

Neighbors



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July–August 2016

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Neighbors

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On cover and this page: 6.29.2016 Hall's Pond, Eastford. Photos by Tom King

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The Purpose of Neighbors:

- To encourage reading
- To provide a place where ideas, writing, artwork and photographs of area residents can be shared
- To encourage people to get involved in their communities

-To begin to solve national and global problems on a local basis
-To provide useful information
-To serve the inhabitants and environment of our region

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Use Your Words

By Loretta Wrobel

While visiting relatives on the Cape, I remember laughing as we saw Elizabeth Warren in the Gay Pride Parade in Boston. That was Saturday. On Sunday driving to the beach for a stroll on a somewhat cool, very windy day, I hear a news bite-- 50 dead at Orlando gay bar. I am not able to believe what I just heard. I sit numb and in shock, stammering, "What? What!"



Later I find out details (49 people killed plus the shooter) and am frightened, angry, confused, unsettled and very, very sad. It appears that violence rules. I don't want my anger to overtake me. I want to be centered and not add more negativity and hostility to our world.

The nightmare goes on as I hear the disappointing news out of DC that our Senate failed to advance the modest and popular gun violence reform bills that were before that group of supposedly intelligent legislators. It is a huge test to continue to maintain a sense of calm in the midst of the senseless events that daily batter our humanity, reason and compassion.

I recall speaking with a teacher friend who told me she repeats countless times to her little ones, "Use your words, not your fists!" When we are upset, angry or tense, talking rather than reacting with aggression is the more mature and responsible manner to deal with confrontation-- so we teach our children. However, what our children witness is brutality, weapons and bullies, demonstrating daily that the biggest and most powerful wins all the marbles.

In our world of 2016 we view this 'might is right' in every continent and country. If you don't like something or someone, get rid of them. Where is the advanced civilization that as human beings we have marched toward since we stood up on two wobbly legs? Yes, in our history, we have experienced bloody wars, brutal clashes, massacres, and horrendous cruelty. The human race is capable of extreme acts of heinous behavior. As human beings, we also are given the ability to speak, but seem to be operating as if words are out of style and carrying the biggest assault weapon is the ultimate.

We are obsessed with violence, killing and revenge. Look at your average movie clip or TV show to understand how being sarcastic/humiliating/abusive to our neighbors, friends and family is modeled as acceptable, even admired behavior. We have a fascination with watching people be killed. This is action and gets the adrenaline pumping.

Our youth are daily exposed to an avalanche of violence and brutal videos on their smartphones. This is problematic, as they become complacent and accept turbulence as a fact of life.

I for one am knowing that we each must look at how violence dances with us each and every day. I refuse to swallow that nothing can be done and that is the way it is. I know we are all human beings and are able to rise to a higher plane of interacting and relating. We don't need to respond with more bullets, bombs and rage. We have the capacity of gravitating toward diplomacy and enhancing our relating/negotiating skills. We can disagree and not have to lash out with ferocity. Why not try using our words?

This is not a simplistic solution to a complex problem. We need to not growl at each other but learn about each other. We are all different but we are all connected. Working together always births a better solution.

There are no easy, quick resolutions, as more guns only create more violence. I fail to understand why any private citizen needs assault weapons. We are not talking about the sports of target practice and hunting; we are talking about mass killings.

With our advanced communication systems, we can witness hundreds of killings on our screens. Is this healthy for our minds?

Before I sink into total despair and/or rage, I need to explore the world I inhabit. I see the long lines of people standing, waiting to give blood in Orlando and the huge outpouring of connection and support within the gay community sharing their grief, shock and tears.

Over 350 people attend the annual Owl Party at the Audubon Center in Pomfret, raising funds to support the Center. Much of that funding will go to programming for children. These young people will be nurtured by experiencing the natural world, thereby growing into healthier, saner and balanced adults.

I am deeply moved by the personal stories by Leigh Duffy and Frances Massy at the annual Women and Girls Fund breakfast. They eloquently spoke of being without a home, how they survived, and now work at the Windham Region No Freeze Center. At this event \$34,660 in grants were awarded to eleven nonprofit agencies in the Windham area to support programs for women and girls. Later that day, I attend a rally to end homelessness in Connecticut. I am warmed by all the folks who are working to make this happen, and am thrilled to hear how close Willimantic is to ending chronic homelessness.

