

## **FROM THE OWNERS OF 42 MOUNTAIN**

42 Mountain Avenue is the prettiest house we'll ever live in, on one of the prettiest streets in Maplewood. From the moment we saw our home 18 years ago, the appeal of its Georgian revival architecture really affected us, and we fell in love with it. That said, it needed plenty of TLC. But we were determined to honor its history and set about to make sure it looked its best by its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011. Of course, we have continued to dote on it. During the many renovations, we discovered a few fun secrets. An engraved holiday card from the 1920s wedged inside one of the window seats, beautiful pocket doors to the dining room hidden inside the center hall walls, a neighborhood map from 1928 that mysteriously shows a residential address for our garage. During a landscaping project, we found old hot & cold water pipes running from the house to the basement of the garage, indicating, along with its decorative window, that perhaps a caretaker had lived there, below the horse and carriage area where we now park our cars. Our children loved the secret areas in the attic to hide in, and the back staircase to sneak downstairs to the kitchen for a late night snack.

The balconies let you step outside from the master bedroom and from the home office. The side balcony, with plenty of room to lounge, has a great view of our garden, which to us, is a very important extension of the house. One of our best friends, a professional landscape architect, designed a three-tiered private backyard space with hedges, patio, deck, pond, and plantings encircling the house that offers something for everyone. The corner pond and the wood bench garden are perfect areas for quiet time. The large bluestone patio with a gas grill that leads into both the kitchen and the sunroom provides ample circulation for outdoor dining and get togethers of any size, we can attest! But the heart of the home is inside. Not just the expanded kitchen with all the features one could want, but the charm of the architecture... detailed moldings and carved mantels, decorative radiators, original wood floors, sidelight windows, built-in cabinets, high ceilings, and multiple hearths created an ambiance for many special family occasions over the years. It's time now for us to share this unique home with a new family who'll make their own special memories. We're heading to a new coast, for new experiences and adventures, but in another old home - with a special garden.