

But given what White River Junction looked like and felt like not so long ago, the pros seem to far outweigh the cons, and officials in the town of Hartford, where White River is located, are thrilled with all the new businesses and tax revenue.

And as freight trains roll through the downtown regularly, blowing their horns, White River is not in danger of becoming precious or pretentious any time soon. It retains a chunk of its old grittiness.

Taylor, 37, and Sumanis, 31, became fast friends when they worked as waitresses at Elixir, an upscale restaurant here. They had a shared interest in wellness, herbalism, and eating healthy. More importantly, their bosses, Skip Symanski and Jane Carrier, had set an example.

When Symanski and Carrier opened a high-end restaurant here 10 years ago, people thought they were nuts. But Taylor and Sumanis learned that if you build a quality business, the people will come. It gave them the gumption to strike out on their own. Three years ago, they started with a food truck. When space became available in a new building, they went all in.

"Elixir paved the way for a lot of us," Sumanis said.

They also point to Souza as a nurturing maternal figure to younger entrepreneurs.

Souza gives credit to the male developers who remade the town's footprint, but agrees there is a mutually supportive business climate that has an especially feminine side to it.

"Women are by nature nurturing," she said. "There is a lot of mutual support and encouragement going on here."

Given that they both offer yoga classes, Carleton and Gamble are technically competitors. But they routinely send customers to each other's business, depending on what those customers want and need.

"Everybody has each other's back," said Taylor, who has given spare keys for JUEL to Gamble and Souza, whose businesses are right across North Main.

There are downsides to all this progress and prosperity. You used to be able to park an aircraft carrier along North Main Street. Now they limit free parking to two hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., from Monday to Saturday. Things can get tight, especially on weekends.

And, this being Vermont, there are some who decry what they dismiss as gentrification.

A local blogger, Rejjie Carter, bemoaned what he calls the colonization of White River Junction, writing that the land where it sits belonged to the Abenaki tribe before settlers showed up, and that landlords are now cashing in and driving out poorer residents.

"Colonialism, capitalism, and private property are the enemies," Carter wrote.

Like I said, this is Vermont.

Souza, who is a town selectboard member and committed to many social justice causes, bristles at characterizing what has happened here as gentrification.

"When women are opening businesses in a defunct town, it's less about money and power and more about care and community," she said. "Gentrification happens when people are displaced. There were no people in White River Junction when developers like Matt Bucy, Mike Davidson, and Bill Bittinger came along. Almost every single one of the old empty buildings they rehabbed or the new buildings they erected in vacant lots added affordable living space to our community."

Two months ago, a teacher from the Hartford public schools brought a bunch of students on a field trip to visit some of the female-run businesses.

"It was a joy to listen to so many of the young girls ask questions about how to start

a business," said Souza. "It felt like something was happening."

RECOGNIZING VERMONT'S MAGICIANS WITHOUT BORDERS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, when Lincoln, VT, resident Tom Verner performs magic shows for children in refugee camps, orphanages, and hospitals, he brings joy and laughter to the places where it is most needed. In 2002, Tom and his wife, Janet Fredericks, co-founded Magicians Without Borders and have since performed in more than 40 countries, for more than 1,000,000 of the world's most vulnerable people. Magicians Without Borders is one shining example of Vermonters thinking outside the box and using their creativity to make the world a better place. It is with pride and appreciation that I recognize Tom, Janet and the Magicians Without Borders organization for their achievements.

Tom was a professor of psychology in 2001 when he embarked on a trip through the Balkans, performing magic shows in the refugee camps of Kosovo and Macedonia. The performances were so well received that, upon returning to Vermont, Tom took a year off from his position at Burlington College to found Magicians Without Borders.

