

NEIGHBORS

No. 223

November 2023

FREE



Advance your financial travel plan.

And stay on course to where you want to go.

Circumstances, like roads, can change, taking you to unexpected places. If you're recalculating, our *Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well* process can help get you to the right destination - like a GPS for those important miles ahead.



STRATEGIC WEALTH ADVISORS

Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™

whzwealth.com | (860) 928-2341

697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network,® Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.



Serving the inhabitants and environment of northeastern Connecticut and beyond

Music and Memories of Annabel Lee

By Bob Grindle

Ever so faintly in the background music is playing...a crazy tangle of flute and piano and harpsichord and guitar and voices. A patchy quilt of sounds. Not sure where it's coming from...Herbie Mann, maybe Joni Mitchell, definitely some Leonard Cohen, Dylan and Ella Fitzgerald and not sure, Bach or Vivaldi. The music fades.

It is late in the day of September 13th, a grey and threatening day outside. Somewhere in Hartford Hospital I feel like every stored idea and memory I'd ever tucked away in long forgotten, poorly lit, cob-web covered and untidied corners of my mind has fallen off the brittle archival shelves in the prefrontal cortex and broken into a million pieces...more than seven decades of debris...shards of incomplete thoughts and random incoherent fragments of memories; plans wrapped in layers of hope and carefully shelved: "...sweet dreams and flying machines in pieces on the ground..." and even memories of fourth grade teachers reading Annabel Lee were clotted somewhere inside my brain as a slowly returning consciousness struggles to overcome the chaos of more than 6 hours of general anesthesia. Curtains of caution wafted uselessly as words bubbled up endlessly from this artesian fountain word-spill. My wife was amused for a while as I tried to make some sort of conversation during this cerebral power outage but, realizing the worst was over, she kissed me and headed home.

The spell was cast and with Lin's kiss and departure my awareness curled back into its reverie and, gradually, tattered memories and visions of sunny hillsides or star filled night skies faded into the quiet empty canvas of sleep. After years of excellent health and good fortune in navigating life's ever shifting currents, this recent diagnosis of esophagus cancer has become tonight's rather heavy reality of a post-operative helplessness heralding

the beginning of a long recovery. Waking the next morning to the sounds of monitors and life support 'bots,' I felt lucky to have an east-facing window and watched as Venus rose into the clearing dawn sky over Hartford. There are moments in all of our lives when our sense of well-being—that belief in oneself that you can cope with whatever comes along—when that confidence is put to the test. Sitting here, pretty much unable to move without help is one of those moments, but reflecting on the amazing skill, talent and dedication of the healthcare team that made this journey possible quiets my anxiety. If I ever doubted that living is not a solo undertaking, those doubts have taken wing and are long gone.

It is midday October 22nd, some five weeks since the operation...a chill and blustery day here in the quiet corner, a day full of color and energy. Living in eastern Connecticut it is easy to feel we are rocking in a cradle almost too gorgeous to be real...nestled between impressive urban centers of dynamism and opportunity, but hidden away under dark night skies and tucked in between forests, farms, waterways and vibrant small towns in a valley that is ancient beyond belief and lovely without taking your breath away, it is easy to pat ourselves on the back for choosing such a place to build a nest. Walking slowly uphill, past the chicken pen, over to the garden and then out to the fields, I notice that the younger sugar maples don't seem to have lost their leaves to the anthracnose fungus

in this exceedingly wet year, and the red maples along the west and north of our property are as beautiful as ever. The forests that surround us are some of the most diverse, and might I add, most beautiful mixed hardwood biomes to be found anywhere. The recently cut field invites a quick run and I smile to think...perhaps not just met. Healing is for the moment and we set off on a simple and immensely enjoyable walk as we talk about healing strategies and I recall reading that the older maples will rebound just fine next year.

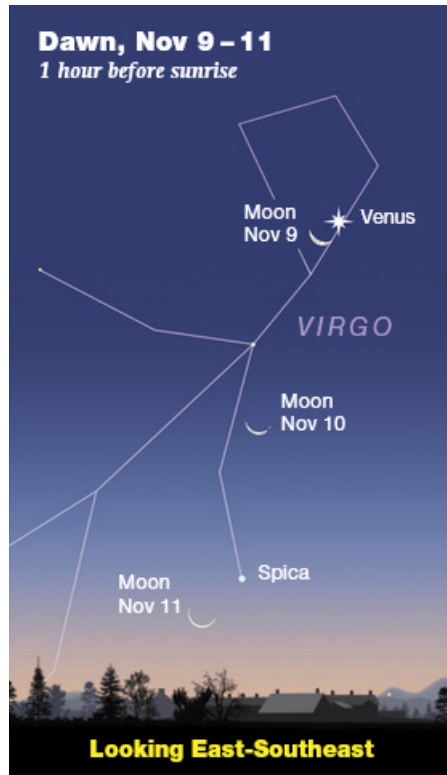
By the time we finish our walk it is late afternoon and the waxing Moon is rising into a still day lit sky. The chill that has been with us all day is starting to settle in and remind us that the Sun's heat is all about the angle of attack and tonight will be worthy of an extra blanket. Jupiter will be rising soon and by the time of the full Hunter's Moon this weekend the planet and Moon will make for a delightful pairing. Bring on November, and with it a return to Standard Time.

Without a doubt the loveliest display of the month will be in the pre-dawn sky of November 9th. After the clocks have been turned back and mornings start a bit earlier, the pre-dawn hours of Thursday morning's east/southeastern sky will see a diamond-bright Venus nearly touching

a shimmering sliver of the waning crescent Moon. A jewel of a way to start the day if ever there was one...let's hope for clear skies. If you miss the 9th, Venus and the faint crescent Moon will be around for a couple more days. They just won't be so closely paired. A couple of weeks later, in the eastern sky shortly after sunset on November 24th and 25th the waxing Moon and Jupiter will repeat October's close pairing as the Moon approaches its full Beaver phase, occasionally referred to as the Frost Moon.

There are two, usually minor, meteor showers that extend most of the month of November, from the Taurids in early and mid-month to the Leonids that usually peak around the 18th. Due to some advantageous alignments and phases of the Moon this year, a little extra time spent looking up any time you're out at night this November might be rewarded. The Leonids especially are known for some of the fastest shooting stars (meteors.)

Stay well, be kind to those around you and enjoy what's left of the colorful end of year celebration that our region treats us to every autumn. Oh yes, and be sure to enjoy the musical score that is always playing in the background of our lives.



HISTORIC VENUE FOR PERFORMANCE & EVENTS

THE PACKING HOUSE

"An Intimate Listening Room"

November 2023			

SAVE THE DATES!

MONTHLY EVENTS

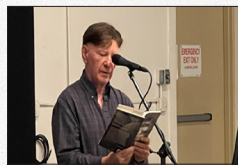
"TALENT SHOWCASE"



2nd Wednesday

NOVEMBER 8TH - 7:00pm
Call to Schedule: 518.791.9474

"THE PACKING HOUSE POETRY SERIES"



3rd Thursday

Featuring Published Authors & Walk-In Open Mic

NOVEMBER 16TH - 6:30pm

"EC-CHAP FILM SERIES"

The Rare Films of Jimi Hendrix
2-Part Mini Series - 7:00pm

OCTOBER 27th & NOVEMBER 3rd



Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance, Inc.

www.ec-chap.org

Neighbors
P.O. Box 430
Ashford, CT 06278
phone: 860-933-3376
email: neighborspaper@yahoo.com
website: neighborspaper.com

Tom King, Editor & Publisher
Steve Woron, Webmaster
Gary Kass, Copy Editor
Marisa Calvo, Graphic Design
Julie Engelke, Tom King, Circulation

Writers:
Delia Berlin, Gary Bergquist, Mark Mathew Braunstein, Jesse R. Clark, David Corsini, Donna Dufresne, Dean Farrell, Felix Giordano, Phoebe Godfrey, Bob Grindle, Brian Karlsson-Barnes, Bob Lorentson, John Murphy, Dennis Pierce, Bill Powers, Loretta Wrobel

- 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

Neighbors is published monthly except bi-monthly January/February and July/August by Neighborspaper LLC. Thomas A. King, member

Neighbors is printed by Rare Reminder Inc. in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

All EC-CHAP Articles are now available on our website:
www.ec-chap.org/articles

WWW.THEPACKINGHOUSE.US/UPCOMING

THE PACKING HOUSE | 156 RIVER ROAD, WILLINGTON, CT 06279 | (518)791-9474

Power in Interracial Friendship

By Loretta Wrobel



Learning from each other is a dynamic method of discovering how each of us is shaped by our experiences. By developing interracial connections, we can all expand our mindset by knowing individuals from different races and backgrounds. Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, two talented authors, explored the powerful friendship between Mary Mcleod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt in their spectacular book, *The First Ladies*.

The writers focus on the intense and deep relationship between Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady, wife of President Franklin Roosevelt, and Mary Mcleod Bethune, known as the First Lady of the Struggle. These two pioneers, in pushing us towards racial equality, gained insight and profound respect for the different lives they lived, as they carved out a unique and transformative partnership/friendship with each other. They accomplished this challenging feat during a time of prohibitive Jim Crow laws that addressed interracial relationships. In the 1930s and 1940s it was forbidden for white and Black people to share a meal, attend a concert together (concert halls were segregated), or become close friends. These two activists became fast friends, disregarding the societal restrictions that our racist world demanded, and launched a multitude of significant events that moved the needle on civil rights. Eleanor was able to take advantage of her proximity to the President and his trust in her expertise and wisdom on political matters. She helped Mary secure a federal appointment, furthering the cause of equal rights, by giving people of color an access to and a forum to bring racism to the forefront.

Eleanor Roosevelt at her core was for equal rights. However, her experience growing up white in a privileged family and having her uncle, Theodore Roosevelt, in the White House, gave her a vastly different perspective. Mary, who grew up struggling in a segregated world, knew the pain and suffering of living as an oppressed minority. This struggle did not stop her, as she became president of a college in Daytona, Florida! This happened in the early 1900s, which was no small feat for a Black female in America. In 1904 she opened Daytona Literary and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls that later became Bethune Cookman University. What a role model she provided for young Black women growing up in the beginning of the twentieth century!

This book details the beginnings and successes of this most influential partnership between two feminist pioneers. Ms. Bethune was older and more seasoned, when she met Ms. Roosevelt, who was naïve and totally unaware of how individuals are traumatized by racism. *The First Ladies* chronicles the education of Eleanor that transformed a clueless woman into a staunch advocate for civil rights, based on what she heard from her dear friend and patient yet truthful teacher Mary. Coming from such opposite life situations as Mary and Eleanor, their views and opinions could have created stressful and hurtful encounters. However, these special and insightful activists together surmounted the potential for disagreements, by

listening to and respecting each other and allowing their passion to work for equal treatment. In this manner they moved through any momentary anger or negativity. These two brave warriors faced those challenging conversations, speaking their truths, even when each knew it could result in anger, hurt feelings, and confusion.

The story of their seemingly improbable relationship survived the potential misunderstandings, and resulted in both women being able to use their different skills, diverse connections, and access to power by clever and innovative means. Eleanor constantly approached her husband, encouraging him to speak up and out about racial matters. Mary used her power as the revered leader of oppressed people. I fell in love with both Amazonian women from the first words to the final words. I felt it enhanced my passion because I listened to the audio version of the book. The authors did a mighty fine job of demonstrating the change in both women as they listened, acquired knowledge, and

laughed throughout their long-term relationship. They supported each other, as they suffered through disappointments, particularly around personal issues. They schemed and connived to expose the horrors of a racist society, and together they devised solutions. They refused to be denied, and continued to fight for greater minority representation in Roosevelt's cabinet. They stood up courageously for dismantling the hierarchy of patriarchy.

The beauty and grace of this loving interracial partnership was pure delight. I was rooting for them, and celebrating their joy and relief, when the administration acknowledged that our country would function better if all peoples were treated equally. This book about two women and their work to move our Country past the traumas and pain of segregation was, in fact, co-authored

by a white woman and a Black woman. While Victoria and Marie were writing the book, they were engaged in the ongoing hard and difficult decisions regarding their own interracial relationship. The book is a primer for the importance of having interracial friendships and partnerships to truly understand the disastrous effect of oppression and discrimination on all of us. When you hear from a minority person about how racism impacts their everyday experiences, it is no longer undercover. When the white friend trusts and listens to how privileged their existence has been, she gains a profound understanding of how racism damages everyone. Racism also wastes the talents and skills and expertise of the oppressed people.

I recommend taking a smart hint from these two authors and reaching out to a person of color to develop a clearer understanding of what it is like to be Black in America. This book is as relevant now in 2023 as when our two heroines walked around the White House in the middle of the last century. I have great respect for Eleanor and Mary for taking the risk and becoming allies, which enabled them to work together on creating a more just and civil world. And kudos to Marie and Victoria for fearlessly using their interracial relationship in writing this book. By embracing this model of interracial sharing, we can work together to finally end the evils of racism.

And did I mention that this book moved me—shedding tears, feeling rage, and laughing uproariously at the fun that Eleanor and Mary had, especially sharing their love of desserts!!!



Community Orchestra Concert in Pomfret

By Jane Vercelli, President NCCO

The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra is excited to present a concert featuring Bach's Cantata No. 140 with singers from the Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut on Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. at Pomfret School's Clark Memorial Chapel on Rte. 44, Pomfret.

This familiar music by 17th century German composer Johann Sebastian Bach is titled "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" which translates to "Wake up, the Voice calls us."

Under the direction of conductor Dylan Lomangino, the orchestra will also perform the popular and romantic Waltz No. 2 by the 20th century Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich.

Founded in 2012, the orchestra has welcomed new members from towns throughout eastern Connecticut while retaining its original core group of violinists, violists and cellists from the Quiet Corner.

Admission is free, donations welcome.

Questions? Call Jane Vercelli at 860-428-4633.

it's a great day for a subway!

2 STORRS LOCATIONS

125 N Eagleville RD & Storrs Downtown

EASTERN CAMPUS-WILLIMANTIC

33 High Street

To order ahead or get delivered to you by DoorDash

Go to SUBWAY.COM

and use the app

We also deliver through GrubHub & Uber Eats

Open late 7 days a week

LANDON TIRE... DOES MORE THAN JUST TIRES!

We specialize in...

- Brakes • Exhaust • Alignment Shocks
- C.V. Joint & Axles • Struts
- Front End Repair • Under Car Repair and More!

LANDON TIRE

39 Years of Hometown Service

YOUR INDEPENDENT TIRE DEALER

Just 2 Miles South of the New Thread City Crossing Bridge on Rt. 32, South Windham

RT. 32, SOUTH WINDHAM 456-0000 Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30; Sat. 8-1:30

SERVING YOU SINCE 1951

Largest Selection of Sewing Machines and Vacuum Cleaners in Eastern CT

Sales • Service • Parts • Accessories

WE TAKE TRADE-INS!

Schillers SINCE 1951

HOME TO ALL YOUR SEWING & VACUUM NEEDS

1088 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226
(860) 423-6800
SchillersOnTheWeb.com

"Expert Repairs on all Makes of Vacuums and Sewing Machines."

"All Work Guaranteed-Free Estimates"

WE KEEP YOUR REAR IN GEAR

Ashford, CT

Phone (860) 429-6571 • Fax (860) 429-0246

www.terrys-transmissions.com • Email: terrys.trnsmsns@snet.net

Automatics / Standards / American / Foreign / Differentials / Transfer Cases

From the Ground Up - Buying Local in Connecticut

"Everyone loves fried chicken. Don't ever make it. Ever. Buy it from a place that makes good fried chicken."

-Nora Ephron

By C. Dennis Pierce



As it is stated, "If you don't like the weather in New England, wait a minute". This week has given us record highs and record lows. Local gardeners and farmers are anxiously waiting for that first hard frost. Both want to get their garlic in the ground and nestle them with a blanket of straw while gardeners are in search of the best time to plant their bulbs just hoping that their monetary investment does better than the stock market and that the evil skunks, voles, mice, squirrels, chipmunks and other creatures don't ravish the crop before the flowers make their spring debut.

This month I sought out a unique venture that has sprouted in Columbia, Connecticut. Before I share

my exciting find I want to shed some light on our history of buying locally. The roots of the "Farm to Fork" initiative stretch back to the 60's and 70's when consumers became increasingly dissatisfied with processed foods that they found bland. One of the first farm-to-table restaurants in America was opened by Chef Alice Waters who opened her restaurant in California in 1971. Her restaurant, Chez Panisse, featured fresh, locally grown ingredients as part of a seasonal menu. Waters was inspired by the sustainable community food movement she enjoyed when she lived in France.

I had the honor of meeting Chef Waters at a conference at Yale. In 2001 Waters became interested in the culture of food at Yale when her daughter, Fanny Singer '05, joined Jonathan Edwards College as an undergraduate. A conversation between Waters and Yale President, Richard Levin sparked the idea for an ambitious University undertaking: a project encompassing a sustainable dining program, a college farm, university composting, and increased education around food and agriculture. Driven by this ambitious vision, a steering committee of students, faculty, and staff tackled the dining program first, inaugurating a pilot project in Berkeley College's (one of Yale's twelve residential colleges) dining hall to serve all local, seasonal, and sustainable food. A group of students joined Joshua Viertel, the first director, to write a proposal to establish a campus farm. The proposal was approved by President Levin, and in the summer of 2003, the interns broke ground at the Yale Farm at 345 Edwards Street and ran a composting pilot to recycle waste from Yale's dining halls. The conference that I attended, "Tilling the Soil; Turning the Tables" on Yale's campus was attended by 170 people from 19 colleges and universities. And that my friend was the beginning of the Farm to Fork movement on college and university campuses.

But now let me get back to a true local farm to fork initiative. Sure, local farmer's markets and Co-ops provide a cornucopia of fresh locally grown ingredients, but nothing stands close to the efforts of, "The GOOD Farm" located at 544, Route 87 in Columbia right down the road from Heartstone Winery. Jefferson Monroe and his wife Erin met across the Vineyard Sound on New Year's Day. After an 8-month courtship Erin moved onto the GOOD Farm where she and Jefferson weathered the pandemic with friends, fried foods, and farming. It started in 2021 when they found the farm in Columbia and they were able to purchase it from Walt and Nancy Tabor of Heartstone Winery. Erin has continued her lifelong passion for helping people as a Nurse Practitioner in the Hart-

ford area while Jefferson spends his days raising animals and piloting the Twin Beaks trailer around northeastern Connecticut. So, you ask, what is the Twin Beaks trailer? That dear readers is the true "farm to fork" experience. The GOOD Farm pasture raises hundreds of chickens for the main purpose of becoming the best, gluten free (yes, gluten free) fried chicken that you have ever put into your mouth. My first experience was at the Andover's farmers market this summer where Jefferson and Caroline Bayarsaihan, one of the members of the farm's crew, let me experience culinary nirvana. At first glance when lifting the lid of the old fashion cardboard box the fragrance tempted me to jump right in but then upon my first glance I hesitated because the chicken did not look like Kentucky Fried. Adjusting my perception, I realized that because they are using potato flour to coat the chicken, thus making it gluten free, these savory morsels took on a whole different appearance. So, without hesitation I tore right into it, and I can honestly say (having a culinary background) this is by far the best fried chicken that I have ever experienced in my life.



Jefferson and Erin Monroe and their 'Twin Beaks' trailer.

Their website says it best: "Our culinary inspiration comes from the ground up - literally! We raise our animals with an eye towards their welfare and the carrying capacity of our land. What we sell grows out of that ethos and foods we love - many of our dishes were test run at employee meals for months before getting added to the menu. In fact, the idea of frying our delicious, farm raised chicken came from not one, but two separate employees before we even gave it a try. We strive to use flavors that complement our roots - that of our farm and the land we rest lightly upon."

The concept of raising chickens and then offering the best fried chicken comes with a wry sense of humor and that is the name of their mobile offerings. Twin Beaks Fried Chicken combines some of their favorite things - barnyard puns, the mundane oddities of life and the (occasional) supernatural event or vision. They are mostly just trying to have fun in a little old town called Twin Beaks, trying to get to the bottom of the mystery of: "Who killed Leghorn Palmer?", while serving an eclectic menu to delight the appetites of all. Since opening Twin Beaks Fried Chicken in 2023, the GOOD Farm has served their chicken, pork, lamb, and eggs as ready to eat takeout from their mobile/kitchen / trailer. While they specialize in fried chicken, they love all of their delicious menu offerings.

I hope at this point you are intrigued, anxious and hungry. The best place to find when Twin Beaks Fried Chicken will be visiting your town is to saunter down to their website and check out their master calendar, <https://www.twinbeaksfriedchicken.com/where-to-find-us> And that's not all. If you still have not planned out your

Thanksgiving dinner The Good Farm is still taking orders for their turkeys. GOOD Farm Connecticut Turkey Order Form 2023 is on their website under, "Where We Get Our Meats. They will be distributing their turkeys the week leading up to Thanksgiving so that your family can experience a delicious, pasture raised bird for the holiday. At this point I can go on and on but a recommend that you check out the GOOD Farm's web site, Twinbeaksfriedchicken.com to learn more about the history of their venture, Jefferson, and their full menu at Twin Beaks. Questions? Contact them at thegoodfarmmv@gmail.com

Summer vegetables are waning. You will be fortunate if you can still find a tomato at the farmer's market and if you do grab it since it will soon be a collectors item or just a memory. But to try out the following recipe be on the lookout for fall chard. This tangy relish is a nice accompaniment for pork, lamb, or a firm fish like swordfish. With its vinegar-soaked raisins it can be a substitute for cranberry relish if you double or triple the recipe.

