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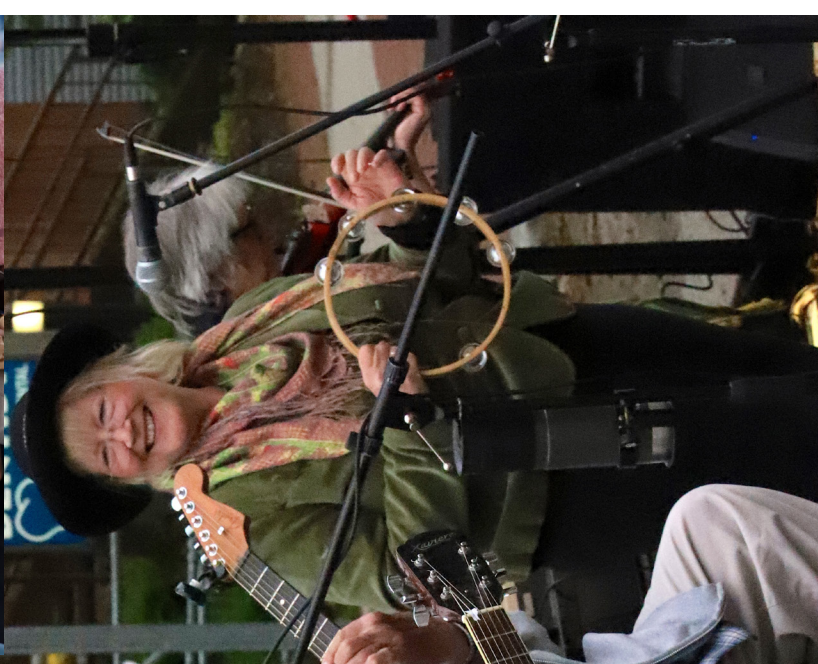
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Looking Up:

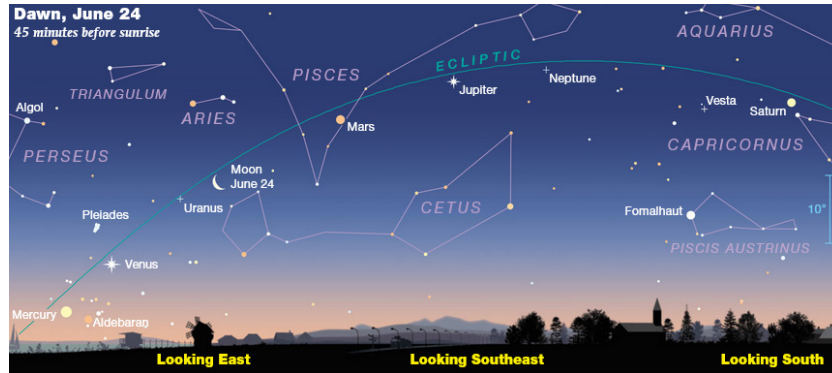
Magic and Myths and Cloudy Eclipses

By Bob Grindle

There is a complexity to the way our senses are connected to our imagination. The aroma of a particular food being prepared in the kitchen can transport us across decades of stored memories to that one spot in our hippocampus where a few brain cells have neatly pressed a precious bit of history into a volume in our life's neural library...life was simple then, or was it?...or has time managed to edit the memory in ways to make it strut more to our liking across our life's stage. We have all been there, listening to a song or piece of music when a tear wells up or a smile crosses our lips and the magic of a brain that has enabled the development of our species' shared humanity sparks up a memory...suddenly we're tangled up in a zip-line whisking our helpless imagination over the deep canyons and across the impossible webs of life's many uncharted paths and hopes and dreams and fears and heartaches to the hidden recesses where our better angels and the fire-breathing dragons of our lesser urges are always jousting for a bit of our time. The loss of a loved one; a failed effort; a misdeed or moral lapse; a promise not kept or a dream not worked at and left to die on the back-room floor of our busy lives, all of these scarecrows and more that our senses can magically find at the tip of a neuron when prompted by the simplest of sparks—perhaps just the sound of a child's laughter—and almost as if a wand has been waved, our world is altered.

But of course there's nothing magic about it. Our species has always sought to understand what's going on around us...when we didn't have the facts and before we developed the scientific method of trial and error, we often created myths and tales of the supernatural. We are storytellers, after all...it was how we organized hard-to-explain

details and difficult to understand events into a narrative that made remembering and then re-telling it easier. And of course few things are harder to understand and explain than ourselves. Fortunately, as we come to understand the science of how things actually work, nothing is lost of the wonder of sliding down a rabbit hole into our imagination. Whether it is Pan's Labyrinth, Alice in Wonderland, the carnival coming to town or simply a moody day-dreaming gaze out the window into a world that often seems to need a bit of touching-up, we all know the feeling of drifting off-topic, and perhaps the pleasure of unsaddling our thoroughbred adulthood in search of the wild, high-plains ponies of our youth.



On this pleasant eastern Connecticut spring evening I'm just arriving at the town hall for a Friday evening meeting—this has to be the worst consequence of civic involvement...Friday evening meetings, really?—and, as good fortune would have it, there is an end-of-school celebration going on at the town pavilion. The laughter, and smells of food cooking, as well as the yells and excited whoops and hollers of kids...freshly finished with their last day of school...and playing the variety of games that can often result when a large group of varying-age school

kids get together, all combine to make me feel as though the business of the community isn't such a tough assignment after all. Out of the truck and into the meeting; the tempered sounds of the outdoor celebration offer a somewhat distracting counterpoint to our deliberations. The meeting ends. I walk out into the gathering shades of early night as the organizers of the school's-out-for-summer fling are busily cleaning up while the now softer sounds of kids winding down help to remind me that the hard work of putting together a good time is its own kind of civic assignment. Again, it occurs to me: Friday evening meetings, really? And down the rabbit hole I go.

And does it count when I say down the rabbit hole, but I'm looking up into the greatest rabbit hole of them all. It's early evening as I leave the meeting and the Moon is not yet up—perhaps still a little stage-drunk from its performance on Sunday night, the 15th, when anyone with clear skies had a truly award winning eclipse performance—but for the moment Arcturus is just twinkling into view in the Eastern sky and the Gemini twins, Castor and Pollux, are visible in the western sky. As I get into the truck, looking up into the southern sky where just last Sunday the Moon was in full eclipse, I pull out my phone and revisit pictures my son forwarded to me from a colleague who lives in Bozrah...a series of excellent pictures he took of the eclipse...and I smile to recall the clouds that moved down from the north just as the Earth was about enter the Sun's shadow here in Hampton. What a difference just a few miles can make. Bozrah was perfectly clear.

But on to June! When Massachusetts poet James Russell Lowell penned the line "What is so rare as a day in June..." he was probably not thinking about the skies over New England because there is so much to enjoy right here on the ground that looking up is almost an afterthought. But looking up into the predawn sky about 4:30-4:45 any morning of this delightful month you'll be treated to several of the naked-eye planets, all of them in fact on Friday, June 24th. On the early mornings of June 24th thru the 27th the waning crescent Moon will move gradually down the eastern sky from Jupiter past Mars, then to Venus and finally fading out just below Mercury on the eastern horizon, and if you have a good pair of binoculars you can see all seven planets on the morning of the 24th.

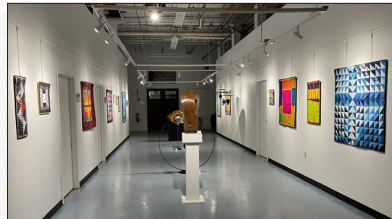
Enjoy this delightful month in all its New England Earthly glory, and when a bit of escape seems as right as a cool drink on a warm summer's day, by all means slip down a rabbit hole or two and enjoy an imaginative tour on your very own magic carpet.

On our cover: 5.19.22. Faces in the Willimantic 3rd Thursday Streetfest crowd. Clockwise from top left: Peter Rost, Phil Caron, Tommy Whalen, Nadine Boudissa, Ruth Hartunian-Alumbaugh, Nolan Lambert and Laura Rosas, Peggy Ann Contos Harvey, Patty Tuite, Bruce John, Wild Bill Furey and Eric Engman. Thank you Peter Polomski for the great photos.

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The Center's purpose is to bring a heightened awareness to the significance of local history and preservation; provide an appreciation for the visual arts through education, creation and display; and offer performance events and opportunities for creative expression in music, film, dance, literature, and theater.

Concluding our July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 Season

We would like to thank all of our patrons, sponsors, donors, members, volunteers, and artists who have continued to support us during this challenging year. We are sincerely grateful for your continued belief in our mission, and wish you a safe and healthy summer!

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The Purpose of Neighbors:
-To encourage reading
-To provide a place where ideas, writing, artwork and photographs of area residents can be shared
-To encourage people to get involved in their communities
-To begin to solve national and global problems on a local basis
-To provide useful information
-To serve the inhabitants and environment of our region

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Learning From Dementia

By Loretta Wrobel



Over the last few years, I have been following the almost daily blogs of Wendy Mitchell. She was diagnosed with early onset dementia in 2014 when she was 58. She lives in England and even though she has advanced memory loss, she has not lost her typing competency. Therefore, she is able to use her computer as her memory.

Recently she participated in a coffee hour with Suki Chan, a filmmaker who has used Wendy's descriptions as the basis for her visual representation of what it is like to have dementia. I watched this video and appreciated all the wisdom that Wendy readily shares with the world, and how certain activities help her cope with her limited memory. Ms. Mitchell expresses herself well through her computer, and at times can be verbally articulate but frequently can't find the appropriate word. Her cognitive functioning varies, some days are good and some are not.

I have been drawn in and captivated by the journey this woman has been on since her diagnosis. Even though the initial diagnosis was a shock and totally devastating, she has learned to appreciate and enjoy the present moment. Now she only lives in the present moment, as she has little short-term memory. Her ability to use the computer assists her, as she can look back to what she typed to see how her day progressed. She describes her experience of dementia as a fog descending. The fog prevents her from functioning until it lifts.

She speaks about the gift of time. Dementia forced her to stop and live in the now. Prior to her diagnosis, she lived waiting for weekends or vacations. She spent much of her days not appreciating where she was. Since her life has changed, she is able to value time and make the most of the time she has. She acknowledges that we only really have the present moment; we are never sure what will happen later, tomorrow, or next year.

She feels her diagnosis has given her the gift of time to learn. She has learned to use a camera since her diagnosis. She uses her camera to capture simple moments. Wendy loves to walk. In her former life, she was a runner. Now she walks miles each day. She documents her daily walks with enchanting pictures of what she has encountered, such as turtles, ducks, birds, sheep, flowers, sunrises, clouds, dogs and people. As she tells her story, she walks the same walk, but each day the walk is different. Her joy is that she is never bored. She jokes that since she has no short-term memory, it is a new walk each day. The process of slowing down and witnessing the sun rising, animals eating, and the flowers blooming is soothing and healing.

Wendy shared her difficulties and gratitude living with hallucinations. One experience was when she couldn't see her shed. Her brain told her the shed had been stolen. Before calling the police, she came up with the solution of touching the shed and taking a picture of it, which proved to her the shed had not been stolen. Sharing a positive hallucination, she saw her father in the garden after he had been dead for 20 years. It was a loving and touching encounter to see her father in person and share that exquisite time with him again, if only for a few moments.

Ms. Mitchell also discussed the gift of becoming more creative. She couldn't remember what was in each cupboard. She took a picture of the inside and put the picture on the door. When she couldn't see things on the walls, she put a blue border around the light switch, and everything came into focus.

Wendy worked with filmmaker, Suki Chan, who created the video "Fog in My Head." Suki developed a video of Wendy's description of how dementia takes over. These two women collaborated, and both benefitted from

their relationship.

Wendy has written two books--*Somebody I Used to Know*, her first, and *What I Wish People Knew about Dementia*. She collaborates with many medical professionals to teach best practices for a person to manage with a dementia diagnosis. She is able to spell out simple solutions that enable people with cognitive issues to be less fearful, tense and stressed. Visual distortions are frequent. An inability to distinguish colors is a real safety issue. When dementia takes over, people need time and patience to respond to questions. She has done several zooms with other folks with dementia and they share their horrors, joys and many laughs.

After listening to this video, I realized that the gifts Ms. Mitchell shared are important for all of us during this time of world suffering, trauma and constant shocks. We need to breathe in the magical moments to refresh and restore our battered hearts and give us hope. Sitting at my table for breakfast, a yellow warbler waved a good morning with its bright yellow body and red-streaked breast. I was thrilled to have been blessed by this cheerful, colorful life force. This simple awareness of acknowledging special treats can ground us. We need grounding because our world repeatedly overwhelms, saddens, and horrifies us.

Wendy doesn't get negative and resentful. She practices gratefulness. Her focus is on what she can do and not what she can't. She is open to learning, and walks into each day with interest, passion, and joy.

I am impressed by her ability to cope. Before dementia grabbed her, she was a skilled problem solver. Now she solves many tough issues by being proactive and using devices to aid her in managing her unpredictable memory. She greets everyone she encounters, and when traveling, wears a lanyard that announces her disability. Her whole personality changed with Alzheimer's. She used to be reserved and a loner. Now she is outgoing, ready to engage with anyone and extremely social.

When we are honest and open about ourselves, where we shine and where we struggle, we create a fuller and more meaningful life. Life truly is what you make it. We can use Wendy as an example. She has been able to embrace and accept her diagnosis, and we can learn from her unique strategies. In our tense, troubling, and disorienting world, we can adapt her methods and techniques to keep ourselves hopeful and ingest the beauty around us. By acknowledging our vulnerabilities, we can stay open to the joys and possibilities that exist in the present moment.

Summer Music at The Fletch

Submitted by Janice Trecker

Following the success of last year's Bach in the Garden, Mark Davis returns to The Fletch with Mark & Beverly & Friends, three free Wednesday afternoon programs. June 8 will feature the Hampton Trio (mandolin, mandola & guitar); July 13, The Mark and Beverly Davis Classical Guitar Duo, and August 10, Café Trio Plus (mandolin, guitar, accordion and bass) for world folk music.

In addition, The Green Valley Pickers, Jamie Boss with Sue Way, will perform three Wednesday concerts of folk and popular favorites, June 22, July 27, and August 24. The library's annual summer evening concert with The Subliminals on July 20 will complete the summer music line up.

The afternoon programs will all run from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the library's butterfly garden. In case of rain, the concerts will move to the library's function room. Fletcher Memorial Library is at 257 Main Street, Hampton. Info 860 455 1086.

Second Saturday Community Breakfast

Columbia Congregational Church
8AM – 11AM Route 87 in the Parish Hall

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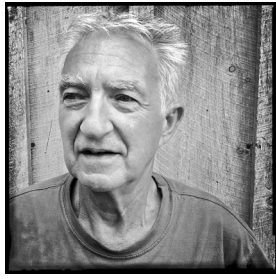
8 Meadow Trail, Coventry

One block off South Street Behind the convenience store (cow painted on front)

Family Strong

By David Corsini

The High Street Hill-side garden in Willimantic has a new addition—my assemblage called **Family Strong**. This is the story of the minor miracles involved in how this assemblage of three large radiators came to be in the garden.



More than 25 years ago the radiators that form the assemblage were sold as scrap metal at Willimantic Waste. From the size of the radiators, I believe they came from one of the mills in Willimantic. At that time people were allowed into the scrap yard and could pick out pieces to purchase. The first miracle was that my friend and artist Ale Berlin saw these humanoid pieces and purchased them. I believe there were originally six radiators. He made an assemblage with three of the pieces and gave me the other three. On the wall of my studio I have posted a quote from Virginia Woolf's diary that says: "Arrange whatever pieces come your way." And that is what I did with these radiators—I arranged them into a family grouping.

For many years this assemblage was displayed on a bed of pine bark mulch behind my barn in Windham Center. The family faithfully monitored the pile of junk behind my barn, where grey fox pups and raccoons played. The only people to view the assemblage were friends and those who visited me during Artist's Open Studio. One visitor offered to buy it, but it was not for sale.

When Delia and I moved into Willimantic, the assemblage was taken down and put to rest in the woods at my son's house on Browns Road. And there it served as a pantry for mice to store acorns for nine years. I thought the pieces were too nice to just rot away. While the three elements could stand by themselves, they were not steady and could easily be pushed over. So, I could not just display them "as is" somewhere in the community. I needed help.

I thought of Faith Kenton who had done amazing work with the garden club to establish gardens around Willimantic. She had also headed up the very successful 325 Tree and Shrub project. So, one night when we were entertaining Faith and her husband Steve, I showed Faith a photo of the assemblage and asked if she could think of a spot for it. Next miracle- Faith was taken by the piece and promised to help find a place.

With the good prospect of finding a home for the assemblage, I next had to get it out of the woods and figure out how to install it in a secure way. I showed the photo on the assemblage to my friend and skilled craftsman Johnnie Walker. The next miracle was that Johnnie liked the looks of the piece, was between jobs and agreed to help. I am sure he did not know what he was getting himself into. But he does like a challenge and he does like unusual projects.

The next step was getting the three elements from the woods into the studio. Johnnie has a trailer for his car and a helper, Mike. Moving the pieces requires two strong people. Johnnie and I have studios at Moulton Court, but neither of us had room in our studios. But luckily there was a vacant studio we could use.

Johnnie began the process of figuring out how to secure the assemblage. The first plan was to find sturdy pieces of metal to drive into the ground beside each piece. Then each radiator could be attached. Local scrap yards no longer allowed sales to the public, but Johnnie found a place in South Windsor that did allow sales. So, one Saturday morning Johnnie and I went to find metal stakes. We found things that could work. We left with 460 lbs of metal. The prize find was two 12-foot-long pieces of 1 1/2 inch rebar. The plan was to cut these into shorter lengths that could be pounded into the ground, so that the radiators could be attached.

In the meantime, Faith was talking with garden club people about the assemblage. The group planning a renovation of Garden on the Bridge expressed an interest in having the assemblage there. However, the renovation of that garden was more than a year away. I was not going to wait.

Then Faith thought about the new garden on High Street and talked with Yves Krause, who had been working on the garden for more than a year. He was open to the idea of having the assemblage in the garden. Johnnie, Faith and I met with Yves to look over placements. A spot was selected. Preparing the site and installing the assemblage were somewhat disruptive of the garden. Throughout the process Yves was very supportive. Faith had found a spot for the assemblage and continued to be active in all aspects

Photo by Pat Calvo.



of the project.

The more Johnnie thought about the plan to stabilize the radiators, the less he liked the idea of attaching them to stakes. He thought the best approach would be to pour a concrete slab and attach the pieces to that with hardware.

Getting a concrete slab became another problem to be solved. A 4' X 6' slab 5" thick is not much concrete for a concrete company, but it is a lot to mix by hand. So, Johnnie, Faith and I headed off to Builders Concrete East to see if they would help. The manager, Julie Melvin, was not there. We showed the secretary a photo of the project and told her what we were doing. We got contact information for the manager. I sent an email to Julie with a photo of the assemblage and what we wanted. Later I called Julie and she was very receptive to the project and said she would help. I said Johnnie would call her with details. Johnnie called and the arrangement was that after the 4' X 6' frame was in place, he would call. And then, when a truck with a leftover load of concrete was available, she would send it our way.

Days later, when Johnnie and his helper Mike had the frame in place, Johnnie called Julie and the concrete



Volunteers Mike (at left) and Johnnie Walker do the heavy lifting needed to assemble 'Family Strong.' Tom King photo.

truck arrived within 30 minutes. Our entire interaction with the employees of Builders Concrete East—the secretary, the manager Julie, and the truck driver Junior was so pleasant and smooth that it qualifies as another miracle. Thank you Builders Concrete East.

Meanwhile back in the studio, Johnnie and Mike were drilling holes in the base of the three radiators and making a template with bolts that would be embedded in the concrete in the exact places for the desired orientation of the three pieces.

It is difficult to describe the creative, problem solving skills of Johnnie Walker and his abilities to establish warm relationships with the people that we encountered during this project. Family Strong would not be standing where it is without his magic.

When people view Family Strong, I want them to think about the importance of family. Strong families are important for the development of healthy individuals and for a vibrant and healthy community.

When this assemblage was behind my barn, I referred to it as the Radiator Family. But that name did not impress me. I thought perhaps we would have a community-wide naming contest. But then, Family Strong, popped into my head and I declared myself the winner of the naming contest. As the prize was sharing a glass of wine with the artist, I was quite happy to have two glasses of wine.

So THANKS to: Faith, Johnnie, Yves, Julie, and Mike for their help with this project. And, if anyone can use two 12' lengths of 1 1/2 "rebar, let us know. We would probably cut you a deal.

Of Roosters and Men



This photo of Rooster Rueben was taken by his owner, Dr. Hailey Quercia.

By Delia Berlin

A friend of mine who keeps chickens recently referred to one of her roosters as "a real gentleman," noting how rare a quality that is for roosters. I immediately knew what she meant. Her rooster wasn't exactly holding doors open for his chickens, but he was considerate, respectful, and protective of them. One may easily imagine him as every chicken's dream rooster.

As we talked about roosters, my mind drifted to men, so different and yet so similar, thanks to their shared abundance of testosterone. It also seems difficult to find real gentlemen among men. Personally, either by careful choosiness or by good fortune, I've been successful. I have many good male friends, in addition to the one I'm married to. The selection process wasn't perfect, since I had to peck away more than a few bidders. But I know that many men have some of the best qualities that the human species has to offer.

Clearly, plenty of other males out there are best kept at a distance. Archetypal males bear most of the responsibility for wars and inflict most of the suffering on others. While some women may be just as bad, they tend to be overrepresented among victims and not among aggressors. One would think that by now women would have been selecting good qualities in their partners for so long and so consistently that males would have evolved to be like the nice rooster. Who wouldn't choose a co-parent who is considerate, respectful, and protective? But something somewhere must have gone very wrong.