Since Tom's first trip, he and Janet have made six trips each year, continuing to use magic to transform the lives of youth in at risk situations around the globe. Tom, Janet, and Magicians Without Borders have performed everywhere from the Sudan, to Colombia, from Ukraine to Bangladesh. They traveled to Thailand and Burma for a month of performances in the wake of a tsunami and performed statewide throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

In 2004, a series of shows at rural schools in El Salvador was met with such positivity that Tom was asked to teach a few magic tricks to the students. These impromptu classes turned into a unique, long-term education program geared toward increasing self-confidence, discipline, focus, and self-esteem. Tom, Janet, and Magicians Without Borders have now returned to El Salvador more than 30 times to entertain and educate these children who find themselves surrounded by terrible gang violence and abject poverty. The program has inspired young Salvadoran magicians to perform their own magic shows in orphanages, hospitals, and disaster areas and aspire to teach magic to other young people.

Due to their success in El Salvador, Magicians Without Borders expanded these education programs to Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the United States. Two additional education programs have been implemented in India.

I am proud to recognize the contributions that Tom, Janet, and Magicians Without Borders have made me so many communities across globe in the last 18 years. I ask unanimous consent

to have printed in the RECORD an Addison Independent article titled "Lincoln Magicians Bring Joy to Refugees at the Border." It describes how Tom and Janet use magic to connect with those suffering at our southern border and how they have expanded their mission to entertain, educate and empower across the world.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Addison Independent, July 3, 2019]

LINCOLN MAGICIANS BRING JOY TO REFUGEES AT THE BORDER

LINCOLN.—Tom Verner and Janet Fredericks performed magic at the U.S.-Mexico border last December.

Not the kind of magic that allows tired, hungry and fearful refugees to simply waltz across the border to new lives in America. The Lincoln couple, working as Magicians Without Borders, staged a show of sleights-of-hand and humor designed to not only entertain, but also to provide a light of hope in dark circumstances.

Since that December trip, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has encountered more than half a million additional migrants hoping to enter the U.S. The vast majority of these refugees were arrested and detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in facilities that a growing number of experts, including Holocaust scholars, have compared to concentration camps.

Performing at the border last year, and again this past March, has helped Verner and Fredericks better understand the issues there.

"These refugees didn't want to leave their homes," Verner told the Independent this week. "They're fleeing murderous violence, political oppression and grinding poverty, and they're coming to the closest place where, as the Statue of Liberty says, they can 'breathe free.'"

During their March trip, Verner and Fredericks met a six-year-old boy named Sebastian, whose family had fled Honduras. Because Sebastian has cerebral palsy and cannot walk, his father had carried him on his back—for more than 1,800 miles.

The conditions and political climate of the U.S. border are nothing, however, compared with those in Honduras, Sebastian's father told Verner.

It's the kind of story the Lincoln residents have encountered over and over again—all over the world.

Since founding Magicians Without Borders in 2002, Verner and Fredericks have traveled to more than 40 countries and performed for "over 1 million of the most forgotten people in the world."

Their mission is to entertain, educate and empower.

BEGINNINGS

In 2001 Verner, then a professor of psychology at Burlington College, was traveling through the Balkans, performing magic shows in refugee camps in Kosovo and Macedonia.

"It was a transformative experience," he said.

In one Macedonian camp, which sheltered about 2,000 people, mostly Roma, Verner met a little girl named Fatima who became his "assistant" for the day.

"We couldn't understand each other's languages, but we understood each other," Verner said. When it came time for Verner to move on to the next camp, however, he could not find Fatima to say good-bye. Disappointed, he returned to his car, only to find Fatima hiding in the back seat. She

begged Verner to take her with him, but he could not.

Verner's driver then suggested they visit Shutka, Macedonia, which the driver said was "swollen with refugees." Within 10 minutes of their arrival in the main square more than 300 people had gathered to watch him perform, Verner said.

Afterward, he recalled, "a Roma woman who'd seen me multiplying things in my show, came up to me holding a five-dinari Macedonian coin. 'Make more money,' she said. She thought if I could make things multiply, why not money?"

Verner performed a trick producing a 50-dinari coin—the equivalent of about 80 cents at the time—and the woman was genuinely thrilled.

After she walked away, two Roma men who'd been watching asked Verner if he could produce visas to America.

"They were completely serious," Verner said. "As if I could wave a magic wand and Condoleezza Rice would suddenly sign the necessary paperwork."

These and other encounters led to an epiphany for Verner, which he distills into a quote from fellow magician Harry Houdini—himself a refugee from Hungary:

"In certain circumstances, magic not only amazes and amuses but it has the power to awaken hope that the impossible is possible."