Chard Stalk Relish With Pine Nuts & Raisins

Ingredients:

- 1/3 of a cup of golden raisins, currants, dried cranberries, or regular raisins
- 2 tablespoons of sherry vinegar or red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons of water
- ¼ cup of pine nuts or slivered almonds
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- ½ cup of finely diced, red onion
- A large pinch of red chili flakes or a small dried red chili, crumbled
- ½ teaspoon of minced garlic
- Stalks from 1 large bunch of chard, preferably rainbow chard. Sliced ¼ inch thick and sauté until tender
- Kosher salt

Directions:

- Place the raisins or dried fruit in a small bowl with the vinegar and water.
- Let soak while to prepare the other ingredients
- Place the nuts in a small frying pan over medium low heat.
- Toast, tossing occasionally until golden. Watch carefully as they burn easily.

Dennis Pierce photo.

- Transfer to a plate and let cool.
- Place 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a sauté pan over medium heat.
- Add onion and red chili flakes and sauté, stirring occasionally until the onion is tender.
- Add the garlic, sliced chard stalks and cook for a few minutes.
- Add a small splash of water, cover and cook, stirring occasionally until the stalk are tender
- Add raisins (or dried fruit) with their soaking liquid and bring to a simmer
- Allow the liquid to cook off slightly
- Remove from heat, stir in nuts and the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil and season to taste with salt
- Serve immediately or at room temperature.
- If you hold the relish and serve later hold back the nuts and add them just before serving.

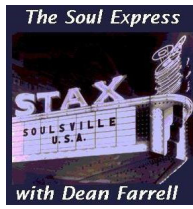
I hope the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday provides you with the opportunity to gather with friends and family and maybe even dine on a turkey from the GOOD farm!

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. So, 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!

Unsung Heroes of Soul:

Otis Clay

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 Otis Clay, a Blues Hall of Fame inductee who became popular in Japan.

He was born in Waxhaw, Mississippi, on February 11, 1942. In 1953, the Clays moved to Muncie, Indiana, where Otis joined a local gospel group, the Voices of Hope. He later returned to Mississippi to sing with the Christian Travelers before settling in Chicago in 1957. There, he performed with a series of gospel acts, including the Golden Jubilaires, the Famous Blue Jay Singers, the Holy Wonders, and the Pilgrim Harmonizers. Clay made his first solo recordings for Columbia in 1962, but they were never issued. He later joined the Gospel Songbirds, who recorded in Nashville. Though the group released many singles, Clay appeared on just one.

By 1965, Otis Clay had decided to try secular music and signed with One-derful Records in Chicago. His first outing for the label, "Tired of Falling In and Out of Love," became a local hit that fall. Clay's first performance in a big auditorium was in Herb Kent's Christmas Benefit Show at Chicago's Capitol Theater in December 1965. His next single, "I'm Satisfied," made *Billboard's* "Bubbling Under the Hot 100" chart in early 1966.

In the summer of 1967, Clay recorded his biggest hit to date. A gospel-drenched heartbreak ballad, "That's How It Is (When You're In Love)" climbed to #34 on the *Billboard* Rhythm & Blues chart. It was written by Cash McCall, an old friend of Clay's from the Gospel Songbirds.

One-derful went out of business in mid-1968 and sold Clay's contract to the Atlantic subsidiary, Cotillion. His initial release was a remake of the Sir Douglas Quintet's three-year-old hit, "She's About a Mover." It made the bottom rungs of the R&B chart and became the only Clay single to make the *Billboard* Hot 100. When subsequent releases on Cotillion—including the excellent "Hard-Working Woman" and "Is It Over?"—failed to make much noise, Clay moved on to Hi Records in Memphis. There, he worked with producer Willie Mitchell.

Otis Clay made many of his best-known recordings at Hi, including the 1972 original of "Trying to Live My Life Without You." A live performance by Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band would hit #5 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in 1981. Seger even introduced it as "an old Memphis song."

Clay remained with Hi until 1977, during which time he put out his first two albums: *Trying to Live My Life Without You* (1972) and *Can't Take It* (1977). He next turned up on the Kayvette label, where Clay had his final charted single, "All Because of Your Love." He later recorded for the Elka and Rounder labels, and on his own Echo Records, where he did the 1980 original of "The Only Way Is Up." (A 1988 remake by Yazz & The Plastic Population was a #1 UK hit.)

Clay was a very popular live act—not only in the US, but also in Europe and Japan. He recorded four concert LPs: *Live!* (1978), *Live Again!* (1984), *Soul Man—Live in Japan* (1985), and *Respect Yourself* (2005). The latter captured his 2003 performance at the Lucerne Blues Festival in Switzerland. In the '90s, Clay recorded two albums for Bullseye Blues: *I'll Treat You Right* and the Willie Mitchell-produced *This Time Around*. His 2007 gospel release, *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*, was Grammy-nominated.



In 2010, Otis Clay received a marker on the Mississippi Blues Trail in his hometown of Waxhaw. In 2015, his album with Johnny Rawls, *Soul Brothers*, won the Blues Blast Award for Soul Album of the Year. It also was nominated for the Blues Music Awards Soul Album of the Year and *Living Blues* Magazine Blues Album of the Year. And it was chosen as the #6 Blues Album of the Year in the *Downbeat* Magazine Critics' Poll.

Rock critic Dave Marsh included "Trying to Live My Life Without You" in his 1989 book, *The Heart of Rock and Soul: The 1001 Greatest Singles Ever Made*.

Otis Clay, 73, died in Chicago of a heart attack on January 8, 2016.

Charted singles:

- "I'm Satisfied" (1966) Pop #105
- "That's How It Is (When You're In Love)" (1967) R&B #34, Pop #131
- "A Lasting Love" (1967) R&B #48
- "She's About a Mover" (1968) R&B #47, Pop #97
- "It Is Over" (1971) Pop #128
- "Trying to Live My Life Without You" (1972) R&B #24, Pop #102
- "I Didn't Know the Meaning of Pain" (1973) Pop #144
- "If I Could Reach Out" (1973) R&B #73
- "All Because of Your Love" (1977) R&B #44

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

Dean Farrell hosts "The Soul Express" Fridays from 7:00-10:00 p.m. on WECS, 90.1-FM (www.wecsfm.com) and alternating Saturdays from 2:30 - 5:30 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.

On our cover: Paintings by Storrs artist Scott E. Rhoades. At top - 'Kindred Spirits' at Baxter State Park in Maine. Bottom left - 'Christina's Watering Can'. Bottom right - 'Gurleyville Grist Mill'.

Second Saturday Community Breakfast

Columbia Congregational Church
7:30am-10am Route 87 in the Parish Hall

Gather with us Saturday, November 11th, for an ALL YOU CAN EAT Breakfast buffet: Omelets (design your own), scrambled eggs, belgian waffles, home baked pastries, etc.

\$12 per person

Family of (4) 2 Adults & 2 child. (under 12) \$30

For information contact Michele at the Church Office: 860-228-9306.

Contra Dance

First Friday of each month
Patriots Park Lodge, 172 Lake Street, Coventry, CT
7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Introductory session at 7:15
Partner not required, all dances taught
Live Band & Caller See: HCDance.org
Questions: Dennis at knowdj@frontier.net

A contra dance is a social dance that one can attend without a partner. The dancers form couples who form sets in long lines. Throughout the course of a dance, couples progress up and down these lines, dancing with each other couple in the line. The dance is led by a caller who teaches the sequence of moves in the dance before the music starts. This sequence is repeated as couples progress up and down the line. Since there is no required footwork, many people find contra dancing easier to learn than other forms of dancing.

CAD Marshall Framing
Professional Picture Framer
Art by local artists is not on cargo ships...
Stop in - Shop local

Custom framing deadline for the holidays is Dec. 7th. Sales throughout store for holiday shopping.

860-617-5422
Tue.- Fri. 10-5:30 & Sat. 10-4
34 North Street. Wmtc., CT

Lettering & Graphics 

Banners • Magnetics • Decals

Full Color Photo Signs, Carved, Electric & Neon

Signs for Real Estate, Trade Shows,
Site Signs, Window Lettering

Cars • Vans • Trucks • Motorcycles • Boats

Signs Plus
OF WILLIMANTIC, LLC

Ph: 860.423.3048
Fax: 860.456.3003
700 Rear Main St.
Willimantic

Marian Matthews
Proprietor

Henrietta House



BED & BREAKFAST
Modern Living in a Historic Setting

125 Ashford Center Rd, Ashford, CT 06278
(860) 477-0318
henriettahousebnb@gmail.com
historichenriettahousebnbct.com

Noah King, Realtor, ABR, SRS, SFR

Find Out What Your Home is Worth Today!



Contact me for a free, no obligation market analysis of your home.

The "King" in Real Estate

HST
Home Selling Team

Ashford native and resident for 30 years
noah@homesellingteam.com
860-933-3432 860-450-8134

the Neighbors paper
a little paper big on community

'Novid' No More

By Delia Berlin



we hit that mark.

Day after day, new scientific information emerges about the long-term risk of COVID infections. Contrary to popular belief, immunity via infection is neither durable nor safe. Even mild or asymptomatic infections can produce serious long-term consequences, and each subsequent infection is not necessarily milder. Counterintuitively, instead of reinforcing immunity, getting multiple infections increases the chances of getting yet additional infections. The lesson to be drawn from this evidence is not complicated: it is best to try to stay healthy.

Fortunately, there are many ways of reducing one's chances of getting COVID and other airborne infections. A layered approach that utilizes all of them may hold the most promise, but any one of the mitigations reduces risk at least partly. Everyone should weigh the benefits of each strategy against their own objections. The list is short and sweet: vaccinations, ventilation, and masking.

While current vaccines are not very durable and the virus continues to mutate, they do convey excellent protection against severe illness and death. New and more effective nasal vaccines are coming, which is exciting. Meanwhile, ventilation strategies include avoiding crowded indoor spaces, using air filters or cleaners, selecting outdoor venues whenever possible, and simply opening more windows and doors in acceptable weather. Masking is nobody's favorite, but a well-fitted, high-quality mask can be very effective against airborne pathogens. I still mask in most indoor spaces, including the gym. I never fail to mask in public restrooms and elevators, even if I am the only person in them. They are poorly ventilated places containing the breath of many previous occupants. Before getting COVID from my less-disciplined husband, I went four full years without even getting a cold—I liked that! I think it was a first for me and I attribute it to masking.

It would have been great if the updated vaccines had been rolled out before the start of the school year. Unfortunately, they are just now starting to flow. I am beyond disappointed in the low level of protection that we have been providing for our youth. Most schoolchildren are getting multiple infections, many of which could have been avoided simply by improving ventilation. In addition to reducing pathogens, good ventilation reduces pollutants, which are particularly harmful to children. I try to remain optimistic and hope that this will continue to improve gradually.

Meanwhile, David and I are gradually getting closer to getting our updated COVID vaccines. In the past, we have received a mix of Moderna and Pfizer shots. This time we will be looking for Novavax. This is a traditional protein vaccine, as opposed to a messenger RNA vaccine. It targets features of the virus that appear to be more stable than the spike protein, perhaps providing broader protection against variants. Also, it may be a little more durable and with fewer side effects. To be clear, head-to-head effectiveness comparison of all COVID vaccines is not complete, and any updated vaccine is better than none. In our area, Novavax is still more difficult to find, but since our recent infections have bought us some time, our search for it will continue.

After almost four years of dodging the bullet, I finally left the ever-shrinking minority of "novids"—those who still have not gotten COVID. The Centers for Disease Control has estimated that as of July 2023, more than 77% of the U.S. population had experienced at least one COVID infection. Until now I had been lucky enough to avoid it, even when my husband got it last December. But then I was only two months away from my last booster. This time, things were different.

Last month, I was visiting family in NYC when David called me to report that, after feeling congested, he had taken a COVID home test that came out positive. Unfortunately, I had been with him up to that early morning. Now, I had already spent some time with my 12-year-old granddaughter, who immediately gave me a test. We both masked while we waited for the result. I was negative and felt well, but still wanted to be cautious. Since it was an unusually warm day, my granddaughter and I spent the rest of our visit outside, until she had to go to a theater rehearsal. Later, I dined outdoors with my daughter, while my son-in-law had work commitments.

While I was happy to make the most of my visit under the circumstances, I knew that returning home to David would almost certainly give me COVID. The updated vaccines were just beginning to appear in our area and most appointments were still being canceled due to slow-arriving supplies. My last bivalent booster was already six months old and unlikely to protect me against new variants. But staying in NYC while David's infection evolved in unknown ways was not an acceptable option, so I returned the next day.

By the time I got home, David had started taking the antiviral Paxlovid and was already asymptomatic. Paxlovid works amazingly well when taken as soon as symptoms begin. It greatly prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths, and reduces the chances of getting long COVID. David was fully recovered by the time I felt sick and tested positive. I was trailing him by three days. Fortunately, I had also started taking Paxlovid immediately and responded equally well, getting all better soon.

But just two days after I tested negative, I once again felt congested and tested faintly positive. This "rebound" seems to be quite common with Paxlovid, although the literature still calls it rare. But rebound cases tend to be mild and self-limiting, not calling for additional medical interventions. Still, they are inconvenient because they prolong the need for social isolation and masking precautions. In our household, with our staggered onsets and my rebound, this disruption covered more than two weeks.

Another type of disruption that a COVID infection imposes is a delay in vaccinations. We had planned to be immunized for flu, COVID, and RSV by the time the holiday season arrived. As I write this, about a month after our COVID infections, we have just managed to get our flu shots. The timing of our updated COVID vaccines is further delayed since it is recommended to wait approximately two months from an infection. We will get those as soon as

Professional Firefighters

By Bill Powers

You never know when or where a prompt to write a story will come from. In this case it unexpectedly came from a political candidate at a campaign gathering, who is a local elected public official and a candidate in the upcoming election. The conversation among a small group quickly and inevitably shifted to important issues currently confronting our town. They included safety concerns such as the maternity care desert debacle and loss of critical care services at our local hospital, the police civilian review board discussion that had somehow evaporated without a public hearing, and the need to consolidate the four fire departments in our town. With respect to the fire department consolidation issue, for the elected official it was an obvious no brainer. All of the fire departments in town should be staffed only by "PROFESSIONALS" and NOT "VOLUNTEERS". I was immediately curious, uneasy and a little resentful, and for good reason. I asked, "Do you need to be career, paid firefighter in order to be a "professional" firefighter?" The answer came back, "Of course."

The term "professional" can have many meanings for just as many folks. We want to witness professional behavior by our police officers, attorneys, business men and women, teachers, elected officials, and supreme court justices. We know it when we see it, and when don't. We can debate the exact meaning in different situations until the cows come home. However, setting guidelines for minimum standards can be helpful. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets the "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications identifying the minimum Job Performance for career and volunteer firefighters whose duties are primarily structural in nature." The standards are the same.

My father was a "career firefighter" in a large city department. He had plenty of training and worked many hours each week for years until he retired. In those days all the firefighters rotated shifts on a regular basis. I now realize how disruptive that must have been considering the disruption of circadian rhythms and sleep patterns. The job was physically demanding and could be dangerous. In 1956 I vividly remember watching a live TV program with a local news crew, who was broadcasting at the scene of the large and devastating fire to the Cathedral where my family regularly worshiped. It was early in the morning during the New Year's holiday, when I turned on the television and saw our beloved cathedral as it was being consumed by a inferno of flames. I quickly called out to my mother and sister. As we watched in horror, it was like being struck by a bolt of lightning when we

heard on the TV the names of two firefighters who been injured. The ceiling collapsed on them. We heard my father's name! He was being rushed to the hospital. To this day I vividly recall everything about that moment - how I felt and hearing my mom scream and my younger sister as she began to cry.

My father presented an imposing figure in his fire department dress uniform. His being a firefighter was a source of admiration not only for me, but also my friends. I remember attending a party for Jack, a team member on my school basketball team, at his home on Prospect Avenue in Hartford. When Jack introduced me to his dad, the Governor, he said:

"Dad this is Billy, he's our other guard and his dad is a firefighter. The governor shaking my hand welcomed me and asked where my dad worked. I'm sure I beamed as I replied, "Pearl Street Fire Headquarters on Truck 1." The governor smiled and said: "That's near where I work at the Capitol. Please thank him for me for doing his very important work."

I did my best to convince the candidate who was running for office that the

minimum professional standards were no different for paid and volunteer firefighters. This too is the case for firefighters who are also certified to provide emergency medical services (EMS). Whether fighting fire in a large city or with a small town's fire department, he or she must be prepared to save lives and protect property in numerous scenarios under a variety of difficult conditions. It is important to note that according to the NFPA two-thirds of the firefighters in the United States are volunteers.

In my late 30's I made one of the best decisions of my life. I became a volunteer firefighter in Mansfield. I was able to learn new skills, serve my community and make new friends. I only wish that I had joined many years earlier. Mansfield had a hybrid system that combined both paid and volunteer firefighters. When an emergency call came in, it was possible to get the apparatus out the door to the scene right away. In my mind reducing response time is critical in order to save lives and property.

Fortunately, we have "professional" career and volunteer firefighters who not only meet professional qualifications, but who also have the ever-important professional attitudes about their service. We owe these men and women a great deal as they are willing to risk their lives to save ours.

Bill Powers resides in Windham Center where the Windham Center Fire Department has a rich volunteer tradition going all the way back to 1825 and will soon be celebrating their 200th anniversary. Photo by author.



The Ashford AREA Arts Council is looking for a Chairperson, is it you?

We have a wonderful artist community, a robust group of supporting volunteers and a strong board of officers. Our members are from all over Northeast CT who participate in our monthly meetings, workshops and artist shows. We are looking for someone to steer this wonderful ship in helping us to continually bring the Arts, Artists, and Community Together. You just may be a great fit if you have prior leadership experience and just a strong love for supporting the arts! We are looking for an organized leader for this volunteer position.

If you're interested in exploring the possibilities please
Contact us directly at: StaceyTheAAAC@Outlook.com
Someone will reach out to you very soon.



Tower Hill Preserve – The Grand Unveiling

By John Hankins, President, Joshua's Trust
(excerpted from the Joshua's Trust News, Spring, 2023 Newsletter)

Joshua's Trust unveiled the Tower Hill Preserve in Chaplin on May 20, 2023. This 236-acre property came to the Trust as a gift from the Alexander Family Trust in 2021 and constitutes the largest single gift of land to the Trust in its 57-year history. The property, together with the newly acquired 178-acre Harvey property on North Bedlam Road in Chaplin, represents major milestones in our goal to protect an unfragmented wildlife corridor along Stonehouse Brook between the federally-owned Mansfield Hollow State Park to the south and the state-owned Natchaug Forest to the north.

The Tower Hill Preserve checks all the boxes – historical foundations, a former mill site, ecologically-critical wetlands, vernal pools, productive agricultural soils, and riparian habitat along Stonehouse Brook. The preserve is now available for access to the public via a 1.5-mile yellow-blazed trail with a route that takes advantage of historic forest roads which avoid the wetter, more ecologically-sensitive areas of the property.

The moment you park your car at the entrance to the property on Tower Hill Road you realize there's something special here. Foundations and stone gates with their original iron hardware adorn the front area inviting visitors to speculate as to the original operation of the homestead. The tightly-fitted stone walls topped by enormous rectangular capstones are engineering marvels that leave you wondering about the mechanical ingenuity of the early inhabitants. These curving walls define a lane that draws you into the property, where after a short walk you come to a forested cross-roads where a myriad of well-preserved stone walls radiate outwards. A few hundred feet further into the forest you encounter a recently toppled six-foot diameter oak tree that once stood over open fields.

While it is clear that farming occurred on this property for many years, the specifics of the operations remain largely unknown. A large foundation exists near the entrance of the property where the "Ross House" originally stood. The land and the house on the property were handed down over the generations between the Ross family. The first recorded transactions in the property deeds were from Ebenezer Ross to his son William in 1848 and then to William Ross II in 1888. William Ross II was a Selectman in Chaplin.

At the time of his death in 1908 he had an estate worth \$90,000, which likely made him the wealthiest man in town. The Ross House is believed to have been the first in Chaplin with indoor plumbing, which would have been installed in the early 1900s. Remnants of this plumbing can still be seen in the foundation hole. Ten thousand dollars of William's 1908 estate was used to build the William Ross Library, a brick building that remains on Main Street in Chaplin to this day.

I recently interviewed long-term Joshua's Trust member Warren Church about his recollections of this

property as a boy growing up in Chaplin. Warren reported that in 1950, when he was an 8th grader at Chaplin Elementary School, he was selected for the lead male role in the school play. At that time, the Principal of the school was a tenant in the Ross House. Warren recalls that he attended a rehearsal for the play at the Principal's house while he was in residence. Although 73 years have passed since that fateful rehearsal, Warren still remembers the love song that he sang to his female counterpart in the play, on the front porch seen in the photo.