I know how many volunteers in my town of Ashford work on various committees to make our town a better place to live. This is true for all of the towns surrounding Ashford. I am grateful to live in such a beautiful environment, and to realize a wealth of people are working to improve our quiet corner.

I need to focus on how we as a people are wanting to help not harm. We are compassionate, respectful, caring and kind. I want to add these qualities to the world every day. Are you willing to join me?

Letters and Emails

Dear Editor-

I was interested in Phoebe C. Godfrey's piece in the May-June 2016 issue (pp. 14-15), where she addresses the tension between a superficial view of Judaism and the radical politics expressed in a Passover Haggadah.

I didn't know much about Judaism until the middle of my life, when I began to comprehend the complex and fascinating topic of being "chosen" in a Jewish sense. Perhaps one must engage with Jewish communities, and/or carefully read Jewish writing, to grasp chosenness as not literal, but existential, and certainly not exclusionary. It's being chosen to choose, which means to be responsible: for justice, for other people, indeed for the well-being of all living things. The figure of language "being chosen" involves the opposite of specialness or separation. It involves engagement with, and responsibility for--in the words of the Jewish ethicist Emmanuel Levinas--"everyone and everything."

I admit this perspective isn't easy to comprehend from a cursory view of Judaism. Unfortunately, such a view leads to conflating Judaism with Israeli politics, not to mention generalizing right-wing politics as all Israeli politics and making a caricature of the expression "promised land" (these being themselves only crude outlines of the social, political, and ethical issues entailed).

As can be discovered in the liturgy of a Sabbath or holiday service, living a Jewish life involves accepting the responsibility to move always toward a better global future, to question continually, and to modify one's approach as the ethics of a situation demands. This includes interrogating one's choices, and indeed questioning what existential responsibility means. It involves, on many levels, just what Ms. Godfrey proposes for us all: intrinsically, it's revolutionary.

Scott DeShong

Memories

Memories captured in a song
Of a journey that wasn't long
Like a gentle summer breeze
They come to visit when they please.
Some steal joy like a thief,
But most are there to comfort grief
Gentle kisses for the mind
Is why our memories were designed

L.C. Bowen, Pomfret

Talking Is A Speech Form,
Listening Is An Art Form.

By Josephine Aivaz Sabino



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Willimantic, Now and Then:

Man's Love of Machines Makes Laces In Willington

"These Shoelaces Will Stay Tied!"

By Mark Svetz

"I refuse to 'double knot' my shoelaces," Paul Weigold tells me as he lifts his trouser leg and points to the long laces on his worn boots. "When I come home after working all day, the last thing I want to do is struggle with a double knot. Plus," he adds with a chuckle, "I'm old enough to remember when shoe laces didn't come untied all the time!"



That conviction, together with a lifetime of building machines and keeping them running, led Paul and his niece, Kyra Weigold, to a new adventure.

Eclipse Enterprises, located in Willington, is the business Paul and Kyra started. They make shoelaces, and Paul assures us they will not come untied! They have several braiding machines set up on a trailer, along with a 1910 Lawson "hit and miss" engine to power them. They set up at tractor shows, where they run the machines to show how the laces are made. And of course, they sell laces. Their laces are also sold at local outlets, including Mansfield Supply, Red and White consignment shop in Tolland, The Moon and Monocle at Phelps Corners in Willington, as well as Swift Waters Artisans' Co-operative and Shoe Smith in Willimantic.

It all started about a year ago when Paul was helping a friend clean out a button shop in Tolland. They came across an old braiding machine that was in terrible shape, but Paul saw that it could be fixed up and working again if somebody spent some time on it. He had the time, the many years of experience and the love of old machines to do just that.

These machines consist of a circular platform, holding several 'carriages,' or small platforms with spindles for spools of thread. Through complicated gear clusters under the platform, the machine rotates the spools around the circle, moving them over and under each other, forming the threads into a braided cord – a shoelace. The process is something like the Maypole dance, where dancers hold ribbons and move around a pole, in and out, weaving the ribbon around the pole. The threads are woven around a core braid (the pole) that Paul

and Kyra make themselves. "You can buy the core, but it costs about \$10 for a spool, so we set up a machine to make our own."

The threads that are braided around the core are all cotton, except for one style of boot laces that use a blend of cotton and Kevlar to give extra strength to stand up to the hooks on boots. The cotton is the secret. "Nylon and Polyester just don't work. You see, the natural fibers of cotton cling together, offering a nice tight knot," Paul explains.

