning!

We paddled nine miles today and we had no portages scheduled, but our campsite was at the end of the portage trail (which was short!) so we brought everything over! But no backtrack. Afterwards we went to some awesome jumping rocks. The weather had not been the greatest, so none of us were going to go off them, but somehow most of us jumped! I was really glad I went! We had a short paddle to our campsite, and now we’re here! We had a great dinner of lentils with chili sauce and mashed potatoes and corn! For dessert we had TCB’s (Tiny Candy/Chocolate Bars) and I did weasel my way into getting two Snickers bars!

Day Eight, Purple Crew
Wei Wei Magnuson
Halfway there. We’re officially done traveling upstream. Today was our rest day. I woke up at eight but had a hard time falling back asleep. Everyone got up at 11:30 and Annabel and
Amelia made delicious chocolate chip pancakes. We all had four. It rained on and off all day. The day went by quickly. For dinner I helped make chicken pot pie. The crust was wildabread. We had the biggest portions – they were a quarter of the entire skillet. And I ate it all. I also made Amelia’s fun-fetti birthday cupcakes – we all got two and there was a ton of left over frosting which we ate, too. Tomorrow we’re getting up at 6 and beginning down the Chochocouane River. We have a lot of mileage to cover. I hope the weather gets nicer. I also forgot to mention that during dinner we saw a double rainbow that was really colorful and vibrant.

Day Eight, Green Crew
Helen Stillwell

Today was rough. We woke up at 5:30am and we hit the road with some Nutrigrain bars. Then being the strong Songa women that we are, we did five portages before nine in the morning. The portages weren’t bad though because most of them were between 80 and 150 meters. By 9:00 o’clock we had become so efficient that we actually got down to doing one of the portages in 13 minutes. After the morning portages we had some padding through small lakes and windy rivers until we stopped for our lunch and had some honey wildabread with peanut butter, jelly, and fluff. The wildabread turned out really well, so it was a good lunch. After lunch we had four more portages and some lining. All of the portage trails were pretty disgusting, each with its own mud pile of doom. Everyone did really well, even though we were all exhausted and pretty weak. After we finally finished our last line we did some lake paddling until we reached our campsite around 7:00 pm. Sadly, the campsite turned out to be pretty bad and we could barely fit all of our tents on it. Finally everyone was able to get dry and warm after the long day and we had a quick dinner of Annie’s and corn and then retreated to our tents.

It was a challenging day, but I think we all got a little stronger.

Day Eight, Yellow Crew
Sami Briggs

This morning, we got to sleep until nine and it was glorious. 12 hours of sleep! We then ate fabulous chocolate chip pancakes - very well done, Elsie and Meaghan. We also briefly satisfied Meaghan’s desire for photography and took some pictures, which were adorable. Then we left our campsite at noon (it was our half-day rest day) and paddled about six miles and came to a portage, which we weren’t expecting. We ‘beasted’ that portage! It was

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Come to Keewaydin Dunmore for the Family & Alumni Camp!
~ August 26-29, 2010 ~

Spend four glorious days living the camp life, on the Keewaydin Dunmore campus, with alumni from Keewaydin Dunmore, Keewaydin Temagami, Songadeewin, Beenadeewin and the other Keewaydin camps. Hike, swim, paddle, sail, play tennis, or relax and read a book. In the evenings, enjoy campfires, frolics and games in the dining hall. There will also be activities at the Songadeewin campus, just around the corner from Keewaydin.

Please RSVP by contacting theresa@keewaydin.org.
awesome. Then we had to paddle less than a mile to our campsite, which is fabulous and has a picnic table and a toilet. It is great.

Got there around 3:30, and we had grilled cheese for a late lunch. Never had them on a trip before, but wish I had because it was maybe one of the best lunches ever. Then came possibly the best part of the day: we bathed. The water was cold, so it was quick but the smell has improved exponentially. Then we all had a French braiding extravaganza; I even tackled Lauren’s and Eleanor’s. I feel so accomplished! Woot! Then we made wildabread and sticky buns for tomorrow and cheddar and broccoli pasta sides with corn! And a bunch of people were “pasta sides newbies,” so we got them hooked too! Nice.

Day 11, Yellow Crew, Hayley Arader

This morning we woke up to a breakfast of oatmeal, before loading our boats and pushing off. We had a short paddle to a road (which we had to lug over), followed by another short paddle to a portage, followed by another short paddle to a portage, followed by yet another short paddle to yet ANOTHER portage. The portages weren’t too long, but we had to walk through some serious mud. By the end of the third portage we felt strong and ready for anything that came our way, which was good, seeing as we had a loonnggg paddle ahead.