If you would like to experience this lovely preserve first hand, join Master Naturalist Deb Field for a Tower Hill walk on November 4th at 10 AM. Details are at <https://joshuustrust.org/event/explore-tower-hill-preserve/>.

Other Joshua's Trust activities, events and walks in the month of November are listed below. For details, updates or cancellations, go to <https://joshuas-trust.org/events/>

Discovery Challenge for Families and Individuals
September 1 - December 1
Join us in a challenge this fall to explore some of Joshua's Trust trails and learn about their diversity of plants and animals! Awards for completed entries.

Walktober #265 – Wednesday Walk at Pigeon Swamp Preserve.
November 1 - 8:00 am - 9:30 am.
Park at the end of Pigeon Swamp Road., Lebanon
Join us for a 2.25 mile hike through multiple habitats including pasture, wetlands and forested areas.



The entrance to the Tower Hill Preserve in Chaplin. Contributed photo.



The Ross House (no longer standing) on Tower Hill Road in Chaplin. Contributed photo.

Walktober # 282 - Cider Pressing at Atwood Farm (Mansfield)
November 4 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Atwood Farm 624 Wormwood Hill Road, Mansfield Center, CT
Join us for a traditional cider pressing at Atwood Farm and take a tour of the farm's heirloom orchard and historic buildings, including a large barn, blacksmith's shop, and weaver's cottage.

Walk at Utley Hill Preserve in Columbia
November 24 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Utley Hill Preserve 60 Hennequin Rd, Columbia, CT
Join us for a beautiful post-Thanksgiving wilderness walk.

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH YEAR!

WESTFORD HILL DISTILLERS

Tours & Tastings
Or Simply Sip, Relax, And Enjoy the View.
Gifts & Bottles to Take Home

Friday & Saturday 2-7pm | Sunday 12-5pm

196 Chatey Road
Ashford, CT
860-429-0464

INFO@WESTFORDHILL.COM

HST
Home Selling Team
HST

452 Storrs Road, Mansfield
860-456-SOLD (7653)
info@homesellingteam.com
homesellingteam.com

Birch Mountain Pottery Studio - Gallery Susan Gerr

www.birchmountainpottery.com
Rt. 195, 223 Merrow Rd,
Tolland Shopping Plaza, Tolland
(860) 875-0149

Your Local Potter since 1985
Tues. 10-5, Wed/Thurs. 12-5, Fri./Sat. 10-5,
closed Sunday/Monday

All Sleep

“NOT ONLY DO WE BEAT ANY LOWER ADVERTISED PRICE, BUT WE’LL ALSO ADJUST OUR PRICING SO THE NEXT PERSON WHO COMES IN WILL ALSO GET THE NEW LOWER PRICE. IT’S THE ONLY FAIR THING TO DO!”

- JOSHUA EVES
OWNER, ALL SLEEP

www.allsleep.net
885 Windham Rd. - South Windham, CT - (860) 423-0234
Mattresses - Recliners - Sofas - And More!

Song-a-Day Music Center

Coventry, Connecticut
860-742-6878 or songadaymusic.com

Lessons in: Guitar, Piano, Bass Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Ukulele, Dulcimer, Violin, Woodwinds, Brass & Drums
Instruments New & Used - Books, Gifts, Accessories, Instrument Repair
Buying used instruments! We pay cash!
Band Instrument Rentals & Supplies

**This is our time on Earth.
What are we doing with it?**

**Neighbors
a little paper
big on community**

Our Veterans Have Given the Gift of Freedom

“The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks...”

It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men.”

- Samuel Adams

By Bill Powers

Over the centuries our veterans have made extraordinary sacrifices in the name of preserving the freedoms of Americans while defending their Republic from those who would denounce democracy as a way of governing. On Veterans Day, we thank and remember our veterans for their unselfish service. Here are the stories of three of our local veterans who ought not be forgotten and who have not always been given the recognition that they deserve.

Colonel James Clark hailed from Lebanon, Adjutant-General Jesse Root was from Coventry and James Haggerty called Willimantic his home. The manner in which they supported themselves and their families was quite different. Clarke was a farmer, Root was a minister who became a lawyer, and James Haggerty was a businessman. One thing that they had in common was that they were all veterans and Patriots. Clarke and Root served during the Revolutionary War and Haggerty answered the call during the Civil War. After their military service, they all returned to their farm, village, or city with their memories of war and resumed life in the Republic they loved so much and for which they had made so many sacrifices.

COLONEL JAMES CLARK: DEVOTED, SACRIFICED AND RESILIENT

A 19th century journalist called Colonel James Clark “the noblest of them all.” Grace Greenwood, the colonel’s great-niece and a well-known and highly respected journalist, wrote “Reminiscences of Lebanon” and various versions appeared in a popular national weekly magazine and the *Hartford Daily Courant* in 1869. She believed that Clark’s gallant contributions during the American Revolution had not received due recognition and that “his story was overshadowed by the fame of other notable patriots from Lebanon”, so she wrote: “Another revolutionary worthy of Lebanon was Colonel James Clark, in some respects, the ‘noblest Roman of them all’, though he never attained to great honor or high position...”

In 1902, Mary Clarke Huntington, another descendent of James Clark, presented a paper to the New London County Historical Society entitled “Colonel Clark of Lebanon.” She published a touching and tragic story about Clark as he returned home from a military campaign. She wrote: “As he rode into Lebanon on his white war-horse that he retained for so many years afterward, he saw a funeral procession winding into the Old Cemetery, and while he was so glad in his return, anticipating the welcome of wife and children at the old homestead, his heart went out the more readily to such townfolk as has met with loss. It was long since he had heard from home – for the usual slow methods of communication were often interrupted in those times of war – and wondering whom death had taken, he turned his horse and rode after the procession. He heard the ‘dust to dust and ashes to ashes!’ Then as he saw that it was his wife who knelt weeping beside the grave of their little daughters. Other tragedies beset Clark and his wife during the war including the drowning in a well of their two-year old son. **Yet he still fought on.**”

He fought at the battles of Bunker Hill, Harlem



Heights and White Plains. Huntington continued: “At the time of the laying of the corner stone of the Bunker Hill Monument, the year before his death, when he was ninety-five, a special escort was sent from Boston to accompany him, as one of the survivors of the battle, to the spot where he had helped to hold the British in abeyance.” He had led the 6th Company from Lebanon in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL JESSE ROOT SERVED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE WAR AND WAS A STEWARD OF THE RULE OF LAW

Jesse Root was from Coventry and in a manner similar to Lebanon’s James Clark, “His story is overshadowed by the fame of other notable patriots”, in this case Coventry’s famous Nathan Hale. Root graduated from Princeton in 1756. He returned to Coventry to farm and preach. Later influenced by three lawyers, Jonathan Trumbull from Lebanon, and also Jedidiah Elderkin and Eliphalet Dyer from Windham, he decided to study to become a lawyer. After he began to practice law, Jesse moved with his family from Coventry to Hartford for better opportunities. In Hartford Jesse became involved in the Revolutionary movement where his law practice began to thrive and he taught law. He never gave up his farm in Coventry where he eventually returned. “The family maintained a household in Coventry while apparently renting in Hartford. They had slaves, who probably cultivated the land in Coventry.” The 1790 Federal Census records that he owned three enslaved persons.

With respect to the Revolution, no job was too big or too small for Jesse. There was plenty to do as the British colonies in America were transformed into a new nation. Early on, as Americans protested British tyranny, Jesse won the trust and admiration of American leaders including George Washington.

As a soldier Jesse served in 1775 with troops fighting in upper New York State. He helped to plan and finance the Battle of Ticonderoga. After the Battle, he was assigned chairmanship of the prisoner committee overseeing British officers captured during the battle, when they were confined in Hartford. In December of 1776 Captain Jesse Root “raised and commanded a company of able-bodied men” to fight in the upper Hudson Valley.

Soon after, he was named Lieutenant Colonel and second in command of a regiment. “When General Israel Putnam assumed command of the Hudson Highlands at Washington’s order, he assigned Root as Adjutant-General. In the late winter of 1778, he returned home to Hartford and Coventry.” He then served on the Council of Safety that often met in the War Office in Lebanon. He was a member of the Second Continental Congress until the Peace of 1783, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and a member of the Governor’s Foot Guard and served as its commandant from 1798 to 1802. In 1819 he served as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. (*Quotations from “The Roots of Coventry, Connecticut”, 1987, by Messier B.B. & Aronson J.S.*)

JAMES HAGGERTY ENLISTED AT AGE 13 AND WAS A PRISONER OF WAR

James Haggerty was underage, only 13 when he enlisted in the Eighteenth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry to fight in the Civil War. His obituary appeared in the *Willimantic Chronicle* in November of 1934, along with a front-page headline that read “JAMES HAGGERTY DIES ON HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY: Last Member of Francis S. Long Post No. 30, G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic).

“Although under age, Haggerty was desirous of serving the nation in its time of need. He ran away from home to Norwich for the purpose of enlisting but was rejected because of his youthful appearance. Hiking back home to Willimantic, he discarded the short pants he was wearing and donning a pair of long trousers belonging to a brother, returned to the same recruiting station to pass the required examination. The officer in charge failed to recognize him as the lad who appeared before him a short time previously attired in different garb.

“After enlisting, he was assigned to Company H of the Eighteenth Connecticut Volunteers. He had the distinction of being the youngest soldier to enlist in the state. Joining his regiment in Virginia, he took part in all of the engagements in which it figured until the Battle of New Market, near Richmond, where he was captured by the Confederates and imprisoned at Andersonville, GA. and Charlestown, S.C. In the latter place, he fell ill of yellow fever and was sent to Florence in the same state shortly before he was released. After going to Annapolis, MD. to recuperate, he rejoined his regiment until the surrender of Lee.

“After the war, James Haggerty returned home and continued his education for a year. “The lure of the army life proved too strong and he enlisted in the regular army”, where he participated in the reconstruction of the South and then went to the western plains to fight Indians until 1869. At that point he returned to Willimantic and learned to be a blacksmith. He also worked with the Willimantic Linen Company before operating a tobacco and periodical store. He served as a deputy sheriff and a burgess in the borough government and after the incorporation of the city government 1893, represented the third ward on the board of aldermen for six years. He also served for twelve years as a member of board of registrars. Haggerty continued to serve in the National Guard for many years.

Our veterans have given us the gift of freedom. All have made extraordinary sacrifices in order to serve while swearing an oath to support and defend our Constitution.

Thank you.

Bill Powers is a retired Hartford and Windham Public Schools teacher. Photo taken at the Willimantic Veterans Center by the author.



HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday November 4th
10 AM to 3 PM

Columbia Congregational Church
325 Route 87

Crafts

Bake Sale

Take-a-Chance Baskets

Corn Chowder





2nd Annual

HOLIDAY MARKET

NOVEMBER 18TH 2023

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Scotland Volunteer Memorial Hall
47 Brook Rd, Scotland CT 06264

Baked Goods | Fall Produce | Soaps | Jams
Holiday Gifts | Cub Scout Fundraiser
Hot coffee and Desserts



Top End-of-the-Year Financial Moves for 2023

By James Zahansky, AWMA®
Principal/Managing Partner
& Chief Goal Strategist



For some, this year has been as complicated as learning a new dance. Did you start a new job or leave a job behind? That's one step. Did you retire? There's another step. If notable changes took place in your personal or professional life, then you may want to review your finances before this year ends and 2024 begins. Proving that you have all the right moves in 2023 might put you in a better position to tango with 2024.

Even if your 2023 has been relatively uneventful, the end of the year is still an excellent time to get cracking and see where you can manage your overall personal finances.

(Keep in mind that this article is for informational purposes only and is not a replacement for real-life advice. Please consult your tax, legal and accounting professionals before modifying your tax strategy.)

Should I Engage in Tax-Loss Harvesting?

That's the practice of taking capital losses (selling securities for less than what you first paid for them) to manage capital gains. You might want to consider this move, but it should be made with the guidance of a financial professional you trust.¹

If some investments in your portfolio have suffered a loss, the end of the year is a common time to consider if it would make sense to "harvest losses" by selling them. Doing so can offset gains you have realized in your portfolio, as well as up to \$3,000 of your earned income. Tax-loss harvesting can get complex, so this is a great topic to seek professional help. Be aware: **Investments can only be rebought after a certain period, as selling a security for a loss and buying back within 30 days does not qualify.**

Should I Itemize Deductions?

You may want to take the standard deduction for the 2023 tax year, which has risen to \$13,850 for single filers and \$27,700 for joint. If you think it might be better for you to itemize, now would be a good time to gather the receipts and assorted paperwork.²

Do My Charitable Donations Qualify for a Tax Deduction?

Charitable contributions donated directly to a qualified charity or to a donor-advised fund can help you get a federal tax deduction. Keep in mind, however, that this will often only be beneficial if you're itemizing. It's worthwhile to discuss with your tax professional if your charitable contributions, in addition to other deductions, will surpass your standard deduction.

Can I Contribute More to Retirement Funds?

While the state of the economy might make you hesitant about setting additional income aside, consider whether you're financially able to maximize (or increase) contributions to your workplace retirement plan. At the very least, find out if you're contributing the minimum to take full advantage of any employer match benefit. Increasing your contributions to a traditional IRA is another option, though you should be mindful that those with higher incomes may not qualify for a tax deduction.

Should I Consider Roth Conversions?

If you have some room in your current tax bracket before reaching a higher federal income tax rate, you may want to consider doing a Roth Conversion. This would involve converting some of your pre-tax retirement savings, like in a traditional IRA, into a post-tax account, like a Roth IRA, so you'd never have to pay taxes on future earnings. Taxes would be paid up front on the conversion amount, and you'd enjoy tax-free growth in the future. If this interests you, discuss this strategy with your advisor, who can help determine if it's an ideal time to do a conversion. He or she can also run projections to see if you would end up paying less in taxes over time with this strategy.

What Can You Do Before Ringing in the New Year?

New Year's Eve may put you in a dancing mood, eager to say goodbye to the old year and welcome 2024. Before you put on your dancing shoes, though, consider speaking with a financial or tax professional. Do it now, rather than in February or March. Small end-of-year moves might help you improve your short-term and long-term financial situation.

At Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Financial Advisors, we use our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic process to help our clients reach their financial goals and dreams. Contact us for a complimentary consultation by calling (860) 928-2341, or request one on our website.

Presented by Principal/Managing Partner James Zahansky, AWMA®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Road, Tolland, CT 06084. 860-928-2341. www.whzwealth.com.

1. <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/taxes/08/tax-loss-harvesting.asp>

2. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/standarddeduction.asp>

Tai Chi Home

Day in the Sun

By Joe Pandolfo

What a time to be so close to the reach of the forest. There's vast rootedness underneath that feels almost ancestral. Then each season - when you're awake to the spirit of it - there's some new thing to learn about living and breathing.

This is the season we can literally see time pass; when ripe old age, or some moment of letting go, or the sigh in a smile goodbye brings out inner beauty.

In the forest the leaves are unveiling as many colors as any sunset. In the wind they flutter then let go, one by one. On the ground they gather, like old stories of their day in the sun.



Senior Home Repair

Home repairs exclusively for senior citizens.

Carpentry - Electrical
Masonry - Plumbing
Licensed and Insured

860-205-7008



WILLIMANTIC FARMERS MARKET

Announcement

We will be opening a Winter Farmers Market for the first year ever at the First Congregational Church* in Willimantic, 199 Valley St, Willimantic, CT 06226. The market, opening the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month November to April, will feature many of our longtime vendors, as well as some new faces. Our hours are shortened to 9am-12pm. If you are interested in joining us this season please email us willfarmersmarket@gmail.com. The full list of dates are below!

2023-2024 Dates:

November 11th and 25th	December 9th and 23rd
January 13th** and 27th	February 10th and 24th
March 9th and 23rd	April 13th** and 27th

* Please note that the church has parking in the rear of the building, as well as accessible entrances.

** January 13th and April 13th the market will move into a smaller space downstairs to accommodate the preexisting repair café. Signs will redirect customers to the market.

Ashford Farmers Market



Our 17th Season!

Every Sunday through November 19th
10am-1pm
Enjoy fresh Connecticut grown products
Meet your local farmers
Guest Vendors
Pompey Hollow Park
Route 44, across from Town Hall

Tri-County Greenhouse

'Where Plants and People Grow - Since 1982'

We are a non-profit vocational program training and employing people with developmental disabilities.

AMARYLLIS BULBS
Top Size - 43 Varieties
PAPERWHITES
UNIQUE FALL BULBS
FRESH BOUQUETS
Coming Soon:
POINSETTIAS - WREATHS

290 Middle Turnpike (Rt. 44) Mansfield Depot
860-429-5532 Open All Year 7 days/week

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

the Neighbors paper
a little paper
big on community



HOSMER MOUNTAIN BOTTLING CO.

Since 1912
217 Mountain Street, Willimantic, CT 06226
(860) 423-1555 • Fax (860) 423-2207
email: mail@hosmersoda.com • www.hosmersoda.com



Photo provided by JVP- Jewish Voice for Peace.

The Field and the Space

I do expect from people, outsiders, ... unless they themselves come from Israel or Palestine or they have relatives there, ... if you are just an outsider, don't be intellectually lazy, don't be emotionally lazy, don't see just part of this terrible reality, try to see as much of the reality as you can, because the people there now, in the midst of this suffering, they are incapable of doing it, but we need outsiders to somehow keep a space for future peace, because we can't keep that space right now.

— Yuval Noah Harari on the war in Israel and Gaza, Zeit online

By Phoebe C. Godfrey

Since the atrocities committed (and ongoing, as people are still being held hostage) by Hamas against unsuspecting and innocent Israelis on October 7, I have been thinking about what Mevlana Rumi, the Persian poet, wrote: “Beyond good and bad, there is a field, I’ll meet you there.” Additionally, I have been asking myself what it takes to reach this field, this space, proposing that it can only emerge to the extent we allow our hearts to break open, but not apart.



Since Israel began its bombing of Gaza (part of an ongoing 50-year violent and racist occupation), violating human rights, including the Geneva Convention, which prohibits reprisals against civilians for the acts of enemy soldiers, I have been thinking about what it takes to embody the teaching of the prophet Jesus, who very clearly said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also” (Matthew 5:38–39).

From both these enlightened teachings, I catch a glimmer of what it must mean to embody grace and, if there is a God/Goddess, to honor how they have called for us to emulate and embrace the complexities of perspective. When we are in our pain, in our beliefs, in our reality, it is almost impossible to see the other’s pain, the other’s beliefs, the other’s reality, but that does not mean they are not there, and that they are not equally valid from where the other is standing. This is not to say that there are no conceptions of right and wrong, that there are not international laws, human rights laws, treaties, and agreements that we can and should use to help guide us and seek justice, but rather that we must always recognize that justice is a transformative journey and requires above all else that we proceed with deep love and empathy, not just for ourselves but for others, including our enemies.

On that day, October 7, a Saturday, I informally officiated at a wedding between a young French/Swiss Orthodox Jewish man and a French/Tunisian Arab woman who fell in love against the social odds and the wishes of his family but not hers. I said to them that their love is more than our typical socially sanctioned love. It is a challenge to our segregating and tribal ways and as such it is a love that must be held and nurtured with great care and kindness, as it offers hope for the world. I told them I felt honored on that day to bring their love, their traditions, their faiths, and their stories together to help teach us that the field is there, if

only we have the courage and the humility to see it.

Since that day, many around the world have been taking this journey to see and even to create the field. Among those who moved me deeply is an Israeli man, Maoz Inan, whose parents, Bilha and Yakov, were killed by Hamas but whose heartfelt words can and should teach us so much. He stated in an interview with the BBC, “I am not crying for my parents, I am crying for those who will lose their lives in this war. We must stop the war!”

Or Youssef Ziadna, the Bedouin bus driver who saved 30 Israelis at a music festival from Hamas’s massacre, risking his own life. He said afterwards, “I knew I couldn’t give up on my mission. I will go and rescue them.” He added, “I would never wish on anyone to see what I saw... This is trauma for my whole life. When I sit alone and recollect, I can’t help the tears.”

Or members of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), who have been organizing protests across the U.S., including the largest-ever pro-Palestine protests in D.C., demanding a ceasefire and that “Jewish grief must not be used as a weapon of war.” Acknowledging the increasing number of Palestinians killed, including at the time almost 3,000 children, and calling Israel’s action “a genocide,” JVP also demanded that the Israeli government:

1. immediately cease its bombing of Gaza.
2. allow all life-saving humanitarian needs to enter Gaza, including water, fuel, food, and medicine.
3. begin direct negotiations for Israeli hostages.

Or our friend, a Presbyterian pastor in Hartford, who is married to a Christian Palestinian musician whose family in Bethlehem are in lockdown. Last week she focused her sermon on inviting her congregation to connect deeply with their hearts and spirits and from there to do the hard work of grieving, advocating for justice, and bringing about healing.