Paul's interest in machines began when he was young. At the age of eight, he took apart a kitchen timer, studied how it worked and put it back together. It worked. He went on to study electricity at Windham Regional State Technical School in Willimantic. He finished school and began to work as a service man, which he enjoyed, but the industry was changing. Solid state components and other advancements were turning service

"into a life of drudgery, swapping out parts," with little opportunity for creative repairs or tinkering with the machinery.

Paul moved into other areas of work. In one job he got the chance to learn about Merrow Sewing Machines. There were dozens of these machines that needed maintaining and repair. This was right up Paul's alley. These complex machines were invented by J. Makens Merrow in the 1830s. Merrow founded his company in the sections of Mansfield still known as Merrow. The company makes, among other



Paul Weigold turns one of his braiding machines by hand to demonstrate.
Mark Svetz Photo

machines, an overlock stitch machine, called a serger, used to finish the edges of fabric, to keep it from fraying. These are complicated machines – not so different from the braiding machines Paul and Kyra use today – that have several needles, loopers and hooks, all coming together to form a chain stitch to bind the fabric edges.

Paul is trained as a machinist and tool and die maker. He laughs when I ask him about this training, and tells me a story. He was working in Long Island for a large company, which also employed two Italian tool and die makers who, he recalls, were not very friendly; they really kept to themselves. Paul's curiosity and skill, however, impressed these men, and they agreed to teach him about their trade. He worked at this job for some years, but he began to want different challenges.

"I would always get restless after I learned how to do

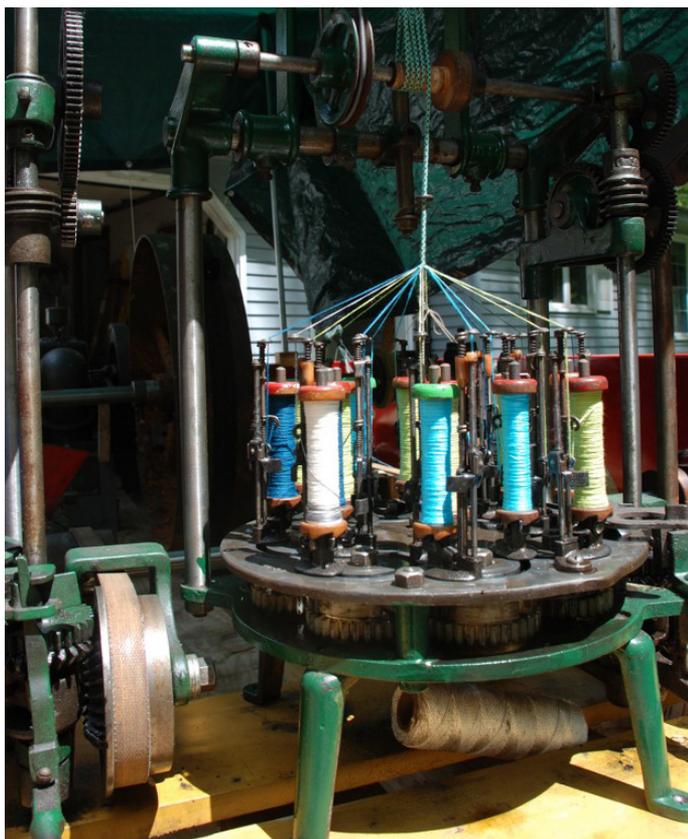
“If I had a machine, I’d make shoe laces that would stay tied.”

So he brought it home, and went to work. Paul has an old braiding machine he points out to show the condition of that first machine. Only someone with Paul’s experience and expertise, not to mention his ability to see to potential of a machine and imagine it’s place in his life, could have looked at that rusted metal and thought “I can make shoe laces that will stay tied.”

After talking with Paul one afternoon, It’s easy to see why Connecticut was once a world leader in manufacturing. I can imagine conversations with Sam Colt, who developed the revolver mechanism for firearms, Eli Terry or his apprentice, Seth Thomas, pioneers in precision timepieces, or Francis Pratt and Amos Whitney, all of whom joined dozens of other pioneers to change the world with their ideas and skills right here in Connecticut. Like Paul Weigold, they must all have had the Yankee inventiveness, quirky enthusiasm and the risk-taking courage to turn an idea into a business.

