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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42718

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Festival of Miniatures has become a larger, town-wide
2 event

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3
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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Local events help make a town feel alive. They give
6 people something to look forward to, and they give small
7 businesses a chance to connect with the community in ways we
8 normally don't get to.

9 We at Thrifting New England believe in the importance
10 of those connections. That's why we are so appreciative of the

11 opportunity to participate in the Brattleboro Festival of
12 Miniatures.

13 In the four years since we've opened, it's the first time
14 we've had an opportunity to be part of a larger town-wide event,
15 and we are excited for it.

16 Most of Brattleboro's local events tend to focus on
17 certain neighborhoods or industries. It makes sense on some
18 levels, but also means that small businesses, especially smaller or
19 newer ones tucked out of the way, aren't always able to be part of
20 the celebration.

21 Being invited to join in the festival inspired us to
22 celebrate not only the diversity of Brattleboro, but also the
23 broader idea of inclusion.

24 Our window display is meant to feel cozy and magical,
25 almost like stepping into a *wimmelbilder* scene. Many of the
26 pieces were handcrafted by me, with help and support from
27 family and staff. It features tiny versions of some well-known
28 Brattleboro locations, as well as little scenes with nods to a
29 variety of local businesses.

30 We also consciously tried to represent many types of
31 people and traditions found in our town. We have a diverse
32 group of dolls, foods from different cultures, a pride flag, and
33 holiday symbols from several traditions — a menorah, a
34 Christmas tree, and a Yule log — along with a miniature poster
35 celebrating diversity.

36 Our window is extra large. If you walk inside and look
37 closely to see how many details you can find there is a little gift
38 awaiting you to remember us by.

39 One of the special things about a town-wide festival is
40 that it encourages people to explore parts of Brattleboro they may
41 not usually see. So along with visiting the impressive displays
42 downtown, I encourage people to also take a ride to the outlying
43 participants: Millie's Antiques, the Winston Prouty Center for
44 Child & Family Development, the Brattleboro Winter Farmers
45 Market, ByWay Books & More, The Porch Café & Catering, the

46 Vermont Country Deli, the Royal Diner and — yes — Thrifting
47 New England.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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