Finishing the day was really difficult, but as we sang Songa songs we paddled on. Elsie and Meaghan let us stop every once in a while for water, Starbursts, or even cookies with peanut butter and Fluff! We took advantage of the sugar and paddled hard to our campsite, getting in just before six. As soon as our boats pulled up we ran onto land and kissed the ground, only to realize we would then need to summon the energy to get back up, which was nearly impossible. I was tired as HECK, but we pulled together and set up camp before the rain came in. I’m going to go to bed before I fall asleep writing this. I am sooo tired but I feel strong and so proud to be tripping on Verendrye with these Yellow Fellows.

Day 13, Purple Crew Amelia Littleton

We woke up at 6 and got out of the campsite within an hour. We paddled the Dozois with tailwinds! It was amazing. We got to the small river and lined/lugged around some small rocks. Then we had a 150 meter portage that we finished in 25 minutes! Woo hoo! We paddled a little more and then ate lunch. I’m so sick of Wildabread I don’t know what to do with myself. Then we paddled more to our second 200 meter portage, which we finished within a half an hour. Everyone did so well, particularly Wei Wei and Ana. Today was heavy on the paddling, but we CRUSHED IT and got in by 4, hooray! We made personal pizzas for dinner which were sooo good. And then after dinner we sat around reminiscing about home, camp and trips and Verendrye, and I realized what a large amount of energy and time went into just me being able to go on this trip and just how awesome that is! I’m really glad that I got the chance to do this, and I’m going to have so many great stories to tell my friends back in Ohio.

Day 15, Yellow Crew Lindsey Arader

I am writing to you at 8:57pm on our 15th night in the gorgeous wilderness of Canada. The sun just set and the sky is beautiful and pink. This morning we woke up at 8:30am and all had delicious oatmeal, spam and dried fruit. Yum! Luckily, we could start our portage directly from our campsite. We all powered through the portage (which was only 400m) then continued on our 15th glorious day in the Canadian sun. We lathered up in sunscreen and soaked up our last hours of Canada.

We soon realized an awesome campsite where we set up camp and ate wildabread with pb&j and fluff!!! We also delighted in chocolate chip cookies! It was so hot outside, so we all went for a wonderful swim in the blue lake, and then rested in the shade. For dinner we had lentils/rice talking for a while and ate Hershey Kisses (Yumm!).

Day 14, Yellow Crew Lauren O’Connor

It’s crazy how we’re so close to our take-out and end of the trip! It seems like just yesterday we were all standing around the campfire, stressed, worried. We had some awesome conversation after dinner today
and peas. We dined on the underside of a canoe - it was awesome! We had super tasty survival brownies for dessert. This last day/night has been very poignant and bittersweet. I am so sad to be almost finished with Verendrye, but still excited to see my other friends and return to camp. This trip has been so much fun and such a great experience! I love you yellow crew! Thank you for making my summer!

Day 15, Purple Crew
Julianna St. Onge
Going back to camp will be weird. Now I understand why Willoughby is always so close after Verendrye ends. I know that the bond I have with these five girls and two staff is stronger than anything I could fabricate out of necessity or coincidence. If we had more food I could go for two more weeks. I can’t comprehend that it is the last night of Verendrye, or that camp ends in nine days and life has to come after that. I don’t want to comprehend it. It’s funny, I completely forgot about the hats and the shower waiting for us. It’s the things that stay with us, on and off the trip, the results not the rewards. They aren’t shared by the rest of the camp, but only by the other 20 girls that made this so much more than just a camping trip.

Day 16, Purple Crew
Wei Wei Magnuson
Looking back on these 15 days, I’ll never forget them. Overall, it’s gone by fast. Much quicker than I imagined. I think stepping back into the real world after two weeks in Verendrye will be overwhelming. Honestly I don’t look forward to meeting up with everyone at Le Domaine, as I’ve enjoyed being in this small, close-knit group of people where I’ve

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The Keewaydin Annual Fund:
Ensuring Keewaydin’s Lifelong Impact

Keewaydin is but one experience in life, but its impact is profound. For over 100 years, Keewaydin has been on the forefront of providing canoe explorations and camp experiences for kids that have a lasting effect.