Now in his 60s, Paul thinks about slowing down a little, helping Kyra run the business, keeping the machines running. I have to believe that once Eclipse Enterprises is up and running smoothly, Paul will be struck with the solution to some other problem that’s been bothering him. Who knows what he might find the next time he helps a friend clean out an old shop?

Mark Svetz is a Tutor at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Willimantic. You can read more of Mark’s writing at www.sarahwinterclothworks.com/writing.



One of Paul Weigold’s braiding machines. Notice how all the threads come together to form the lace. Mark Svetz Photo a job,” he explains, “and I’d start looking for something new to learn.”

Paul grew up working for his father, and learned to operate and maintain heavy construction equipment. Again, he tells about how, with little formal training, he was able to take what he knew about machines, engines and mechanical systems, and turn it into a job. He soon went out on his own, servicing heavy equipment for construction companies.

He loves working for himself. He likes the freedom to choose the work he does, and the amount of time he spends doing it. In the 1980s the building trades slowed down, and he started doing other things. During this period, he moved back to Willington, to the house he grew up in. His mother was aging and needed help. Because Paul liked working for himself, he looked around and found work contracting out to service heavy equipment for a few local companies. He also repairs and restores pipe organs.

“I always figured the worst that could happen is I have to work for somebody else,” he laughs. “The thing I love about it (working for himself) is that sometimes, I can work three days a week making money, and then I have time to help somebody clean out an old button factory.”

And so it went for Paul. Back in Willington, living on his family’s 100-plus acre property, enjoying all the ways he employed his skills, but those darned shoe laces kept coming untied! Having spent his life as an industrial problem solver, using his intelligence, experience and skill to keep those machines running, I think it grated on Paul, this simple, everyday problem of shoe laces coming untied. When he came upon that old machine designed to make shoe laces, he thought,



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Adventures in Joshua Tree National Park

By David Corsini

My brother-in-law Bill and I joined an Earthwatch expedition in Joshua Tree National Park in California in early April, 2016. Earthwatch is an organization that provides “citizen scientists” opportunities to work with established scientists on research projects around the world. The expedition in Joshua Tree was focused on the effect of climate change in this desert setting. Although the expedition was described as a seven-day adventure, two of the days were primarily travel days, leaving only five full days in the field.

Joshua Tree National Park is a 792,510 acre area in southern California where the Mojave and Colorado deserts come together. The Colorado Desert is the area of the park that is below 3000 feet in elevation while the Mojave Desert area is at elevations above 3000 feet. The Joshua tree, after which the park is named, occurs only in the Mojave Desert areas of the park.

The Joshua tree has an arm-like branching pattern, spiky succulent leaves and looks like a tree or a large cactus. However, it is neither a tree nor a cactus. It is a species of yucca- a member of the agave family. Joshua trees can grow to over 40’ tall but most mature “trees” are in the 20’ to 30’ range. Because the Joshua tree is such a distinctive species and occurs only in the Mojave Desert, there are several long-term research projects that focus on the impact of climate change on this species. The goals of the research projects are to understand how plants and animals in this desert adapt to climate change. An additional goal is to identify environmental niches especially well suited to the survival of desert plants and animals. Once identified, plans can be made to protect these special areas.

Bill and I, along with four other “citizen scientists”, participated in three types of research activities: monitoring two types of live traps; walking through the desert looking for reptiles and mammals; and documenting plant species. Six scientists directed the work.

To search for reptiles and mammals, six of us lined up in a phalanx about 15’ apart and walked through the desert. The terrain was mostly flat with some rocks and hills that provided a moderate challenge. When we spotted a lizard, we pointed



to it or, more often than not, to where it had been. Then the scientist who knew the different species would come, poke the bush where the lizard had hidden, and identify the species as the lizard darted to another hiding place. With this method we found six species of lizards: Whiptail, Zebra-Tailed, Side-Blotched, Chuckwalla, Desert Iguana, and Horned. At first the only lizard I could identify was the Horned Lizard, but eventually I got pretty good at identifying the Whiptail, Side-Blotched, and Chuckwalla.

Before walking in the desert, the Earthwatch staff offered snake gaiters to those who were fearful of snakes. Snake gaiters are Kevlar shields that can be strapped to the bottom of the leg above the boot. No one used them. Although there are seven species of rattlesnakes listed as possible in the park, it is unusual to see any. But we got lucky and found a Speckled Rattlesnake that was basking in a wash (an area



The author holding a non-poisonous gopher snake. Contributed photo

where water briefly flows as runoff from a rainstorm). Only after six of us came near did the beautiful snake move into a defensive posture under a bush, flick out its blue tongue and serenade us with rattling. Only photos were taken.