In my own relationships I always expected consideration and respect, but never thought I would need protection. I may have been wrong. In the forty years I have been with David, I easily remember one occasion when protection was essential. We were in Turks and Caicos and went out dancing one night. We found a remote place with a reggae band that was filled with local people and no tourists. We danced to our hearts' content, until a big guy came out of nowhere just to "take me" away. He grabbed my arm and I had a moment of panic, unable to imagine my gentle husband saying anything but "OK, if you must..." But David was a good rooster—a great rooster, actually. Decisive, he just said NO and put himself between the guy and me. He moved me away and the guy retreated. Strong as I am, I couldn't have escaped without his help. (Thank you, David! I hope you haven't regretted saving me!)

According to the National Institutes of Health, the main cause of death of pregnant women is homicide. Incredible as it seems, murder takes the lives of almost twice as many women as all other pregnancy-related causes. Most of these deaths come at the hands of husbands or domestic partners. Granted, these partners may not be able to pass on their violent tendencies to those particular babies, but undoubtedly, they'll try again.

Recently, upset by attempts to limit women's rights to control their own bodies, David expressed his desire to see women fighting back with more rage. While he spoke out of empathy, describing the rage he would feel if he were a woman, I argued that now, women really need more men to feel and act that rage too. It's a battle women can't win alone. It's a great time for men to learn from good roosters. Men of the world, please rage with women. Because if you don't protect your chickens, the fox will be coming for you too.



Spirit Bridge

By Judy Davis

Vibrant colors tint the lands of my ancestors. Shadowy echoes cling to the walls of my heart, carrying my present. I cart my past, in baskets of sage and cedar.

Those who have gone before gently urge me to share their stories; to remember their names for new generations.

Yet before I speak, I close my eyes, and breathe deeply. Then, I stride across the spirit bridge, as the beat of the drums summon me home.

Cruelty to Animals and Children

By Angela Hawkins Fichter

At the end of March, 2022 CT newspapers and TV news were full of information about a Hebron woman and her home. She was arrested for animal cruelty. According to a newspaper article, authorities said they found more than 50 dogs, cats and other animals living in squalor in her home. She had been “rescuing” animals. Found in her home were 35 dogs, 19 cats, and 2 parakeets, living in filth in her home. The floors were covered in urine and feces. Outside sharing a small space were 1 pony, 2 goats and geese in 3 feet of manure and hay. She was arrested. Her public defender told the court she was a nurse and in the process of a divorce. The court told her to stop “rescuing” animals.

The animals were seized and taken for veterinary care. State animal control officers said they will be sure the animals go to homes with proper care. This story started with two animal control officers and an investigator from the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) going to this Hebron woman’s home due to complaints about the animal situation. The investigator from DCF was there because state law has found there is frequently an association of child endangerment where there is animal abuse.

Gee, you may think, why would the state think animal abuse and child abuse go hand in hand? Well, maybe you don’t know that laws to protect children and animals from abuse are fairly new. From 1620 when the pilgrims came and throughout the 1600’s, 1700’s, and most of the 1800’s, what a person did to animals he owned was his business. Likewise with children, if it was your child, you weren’t arrested for beating your own child, because everyone knew that children must be disciplined, and it was your child. The first law against child abuse came after the law against animal abuse, and the animal protectors are the first ones who lobbied for a law against child abuse. The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was founded in 1874.

In 1866 the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was founded. In 1874 the ASPCA was approached by a church asking for help because a certain child was being beaten daily by its foster mother. The church had appealed to others before going to the ASPCA. The ASPCA got the child away from the abuser and saw that the state prosecuted the foster mother for assault and battery. It was then that the ASPCA was approached and asked to help create a society to protect children. They did so and helped to get laws passed requiring custodians to provide food, clothing, medical care and supervision, plus laws passed to prohibit child endangerment, laws against sale of intoxicants to children, laws against employment of children in sweatshops and factories and limiting their weekly employment hours, laws against letting children live in drug dens and houses of prostitution.

The need for protection of those in a position of vulnerability is what the ASPCA saw, and they acted.

To all our contributors- Thank You!

Without your submissions of writing, poetry, artwork and photographs, this paper would not exist. T. King, Publisher

Eagle Scout Project Revives Burial Ground

It Takes a Village: Eagle Scout Project Revives Old Abington Burial Ground and Builds Community

By Donna Dufresne

On April 29th, a group of volunteers descended upon the Old Abington Burial Ground to support Owen Gratton’s Eagle Scout project. The goal was to clear brush, clean and repair gravestones, and honor the sixty plus Revolutionary War veterans buried there. Boy Scout Troop 92, parents, neighbors, history buffs and gravestone experts worked tirelessly to revive the long-neglected cemetery. Gratton, a sophomore at Killingly High School, lives in Abington near the burial ground. He and his family have helped place veteran flags for Memorial Day for several years, but many of the stones have become unreadable due to lichen or have succumbed to nearly three hundred years of New England Winters.

Like many small towns in Connecticut there is no money available to maintain the colonial cemeteries, especially those which are no longer accepting burials. Although the town provides mowing, there is no budget for repairing, cleaning, and keeping the brush and invasives at bay. Veterans from the French Indian War, Revolution, and the War of 1812 have gone unrecognized due to the deterioration of their stones.

The Old Abington Burial Ground is significant as it holds the bones of many of the first proprietors and settlers of Pomfret. To name a few, the Ingalls, who operated taverns and manufactured silk in one of their houses during the Revolution are one of the many prominent Abington families. The writer, Laura Ingalls Wilder is one of their descendants. Some of the infants of Captain and Elizabeth Cunningham are memorialized in marble stone. Elizabeth gave birth to many children but only two survived into adulthood. The Kimballs, Sharpes and Fays of the Jericho Section of Abington, as well as the Griggs, Osgood, and Grosvenor families hold their ground in stones that lean heavily toward the earth. Ebenezer Holbrook, Squire Sessions, and Nathaniel Ayers, who operated some of Pomfret’s early mills lie beneath the rugged ground. This sacred ground is a treasure trove of social history, a record of infant and maternal mortality, disease patterns such as smallpox, economic trends and military records.

Eagle Scout Projects are designed to benefit communities rather than individuals, and ultimately engender civic engagement. During the process, an Eagle Scout develops and demonstrates leadership and organizational skills and service that fulfills a community need. With the help of a diverse community, Owen has designed a project that will have a lasting effect on Pomfret History. He was able to engage gravestone repair expert, Michael Carroll from *Rediscovering History*, who donated the new flagpole and flag; Ruthie Brown from the *New England Gravestone Network*, who cleaned several of the stones infested with lichen, and a posse of Boy Scouts who cleared brush along the stone wall. Owen’s father, David Gratton donated a granite stone which was engraved by Mercer Monuments of Plainfield as a donation.

The memorial stone recognizes the veterans in the Old Abington Burial Ground whose names we may not know, a reminder of stories forgotten and yet untold as we uncover and rediscover the past. But more importantly, the vision of one Eagle Scout has reminded us that it takes a village to preserve and keep history alive. The volunteers, including myself, came from diverse backgrounds, political and belief systems. Yet we became a mighty force, contributing our skillsets, expertise, and labor to meet the goals and objectives of an excellent Eagle Scout Project that will outlive our efforts. The revival and restoration of the Old Abington Burial Ground proves that Civic engagement, community, leadership, organization, and service can be accomplished with grace – an example of true American grit.

Alanon Meetings in Willington

Alanon, a meeting for friends and families of alcoholics, is meeting every Friday morning from 10-11:00 in the Conference Room at the Willington Public Library, on 7 Ruby Rd. in Willington.

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The Neighbors paper
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From the Ground Up - Buying Local in Connecticut

UConn's Spring Valley Farm

By C. Dennis Pierce

Today was one of those dreary days that could not make up its mind. Rain had pummeled the yard the night before and by eight o'clock this morning my sneakers were wet, through and through. I hate when that happens because I had a chock filled morning agenda starting with the Windham Garden Club plant sale at nine, followed by the first day at the Willimantic Farmer's Market, then a stop at the Tri County Garden center in search of some unacquainted tomato plants to add to this year's garden.

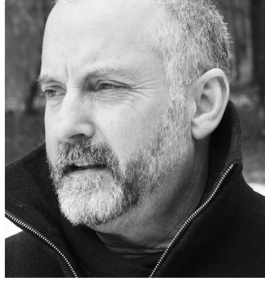
Today, while traveling the back roads that I have done hundreds of times before, I took note of the constant presence of the adjacent stone walls whose initial purpose was to mark the boundaries of the numerous farms that originally occupied the area. Sometimes I forget that Mansfield had its roots (no pun intended) in farming. Besides the presence of the silk mills, agriculture was one of the mainstays of the community. At the start of the settlement by English colonists in the 1700's large parcels of the town were cleared to make space for farms, housing and general expansion. With Mansfield's significant agricultural contributions to Connecticut, it is no surprise that in 1881 the Storrs Agricultural School was established with donations of land and money from Charles and Augustus Storrs, two brothers from a prominent local family which owned a great deal of agricultural and residential land. Years later, the school was designated as a land grant university and now has a strong presence as an agricultural research institution.

Local residents and visitors are aware of the UConn Dairy Bar and adjoining barns but I would suggest that few know that the university still embraces its agricultural links at a student operated farm, called, Spring Valley Farm. Spring Valley Farm is adjacent to UConn's Depot campus, which at one point was the Mansfield Training School and Hospital. Before, I describe the history of the student farm I would like to share an excerpt from Rudy Favretti and Victoria Wetherell's book, *Mansfield Depot and Merrow*.

"Agriculture was such an important program at the Mansfield Training School and Hospital that in 1921, the State of Connecticut purchased Spring Manor Farm that had been developed by George H. Reynolds. This 512-acre tract included the improved land and forest, along with the Reynold's residence and the "model" farm at a cost of \$30,000. This acreage added to the 200 acres purchased earlier from Edwin Reynolds, his brother, totaled 712 acres owned and operated by the Training School. George H. Reynolds would be pleased to know that today his Spring Manor Farm, or at least the central part of it is farmed by the University of Connecticut undergraduate students of all majors and disciplines. Spring Valley farm, as it is now called, produces vegetables for the University Dining Services while practicing sustainable agricultural and community living."

I would like to thank Rudy, who allowed me to impart a passage from their book but also, I wanted let the readers know that Mansfield has a rich history and a great story to relive. Rudy has authored or co-authored several books that captures the history, family settlements, the evolution of the town, all combined with old photos of some of the original buildings. Two other historical sources for understanding Mansfield's agricultural history are Rudy's, *Mansfield Four Corners: What It Used to Be & George Washington Didn't See.* Rudy's book describes the importance of the section of the town called "Mansfield Four Corners" in the development of the town's population and early history by mainly using property records to describe the early farms and families. If you are interested in reading more about Mansfield, several of Rudy's books can be purchased at Mansfield Supply.

As history prevails, we find every farm has a story to tell. Those stone walls did not just appear and a student run farm did not grow out of a patch of weeds.... well maybe it did. Spring Valley began when Matt Oric-



chio, a Horticulture major at UConn. Matt envisioned a place that would allow students to develop an interest in organic farming. His vision stemmed from his experiences as a teenager, experimenting with growing plants and raising chickens in his backyard. He eventually proposed the idea to the University, asking permission to establish the farm with the help of another student, Jessica van Vlamertynghe. The Department of Residential Life supported their ideas and worked with them to provide the housing for the farm. The two moved in during the beginning of the spring semester of their Senior year in 2010 where they hastily got to work, clearing a one-acre plot for a variety of garden vegetables. Both had an interest in poultry farming, so they also decided to build a chicken coop where they raised a small flock of chickens. As summer approached Jess and Matt both graduated, however, the two resolved to live and work on the farm for the rest of the growing season. It was during this time that Spring Valley fully came together. They established a partnership



UConn students working in a Spring Valley Farm greenhouse.

Dennis Pierce photo.

with Dining Services who agreed to use the produce from the farm which was then used at the on-campus restaurant, Chuck and Augies. Even though they had put so much work into the farm, Matt and Jess knew they had to pass it on to other UConn students. In the fall of 2010, they planned for students from the EcoHouse Learning Community to move in the following spring semester. They held workshops for interested EcoHouse students, teaching them how to plant and harvest the crops and take care of the chickens. As time went on a farm manager, Juila Cartabiano was hired to provide consistency and guidance as students came and went. Julia did an amazing job by aligning the farm with an educational purpose combined with community outreach. Julia has just recently retired and Jess Larkin Wells, who was a student who lived and worked at the farm, has now taken on the leadership role as farm manager. Jess has also been very helpful in sharing farm related information that helped me write this column. -Additional information about the farm can be found at: <https://dining.uconn.edu/spring-valley-farm/>

Fresh spinach usually is the star of the Farmer Markets offerings in the early part of summer. Or if you really feel adventurous stop by one of the local garden centers and pick up small plants that have already been started. Add them to a bed that might hold herbs, lettuces etc. If the patch is close by your back door, you will be surprised that you will rely on your harvest to add to your meals.

GREEK STYLE SPINACH

Servings – 4 to 5

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Line a baking sheet with a paper towel.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound of fresh spinach
 - 2 tablespoons of olive oil
 - 1 ½ cups of minced onions
 - Salt to taste
 - 1 teaspoon of minced garlic
 - 4 ounces of chopped, fresh tomatoes
- For the topping:

- 1 cup of plain yogurt (regular or Greek style)
- Lightly toasted nuts such as pine nuts, sliced almonds, etc.
- Fresh ground pepper, to taste

Directions:

Stem the spinach and wash the leaves. Drain and transfer to a cutting board.
Chop spinach, but not too fine.
Place a large skillet over medium heat. Add oil when skillet is hot.
Add onion and sauté for about 3 to 5 minutes, stirring often.
Sprinkle with some of the salt. Reduce heat to low and continue cooking for 8 minutes longer until onion is softened.
Turn heat back up and add spinach and garlic to onion mixture. Sprinkle with some more salt.
Use tongs to toss the spinach and cook until wilted and bright green.
Add tomatoes and cook for a few more minutes, still turning with tongs.
Serve immediately on pre warmed plates, topping each serving with a dollop of yogurt, a light sprinkling of nuts and a few grinds of fresh pepper.

As I find myself spending more time with dirt under my fingernails, I have also been exploring new approaches to gardening. The most recent one is when planting tomatoes you are supposed to bury a whole egg under the plant before adding the plant. A typical egg shell contains calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, and other trace minerals and organic substances. And for tomato plants (and other vegetable plants too), that calcium can play a huge role in their health. Myth or great tip? I will let you know as the summer progresses.

Adieu, for another month. Remember to take the opportunity to stop by your local farmers market and support the local farming community. If you have a suggestion for a farm or a local grower or even a recipe that

would feature a local ingredient, please let me know. I will do my best to share your suggestions in a future column. Drop me a line at Codfish53@Yahoo.com.

...Peas be with you. Come celebrate with me and remember, every day is a holiday and every meal is a banquet. I'll save you a seat at the table!

Got a Light?

By Joe Pandolfo

We're getting near the June solstice. Can you feel more and more sun? It's rising and setting on a wider horizon. Middays, it cascades from straight overhead.



This time of year we can be a little more brilliant ourselves. It's the season of the Fire element, the Taoists say; the time when things in the living world radiate the most.

What lights you up? What's the inner energy others can see in your eyes, feel in your voice, get from your touch? It's ready to meet the daylight.

To be sure, we've endured some shadows the last few years. But what a great time it is now, with the June solstice near, to feel growing light. We all have it in us. It comes from the sun.

The Neighbors Paper
Locally Written
Locally Wread

Unsung Heroes of Soul:

Peggy Scott and Jo Jo Benson

By Dean Farrell

As host of "The Soul Express," I play the biggest names in 1960s and '70s-era soul music. I also mix in the many great soul artists who did not necessarily become household names but were no less talented. This month's column is about Peggy Scott & Jo Jo Benson, who cracked the pop top forty three times in 1968 and '69.

Jo Jo Benson (real name: Joseph M. Hewell) was born in Phenix City, Alabama, on April 15, 1938, and later moved to Columbus, Ohio. He began singing in clubs as a teen-ager and served as a back-up singer for Rhythm & Blues star Chuck Willis ("C.C. Rider," "What Am I Living For," *et al*). After Willis died in 1958, Benson worked with bands like the Upsetters and the Enchanters.

Peggy Scott (real name: Stoutmeyer) was born in Opp, Alabama, on June 25, 1948. Her father died when she was two. Three years later, she and her mother relocated to Pensacola, Florida. Scott honed her singing skills in a church choir. Her mother promoted gospel shows, which allowed the girl to meet Sam Cooke (then-lead singer of the Soul Stirrers). As a teen-ager, Scott had her own group, the Gospel Harmonettes. After high school, she turned to secular music and toured with Ben E. King ("Spanish Harlem," "Stand By Me"), who suggested the surname "Scott" for her.

Scott and Benson teamed up in the late 1960s and came to the attention of producer Shelby Singleton, who signed them to his Nashville-based label, SSS International. Their first release, the toe-tapping "Lover's Holiday," made the R&B top ten and the pop top forty and was awarded a gold record. Their follow-up single, "Pickin' Wild Mountain Berries," was an even bigger hit. And it gleaned a Grammy nomination.

Scott and Benson racked up four charted singles before they left SSS International for Atco in late 1969. When none of their releases for that label sold, they went their separate ways in 1971. Benson wound up owning several nightclubs in the Chattahoochee Valley of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. He was seriously wounded in a 1979 shooting incident. In 1983, he and Peggy Scott reunited for a one-off LP. In 1999, Benson recorded an acclaimed solo album, REMINISCING IN THE JAM ZONE, followed in 2001 by EVERYBODY LOVES TO CHA CHA CHA.

Meanwhile, Peggy Scott went to New York City to record for Old Town, and later Mercury and RCA. She also worked as a lounge singer in her native Pensacola. By 1988, she had moved to California and married City Commissioner Robert L. Adams, Sr., of Compton. At that point, she hyphenated her last name and took a break from the music business.

At the urging of singer-songwriter-producer Jimmy Lewis, Peggy Scott-Adams returned to the studio in 1996 to record her solo debut, HELP YOURSELF. It produced the single "Bill," about a wife who discovers that her husband is gay. The song was initially released only to blues stations but ended up getting considerable airplay on urban radio as well. It even reached #87 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 pop singles chart. Meanwhile, the album itself got



to #72 in *Billboard*, #9 on the R&B chart, and #1 on the magazine's Top Blues Albums survey.

Her 1997 album, CONTAGIOUS, featured another single with an eyebrow-raising theme, "Spousal Abuse." Scott-Adams followed it in 1999 with UNDISPUTED QUEEN. Her 2000 release, LIVE IN ALABAMA & MORE, produced two singles: "When I'm With You," a ballad, and "Sweaty Men," a dance number. The next album, HOT & SASSY, featured the singles "Mr. Right Or Mr. Wrong," "If I'm Still Not Married," and "Your Divorce Has Been Denied." In 2006, she shifted gears with GOD CAN, AND HE WILL, a gospel release. In all, Peggy Scott-Adams put out ten albums between 1996 and 2012.

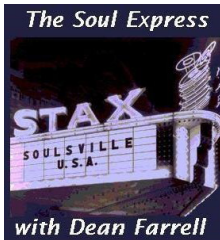
Jo Jo Benson, 76, was found dead of natural causes in a Columbus, Georgia, motel room on December 23, 2014.

Charted singles:

- "Lover's Holiday" (1968) R&B #8 Pop #31
- "Pickin' Wild Mountain Berries" (1968) R&B #8, Pop #27
- "Soulshake" (1969) R&B #13, Pop #37
- "I Want to Love You Baby" (1969) R&B #24, Pop #81
- "Every Little Bit Hurts" (Peggy Scott, 1969) Pop #126
- "Bill" (Peggy Scott-Adams, 1997) Pop #87

Please check out the Unsung Heroes of Soul blog at <https://60459fe07898a.site123.me/>

Dean Farrell hosts "The Soul Express" twice a week: Thursdays from 8:00-11:00 p.m. on WECS, 90.1-FM (www.wecsfm.com) and Fridays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on WRTC, 89.3-FM (www.wrtcfm.com). He plays vintage soul music of the 1960s and '70s, everything from #1 hits to long-lost obscurities. Dean's e-mail address is soulexpress@gmail.com.



Take Note! Concert in Mansfield

Submitted by Fran Jaffe

The acclaimed a cappella ensemble, Take Note!, is hosting its annual donor appreciation concert Sunday, June 12, at 3:00 p.m., at the First Church of Christ in Mansfield Center, 548 Storrs Road, (junction of Routes 89 and 195). The concert marks the completion of the group's nineteenth performance season and includes many new additions to their repertoire of jazz, pop, traditional and multicultural music. Tax deductible donations towards Take Note! outreach will be accepted at the door.

Since the group's inception in 2003, Take Note! has helped raise well over \$250,000 to assist charitable causes throughout Eastern Connecticut by way of benefit concerts. Shelters, food pantries, houses of worship,

Hospice, historical societies, libraries, museums, and arts organizations have benefited from the group's mission to help neighbors in need. Take Note! never charges for performances, and provides the community organization sponsoring each concert with marketing materials, press releases, media placement advice, concert posters, and programs. All donations collected at a concert go directly to the designated beneficiary.

Take Note! is a 20-voice a cappella ensemble based in Mansfield, and is comprised of select, talented, local singers from diverse backgrounds who enjoy challenging, eclectic musical styles. Under the artistic direction of Linda Tracy, Take Note! presents its annual June concert traditionally as a "thank you" celebration for its supporters and a

fundraiser to help Take Note! continue to offer benefit performances for other local nonprofits, as well as to help Take Note! maintain and expand its outreach. The vocal ensemble's only sources of financial support are through donor contributions and distribution of its two CDs, "Take Note!: Take Two" and the winter-themed "Music to Warm the Heart."

Take Note!'s mission statement expresses its vision well: "Through performances in support of charitable endeavors, we are raising spirits, raising voices, raising hope."

NOTE: For this performance audience members must be masked and vaccinations are recommended. For more information, visit www.take-note.org, email take-note@earthlink.net, or call (860) 228-2390.