Or my own brother, who is Jewish (I am not, as we share a father but not a mother) and lives in Israel with his Israeli wife and three children, and who yesterday led a prayer ceremony “dedicated to the work with the community that is on the other side of the threshold... looking at how the living and the dead are part of the same organism that is called life,” in which work he included all the dead and all the living. On this side of the Atlantic, the ceremony was joined by my wife, Tina, and a friend of ours, who together smoked the sacred Chanunpa (pipe), a Lakota way of sending prayers, while I too sent prayers from where I happened to be outside of the state.

These are, of course, just a few of the many, many examples of those on both sides who are seeking higher spiritual ground and doing what they can, where they can, in order to try to do what Israeli author Yuval Noah Harari proposes—in short, that if you are not directly in “the pain,” “don’t be intellectually lazy [or] emotionally lazy” and “just see part of this terrible reality,” but rather “try to see as much of the reality as you can” to hold “a space for future peace.” And if you are in “the pain,” find community and healing so you too can make your way to Rumi’s field, to a future space for peace, as we will need as many people as possible there if we are to do the hard work that reconnects and redirects those lands, this world, toward justice.

Wouldn’t You Like to Be a Prepper Too?

I intend to live forever. So far, so good.
—Steven Wright

By Bob Lorentson

Has anyone noticed lately how Doomsday Preppers have been multiplying like mosquitos at a nude beach? Or perhaps more like giant cockroaches after a nuclear holocaust? While there’s a lot to worry about these days, I have to wonder if we could even tell an apocalypse without a scorecard any more. But if the proliferation of Preppers tells us anything, it’s that while an apocalypse doesn’t have to be the end of the world, you can probably see it from a state-of-the-art, professionally designed bunker. Being prepared has gone Major League, and even the Boy Scouts are packing up their tents and turning in their Scout manuals.

Hope comes in many forms to many people. To some it means saving for a rainy day, or a new baby’s college fund. To others it’s knowing that your hazmat suit and your bug-out bag are always within reach. After all, that rain could be ash from a supervolcano explosion, or that college fund could disappear in the blink of a cyber-terrorism attack, but thanks to your Prepper skills and the good folks at “Home and Bunker,” that baby can still have enough camouflage diapers and martial arts training to handle any emergency.

Fortunately, we all still have choices. Under-prep, though, and even a minor apocalypse could leave you searching for tasty, high-protein insects without a guidebook. Over-prep, and by the time the main event arrives, you might prefer to take your chances with the zombies than ever have to eat another insect again. It might be helpful to remember the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. You can’t pick your apocalypse, but you can pick the Prepper level that makes you most comfortable. As for the bears, they can find a new home.

While an apocalypse can come in any size, from mild to moderate to end of the world, it’s important to remember that we’re all preppers to some degree, stocking up on supplies we think we’ll need in the normal course of events. Prepping with a capital P is just hoarding with a purpose, the place where practicality meets paranoia and panic buying. About fifteen million Americans, or 10 percent of all households, are actively prepping for the end of the world now, which must say something about a society where most people aren’t even prepared for a weekend visit from the in-laws. Not that I’m making any comparisons, you understand.

If you are new to Doomsday Prepping, do not make the rookie mistake of naming a Costco or Dollar General as your bug-out location. While they would provide all the duct tape, batteries, and ramen noodles you could ever want, they are not designed to keep you safe from plagues, bioweapons, radiation, or robots, never mind aliens or zombies. Sure, there are enough Prepper resources to help you design and stock the bunker of your dreams, but hiring a professional Prepper is still your best bet. An apocalypse is no time to discover, for instance, that time goes twice as slow in a bunker, and toilet paper twice as fast.

Doomsday preparations have come a long way, baby, and “duck and cover” drills don’t cut the nuclear fallout anymore. Professional Preppers will not only consider your budget and your paranoia when designing your bunker, but have the flair and imagination to make it your home away from the end of the world. It’s the little things that count, while you’re busy counting the hours, days, weeks, and years. Just don’t fall for any money-back guarantees.

A professional Prepper knows that there are many ways a poorly designed bunker can do you in faster than over-caffeinated zombies. Rainwater seepage, groundwater infiltration, toxic gas intrusion, fire, cave-ins, steel corrosion, mold, radiation, waste disposal issues—bunker living is not for the faint of heart, mind, or any other body part. Many consider it less like living and more like an endangered species insurance plan. And you can forget about cell service.

How to determine when it’s safe to come out of your bunker is also a problem for which there are no great answers. Guess wrong, and your bunker insurance plan is null and void, as, likely, are you. If all this isn’t enough to cause a psychological meltdown even before global warming melts the last ice sheet, just remember that every desperate person without a bunker will soon know the whereabouts of every person with a bunker. As you can see, zombies really are the least of your worries.

We’ve all seen the movies or read the books that show us what post-apocalyptic worlds might look like. It ain’t Disney World, or any other world that I’d care to live in. Personally, I’d rather make the most out of this world than spend any of my resources preparing for the next one, which probably explains why my personal bug-out bag consists of a case of beer and my guitar. Then again, my wife says that if my singing doesn’t repel the zombies, nothing will.

Bob Lorentson is a local writer. His new book is You Only Go Extinct Once (Stuck in the Anthropocene with the Pleistocene Blues Again).

When You Renew Your Driver's License

By Angela H. Fichter

It used to be, when you were young, that your parents and grandparents knew ever so much more than you did, and they taught you much of what you now know. But for the first time in human history, kids are teaching their parents and grandparents. About what? Computers and how to use them.

I had a hard lesson in this a few weeks ago. Got a notice from the Department of Motor Vehicles (delivered to my post office box) that my driver's license expires in a month, so time to renew it now. Except that you cannot just drive to the closest DMV office and wait (forever) to renew your license, which includes having a new photo taken. The letter from DMV was very clear about that. You have to either phone DMV and make an appointment to go to your local office to renew your license or you can renew it online. I tried calling for an appointment. After waiting on hold for ages and ages and trying more than once, I gave up and decided to renew my license online. That's when the lesson about youngsters teaching oldsters was brought home to me.

I tried and tried to renew my license online. Naturally, they ask for your phone number and email address. When I had filled out the renewal application form, something appeared on the screen saying that DMV had sent me a code and I should enter it in the following place. I checked my email, wrote down the code, and tried to go back to the place where I was supposed to insert it. Except I couldn't get back there. I had to fill out the form all over again. I tried again and again. Same thing kept happening.

Finally, I hired a computer expert to help me. We went through the form together and determined that in the place that asked for my mobile phone number, I had put my landline phone number, because the form did not ask for my cell phone number but rather my mobile phone number. When I bought my landline phones seven years ago, they were called mobile phones, because you can take the receiver off the hook and walk several rooms away from the thing you hang the receiver on when you're done with your call. Yes, I know what a cell phone is, but on other forms I have filled in, I was asked for my cell phone number and then any other phone number I might have.

So I learned that on the DMV form they wanted my cell phone number where the form said "mobile phone number." I put the correct number in. I then needed help in using my smartphone to find and read the code that DMV sent in response to my cell phone number. I wrote the code down, then entered it in the form where it was asked for.

Why couldn't I use the code that had been sent by email? Because I had left the DMV window in order to open my email. I had to be taught that you can have more than one window open at a time, and how to open a new window and then go back to the first window you were using. That's why the system is called Windows!

I had gotten the phone number of the computer expert (who's with a local firm) from the guy who proof-reads the articles I write and send to newsletters. He's a retired high school teacher. I had first called him when I got hacked. His response was that he knows nothing about computers, that he asks his grandkids when he has a computer question, and if they can't answer his question, he calls this computer support firm. He's not ancient. If a retired teacher needs help on a computer, then anyone over the age of 50 must need help.

After all the turmoil I went through to renew my driver's license, the computer finally said it was renewed and I would get the new one in the mail. I then phoned DMV, and this time someone answered. I asked how long it would take to get my license in the mail. Oh, weeks, was the answer. I asked, what if I get stopped by a cop for some reason and I don't yet have that new license? The answer was, he can look on the computer and see that DMV has renewed your license. At that point, I decided I needed help in calming down from the turmoil of renewing my license online, so I had a cup of tea and four chocolate cookies. They tasted good, but it still took me a week to calm down enough to write this article.

P.S. My proofreader wants me to add that when it comes to computer security, take no risks, just hire a pro. Hmmm. Couldn't you say that about autos too? Wouldn't you rather be safe than save a buck by having a friend or relative service your car for free?

Common Sense Car Care

By Rick Ostien

The weather is getting colder so it's that time again to get ready for the W word. There are a few things that we should do to prepare for winter driving and the harshness of the elements.

One of the first things that should be done is often one of the least thought of and that's a survival kit for your car. A well-equipped kit should include the following items: a snow shovel, a bag of kitty litter, a blanket, a flashlight and extra batteries, flares, a cell phone (be sure to have a car charger), a well-equipped first aid kit and mittens or gloves. I personally like mittens better as the hands tend to stay warmer in them. Drivers with a long commute may want to include a few nutritious snacks with a shelf life too. There are other items that can be carried but these items are really the essentials. The idea is to keep warm and as comfortable as you can just in case you become stranded. Freezing is not very pleasant so the idea is to be proactive and prepare in advance.

Another way you can prepare is to have the antifreeze in your cooling system checked. This actually should be done year round. The PH level of your coolant plays a large role in the deterioration of your engine parts. A good example of this was a Ford Taurus that came into our shop with an overheating problem. On examination, the coolant was rusty brown with a lot of sludge build up. The coolant thermostat was checked and replaced. The radiator flow was also checked. (This is the amount or volume of water passing through your radiator at a given time.) The radiator flow was checked again and was OK. The vehicle was then road tested. The engine temperature was lower but it still was not right. The technician then checked the water pump flow and found that it was not adequate. He removed the water pump and found that the impeller had rotted away. The water pump was replaced and a recheck found the coolant temperature to be normal. This is a good example of why your coolant should be checked for a high PH level once a year.

Your electrical system works harder in cold and hot weather and is another thing that should be checked in preparation for winter. Your battery should be checked for its cold cranking reserve and your alternator checked for its maximum output. Today's computerized vehicles depend on these two components to function properly. When they don't work properly the computer systems in your car don't function properly and systems begin to shut down.

The tires you ride on are another item that should be checked before bad weather hits. Tires need to be checked for wear and they need to be inflated properly. Some tires are made for performance driving. You should be sure that your tires are at least mud/snow rated. This is easy to check and can be found by looking for the stamping of M+S on the sidewall of the tire.

Some people are lucky enough to have a garage and can keep the vehicle out of the elements and old man winter's harshness. For those of you who are not lucky enough to have a garage, there are still some precautions and preparations that you can take. They are:

1. Spray silicone around your door rubbers. This helps to keep the doors from freezing.
2. Make sure your windshield wipers are clear of snow and not frozen to your windshield.
3. Always warm up your vehicle before driving. This gives the mechanical parts and fluids a chance to warm up. It also gives your windshield a chance to defrost so you aren't looking out of two small holes with little or no visibility.
4. Put a can of dry gas in your fuel tank every third fill-up. This will help to stop fuel line freeze up due to condensation.

The last thing that we'll discuss is what you as a driver can do. There are several things you can do to make winter driving easier to cope with.

1. Be sure you give yourself plenty of distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
2. If you have to talk on a cell phone or text, please pull over to the side of the road. Two hands on the steering wheel is a must when the weather is bad.
3. Pay attention to road conditions. If the pavement looks wet but you see no spray from the tires of the vehicle in front of you, there is a good chance that the highway is freezing.
4. Drive defensively and stay alert. It only takes a second for things to change.

I hope this article can help to make your winter driving experience a bit more pleasant. Keep safe and be alert and of course happy motoring.

Rick Ostien is the owner of Franc Motors in Willington.

Carpentry

10% Discount For Ashford Residents



Serving Ashford and Surrounding Towns
Interior & Exterior
All Carpentry Projects
No Project Too Small
Fourth Generation Carpenter!
Quality Workmanship
Clean and Reliable

Call or Text Christian @
860-712-8624

christian@lofcarpentryct.com

860-712-8624

christian@lofcarpentryct.com

Join us for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day Service

10 am - 11 am

Christian Science Church
870 Main Street
Willimantic

All are welcome!

Service includes:

Hymns • Prayer • Lesson-Sermon
Expressions of Gratitude
No Collection Taken

Tai Chi Classes for Health and Balance

Windham Senior Center:

Mon, Wed 10-11a; & Wed, Fri 9-10a
Call or text Sarah Winter: 860-931-8636

Ashford Senior Center: Tue, Fri 9:30-10:30a

Chaplin Senior Center: Wed 12:30-1:30p

Columbia Senior Center: Tue 1-2p

Coventry Senior Center: Wed 9:30-10:30a

Lebanon Senior Center: Tue 4-5p, Thu 6:30-7:30p

Call or text Joe Pandolfo: 959-444-3979

VETERANS
FREE MEDICAL RIDES
to CT & RI Medical Facilities
860-317-1025
By Focus on Veterans Inc.

SECOND MONDAY FILM SERIES

at Storrs/Mansfield Unitarian Universalist
Meetinghouse, 46 Spring Hill Road
(1/10th miles from Storrs Road./Route 195)

7:00 pm EACH 2nd MONDAY of
EVERY MONTH since 2011

ADMISSION ALWAYS FREE • DONATIONS WELCOME

Documentaries to promote critical thinking
Find & Like Us on facebook • info: 860 428-4867

Old Connecticut Path

By Brian Karlsson-Barnes

Everything Is Connected. Native trails first led westward from the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the Connecticut River Valley. *Old Connecticut Path* was first of North American routes west from the seacoast settlement that is Boston, founded **1630**. From the Hub, everything was connected, land and sea.

The word *Connecticut* has little to do with our verb of connection, however; it is derived from anglicized spellings of *Quinnetuket*, a *Mohegan-Pequot* word for the state's "long tidal river".

Indians already knew the efficient trails, skirting wet meadows of river bottoms, crossing streams at the easiest fords, and walking the ridges. When Bay colonists were short of grain in the early **1630s**, *Nipmuc* farmers in Connecticut took surplus maize along this familiar route to the mouth of the Charles River, trading food for metal goods and woolen cloth (and unintentional disease for which no immunity).

1635 Watertown settlers took this route moving to Wethersfield, Connecticut. In **1636**, Hartford was founded when Congregational minister Thomas Hooker (advocate of universal Christian suffrage who disagreed with the Puritans) took a hundred of his dissenting congregation on a two-week trek with 160 cattle along the Path to the Connecticut River, a place called *Saukiog*, meaning "blackness of earth". Early colonists driving cattle made the Path wider.

By **1643**, Sudbury Village in Massachusetts, documents called this trail "*Old Connecticut Path*". With a postal system in **1672**, "*The Great Trail of New England*" became the first colonial Post Road. The Path crossed the Blackstone River, crossing known as North Bridge, and the Quinebaug River crossing was South Bridge, thus naming Northbridge and Southbridge. The Path still partly follows Routes 9 and 126.

The ease of growing corn led to small grist mills on waterways throughout the region, as in Gurleyville near Storrs, dating to about **1749** on the Fenton River near Mansfield Hollow and the Nipmuc Trail.

GARDEN PATH Everything Is connected. Moving to Boston in **2004**, I often drove Route 9 from Jamaica Plain to Hopkinton's Weston Nurseries, my first connection to the Path. JP is also home to Arnold Arboretum, nature's solace for many, where I was a volunteer docent. In the **1970s**, architectural studies at the University of Minnesota connected with spatial work at Bachman's Garden Center in Minneapolis, and Dundee Nursery in Plymouth

MN.Unitarian-Universalism taught its 7th Principle:

Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part.
Not apart.

Route

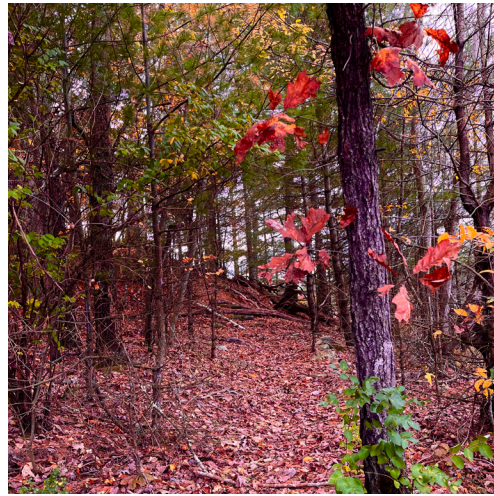
Centuries before European settlement, *Old Connecticut Path* led west from Massachusetts Bay along the north bank of the Charles River ... to Cambridge (New Town) and newly settled Watertown, through now-Waltham and Weston... curving south to Wayland where Route 126 still bears the Old Path name. (Wayland, where "Bay Path" diverged from Connecticut Path to head straight west through Worcester to the Connecticut River from Mass Bay.)

Southwestward, *Connecticut Path* passed along the north side of Cochituate Pond to cross the Sudbury River in now-Framingham (Route 126 also retains name), then threaded between the Charles and Sudbury Rivers. From Framingham, *Old Connecticut Path* ran south through Ashland (*Megunko*, where I later lived on Sudbury headquarters) through Hopkinton (*Quansigamog*) into now-Westborough.

Native Indians were coerced to settle in "praying towns", instructed in European customs and converted to Christianity. Trekking over Fay Mountain to Grafton, known as the praying town of *Hassanamesit / Hassanamisco*, the Old Path led through Sutton woods to Connecticut. It entered at the praying town of *Mannexit*, now Thompson, continued into Woodstock and crossed the Quiet Corner through Eastford, Ashford and Willington.

Today, travelers in the Quiet Corner can walk *Old Connecticut Path* in Fenton-Ruby Park (Willington) and along the Nipmuc (aka Nipmuck) Trail north from Mansfield Hollow (Windham) to Bigelow Hollow (Union) at the Massachusetts border.

NIPMUC TRAIL A west branch starts on Puddin' Lane in suburban Mansfield, and the east branch extends north from Mansfield Hollow State Park (Windham), through the Natchaug / Nipmuck State Forests and Yale Forest, into Bigelow Hollow State Park (Union). The 45-mile trail hikes woods, open fields and ridges, to which many other trails connect town and conservation lands, notably Joshua's Trust.



Nipmuc Trail, Mansfield Hollow. Photo by author.

Westward, the Old Path crosses Tolland, Vernon and Manchester to arrive at the Connecticut River.

GARDEN PATH Working in Hopkinton, Weston Nurseries' vast inventory of plants instructed me. Better than a graduate degree. Working at Bachman's and Dundee Nursery in Minnesota, had converted me to Horticulturalism, but WN enhanced my sense of landscape design and my earlier experience with plants suitable to Minnesota's bitter winters.

My mantra: *Suit the Site, Fit the Space, Then Seek Beauty*

Master gardening was most instructive. This interconnection of all things horticultural was studied at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Elm Bank, Wellesley, as I began KB garden design in Jamaica Plain. **2018** My path arrived in the Quiet Corner at a 1750 farmhouse in Chaplin near the Natchaug River with a scary basement and two wooded acres. Over sixty more trees, many flowering, and many more shrubs and herbaceous perennials have been planted, coexisting with glorious weeds. Love the wild landscape.

Learn

What I most want to take root, however, is the notion of horticultural interconnection. Spiritual respect for the environment assists book and field learning. Key for me was master gardening training with MassHort.

Locally, the UCONN Master Gardening Program is in Storrs. Volunteer to learn more. Arnold Arboretum taught me more about mature growth and landscape design; in New London, learn from ornamental and natural habitats at Connecticut College.

Master Gardener is an amateur designation; Horticulturist is a professional one. Skill and passion overlap, and becoming a Master Gardener doesn't replace a professional degree or working as a project manager at a "design-build" nursery, but master gardening connects many variables. Gardening benefits all landscape designers. Nothing beats experience, except imagination.

Dedicated to the memory of Ryan Lefsky who died unexpectedly in October, a hard worker with overwhelming family responsibilities who loved walking the woods of Sutton, Massachusetts.

Brian Karlsson-Barnes, Master gardener/designer, Chaplin CT
Briankarlssonbarnes@gmail.com

Giving Thanks for an Abundance of Locally Grown Food!

Pie Pumpkins - Winter Squash - Potatoes - Garlic - Turnips - Beets - Carrots - Mushrooms - Apples

Turkeys from Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm
\$5.99 per pound
Available for Pre-Order -
Orders Must be Placed by November 14

Happy Thanksgiving
With Love from your Food Co-op

91 VALLEY ST., WILLIMANTIC
860-456-3611
www.willimanticfood.coop • Credit Cards Accepted
Open to Everyone - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8 AM - 8 PM

Senior Moments
Share a moment with us
ADULT DAY CENTER

www.seniormomentsllc.com

FREE COMP DAY!

DAILY EXERCISE	MON - FRI	TRANSPORTATION
MEMORY ENHANCEMENT	8:30AM - 4:30PM	HAIRDRESSING
OUT TRIPS		FOOT CARE
ARTS & CRAFTS		NURSING SERVICES
MUSIC	31 Kingsbury Ave, Tolland, CT	

(860) 643-9500

October Magic

Oh, how lucky we are! Able to live a life of magic and wonder.
 Amidst the hectic pace of life,
 able to take time to see the world
 as we used to,
 with child-like wonder,
 when anything is possible.
 A lucid dreamstate,
 only you're awake.
 A distant memory,
 only it's now.