Annual gifts from alumni, parents and friends make a huge difference in the breadth and depth of the programs Keewaydin offers each summer, and provides scholarship opportunities for children to attend camp.

Please do your part to ensure Keewaydin’s lifelong impact by giving to the Annual Fund. To make a donation, go to our website, www.keewwaydin.org, or contact us at (802) 352-4247. Thank you!
formed a deep relationship with each person. I’m going to appreciate the little things in life much more. For example, it will be a long time before I start complaining about loading the dishwasher at home.

This trip has become much more significant than I thought it would be. I can’t believe today we will be at camp paddling in and seeing the rest of the staff and the campers. It will be even stranger to go to the Waybury Inn where we will be dining at a real restaurant. I am excited and feel like after this trip I have a more positive, outgoing attitude towards life. I’ve gained confidence to face my fears and obstacles, and to take everything step by step, no matter how small the first step may be.

The skills I’ve learned throughout this trip I hope to keep the rest of my life. The goals I have I hope to achieve more audaciously and want to take more initiative and responsibility for my actions. It feels so good to have accomplished this trip with such a special group of girls.

I know that we will carry these memories forever and that it will tie us together in ways closer than any school/classmate relationship can ever be. My entire garbage bag of dry-rot clothes is stinking up the tent, my sleeping bag is full of sand, my hair has not been conditioned in over two weeks, my muscles are very sore, and I am extremely full, yet at the same time I am thrilled and happy at the success of this trip!

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**Trip Log**  
*continued from page 9*

**A Wish List for Songadeewin**

Over the years we have been fortunate to receive donations from people helping us bring interesting and exciting programs to our campers. These donations have included boats, computers, clothing for costumes and trips, furnishings for staff living quarters, craft supplies for arts and crafts, a kiln and kick wheel for pottery, photos and memorabilia for our archives and many, many books. Recently, Nancy and Emmie Coffey donated books which we’ll add to the library shelves this summer.

For the last two summers Liz and Wyeth Olmstead donated special shirts and tops for tripping – these helped keep trippers warm and dry while out on the water or trail. We have also received books and games from the Obst family.

If you are downsizing or moving to a new home, or simply cleaning and sorting belongings, here is a partial list of items we could make good use of at camp:

**Cameras**  
Point and shoot cameras that use film, or simple SLR models that also use film for our photography program

**Clothes**  
For tripping for girls age eight and up: fleece tops, wool sweaters, rain jackets, rain pants, synthetic long underwear (tops and bottoms), wool or fleece hats

**Sewing machines**  
In good working order, but not overly computerized

**Craft supplies**  
(Here is your chance to get rid of that excess yarn or fabric!): yarn, cloth, trims and ribbon, snaps and hooks, knitting needles, blank needlecraft canvas, colored pencils, markers, paint brushes, etc.

**Clothes and outfits**  
For the costume room: fancy dresses or evening wear, dresses from different fashion periods (‘70s and ‘80s are popular and there was so much polyester that surely is still in good condition!), high heels, costumes from dance recitals, Halloween costumes, hats, masks and props

**Furnishings**  
For staff housing units. Lamps, small tables, chairs (without stuffing), occasional rugs, floor lights, small dressers, etc.

**Looms**  
Hand, table or floor looms for our soon to be refurbished arts and crafts program

*continued on next page*
Books
Suitable for children ages eight to sixteen, how-to books about activities we do at camp, nature books about plant and wildlife in the northeast, craft and project books, etc.

Board Games
In good condition with all the pieces.

If you have any such items that you would like to donate please contact Ellen Flight, 802-352-9860 or ellen@keewaydin.org before mailing items. Current camper families may bring items to share at the start or end of summer.

FAITHFUL AND TRUE
100 Years of Keewaydin on Lake Dunmore
BY MIKE VORENBERG

A rich history of the first century of Keewaydin Dunmore, one of the oldest and best-known summer camps in North America. Here is the story of a legendary institution for everyone in the Keewaydin family and everyone interested in the history of American camping, boyhood, and exploration.

This hardcover, large format edition is perfect for coffee table or bookshelf and contains more than 250 pages of text and over 700 historic color and b&w photographs.

Limited copies are available. Order now to assure yourself a copy.
Price: $80.00

Commemorative Edition, signed by Waboos, Pete Hare, and Mike Vorenberg.
Price: $150.00

Please contact: Theresa at (802) 352-4247 or theresa@keewaydin.org for further information.
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