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Beavers vs. The Army Corps of Engineers

By Bob Lorentson

It probably comes as no surprise to anyone that North America was once ruled by giant beavers. It should also come as no surprise then, given the state of things today, that there are many people who wish for their return. These peaceful, bear-sized rodents reigned for quite a long time, from 1.4 million years ago to 10,000 years ago to be exact, likely because they knew how to take care of themselves and refrained from the common vices. They went extinct anyway, and left the land to the common beaver, whose vices are legion. Do not under any circumstances call this beaver common to its face however. It is second only to humans in its ability to manipulate the environment, but first in its ability to carve anyone who disagrees with its work habits into a totem pole.

By contrast, engineers in the Army Corps of Engineers are neither giants nor rodents, nor have they ever been. They have always been more or less the size of the more common humans, and although they can blend in quite easily, they are actually fairly uncommon. At last count there were only 37,000 of them. Do not underestimate them either, as they fear neither beavers nor permits. Organized in a military hierarchy and trained in modern battlefield tactics, they are more than capable of attacking and subduing the environment, and have 740 trophy dams to show for it. They refer to these engagements as conservation, or stewardship. Beavers refer to Army engineers as rookies, or bulldozers.

Beavers have been building dams for far longer than has the ACE, and have never received a penny from the Government. They don't let this stop them. In fact, nothing can stop them short of a bulldozer, or a bad toothache. Dynamite works well, though it is short-lived, for there are more beavers in this world than would seem possible. It has been this way ever since the species was declared a keystone by those who should know about such things. According to conflicting sources, this either means that beavers are a wedge-shaped rock at the crown of an arch, the State of Pennsylvania, or a species that creates and maintains habitats that many other species depend on. For the record, Pennsylvania denies it is a beaver, although admits the issue can be confusing.

Engineers from ACE are not one of those species that depends on beavers. They depend on the Government. But the Government also depends on them, for besides dams, they also built the Pentagon, NIKE missile sites, and military recruitment centers. Of course, this could also be a brazen attempt to secure keystone species status for themselves. If so, no other species are backing them, and their

suspicions appear to be justified. They likely know that ACE has very few water control projects that have environmental flow management strategies, and that should anything go wrong, as it surely did during Hurricane Katrina, ACE can not by law be held accountable. They have thus already witnessed ACE's end run to gaining protected species status.

Beavers are renowned in the natural world for their multi-disciplinary talents, being unique combinations of planner, architect, hydro-engineer, contractor, and building inspector, all rolled into one. Some people say this arrangement is a little too cozy for their liking, but beavers feel they have no need of independent review agencies, and point to natural laws when cornered. They do not take criticism well. It is for these reasons that people suffering from an infestation of beavers sometimes turn to ACE for help.

ACE doesn't care what either beavers or people think. When they are given a mission, there is no force on earth that can stop them besides a change in administration, and on rare occasions, environmentalists. ACE also feels it has no need of independent review agencies, and when they are cornered, point to environmentalists. They thrive on criticism. It is for these reasons that people stop caring about the environment and turn to fantasy novels for help.

Interesting facts about beavers:

-Beavers like gnawing on trees, practical jokes, and scaring the daylight out of other animals by loudly slapping their tails on the water. Beavers dislike flowing water, coyotes, fur hats, laminate furniture, and dentists.

-Beavers are said to be monogamous. Given their booming population however, there is much more that needs to be said about this.

-Beavers emit a chemical compound called castoreum from castor sacs located next to their anal glands. Castoreum is an FDA-approved natural flavoring, said to taste like vanilla, with lovely floral overtones. There is also much more that needs to be said about that.

Interesting facts about the Army Corps of Engineers:

-The author would like to apologize for being unable to find any interesting facts about the Army Corps of Engineers, but notes that no one has yet volunteered to check its engineers hind quarters for flavorings.

History's Slice of Pie

By Bill Powers

For my money, learning about American History is like enjoying a large hot piece of multi-berry pie and a scoop of ice cream to go with it. The blending of the sweet and tart flavors of all those different berries with the melting ice cream is simply perfect and very well suited for my taste buds. In order to achieve the intended results for the pie, it can and should include a number and variety of berries; the melting overlying scoop of homemade ice cream can be of many different flavors. There is no room for substitutes, nothing artificial, and everything real fresh in flavor. Just like Marvin Gay sings – “Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing Baby!”

History is like a multi-berry pie. All of its ingredients need to be authentic and reality based – nothing artificial with no misinformation added for taste. For American history, the integration of the stories of local people and the places they inhabited, are critical in order to bring out the full flavors for historical interest. Furthermore, a multi-berry pie that contains a variety of berries is like a multidisciplinary approach to learning about history, with each and every slice containing a sample of all the ingredients. A good slice of history pie needs to include not only important individuals but also events, examples of common experiences and aspirations of local everyday people as a part of the national story. Important ingredients that have a positive impact on the interest of our students about their local and national history as it evolved which include an appreciation of the influences of: economics; psychology; sociology; geography; geology; government; war; law; religion; archeology; technology; and the arts.

The reading of works of historical fiction can accurately help to reconstruct times gone by, for events or people by using characters in an authentic historical setting. It can explore the human experience of fictional characters, who are a representative of a previous historical period, while also providing insight into the culture of that past society. Historical fiction has the ability to help make connections not only between the past but also present. Historical fiction has the power to entertain readers and produce empathy with the characters. Of course, the reader must be made aware that characters are fictional, when portrayed in stories. These days, historical fiction is being introduced to all age groups, including younger children as they learn about the evolution of our history; and it can be the emotional link for young readers which draw them in to greater involvement and better appreciation for the essence of our history. As such, it may be like the scoop of ice cream on the hot piece of multi-berry pie that becomes the catalyst that complements and draws out the essence of the flavor of all those many

From the Hills, To the Mills

By Bill Dougal



kinds of berries.

Recently, while attending a program at the Windham Textile & History Museum in Willimantic, I had a serendipitous encounter with Bill Dougal, a writer who draws caricatures and illustrations, writes and performs music, and makes humorous and instructional videos. I say serendipitous because just prior to going to the museum, I had been doing research on the famous Trumbull clan from Lebanon, Connecticut. How to keep them all straight, without confusing them, was still very much on my mind. As it turns out, one of Bill Dougal's drawings depicted not only Governor Jonathan Trumbull but also, two of his sons, Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., and John Trumbull, the famous artist of the Revolutionary War. Bill's work is titled, “Spirits of Lebanon” and includes the thematic inscription “TRUMBULLING TIMES” and he was kind enough to provide his caricature and give permission for reference to his work to accompany an article about the Trumbulls for my Willimantic Chronicle column about local history, “The Threads That Connect Us.”

Bill Dougal who is from Lebanon, Connecticut also writes books. One is titled “From the Hills, To the Mills” written in 2020. It is written for young children, is humorous with many illustrations and rhymes. It portrays the transition in America to the Industrial Revolution from agriculture and provides a local historical focus on the transition of life on the farm to the mill town of Willimantic. We usually associate the Industrial Revolution with the huge numbers of immigrants, who came here in waves, to work and to establish new lives in the mill towns like Willimantic, but many workers also came from America's farming communities for similar reasons. (Bill Dougal's book can be purchased at the Windham Textile & History Museum's store or ordered by contacting him at bill@dougalart.com)

Beholding historical eras is much more interesting, meaningful, and appreciated when it is learned through a multidisciplinary approach that includes a focus on our local history. History presented in this way helps to portray the real history's slice of pie.

Bill Powers is a retired Windham teacher who resides in Windham.

Another “Slice of Life” is Coming!

Submitted by Bev York, Windham Arts

A new event is coming to town. “A Slice of Life: The Gilded Age” “Experience 19th c. living history and enjoy fine dining in the Windham Area” will take place on Saturday, June 4. Visitors will explore museums and historic sites in Windham. The Jillson House Museum will present an exhibit of Victorian fashions including women's gowns and hats. The Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum will feature rail history, buildings and the Columbia Junction Roundhouse and turn table. The America Museum of Windham Arts will present local 19th c. characters who will share the stories of the famous mill town and Thread City Treats featuring pie slices and iced tea. A self-guided walking Victorian architecture tour of the “Hill Section” titled “This House Can Talk” will be available with QR codes. Local eateries will offer a special historic entrées or

discounts. The museum sites will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Some time scheduled events include a tour of the Gilded Age-stained glass windows in the First Congregational Church in Willimantic from 2 to 4 p.m. A Painting in the Park event, at 3 p.m., including learning about famous impressionist, J. Alden Weir, and create a painting of the bridge and/or mills buildings that he painted. The day's events will take place both inside buildings and out-of-doors. Save the date to make “A Slice of Life” your destination.

Tickets for tours are \$10 for adults and free for children under 18. Extra fees apply for train rides, food, and the painting party. Tickets and registration for the painting party can be purchased at Windham Chamber.com and at museum sites during the event. For more information call 860-423-6389 or 860-423-1878. One important part of the event is to meet costumed characters portraying people from

the time period. Anyone who likes role playing is encouraged call and get involved. The first “A Slice of Life” event was held last April when the living history events presented the 1820s or two hundred years ago. Other ‘slice’ events are planned for the future.

The events are planned by the Windham Regional Partnership for Arts and Culture, Windham Arts, and the Windham Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Participating historic organizations are The America Museum, Eastern CT Railroad Museum, Windham Historical Society and the Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association.

Could Inflation Affect Your Retirement Plans?

By Laurence Hale, AAMA, CRPS®
Principal/Managing Partner,
Co-Founder, & Chief Investment
Officer



As inflation continues to cause the cost of goods to rise, the value and buying power of many retirement accounts are diminished, at least temporarily. For some retirees, maintaining the savings and lifestyle they'd planned on is becoming a challenge. But there are things you can do to adjust for inflation and help protect the value of your retirement funds. Here's what you should be aware of, and how you can prepare.

First, understand how yearly inflation is calculated.

Inflation is calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which calculates inflation across major categories before determining a yearly inflation rate expressed as a percentage.¹ On average, the U.S. experiences an inflation rate of roughly three percent.²

This percentage and the percentage expressed by the CPI are helpful for understanding inflation across multiple markets. But these values should also be understood as a general approach, meaning the real impact of inflation will depend on the individual. For example, we might assume that a retiree might need to withdraw an additional three percent from their savings each year in order to adjust for inflation. But this isn't the whole picture.

Next, consider your individual costs.

Inflation affects each of us differently. For example, the rising cost of gasoline would affect someone that drives long distances more than someone without a vehicle. Retirement acts in a similar fashion, as it creates a lifestyle change that causes inflation to affect retirees differently.

One of the better ways to measure this difference is through the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), which shows inflation rates for households with individuals age 62 and above.³ However, this is still a generalization of a specific population. The best way to determine the cost of inflation to you specifically is to examine your personal lifestyle and make adjustments.

Once you know how inflation is affecting you personally, consider these three ways (and others) to manage the impact of those effects.

Social Security: The Social Security Administration provides the Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) to offset some of the effects of inflation by raising Social Security benefits.⁴ This can be an important source of income

during retirement. However, the COLA is also based on the CPI-W, meaning some individuals may not be able to rely on adjustments from Social Security to make up for all cost increases.⁴

Investments that adjust with inflation: Certain investments can adjust with inflation. However, any investment comes with risk, something that should always be considered during retirement. Be sure to consult with your financial advisor before making any investment decisions.

A change in lifestyle: Consider your retirement goals and overall lifestyle. Is there something you can trim back on to save on the cost of inflation? This does not mean you need to give up on retirement goals. Rather, what can be adjusted to help you achieve them while maintaining your savings?

This is by no means a comprehensive list of ways to protect your retirement savings against inflation, but they are some of the major options available. Consult with a financial advisor for a better understanding of how inflation will affect you personally, and what you can do to help protect your retirement savings.

Our team at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors can help you to build a solid financial plan to help ensure your retirement goals stay intact even amid rising inflation and volatile markets. Our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process was built on extensive research and a consistent partnership approach, so you can stress less and enjoy retirement more. Learn more about our process at whzwealth.com and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com to get started.

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- 1 <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>
- 2 <https://inflationdata.com/Inflation/Inflation/DecadeInflation.asp>
- 3 <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/research-series/r-cpi-e-home.htm>
- 4 <https://www.ssa.gov/cola/>

Community Foundation Addresses Inequities

Submitted by Pam Mola

The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut announced grant awards of \$2,084,418 to advance greater equities in its four focus areas: youth empowerment, basic needs and rights, the environment and animal welfare. Grant review committees are composed of community members and trustees with a deep commitment towards advancing human rights and community resilience in Eastern Connecticut. The Foundation has been advocating for systemic changes that will address inequities in early childhood education and childcare, mental wellness and safe, affordable housing with municipal leaders and legislative representatives. These grants help build the capacity of many nonprofits that work in these sectors. By convening community members and promoting advocacy around policy changes, the Foundation intends to leverage the impact of grantmaking and help create greater awareness of these critical issues.

Highlights of the 2022 funding includes: \$80,000 to South-eastern Connecticut Community Land Trust to increase work in affordable

housing and neighborhood revitalization; \$24,500 to the Health Education Center (formerly Eastern CT AHEC) to train community health workers towards building a workforce reflective of the region's demographics and eliminating racial inequities in care; and \$50,000 to Connecticut Forest & Park Association to connect Windham Middle School students to the environment at Goodwin State Forest and help cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

In addition, recognizing the importance of job training, the Foundation is providing grants to increase equitable access to sustainable-wage jobs including funding to Neighborhood Renovations and Training Program to prepare Norwich young adults for careers in construction and a grant to CLiCK for food safety training for restaurant workers and food entrepreneurs with limited income in the Windham area.

"We look forward to increasing partnerships with municipalities and state-wide advocacy organizations to realize gains in eastern Connecticut. We believe our investments in both policy and grantmaking will contribute to a more equitable region," according

to Jennifer O'Brien, Program Director at the Community Foundation.

Please visit our website for a complete list of grantees.

About the Community Foundation- Serving 42 towns and comprised of over 580 charitable funds, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut puts philanthropy into action to address the needs, rights and interests of the region, focusing on four priority areas: empowering youth, promoting basic needs and rights, preserving the environment, and advancing animal welfare. The Community Foundation manages a permanent community endowment and has awarded more than \$80 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofits and students since its founding in 1983. To learn more, visit cfect.org.

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On the Bench

By Russ Darling

The little black girl, and the little albino boy, both blind from birth
 Can't see, what we think, or what we think we see,
 Can't think like us either,
 They haven't met yet, but they will,
 They don't speak, as they are both placed at opposite ends of the bench
 While waiting for the bus,
 In Montgomery, Mrs. Parks, would have been proud,
 As they got to sit up front,
 As time went on, the days and weeks turned into years,
 Waiting at the bus stop,
 Aware and yet unaffected by the stares by the passing masses,
 Disgusted, by their appearance in their world, so orderly and ordinary,
 Color coded without flaw, and of course, there's the law,
 The blind little black girl, and the little blind albino boy,
 So upsetting to picture...
 They speak, saying so much in their silence,
 They now sit closer, having discovered their obstacles, so familiar
 They sit smiling, in the sun, happy to be alive,
 Discovering in each other, something no one can see,
 Yet causing such controversy and discomfort in others,
 So the wars of the world, and the issues of race continue,
 The black lady, and the albino man, sitting close, holding hands, smiling at the world,
 The world, still unaware, that love is also blind.
 We have come so far, and yet have so much further to go...get on the bus.

A Parade of Caskets

By Donna Dufresne



In 1955, when Emmett Till was brutally murdered by KKK members in Mississippi, his mother insisted on an open casket. She wanted the world to see the results of white terrorism in the Jim Crow South. It sparked the civil rights movement.

Perhaps we should all insist upon open caskets for the mutilated bodies of the children at Robb Elementary School whose parents had to provide DNA samples because their babies were unidentifiable. Those caskets should be paraded in the executive offices of the NRA, the House, and Senate and remain in the rotunda of the Capitol until the stench demands that America sees what an AR-15 does to a human body.

The reality check of Emmett Till's body shook the nation. It was a wake-up call for white America. As with gun violence, most Americans refused to acknowledge the rampant lynchings, the police state of white supremacy, and white terrorism in the South. They viewed it as an "aberration," "a character flaw" of a few individual perpetrators. The rest of the country, especially the northern states, were not ready to look at their complicity as the builders of structural racism. Yet the scales were tipped when Emmett Till's open casket reached the *New York Times*.

It's not easy to tip the scales of justice in this country. Money, power, and corruption weigh heavily toward the unraveling of democracy and the great experiment of America. We are a nation of sleepwalkers who do not want to see the awful truth that we have been anesthetized by consumerism and the propaganda of American exceptionalism. This is why the uber right wing of our polity does not want us to teach African American history or acknowledge the massacre and genocide of Native peoples. This is why they follow the sandman in their dream state of "Make America Great Again" and God bless America, amen. Our patterns of denial perpetuate the big lie and hold us back from becoming our best selves. The American Dream and the ideals set forth in the Constitution are shackled to corporatism and a military industrial complex that has bled into civilian pockets. Sadly, the death of thirty-nine people in the span of two weeks has become loose change spilling onto the street. No one even bothers to pick up a shiny penny when there are billions of dollars to be made in ammunition and AR-15 rifles.

It used to be that we could count on our right to vote a son-of-a-bitch out of office,

which proved to be true when Joe Biden won fair and square in the presidential election of 2020. But since then, a cartel of sore losers has initiated voter restriction laws that are blatantly racist, and anti-abortion laws that are misogynistic and anti-life. The same cadre, teetering on fascism, continues to refuse to hear the pleas from the people for gun restrictions: Simple background checks. A ban on assault rifles that serve no purpose other than mass murder and the kick of testosterone from a big shooter.

At the NRA's annual convention just days after the Robb Elementary School shooting, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) was vehement that "gun bans don't work." Yet we have almost thirty years of evidence from Scotland, England, New Zealand, and other countries that banned assault rifles. We are the only nation in the world in which the government refuses to take action, a simple tactic to protect its citizens. If we follow the propaganda and logic from the NRA and their strung-out puppets in the Senate, weapons of mass destruction have nothing to do with the fact that we are the only country suffering from an epidemic of mass shootings. It's mental illness, they say; the solution is to improve the mental health system and build more prisons.

The irony is not lost on those of us with half a brain. These are the same right-wing supporters of Reaganomics and the dismantling of and privatization of mental health clinics, hospitals, and other institutions. The fallout from that libertarian small-government policy can be seen in every city in America where the homeless, mentally ill, and addicts have no choice but to live on the streets. I guess if we follow the NRA's logic and propaganda, guns don't kill people, it's mental illness, which means that Americans are crazier than people in all those countries that have had no mass shootings since they banned assault weapons. When you look at the vile behaviors of Americans since the epidemic of Trumpism and populism, it sure must look like we are a nation of nincompoops roiling on a hot plate. It's time we look at who put that pot on to boil, and turn down the flame.

In spite of the stranglehold the NRA has on the Republican party, I like to think that some in the Senate will listen to their better angels. It might take drastic measures: One million crying baby dolls in baskets, placed on the steps of the Supreme Court by red-cloaked handmaids. The mutilated bodies of children in open caskets paraded in the corporate offices of the NRA and the Senate for the eyes of the world to see. Like the tragedy of Emmett Till in 1955, perhaps our lawmakers need a reality check. One can only hope that they will notice they have blood on their hands.

Abortion, Guns, and Climate Change: Here We Go Again!

By Phoebe C. Godfrey

Boy, these conservatives are really something, aren't they? They're all in favor of the unborn. They will do anything for the unborn. But once you're born, you're on your own. Pro-life conservatives are obsessed with the fetus from conception to nine months. After that, they don't want to know about you. They don't want to hear from you. No nothing. No neonatal care, no daycare, no Head Start, no school lunch, no food stamps, no welfare, no nothing. If you're preborn, you're fine; if you're preschool, you're fucked.

—George Carlin

Not long ago my wife, Tina,

and I were walking in Mystic, Connecticut, by the drawbridge, when we came upon some anti-abortion demonstrators who held signs above their sincere, solemn faces that read "Pray for the Unborn." Instead of feeling my usual ire at such a stance, I instead uttered to them my own expression of sincerity: "You must be climate change activists!" Not unsurprisingly, they looked at me with pained incomprehension. I decided to leave it at that and to merely look back at them with my own version of pained incomprehension.

Had I thought it worthwhile, I would have explained that if they cared as much as they seemed to be indicating about the unborn then surely a greater threat to the unborn's collective well-being is climate change. As such, they would be better off putting their heartfelt efforts into this much larger and more devastating issue when it comes to "life." Of course,

few on the religious right make such connections, which is why evoking the cuttingly insightful words of the late, great comedian George Carlin is especially apposite at this time when the Supreme Court is poised to strike down the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, according to a leaked internal draft majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito. Furthermore, as well as adding climate justice to Carlin's list of what a child in America is not given uncontested rights to, we should also add that they don't have the right *not* to be shot at their elementary schools, as so heartbreakingly demonstrated in Uvalde, Texas, this past week, not to mention the supermarket shooting in Buffalo, New York, the week before. And so it keeps happening again and again.

My linking of the right of the unborn (of all species) to a livable planet with gun violence and the ongoing abortion debacle stems from an insightful statement made by a Dominican nun I was interviewing for an article about her home at Genesis Farm in northern New Jersey (<http://www.genesisfarm.org/about.taf>). When I asked for her thoughts on abortion, she retorted, "Abortion? I don't have time for that—we are killing all life on Earth!" Of course, she is right that our culture and its pursuit of power and profit is tragically, yet consciously "killing all life on Earth" (as I and others keep repeating).

It is therefore vitally important that we do not settle merely into highly polarized debates of pro-life versus abortion, or gun rights versus gun laws, but rather that we collectively force ourselves to address the much more deeply rooted and systemic issues behind them, in order to address causes and not just symptoms, while teasing out our common concerns about "life," however differently they may be expressed.