Although we were also on the lookout for mammals, midday is not a good time to spot them. The only mammal we saw was jack rabbits. However, the scat of several other mammals was found. We found scat from mountain sheep, coyote, jack rabbits, and kit fox.

Joshua Tree National Park has many distinct areas at different elevations. When we drove through the park, we encountered areas with piles of giant boulders, areas that were flat and extended for a long distance with low vegetation, areas with large piles of rocks, and hilly, sandy areas with boulders and mixed vegetation. There were many types of cacti throughout the

park and pinion pines, juniper and oaks were found at high elevations. Because there had been a period of rain in the week before we arrived, there were many wildflowers in bloom. We enjoyed viewing and photographing the beautiful flowers but did not study them.

The climate change project had established 27 large study plots at various elevations throughout the park. To study the effects of climate change on the flora and fauna within the various plots, different research projects had been designed to monitor and assess changes over time. One research project, designed to study lizards and small mammals, involved pitfall



traps and small mammal live traps called Sherman Traps. The pitfall traps were five gallon white buckets set in the ground so that the top of the bucket was level with the ground. The buckets were arranged in a ten bucket array with a central bucket and three arms, each with three buckets, extending from the central bucket. The buckets were about five feet apart. Between the buckets there was nylon drift netting supported by stakes. The idea was that small mammals and lizards moving in the desert would encounter the drift netting, move along it and then fall into one of the buckets. When the traps were set to be open, the lid of the bucket was held above the bucket by three short wooden legs and secured by bungee cords. Thus, there was an opening for the animals to fall into the trap, but once in the trap, the animals were protected from sun by the bucket lid. The day before I was on the team that monitored the pitfall traps, three lines of six Sherman traps, baited with peanuts and oats, had been set out in areas near the pitfall arrays. So I was lucky to inspect both pitfall traps and Sherman traps. For me opening up the pitfall traps and checking the Sherman traps was like opening presents on Christmas morning. You never know what will be there and sometimes it is really good.

We examined pitfall traps that had been set up in three plots at different elevations. The study at different elevations was to assess how changes in temperature were or were not affecting a change in the fauna. Typically four or five of the ten pitfall traps would contain a creature—sometimes a “furry” and sometimes a “scaly”. When the creature was a “scaly”, at first the scientists, and later Bill and I, would reach into the bucket and catch the lizard with a soft but firm grip. The species, sex, and measurements were recorded. After we had examined the critter to our satisfaction, it was released.

Some mice also fell into the buckets. The scientists would grasp the mice by the scruff of the neck and then: sex them, measure their tail length, ear length, hind foot length, and hairs at the tip of the tail. These measures were used to determine the species. The pitfall traps frequently had beetles and sometimes a scorpion-like critter.

There were two unusual events with the pitfall traps. On the day Bill was helping to monitor the traps, in two of the traps they discovered a “murder”. Two species of mice had fallen into the trap—a pocket mouse and a grasshopper mouse. In both traps the grasshopper mouse had killed the pocket mouse. The culprits were measured, exonerated and released with time served.

continued on page 43

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GROW Windham's New Community Garden

By Malakai James

During the three years that I have been with GROW Windham, all of us - the program, our gardens, and participants like myself - have grown tremendously. And I'm excited to say that we're all ready to take the next step.

GROW Windham is developing a new "Community Farm" in Lauter Park, Willimantic. This is a huge step forward for a program that began just five years ago with a simple mission: to promote access to healthy, affordable food to Windham residents. This mission was and is still being

accomplished every day by the Windham Youth CORE, GROW Windham's high school program, as well as faithful volunteers who work hard not only to provide food for the community but also to give back and to educate the public. One way that we do this is through growing food at a series of gardens at several locations in Windham, including the WAIM Community Garden in Lauter Park, the Eastern CT State University Community Education Garden, and at our garden at the Windham Regional Community Council, where our program is located.

Two years ago, after a successful summer program, a conversation took place that would change the little garden I had come to know over the past two years. A program participant by the name of Mackenzie Hill, who is a classmate of mine at the E.O. Smith High School Agricultural Education Program (FFA), proposed an opportunity for garden expansion as a school service project that would be completed by her class. We were pleased when the town of Windham granted us permission to expand our portion of the WAIM Community Garden in Lauter Park, to provide us more space to grow produce for the Soup Kitchen and our stand at the Willimantic Farmers' Market.