Others look at the anger, hate, tension in the world,
 then look through the rest of the world with that view.
 But us, we can look at the world and see the beauty,
 though sad, emotional, and distressing,
 we can find the beauty in the darkness,
 knowing that darkness isn't all bad,
 for we know that even light itself can cause shadows.

Learning from the past,
 whether it's from our own,
 though it seems like another life,
 or a millennia ago,
 we are still connected to it
 and we can experience it once again.
 We enter a fantasy world, making it our reality.
 A magical place, filled with the spirits of nature,
 all around us.
 As we don costumes, we revel our true selves,
 when we wipe the make up off, we put the mask back on.

But that magic is still with us.
 The ancient music, the trees, the moon,
 that have been around for eons,
 we have been there, all those years ago,
 and we return to partake in these traditions
 that grow and evolve with time.
 Yet, the magic, the fantasy doesn't disappear,
 but becomes more real, for we are here,
 open and ready to embrace the past
 to prepare ourselves for the future.

Poem and photos by Jesse Clark.



Born to Love, So Why Do We Hate?

By Keith Stone

With an open mind and heart so pure
 I entered this world, a soul unsure.
 No hate within; no prejudices deep
 Just love and kindness; my heart to keep.

As I grew, I saw the world
 with all its flaws; it's flag unfurled.
 I saw the hatred and divisions deep
 and wondered why I couldn't sleep.

For how can one learn to hate
 another soul of different fate?
 How can we judge by skin or creed
 when we all share the human seed?

It's taught; it's learned, this poison vile,
 from parents, peers, and social guile.
 We're fed a fear of those unknown.
 We build a wall and stand alone.

But I refuse to learn this hate,
 this poison that divides our fate.
 I'll choose to love with all my might
 and spread my light, both day and night.

For I believe in human good;
 that we can overcome if understood
 that Love is stronger than any hate
 and together we can create
 a world where Peace and Love reside;
 where All are welcomed side by side;
 where differences are embraced
 and human kindness is a taste.

So let us teach our children well
 to love and cherish all that dwell;
 to see beauty in each soul
 and make this world a place made whole.



Dream

Of pale antlers last night I was dreaming
 On the heads of proud bucks they were gleaming
 Antlers glowing with light in the dark of the night
 As the deer passed by silently streaming

Through the meadow all lit by the moon
 With a million wildflowers bestrewn
 I was standing right here when they passed very near
 From afar came the cry of the loon

And the sound was so sad and so shrill
 That it gripped me and gave me a chill
 All alone on the lake was a heartbroken drake
 Who mourned for his missing mate still

For a fierce snapping turtle had ended
 Her life and his heart had not mended
 So he wailed in the night with the stars shining bright
 For his wife for a lifetime befriended

So the vision of Nature I dreamed
 So lovely, so sad as it seemed
 By Nature intended my lonely heart mended
 Love's pain will by death be redeemed
 And death's pain will by love be redeemed.

Poem and art by Kathy LaVallee of North Windham.

When The Time Is Right
renew,
redecorate,
rediscover
 the excitement of living
 in your home.

The right changes can make you fall in love with your home all over again. We have every element you need to create the home of your dreams, one affordable step at a time.

Cabinets - Counter Tops
 Carpeting - Flooring
 Come see our wool carpets

Stop by today for the best products, advice and inspiration to bring home a whole new look.

Design Center East LLC
Distinctive Cabinetry & Flooring
 For Your Home or Office

27 MEADOW STREET, WILLIMANTIC • 860-450-8442
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 to 5; Sat. 9 to 2
 Special Appointment Available Upon Request

Franc MOTORS INC.
 Since 1949

ROUTE 32
 WILLINGTON
 (860) 429-2614 • www.francmotorsinc.com

Franc Motors is a general automotive repair facility servicing cars, trucks, trailers and RV's
 We offer medium & light, and heavy duty towing and recover.
 Road Service is available.
 Open Monday-Friday
 8:00am-6:00pm

Cooper TIRES
 SNOWPLOW SALES SERVICE

eyeTrade Optical & Sunglass
 in Coventry

eyeTrade™

Benefits after **Cataract** and **Lasik** Surgery
 To see again is...
Enhance • Preserve • Protect
 Your eyes from ultraviolet rays and bad blue light from computers and tablets.
 See the best that you can see and fall in love with your new vision.

Call **Sonya** for your **personalized** eyeglass/sunglass fitting appointment today!
860-498-0717

eyeTrade, LLC.
Optical Shop
 1197 Main St., Coventry, CT
www.eyetrade.vision

Escape to Freedom (maybe)

By Tom Woron

Who does not like a good, real life mystery raise your hand. Nobody, I thought so. While there are many good true unsolved mysteries in the world, here is one that continues to intrigue six decades after the fact.



Alcatraz. The very name conjures up a sinister aura of mystery. Alcatraz is an island located in San Francisco Bay off the coast of the city of San Francisco, California. The island became famous as it was the location of a maximum security United States federal prison that was intended to incarcerate the worst of criminals. The idea of a prison located on an island in San Francisco Bay was to have it be escape-proof and be America's most secure penitentiary. The waters of the Bay are extremely cold and the currents very strong. The chances of an escaped inmate surviving to reach the mainland were believed to be extremely slim if not impossible. The federal government states that no inmate has ever successfully escaped from the penitentiary on Alcatraz. That is very much disputed to this day.

The Island of Alcatraz was at one time the site of a U.S. Army military prison with construction of the main prison building beginning in 1910. The United States Department of Justice acquired the military prison on Alcatraz in 1933. After some modernization of the buildings, the following year the Federal Bureau of Prisons beefed up security and began using the island penitentiary as a Federal prison to incarcerate the nation's most troublesome criminals. The prison was a three story cellhouse with four main cell blocks. The individual cells which measured nine feet long, five feet wide and seven feet high were very primitive and lacked privacy. The basic needs of the prisoners were provided for but they received little else. In the building there was also an office for the warden, a visitation room, a library and a barber shop. Six cells at the end of the building were called "the Hole" and it was there that prisoners with behavior issues often received brutal physical punishment. Former inmates described overall inhumane conditions at the penitentiary. It didn't take

long for Alcatraz to gain the reputation as the toughest, most feared prison in the country. Officials of the Federal Bureau of Prisons believed that the Alcatraz prison was truly escape-proof given its high security and its location in San Francisco Bay surrounded by very cold water with dangerous currents. But was it really escape-proof?

It's been stated that with Alcatraz's reputation for brutal conditions, once an inmate arrived at the penitentiary his first thoughts were how to get out. The slim possibility of surviving an escape attempt did not prevent 36 inmates from trying. In all the escape attempts, six prisoners were shot and killed during their attempt, two were known to have drowned, twenty-three were recaptured and five are missing and presumed drowned. There was even a three day "Battle of Alcatraz" in May 1946 which claimed the lives of three prisoners and two prison guards. But did any inmates ever escape from Alcatraz and survive to live in freedom never to be found?

Late on the night of June 11, 1962 (or possibly in the early hours of June 12) three Alcatraz inmates, Frank Morris along with brothers John Anglin and Clarence Anglin carried out an escape attempt that was months in planning. The three men had created papier-mache heads that resembled themselves and placed them in their beds to make it appear that they were sleeping. The three then slipped through ventilation ducts into an unused utility corridor and then to the outside. Once outside the inmates left Alcatraz in a raft that they had constructed from raincoats and managed to keep concealed from the prison guards. The three men disappeared into oblivion their fates unknown with absolute certainty to this day.

A fourth inmate, Allen West, was supposed to go along but when he ran into difficulty he ended up staying behind. West would subsequently cooperate with the

Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation of the escape.

The dummy heads in the beds of the three escaped inmates fooled the guards enough so that the escape was not discovered until later on the morning of June 12. An extensive search of San Francisco Bay and the lands surrounding Alcatraz Island failed to find the escapees. The FBI took the position that the three inmates almost certainly perished in the frigid waters of the Bay.

Although the FBI believes that the three escaped Alcatraz inmates did not survive their escape attempt, there is no concrete evidence to support this belief. Allen West told the FBI that the escapees planned to steal a car upon getting to the mainland. According to the FBI no cars were stolen in the general area around the time of the escape. Since the escape there have been reported sightings and some tantalizing but inconclusive evidence suggesting that the men did make it to freedom.

In 1967 a man who claimed to have gone to school with Frank Morris reported to the FBI that he encountered him in Maryland. The man provided no details.

In 1962 the Anglin family received a Christmas card that said "to Mother, from John, Merry Christmas." The mother of the Anglin brothers also received flowers from an unknown sender every Mother's Day after the escape until her death in 1973. Two very tall and heavily



made up women, possibly men in disguise, were said to have shown up at the Anglin's mother's funeral. Also when the Anglin's father died in 1989, Robert Anglin, brother of John and Clarence, reported that two unknown bearded men came to the funeral home, viewed the body, wept and left.

From the mid 1960s through the 70s there were several reported sightings of John and Clarence Anglin in northern Florida and Georgia. In 1989 alleged witnesses phoned the TV show *Unsolved Mysteries* claiming that photos and sketches of Clarence Anglin and Frank Morris bore resemblance to men they knew of living in Florida.

In 1993 a man named John Leroy Kelly on his deathbed told a nurse that he and a partner picked up the escaped Alcatraz inmates in a boat and took them to the Seattle, Washington area. There, Kelly said, he and his partner killed the escapees in order to take money that the convicts' families collected for them. Kelly described a location where the escapees were supposedly buried but a subsequent investigation of the site did not find any human remains.

The National Geographic Channel aired a documentary on the Alcatraz escape in 2011 in which it was disclosed that a raft was indeed found on June 12, 1962 on Angel Island near Alcatraz. Footprints led away from the raft. Furthermore that same day, a blue 1955 Chevrolet was reported stolen in nearby Marin County on the mainland contradicting what the FBI originally said. The stolen car claim was confirmed by articles in local newspapers from the time of the Alcatraz escape. A motorist reported the next day that he was nearly run off the road by three men in a blue Chevrolet.

Also in 2011 a man named Bud Morris, claiming



to be Frank Morris's cousin, claimed to have met with Frank in San Diego shortly after the escape. Bud's daughter who was a child at the time, remembered being present when her father met with "his friend Frank."

In 2015 The History Channel ran a documentary in which the Anglin family presented circumstantial evidence supporting the possibility that John and Clarence made it to freedom after their escape from Alcatraz. That evidence included Christmas cards that family members received for a few years after the escape purportedly containing the Anglin brothers' handwriting. In addition the family members identified a friend named Fred Brizzi, who grew up with the Clarence and John, who supposedly encountered the two brothers in Brazil in 1975. A photograph allegedly taken of Clarence and John in Brazil in 1975 was determined by a forensic expert to very likely show the Anglin brothers. However the men in the photo were wearing sunglasses thus making a definite identification of the two in the photo difficult. The authenticity of the photo itself is questionable.

Before Robert Anglin died in 2010 he told other family members that he had been in contact with Clarence and John from 1963 up until about 1987. The other Anglin family members know of no contacts with John and Clarence after 1987.

Perhaps the most tantalizing bit of evidence supporting the survival of the escapees was a letter that the San Francisco Police Department received in 2013. The letter's writer claimed to be escaped Alcatraz prisoner John Anglin and stated that he was 83 years old (which John Anglin would have been in 2013) and that he needed medical treatment for cancer. The writer stated that Frank Morris died in 2008, Clarence Anglin died in 2011, and offered to surrender himself to authorities in exchange for medical treatment. The existence of the letter was not acknowledged by the FBI until 2018 and whether or not it was really written by John Anglin was never determined.

Studies of the ocean currents of the Bay and experiments with rafts made of the same materials as the Alcatraz escapees' makeshift raft, have revealed that it was indeed possible to escape the prison and get to the mainland.

Did the three inmates who escaped from Alcatraz perish in the attempt in June 1962 or did any or all of them make it to freedom where they possibly lived for many years? The FBI's investigation ended in 1979 however, the U.S. Marshals Service considers the case still open with the three escaped inmates still on their wanted list. If alive today Frank Morris would be 97 and the Anglins in their early 90s. Whatever happened to the escaped convicts, the mind of the average person reading about the escape wants to definitely go against the FBI's position that the three perished on June 12th or 13th, 1962 and to believe that the three outsmarted authorities, got away, and are living or lived out their lives in freedom. The escape from Alcatraz in June 1962 continues to be an enduring mystery with the absolute truth ever so elusive.

Pass That Joint?

Maybe Pass *On* That Joint

By Mark Mathew Braunstein

Crumble some cannabis buds, spread them onto a thin sheet of paper, shape that sheet into a cylinder, and then seal it. You've now rolled yourself a joint. Simple and small, the joint is traditional, portable, concealable, disposable, shareable, and yes, smokable. Once you've mastered the applied science and fine art of rolling joints, you can claim your cred as a cannabis connoisseur. The joint is hailed as the cannabis classic, yet nowadays only half of all cannabis users smoke joints. The rest have migrated to hand pipes, water pipes, vaporizers, and edibles. Pass that joint? The time may have come to pass on that joint.

Cutting Corners in Your Use of Rolling Papers

If you have a pack of rolling papers handy, hold it in your hand. Do you really want to hold that in your lungs? Without enhancing any high or relief, paper adds toxic fumes. One way to cut corners in your use of rolling papers is to cut its corners. When you begin to roll, the closer edge that faces you need not be as wide as the far edge with the adhesive. So trim the two corners where you start rolling. Another way to reduce your use is to perfect your rolling skills so you require only one sheet not two, or need only thin paper not thick.

Papers are made from a variety of fibers. The most common is wood pulp, which is so versatile that this newspaper is printed on it. If a brand of rolling paper refrains from advertising its ingredients, it's likely wood pulp. Other traditional fibers include rice straw, wheat straw, sisal, esparto, and flax. The thinnest are rice papers. Surely alluding to condoms, some boast "ultra-thin."

Some papers are bleached, dyed, carbonated, colored, sweetened, or flavored. As food additives, these might be safe to eat, but they are not safe to smoke. Because what's safe to digest in your stomach is not safe to inhale in your lungs. Bleached papers retain chlorine residue. Other chemicals may be added to make paper lighter, stronger, or longer burning. Often added to standardize the burn rate, potassium nitrate is linked to oral and respiratory irritation and damage.

Health tip: Seek rolling papers free of additives. Often these will be from fibers that were organically grown.

Hemp for High Rollers

Among rolling papers, hemp is the hippest and the newest fiber. Tough and thick, hemp makes rolling easier for novices. As its botanical twin, hemp makes sense as the most compatible fiber for smoking cannabis. Nevertheless, derived from the stalk, hemp adds no medicinal or psychoactive effects.

Rolling papers both hold the cannabis and hold back its combustion. Those for tobacco are classified into slow burning and free burning. Slow burners snuff out if not puffed on constantly. Free burners, once lit, continue to burn without requiring a lot of huffing and puffing. Tobacco is itself chemically treated to burn continuously and freely. Compared to tobacco, cannabis burns slowly. Thus, when not puffed on constantly, cannabis in slow-burning paper snuffs out. Hemp papers are slow burners. When first introduced, they so readily snuffed out that they garnered a bad reputation. Now made thinner, they burn more readily. Most papers that claim the moral high ground for being organically grown are hemp.

All Mixed Up

Two spinoffs of the joint include the spliff and the blunt. The spliff mixes tobacco into the buzz. The blunt rolls cannabis in tobacco cigar wrappers. When mixing tobacco with cannabis, tobacco smokers typically consume up to twice more cannabis in blunts than in joints. That's a waste of both cannabis wealth and of lung health. Even worse, the joint venture of smoking tobacco together with cannabis increases the addictiveness of both. As spliffs and blunts feed two habits with one stone, the joint is by far the safest because it omits the hook of tobacco.

The Joint Effects of Pesticides and Heavy Metals

Regulations setting limits on the use of pesticides on food plants do not apply to fibrous plants grown for textiles. For those, the sky's the limit and the soil's the

dumping ground. While the FDA sets regulatory standards for additives to tobacco, it sets none for rolling papers. In 2020, in the first survey of its kind, one cannabis lab tested 70 different rolling papers. In tests for heavy metals, 58 brands exceeded the limits allowed by California for cannabis products, most failing for traces of lead. When combusted as smoke, even lead gets transmitted, which damages lungs.

Health Tip: Until rolling papers are regulated the same as foods, be as conscious of the quality of rolling papers as you are of the cannabis that you roll into them. Seek papers that are made from fibers claimed to be organically grown.

The Unfiltered Truth about Filter Tips

Filter tips for tobacco cigarettes are a cruel and deadly hoax. In response to early studies linking lung cancer to smoking, the tobacco industry responded by inventing mere window dressings in the form of filter tips. Filter tips are more profitable for cigarette makers because they cost less than the tobacco they replace.



Filter tips have had as bad a track record as the tobacco they were supposed to render less harmful. Initially, they were made of cotton that was soaked in lye. Oh joy! Later, filters were made of asbestos. More joy! Nowadays, 98% are made of cellulose acetate, a cheap plastic derivative whose outgassing can cause headaches. Cellulose-acetate filter tips do not reduce the incidence of lung cancer from tobacco smoke. Rather, they only postpone the cancer by five years, because filter-tip cigs contain less tobacco than unfiltered cigs. Smoking less tobacco postpones cancer, but does not prevent it.

While cigarette filters trap some tar and ash, they also trap nicotine. To compensate, most smokers ultimately smoke more. Proven useless by smokers who still die of lung cancer and other respiratory diseases, filter tips provide only a comforting placebo effect, offering smokers the false assurance that they can continue to smoke. Continue to smoke they do, until their last dying breath.

Burning Questions about Filter Tips for Cannabis

Manufacturers promote filter tips for cannabis with the same misleading smoke and mirrors as for tobacco. Filters are just as useless for cannabis as for cigs because any filter that traps tar also traps cannabinoids. And to compensate for lost cannabinoids, smokers end up smoking more, thus cancelling out any slim benefit of filters.

As alternatives to cellulose acetate, filter tips marketed for cannabis are made of cotton, wool, hemp, corn husks, or charcoal. No lab tests have proven that such filter tips do not remove cannabinoids. A filter tip to remove the noxious fumes from cannabis smoke without also removing cannabinoids might be worth waiting for. But while waiting, don't hold your breath.

Health Tip about Filter Tips: Once you've filtered out the manufactures' hype about filter tips, you will understand that none has yet been proven effective for cannabis.

Tips about Smoking Tips

Smoking tips, also called crutches, are available commercially under the misnomer "filter tips." You can make your own. Start with strips of paperboard or thin cardboard used to dispense rolling papers or matchbooks. Trim a piece to the width of a cigarette filter. Next roll it into a coil. If it does stay coiled, moisten it or add a dab of nontoxic glue stick. Place the coil into the rolling paper. Add your cannabis and then get rolling.

Some smokers who drool on the mouthpieces of joints can cause them to collapse, thus obstructing the

flow of smoke. Coiled smoking tips keep the mouthpieces open. They also reduce waste by preventing being trashed as roaches. Paper drinking straws cut into small segments provide an alternative to coiled smoking tips. Longer segments allow you to extend the straw out the rolling paper, making it all the more protective against burns, because an important feature of smoking tips is preventing the lit roach from scorching your lips and fingertips. Burns, after all, are not conducive to good health.

Safety Tips: Smoking tips offer three benefits. They assure air flow. They reduce waste. And they add a safe distance between you and the burning embers.

Roach Clips and Cigarette Holders

Roach clips and cigarette holders are extensions of smoking tips. Rather than hold the roach, you hold the clip that holds the roach. While roach clips safeguard against burns on your fingertips, danger still lurks from burns to your lips. Cigarette holders to the rescue! They provide a safe distance from the joint's burning embers, so smoke will not get in your eyes or permeate your hair and clothing. Yet, as long and slender tubes, holders are so similar to pipe stems that you might as well skip the rolling paper and instead smoke a pipe.

A New Take on Tokes

When you take on a joint, half of the smoke and therefore half of the cannabinoids are lost to side stream. How then to most efficiently inhale the smoke that does reach your mouth? Long drags or short? Between tokes, long pauses or short?

A study published in 2008 researched how to best keep a joint burning. It found that longer drags delivered more THC into the blood. Similarly, more frequent tokes raised the combustion temperature, which in turn introduced more THC into the blood. So to squeeze your joint for all the THC that it's worth, take long and take often.

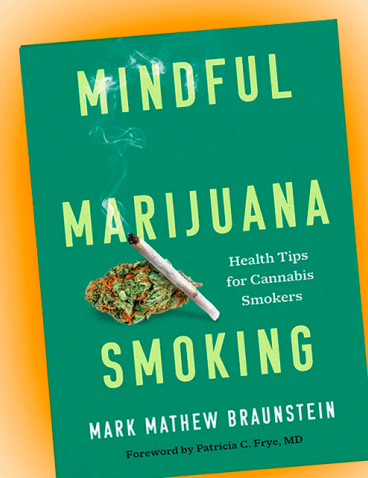
Inside of a Small Circle of Friends

The last step in rolling joints is sealing them. Most people lick the gum with their tongues. If you roll joints and share them with your friends, you might as well be kissing them. Instead, seal joints with cotton swabs moistened with water.

