

## Refresh your home with Stefanie Mahr Damien

By Victoria Decoster

Bob and Nancy Hurd received a phone call in January of 2018 from Schooner Estates. After 50 years of living in their home, an apartment had opened up in the senior living community that would be available to them on April 1st.

In a matter of three months, their house needed to be sold and packed up for transition, a task that would prove daunting, if not nearly impossible on their own. They knew they needed someone to assist with the move, Stefanie Mahr Damien turned out to be the perfect solution.

Damien's business, Refresh, offers a myriad of unique services that help to breathe life into a home. As a member of the National Association of Senior Move Managers, she specializes in helping homeowners move as efficiently as possible.

In an age of online home shopping, a good first impression is essential. Damien focuses on showing the bones of a house, by "editing" or taking furniture out and revamping cluttered spaces, allowing for others to picture their items in the house.

"When you put your home on the market there are things you can do to represent it to the broadest number of people possible so that it can sell for the most amount of money in the shortest amount of time," Damien said.

Within two weeks, Damien had refurbished the house, fixed any potential deal breakers for new buyers, and put their property on the market. The Hurd's had their home under contract before the move on April 1st. With the aid of Damien's floor plan she designed before

hand, their belongings were unpacked within the day and they were ready to start the next chapter of their life.

"Anyone thinking of selling a long held family home, I would highly recommend the services of Stefanie Damien," the Hurds said. "She worked tirelessly to meet our timeline and did so in a very upbeat professional manner. What could have been a very stress filled time turned out to be a positive experience."

At the age of 11 years old Damien taught herself how to sew with an old Singer machine in the basement. Ever since, her love for sewing has flourished, prompting her to start a design business in 1989. Over time Damien picked up new skills, like interior design and home staging and eventually

evolved her business into Refresh to better suit her services.

Located on 550 Lisbon St. in Lewiston, Damien refers to her services as an a la carte menu. From home staging, to interior design, reupholstery, and window treatments clients can pick and choose what they need.

Many customers come to Damien, concerned they will not be able to afford her services. "Most people don't realize home staging doesn't have to break the bank. I can be paid at the closing of the house," Damien said. In the end, her services end up saving customers money.

Damien also teaches sewing and upholstery classes. Sign-ups are available through the Creative Artisans of Maine website, where classes are available most days of the week.



Submitted photo

## Lewiston credit union presents check to church food pantry volunteer

LEWISTON — Lewiston Municipal Federal Credit Union, in partnership with the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger, helped to raise more than \$2,600 during the 2018 campaign, and recently donated \$2,020 to the High Street Congregational Church Food Pantry.

The food pantry is a cooperative consisting of a group of dedicated volunteers from a small group of local churches of different denominations and the pantry itself is hosted at the High Street Congregational Church in Auburn. The food pantry supplies numerous local families with a monthly allotment of food.

Lewiston Municipal Federal Credit Union, 291 Pine St.,

is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year proudly serving the employees of the City of Lewiston, City of Auburn, Lewiston Schools, Auburn Schools, Lewiston Housing Authority, and their families.



Submitted photo

On behalf of Lewiston Municipal Federal Credit union and its membership, Liz Woods presents a \$2,020 donation to Lee Upton, a volunteer from the High Street Congregational Church Food Pantry.

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