In the same conversation, the town offered us another growing space in Lauter Park, a beautiful half-acre between the local skate park and the soccer fields. This space is now destined to be our "Community Farm." I have learned, grown, and ultimately met so many wonderful people in the previous space and seeing it grow into something even larger is certainly a dream come true.

We have received funding to help grow this new

expansion into something both beautiful and productive. The Town of Windham received a Community Garden grant from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, that will support the improvement of the existing WAIM Community Garden and also build the new growing space. And we just received a generous grant from the Jeffrey P. Ossens Family Foundation to support a coordinator to guide the project.

As of yet, we are in the beginning stages of planning the new space. We have consulted with two local farmers, Mary Concklin of Raspberry Knoll farm, who is also a UConn

Extension educator, and William Hooper, who is a permaculture specialist, and they have given us great ideas about the layout and also what we should plant. We'll build a fenced in production space that will provide substantial yield for use at farmers markets as well as community organizations. This area will also provide many educational opportunities to youth like myself as well as volunteers and local community members, ultimately providing other people with the chance to grow in the way I have



The GROW Windham planning team that is designing the new growing space at Lauter Park. Contributed photo

in both my past and present years with GROW Windham. Outside of this fenced-in space we will create an attractive space with flowers and seating areas to create a welcoming community atmosphere. Additionally, the perimeter of this space will include edible perennials like fruit trees and berry bushes, for everyone to enjoy.

I am excited to share this new chapter of our organization with you. Both GROW Windham and I appreciate the immeasurable amount of support we've received from the community, our partner organizations, faithful volunteers, and dedicated youth. I invite you to come grow with us as we embark on our exciting new journey. If you are interested in contributing your time, ideas, or resources to the project, please reach us at info@growwindham.org or 860-423-4534 x312.

Malakai James is a student at E.O. Smith High School in Storrs and a member of the Windham Youth CORE, the GROW Windham youth program.

Willimantic Farmers Market- New Season, New Location

Submitted by Kate Callahan

The Willimantic Farmers' Market is open every Saturday morning from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm until October 29th. The market is now located at Jillson Square. There will be a wide range of healthy, locally grown fruits and vegetables, potted plants, eggs from local hens, baked goods and jams, goat's milk soap and regionally roasted coffee. Thanks to a grant from the USDA to improve the market, our customers can find kids activities in the Kids Corner each week and sample recipes prepared during a cooking demonstration every Saturday. To stay informed of market events, please visit the website: www.willimanticfarmersmarket.org.

This year, the market is fortunate to offer Double Dollars to our SNAP recipients, thanks community donations. When a customer spends \$10 from their EBT Connect Card they will receive \$20 in fresh, local fruits and vegetables. This is an incredibly important program that supports both the health of low-income community members and the economy of local farmers. This program has been extremely effective at other Farmers' Markets across the country, and we're happy to bring it to Willimantic.

We're looking forward to a busy market season of connecting with our community and of course, eating the best of what Northeastern Connecticut has to offer.

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Neighbors
A little paper, big on community

I Could Have Sung All Night

By Delia Berlin



Last January, the Willimantic Chronicle ran a little article about the Windham Theater Guild Broadway Chorus. They were looking for new chorus members. I had been thinking about singing in a chorus, but I hadn't done it since my middle school years in Argentina. My confidence was low.

But the article said that there would be no try-outs. The only requirement seemed to be a desire to sing. Moreover, you had to pay \$35 to do it. You had to pay to sing? That was a good sign. The venue might be at my level.

January in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut is not exactly the brightest month. Weekly evening rehearsals just a little over a mile from home seemed like the perfect opportunity to avoid the "4:30 pajama syndrome" and to get a little walking exercise instead. In hopes of having a walking partner, I called my sister and neighbor Pat to see if she was interested in joining me. She was!

This past winter was generally mild, but our first rehearsal took place during a rare Arctic spell. Yet, we bundled up and walked to the Windham Middle School, signed up and sealed the deal. Almost immediately, it seemed like we had made a big mistake. We were given very fat envelopes full of sheet music for many songs we had never heard. There were selections from four different Broadway musicals I hadn't seen. There had been a record turnout and the room was packed, mostly with people who had been chorus members for many years.