Upon his return to Vermont, Verner obtained a year's leave from Burlington College to found Magicians Without Borders.

"That one year has turned into 18," he said happily.

TEACHING MAGIC

In 2004, Magicians Without Borders (MWB) visited El Salvador, which was still reeling in the aftermath of a 12-year civil war that had been fought in large part by child soldiers.

The founder-director of the Salvadoran Rural Health Association was so impressed with Verner's school performances that she asked him to teach some magic tricks to children participating in a program called "Barefoot Angels" (so named because many of the children had been working barefoot in a garbage dump). Verner readily agreed.

At the end of that daylong workshop, one of the students, 14-year-old Jaime Zumba, asked, "When are you coming back?" Verner, who had had no return plans, hesitated, then said, "How about May?"

That moment, Verner said, changed the course of MWB. Since then he's visited El Salvador more than 30 times.

Soon, some of the children wanted to do more than just learn a few magic tricks. They were aspiring to teach it to other children. As a result, MWB now has programs in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

Two more programs have evolved in India, as well—one at a night-care shelter for the children of brothel workers who are trapped in the sex trade.

"These were children who had been sleeping under mom's bed while she was working," Verner recalled soberly.

That program's Hindi name, Prerana, translates into English as "Inspiration."

DREAMS

"We're not trying to teach them to be magicians," Verner said. "We're trying to build their confidence in themselves. What happens is that these kids start studying and performing, and something starts to happen, you start to see all these benefits. It awakens dreams."

Verner spoke of children who've gone on to pursue studies in nursing, culinary arts and social work.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the generous support

Verner and Fredericks have received over the years, both abroad and at home.

In the coming weeks, for instance, allies of MWB have scheduled two fundraising events at Bixby Library in Vergennes, which they hope will help fund another trip to the U.S.-Mexico border in August.

Magicians Without Borders will perform for children at the Bixby on July 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then give a brief talk about their work.

An event on Aug. 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., will be geared toward adults: travel stories and performance history, with some magic woven in.

Verner hopes MWB can make multiple trips to the border in the future, in part because he knows what's at stake. After all, even his own sources of hope and inspiration have emerged from deeply, shockingly tragic circumstances.

Jaime Zumba's enthusiasm in El Salvador 15 years ago may have changed the course of MWB, but the young man's lived experience, like that of so many thousands who have fled their homes, is all too familiar in that part of the world and often inspires too little notice.

"It is not uncommon," he once told Verner, "for me to walk over a decapitated naked body on my way to school."

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCHE, Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCHE,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-35 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Canada for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$44 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,

Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-35

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Canada.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment *\$38 million.
Other \$6 million.
Total \$44 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred fifty-two (152) MIDS JTRS (5) with Remote Power Supply.

Non-MDE: Also included are spare cables and MIDS batteries; Link-16 mobile racks; diagnostic support tools; technical documentation; training and engineering technical support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (CN-P-LKT).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 29, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Canada—Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS)—Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS)(5)

The Government of Canada has requested to buy one hundred fifty-two (152) MIDS JTRS (5) with Remote Power Supply. Also included are spare cables and MIDS batteries; Link-16 mobile racks; diagnostic support tools; technical documentation; training and engineering technical support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$44 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a NATO ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress and a contributor to military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

Canada intends to upgrade its current inventory of CF-18 Aircraft, CC-130J, and the Royal Canadian Air Force's Ground Stations with the purchase of these MIDS JTRS (5) terminals to be fully interoperable with U.S. and allied forces to support and complement joint operations in a net-enabled environment; have modernized electronic protection and secure, jam-resistant wave forms; and be capable of improved Link-16 message exchange and information fidelity including support to advanced weapon employment. Canada will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors for MIDS JTRS are Viasat, Incorporated, headquartered in Carlsbad, CA and Data Link Solutions, headquartered in Cedar Rapids, IA. The Government of Canada is expected to negotiate an offset agreement with the principal contractor(s), in accordance with Canada's Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy, before signing the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA), but details are not known at this time.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of additional U.S.