In the case of the "pro-life" position, we need to challenge them on their limited definition of "life," expanding it to *all* life on Earth, as doing so is an essential part of conceptualizing climate justice. Additionally, being pro-abortion must include not just the right to an abortion but also the right to health, reproductive, and neonatal care, as well as the Head Start program, healthy school lunches, housing, good education, and meaningful employment. In short, connections must be made to economic inequalities, as well as sexism and racism. Similarly, in relation to gun laws, we should not just focus on handguns, but

also make vital connections between the gun lobby and the military industrial complex, which, if it was a nation-state, would be the 47th largest carbon emitter in the world. For in both cases, xenophobic and racist fearmongering help to fuel hardware sales both nationally and internationally, with the U.S. being both the world's top arms spender and seller. In the case of handguns nationally, sales have soared from 8 million in 2008 to more than 16 million in 2016, contrib-



uting to 248 mass shootings (defined as four or more people being killed at one time) so far this year, killing more than 250 people, many of them children. Finally, coming back to climate change, its impact on the current and future prospects of "all life" continue to be designated as increasingly catastrophic in terms of the Earth's vital signs upon which all life depends, again impacting those who are already most marginalized and least responsible.

And so, to reiterate Carlin, from the conservative patriarchal, profit-driven, and symbolically Christian perspective (not in terms of actual practice), "If you're preborn, you're fine; if you're preschool [and beyond], you're fucked," especially if you happen to be low-income, a low-income female (those with means always have had access to abortions), a person of color, live in the Global South or on a small island, etc. Pray for the unborn? Of course, but we must also *act* on the part of all Beings already *alive* against the small-minded profiteering hypocrites who wax pious about "the fetus from conception to nine months" but "after that, they don't want to know about you." Let's keep reminding them—again and again—that in order to change the narrative we must change ourselves and change our society to be genuinely pro-*all* life!

Gazillions

By Gary Bergquist

Every day, we read headlines telling us of federal programs being planned, initiated, or evaluated:

***Covid Relief Package Costs \$4 Trillion
\$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Signed into Law
Cost of Afghanistan War Up to \$2.3 Trillion
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Includes \$550
Billion for Roads, Bridges...***

The numbers are staggering. The notion of \$4 for a gallon of gas or milk is easy to fathom, but \$550 billion? What does that amount mean? Unless we can relate to these numbers in some personal way, the headline may as well be saying,

Program XYZ to Cost \$17 Gazillion

In other words, a lot is a lot. We can turn to the Internet, the universally accepted source of all knowledge, and find sites that explain what a billion or a trillion dollars is. Usually, the site's approach is to show a stack of bills in some denomination, say twenties, that make up some tidy amount, say \$1,000. Then we see a picture of a \$1 million stack, which is 1,000 times larger. That stack is multiplied by 1,000 to get a \$1 billion stack. Finally, that stack is multiplied by 1,000 again to get to the \$1 trillion stack. In the end, we may be looking at a stack the size of the Empire State Building, or maybe the Great Wall of China.

In another approach, the site asks you to imagine laying a billion or trillion bills end to end, perhaps using Scotch tape to attach them, and then imagine that strip being long enough to wrap around the globe several times. Or, my favorite, the strip of bills can reach to the Moon and back, maybe a couple times. Frankly, it's hard to remember the details for the same reason it's hard to understand billions and trillions in the first place. We can't imagine traveling to the Moon and back or spending a stack of bills the size of the Empire State Building. We come away from these explanations with the same sense we had going in: a lot is a lot.

To help us better relate, let me propose two simple formulas. Here's the first one:

\$1 billion = \$10 per family

Here's the logic. We have about 333 million people living in the United States. That's a third of a billion. If each family contains on average 3.33 people (fractional people are acceptable in academic circles), then we have 100 million families in this country. If each family ponies up \$10, we'll have a total ante of \$1 billion. These numbers may not be perfect, but they're close enough for government work.

Let's apply the formula to see how it works. Here's a headline:

Webb Telescope, Hubble's Replacement, to Cost \$9.7 Billion

Without the formula, our eyes glaze over when we see the amount, and our brains instead see, "Telescope to Cost a Lot." By applying the formula, however, we get:

Webb Telescope, Hubble's Replacement, to Cost \$97 per Family

Ninety-seven dollars. There's a number to which we can relate. Each family in the country must come up with \$97 to build America a Webb telescope. With that figure in mind, we're now in a better position to decide whether the telescope is a good investment. Is each family willing to cough up \$97 to have a clearer view into the origins of the universe?

This approach is not apt, one might argue, because the U.S. government does not send each of our families an invoice for \$97 so NASA can build the telescope. Instead, Uncle Sam just sends NASA the agreed-upon sum. The government doesn't need to bill us because it has plenty of money (gazillions, in fact). The telescope project is just one drop in its vast budgetary bucket, whose contents can be poured into the many and varied projects chosen by our elected officials. How they spend the money does not change the contents of our wallets one way or another.

In this view of the federal government as an endless source of funds, we may imagine an orchard of money trees, perhaps located near Fort Knox in the lush fields of Kentucky. The government bureaucrats bring their empty bushel baskets and harvest fresh bills from the trees until they have the needed \$9.7 billion. They then drive to Houston with their baskets of money and turn them over to NASA. Politicians tend to foster this money-orchard view, especially during the fertile campaign season, by speaking of how they'll spend \$2 gazillion on education,

\$3 gazillion on infrastructure, \$4 gazillion on fighting climate change, and so on. The image we get is that they'll drive their tractors to the money orchard, harvest the needed funds, and emerge with baskets of money ready to be spent. In this view, we think mostly of the programs we would like to see, and not so much of what these programs will cost us as families. We assume the money orchard is healthy, and that our taxes act as fertilizer.

Fine. Let's continue with that assumption for now. Imagine a bureaucrat leaving the orchard and heading to Houston with his basket of \$9.7 billion. Suppose he has a change of heart on the way. He stops at a post office, having decided a better use of the money is to stuff 100 million envelopes with \$97 each and send one to each family in the country. This is a decision that just as well could have been made by the officials who opted for the telescope; the contents of the money basket could have been directed to us. How they spend the money does affect our wallets after all—the \$97 billion telescope costs each of our families \$97 in unrealized income.

Still, Americans who pay no taxes may have trouble believing that the government's expenditures cost them something. A retired couple, for example, may feel that since they no longer pay taxes to fertilize the money orchard, they are mere spectators and should have no say in deciding how the orchard's money is spent. Ironically, though, those with low or fixed incomes have the greatest stake in these decisions since envelopes of cash from the government mean more to their survival than to those of us still working and paying taxes.

I mentioned two formulas. Here's the second one, derived directly from the first:

\$1 trillion = \$10,000 per family

Let's apply this formula to one of the headlines above:

Cost of Afghanistan War Up to \$23,000 per Family

Now that the headline is not expressed in gazillions, we can better see what the numbers really mean. Regardless of our feelings about that war and its justification, and regardless of how much each of us pays in taxes, we can see clearly what the financial cost of the war has been in terms of unrealized income to our families. The \$23,000 could just as well be resting in our bank accounts or could be used to pay rent and buy food.

Let's apply the formula once more, this time to the elephant in the room, the national debt. Currently (mid-2022), the national debt exceeds \$30 trillion. Let's use our formula to translate: The national debt exceeds \$300,000 per family.

Three hundred thousand dollars per family! Wow. This is the amount Uncle Sam spent beyond what he had, to offer programs our politicians claimed we needed. For example, in 2021, Uncle Sam spent \$6.8 trillion (translation: \$6,800 per family) but collected only \$3.8 trillion (\$3,800 per family). As with money owed to a bookie, the federal government must keep borrowing to pay interest on the debt. Every day, the debt grows. Over time, the debt has reached \$300,000 per family.

Picture every family in this country racking up credit card debt of \$300,000. As each credit card is maxed out, we simply reach for another one. What would be viewed as reckless behavior by our families is just another day in the life of Uncle Sam. Our elected officials borrow and spend for our sake, they say, but what did we get for that \$300,000? We know it went somewhere but have trouble recalling the direct benefit.

Ah, but why fret over spilled milk? The money is gone.

The debt, however, is not. Common sense indicates the debt will not be paid by those of us currently alive, those who presumably benefited from the debt. After all, there is no argument or inducement the government can offer that would persuade each of us to send a check for \$300,000. Consequently, we must acknowledge that our children and grandchildren will be stuck with the tab. In fact, let's be honest; even our great-grandchildren will be footing the bill for Uncle Sam's largesse.

And so, we are left with a conundrum. If the purpose of the above formulas is to convert a large number into one to which we can relate, and if the resulting number, such as \$300,000 per family, is still too large to grasp, what do we do? Perhaps we should revert to what comes naturally:

\$300,000 per family = a gazillion

What the heck, a lot is a lot. Be sure to thank your kids and grandkids each time you see them.

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Celebrating the Bicentennial of Chaplin Village, Connecticut

LUCKY SEVEN Pool Loop

By Brian Karlsson-Barnes

LUCKY SEVEN is a self-guided bike ride in a seven-mile loop around **Diana's Pool** of the **Natchaug River** with seven intriguing stops. Bicycling is the perfect pace to appreciate Chaplin's rural delights, farm and country, and the charming village founded in 1822 -- now celebrating its *Bicentennial!*

Two centuries ago, Indian paths and wagon trails were the only routes around the swiftly dropping, rocky rivers of Eastern Connecticut. Trunkline highways weren't authorized until 1915. Diana's Pool bridge was built in 1926 for **Scenic Route 198**, now signed as the **Natchaug Trail** for the native trail along the river. "*Natchaug*" is a **Nipmuck** word for "*Land between the rivers,*" the physical landform where two rivers become one.



#42 Chaplin Street

LUCKY am I in woodsy Chaplin, 90-miles from Boston and far from Ukraine. *Glory to Ukraine!* Born in NYC, far west on the Other side of the Connecticut River, then 30 years gardening and flirting with an architecture degree in the Midwest. Moved to Boston's mild coastal climate in 2004, and happy to be here three years in the Natchaug Valley, and the garden paradise (except the bugs) that is Connecticut's *Quiet Corner*.

My worldview narrows with age toward my garden and woods, a part of nature, not apart. My stamina has a positioning system that is becoming *Natchaug-centric*, not global; N-S flow is my longitude, and my latitude is the E-W fall line between the highlands and the coastal lowlands. Upstream, to the Worcester Hills, maybe the WooSox? Downriver into Mansfield Hollow, going with the flow to the beach. Living on the edge is always interesting.



#15 Chaplin Street.

Our 1750 farmhouse on **Cross Road** was here before most hereabouts. First ride was a seat-testing, quarter-mile ride on nearby **South Bear Hill Road**. Dead-end to a cemetery. Ha. Good place to stop with no preservatives in a pine box, Swedish fashion, but my ashes will be with some of my mother, *Ingrid Kristina Frederika Karlsson*, in **Betsey's Brook** out back.

BIKING Tested myself uphill on **North Bear Hill Road** from **Cross Road**. I prefer to ride the other direction from the Pool, looping clock-wise, finishing downhill. Someone always suffers hills. On a moderate AYH ride forty years ago in Minnesota -- huffing and puffing up a long hill, standing on my pedals -- I was a novice with strong legs, not lungs, and another rider passed me playing a harmonica. Ha. American Youth Hostel rides are for anyone able to ride, graded Easy, Moderate and Challenging.

The 7-mile Pool Loop crosses **Route 198** twice, across fast flowing, barely slowing traffic that follows the river. *Lucky Seven*, however, is mostly gentle hills, Moder-

ately Easy Peasy, but be wary. Much traffic to cross **198** now, not a family ride. I invoke Luck, but best is being Aware.

STOP 1 Diana's Pool Road is near our farmhouse. My backyard trail leads toward the notorious Pool on the river, the romantic heart if not geographic center of Connecticut's Quiet Corner. Woodsy trails, rocky kayaking and *Trophy Trout* fishing (creel limit of two), it has benchmark water quality in an *uber*-healthy ecosystem, designated a *Connecticut State Greenway* for environmental protection. Limited parking.

Chaplin Fire Station at **198 / Cross Road** is an optional staging area. Ask as a courtesy. Been here three years, and courtesy was the first difference noticed. I learned.

Men's Prayer

I'm a man
But I can change
If I have to
I guess.

-Red Green

RIDE West Another thing learned, but years earlier: Bicycling is *uber*-healthy! I must get healthier, so *Go West Old Man* from Diana's Pool, crossing busy **198** at the hazardous south end.

Ride west on **Bedlam Road**, a quiet country road -- name notwithstanding -- to **Bedlam Corner**.

STOP 2 Bats Of Bedlam at 101 Bedlam Road, is a 48-acre maple farm run by Bob & Pat Dubos. Some product is available year-round, such as their maple syrup. A quarter-mile further...

Stonehouse Brook (crossed again later on Palmer Road) runs to the **Natchaug River** and the cosmic water cycle. Good place to stop and consider how connected we all are. *Glory to Ukraine*. Next to:

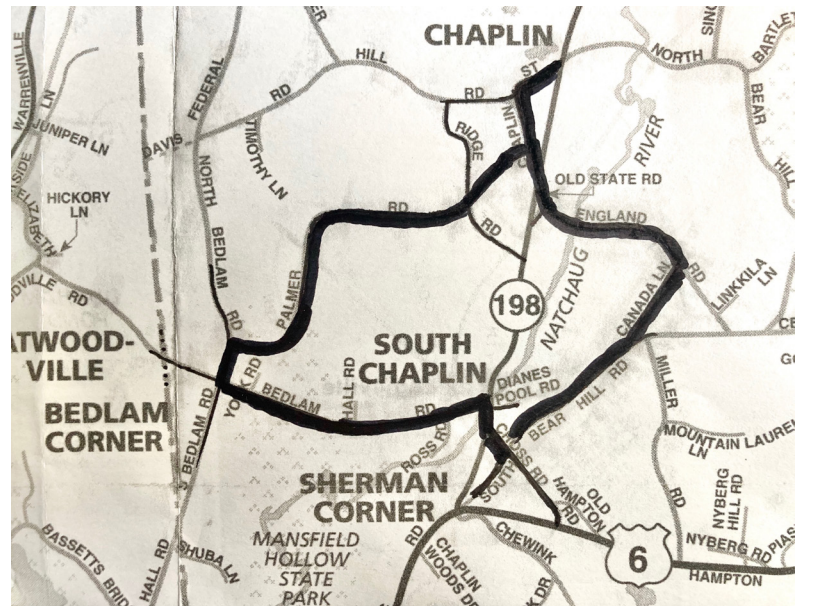
STOP 3 Bedlam Road Cemetery I catch-and-release house mice here and walk the headstones. Private William Hall of Chaplin, 11th Connecticut Regiment "KILLED AT ANTIETAM MD SEPT. 17, 1862" has a Civil War marker. Probably died at Burnside's Bridge, Sharpsburg, Maryland. Unclear if he is actually buried here or elsewhere. I remember him in any case.

STOP 4 Bedlam Corner AKA Goat Corner, a great place to stop. Intersection of three Bedlam Roads, but I don't yet know if Bedlam was a person or what happened. Generations of goats browse the fields and frisky kids frolicking on the rocks are the most bedlam I've seen.



Goat Corner.

RIDE NEast Turn right on **North Bedlam Road** and quickly right again at the barn on **Palmer Road**, a tranquil two-mile ride past farms walled with fieldstone as fields were cultivated. Passing **Stonehouse Brook** again, woods and wetland, and the road leans left to behold a long



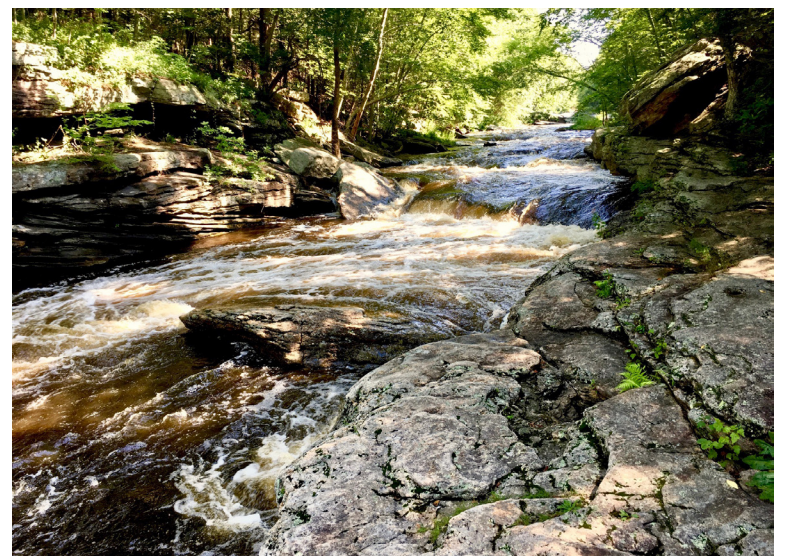
meadow, uphill to **Ridge Road**. Uphill to a ridge probably trod by natives across the land between the rivers.

The intersection of **Palmer and Ridge Roads** is a quiet triangle, stop, hydrate and consider stonewalls of New England. Or another place to start the ride?

YOGA? Perhaps at dawn with a Sun Salutation, *Surya Namaskar*. Face East. Begin your day as the sun's energy begins sustaining life in the garden, shining light upon leaf, bud and dormant seed. Breath is the seed of yoga that creates energy and an expanded awareness. *Inhale... exhale... inhale... exhale...* and continue breathing deeply. T.K.V. Desikachar said, "*Anyone who can breathe can do yoga.*"

Palmer Road continues a half-mile east through denser "suburban Chaplin", ending at **Chaplin Street**, center of the village at the catalyzing church.

VILLAGE Chaplin Street is a lovely crescent off **Scenic Route 198**. Town incorporation in 1822 was during the nation's Early Industrial Revolution that brought prosperity and built these larger homes. Several small mills and factories were making hats, shoes and shingles among the farms until railroads favored larger towns. Mostly residential now except the church, and town properties at the north end of **Chaplin Street**.



Natchaug River above Diana's Pool.

STOP 5 Chaplin Congregational Church is flanked by identical brick houses on **Chaplin Street** at the spiritually symmetrical center of Chaplin, founded in 1822 by Mansfield Deacon **Benjamin Chaplin** from Pomfret. His rigorous 1795 will provided for a bustling village near the river.

STYLE Remarkable period and vernacular houses are found in this early 19th century historic district. Chaplin village was settled and built in a hundred years, in the transition to America's *Victorian Age*. Large houses of *Georgian*, *Federal* and *Greek Revival* style are among smaller vernacular homes with no historic blueprint, that simply respond to sites with Yankee ingenuity.

Georgian architecture (1700-1800) in England and the colonies marked the reigns of the four King Georges, roughly the entire 18th century. It favored symmetry, side roof gables, and classical Greek and Roman details throughout. Main difference between a *Georgian* and *Federal* house: decorative elements are often limited to the front entry of a *Federal* house -- not covering the whole exterior of the more-exuberant *Georgian* building.

continued on next page

Federal style (1780 to 1830) is a neoclassical refinement of *Georgian* style when our newly founded nation was developing its Federal system of government. Usually 2-3 stories high and 2-3 rooms deep, *Federal* style often featured entrance porches -- "porticos" -- with an elliptical fan light above the door, and shuttered windows. Interiors often use ovals, circles and elegant curving stairways. Many fine examples in the village.

Greek Revival (1820-60s) was the most popular architectural style in America. Simple symmetrical designs with grand tall facades recall Greek temples. One of many overlapping *Victorian* styles.

Victorian refers not to a particular style but to an era—the reign of Queen Victoria in Great Britain from 1837 to 1901. Victorian-era architecture spanned sixty years of styles: *Early Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Stick, Romanesque Revival, Shingle, Colonial Revival*, and the popular *Queen Anne* style at the end of the era. Exuberance, contrast, shock and awe marked Victorian style after 1850.



#46 Old Store.

Storrs family of UCONN fame, as a summer home until the mid-1970s. Predominately a *Greek Revival* two-and-a-half-story gabled house.

#107 – Holt House (aka Hope House) Circa 1822, one of the first built in the village, and the *most ornate*. Like many grand houses in Windham County, it has two large side chimneys and a distinctive door pediment with fan window. *Georgian* details are a roof cornice with beaded molding and two Doric corner pilasters with *triglyphs* – sounds scary, but the *three vertical grooves* imitate the shuttered openings that alternated with beam-ends in earlier wood construction. Carved stone details mimic the archaic construction that predates *Greco-Roman* columns. Very original condition. Size is deceiving!

Appearing as large as other similar houses on the street, it is actually only 34-feet wide and 24-feet deep, an illusion of proportion.

#97 – Knight House II Built in 1840 for the son of the original owner of **#93**. Its *Greek Revival* style has displaced the earlier *Federal* style; the gable pediment recalls the roof of a Greek Temple. (**#5** is a twin.)

#96 was erected c.1900 as a barn on the east side, directly across the street from **#97**, later a house, one of the last on the street, marking a century of growth (**#54** c.1800)

Tower Hill Road intersection where **Chaplin Street** direction changes, once known as the corner of *Knight and Day*.

ODD / WEST SIDE

#93 Knight House Built circa town founding in 1822 as a two-and-a-half-story *Greek Revival* house. Deacon Darius Knight lived here, later a minister and town doctor. A center of local life, the original character of Chaplin village (Lanzit observes).



#19 Chaplin Street.

#87 Phillips House (once the Day House) Built c.1825 as a one-story cape with a second floor added in 1865. Story is, the owner's sister lived with him "disharmoniously", so he raised the roof when the Civil War ended. The Wilson-Phillips family has lived here for seven generations.

#73 Witter House Built of brick c.1820 for Dr. Orin Witter who used the original house as a barn.