On the positive side, we saw familiar faces from all kinds of occupations, ranging from barbers to physicians, from students to retired teachers. The age range appeared to span from under twenty to mid-eighties, and about a quarter of the members were male. Everyone was friendly and quick to offer helpful tips as they noticed our nervousness. Many assured us that the process was always chaotic in the beginning, but somehow everything would come together right before performances. In spite of our doubts, we knew after the first rehearsal that we would keep trying.

My sister and I have similar Buenos Aires accents, even though I've lived in Connecticut for forty years and Pat even longer. That's typical of those who acquire a new language after twelve or thirteen years of age, but except for the accents, our language proficiency is better in English than in Spanish. But once in a blue moon, a new context makes us feel as if we just got "off the boat" and this was one of those cases. The life-long nature of language acquisition becomes readily apparent with each new experience. It never ceases to amaze me that one can live in the US for forty years and become fluent in English, without having any terminology at all in

some areas. But when you think about it, until you get into a musical context, you don't have any need for English music terminology.

While Pat and I sang in choruses, played musical instruments, and learned to read music as children, there had been no reason to learn English vocabulary related to music until now. When you try to communicate in any discipline without the right vocabulary, a dreadful "alien" feeling overtakes you. Suddenly, you notice that well-meaning people speak to you as if you just arrived in the area. You feel like proving that you do know where the Town Hall is, let alone that you are an American citizen and pay your taxes!

Music has its own language, so why should it make any difference if you learned it in English or Spanish? Here are a few examples to illustrate that it does:

Spanish	English
compás	measure
sostenido	sharp
bemol	flat
clave de sol	treble clef
clave de fa	bass clef

In addition to these difficulties, reading music and lyrics at the same time for songs never heard before is a challenge. That becomes even harder if one sings harmony. So, even though our voices were of dubious range, we decided to sing as sopranos to stick to the melody. Between somewhat "out of range" and completely "out of whack" we chose the lesser of two evils.

We had a dizzying array of music booklets, sheets and inserts in a large envelope. Eventually, all this would have to be organized in a black three-hole binder, but that wasn't announced for a month or two. And we didn't know the order in which we would be singing each piece until the last few weeks. So for a long time, just keeping the music organized and accessible was an accomplishment. We had highlighters, neon flags and tabs of several colors to minimize the crazed paper shuffling.

I already mentioned that people were friendly, but some really went beyond the call. Being new and slow to catch up, I needed all the help I could get. Ruth, who sat to my left during rehearsals, became a quiet coach who would always point to the right music, page, measure, or line. When pointing failed, her singing voice became my guiding mermaid.

One evening, Ruth sat far away in a corner and I thought she had finally had it with me. But later she came to let me know that she had laryngitis and was trying to keep it to herself. Eventually we discovered that we had a common friend that we had shared for over thirty years.

Rehearsals continued throughout the winter, either

at the Windham Middle School or at the basement of St. Joseph's Church. Towards spring, the "Tuesdays from 7 to 9 pm" schedule expanded to include additional days and later hours. Undoubtedly, it was hard for many of the singers to put in the time, but directors Larry Goodwin and Dan Pavone, accompanist Ken Clark, and assistant Jill Goodwin worked countless additional hours coordinating evaluations, schedules, communications, programs, and planning for performances at the Burton Leavitt Theater.

The week before the performances, my sister had to take a pre-scheduled trip to New Orleans, our mother was hospitalized, and I completely lost my voice due to laryngitis. We took it one-day-at-a-time and hoped for the best. Pat continued rehearsing the songs at the Big Easy, I gradually recovered my voice, and finally took my mother home from the hospital. When we got to the week of the performances, 61 members were still in the chorus and rehearsals moved to the Burton Leavitt Theater.

The final program consisted of 27 songs from Oliver, My Fair Lady, Newsies and Les Miserables, and included performances by 40 soloists. It wasn't until the dress rehearsal that the full scale of the entire operation became apparent to me. A gifted percussionist, Dave Keplesky, suddenly showed up. He never missed a beat, as if he always had been playing with us. Sound, lighting and stage managers, assistants, producers, set construction volunteers, all worked together like magic.

Two performances had been scheduled and when the big nights arrived, we sang with energy and enjoyed ourselves. On both occasions, not only did we have a full house, but a wonderful audience that encouraged us with standing ovations and warm comments. It was one of frequent moments when I feel fantastically fortunate to live in this community. How lucky we are to have the Burton Leavitt Theater, with its own Broadway Chorus, just steps from our home!

