

LIFE STORIES

Writer talks turkey
about long-ago
Thanksgiving
mishap./03



LIFE • TODAY

G

EXECUTIVE FEATURES
EDITOR
Susan Mehalick
454-5478
smehalick@timesunion.com

ALBANY, NEW YORK

TIMES UNION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008



LUANNE M. FERRIS/TIMES UNION

AFRICAN PANELS, made by women in a co-op, are available for \$25 each at The Arts Center of the Capital Region Gift Shop in Troy.

store, has gifts like a child's tin tea set and travel case, a paper doll game featuring multicultural paper dolls, old-fashioned toys and alpaca yarn for your knitting enthusiast. Profits from the Village Store go to Hubbard Hall, an 1878 rural opera house, which offers arts, music and fitness programs. The store is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and, beginning Nov. 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. 677-2495; <http://www.hubbardhall.org>.

■ Continue supporting local agriculture by hitting up indoor farmers markets and the gift shops at family-run farms:

■ Gardenworks, 1055 Route 30, Salem, It's no surprise that this place was awarded a 2008 New York Agri-Tourism Grant. This stunning Washington County farm market and gift shop is a hub for cheese

makers, artists and other local farmers. Locally made chutneys and gourmet delicacies to fill a gift basket can be bought here.

Wreathes made

from the flowers drying in the rafters can be found in this barn/shop/art gallery. If you want to make your own holiday wreath, there's a workshop scheduled for Dec. 6-7. (Check the Web site for more de-

tails.) Bonus: If you're one of those very organized people who shops for next year right after Christmas, there's a massive sale on Dec. 26 and 27 and then they close for the season. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays. 854-3250; <http://www.gardenworksfarm.com>.

■ Indian Ladder Farms, 342 Altamont Road, Altamont. This spot is known for its apples, but there are also great nostalgic wooden toys, pottery and books in their gift shop. Jams, jellies and maple syrup could round out a pleasant gift basket. Bonus: While you're there, grab lunch at the café (open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on weekdays except Tuesday when it's closed and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. weekends). And don't forget to take in tremendous views with a nice hike around the grounds. The shop is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily through Dec. 28. 765-2956; <http://www.indianladderfarms.com>.

■ Saratoga Farmers Market, Salvation Army Building, Woodlawn Avenue, Saratoga Springs. The indoor market features 24 vendors selling fresh local produce, cheese, meats, eggs and baked goods. Gift suggestions include locally made crafts, soaps, jams, honey, dried flower arrangements and wreaths. Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. <http://saratogafarmersmarket.org/>

■ Troy Farmers Market, Uncle Sam Atrium, Troy. More than 50 vendors have signed on for the winter market. Among a vast array of farm fresh comestibles, consider these items for holiday giving: wool yarn, beeswax candles, artisan-made gift cards, jams, jellies, honey, dried floral arrangements and wine. Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. <http://www.troymarket.org/>

Tell us about your favorite places to buy holiday gifts. Go to <http://blogs.times-union.com/thelist/>.