Cannabis is often partaken in communal rituals that can forge bonds among strangers, can deepen bonds among friends, can spread joy throughout the land ... and can spread disease throughout the household. Rather than pass around a joint, practice oral hygiene by giving your friends their own personal joints. If you share a bottle of wine, you may share the bottle, but you do not share the glass. In the same spirit in our post-pandemic society, do not pass that joint.

Mark Mathew Braunstein is the author of six books, including Mindful Marijuana Smoking: Health Tips for Cannabis Smokers (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2022), from which this article was adapted. You can read his many editorials and articles about medical marijuana and recreational cannabis at www.MarkBraunstein.org

Health Tips for Cannabis Smokers



**How to smoke
in ways that
reduce its risks**

Book & eBook
from all booksellers
Audible audiobook
from Amazon
Rowman & Littlefield
Publishers
2022

"The bible for cannabis smokers who care about their health."
— Carol Bedrosian, editor *Spirit of Change Magazine*

www.MarkBraunstein.Org

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).

In CT, a fight unfolds over banning new gas-powered cars by 2035

CT Mirror. "An unfolding fight over proposed regulations that would ban automakers from selling new gasoline-powered vehicles in Connecticut by 2035... foreshadows a potential wedge issue in the General Assembly's session and elections in 2024. Regulations favored by Gov. Ned Lamont and proposed by his environmental protection commissioner, Katie Dykes, would implement the latest revisions to California's clean air standards, which require manufacturers to steadily curb emissions by weaning the new vehicle market off gasoline from 2027 through 2035....If all seven Republicans on the 14-member Regulation Review Committee share the views of their leaders on the California regulations, then opposition by a single Democrat would kill the regulations. At least one Democrat on the panel, Sen. Cathy Osten of Sprague, says she has serious doubts about them...It will not take gas or diesel-powered vehicles off the road in 2035 nor ban their sale on the used vehicle market. But they won't be in new truck and car showrooms...Jeff Aiosa, a Mercedes-Benz dealer and member of the association's executive board, said the dealers' approach is simple: Whatever vehicles are produced by manufacturers in 2035, the dealers will sell them."

CT might not get wind power until 2025 if Park City contract with Avangrid is terminated

CT Examiner. "More than a week after Orange-based Avangrid dropped the bombshell that it wants to terminate its contract to provide 804-megawatts of off-shore wind power to Connecticut, very little has been said about whether it will make the state more vulnerable to electric power shortages over the rest of the decade....renewable off-shore wind energy won't start flowing to the state until some time in 2025. That's when the Revolution Wind project is scheduled to begin producing energy, providing 704 megawatts of offshore wind power, 304 of which is under contract to Connecticut...Dykes, the commissioner of DEEP, noted that ISO-New England has already said it has adequate resources to meet the region's demand through 2027, without considering any additional potential supply from Park City WindThe new, three-state consortium of states [CT, MA, and RI] seeking new wind contracts is hoping to have developers in place in a period of months, not years, Dykes said. "The bottom line is, the delay of this project from the mid-2020s or the late 2020s is not something we're concerned about, our focus is really on the next decade and making sure that we have sufficient resources in place," "

Why CT must fund energy efficiency

CT Mirror. "Now more than ever, Connecticut residents want to improve home efficiency but EnergizeCT, the state's largest efficiency program, is running out of money to serve them. Efficiency programs are at the core of energy demand and cost reductions for residents and businesses. These programs help utilities avoid energy, power plant, transmission, and distribution costs that would otherwise be passed onto customers. They are central to the state's decarbonization work...COVID-driven inflation has increased the cost of providing the workforce and materials needed. It is not surprising then, that the budget for these programs is squeezed. The number of homes being served has risen and the costs for improving heating and ventilation systems has increased dramatically....further cuts to incentives may be made to both the Eversource and United Illuminating-administered programs...In 2017 when Connecticut was in the depths of a statewide budget crisis, it "swept" \$175 million dollars from the ratepayer provided efficiency funds. While legal – it wasn't right. The time is now for Connecticut to return those funds and keep these vital programs going"



Shannon Laun: It's past time for CT to tackle pollution in our homes and buildings

Hartford Courant. "...in 2020, burning oil, propane, and gas for space and water heating generated close to a quarter of Connecticut's smog-forming pollution. That's eight times more than power plants...Most Connecticut residents are unaware that the furnaces and water heaters in their homes are a significant source of nitrogen oxide, the leading contributor to smog — let alone at a level that far surpasses the power sector...Even more alarming than the lack of public awareness is the complete absence of a statewide strategy to tackle this pollution. Connecticut sets limits on many other major sources of NOx, but no air quality standards are in place for HVAC and water heating equipment...Connecticut can ensure that households install energy-efficient electric heat pumps by adopting air quality standards for new heating equipment. This would benefit all residents through cleaner air and save the majority of Connecticut households money on their utility bills... Moving forward with air quality standards for HVACs and water heaters is a long-overdue step that should be part of the state's clean air strategy. It's time for regulators to take action."

Natural Gas Customers Facing Rate Increases As Heating Season Begins

CT News Junkie "It looks like another battle is brewing over an upcoming request by Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG) and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG) to increase rates on the state's hundreds of thousands of customers. Attorney General William Tong said, if the applications are approved, customers for SCG will see a total bill increase of 9% while CNG customers will face a 5% increase... Craig Gilvarg, spokesperson for SCG and CNG, said the rate increases will help the companies put funding toward their infrastructure, help increase their union workforce and expand the number of their customer call centers... Tong, along with the Office of Consumer Counsel, have been vocal in their criticism of utility companies applying for rate increases..." "Connecticut families pay far too much already for basic, necessary utilities and these increases are just one more added expense," Tong said."



Parking Lot, Meet Solar Panels

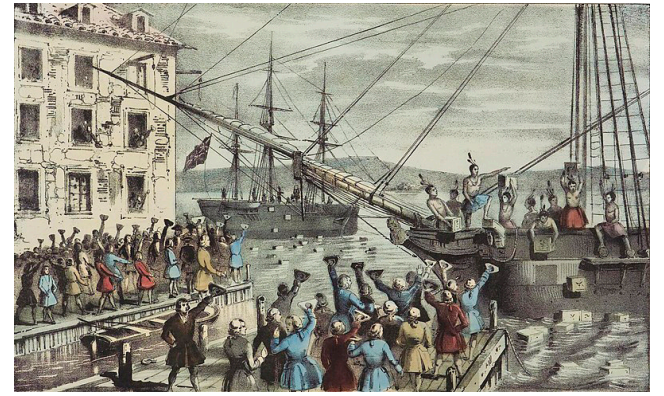
New Haven Independent. "Solar panel canopies are coming to the parking lots of Hill Central and Beecher schools, as part of a city school district effort to become more climate friendly and energy efficient. 'The solar canopies are projected to generate enough electricity to power 20% of Hill Central's electricity consumption and 33% of Beecher's electricity consumption. With the conservative assumption that the historic rate of electricity bill increases continue at 3% annually, the solar canopies are forecast to save ~\$275,000 over the term of the power purchase agreement.' "

As UConn students, we demand decarbonization and divestment from fossil fuels

CT Mirror. "If you look at recent headlines from UConn Today you'll see articles about a Sustainable Energy Summit, researchers exploring different facets of climate change, and UConn expanding its clean energy offerings. What you won't see is a plan to divest from fossil fuels; decarbonize the UConn campus; or any willingness to be transparent with students about future plans for the university...To fellow UConn alumni, please send a letter to the UConn Board of Trustees, UConn Foundation, and President Maric, asking that they meet student demands. To others interested in supporting, please sign this petition standing in solidarity with students."

More heating aid proposed; still less for CT families than last winter

CT Mirror. President Joe Biden has proposed \$1.6 billion in supplemental funds for winter heating assistance that could significantly enhance resources for poor Connecticut families, compared to original expectations. But even if Congress enacts the president's proposal, Connecticut's neediest still would be getting hundreds of dollars less per household — unless Gov. Ned Lamont and state legislators reverse themselves and supplement the program with state money. The chairwoman of the Connecticut Low-Income Energy Advisory Board said Thursday that state officials still need to consider breaking with tradition and pooling state resources with federal funds to help keep households warm this winter. "State funding could be necessary and lawmakers need to be thinking about this before we go into the 2024 legislative session," [AARP's] Duncan said.



The Birthday is Coming! The Birthday is Coming!

Submitted by Bev York

America is preparing to celebrate its Semiquincentennial or 250th anniversary (2026) since the signing of the Declaration of Independence or the birth of the United States! And the events leading up to "the shot heard around the world," begin with what was the first major protest against tyranny of Britain - the Boston Tea Party! December 16, 1773 was the day that the Sons of Liberty of Boston disguised themselves as Indigenous Peoples, boarded ships in the harbor and threw overboard a fortune of British Tea. Their political and mercantile protest was a reaction to the Tea Act of May 10 earlier that year but set into motion a movement that would evolve into the eight-year War for Independence.

To kick off the local programming for the 250th, the America Museum plans to reenact the Tea Party on Saturday, December 16, at 4 p.m. at Heritage State Park on Main Street in Willimantic. Take a role of someone who participated, make disguises, discover a few important truths about the issues, and proceed to throw (and retrieve) boxes into the water. Use your imagination and picture the Heritage Park as massive Boston wharfs and the Willimantic River is the bustling harbor with many sailing ships at port. Bring the children to help act out this historic event. And like the patriots of that day bypass or boycott black tea and drink some "liberty teas" or herbal tisanes. Many colonists switched to coffee that year. Thomas Jefferson said "Coffee is the favorite drink of the civilized world." This milestone anniversary is a glorious time to brush up on and share meaningful history and engage in celebrating the ideals that created this democratic republic. We need to revisit what historians refer to as the great American Experiment. "Is it possible for a Government to be permanently maintained without privileged classes, without a standing army, and without either hereditary or self-appointed rulers? Is the democratic principle of equal rights, general suffrage, and government by a majority, capable of being carried into practical operation, and that, too, over a large extent of country?" New York Daily Tribune, 1860. Is it possible that a country that grants religious freedom in the First Amendment and rights to all citizens regardless of race in the Fourteenth Amendment can exist in harmony and endure?

The Windham Region Partnership of Art, History, Culture and Tourism is planning a series of monthly programs about events leading up to the Revolution. We welcome all museums, libraries and cultural organizations to join in the project so we can promote a fine series of historical presentations to the entire region.

For more information about the Boston Tea Party reenactment on Dec. 16 or to book this program for your group at your location contact Bev York, America Museum, at bevishistory@yahoo.com.

Take Note! Benefit Concert

Submitted by Earl McWilliams

Take Note!, a local a cappella ensemble, is offering a benefit concert for the Danielson United Methodist Fuel Fund on Sunday afternoon, October 22nd at 3:00pm, at the Federated Church of Christ located at 15 Hartford Road in the center of Brooklyn, Connecticut.

Since 2003, Take Note! has chosen to share the gift of singing by supporting the charitable efforts of other non-profit community organizations through benefit concerts such as this.

For 25 years, the Danielson Methodist Fuel Fund has been providing emergency heat assistance to low and fixed-income households in Danielson, Brooklyn, Plainfield and Sterling. When federal and state heating assistance is not available or has been exhausted, the Fuel Fund becomes the last resort for dozens of households in our communities.

Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. A reception will follow the concert in the church's fellowship hall.

Solar Today - Honoring Earth Day Every Day

By John Boiano



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

ANOTHER REMINDER: It's fall, we live with trees.. please leave the leaves, you can get them in the spring after the Earth warms back up. The critters will love you for it! Please see my article from 2 months ago about the environmental hazards that are caused by removing every leaf from your yard.

So... What's all the hubbub about batteries?

More and more often folks are inquiring about batteries for a few reasons:

Folks are buying electric vehicles and thinking a battery would be a good fit, false marketing is having folks believe that they need a battery to store the extra power to use at night and a lot of companies are packaging batteries because of the profit margins for the company.

Personally, I've had solar for 14 years, I've been in the solar industry for 12, I can get a battery at wholesale and have it installed for free. When the power goes out, my generator goes on... Wait, WHAT??... YuP! I'll get into some of the details in this short overview article.

Do I really need a battery to store my solar power?

NO – absolutely not! Although I help plenty of people install batteries, in my personal opinion, batteries aren't quite there yet.

The reason you don't need a battery is because when you go solar, your current electric meter gets changed out for a net meter. When your solar system produces more energy than what your home is currently using, the extra energy goes through the net meter and gets tracked as credits for you. At night and through the winter, you get those credits back at no charge! It's like the old cell phone roll over minutes. You keep accumulating them until you need them.

False Marketing drives this belief of needing a battery with solar! It baffles me that mainstream residential solar has been around for 11-ish years and all of a sudden we are seeing marketing articles saying that the only way solar works is if you have a battery. **90% of solar installs do NOT have batteries.**

One of the leaders in this false marketing is a car company that is struggling to be a solar company. There are others but I want to tie this into some published facts. They are hurting in the Resi (residential) solar sector and they're reaching for straws. Besides low balling solar, they low bid local install crews. Resi solar customer service reviews and satisfaction ratings are at 2.5 stars. BTW – customer service for most solar companies start the moment someone signs a contract to go solar. They are using batteries to help save their butts in the Resi solar space. PV magazine reported on 10/19/23 that their solar business has been slipping 48% year after year but energy storage was boosted 40%. The 40% represents mostly commercial battery installs! So how does a car company survive in today's solar market? Well thanks to our unregulated solar

policies, they and others simply lie about battery integration! It's horrible business and is seen in many other aspects of today's residential solar space. Have you noticed all of the false ads about Free Solar, The government is going to pay you to go solar?, no cost solar?, **it's all false information!** Even some of the sales people are trained to unintentionally mislead customers. I say unintentional because they, unfortunately really don't know any better, they also unknowingly buy into the misinformation. Sorry, took a left turn, back to batteries.

The car company is a pretty good battery company for cars and huge commercial applications. I won't get into it but their Resi batteries are OLD SCHOOL technology and they are at the bottom of the barrel for efficiency.

Are batteries worth it?

A battery costs about \$9500.00 per 10K battery, the "better" optimized ties batteries put out about 8K at high power and run steady at around 6K, you get a 30% federal tax credit and "IF" you are one of the lucky ones and the grid uses your battery, you could make back about \$6500. In 5 years. A battery only has a 10 year warranty. And... ready for this >> **THE ONLY TIME YOU CAN USE A GRID TIED BATTERY IS WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT!** Unlike what the false advertising tells you, you cannot use a battery at night unless the power is out!

Talking about the power being out:

Let's say we have a 3 day power outage during a heavy snow storm, there is no sun for the entire time. You drain your battery in 1.5 days using only essential electricity. Now what? Start your generator! This goes back to why I do not yet have a battery for my home.

To sum it up... Batteries at best scenario: you're out of pocket about \$7,000.00 for an item with a 10 year warranty that you can only use when the power goes out. And if you drain the unit during an outage and the sun is not out, there's no way to recharge the battery, you have no power! Wait, WHAT??... YuP!

Where batteries are making a worthy impact:

Big grid integration. Electric companies and commercial industries benefit from draining the batteries during peak demand time and are used every night to subsidize their power needs. This is the conceptual program that our electric company uses to pay you that \$6500 I mentioned above. With Resi, the electric company makes out and you don't!

If you'd like to know more about Solar, with or without batteries, and how it could possibly help you to save money, please reach out to me directly.

Keep it simple, keep it honest, keep it local... Zen Solar

Thanks for reading my article and let's make every day Earth Day!

John Boiano 860-798-5692
john@zensolar.net www.zensolar.net

Firefighters Memorial Service 2015

We are here to remember the unselfish accomplishments of our firefighters in serving their neighbors.

- Their devotion to duty for our community.
- Their service at fire, EMS and other types of emergency calls.
- Their efforts to be prepared through hours and hours of training.
- Their Courage.
- Their willingness to work with others for the common good.
- Their concern for others.
- Their desire to help those in need.
- Their compassion for those in need and their respect for the dignity of others.
- Their willingness to risk in order to help others.
- Their efforts to drop whatever they are doing at the moment and quickly respond to calls for help.
- Their being our protectors.
- Their valuing human life above all else.
- Their willingness to stare danger in the face.
- Their wanting to help the old, the sick and the injured.
- Their helping to make the Windham Center Fire Department, over the years, the important community institution it is for all those who serve and are served.
- Their support from those they love which has enabled firefighters to devote the needed time and energy to their community.
- In our hearts let us remember all those who served with our undying gratitude.

'2015 Address' by Bill Powers at the Windham Center Fire Department.

Coventry Winter Market

Submitted by Jan Hecht
The Coventry Winter Farmers' Market returns for its ninth year of providing access to fresh, seasonal food from Connecticut farmers and artisans. Join us Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. indoors at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road. This season's market runs from November 12 through March 17 (no markets November 26, December 24 and December 31).

Come meet our community of vendors, make new friends and shop for the freshest local produce, fish, meat and cheeses, plus artisan-made maple syrup, honey, baked goods, prepared foods, spices and hot sauces, locally roasted coffee, handcrafted soaps, jewelry and so much more. Visit www.coventry-winterfarmersmarket.com for a full list of vendors and special events, and to sign up for our weekly newsletter.

NOW THAT'S LOCAL !

Swift Waters Artisans' Co-op

Whether you are looking for art, household goods, pottery, cards, jewelry,



clothes or handwovens **THURS 12-5**
It's all Handmade in **FRI 12-5**
Connecticut **SAT 10-5**
SUN 12-4

WWW.SWIFTWATERS.ORG 860-456-8548

Willimantic Records

Used Vinyl, Shellac, Tapes, CDs

We are now at the Bliss Marketplace
34 North Street, Willimantic.
Tue thru Sat 10a-6p
Sunday 11a-3p
We buy used records.
Call 860-576-8111.



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

To all our contributors- Thank You!

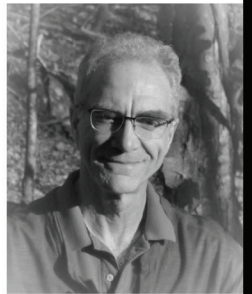
Without your submissions of writing, poetry, artwork and photographs, this paper would not exist. T. King, Publisher

JOE PANDOLFO

Tai Chi & Qigong Certified Instructor,
American Tai Chi & Qigong Association

- Continuing & Professional Ed. units
- Holistic Exercise & Wellness classes
- Integrative Patient Care programs
- Mind-Body-Spirit Balance workshops
- Event & Workday Recharge sessions

Connect: (959) 444-3979
joeptaichi@gmail.com



Monthly Guides & more: www.joeptaichi.com

Be Light as a Feather

Loretta Wrobel • Feminist Therapy

860-429-2629

297 Pumpkin Hill Road, Ashford, CT 06278

860-233-6076 (Office) Sliding Scale

At the Ashford Senior Center

Tai Chi - Tuesday & Friday 9:30-10:30am
\$15 per month for one day/wk; \$25 for two
Drop-in \$5

Programs not limited to Ashford residents.

Contact the Center at 860-487-5122
25 Tremko Lane, Ashford

The Ashford Candidates Speak

Submitted by Christine Acebo

In October, an ad hoc group of Ashford citizens that aimed to provide information to Ashford voters about the candidates for public office contacted the 10 people who are candidates for the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

We asked each candidate the same four questions. All of them answered thoughtfully, and we thank them for their willingness to respond. Here are their unedited responses.

First Selectman

Cathryn Silver-Smith, Democratic Candidate for First Selectman

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Board of Selectman?

I want to help the community that I live in.

Board of Selectmen decisions affect the efficiency and stability of town operations, public safety, and general quality of life for our residents. That is a solemn responsibility. The board's decisions need to be informed, well thought out and reflect the community's desires.

Ashford needs to be able to meet the economic, environmental and social challenges that our town faces now and be prepared for the future. I believe that requires responsive, forward-thinking leaders who are able to communicate with, and partner well with residents; town boards, commissions and advisory committees; our state representatives and other communities to identify opportunities and find solutions for Ashford's issues.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

If elected as First Selectman, I hope to:

- Improve communications to keep the public informed about the status of local issues, plans and activities that can affect them, and encourage their feedback and involvement

- Identify opportunities and resolve inefficiencies in management of town resources

- Facilitate a strategic, measurable plan for the Town that can be incorporated into our Plan of Conservation and Development. Clearly articulate what Ashford wants to be in 10, or even 20 years

- Work with the public, town boards, commissions and committees, and with state officials to identify and encourage economic development that will benefit the community without adversely impacting our rural culture and resources

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

Finding a balance between conservation and development is a difficult and polarizing issue in Ashford just as it is in many other small, rural towns. In general, property taxes are too high for many and town resources are spread very thin. We need the revenue, services and local jobs that good development can bring in order to thrive as community. We also want to preserve the town's rural nature and protect its resources now and for future generations. I encourage the full community's involvement in prioritizing and balancing these needs and any others that they feel are important appropriately.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

I think that the most important challenges Ashford faces are limits on resources available to address our economic, social and environmental needs. We need to manage the funding we are currently entrusted with prudently and find other sources of revenue to reduce the burden on taxpayers. We need to maintain and improve the town's infrastructure and vital services to the community. We also need people committed to our town and its future to fill the open positions on a number of town boards, commissions and committees and bring fresh ideas that can be used to guide our town's direction and decision-making.