Four tall chimneys and *12-over-12* window panes with fanlights are notable. Sunburst patterns are set into niches in the brick wall. The roof is a monitor peculiar to earlier New England houses, but with unusual small windows. The red brick was fired at a clay pit on **Stonehouse Brook** near **Bedlam Road**. Inside, seven fireplaces have different mantles. Lucky seven.

RIDE South from the Resident Trooper's house-office on the northern corner of **Chaplin Street** at **495 Phoenixville Road / Route 198**. Formerly the company store for the Utley farm, it was moved from its commercial location across the street from the **Hubbard House #127**.

STOP 6 Chaplin Library at **130 Chaplin Street** Optional staging area with information and a rest room. Very helpful librarian offered booklet, '**Historic Homes of Chaplin Village**' (2021, edited by Rusty Lanzit with excellent architectural information used herein, thank you).

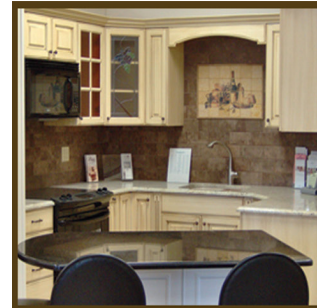
HOUSES Odd house numbers are on the North and West sides of curving Chaplin Street. Even numbers are on the East side. Riding south...

ODD / NORTH SIDE

#127 Chaplin Street – Hubbard House of Utley Farm Built c.1825 by James Utley. The late-*Georgian* / early-*Federal* house was "*Victorianized*" in the early 1900s, removing a sweeping front veranda. The 1500-acre farm with woods and sawmill was sold to the Hubbard family in 1938. Daughter Mollie – a botanical illustrator whose buildings grace the booklet -- donated much land in 1987 to the town and *Joshua's Trust* to preserve Chaplin's rural character.

#115 – Storrs House Built c.1838 by James Russell Utley, son of the farmer next door. Sold to the

continued on page 17



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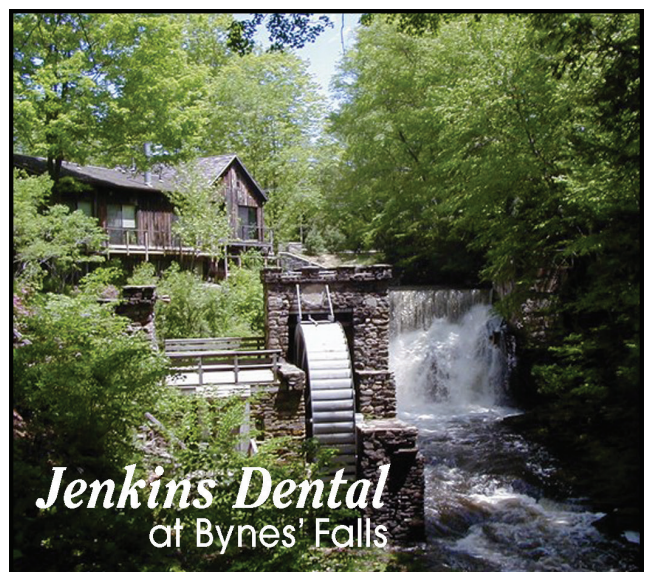
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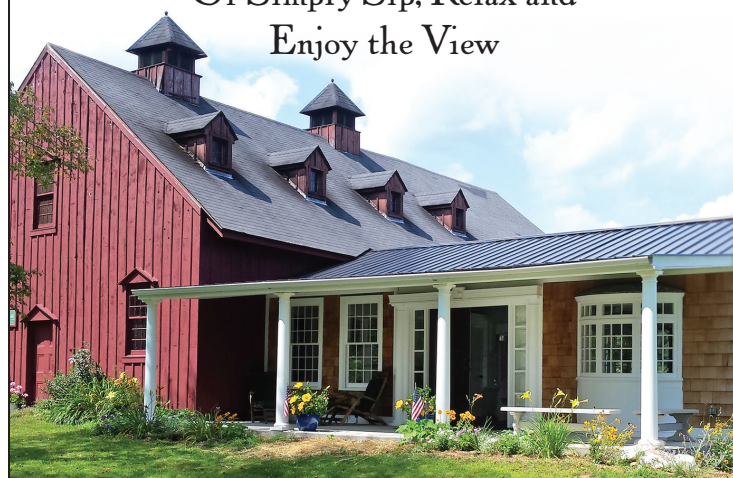


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Community Media and Regional Arts

By John Murphy

As Spring morphs into Summer, I am so grateful to be living in the Quiet Corner. You too? I hope so!

There are two topics for this month—first, an update on the local media ecosystem project and regional journalism. I will also share important information for artists and arts groups from two excellent arts resources—you can enjoy many virtual meetings and trainings all summer long. Read on!



Yours truly at WILI.

out here, I feel it every day, but it remains largely latent and undeveloped. There are reasons for this, and I am not making a criticism in any way, it is true that there are less people living out here than west of the river, and we are spread out widely with small pockets of population and commercial districts.

To be fair and accurate, there was excellent development work underway just before Covid hit in March 2020. While the recovery continues in 2022, however uncertain the health issues are, the level of activity and engagement within the arts community and public is finally increasing after the crash.

To make the most of this year of recovery and focus on the positive I have great news to share—help is out there! When in doubt, go for it!

There are excellent arts economy resources available to help anyone move forward but nothing can happen until you first clarify your true goal and confirm if your involvement with the arts will be

- a personal hobby for personal expression and enjoyment\
- part of a group effort to share and present the work of members
- a new business opportunity for active participation in the arts economy at any level

Match your heart, your head, and your mission—and the path will emerge with right action. Resources are there for all three forms of activity and this month's column will highlight two of the best and most relevant for our region. Believe it or not, grants are available to help you prepare for a wide range of funding opportunities—but you must apply and show that you are dedicated and committed to serving the arts in some way.

Connecticut received significant federal recovery arts-related funding for the arts community to cope with, survive and recover from the Pandemic. Large and medium-sized one-time grant and special project opportunities were created that provide wonderful opportunities for individuals and arts groups to move forward and realize their dreams. But you must work to plan and write and submit applications!

We are fortunate to have two major resources with direct connections to our region. Anyone reading this column with an interest in any aspects of the arts should read below and connect for valuable information.



**CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS
NORTHEAST REGION DRSO
TOLLAND AND WINDHAM COUNTIES**
<http://culturesect.org/northeast-region/>

In January 2021, the Connecticut Office of the Arts announced the *Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition* will serve as COA's Designated Regional Service Organization (DRSO) for 21 towns in Windham and Tolland Counties (see website for details, is your town listed?).

If you live in these towns you should get to know Charlene Haukom, the Northeast Region Coordinator. I have interviewed her on my WECS and WILI radio programs and she is a great arts and development resource that can help you with your individual or group efforts. Connect with her at the website above and sign up for the newsletter to receive news and important information about the arts community in our region.

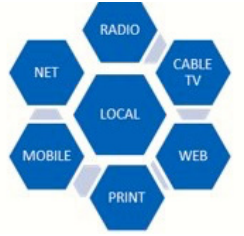
Zoom Meeting #1—"Connect, Collaborate, Communicate. Our Core Values."

Collaboration & the Creative Community
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 (noon to 1pm)
Free. Register at website: www.culturesect.org

Featured speakers will cover:

- basic collaboration frameworks and 10 Lessons on Collaboration
- how artists, nonprofits and for-profits can create "win-win" situations
- recent examples of effective arts & culture collaborations

A New Fusion of Local Media



Zoom Meeting #2—Monthly Roundtable Series

Focus on Creative Businesses
Thursday June 23, 2022 (noon to 1 pm)
Free. Register at website: www.culturesect.org

Featured guest is Wendy Vincent
Women's Business Development Council Eastern Region
Program Manager

A4A
ASSETS FOR ARTISTS

MASS MoCA

Website: <https://www.assetsforartists.org/>
Email: assetsforartists@massmoca.org

Assets for Artists is a professional development program for creative entrepreneurs. The goal is to equip artists with the tools to sustain the creative work they love throughout a lifetime. Projects include a matched grant savings program (which helps artists develop a business plan and raise the seed capital to fund it), financial and business training workshops for artists in all disciplines, and a newly launched residency at our home base.

CURRENT ONLINE WORKSHOPS

All workshops are FREE and held via Zoom, with pre-registration required to keep the cohorts at a size that maximizes participation and peer support. After you submit your information through the Zoom registration, their staff will contact those who qualify and make the enrollment cut-off with additional details on participating. Contact staff at assetsforartists@massmoca.org with any questions. Learn about **Assets for Artists' accessibility resources** for artists with impairments and disabilities.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION PRIORITIES

Generally, our workshops are open to artists who currently live in the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut. In general, space is limited, and your registration is not guaranteed to be approved. **Please be aware that Connecticut priority will be given to:**

- Connecticut artists in the rural areas of the state, due to our partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Artists whose practice best matches the focus of the training.
- Artists of color. A4A recognizes that the dire impacts of the pandemic have disproportionately affected BIPOC communities, and our 2021 programming is especially focused on supporting artists of color.

SUMMER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Concrete Steps for Creative Sustainability w/ Laura Baring-Gould

Thursdays, June 2 & 9, 2022 | 2 - 4 PM

Negotiating Pay and Pricing as a Musician w/ Billy Dean Thomas

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, | 2 - 4 PM

Business Strategies for Artists w/Shey Rivera Ríos
Wednesdays, June 15 & 22, 2022 | 2 - 4 PM

Instagram Basics: Build a Following, Increase Engagement, and Understand Analytics w/ Francesca Olsen
Thursday, July 7, 2022, | 2 - 4 PM

Marketing in a Changed World w/ Jessica Burko
Wednesday, July 13, 2022, | 12 - 2 PM

Mindset & Money w/ Erika R. Moore
Tuesday, August 2, 2022, | 6 - 7:30 PM

Thanks for reading *Neighbors*, have a great summer and keep the faith!

John Murphy

john@humanartsmedia.com (use this to be a guest anytime)

WILI Arts Radio Wednesdays 5:35 pm at 1400 AM and 95.3 FM

WECS Radio Wednesdays 12—3 pm at 90.1 FM and www.wecsfm.com

www.humanartsmedia.com (archive and background info only)

watch for new YouTube channel from WILI Radio AM/FM

The Return of *On the Homefront* It Has Been Re-Created and is in Test Mode It Officially Launches in August 2022

I am pleased to report that progress continues with the creation of a new independent media ecosystem for public service in our region. This effort to produce and share local stories on radio, TV and print with direct links to social media channels and YouTube has been covered in *Neighbors* for the past year. I invite you to check the archive for recent columns with history and details. The website is www.neighborspaper.com.

February 2022: <https://neighbors.pageflip.site/editions/NP60643#page/15>

March 2022: <https://neighbors.pageflip.site/editions/NP14777#page/15>

April 2022: <https://neighbors.pageflip.site/editions/NP37085#page/15>

On the Homefront has returned as the name for my weekly radio series on WILI Radio AM1400 and 95.3 digital FM. It will continue this summer as a 30-minute program on Wednesdays at 5:35 pm. The series will expand to a one-hour format on Wednesdays in August. There are so many good stories to share!

The current plan is for a formal launch of this network in August, combined with the return of the *On the Homefront* public access TV series that aired for over 20 years on Spectrum Public Access TV Channel 192 (750 episodes!). This renewed TV program, which will be produced live at WILI Radio, will provide the central hub for all media activity. Many thanks to Colin Rice at WILI and Mike Sweet at Spectrum Cable TV for their support. For more background on the media partners check the links above.

EXPANDED COVERAGE OF LOCAL MUSIC VENUES

I am happy to report that our regional music scene will receive expanded coverage. Event news and interviews will be featured with artists and bands appearing at music venues that are an easy drive from anywhere in the region. Locations currently include, with more contacts pending:

The Packing House in Willington— website: www.thepackinghouse.us

The Stomping Ground in Putnam— website: <https://the-stomping-ground.com/>

Stone Row Kitchen + Bar in Willimantic— website: <https://stonerowkb.com/>

The Side Door Jazz club in Old Lyme— website: <https://thesidedoorjazz.com/>

As musicians come out to play for us and venues struggle to provide places for use to enjoy the gift of music in any form—they need your support! Now more than ever as we recover. Just do it and remember how great it is to experience live music together with others. If you present music, then let me know!

The Quiet Corner in the Northeast Needs to Make Some Noise! Arts Funding Opportunities are Underutilized and Remain Elusive

After research and dialogue across the arts community during the past year, it has become painfully clear that our region—appropriately called The Quiet Corner—is NOT well-represented by residents in the state arts funding environment.

Comparatively few applications are submitted from this region across a wide range of programs. It's sad. I have been covering the arts for decades and this has been a consistently disappointing trend that we must reverse! If not now, then when? There is an ocean of creative energy

Solar Today:

Questions and answers about solar in our community and beyond

By John Boiano

Greetings all,

I invite you to join a peaceful revolution by simply changing how you buy your electricity.



It's fun to Farm the Sun with Zen Solar!

Farming is a term that's been used when people cultivate a resource in order to receive it's full potential. Putting solar on your roof or on a ground mount is doing just that. The easy thing about solar for you is that all you have to do is say yes and we'll do the hard work and YOU will reap the rewards of Solar Farming!

Talking about solar power:

Let's bust some Myths about solar power!

Excerpts from Blue Raven Solar: Misconceptions of solar power

Myth. Solar Panels Are Too Expensive to Install

Many people are resistant to having solar panels installed on their homes because they believe the installation costs are too high. Initial installation costs of residential solar panels vary depending on a number of factors. The size of both the home and the system are the main determining factors of the initial installation costs. It's simple to discover if it works or not with a free evaluation of your home and electric bill.

Myth. The Payback Period Is Too Long

Hardly, a common myth decries that solar energy takes 25 years before you will see a return on your investment, but the truth is far different. Depending on the size of your project and the initial investment and rising utility costs compared to a captured cost, you could start seeing an ROI immediately.

Myth. Solar Panels Raise Property Taxes

The truth is that installing residential solar panels will raise a property's value in many cases. However, in CT, Solar is exempt from being taxed!

Myth. It's Better to Wait Until Solar Panels Come Down in Price

Not true, the cost of installing solar has only gone up, just like everything else!

Myth. You Need to Live in a Warm Climate

Just look at all the solar panels on homes and fields in New England. If it didn't work, people would not continue installing solar!

Myth. You Won't Have Energy at Night

Solar panels produce energy during the day. When a system creates more energy than what a home is currently using, the energy net metered and is calculated as credit on your electric bill. At night and during the winter those credits are used up instead of buying utility energy.

Myth. You Need a Tracking System to Follow the Sun's Pattern

Nope. Fixed mounted panels are the most common and with today's Tier 1 panels, there's no longer a need to track the sun. In most cases tracking systems are costly enough where your ROI goes out several more years and there is more maintenance costs involved. If you can, absolutely stick with roof mounted panels.

Myth. Solar Energy Keeps Working When the Power Goes Out

The panels still operate when the power goes out. However, unless you have a battery back-up, the system shuts down with an automatic safety switch built into the inverter(s).

Myth. Solar Panels Are Maintenance-Heavy

Contrary to common belief, solar panels require very limited maintenance. Solar panels have no moving parts and are very reliable. In fact, most of them far outlive their average 25-year warranties.

Myth. Solar Panels Cause Roof Damage

The solar energy myth that solar panels cause roof damage is far from true. The roof is actually protected and preserved by solar panels in some cases, which helps to prevent against deterioration and leaking.

Myth. The Manufacturing Process Is Environmentally Unfriendly

Opposition to solar energy is sometimes due to the falsehood that manufacturing solar panels is an environmentally unfriendly process. In fact, some have unjustly stated that the solar panel manufacturing process uses more energy than the solar panel itself will generate in its lifetime. A study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory debunked this myth when it found that the payback period in terms of energy consumption versus production for solar panels is less than four years. This means that in four years, a solar panel will have generated enough energy to cover the amount of energy it took to produce it. In terms of the pollution generated by the manufacturing process, a solar panel reduces a significant amount of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be produced by homes using conventional energy. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory concluded that the average U.S. household with a solar energy system could eliminate 100 tons worth of carbon dioxide that's typically produced by conventional plants during a 28-year span of clean energy production. In other words, this far outweighs any emissions produced during the solar panel manufacturing process.

If you'd like to see if you can bust some of these myths at your home, please give me a call and we can discover it together.

Keep it simple, keep it local.. Zen Solar

Until next month... let's make every day Earth Day!

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JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AT ITS BEST

Submitted by Michelle Baughman

The year 2022 marks Mid-State ARC's 70th anniversary of supporting and advocating for children and adults with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential and to become accepted and respected members of their community. Their vision has always been and continues to be: "Value and Acceptance for All."



One of the important ways in which Mid-State ARC helps people reach independence in their lives and in the community is through the use of assistive technology: "People we support who formerly required 24/7, live-in support are now living on their own, in private apartments equipped with assisted technology."

Mid-State ARC is holding its ATECH (Assistive Technology) Conference "Journey to Independence: Assistive Technology At Its Best" on **July 18-19, 2022**, at the Mystic Hilton, 20 Coogan Blvd, Mystic CT, conveniently located just off of I-95. The conference welcomes agencies, professionals, families, and self-advocates. The Mystic Hilton offers free parking at the hotel venue for conference attendees and overnight guests. The hotel offers mobility accessible rooms, and all the conference facilities are also accessible.

Conference registration link: <https://atechconference.org/conference-registration/>, CEO, ATECH

Registration and Check-in are at 8:00 am, and the conference begins at 8:30 am on Monday, July 18 with a breakfast keynote speaker and continues through the end of the day. The conference features an Exhibitor Hall, Sponsor Spotlight sessions, and a half-day intensive workshop on making the shift to independence, to be held on Tuesday, July 19.

Featured speakers are field-leading innovators who leverage their ideas to re-shape today's assistive technology world in order to create tomorrow's more accessible world:

Pamela Fields is a leader in the field of assistive technology for independence, especially in devising new approaches to independence as it relates to people with intellectual disabilities (IDD). Her pioneering efforts are grounded in a 40-year career in leading agencies that provide services for people with IDD and other complex disabilities and medical needs. With an undergraduate degree in Human Services and a MBA with a concentration in non-profits, Pam has the foundation and the vision needed to move the field of assistive technology forward in new and exciting ways. As a passionate advocate for the rights of people with developmental disabilities and their services, Pam founded the Assistive Technology Training Center of Connecticut to assure service providers have a place to gain knowledge and build capacity in cutting edge assistive technologies and families can benefit from best practices in how to support their loved ones with disabilities. Pam envisions a world where each person can be as independent as possible, fully connected to and autonomous in their communities, regardless of their barrier issues

Dr. Tom Pomeranz, President and CEO, Universal Lifestyles, Inc. is a nationally recognized authority, trainer, clinician and consultant in the field of services for people with disabilities. Over the last 50 years, Tom has conducted thousands of seminars and programs throughout the United States and Canada. His audiences praise his ability to combine information, humor, passion and storytelling into an informative whole that does not just present the information, but really communicates it in a memorable fashion. Tom was the keynote speaker at the Fifth International Conference on Developmental Disabilities and Aging in Cyprus. He is the highly acclaimed creator of Universal Enhancement, which teaches strategies promoting community participation and supporting people to have a quality life. Additionally, he is noted for his innovative approach to leadership and management training. Tom has authored numerous articles in various professional publications and The Principles and Practices

of Universal Enhancement. This book details with humor and compassion the autocratic and clinical restraints of supporting people with developmental disabilities and the alternative "Universal Enhancement" way. Tom has also created a seven-part staff training DVD series, The Principles and Practices of Building Community. Co-produced with Tierra Del Sol, it covers seven critical topics that provide staff with best practice tools to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities. Tom received his Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Special Education and a Doctorate in Mental Health Administration from Indiana University, Bloomington IN, followed by post-graduate work from the University Of Notre Dame in the area of experimental psychology. He has held a variety of top-level administrative posts in community-based service organizations and three large state-operated facilities. Tom is a Policy Fellow and Visiting Lecturer for Minot State University – North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, a University Center of Excellence. Tom is a member of the Advisory Board for Medisked, a human services software company, dedicated to improving quality of life, reduce costs, increase capacity in Human Service and Home Health Care agencies.

Kathleen Stauffer, MPA, Chief Executive Officer at The Arc Eastern Connecticut. Kathleen Stauffer graduated from Point Park University in Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in Journalism & Communication and a Russian language minor. She worked as a journalist, photojournalist, editor, and publisher for 30 years, advancing to division and then magazine group president & publisher for Bayard Presse (France) in the United States. In 2009, Kathleen joined The Arc New London County facilitating in October 2010 a successful merger between The Arc NLC and Seacorp, Inc. In 2019, she led a merger between The Arc NLC and The Arc Quinebaug Valley establishing The Arc Eastern Connecticut, a \$20 million nonprofit recognized for its excellence. Her executive experience in nonprofit and for-profit corporations encompasses mergers/affiliations cross-sector. Kathleen's involvement in local, state and national public policy includes serving as co-chair of the Human Services Coordinating Council for the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) and an appointment to the Governor's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. She sits on the Board of Directors of The Arc of the United States and is a past member of the National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE) Steering Committee and past-president of The Norwich Rotary Club. In 2011, she won NCE's Rising Star Award and in 2014 was named Executive Director of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut. In 2018, she received the NCE Chair's Leadership Award. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree with a certificate in Human Resources Management. Her latest book, 11 Secrets of Nonprofit Excellence – focusing on team building, mergers and organizational transformation – is under contract with Business Expert Press.

