



AN EXCERPT FROM AGAINST ALL ODDS: A

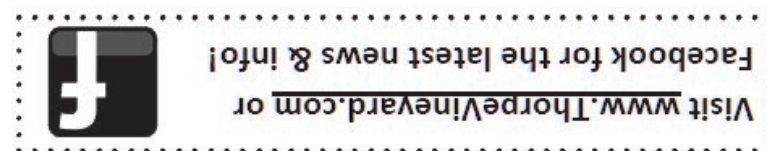
MESSAGE AT THE BEGINNING OF MY 25TH YEAR

It was the summer of 1988. The small winery called Straubing Vineyard, in the Town of Huron of Wayne County, was purchased by my family purely by chance. I was the only one who opposed, but my vote was totally disregarded by the rest. So Straubing Vineyard became Thorpe Vineyard. Wayne County has always been known for its apple and other tree fruits production, but there weren't any other commercial wineries or vineyards to my knowledge then. When I felt the necessity to discuss the vineyard and grape management, as well as wine and winemaking, I learned to ride down to the Finger Lakes. One time I was asked which lake I was from, and I answered 'Lake Ontario'. That's correct, it's not a Finger Lake. I still remember the surprised look I got.

A few years ago my friend and I were supposed to meet at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva to attend a winemakers' seminar. As he was not familiar with the location, I tried to give him the instructions where to find me. He chuckled and said, "You know, you are easy to spot around here!" I know I'm a female Asian among mostly Caucasian males in the wine and grape industry of Upstate New York. The situation is still pretty much the same as my college days when I was often the only girl among 10 to 20 students in the classroom...

DON'T MISS THE ENTIRE STORY!

Visit ThorpeVineyard.com or fumiethorpe.wordpress.com 



8150 CHIMNEY HEIGHTS BLVD.
WOLCOTT, NY 14590



TRILLIUM RIDGE TIMES

by Fumie Thorpe and the Crew
at
Thorpe Vineyard
"The Little Winery on the Great Lake!"

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8150 CHIMNEY HEIGHTS BLVD. WOLCOTT, NY 14590 | 315-594-2502 | WWW.THORPEVINEYARD.COM | SPRING 2013



Our 25th Anniversary. If it's not surprising, I don't know what else to say. Time indeed flies while we are having a good time (is that what you say?! As was in the past, we are planning to have the anniversary glasses and wine this year. And the drawings to win a free bottle of wine! All the details follow, and thank you for being with us for so long.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS >>>

Our Tasting Room will be open for the season at 12noon on Friday, April 5th!

TASTING ROOM HOURS

April 5th - June 20th
Fri.-Sun. 12noon-6pm

June 21st - September 8th
Daily 11am-6pm

Sunset Tastings
on summer Saturdays through sunset

September 9th - October 31st
Fri.- Sun. 12noon-6pm

November & December
Fri.- Sun. 12noon-5pm

HELLO TO EMAILS!

TRANSITIONING FROM PRINT TO ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

It was November 1990 when we first mailed out our flyer. It was just a note from us typed on our letterhead. Over the years it has grown into a more official form of newsletter, from my fondness of writing. Then the electronic communication system evolved dramatically in the last few years. It is easy, fast and very liberal for colorful graphics. So we launched our email newsletter in December 2011. It was well-received by the readers, though caused some emotional challenge to me. It's quick, but not a right means to post a story. My web designer heard me, and set the blog page on the website for my writing. That would work!

After all these years this is the last print newsletter from Thorpe Vineyard. However, it doesn't

mean I will quit sending my messages out. We'll continue emailing our online newsletters that cover a lot about the winery. Maybe there will be a short story or two. When there is a lot on my mind, I'll write down and post them on my blog, and make an announcement via email newsletter and Facebook. You are always able to find any articles you might have missed in our archives.

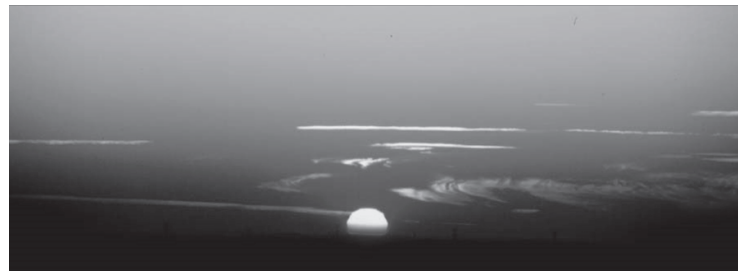
So, sign up for the email newsletter! You can do so on our website or Facebook page. Here's something to encourage you --- we will pick a name from new signups every month to give away a free bottle of wine! Like us on Facebook, too! We'll do another drawing there every month for a free bottle. If you sign up both, you'll have two chances to win!



OUR ANNIVERSARY "STANDARDS"

Glasses: As was in the past milestone anniversaries, we will have specially made 25th anniversary glasses. They will be larger in size than our regular tasting glass with our XXV anniversary logo etched in. You will get one of these FREE with a purchase of a case of wine. Of course, the glasses will also be available for purchase.

