

November 2009

We start November with wonderful memories of a trip to NJ to celebrate Addison's and Evelyn's first birthday. Great grandparents, grandparents, uncles, cousins, and close friends were there. These two little princesses were delightful, bringing many, many smiles to all who were there! We'll see you HERE for Thanksgiving!



The Scarecrow Reunion in Phillips, our neighboring town, is an annual event when everyone, young and old, singles and groups, has the opportunity to use their imagination and creativity to scare a crow. Last year we entered our cauldron stirring witch, a wooden life size cut out we made about 10 years ago in NJ. With a crow dangling over the “boiling” kettle, we won a second prize ribbon. This year, we entered “Mr. Mazza” a pumpkin headed “yogi” in an impossible position and took first prize! My children and I always called that plastic pumpkin head “Mr. Mazza” because the expression on his face resembled that of a gentle elderly man who lived down the street from us in NJ, Mr. Mazza. The Scarecrow Reunion was featured in the August 2009 issue of Down East magazine, our witch being one of the photos.



Halloween, however, is different here than in NJ. There, we always tastefully decorated the house, to the point where people took photos of their children standing out front. And I always decorated inside – every nook and corner had something tucked into it. Often children would come in and have their picture taken in front of the fireplace. I love Halloween! I liked it when they were arriving about an hour before sunset; when it was chilly and getting dark and the wind was

blowing. Alas, here in Maine, I live too far away for any door-to-door Trick or Treaters. But, I was ready, just in case. I wore my kitty cat ears headband (adjusting frequently to quiet the headache), my orange and black socks, black pants and turtleneck, white t-shirt with orange pumpkin and black bats on it, and my orange zipper sweat shirt. As it got dark, I lit all the pumpkins inside and out. Yup, I was ready. And I had fun. David and I enjoyed our traditional Halloween Chili and I even found a couple of fun Halloween movies to watch. It was OK no one came.

So now those decorations get stored for another year, and Thanksgiving décor gets added to the autumnal flavor about the house and Star Barn. As we get ready for winter, the screens are all down and the windows all washed. Gas fireplaces in Star Barn bedrooms checked and all work. Extra blankets in place. Wood stacked in the parlor for the fireplace. Snow shovels and salted sand posted. (We had our first snow on October 13 this year. Yikes! It was so beautiful, seeing the snow mixed in with the colorful leaves.)



Star Barn is now preparing for its November guests, which will include some family for Thanksgiving! We're praying for snow and looking forward to a meaningful service at Reeds Mill Church. And Uniques, our gift shop, is hosting an Open House on Sunday, November 29. We are now up to 30 vendors, some of who will be here that day working on their crafts. There will be free refreshments and a free ornament to the first 25 shoppers. Four days after that will be the third annual Star Barn Christmas Card Party. Bring your cards, envelopes, address lists, stamps, and a snack to share. We gather at long tables in front of the fire, Christmas music playing and enjoy a couple of hours of fellowship while we get the job done! I'll let you know how it went next month!

Until then.....

Ginni and David Robie