Mike Marotta, ATP, Owner Inclusive Technology Solutions, LLC. Mike has been in the field of Assistive Technology for almost 30 years and his experience revolves around a vast array of accommodations for persons with disabilities and their family/support members. Mike is a RESNA Certified Assistive Technology Professional, and Inclusive Technology Evangelist, who has been providing direct services to individuals with all disabilities for over 30 years. He is the 2017 ISTE Inclusive Learning Network Outstanding Educator and is a nationally and internationally recognized presenter who was previously a trainer for California State University at Northridge (CSUN), providing practical and in-depth training to professionals interested in specializing in assistive technology. In addition, Mike is an adjunct professor at Ramapo College of New Jersey (NJ) where he teaches Masters level educators in Assistive Technology and Universal Design for Learning. Mike runs his own consulting company, Inclusive Technology Solutions LLC, where he provides services related to providing inclusive technology solutions for all learners. Mike is the Director of the Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center at Disability Rights New Jersey and serves on the CAST Accessible Educational Materials and Center on Inclusive Technology & Education Systems (CITES) Advisory Boards. Mike is also the founder of EdcampAccess NJ and co-moderator of the weekly #ATchat Twitter chat. Mike believes that networking and information sharing

are essential for successful evaluation, consideration, implementation and application of technology to support individuals of ALL abilities.

Day 1 Sessions Include:

Preventing Social Isolation With a Holistic Approach to AT & Independent Living Speakers: Pam Fields, President & CEO, ATECH, Amy Rubin Mindell, Director of Community Outreach & Assistive Technology, ATECH; Marisol DeJesus, Assistive Technology Coordinator, ATECH

Smart Home Living Technology From Scheduling To Digital Assistants: Managing Everyday Tasks Speaker: Ramon Hernandez, Assistive Technology Specialist, NEAT Center at Oak Hill

All About Remote Monitoring Speakers: Pam Fields, President & CEO, ATECH; Robert Mule, President, Mule Security; Amy Rubin Mindell, Director of Community Outreach & Assistive Technology, ATECH; Marisol DeJesus, Assistive Technology Coordinator, ATECH

Staying Well In Independence: What AT Can Do To Help You Stay Well Speaker: Nick D'Aquila, Vice President, Assisted Living Technologies & Chief Information Officer, Assisted Living Services

Enhancing The Independence Experience With Smart Voice Technologies Speaker: Laurie Dale, Senior Leader, Assistive Technology, Ability Beyond

All About Executive Function Apps At Work, Remote Job Coaching & More Speakers: Amy Norton, Coordinator of Assistive Technology, EASTCONN; Shannon Taber, Director of Inclusion & Accessibility Services, United Cerebral Palsy of Eastern CT

How Virtual Reality Can Assist You & Promote Independence Speaker: Patricia Cymbala, Transition Advisor Assistive Technology, State of CT, Department of Developmental Services

Planning For Transportation Independence Speakers: Laurie McElwee, South-Central Regional Mobility Manager, State of Connecticut; April Chaplin, Northwest CT Regional Mobility Manager, The Kennedy Center, Inc.

Knowing Your Rights Under The ADA Speakers: Gretchen Knauff, Director, Office of Services for Persons with Disabilities, City of New Haven

Day 2 is a half-day workshop starting at 9:00 am: Shift Happens: Transform Your Way To Excellence

COVID PRECAUTIONS: Participants will be required to provide Proof of Vaccination prior to the conference. Mask use and related policies will be based on CDC, State of CT, and Town of Mystic guidelines at the time of the conference. Formal mask use policy will be announced just prior to the conference. The ATECH Conference Committee reserves the right to alter admission policies at any time to maintain and/or increase attendee health for all.

Joshua's Trust News

Submitted by Angelika Hansen

On Connecticut Trails weekend, join us for a walk on Saturday June 4, 10 am at Chenes-Roches in Willington or on Sunday June 5 at 1:30 p.m. coordinated with Mansfield Parks and Rec. Join hiking enthusiast and Joshua's Trust Regional Trail Steward, Justin Manville, for a guided hike in Sawmill Brook Preserve to celebrate CT Trails Weekend. Over three miles of trails wind through historic stonewalls. Meet at the Sawmill Brook Preserve Trailhead on Puddin Lane. (approximately 2/3 mile from intersection of Rte. 195 and Puddin Lane). Please, register with Mansfield Parks and Rec. https://web1.myvscloud.com/wbWSC/ctmansfieldRwt.wsc/search.html?module=AR&type=Parks_Activity#411005-A (there is no cost)

Want to discover one of the Trust's newest properties? Come join us on Saturday, June 18 at the Tower Hill Preserve (Tower Hill Road, Chaplin - look for the blue house on the north side). Deb Field will lead us on the newly developed trail system that highlights the stone walls and the flora of this unique preserve.

Come to the Trust's inaugural Ice Cream Social (from the Dairy Bar)! on Saturday, June 11, from 12 - 4 p.m. at the Atwood Farm (there will be a small charge for the ice cream) We will join with other Connecticut museums on Open House Day - including our Gurleyville Grist Mill - to showcase the two historical properties that the Trust cares for.

Brian Karlsson-Barnes continued from page 13

#60 Old Parsonage Built in 1840 to house minister Erastus Dickinson's family. The small *Greek Revival* house has vernacular elements, the front porch and bay window. A community center with weddings, wakes and a thrift shop; and Ladies Aid Society quilting bees upstairs. Sold by the church in 1985.

#54 One of the oldest structures in the village, circa 1800. Built several decades before town founding, in the simple vernacular style of Connecticut farmhouses.

#50 Built 1844-6, one of several one-and-a-half-story vernacular houses remaining in village. Function, not form and relatively unadorned with hints of classical detail. First Postmaster, Jared Lincoln (1863-1901) lived here.

#46 Old Store Built 1825-35 A *Greek Revival* pedimented gable on the street side with such *Federal* features as the segmented arch with a spider fanlight above the door, and a louvered semicircular vent with keystone motif within the attic pediment. Only commercial structure preserved on Chaplin Street, it housed the Chaplin Post Office (postmaster living next door **#50**) until moved south to **Gurley Tavern, #42**. Being lovingly restored by preservationist owners from a Boston urban village, Jamaica Plain.

#44 Merchant's (?) House Built 1828-35 by Isaac Goodell who sold "a dwelling house and merchant's store and shed" to his brother Walter for \$2,500. Fine example of both *Federal* style with sidelights and oval attic window, and *Greek Revival* with pediment and free-standing Doric columns supporting a side portico, and of the transition from *Federal* to *Greek* style in early 19th century New England.

#42 Gurley Tavern Built 1822 when Chaplin incorporated as a stagecoach inn where **Palmer Road** ends. The *Federal* entry is framed by molded pilasters with decorated capitals, surrounded by side lights and a fanlight under a Palladian window. An unusual cornice molding circles the roof. A 37-foot ballroom was upstairs, later a private school; downstairs has been the post office and a quilt shop.

ODD / WEST SIDE -- *The Congregational Trinity*

#47 Friendship House Built 1825-30 as a twin with **#35** to symmetrically frame the church with identical corner moldings, fanlights and roof details, probably same builder. Now the Parsonage.

#43 Congregational Church Benjamin Chaplin, Deacon of First Church of Mansfield, died in 1795 with immense holdings in the area. His will established his House of God on a half-acre in his namesake town. Built 1815, but his devoutly rigid standards didn't install a pastor, Rev. Jared Andrus, until 1820. Steeple completed 1837. Church moved 50 feet forward in 1868 (!) on new foundation for a larger congregation with space under, now Benjamin's Thrift Store. Being painted for the Bicentennial.

#35 Twin with #47 Built 1825-30 to frame the Church, an intriguing -- some say puzzling -- aspect of Chaplin Street's architecture. Both houses have late *Georgian/Federal* features such as the side-lighted doorways and semicircular fan windows.

EVEN / EAST SIDE

#36 is a vernacular house built earlier than the 1860s restoration / addition. A *Craftsman Bungalow* style front porch (c. early 1900s) faces west, warmer in winter with storm windows.

#28 Perkins House In 1795, dying Deacon Chaplin sold some 195-acres to Ephraim Perkins, deeded to Perkins' son, then 17 others over 17 decades. Many owners, little original remains, but the beams in the basement are whole tree trunks.

ODD / WEST SIDE

#31 is not only vernacular, but a composite building. Back wing was a store c.1830; leftmost was an 1840s tinshop; largest an 1850s schoolhouse. Combined as a house in 1936.

#19 Built c.1840, likely by Isaac Eaton, a vernacular example of "balloon-frame" construction with light timber, easy to erect and rearrange. Note the *Greek Revival* roof pediment and *Federal* doorway.

#15 One of five brick houses in the village. Never typical in New England, brick was probably from a nearby **Stonehouse Brook** claypit. Every seventh course is of

headers, and the lower walls are thick enough to support second-floor joists and thinner walls above. Central stairway was removed in the 1920s -- the Jazz Age -- opening the entry as a grand parlor. Did they dance?

#5 Chaplin Street is a *Greek Revival* twin to **#97** with pedimented gable and an ornate door.

On **Route 198**, the **Major Edwin Eaton House** (1835) was built a dozen years after town formation as a home for the master builder who may have built half the town. Its *Federal* style façade is imposing if less ornate than the crescent's houses. Note the unusual truncated hip roof and wide corner boards with even full-width quoins, and the front entry portico. A master builder knows which historic patterns apply to sites and conditions, and can apply, perhaps play with them masterfully.

STOP 7 Chaplin Street crosses **Route 198** again at the south end of the historic district with much better visibility... and continues east as **England Street** with a small arc of roadway serving the scenic route. Good place to stop, to consider the virtues of painting brick.

Across **198** is the **Goodell House** built in 1826, the solitary large brick house later sold to George England for whom the road crossing the river is named. Changed very little except the paint. A fan window is above the front door, beneath a Palladian window. One of many outstanding *Federal* houses in Chaplin Village, except the paint.

RIDE East crosses the **Natchaug River** again, more placid than the falls of Diana's Pool to the south. **England Street** continues uphill from the river, up and up until veering right, and down.

AND South on **Canada Road**, a short distance downhill to **North Bear Hill Road**, staying right on a downhill glide to **Cross Road**. Turn right (west) again to complete the palindromic pool loop.

End the ride with a yoga pose of relaxation, *Shvanasana*, the Corpse Pose. The cycle of life and death -- and rebirth -- is familiar to gardeners. Lay on your back. Close your eyes. Allow mind and body to absorb the ride. Quietly. Be still. Breathe...

Brian Karlsson-Barnes, Master gardener / designer, Chaplin

Photos by the author.

Poetry in the Park is Back!

Margaret Gibson and Steve Straight in June

Submitted by Suzy Staubach

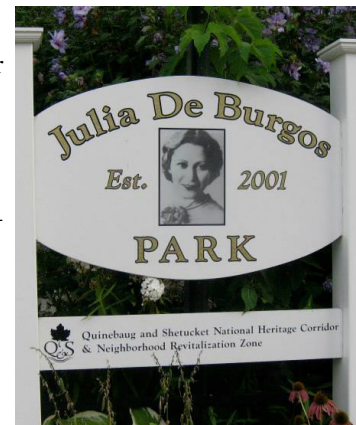
Poetry in the Park returns to the Julia de Burgos Park in Willimantic after a pandemic hiatus. The readings, featuring established and emerging poets of diverse backgrounds, are held in the pretty Julia de Burgos Park at the corner of Curbstone Way and Jackson Street in Willimantic. They are on the fourth Thursday of June, July, August and September. All readings begin at 6:30 p.m., except September, which begins at 6:00 pm. An open mic usually follows.

The first reading, June 23 at 6:30, features Margaret Gibson and Steve Straight.

Margaret Gibson is Connecticut's State Poet Laureate. Her most recent book, *The Glass Globe*, completes a trilogy exploring her husband's struggle with Alzheimer's disease, eventual death, and the climate crisis. Numerous other collections of poetry include *Signs; Long Walks in the Afternoon*, which was a Lamont Poetry Selection; *The Vigil*, a finalist for the National Book Award; *Earth Elegy: New and Selected Poems; One Body*, which won the Connecticut Center for the Book Award in Poetry; *Second Nature*, and *Broken Cup*.

Steve Straight was professor of English and director of the poetry program at Manchester Community College. His full-length collections include *Affirmation*, *The Almanac*, and *The Water Carrier*, which was a finalist for the Connecticut Book Award in Poetry. For many years Straight directed the Connecticut Poetry Circuit, and the Seminar Series for the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival. He has given workshops on writing and teaching throughout the eastern United States. In 1998 he was named a Distinguished Advocate for the Arts by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. He lives in South Windsor with his wife, Marian Maccarone, a soprano, and voice teacher.

Poetry in the Park is a project of the Curbstone Foundation. Readings are free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. In the event of rain, readings will be moved to Zoom. Check Facebook for updates: [facebook.com/CurbstoneLiteraryProject](https://www.facebook.com/CurbstoneLiteraryProject)



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When to Write

By Felix F. Giordano

One thing that writers don't often consider regarding their craft is when is the best time to write. Some writers may say whenever I have the time. That's a recipe for failure because there are many demands on our time that can pull us away from our writing. That's not to say that we should all become hermits and extract our family and friends from our lives. What is important is to determine what time of the day and/or what day of the week best suits our ability to devote to our craft. Developing a writing schedule is most important and will result in success.

Ideally, you want to write when you are most creative, when distractions are at a minimum, and when you are most alert. Obviously you need to fit your writing somewhere into your overall daily schedule. If you're a student, have a job, or if you are raising a family you may not have the time to write during the day. However, if you are serious about writing, you will find the time that is appropriate for you. I completed an Internet search on when people should write and discovered the following suggestions:

A) - On average, it's best to write in the mornings for the following reasons:

1. You have the highest levels of willpower earlier in the day and are less likely to get distracted
2. The brain's creative activity is at its peak just after it dreams and sleeps, and becomes more analytical as the day progresses

B) - Night-time is our own time. The dark hours tend to be more relaxing:

1. Lighting is softer
2. We're spending less time on social media
3. The overall setting is quieter. This makes it ten times easier to focus on our writing

This appears to be contradictory. Some say that it's better to write in the morning and others say it's better to write in the evening. Who's right? They both are. It's even correct to write in the afternoon if it works for you. We are all diverse human beings and our brain chemistry is different for each and every one of us. That's why some of us are writers, some are speakers, some are analytical, and others are mechanically inclined. We should never compare ourselves to others, or become disheartened, envious, or develop a sense of superiority over others who share our same passion for writing. Our creativity, energy, ambitions, and discipline are uniquely based upon our ancestry, genes, habits, upbringing, and even our own individual sleep habits.

There are no concrete rules for when to write. I've known writers who say they get up at 4 a.m. and write until 7 a.m. when their children get up. Then once they send their kids off to school they go back and write until noon. Some writers who are retired keep their computers turned on all day and when they feel motivated they go to their PC and write. Some writers need a certain room to write in, an airy place, or even a basement or attic hideaway. Perhaps they like to write on their screened porch with a pitcher of lemonade by their side. Whatever works for each of us is what's important.

Take Stephen King as an example since he is one of the most successful authors in American Literature and a prolific writer. He writes every day of the year beginning between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. and writes more than two-thousand words a day (about eight pages). He finishes writing between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm and for the rest of the day does whatever interests him. King has developed a writing habit that works.

Not everyone can become a Stephen King. Because he is a professional author, writing pays his bills. For most of us writing is not our day job, we're either students, in the workforce, or retired. Writing alone will not pay our bills and we may not be able to write at the same time and length every single day.

I have found that what works for me is writing most evenings between 9 p.m. to midnight. The phone doesn't ring, no one comes to the door, the family is asleep as well as the dogs. I sit in my recliner in my media room. I pull up my wheeled computer desk up to the recliner, pull out the keyboard tray up to my lap, turn on the TV, set the

volume on low, tune in to a ball game or a documentary for background ambience, and for some reason the subdued chatter helps with my creativity.

A subtopic for *When to Write* is how to manage inspiration for your stories. They may come to mind while you're driving. You may be listening to the radio and hear a commentator mention something that you realize would work well in your book. I once heard a local broadcaster describe an ex-military buddy as string-bean-thin but tough-as-nails. I had an epiphany, grabbed my cellphone off the passenger seat, called my home phone, and left a message describing what I had just heard. I then used that term to describe a recurring character in my novels, Willie Otaktay a Native American who exactly fits that physical description. If I hadn't left that phone message on my landline, I may not have remembered the term in those same words. This technique also works if you happen to be out and about shopping, at the doctor's office, hiking on a forest trail, or just watching TV.

Last year I was watching a film and heard a character say, Ghost with a Gun. I immediately envisioned it as a workable title for a future book in my novel series and purchased the URL. A cell phone or a digital voice recorder is crucial to carry with you at all times so that you do not miss out on the many inspirations that can and will bombard your creative mind. Use the technology at your disposal to record not just thoughts that may come to mind but sights, sounds, conversations, dialects, mannerisms, and even scents, odors, and smells that may be relevant to scenes in your book or short story.

One last source of inspiration is our dreams. Our dreams take us to where our conscious mind dares not go. During REM sleep, the right side of our brain accelerates in activity and that is where creativity and innovation are seated. Mary Shelly had a nightmare which then became the novel, *Frankenstein*. From a dream, director James Cameron envisioned *Terminator*. Elias Howe (sewing machine), Albert Einstein (theory of relativity), Niels Bohr (structure of the atom), and painter Salvador Dali all owe their inspirations to dreams. A writer friend of mine keeps a pad and pencil by his bed. When he awakens in the middle of the night and remembers something of significance in a dream that he can apply to his writing, he writes it down so that he doesn't forget it in the morning.

The bottom line is whatever works for you regarding when to write and how to manage and retain your day-to-day inspirations is what's important. What is critical is to not deviate from your schedule. Once it becomes a habit you will discover that your writing will flow easier, your ideas will proliferate, and you will become a better and more successful writer.

We defined "When to Write" as part of The Elements of Writing, and I hope I've piqued your interest in writing. Storytelling is inherent in us all. It is who we are as social human beings and we all have stories to tell.

Felix F. Giordano is a local author with books sales in excess of 7,000 and has had more than 4 million pages of his books read by Amazon Kindle Unlimited subscribers. His website is jbnovels.com.

Mr. Giordano also chairs a Saturday writers group and presents a monthly lecture series at the Willington Public Library. Please call (860) 429-3854 for more information.

Next Month's Topic: Writers' Block

Common Sense Car Care

By Rick Ostien

This month's article as promised is the first of a series on electric vehicles. I've worked as an auto technician for more than 50 years. All of my experience has been with the Internal Combustion Engine commonly referred to as an ICE engine. As I begin to research the Electric Vehicle or EV, I will do my best to provide you with the best information I can find. That being said, I am focusing on batteries this month.

The EV actually has 2 different batteries, one is the lithium-ion battery pack that runs the electric motor and the other is a deep cycle lead acid battery to run the accessories like the wipers and the radio. The more performance that is expected from the EV, the larger the battery pack needs to be. This can be compared to the ICE engines and the difference in performance of a 4-cylinder engine to an 8-cylinder engine. The lead acid battery in an EV is similar to the lead acid battery in an ICE vehicle. The EV deep cycle battery is made with thicker plates that are designed to continually discharge energy while the vehicle is running. The battery in an ICE vehicle is made with thinner plates because the ICE engine requires just a short burst of high energy to crank the engine and start the vehicle. The alternator or if equipped generator takes over and supplies the energy the vehicle needs to operate. This also recharges your battery.

The auto manufacturers over the years have designed what I call a "jelly bean" body design for less air resistance and they have worked hard to make vehicles lighter to improve gas mileage. The newly designed EV's are actually heavier because of the battery weight. The Honda E has a 35 KWH battery pack and provides a driving range of about 130 miles with a curb weight of 3,400 pounds. Higher KWH batteries provide more performance, but they weigh more. An example of a high-performance electric vehicle is the GM Hummer with a curb weight of 9063 pounds of which 2923 pounds is battery weight. The battery pack weighs more than a gas-powered Honda Civic sedan.

The batteries on an EV will eventually need to be recharged. There are actually 3 options for charging an EV. The first option is a high energy charging station known as a quick charge, the next option is a home charging station, and the last option is to plug it into a regular 110 outlet. A steady diet of quick charging the battery will shorten its life. High DC output charging stations take about 54 minutes to get an 80% charge. A home charging station will take about 6 hours for a 100% charge. It takes about 24 hours to recharge an EV to 100% on a 110 outlet. Currently, high energy charging stations are limited around the country. Right now, an EV seems more practical for short trips in a local area.

The EV has a cooling system known as a thermal management system. This is designed to keep the batteries from overheating. The hybrid vehicles of today have a similar cooling system for their batteries. The outside temperatures play a large role in the operation of an EV. The colder the weather is the less the performance is. Extremely hot weather can also be a factor in damaging the EV battery pack. Many people park their vehicles in an outside parking lot, on the street, or just in their driveway. This presents problems charging your EV properly. The EV's battery pack is under the vehicles body. The manufacturers strongly suggest that the owner keep the undercarriage clean and as rust free as possible. New England weather, as we already know, is not friendly to vehicles and metals in general. This could certainly pose problems for EV owners in the future.

Hopefully this information has helped you to understand a little more about what powers an EV vehicle. I am going to continue to research the EV to learn more about it and to pass on to my readers what I have found. Until next month...

Rick Ostien is the owner of Franc Motors in Willington.

Please thank and patronize our advertisers for making the Neighbors paper possible. Thank you. T. King, Publisher

Dear Reader-

Please consider contributing to Neighbors- Write an article about a person you admire or a local program you believe is important. Take a photo of a friend, loved one or pet. Write a poem or a piece of flash fiction. These pages would be full of press releases without submissions from local residents who care about each other and their community.

T. King, Publisher

CT Green Energy News

Submitted by Peter Millman

Welcome to the CT Green Energy News, a weekly digest of stories that has been condensed into a monthly format for *Neighbors* readers. To read the full stories online, just Google the titles below. You can also subscribe to the free weekly email newsletter by contacting Peter Millman at peter.millman7@gmail.com.



News and events for advocates of clean energy, energy efficiency, and climate action at the state and local levels, focusing on Connecticut. Brought to you by People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) and Eastern CT Green Action (ECGA).