Wine: Yes, we will have an anniversary wine again, too! We are planning to have a small event to release it in June. What will the wine be? It's still a secret right now. It will be announced when the date of the event is set. So sign up and like us on Facebook as this kind of information always appears there first!



SUNSET TASTING AT THORPE VINEYARD

As it became so popular, we will continue this summertime Saturday evening tasting this year! It will be every Saturday, rain or shine, from 6pm until sunset. We will have some nibbles as well. Enjoy the nice comfortable evening watching the sunset over the Lake with a glass of wine. We plan to start this on June 22nd and the last will be August 31st.

STARRY STARRY NIGHT AT THORPE VINEYARD

Fumie's idea has further developed this year, and finally these little events have been scheduled four times this summer. She wants you to join her looking up at the starry night sky to get accustomed with the constellations. She will talk about Greek and Roman Mythology as well as some of those counterparts found in the East. She's not sure yet, but is hoping to have some access to a telescope. Do you have one and feel like sharing the fun with others? Let her know. It is planned from sunset to 11pm on these Saturdays: July 6th & 27th and August 10th & 24th, weather permitting. We may be lucky to start the night with the flyby of the International Space Station or catch a few streaks from the Perseids meteor shower in August!



WIN A BOTTLE OF WINE!

Every month we draw new winners from our Facebook fans, so make sure you "like" us today!

ALSO: Everyone new to our online newsletter has a chance to win every month! Plus, all our readers get the latest news and updates from the vineyard. Visit ThorpeVineyard.com to sign up today!

STARRY STARRY NIGHT

When I was in junior high school, I happened to acquire a small telescope. It was a secondhand 4-inch refractor, and if I think about it now, it was missing the weight to counter-balance the body of the telescope. However, there was nothing else so wrong to keep me from aiming it at the objects in the night sky. Even in light polluted Tokyo where I grew up, I managed to learn how to use it to observe the heavenly bodies. It definitely made me grow into a night owl, but at the same time it gave me a whole new world, literally the universe, I had never known before.

Later in junior high and high school I got into literature, especially poetry, very seriously. Through that channel my art-oriented friends brought various kinds of visual arts and music to my life. My specialty has been always classical, but they opened up my windows to rock and pops as well. When they

were busy trying to memorize the entire "American Pie" to sing at a school concert, I became more fascinated by "Vincent." I wasn't aware

then that it was about Van Gogh, though I knew of the dispute between him and Gauguin, and its aftermath. It is easy to attribute the tragedy to the fine sensitivity of the artist, but the despair from his sense of isolation is often not so distant.

So, the Starry Starry Night. It's time to get out and stare at those shiny little things; time to let our minds go far beyond the scientific facts. Before we face to the solitude; before we feel helpless. There is no way that we lose the means of finding the hopes within the universe as the beauty of the night sky is endless. So, for our own Starry Starry Night, I hope you all will join.



VINCENT VAN GOGH'S FAMOUS STARRY NIGHT

ALOPECIA AREATA

"Fumie, do you know you have a bald spot here?" My hairdresser was touching the back of my head, just above the hairline. I knew I had a small bald spot around there; it was a scar from a small wound I got when I was a kid. But I thought she knew about it. She turned the chair around and handed me a hand-held mirror to show it in the bigger mirror in front of me--- Yah, right. There was a bald spot out there, about the size of a quarter. She told me to keep my eye on it as those things could get bigger quickly.

I remember my sister had one a long time ago. Her baby girl had to be hospitalized from an infection. My little niece was in and out of the hospital for a short while before fully recovery, and my sister was obviously under serious stress. They say stress causes this round baldness, called alopecia areata, and it tends to run in the family. I couldn't think of my life being free from any stress, and since my sister eventually got well completely, I was not that concerned about the fact that I had a bald spot on my head. It was April 2010.

Every time I saw my hairdresser, the bald spots changed their locations and sizes. While some spots filled in, a

few new spots appeared. But I was losing more than gaining overall. By Spring 2011 I wasn't able to walk out from the house without a hat, and any remaining hair was turning white. One morning in April last year I woke up and found my right eyebrow gone. "-----" My eyebrows never looked like those of Brooke Shields, but it was truly an overnight episode. I was amazed. My doctor put me through a number of tests to figure out the cause of this alopecia. But so far we haven't discovered anything wrong with me physically.

It will be the fourth year this spring since the onset of the alopecia. I decided to take this occasion to make it public so that you all know what's going on. I occasionally receive emails and inquiries as well as the whispers from my helpers like, "Fumie, so-and-so was wondering if you were sick!" I'd like to thank you for your kind attention to the matter, and let me tell you that I'm totally fine except that I'm pretty bald right now.

The doctors tell me that there is no known cause of this type of alopecia, thus no effective treatment. It appears in about 2 percent of the population, and there are over 5 million people suffering from this disorder in the US (I'm just one of them). If any of you are in the medical field and discover the mechanism of alopecia and its remedy, I bet that could be Nobel Prize material.