It will take the efforts of many working together to ensure that Ashford is financially stable, affordable and vibrant, and that we retain the rural attributes that make Ashford such a great place to live and raise families.

William A. Falletti, Republican Candidate for First Selectman

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Board of Selectman?

It's been my honor to serve on the Board of

Selectmen since 1991. First Selectman from 1991 to 1995. Selectman from 1995 to 2021 and First Selectman from 2021 to 2023. I believe the continuity of those years of service to the Town has been helpful to our community and rewarding in many ways. My desire to stay on as First Selectman is to continue to address the many challenges that face Ashford in the near and distant future and to further bring us together as a community. This can be achieved by putting politics aside after election day and treating everyone civilly.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

My goals include:

- Continue the positive working relationship with the Ashford School Administration and Board of Education to facilitate and complete the numerous projects that are on-going at the school. i.e. new and upgraded generator project, new roof, proposed new window and ADA upgrades/compliance project, etc. That positive working relationship resulted in the Town saving nearly \$100K in our recently completed 20,000 gallon mandated oil tank replacement project.

- Complete the many on-going ARPA funded projects at Town facilities, including Knowlton Hall, Senior Center and Fire House(s), etc.

- Complete reorganization of our Finance Office.

- [Enhance our outreach for much needed volunteers on many of our boards, commissions, and Fire Department.

- Promoting transparency in government by continuing weekly Board of Selectmen's meetings and encouraging public participation.

- Pursuing tax relief for our overburdened property tax payers in Town.

- Pursuing considerations for tax relief for our Veterans and Senior populations.

- Working closely with our Economic Development Commission (EDC), Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetland Commission, Conservation Commission and other groups to address changing the tax formula(s) in Town to attract compatible commercial businesses and more jobs to Town. Presently, 93% of our tax burden falls directly on our real estate/property taxpayers.

- Continue restructuring of our Transfer Station facilities and policies while maintaining its free use to our residents.

- Continued support to our new After School Program to families in need of this vital service in Town and our new Local Business Assistance Program

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

I believe a balance between conservation and economic development can be achieved by continued cooperation between the Planning and Zoning Commission and Conservation Commission striving to work together with the Public, Town Boards and Commissions to update the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Everyone agrees that maintaining the Town's rural/agricultural nature is critical to our community. That being said, we must also pursue commercial businesses that are compatible environmentally with the sensitivities of our community and will benefit changing our tax formula and include bringing new jobs to Town.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

The most important challenges facing our community include:

- Public Safety

- Striving to maintain and improve excellence in the education of our children.

- Properly maintain and improve our Town facilities.

- Maintaining our roads and DPW equipment.

- Maintaining and enhancing our townwide recreational facilities.

- Striving to change our local tax formula to relieve our overburdened property taxpayers while maintaining the rural integrity of our community.

Selectman

Roger T. Phillips, Democratic Candidate for Selectman

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Board of Selectman?

To serve my community

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

Raise town folk's awareness to the necessity of citizens involvement, in the processes, necessary for a properly functioning town government.

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

Through careful diligence and in the support and confidence in the committees and boards who are tasked with these endeavors.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

Citizen involvement. We have boards, commissions, and committees that run for long periods with vacancies. These are all important and all affect the towns effective functioning

Paul A. Varga, Republican Candidate for Selectman

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Board of Selectman?

The residents of Ashford need some new choices and a voice to speak for them. I am willing to be that voice.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

The town needs to find it's direction. Ashford was an agriculture and industrial leader in it's prime. I want to be involved in making sure the town my ancestors chose to settle in, out of all those available in the United States of America, gets back to being a leader.

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

Ashford has a unique geographical position, located between Hartford and Providence, as well as benefiting from an interstate highway system that joins Hartford and Boston. The town needs to promote both large and small business development along those routes. Creating a commercial tax base will allow private landowners to remain in town without the burden of high taxation. They can keep their land in agriculture, or simply, untouched. Everything cannot be preserved, there has to be a compromise. Stopping all commercial development is creating a larger problem, because it results in land being sold for residential use. Consequently, what is left of the industrial and agricultural heritage Ashford once had is being destroyed.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

Ashford is becoming unaffordable for so many people. The town must realize change is necessary. Ashford needs to adjust many of its current regulations in order to encourage economic development. The challenge is educating the people who are so opposed to change, that they fail to see the damage they are doing to the town and its people.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Luther Brauch, Democratic Candidate for Planning and Zoning Commission

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission?

I am running for PZC because land use regulations have real impacts on residents and businesses in town. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is one of the most critical Commissions in the Town. The power and authority that the PZC has, allow it to set regulations that can shape the future of this community in a way that no other Commission has authority to do. For example, well-developed regulations can empower those that wish to adapt their housing use so that they may continue to reside in Ashford as they age, while also providing the flexibility to business and agriculture to evolve, grow and thrive. I believe that it is important to have a balanced, objective and inclusive mindset when serving on PZC. Throughout my service to the Town as a PZC Commissioner, I have sought to bring that mindset to every meeting, and if elected this year, I will continue to do so.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

In my opinion, The PZC is not the place for individuals to advance their own agenda. I believe that accomplishment in the scope of The PZC involves, but is not limited to items like:

- Being efficient in executing the duties of the Commission.

- Composing fair, equitable regulations through consensus.

continued on next page

-Collaborating with and seeking input from the various advisory Boards and Commissions within the Town.

-Communicating properly and effectively.

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

I believe that this is a question that every community struggles to achieve consensus over. It is an often polarizing and divisive debate about how to balance change and stagnation for a town.

Change can be scary, disruptive and upsetting for people. It is understandable that those in a community that are content with the current state of that community would be resistant to change and want to impede it. Conversely, it is equally understandable that those members of the community that feel the current status of their town is unsustainable would feel some urgency to see change.

Currently, it appears that the Town has a greater population that oppose development than those who support it. This has the effect of skewing the “balance” away from development. The regulatory bodies of the Town should reflect the will of the residents, so it is only through a shift in the desire of residents between development and stagnation that balance will also shift.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

I think that the challenges that Ashford must face are much the same as any municipality. Many of them are tied to funding. As the needs and desires of the residents evolve, the Town will try to address them. Services and resources in Ashford are already stretched and will likely continue to struggle to keep pace with increasing demand. The Town must either collect additional revenue, limit services, or both. It is an unenviable task for the leadership of the Town to attempt to provide more services, with stagnant or dwindling resources. It speaks to the need for excellent, proactive, energetic leadership for the Town.

Gerald W. Lojzim, Republican Candidate for Planning and Zoning Commission

Before I respond to the four questions, a short description follows:

Jerry Lojzim and his wife of 51 years, lived in South Windsor for 30 years. They searched the area for a rural piece of land and found 16.84 acres in Ashford, had a house built, and moved to Ashford in 2002. Jerry is a member of the Eastern Connecticut Sportsman’s Club. He grew up in Tolland and served as secretary of the Tolland Planning and Zoning Commission. He retired from Spencer Turbine after 41 years as a sales manager. Jerry would like to see controlled growth—residential, commercial and light industrial so that Ashford maintains its rural nature.

-I want Ashford to maintain its rural nature.

-I want controlled growth—residential, commercial and light industrial. As in question 1, I want Ashford to remain rural.

-I can’t respond at this time as I don’t know what’s already in place.

-Tax reductions or additional exemptions should be explored for large parcels of land—provided none are sold for building lots. Plus, schools, roads and the transfer station must be maintained. At this time, they are very satisfactory.

In closing, I am going to repeat what I’ve stated: Keep Ashford Rural

Thomas Hastings, Democratic Candidate for Planning and Zoning Commission

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission?

I have previously served on the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate and serving on a full seat would allow me a better voice in important decision making, while helping the community to better understand the town’s planning and zoning regulations.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

I would like to be an integral part of the commission to help to make decisions while adhering to the present town regulations.

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

This is a difficult topic, as there are many opposing opinions within the community.

Certain people would like to see more business as a means for more tax revenue, while others would rather leave Ashford as the quiet town we are known for with less development.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

This question I feel, is tied closely to question 3. While the challenge of increasing tax revenue seems more important every year, the town does have several vacant properties in the commercial zoning areas where businesses have either dissolved or moved to a different location outside of Ashford. I feel it is a big challenge to bring new business into our town due to our rural location.

Janet Bellamy, Democrat Candidate for Planning and Zoning Commission (incumbent)

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission?

When I joined the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) as an alternate, 8 years ago, I did not fully comprehend its wide scope of responsibilities. Since then, and as a full member for 6 years, I have tried to learn as much as I can about how land use regulations can have positive or negative impacts on towns. As commissioner, I want to make an impact on how the regulations are written. I believe our regulations should be fair, providing protections and opportunities to every sector of our society.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

I would like to see the Planning and Zoning regulations updated and flexible to meet Ashford’s needs in the 21st Century. Regulations should not be burdensome, but should provide protections for our safety, natural environment, and personal property. One land owner’s protection is another’s regulation, so a balance must be found between the two. I aim to look impartially at every question that comes before the commission to make the best decision, either when based on current regulations and when updating them.

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

Growth and change are inevitable. The challenge is how to structure our regulations to allow for the kind of development that will have benefits to our citizens and provide an improved tax base while keeping the characteristics that people love about Ashford. I don’t think this has to be an either/or question as we can have planned economic development while conserving the natural beauty and resources of our town. People have repeatedly said they value our farms and open land. Our zoning regulations have endeavored to cluster commercial development to protect the residential and agricultural zones. There is controversy about what type of development is good for the town. It is my opinion that looking at how to preserve natural resources in each area will indicate what type of development should be allowed and encouraged.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

How do we manage to grow without losing our “rural character.” Our school enrollment has decreased, property taxes keep going up, housing is unaffordable for many especially young families and elders, apartment buildings have been bought up by out of town corporations that are less responsive to tenant complaints, and there is no public transportation. Increasing affordable housing has been shown to lead to increased economic development. The PZC has passed an affordable housing plan. However, regulations that encourage planned development are only a start. A coordinated approach by the Board of Selectmen, Economic Development Commission, our state officials, and other stakeholders is needed to attract the types of investments that fit into the goals of Ashford’s Plan of Conservation and Development and meet our zoning regulations.

Alternates, Planning and Zoning Commission

Douglas C. Jenne, Democratic Candidate, Planning and Zoning Commission

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission?

I have been interested in supporting our town since initially moving to town ten years ago. In this time I have held elected roles of Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) full time member and Alternate Member. As an owner/operator of a farming business in town I have also supported and recently volunteered my time on the Town of Ashford Agriculture Commission. My interest in PZC revolves around participating in laying out and supporting the look, feel, culture of our town. In addition to the farm business I share with my wife I am also a practicing aerospace structural engineer and come from a family of civil engineers bringing with me a background in regulation writing, planning and sustainment.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

My goal is to continue providing my services to the town as I feel I bring to the table a background that provides diversity to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The environment and culture surrounding the Town of Ashford attracted my wife and I to establish ourselves here a decade ago and I would like to continue fostering said environment and culture as this is our permanent home we are able to sustain ourselves and fellow townspeople with.

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

Compared to other towns in the state of Connecticut there is limited commercially zoned real-estate in the Town of Ashford however there are existing sound regulations allowing businesses in town. As a result, there are means of balancing conservation and economic development within the Town of Ashford.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

The Town of Ashford will continue to face striking a balance on maintaining a rural, agricultural atmosphere alongside sustained growth rates in population and an aging population. This is a delicate balance that can be achieved.

I’ll be happy to discuss further at the convenience of interested individuals.

Steven Petsch, Democratic Candidate for Planning and Zoning

Question 1: Why do you want to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission?

I want to participate in using our planning documents and zoning regulations to guide development decision-making. I’m also excited to engage in crafting the next iterations of Ashford’s Plan of Conservation and Development.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish?

Principally I hope to watch, listen and learn; I am running as an alternate. I also hope to gain better insight into the priorities and concerns that town citizens hold, and better understand solutions to address those concerns. I also hope that my insights and perspectives can prove useful.

Question 3: How do you think the town of Ashford can find a balance between conservation and economic development?

This is challenging. There is no single balance; stakeholders in our town view differently where that balance sits. With all the naivete of a first-time office seeker, ensuring that lots of people can feel heard during the process is a good approach.

Question 4: What do you think are the most important challenges the town has to face?

Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We have economic needs, social needs and environmental needs. Ashford is challenged in agreeing on what we want to sustain.

Organic Roots Farm
at Popover Hill
147 East Old Route 6, Hampton
Call: 717.372.9188



Experience Christmas on the farm beginning November 26!

- * Fresh pine roping and Fraser fir wreaths.
- * Free Christmas cookies & cocoa every Saturday

Extensive line of Artisan cheeses, farm raised meats, chemical-free root vegetables, gourmet popcorn, chicken pot pies and more! Fresh cinnamon buns and bread every Saturday

Taking fresh bread orders for Thanksgiving

- * Pick up Wednesday November 22
- * Call 860.336.8823

Save the date for our **Christmas Extravaganza, Saturday, December 9th.** More details to come. You won't want to miss it!!

**OPEN: Monday—Friday 11-5, Saturday 10-5
CLOSED Sunday**



'Napa Valley' by Nancy Bunnell.

Take the Artists' Open Studios Tour of Northeastern Connecticut

November 24, 25, 26 & December 2, 3
10 am to 5 pm

Submitted by Suzy Staubach

Artists throughout northeastern Connecticut will share their art and processes with visitors Thanksgiving weekend and the first weekend of December. Forty individual studios, six with guest artists, plus four group shows in public venues will feature oil and water color paintings, weaving, woodworking, pottery, photography, jewelry, linoleum prints and more. The public is invited to enjoy this relaxing self-guided tour through the beautiful Quiet Corner of Connecticut.

The Tour is an opportunity to chat with artists about how they make their work and what inspires them. You can watch demonstrations. And, if you like, you can shop for gifts. All of the artists will offer work for purchase.

Brochures with maps and artist descriptions are available at area restaurants, post offices, and shops. They are also online at aosct.org. Online, you can read bios and artist's statements for each participant. Specific dates for each location are listed in the brochure and online. Be sure to check these when planning your tour, as not all artists are open both weekends.

Artists' Open Studios of Northeastern Connecticut has been celebrating the arts and connecting artists with the public for more than three decades. A beloved tradition, it is a fun way to see the artistic and scenic richness of the farming towns and rejuvenated mill towns that make up this part of the state.

For more information: aosct.org.

A Christmas Romance For The Ages

Submitted by David Weinberg

I've been writing screenplays for 35 years. I've done well in contests, but never really pushed my work into Hollywood. My hope has always been to become an independent film producer, and produce some of them. During Covid I had lots of time and wrote a very contained, very unique Christmas romantic comedy entitled 'Scrooge's Folly - Saving Jacob Marley.'

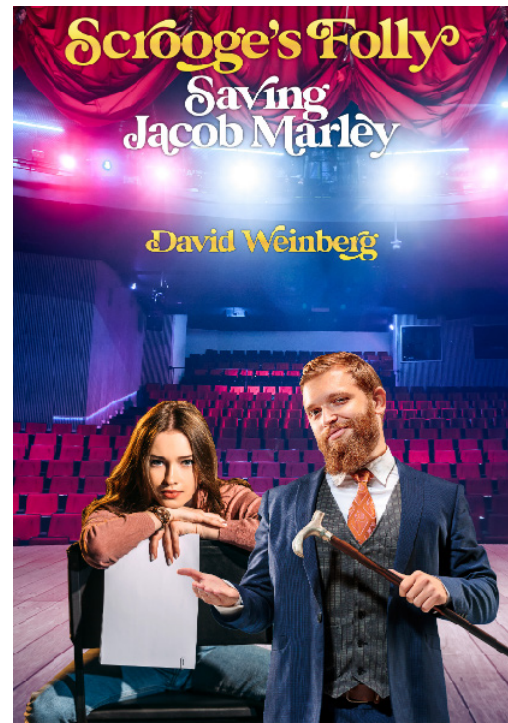
Award-winning, but down on her luck playwright, Andrea Smilow, is

commissioned by The Playhouse in Connecticut to save it from bankruptcy with a new work. When she arrives, she discovers that The Playhouse is inhabited by the spirit of the real Jacob Marley, and he wants her play to be about him...to set the story straight about how Dickens ruined his life with *A Christmas Carol*. Andrea believes he needs to be reunited with the spirit of Ebenezer Scrooge, who lives in the caretaker house. It is all Scrooge's idea. He has been working with Andrea's roommate, the most powerful witch in North America, to win a second life for Marley from God...and to get Marley and Andrea to fall in love.

I sent the screenplay to the senior reader at Netflix and we had a very nice chat. He told me that 'Netflix skews young, and no one under the age of 35 has ever heard of Charles Dickens or Ebenezer Scrooge.' While there are certainly exceptions, he was very much spot on the money.

The reader left me with the advice that I should first write the story as a novel, make it successful, and then make the movie.

This is very much Andrea Smilow's story. A graduate of Amity High School in Woodbridge and the Yale School of Drama, she is the youngest Tony award winner for her play 'Rememberings.' Perhaps you've seen it. High schools perform it all the time. While the spotlight is on Andrea, Scrooge and Marley are the one's who readers come for. These are the real Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley. They



were friends with Dickens and when they refused to finance *A Christmas Carol*, he turned them into characters in the book. It was the worst kind of identity theft imaginable. Marley was wrapped in chains and became a laughing stock in Victorian England. The laughter grew so loud that his wife divorced him...and even in the afterlife he wants redemption.

Reviews have been really good so

far. Publisher's Weekly said, "Scrooge's Folly is wild, comic, sexually frank, relentlessly inventive. A bold playful riff on the Dicken's classic, bursting with ghosts and ideas."

The book is available at all bookstores by order, and online. The audiobook, narrated by Chicago actress Amy Gorelow, is amazing. The ebook is now \$4.99 in the kindle store...just in time for Christmas. I can be reached through my website. www.davidweinbergaauthor.com

Where to find the Neighbors paper

Ashford
Terry's Transmissions
Ashford Spirit Shoppe
Ashford Post Office
Hope and Wellness

Bolton
Bolton Post Office
Subway-Bolton Notch

Brooklyn
Brooklyn Post Office
Baker's Dozen Coffee Shop
Salem Village

Chaplin
Chaplin Post Office
Blondies Restaurant

Columbia
Columbia Post Office

Coventry
Highland Park Market
Meadowbrook Spirits
Coventry Laundromat
Subway
Song-A-Day Music
eyeTrade

Eastford
Eastford Post Office

Ellington/Crystal Lake
3 J's Deli

Hampton
Hampton Post Office
Organic Roots Farm
Hampton General Store

Lebanon
Lebanon Post Office
Market on the Green

Mansfield/Storrs
All Subway shops
Bagel Zone
Storrs Post Office
Starbucks
Storrs Comm. Laundry
Liberty Bank
Chang's Garden

Mansfield Center
Lawrence Real Estate
Mansfield Library
East Brook Mall

Mansfield Depot
Thompson's Store
North Windham
Bagel One
Subway
No. Windham Post Office

Pomfret
Weiss, Hale & Zahansky
Vanilla Bean Restaurant
Pomfret Post Office
Baker's Dozen Coffee Shop

Putnam
Subway
Putnam Post Office

Scotland
Scotland Post Office

South Windham
Bob's Windham IGA
Landon Tire
So. Windham Post Office

Stafford
Stafford Coffee Company
Subway
Stafford Post Office
Stafford Cidery
Stafford Library
Mill Pond Store

Tolland
Birch Mountain Pottery
Subway
Tolland Post Office
Parker Place
Tolland Library

Willington
Franc Motors
Willington Pizza I & II
Willington Post Office
Willington Library
Willington Senior Center
The Packing House

Windham/Willimantic
Willimantic Food Co-op
Design Center East
Schiller's
CAD Marshall Framing
Clothespin Laundromat
Main Street Cafe
That Breakfast Place
All Subways
Super Washing Well
Elm Package Store
A1 Service Station
Blondie's Restaurant

Windham Center
Windham Post Office

Events in Our Community

Submitted by Bev York

Windham Arts

Nov. 3 Paint Party Night (First Friday) autumn landscape. 6:30 p.m. Paints and canvas supplied, BYO refreshments, \$25 pp sponsored by Windham Arts, Veterans Community Center, 47 Crescent Street, Willimantic. info@windhamarts.org

Nov. 6 WRAC Art Show and Sale opens. Meet some of the Artists each Saturday from 1 to 4 Gallery also open daily from 9 to 5. Exhibit ends Nov. 25. Coffee Break Gallery at Eastern CT Veteran Community Center, 47 Crescent Street, Willimantic.

America Museum

Nov. 27 Liber TEA "Meet Mother Jones-The most dangerous woman in America!" 4 p.m. Veteran Center, 47 Crescent Street, Willimantic. sponsored by the America Museum. Donations appreciated.