On climate change, a political shift in Connecticut
CT Mirror. "With the final passage Friday of a "Connecticut Clean Air Act," the House put a bow on a productive session for addressing climate change and clean energy, a comeback for environmentalists after...last year's defeat of the Transportation and Climate Initiative...The defeat pushed activists to be better organized and more aggressive, fueled a desire among lawmakers to deliver an overdue victory on climate change and imparted hard lessons about messaging, not the least of which was the necessity of making greenhouse gas emissions relevant to a broader audience...This year, Democrats were not spooked by the near-unanimous Republican opposition to Senate Bill 4, the clean air act...Three other environment bills passed with bipartisan support this week...This has been a banner week for climate policy in Connecticut," Brown said."

Small-scale solar is saving New England's climate goals
E&E News. "...distributed solar in New England is anything but small. So many panels have been installed on homes and businesses that New England's fleet of small-scale solar systems can crank out more power during the middle of the day than its two remaining nuclear facilities. Wholesale power prices increasingly turn negative during the daytime hours, with power generation exceeding demand. Such trends were once confined to California, but no more. ISO New England, the regional grid operator, says nighttime electricity consumption has eclipsed daytime demand on more occasions this year than in all previous years combined....The results show that behind-the-meter solar is an important part of the region's decarbonization toolbox...But New England will need more than just distributed solar if it is to achieve its climate goals."

Connecticut's automotive dealers should examine their own behavior

CT Mirror. "Connecticut legislators are currently debating whether consumers should be allowed to purchase electric vehicles (EVs) directly from a manufacturer without requiring a franchised dealership as a middleman. Support for this pro-consumer, free-market model include a wide variety of interests such as: environmental groups (who know that EV adoption is three to five times higher in states that allow direct sales); consumer advocates (who have noticed discriminatory and predatory sales and lending practices from dealerships); EV drivers (who face bureaucratic hurdles to driving electric); free-market advocates (who see dealer protectionism as undermining basic economic freedoms) and EV manufacturers (who want to bring retail locations and jobs to the state)."

CT lawmakers vote to add thousands of electric vehicles in decade

New Haven Register. "The legislation came into its final form earlier this week, when Lamont's proposal to adopt California's emissions standards on medium- and heavy-duty trucks was rolled into a larger Democratic bill known as the Connecticut Clean Air Act, which requires the state to convert its fleet of roughly 3,600 cars and light-duty trucks to electric models by 2030, and set targets further out for the conversion to zero-emission buses used for schools and transportation. In order to coax residents and other entities into making their own switch to electric, the bill would expand the state's electric vehicle rebate program, which for the first time will be made available to businesses and municipalities. It also mandates that newly built state facilities and school construction projects include a minimum number of parking spaces with electric vehicle charging infrastructure."

Lawmakers Approve 2040 Target for Zero-Carbon Emissions

CT Examiner. "Connecticut lawmakers approved legislation codifying as law Gov. Ned Lamont's goals for a zero-carbon emissions from Connecticut's electric supply

by 2040, in addition to expanding two programs aimed at incentivizing large solar projects...Asked what the point of the goal is if a "zero-emission" electric grid doesn't mean there are zero emissions generated by power plants in Connecticut, Arconti said it sends a signal to the regional market that the state is serious about its commitment to renewable energy, and that the grid operator needs to change its market rules that renewable advocates say block them out...Lawmakers also agreed to double the caps on two solar incentive programs – the Non-residential Energy Solutions program that allows businesses to seek incentives for solar projects; and the Shared Clean Energy Facilities program that allows customers to subscribe to a "shared" clean energy project larger than what they could build alone."

With trash plant closing, CT rethinks waste policy

CT Mirror. "Connecticut produces almost 2.4 million tons of trash a year, of which about 1.4 million are managed by the in-state incinerators. That means almost a million tons must be shipped to out of state landfills. Dykes said the immediate goal is to reduce that number to the point where the state is self-sufficient, managing its own waste, a goal of the state's 2016 waste management plan...Dykes said her goal is to find alternatives such as anaerobic digestion and "scale them up" so they are available to all state residents. She said the state can play a role, perhaps by guaranteeing to buy electricity from digestion plants, as an incentive to build more of them."

New England grid operator moves to delay reform of rule favoring fossil fuels

Energy News Network. "The minimum offer price rule [MOPR] makes it harder for subsidized renewables to compete in ISO-New England's capacity markets. A stakeholder group endorsed getting rid of the rule next year, but the grid operator now wants to push back the change to 2025...In its proposal, ISO cited reliability concerns as the primary reason for delaying an end to the MOPR...[But] 'We haven't seen any real analysis from the grid operator that shows that there's a problem...Keeping the MOPR in place is going to be very expensive for customers, bad for the environment, and will keep a dirtier grid in place than the New England states are calling for.'

NE power grid demand falls to its lowest level ever

Commonwealth. "Overall, demand for power from the grid fell to 7,580 megawatts during the afternoon, the lowest level since ISO-New England began operating the grid in 1997. Five years ago, on Sunday May 6, 2017, power demand from the grid was 10,929 megawatts. The demand for power from the grid last Sunday reflects how electricity demand is evolving. Traditionally, demand for power from the grid is lowest at night when most people are sleeping. With more and more solar power being produced by homeowners, however, the lowest demand for electricity from the grid is starting to occur more and more in the afternoon if the weather conditions are right."

Connecticut electric vehicle rebate reforms include point-of-sale vouchers

Energy News Network. "The state's electric vehicle rebates were increased for lower-income residents last year, but participation has been limited, in part because recipients have had to apply for the incentive after purchasing a

vehicle...CHEAPR offers rebates of \$750 to \$2,250 on the purchase of battery-electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.' [But] It's asking a lot to have a lower-income individual float that cash,' said Kresch [from the EV Club of CT]".

New hotel in New Haven using renewable energy

WTNH News 8. "As nice as everything looks, the Hotel Marcel is about so much more than aesthetics. In fact, the goal of the hotel is to be net-zero power. In other words, they will generate all of the electricity used by the building. 'As a net-zero building, we'll be producing all of our energy from on-site, renewable energy,' Becker said. That comes from hundreds of solar panels, many on canopies in the parking lot. Power is stored in giant batteries the size of a large refrigerator. 'And this allows us to operate the hotel when the grid goes down, send power back to the grid,' Becker explained."



As Ned Lamont promotes clean energy, Bob Stefanowski wary on cost

CT Mirror. "Gov. Ned Lamont and his Republican challenger, Bob Stefanowski, clashed last year over the tabled Transportation and Climate Initiative, disagreeing over what it would have meant to Connecticut's environment and the price of gasoline. But the extent of their differences on climate change is only now being explored: As Lamont aggressively promotes his record, Stefanowski is non-committal regarding his support for meeting clean-energy goals set by the governor."

The ISO must do more to push for green energy

CT Mirror. "Allowing wind and solar power to compete with fossil fuels to provide backup power during peak demand periods would be a major step in the right direction. Unfortunately, ISO recently postponed that effort for two years. Simply put, ISO picked gas over green energy and threw a wrench in the affordability of new wind and solar projects. They once again claim, erroneously, that we'd all face blackouts if we didn't stay shackled to fossil fuels... But now ISO appears to be opening a door to change. Van Welie needs to be held to his word for his recent assertion that renewable energy is one of ISO's priorities. Dykes and other New England energy officials need to call ISO back to the table and find out how it plans to actually make good on its prioritization of renewables."

CT schools will soon be required to teach climate change

CT Mirror. "Connecticut schools will soon be required to teach climate change as a part of the science curriculum, a move state legislators and advocates say will mean changes at a small percentage of schools that aren't yet bringing the subject to the classroom. Close to 90% of schools already teach about climate change, but it will be required by state law beginning in July 2023..."

First Annual Garden Club of Windham Garden Tour

Two dates to visit public planted spaces in Willimantic.
Friday June 10 3pm-5pm Sunday June 12 10 am-12 pm
\$15 per person. Refundable if the trip is canceled



Get a seat on the Senior Center van and be guided around Willimantic to visit 10 sites where the Garden Club of Windham has made a difference. From the Garden on the Bridge to the brand new High Street Hillside garden, our club has designed, planted, and maintained urban gardens for public benefit.

For more information, go to our web site www.GardenClubofWindhamct.org



The Convenience Tradeoff

By Calen Nakash

For better or for worse, corporations have become a part of our daily lives. With few exceptions, every product and service is owned by one major company that crouches at the top of a corporate pyramid, absorbing any startups that catch its interest.

The result is a level of convenience that is unprecedented. Someone once told me, “As soon as you were able to order a book in your pajamas, there was no going back.”

The few mom-and-pop restaurants, doughnut shops, and coffee places are beacons of light today, where locals can go and enjoy themselves in an oasis separate from the blaring commercials that instruct us to consume. It’s worth noting that with “inflation,” the prices at fast-food restaurants now rival those at these same family-owned businesses. While corporations are currently enjoying record-high profits, they continue to refuse to pay a living wage, fighting against unions and laying off workers. An example are today’s gas prices: we get almost none of our oil from Russia, but as soon as the narrative allowed it, prices skyrocketed. Someone informed me that when gas prices went down, gas-station employees were told to wait until the next day to post the change, but when they went up, they were instructed to change the price immediately.

One reason to fight for remote work is as a defense against this: Driving to a job 30 minutes away that pays minimum wage becomes a lot less feasible when gas could cost a dollar more tomorrow. What minimum wage really means is “If we could legally pay you less, we would,” and it doesn’t care a whit for inflation. (The argument for a \$15.00 minimum wage has been going on for so long that the actual living wage is now \$24.00.)

When it comes to buying products, it is easier than ever to get the part or item you’re looking for by simply typing it into a search bar, but those who take up the challenge to shop locally often learn that it’s impossible to find what they’re looking for. The corporate sludge has encroached upon everything. It has what you need.

There are a few solutions: Buy less and need less. Learn to use what you have and to build what you don’t. Fight for stricter regulations (this is difficult, as money talks, and you don’t have more resources than a corporation), or increase the public perception of a problem to the point that the corporations are forced to listen. Dunkin’ Doughnuts, for example, eventually switched away from Styrofoam cups, which never degrade, to paper cups, and apparently, from my limited research, stopped frying their doughnuts in palm oil (which is responsible for the destruction of rainforests—if you can, *avoid this product*).

We need to change the corporate mindset of pretending to care about the issues of our time while taking what they can and giving nothing back. If there’s a spare plot of nature you like to visit, there’s a good chance some corporation has its eye on it.

But our own perception needs to change, as well. The only thing corporations care about is infinite profits. When those profits are threatened, good things happen. The public managed to pull many businesses out of Russia. Some businesses have raised their wages, understanding that people who aren’t able to survive aren’t able to perform to their full potential. People care about people, and those in dire straits often get by on crowdfunding platforms such as GoFundMe. That is by design, as is highlighted by the foodservice industry: it’s legal to pay those in the industry around \$2.00 an hour, *as long as tipping brings that up to minimum wage*. For those consumers with social anxiety, having the computer tablet flipped around as a 25% recommended tip is displayed feels like being held up at gunpoint.

The corporate monolith requires continual consumption, but it never gives up the funds that people need in order to consume without a fight.

So please, don’t feed the corporate sludge unless you have to. Ask yourself what you truly need in your life to be happy, and *make an effort* to ask others to do the same. The more convenience a corporation provides, the more is at stake. Netflix recently raised its prices and put out some accompanying corporate rhetoric that forced people who had been subscribing since the beginning to ask themselves, “Do I really need this?” And for a surprising number of people, the answer was “no.” Those who hadn’t used the service in ages suddenly realized what their money was going toward, and chose to take their business elsewhere. I’m a big fan of horror movies, and when I found a service, Shudder, that gave me a bunch of niche titles for \$6.00 a month, I found making the switch much easier.

Finally, ask yourself what you can afford with your current budget. If you can, pay more to shop locally. If you can’t, change the narrative by bringing it up in conversation. Discuss your wages. Push for unionization. Don’t feel demoralized by the little you have if you don’t have enough—the majority of people are in the same boat, and the more who realize that, the more we can push back. It all starts from the bottom up.

A thank you to a fan who came to watch me at my theater performance last month: I’m sorry I missed you, and it means a lot that you enjoy my writing. You’re part of the reason I got back on the proverbial horse.

New Law Provides Additional Protection For Dogs Being Tethered Or Sheltered

By Attorney Kevin M. Tighe

On May 23, 2022, Governor Lamont signed into law Public Act No. 22-59 (entitled “An Act Concerning The Tethering And Sheltering Of Dogs”) which made changes to the existing law concerning the tethering and sheltering of dogs. These future changes provide additional protection for tethered or sheltered dogs and they go into effect on October 1, 2022. The future changes to the existing law concerning the tethering and sheltering of dogs: (1) require sanitary/potable water to be provided to a tethered dog, (2) specify when dogs should not be outside under certain weather conditions, (3) define an “adequate shelter” for dogs, and (4) subject violators to fines.

The existing law describes five ways in which a dog may not be tethered. For example, a dog may not be tethered to a stationary object or to a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley by means of a tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least eight feet, excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip of such dog’s nose to the base of such dog’s tail, in any one direction. There are exceptions to the tethering requirements for veterinarians, dog shows, etc. However, if a dog is properly tethered, the new law provides an additional protection to such a tethered dog: such dog must be provided sanitary/potable water at least twice in each twenty-four hour period.

The new law also requires that a dog be provided “adequate shelter” when (1) the National Weather Service (instead of state or local authorities) issues a weather advisory or warning, or (2) adverse outdoor environmental conditions pose a risk to the dog’s health or safety, based on the dog’s breed, size, age, coat thickness, or physical condition. The consideration of the dog’s size and coat thickness is added by the new law. The requirement of “adequate shelter” applies only when the dog is outdoors for more than fifteen minutes. The new law waives the “adequate shelter” requirement when the dog is accompanied by someone who is outside during the same weather warning or advisory or exposed to the same environmental conditions.

Under the new law, an “adequate shelter” is defined as a structure that: (1) provides natural or artificial light during daylight hours, (2) offers enough space for a dog to sit, lie down, and turn, (3) is soundly built, kept in good repair, and without accumulated animal waste, debris, precipitation, and moisture, (4) has sanitary drinking water that is not frozen, (5) has no space heater or wood or fuel burning equipment for space heating, (6) is not (a) under exterior stairs or (b) under or inside a motor vehicle, and (7) has appropriately sized wire or metal chain links so that a dog’s paws cannot be caught in them, if constructed with the links. During cold outdoor weather, an “adequate shelter” must: (1) be raised off the ground and sufficiently enclosed and insulated to allow a dog to maintain normal body temperature, (2) have a solid roof and walls and a wind-protected opening for entry and exit, and (3) have dry bedding. Finally, during extreme outdoor heat, an “adequate shelter” must provide enough shade and ventilation for a dog to maintain normal body temperature.

Note that there already exists a law in Connecticut concerning the tethering and sheltering of dogs (Connecticut General Statutes Section 22-350a). The existing law provides that a person “who confines or tethers a dog for an unreasonable period of time” and/or violates the provisions of the existing law governing the tethering or sheltering of dogs may be subject to the following fines: (1) \$100 for a first offense, (2) \$200 for a second offense, and (3) between \$250 and \$500 for a third or subsequent offense. After the additional/changed requirements go into effect on October 1, 2022, these fines may also be imposed for violations of the additional/changed requirements to the existing law discussed in this article.

If, after October 1, 2022, you observe a dog tethered or sheltered in violation of the additional/changed requirements to the existing law concerning the tethering or sheltering of dogs discussed in this article (or in violation of the requirements of the existing law before October 1, 2022), you may contact your local animal control officer to file a complaint. If the animal control officer is not available and you believe that the dog in question is being illegally tethered or sheltered, you may file a complaint with your local police department/resident trooper.

This article and the information in it do not constitute legal advice and are not substitutes for legal or other professional advice. If you wish to contact me, please email me at AttorneyTighe@tighelawfirm.com

Song-a-Day Music Celebrates Make Music Day

Submitted by Ruth O’Neil

The Song-a-Day Music Center in Coventry joins the international Make Music Day Celebration taking place on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. Make Music Day is a one-day event where free, live musical performances, opportunities to make music, and other musical events take place around the world on the longest day of the year. Musical offerings in Coventry and throughout Connecticut are part of a global celebration of music making in over 800 cities inspired by France’s Fête de la Musique.

The Song-a-Day Music Center invites community members to visit on Tuesday between the hours of 4 and 7 P.M. to observe lessons and musical demonstrations, which weather permitting, will take place outside. Demonstrations to be observed include piano, woodwinds, banjo, ukulele and guitar. Visitors are welcome to view the music center and become familiar with its offerings. Later in the evening, from 7-9 P.M., the Music Center will host an informal open mike/open stage. Guests are invited to share a song. Sign up will be provided. The event is free and open to the public. In case of rain, lessons will take place inside the music center. Space may be limited in keeping with current state requirements regarding capacity limits. Visitors are asked to practice social distancing and wear a mask when distancing outside is not possible. At this time, masks are required when inside the music center.

“To create, to make music is inside each one of us. We all should have the chance to express that creative part of ourselves whenever possible,” says Ruth O’Neil, owner, and director of the Song-a-Day Music Center. “We are proud and excited to be part of Make Music Day and are trying to offer something special not only for the community but our students as well during this time when public performances have been so limited. This day is a true gift to communities everywhere.” Music has been shown to strengthen social connectivity, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, stimulate memory, and is integral to a well-rounded, enjoyable life. Now participating in Make Music Day for its fifth year, the Song-a-Day Music Center encourages every form of music making.

National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) members and partners from coast to coast, including the Song-a-Day Music Center, will open their doors, joining in their communities’ celebrations of Make Music Day. June 21 is the perfect day to stop into a local music store for some gear or to go out and play—whether it’s for the first time or the thousandth.

For more information on the day contact the Song-a-Day Music Center at 860-742-6878, inquiries@songadaymusic.com or the Song-a-Day Music Facebook Page. The Song-a-Day Music center has been in operation for 20 years offering musical instruction, sales, rentals and repairs.

Also taking place in Coventry for Make Music Day is a Sing/Play a Long event sponsored by the Coventry Arts Guilds. This is to be held at Creaser Park Pavillion from 3-8 P.M. Creaser Park is located at 100 Case Rd in Coventry. For more information on this happening, contact www.coventryartsguild.org.

About Make Music Day: Held annually on June 21, Make Music Day is part of the international Fête de la Musique, taking place in 800 cities across 120 countries. The daylong, musical free-for-all celebrates music in all its forms, encouraging people to band together and play in free public concerts. This year, more than 65 U.S. cities are organizing Make Music Day celebrations, encompassing thousands of concerts nationwide. Make Music Day is presented by The NAMM Foundation and coordinated by the Make Music Alliance. For more information, please visit makemusicday.org.

Spiral Arts- From Unbound to Lockdown

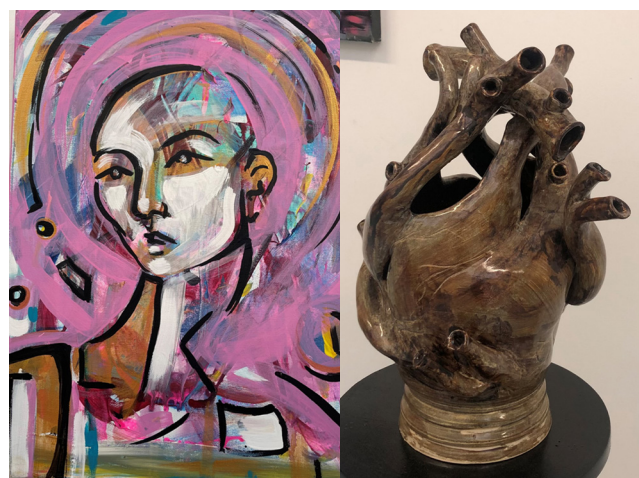


By Lisa Kruger

The EC-CHAP Dye and Bleach House Community Gallery is showcasing two local artists.

An upcoming exhibition entitled "Spiral Arts: From Unbound To Lockdown" is planned for June 4th through July 9th. The featured Artists are Genevieve Govoni and Daniela de Sousa. The exhibit features works showcasing the inner strength and power of women within their universe. Many of the works are untitled to allow the observer to form their own experience.

Genevieve Govoni is an artist and art educator living in eastern Connecticut. She teaches art at Parish Hill Middle School where she instructs students in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Daniela de Sousa is a visual artist and educator. She is an adjunct professor in the sculpture department at Eastern Connecticut State University. Daniela has worked with a variety of media, but she loves clay and specializes in ceramics.



Together, they founded Spiral Arts Studio in 2017. The studio, located at 32 Young Street in Willimantic, was created to provide art education and workspace for artists, children and adults, to help them design and create a better world.

The Dye and Bleach House Community Gallery is located at 156 River Road in Willington, Connecticut. The gallery and adjoining history museum are open Saturdays 10am-Noon or by appointment. There is no charge for admission, but donations are greatly appreciated.

The Dye and Bleach House Community Gallery was developed to serve as a platform for local and regional artists of all ages to display their original work for public viewing. This is not a commercial gallery. There are no fees to the artist, and no prices are published by EC-CHAP. EC-CHAP provides contact information for artists that wish to be reached, and 100% of revenue from any sales go directly to the artist. Unless otherwise agreed upon, displaying artists are required to gallery sit during open hours based on a mutually agreeable schedule.

We welcome everyone to visit and view the art-work during open hours and encourage artists, students and more to participate and apply to have their work on display! For more information about the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery and how you can be a part of our efforts to showcase regional artists, please email: info@ec-chap.org or call: 518-791-9474.

A Loveletter to You by Calendula

By *Calendula*

My album, *Loveletter*, was recently premiered at The Packing House, on May 21st. It was the culminating project of my artist residency at EC-CHAP, and I am deeply grateful to all those who helped it come to life, including: Conor Ryan, for mixing/mastering, and making it sound better than I could have imagined; Chris Holguin, for the beautiful cover art (the full piece he painted is pictured below); Jeff DiIorio, for all the support and the killer guitar solo on "Not Gonna Wait;" and Tom Buccino, for the opportunity to be an Artist-In-Residence and the space to create the music.



Creative spaces and creative opportunities are rare, and they are a privilege, and I really wish they weren't this way. I wish creative spaces were able to flourish in whatever places they crop up. I wish everyone had the time and means to explore creative outlets in the way they want, and the ability to pursue their passions, unhindered. The realities of the world we live in make it excessively more difficult for poor and working-class people to have the resources to do this, and it is not fair, and it is something I hope more people realize the full scope of.

When times are tough, the arts suffer. And while they are not "essential," they are needed – from people of all walks of life. I couldn't imagine my life without music or art. I have a good feeling that if you're reading this, you probably couldn't either.

There are a lot of people in this country and the world that are not able to afford patronizing the arts, or don't have the time allowance to create art, and I think many of us are not really that far away from that situation, ourselves.

This idea of class solidarity is at the core of *Loveletter*. Everyone should not just have the means to survive, but to thrive. So many have neither, and many more have the former but not the latter.

I also don't think singing or writing songs about it is really an answer to this problem, but I guess it's a way to start a conversation about it. I take a lot of inspiration from music that tells a story about the times, especially old ones where the story still rings true.

One of the songs on the record is the folk tune "Bread and Roses," which was originally a poem by James Oppenheim, written in 1911, then set to music by Martha Coleman in 1912, but I think it describes an age-old situation. It has this line: "Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses too."

I hope you will fight to have both bread and roses in your life. I hope you will also fight to help others have bread and roses in their lives, too. If you're unsure how you can help do this, I think being involved in your local community (supporting small businesses and markets, arts, and municipal politics), as well as reading about the interplays of social class and societal structures, are a couple good places to start.

Loveletter does not yet live online to stream or download, but I'll be releasing some tracks soon, and if you'd like to listen to it, you can contact me via the email address listed, and I'll send you a link to stream or a CD. Thank you for listening.

Love, Calendula

Abigail Golec is an Artist-In-Residence (music discipline) at EC-CHAP, advancing her singer-songwriter project under the musical moniker Calendula. Abigail can be reached at: AIR-Music@ec-chap.org

June Events at The Mill Museum

Submitted by Chelsey Knyff, Marketing Director

Wed., June 1: **Weaving Textiles.** 4-6 p.m. Join Chelsey Knyff, Curatorial Director of The Mill Museum, at the Willimantic Public Library, Main St., to learn not only about how to weave, but how textiles were traditionally made. This fun, 2-hour workshop will teach you about shuttles, bobbins, yarns and heddles and enable you to try a loom and see how the basic weave in textiles works!

Sun., June 5: **Brooke Shannon Memorial: Rose of Sharon Planting** at 11:30 a.m. to honor the former Mill Museum Executive Director, Brooke Shannon. Her sister, Lynn Duval, will lead the memorial event, which will take place at the back of The Mill Museum on the Union St. side. Please attend and share your memories.

Sat., June 11: **Connecticut Open House Day**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Mill Museum will offer free admission to visitors of all ages at 411 Main St., Willimantic, CT. "The purpose of this event is to inspire Connecticut residents to learn about all the experiences in their own backyard, anticipating that this will convert them into ambassadors who will recommend these experiences to other visitors," according to the CT Dept. of Economic & Community Development.

Tues., June 14: Mill Members Mattatuck Museum Trip, 144 West Main St., Waterbury, CT, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. To register for the 11 a.m. guided tour, call (860) 456-2178 or email info@millmuseum.org by June 12. Meet at the Mattatuck Museum at 10:40 a.m. The ticket price of \$17 includes a 1-hour tour, followed by exploration of other exhibits. Mill Museum members should buy tickets (cash) in person at the Mattatuck Museum on June 14. Eat lunch on your own locally or bring a packed lunch to put in a locker and then eat on the Museum roof. Mill Museum members can stay at the Mattatuck Museum as long as they want after the guided tour.

Thurs., June 16: **Third Thursday**, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. on Main St., Willimantic, CT. The Mill Museum and the CT Eastern Railroad Museum will be handing out flyers. Provide your name and contact information for a chance to win free tickets to the Mill Museum in a drawing.

Fri., June 17: **Father Figure's Day Card-Making.** 1 p.m.-3 p.m. in person at Dugan Hall, 157 Union St., Willimantic, CT. Make a father-figure card of a trophy or frog and learn about the Windham frog story at this free children's event. If COVID numbers increase, this will be a pick-up activity with instructions for children to make at home. Check our website (millmuseum.org) for updates. Recommended for children 5-9 years old.

Tues., June 19: **Savers FUNDrive.** 2 p.m. donation of items from Mill Museum to Savers.

Sat., June 25: **Drop-in Spinning Bee** with Peggy Church. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in person at Dugan Hall, 157 Union St., Willimantic. Stop by and bring your wheel. Vaccinations and masks required. All skill levels and visitors are welcome. Free admission. For information, directions, or just to let us know you're coming, e-mail peggychurch2@gmail.com.

Sun., Jun 26: **Rochambeau and His Army East of the River:** 2 p.m. presentation in Dugan Hall, 157 Union St., Willimantic. On June 10, 1781, a French army of about 6,000, under Count Rochambeau, left its quarters in Newport, RI, and began a 680-mile march to Yorktown, VA. There, together with American forces, they defeated the British army under Gen. Cornwallis in the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. On their way to and from Yorktown, they passed through Eastern CT, camping in Plainfield, Windham/Willimantic, Bolton and East Hartford. Michael Westerfield spent last year visiting and photographing the entire route East of the River and collecting the stories associated with each location. In this presentation, he will share his findings regarding this largely forgotten chapter of local Revolutionary history.

Please thank and patronize our advertisers for making the Neighbors paper possible. Thank you. T. King, Publisher

Come one Come all!

Submitted by Deb Gag

The Ashford Arts Council is sponsoring **A Summer's Palette** at Westford Hill Distillers from 10:00 – 4:00 on July 9th (Rain date 7/10). Artists will be drawing painting en plein air and others, including you, may stop by to join in. There will be a paint and paper table for those who wish to try their hand at en plein air. The location is incredibly inspiring, with an over 100-year-old home and a lovely pond. The lilies and other flowers will be in bloom. There will be live music, and drinks and snacks will be available.

Several artists will be displaying their work and offering some for sale.

So far, these wonderfully creatives are registered:

- Debora Aldo, mosaics
- Lance Arnold, Glassware and Fairy houses
- John Boiano, Pottery
- Judy Doyle, original art
- Debra Gag, paintings
- Gretchen Geromin with Lauren Merlo, woodwork with woodburning decorative elements
- Freitha Lawrence, artwork and her book
- Dan Merlo, woodturner
- Dana Monaco, fabric covered containers
- Charles McCaughtry, paintings
- Mike Metsak, HyHope soaps and lotions,
- Dan Rackliffe, pottery
- Jane Rackliffe, fused glassware
- Mike South, luthier
- Suzy Staubach, pottery, and author
- Kathy Weigold, weavings.

We appreciate the collaboration with Margy and Lou Chatey who operate the distillery and are kind enough to share their beautiful location. The Chatey's will be creating a signature beverage for the event. Lou will be talking about the history of the local area and a little about the distillery.

If you are an artist and want to join in to sell your art, please become a member and register for your spot by contacting darcie.boiano@gmail.com. Please note that a majority of our artists are bringing their own pop-up canopy and display unit. We do have limited space in canopies and lots of shaded space in the out of doors.

Celebrate World Refugee Day

Submitted by Rhonda Kincaid

Area residents will share their experiences of coming to the U.S. as refugees/immigrants in an early celebration of World Refugee Day on June 12th at 2 p.m. at the Storrs Congregational Church. Musical entertainment will be provided by Gideon Ampeire, founder of the bands Echo Uganda and Zikina. Guests are also invited to tour the photo exhibit "Building Bridges - Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees."

The event, Building Bridges Not Borders - Celebrating World Refugee Day Through Music & Storytelling, is co-sponsored by Windham Region Interfaith Working Group, Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement, The Neighbor Fund, The Dodd Center for Human Rights, and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services. Free-will donations will be contributed to The Neighbor Fund. It's suggested that guests bring a chair as the event will move outdoors, weather permitting.

Support our local farmers.

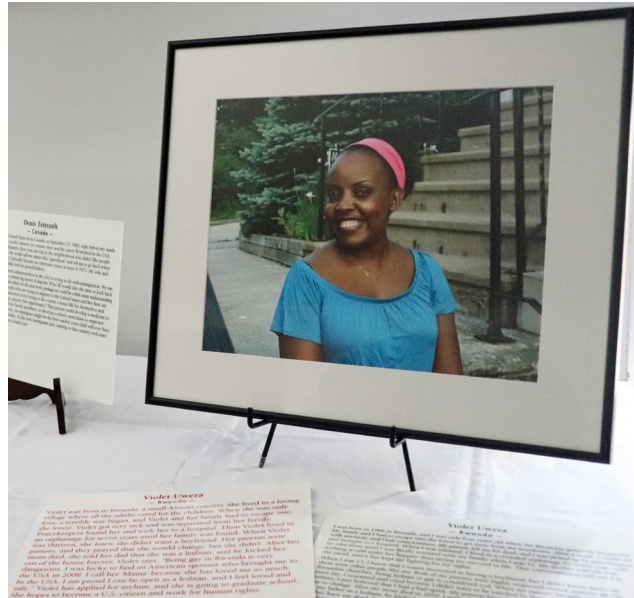
You and your family will eat better.

The entire community will be healthier.

Shop at the Willimantic Food Co-op and frequent our farmers markets.

To find a market close to you visit the CT Department of Agriculture website for a link to markets.

Building Bridges – Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees



Submitted by Rhonda Kincaid

A unique exhibit will be available for public viewing at two area host sites in June. "Building Bridges-Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees" includes powerful photographs and interviews with people who have come to the United States as immigrants, refugees, or asylum-seekers from all over the world and for many different reasons. It seeks to challenge damaging myths and stereotypes about immigrants. Many in the photos have been citizens for a long time; others have arrived on our shores recently and hope to become American citizens in the near future. They are male, female, couples and family; they range in ages; they are professionals, the clergy, entrepreneurs and skilled laborers, taxi drivers, physicians, musicians, hospitality workers, among others, in various stations of life. The exhibit highlights the many different reasons these individuals came to America as well as the things we all have in common. It was created by Family Diversity Projects in Massachusetts, and brought to the area by the Windham Region Interfaith Working Group with the generous support of the Hochberg Holocaust and Human Rights Education Committee.

Building Bridges' Grand Opening is at Storrs Congregational Church, 2 N Eagleville Road in Storrs on Tuesday May 31st from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Additional public viewing dates at the church are: Wed., Jun 1 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
 Thu., Jun 2 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
 Tue., Jun 7 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
 Wed., Jun 8 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
 Thu., Jun 9 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm
 Sun., Jun 12 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Jun 12 2:00 pm to 3:30 -
An in-person free EVENT:
"Building Bridges Not Borders –
Celebrating World Refugee Day
Through Storytelling & Music"
Masks highly recommended
Bring chair – outdoors if good weather
 Tue., Jun 14 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 Wed., Jun 15 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Building Bridges can also be viewed at Storrs Community Church, 90 Tolland Turnpike, Coventry:
 Mon., Jun 20 10am to noon
 Tues., Jun 21 7pm to 8:30pm
 During Sunday services Jun 19 and Jun 26 10am-noon

If your organization or faith community would like to host the exhibit, email the Windham Region Interfaith Working Group at wriwgmain@gmail.com Dates are still available in July, August and October.

Read the Neighbors paper on your desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Go to neighborspaper.com for link to current and past editions. All in beautiful COLOR!

ACC News

Submitted by Deb Gag

The Ashford Arts Council is excited to present to the public Maggie Kendis on June 8th beginning at 7:00 pm at Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford, CT.

Maggie will kick off our meeting with a presentation and talk about her artistic journey from being a batik artist to becoming one of the most beloved local artists with her delightfully hand colored block prints with examples of her work and the tools she uses to make them. No need to stay for our business meeting. But all are welcomed to attend. Masking is optional. Maggie Kendis in her own words:



"As a child, I wanted to illustrate children's books. I was fascinated with the Caldecott winners, those who illustrated children's books. I also loved the covers of the New Yorker, a magazine my parents subscribed too. These illustrations told a story, with various styles of art. These were all influences in my artistic adventures! Then as a teenager I spent two summers in Mexico which created a palette of wide range of colors, love of folk art, and the culture, which later has come out in my art.

I majored in art at San Francisco State, graduating with a BA in art, from the University of California. I developed my love of printmaking, particularly intaglio, there. After graduating, I spent a quarter in San Miguel d'Allende where I worked in batik, screen printing and ceramics. Like printmaking, the outcome was the surprise -removing the wax from batik, and the printing after the carving. On return to Los Angeles, I spent 25 years working in batiks for interior designers, I did pieces hotels, hospitals, banks, and residential clients. Then I needed a change and went back to my love of print making. I've spent the last 20 years working in linoleum prints. I love the immediacy, the intimacy with small spaces. My work is inspired by my animals, animals of my friends, folk art from my travels, nature, and the small cameos of life. I like to combine the whimsy of nature around me. And have done many personal pet portraits for friends.

With linoleum cut printing, there is no need for acid like in intaglio, or a printing press to create the design. I use water-based ink, print on rice paper, use a brayer to transfer the ink on to the paper which absorbs the ink so well. My tools are Swiss made carving tools, and Lowe Cornell tools, and Speedball. After I have printed my piece, I scan it into my computer to transfer onto a heavier paper stock, which I hand paint with watercolor."

Access Launches Small Business Academy

Willimantic, CT - The Access Community Action Agency is pleased to announce a brand new program, The Access Small Business Academy. The six-week program, meeting Thursday's from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., will offer the following topics: How to write a business plan, how to manage human resources in a small business, where to find financing, marketing and branding, networking and mentoring and sales. The class will be taught by Jill St. Clair, Economic Development Director for the town of Killingly, and Sherry Perkins Access Employment Services Navigator, and will be held in the community room at the Access Community Action Agency on 1315 Main Street, in Willimantic, CT.

The program starts June 2nd and finishes July 7th, 2022. Anyone interested in signing up for the program visit <https://accessagency.org/access-to-employment/> to fill out the google form application. For more information please contact Sherry Perkins at sherry.perkins@accessagency.org or by calling 860-450-7400 ext. 7457.

The Access to Employment Program focuses on eliminating barriers to employment for the low-income population of Tolland and Windham Counties. Access to Employment focuses on personal development, empowerment, financial and computer literacy and one on one case management.

The Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org/>.

Requiem

Oh how we wish we could be there to see how it all ends.
 We want to gather all the spring flowers in a beautiful bouquet and place them by the roadside.
 We watch the trees for the signs of new growth and hope they will be there before we are gone.
 We look for each and every one of you in the moments that we find between all the days and all the nights.
 How wonderful it would be to gather you all down by the edge of shallow waters,
 and tell how beautifully you have enriched our lives
 We appreciate all the bounty that you have bestowed on our hearts.
 We ask you all this, look for us now and then when you feel the wind on your face,
 or the sun on your back,
 or the cold chill of the night air as you move from one place to the next.
 We will watch for you as well in all the things that come after,
 and will embrace forever the buoyancy that all your love has provided.
 We promise to be guided by the remarkable and will leave the ordinary behind.
 Close the curtains only when you can feel the silence of breath,
 We will find there, the center of you all.

Poem and photo by Wayne Erskine.



Friday Noir Movie Matinee Series

FREE on the BIG Screen

Willington Public Library
 7 Ruby Road, Willington, CT
 860-429-3854
www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org

Great American Film Noirs

Are you a fan of the 40's & 50's noir films where sometimes everything is not always as it seems? Join us for a nostalgic afternoon into the world of classic Hollywood filmmaking and witness legendary acting from a bygone era.

Showings: First Fridays (unless otherwise stated) at 12:30 pm, in the Community Room

Upcoming Scheduled Movie Dates and Titles

June 3, 2022: He Walked By Night

He Walked By Night (1948) 79m. Based upon true events, this film noir classic is a "thrilling absorbing story, superbly told, well-acted and brilliantly photographed" (The Hollywood Reporter). Starring Richard Basehart, Scott Brady, and Jack Webb. This thriller was the inspiration for the TV series, Dragnet. Directed by Alfred Werker.

July 1, 2022: Impact

Impact (1949) 111m. Unsuspecting businessman Walter Williams is the target of a plot by his scheming wife Irene. She and her paramour Jim Torrance plan to dispose of her inconvenient husband by orchestrating a car "accident". Starring Brian Donlevy, Helen Walker, and Tony Barrett. Directed by Arthur Lubin.

Paws & Read with Willow

Submitted by Willington Public Library

Sign up to join us on the third Saturday of the month at 1:00 p.m. to read with Willow

Willow is a Therapy Dog with "Cold Noses, Warm Hearts". She knows that when you keep trying to do something (like reading or becoming a therapy dog), you will get better and better. So, be a super reader with Willow!

Children who are reading independently can sign up for a 15-minute reading slot by calling the library at 860-429-3854 or by stopping by the Circulation Desk to register ahead of time. You may register for multiple days, but only one slot per day, per person. Willow loves listening to stories, just like you!

An adult must accompany the child and may wait nearby while the child is reading, but does not need to sit in on the actual session. If you cannot make your session for any reason, please call us to cancel so we can open up the slot for other children, as spaces are limited.

When the weather is nice, we will be enjoying the warmth and sunshine outside. Otherwise, we will be in the Library Reading Room.

Upcoming dates: Saturdays, June 18, and July 16, 2022

Willington Public Library, 7 Ruby Road, Willington, CT

860-429-3854, willingtonpubliclibrary.org

Coming in the July Issue of Neighbors

Details about Open Tryouts For Children and Adults

For:

"Through the Eyes of a Child"

A New Musical Production Presented by Creative Arts Productions CT

Tryouts will be held in the Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd floor, Windham Town Hall.

Hands-On History FREE Family Fun

Submitted by Grace Sayles, Administrative Assistant

At the Lebanon Historical Society Museum & the Jonathan Trumbull Jr House
 Saturday, June 11 from 10am to 3pm

FREE Activities & demonstrations include:
 riding in a Model T,
 wood- turning your own pen,
 corn grinding, spinning, rug beating,
 butter churning, blacksmithing, wood carving,
 plant your sunflower with Lebanon FFA kid's yarn crafts and historic games.

Sign up for a Free Ride by the Four Seasons Model T Club to the Trumbull Jr House and take a guided house tour and a Lebanon Garden Club garden tour and "what's in bloom" display create crafty flowers with Jonathan Trumbull Library teen volunteers

Walk around the green and back to the museum again. Food for sale.

Lebanon Historical Society Museum
 856 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon, CT 06249
 860-642-6579 www.historyoflebanon.org

Saturday, June 25 from 10am to 3pm at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum!

We will also be hosting the Lebanon Town Militia for a daylong encampment behind the Beaumont House. Militia & settlers will share their stories and their crafts such as leatherworking, spinning and other colonial crafts. As a special sweet treat, colonial chocolate, hot chocolate and tea will be sold. This free event is open to the public.

Tag sale outside on the Museum grounds. If you are interested in reserving a space the fee is \$25 to set up your own table. We have a limited number of tables and tents if you are interested in renting them for an additional fee. \$5 for a table, \$5 for a tent. Fees are non-refundable. You must pre-register and prepay by Monday, June 20. Call 860-642-6579 or email museum@historyoflebanon.org Set-up is from 9am to 10am that morning. Rain date is the following Sunday, June 26

Creative Arts Productions, CT is looking to fill the following Positions:

**Stage Managers:
 (Experience not required; we will train)**

**Choreographers:
 (Unique opportunity for Students of Dance)**

**Musicians:
 (Exceptional Chance to play an original Score as a member of a Pit Orchestra)**

For

"Through the Eyes of a Child"

A New Musical Production

To be staged this December at the Bellingham Auditorium, 2nd floor, Windham Town Hall.

**Interested individuals should Text or Email:
 Vincent Iovine, (Mr. I)
 Playwright/Director
 860-377-4695 viovine10@gmail.com**

A Summer's Palette
ART AND FLOWERS

July 9th, 10AM-4PM

Rain Date July 10

**PLEIN AIR PAINTING
 ART SALE
 LIVE MUSIC
 SNACKS AND BEVERAGES**

on the beautiful grounds of
Westford Hill Distillers
 196 Chatey Road Ashford, CT

SPONSORED BY:

The Chateys will be creating a signature beverage for the event!



5.19.22. Dancers at the Willimantic 3rd Thursday Streetfest. Elisha Raqs (at left) and Emily Malekivash. Pete Polomski photos.



Sonya Maher, L.O. invites you to come into eyeTrade Optical Shop
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SHABOO CONCERT

To Benefit Covenant Soup Kitchen



Saturday June 11 Noon-10 pm • Shaboo Stage 533 Main St. Willimantic



Noon **Jake Kulak Band**

1 pm **adam ezra group**

3 pm **DAVID FOSTER'S SHABOO ALL STAR'S**

Special Guests:

James Montgomery • John Cafferty

Jeff Pitchell • Christine Ohlman

Bob Leinbach and the Uptown Horns



6 pm **Big Al ANDERSON**
And the Floor Models



8 pm **ELVIN BISHOP**
And the Big Fun Band

BEER AND WINE TENT BY WILLI-BREW
A variety of food trucks

Tickets on sale at: **EVENTBRITE.COM**

Or at Willimantic Food COOP 91 Valley St.

General admission \$30 \$40 at the gate

VIP Tickets \$200 includes VIP parking, a seat and a table under the tent, deluxe private bathroom and re-admittance privileges, Catered Food all day and 4 Complimentary adult beverages

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Media Sponsors:
 the Chronicle* WILI 198

No outside food or beverages-no re-admittance.

Read the Neighbors paper on your desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Go to neighborspaper.com for link to current and past editions. All in beautiful COLOR!