Support our local farmers

Shop at the Willimantic Food Co-op, Bob's IGA and other local markets.

Look for locally sourced produce when you dine.

Frequent our farmers markets. There are some winter markets in our area.

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

The Pure Flame

By Judy Davis

Padraic Pearse was born in 1879 Dublin. In 1908, he founded Saint Enda's College, a school for boys. In time, Pearse proved to be an educational revolutionary.

Eventually, he joined the Gaelic League. Finally coming to believe that only force and the blood of martyrs could achieve Ireland's independence, he became a militant leader of the Irish Volunteers.

He commanded the Volunteers in the 1916 Easter Rising. His younger brother, Willie, joined him in the Dublin Post Office. Padraic read his "Proclamation Of The Republic" to a largely uninterested group of citizens.

The Rebels fought the British, but by the end of April, Padraic knew it was for naught.

Captured, Padraic spent his last night, writing in his cell. Willie was sentenced to death also. At 3:30 a.m., on May 3, Padraic was shot dead by a firing squad.

He and Willie were buried in quicklime in unmarked graves.

The British may have thought they had destroyed the pure flame of Padraic's spirit, but they were wrong.

Before his execution, he wrote:

"We have kept the faith with the past; we have handed a tradition to the future."

The pure flame is still alive.

May it never be extinguished.

Holiday Artist Market

Ashford Area Arts Council
in partnership with Windham Arts

November 18th and 19th

Knowlton Memorial Hall/Babcock Library, Ashford
10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Acebo

The very popular Ashford Area Arts Council's "Holiday Artist Market" is in its 7th year and we are excited to feature a room full of local artisans on both days, with masking optional.

With upbeat acoustic music on the stage, you will enjoy holiday shopping and get to see what our ample community of artists and craftsmen has been creating over the past year.

We'll have a wide variety and all of it inspired, well-made, beautiful, and unique. There's something for everyone! Let's shop local and support our arts community.

Also available for purchase at the entrance to the event will be an Anthology of poetry and short stories from a local writers' group, *Font 'n Pen*.

Artists include:

Christine Acebo, Photographic Arts
Lance Arnold, Glass Artist, Fairy Houses
John Boiano, Pottery
Alison Ciarlante, Decorative Dot painting
Mark Drobney, Laser Cut Objects
Dorothy Drobney, Photography
Anna Harding, Stained Glass
Joan Blade Johnson, Fiber Arts
Bob Johnson, Chair Caning, Basketry
Maggie Kendis, Delightful Printmaker, Jewelry
Frietha Lawrence, Zentangles/Painter/Author
Kathleen Lepak, Calligrapher, Book Binding
Marilyn Makuch, Jewelry
Charles McCaughtry, Nature Paintings
Michael Metsak, Goat Milk Products
Dan Merlo, Wood-Turned Items
Gretchen G./Lauren Merlo, Woodburned Items
Sue Muldoon, Basketry
Dan Rackliffe, Pottery
Jane Rackliffe, Fused Glass
Lori Smolin, Watercolor Paintings
Suzy Staubach, Stoneware Pottery
Kathy Weigold, Weaver

Music by: Mike South, guitar instrumentals; Don Jakobski, acoustic guitar songs; Vicki and Jim McGiver, Folk music, dulcimer, etc.



Smokey's Story

Words and photo by Diane Rutherford

Smokey came to me as a stray - as did all the others. His first night he slept in the crook of my arm. He did that every night - his whole life. As he aged he lost his tail and his eyesight. But that didn't stop him. He often crossed the yard and down a short hill to visit his cat girlfriend, Ashley. He had a good and happy life.

Animal Sanctuary Benefit

Hope Farm Animal Sanctuary is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday Nov. 18th from 4:00-7pm. Proceeds go to boarding and vet services for the many rescued animals such as cows, pigs, sheep, horses, dogs, cats and chickens.

Tickets to be purchased at the door.

Tickets are \$10.00 Adults and children 12yrs and up \$5.00 for children 4yrs -12yrs Free to children under 4

To be held at:

The Coventry Fire Dept. 1755 Main St., Coventry
For more information call Lisa 774-289-4361

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

Gleaners Holiday Fair

The Gleaners annual Holiday Fair at Second Congregational Church of Coventry, 1746 Boston Turnpike (rt. 44) will be held on Saturday, November 11th 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the community house. Pancakes will be served 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and soup & sandwich 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair includes craft vendors, baked goods, raffle, holiday décor, Cabot cheese, white elephant items and a book room. Noah's closet, a children's re-sale shop, will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call the church, 860-742-1616.



1979: A Musical Rebuttal

By Dean Farrell

I enjoyed reading '1979' in the October *Neighbors*. Having turned thirteen that year, I remember a great deal of what Tom Woron covered.

However, one thing bothered me. In his rundown of the year's best music, the author did not include a single non-white or female act. He also ignored the highly popular genre of dance music. So I've taken it upon myself to correct the historical record.

Nineteen Seventy-Nine saw the two biggest hits of Donna Summer, the Queen of Disco. "Hot Stuff" was a trailblazing mixture of disco and rock, while "Bad Girls" proffered a sympathetic portrayal of sex workers. Both hit #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and are still played on the radio and in dance clubs.

Another #1 hit was Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," which became a feminist anthem and continues to receive airplay and club spins.

One of 1979's top musical acts was Chic, who enjoyed a pair of Number Ones: "Le Freak" (held over from 1978) and "Good Times." Nile Rodgers and Bernard Edwards, the group's creative driving force, were a highly successful production team and have earned much critical acclaim.

That spring, "Heart of Glass" became the first of Blondie's four #1 singles. Knocking it off the top spot was the ethereal R&B ballad, "Reunited" by Peaches & Herb.

Michael Jackson's *Off the Wall* was one of the best-selling albums of 1979. It produced the #1 singles, "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" and "Rock With You," and marked the birth of Jackson as a creative artist.

Earth, Wind & Fire was going strong in 1979 with "Boogie Wonderland" and "After the Love Has Gone." And Kool & The Gang launched their rebirth as a streamlined singles machine with "Ladies Night" and "Too Hot."

In November 1979, M's #1 smash, "Pop Muzik," presaged the MTV-based New Wave explosion.

And as the year ended, the first rap hit--"Rapper's Delight" by the Sugarhill Gang--was on its way to the top forty. Meanwhile, Prince's first hit single, "I Wanna Be Your Lover," launched his reign as one of the top musical acts of the 1980s.

I don't mean to imply anything about Mr. Woron's views on race or gender. I don't know the man and would never be that presumptuous. I simply felt the need to respond to his parochial assessment of 1979's best music.

Coventry Chili Fest

The Coventry Chili Fest is back for another year. Sponsored by the Coventry Lions Club, the Chili Fest will take place on Saturday Nov.4 from 12-2pm at Coventry HS. Prizes will be awarded. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and student ID, and free for age 6 and under. Information will be available on the Lions' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CoventryLionsClub> or the Lions Club of Coventry website. New chili cookers are welcome to the competition.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

LOCAL SOLDIERS FROM
THE CONNECTICUT 29TH COLORED
REGIMENT

A Presentation by Local Historian Donna Dufresne
Sunday, November 5th @ 2 P.M.
The Mill Museum, Dugan Hall
\$12 members, \$15 public

Coventry's Christmas in the Village

Submitted by Ruth I. O'Neil

Coventry's Christmas in the Village will be held this year on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, from 12 noon to 4 P.M. This annual town event brings community members and businesses together to welcome the holiday season. The activities will culminate with the annual town tree lighting celebration which will take place at **4:30 P.M.** After enjoying an abundance of holiday happenings throughout the village area earlier in the day, community members and visitors can gather together in front of the First Congregational Church to share in this long standing tradition. Students from the Coventry High School Choral and Band program will provide songs of the season. Santa will lead the tree lighting, having been escorted down Main Street by the Coventry Fire Departments' Torchlight Holiday Parade. Fire trucks and other vehicles from the towns' fire department will be adorned in holiday lights and decorations.

Activities during the afternoon include: pony rides, horse drawn wagon rides, live musical performances by local artists and students from the Song-a-Day Music Center, crafts, and a holiday dance performance by students of The Can-Dance Studio. Santa pays a visit to Coventry, traveling down Main Street to Coventry Arts and Antiques where guests may visit and have photos taken with him, or take their own.

More holiday activities will be held at the Booth and Dimock Library, including a Youth Art Show coordinated by the Coventry Arts Guild and the library. The Coventry Arts Guild will also be hosting a Silent Art Auction featuring creations by its members.

The Coventry Lions Club, current sponsor of the event, will host its popular Christmas Tree Festival,

a holiday décor sale, along with a Crafter Exhibition at the Coventry Community Center. Drawings will be held for trees decorated and donated by local organizations, businesses and individuals. Call 860-803-7163 for details on contributing a decorated Christmas tree or wreath to the Festival.

Merchants along the renovated historic stretch of Main Street will be open, offering demonstrations, holiday gift ideas, specials, free drawings, and more. The Coventry Visitors Center will feature a Country Gift Cupboard along with an array of area tourist material. Other organizations will be set up along Main Street, and also in the area of the Community Center/ Patriots Park offering holiday goodies.

At a special mailbox, set up by the Coventry Parks and Recreation Dept., children are encouraged to drop off or write letters they have written to Santa.

Coinciding with Christmas in the Village is the multi-day Eastern Connecticut event, Artists' Open Studio. Two Main Street studios, Timberman Studio and Maple Brook Studio will be open to the public as part of the Artists' Open Studio. Visit aosct.org for more information on the Artists' Open Studio.

Christmas in the Village, originally known as "An Old Fashioned Christmas in Coventry Village" began in 2004 by the Coventry Village Improvement Society, which turned its organization over to the Lions Club in 2007. This is the 19th year for the event.

Visit Coventry's Christmas in the Village's Facebook page for detailed schedule information, all subject to change. Sponsorships and volunteers to help are welcome as well as donations. Call the coordinators at 860-617-3588 or 860-918-5957 for more information.

Windham Mill Museum News

Submitted by Kira Holmes

September 1- November 12: "**Sewn Stories, Shared Lives Art Exhibit.**" A fiber art exhibit featuring the works by Linda Martin and Carol Vinick. Artists' Statement: "We, Linda and Carol, are a Black American and a Jewish American, sisters who came together because of our gifts expressing ourselves through fabric art. We come from different backgrounds but share stories with common threads of struggle and survival. Our intent is to create thought-provoking quilts that express the vibrancy of life and pay homage to the resilience and courage of those who came before us." It is open Friday- Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with admission to the Museum or free to current members.

November 5: **Out of the Shadows Lecture.** Donna Dufresne will lecture at 2 p.m. in Dugan Hall at 157 B Union Street. This event is subject to change. \$12 for members and \$15 for the public. Please purchase your ticket in advance through our website, by PayPal, or at the Museum Gift Shop, cash or credit card by November 4.

Saturday, Nov. 18: **Steampunk Faire.** This will be a full day of events. The Willimantic Public Library and Odd Ball Newt will be partnering with us this year to make a fanciful adventure for all. The first 50 people to buy tickets will be signed up for the dueling tea at the library. A Cupcake for Later will be donating treats for the tea. Additionally, the library will have demos running from 10-11:30 a.m. Steampunk vendors, raffles, bands, photos, a tour, and lecture at The Mill Museum will be included in the slate of festivities. Buy tickets online now <https://millmuseum.org/>, pay for them in person before the event, or buy the day of. Careful though you might run out of time to get a ticket for tea. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Kira Holmes at director@millmuseum.org.

November 28: **Giving Tuesday.** This will be a Facebook event to raise money for the Mill Museum, but it is a day to give to all non-profits.

Jillson House November Events

Submitted by Bev York

Nov. 15 Tavern Night Meet Jackie! Discover interesting stories about JFK and what he liked to eat and drink. 5:00 p.m. Jillson House Museum, 627 Main Street, Willimantic. \$10

Nov. 24 Sounds of the Season Stroll through a wonderland of holiday décor and live music. Fri. 5 until end of the line, (closing briefly during light parade and tree lighting) Jillson House Museum, 627 Main Street, Willimantic Also Sat. 1-3. Museum fund raiser- suggested donation Adults \$8, Under 12 Free.

Nov. 25 Sounds of the Season at the Jillson House Museum. 1 to 3 p.m. 627 Main Street, Willimantic suggested donation Adults \$8, under 12 free

Dec. 2 open 1-4 Take your Christmas Photos at the Museum. Choose from five fireplaces and various décor. Jillson House Museum, 627 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

Willimantic Farmers Market News

Submitted by Dennis Pierce

The Willimantic Farmer's market will be opening a Winter Farmers Market for the first year ever at the First Congregational Church* in Willimantic, 199 Valley St, Willimantic, CT 06226. The market, opening the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month November to April, will feature many of our longtime vendors, as well as some new faces. Our hours are shortened to 9am-12pm. If you are interested in joining us this season please email us willfarmers-market@gmail.com. The full list of dates are below!

2023-2024 Dates:

November 11th and 25th

December 9th and 23rd

January 13th** and 27th

February 10th and 24th

March 9th and 23rd

April 13th** and 27th

* Please note that the church has parking in the rear of the building, as well as accessible entrances.

** January 13th and April 13th the market will move into a smaller space downstairs to accommodate the preexisting repair café. Signs will redirect customers to the market.



**MAKE THE FOREST
PART OF YOUR STORY**

Remember the last time your family visited the forest? It's a place of wonder and imagination for the whole family—where stories come to life. And it's closer than you think. Sounds like it's time to plan your next visit. Make the forest part of your story today at a local park near you or find one at DiscoverTheForest.org.

DISCOVERtheFOREST.org

ad COUNCIL

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Life Stones

I have crossed by the cairn on the road that signifies you will pass no other markers.
 Curious, I looked into a dusty piece of mirror found nearby and had no recognition of the aged face in the glass.
 Gone were the physical traits of youth, smooth skin, bright eyes, a neck not wobbly, hair healthy and full.
 These, troubling as they seem, we're not why I did not recognize this man
 What I could not see was the invincibility of youth.
 I did see the narrowing of time, doors closing that were once wide open and inviting,
 others seeing me as viable,
 someone with potential, maybe even the recipient of a flirtatious smile.
 I glanced there again at the roadside cairn, the rocks no longer balanced in a way that seemed impossible,
 more now a pile of rocks than a guide for weary travelers.
 My eyes filled with tears as I began to balance the stones at my feet.
 We will all pass this way one day...those stones gathered there to your left are from me to you.
 I hope you pause there and remember from whence you came.

Poem and photo by Wayne Erskine.



Rare Screening of Oliver Stone Documentary Revisiting JFK Assassination

By Clay Colt

Since 2011, the Second Monday Film Series has screened documentaries on the second Monday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Storrs meetinghouse. On November 13, the series will mark the 60th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy by showing the film JFK Revisited: Through the Looking Glass.

The documentary, by Oliver Stone, director of the 1991 award-winning narrative feature film JFK, premiered at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival. But the film was never reviewed in any U.S. major media, and it was not shown nationwide in U.S. theaters. A year after Cannes it had a limited run on the Showtime streaming platform, but it otherwise disappeared from public awareness.

The impact of Stone's 1991 JFK film resulted in the creation of the congressional Assassination Records Review Board. Today, there are still classified files

about the assassination that are sealed from public view until 2029. This begs the question, if the government has nothing to hide about the assassination, why have so many files been kept classified for more than half a century? By 2029 it will be 66 years after the murder of the president on November 22, 1963. Is it any wonder that public trust in the government is at its lowest point ever?

JFK Revisited is a deep dive into the incriminating evidence that argues the official story put out by the Warren Commission report in 1964, with its impossible construct of a "magic bullet" theory, is a house of cards.

This will be the first public screening of the documentary in Connecticut. A preview trailer can be seen at: https://www.imdb.com/video/vi2180891417/?ref_=tt_vi_i_1

Monday, Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m.
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Storrs,
 46 Spring Hill Road, Mansfield

Out of the Shadows: Windham County's CT 29th Colored Civil War Regiment

Join historian and educator Donna Dufresne in a presentation about the local soldiers of the CT 29th Colored Regiment who fought in the Civil War. Beginning with the story of Charles Webster whose Civil War gravestone stands alone in the Natchaug Forest, Ms. Dufresne shares her research on the soldiers of African and Nipmuc descent who lived in northeast CT.

The Out of the Shadows Program is based on a curriculum project written by Donna Dufresne which was funded by a grant from The Last Green Valley and sponsored by Windham/Willimantic NAACP. Using census data, period maps, and military records, students who participated in the program identified where some of the local 29th soldiers lived, worked, and/or worshipped, and constructed their stories. This event will take place Nov. 5 at 2pm at The Mill Museum.

St. Philip's Church Annual Christmas Craft Fair

Submitted by Linda M. Joyal

On Saturday, November 25, 2023 St. Philip's Church on Rte. 44 in Ashford, CT will be holding their annual Christmas Craft Fair from 9:00am-3:00pm.

Forty crafters will be there for your Christmas shopping.

There will be a bake sale sponsored by the parishioners.

Soup, sandwiches and pirogues will be available from the kitchen.

Admission is free.

Advertise
 Neighbors
 Locally Written
 Locally Wread

The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra

with singers from the
 Concert Choir
 of Northeastern Connecticut
 present



The Voice Calls Us

This concert will feature Bach's familiar

"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme,"

or, in English, "Wake up, the voice calls us."

The orchestra will also perform the popular and romantic

Waltz No. 2, by Dmitri Shostakovich.

Friday, November 17, at 7 pm

Sunday, November 19, at 2 pm

Clark Memorial Chapel at Pomfret School, Rte. 44

Admission Free • Donations Welcome

NortheastConnecticut
 CommunityOrchestra

FLASHLIGHT VIGIL FOR WINDHAM'S MOTHERS & BABIES

MARKING MORE THAN 3 YEARS OF NO MATERNITY CARE AT WINDHAM HOSPITAL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

5:30PM - 6:30PM

THE STATE CAPITOL
 210 CAPITOL AVE, HARTFORD, CT 06106

BRING A FLASHLIGHT!

FREE TRANSPORTATION

BUS WILL LEAVE JILLSON SQUARE AT 4:30PM.
 SEATS ARE LIMITED, RSVP BY 11/2 FOR A SPOT.



LINK: [TINYURL.COM/NOV13VIGILRSVP](https://tinyurl.com/nov13vigilrsvp)



WINDHAM UNITED
 TO SAVE OUR
 HEALTHCARE COALITION

Bonus Deal!
Get 2 FREE issues added to
new subscriptions to

Connecticut Explored



...the Award-Winning
quarterly magazine
of Connecticut history.

*The
ideal gift
for history
lovers*

Visit ctexplored.org/subscribe

Apply promo code: **NEIGHBORS23**

Offer expires Dec 31, 2023

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!



Welcome to join:

EMINE POTTERY

Open Studio 2023!

Nov 24-26

Dec 2-3

10-5pm

53 Old Turnpike rd
Storrs, CT 06268

[eminepottery \(Insta\)](#)



Premium Grade
**WOOD PELLETS
& BIO BRICKS**

Order Early

IN STOCK NOW!
Delivery Available



G.M. Thompson & Sons, Inc.

54 Middle Turnpike, Mansfield Depot

(860) 429-9377

Mon-Fri 8-5:30 pm, Sat 8-3 pm, Closed Sun



**ROOF REPAIR
& REPLACEMENT**



**SEAMLESS
GUTTER SYSTEMS**



- TRUSTED, LOCAL ROOFING EXPERTS
- OVER 20 YEARS OF ROOFING EXPERIENCE
- WE HELP WITH INSURANCE CLAIMS
- WIDE RANGE OF SHINGLE COLOR OPTIONS



\$500 OFF

**A COMPLETE
KLAUS ROOFING SYSTEM**

Coupon to be presented and redeemed at time of estimate. Not valid for prior work or estimates. Not valid with other offers. Some exclusions apply. Residential use only. Expiration 11/30/23.

\$150 OFF

**A COMPLETE
GUTTER SYSTEM**

Coupon to be presented and redeemed at time of estimate. Not valid for prior work or estimates. Not valid with other offers. Some exclusions apply. Residential use only. Expiration 11/30/23.

PUT A
Klaus ON YOUR
House!



Klaus Larsen,
CO-OWNER
Klaus Larsen Roofing



SCAN ME FOR A
FREE ESTIMATE!

Contact us for a
FREE ESTIMATE

860-775-6100
KlauslarsenNeighbor.com

HIC-0646137

FULL FINANCING AVAILABLE

Hope and Wellness



Wellness Center/Salon

We are growing...

Looking for massage therapists, yoga
instructors and other wellness professionals.

Inquire within or

find application on our website.

www.HopeandWellnessOnline.com

Hair Services • Keratin Treatments • Reflexology • Massage
Manicures • Pedicures • Reiki • Cupping • Aromatouch • Facials

Now offering Tai Chi and Yoga



Come visit our ever-changing gift shop.

39 Nott Highway (Route 74), Suite 2, Ashford, CT 06278
www.HopeandWellnessOnline.com • 860-477-0994



Find us on
Instagram



LIKE US ON
facebook