Most of us celebrated the success at Apollo's Pizza after the final performance. It was way past our bedtime when we got back home. I was tired, but still too excited to go to sleep. I was happy that two good performances were behind us, but knew that I would miss the joy and energizing team-ship that come from shared purpose. Before going to bed, I organized my costume props and put away the music. But most definitely, I will be saving the black three-hole binder for next year.

In All Things Good,
There Is No Shame In Failing.
The Shame Lies In Failing To Try

By Josephine Aivaz Sabino

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One Tiny Acre in Woodstock

By Dennis Pierce

The “strawberry moon” rose low in the sky on a past Monday night, tinted pink and orange by high thin clouds and humid air. Known as Summer Solstice, the phenomenon occurs each year when the southern hemisphere is tilted away from the sun. This year’s solstice coincides with the Strawberry Moon, a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.

Summer. We wait all year for it and now it has arrived. Actually it has been a great entrance to the season however most would wish for a little more rain as they look over the straw, yellow patches that now monopolize their lawns. But summer is the time for Farmer’s Markets and this year I found that the Willimantic market moved across the street to Jillson Square. Several Saturday’s ago I stopped by to purchase some plants for the garden and met Matt Skobrak and Callah Racine farmers from One Tiny Acre in Woodstock. I could see that they were an up and coming contributor to the local grown movement in the Quiet Corner so I made an appointment to visit them the following week.

On my way to the farm the evening was cool and the foliage and trees were in full bloom. I always enjoy my travels through the back roads of Connecticut late in the afternoon with the windows open to bring in the great summer smells. I found that the trees tower overhead created a tunnel shutting out the late day rays but allowing an occasional flicker fall through the branches falling to the street below. Through twists and turn my GPS guided me through Ashford then Woodstock and as I arrived Matt and Callah were busy at work.

Matt shared with me that he is a Chef by trade, a graduate of New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, VT. When he was there he took the opportunity to intern at a farm, learning the skills that he brought to Woodstock. After several years in the kitchen, and tired of the long hours, he realized that restaurant’s needed fresh produce that will meet the demands of a creative menu. He joined with Callah, who is a brew master at Bentley Brewing Company in Southbridge, Massachusetts and together they founded, “The Tiny Acre” Farm.

Now I have had many interviews over the years for this column but I can honestly say that I have never met two individuals that were as unique, passionate and determined as Matt and Callah. They started out looking for a place to live so their commutes would be less strenuous. They found an



apartment which also had an obliging landlord that would let them farm the adjacent field. By crowdsourcing funds they were able to purchase several old greenhouse frames from Rhode Island and have created a great piece of land for local grown.

One thing that makes them unique is Matt’s culinary background. He knows what sells in a restaurant and can communicate to chefs as he offers their produce. Another thing that this farm does is that it lives up to its name. Sure it’s tiny but the irony is that the majority of their crops are miniature vegetables. Matt has also captured a unique niche in the farm to table movement as their farm offers a CSA for restaurants. One local restaurant in Woodstock that Matt and Callah sells to is “Roots Down” on 18, Route 171.

On the day of my visit I saw small heads of romaine perfect for an individual salad. Other crops include baby kale, 45 different tomatoes, miniature melons, mini eggplants and baby root vegetables. The farm does not use chemicals or sprays at their farm.

Matt and Callah have started a small CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) membership and they also sell at the Willimantic Farmer’s market every Saturday morning and have also begun to sell at the new festival, “Fare” in Willimantic, a Farm, Craft, Food truck festival that is now held once a month in Jillson Square. Info can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/ctfare>



Matt Skobrak and Callah Racine. Dennis Pierce photo

Please join me in supporting this up and coming farm as they have a fruitful summer. <https://www.facebook.com/tinyacre>

So if you are at the market and are buying fresh vegetables try the following recipe. Pickles are a big hit right now. Research is demonstrating that improved health of our gut microbiota can contribute to our overall well-being. The “microbiome” of our intestines carries 100 times more DNA than the entire human genome. This complex community influences our health in many ways and is highly impacted by our diet. By consuming foods rich in probiotics, we can improve the health of this microbial community, as well as our general health. Similar to those found in yogurt, probiotic cultures produced during lactic acid fermentation of vegetables or “pickling” are known to have many health benefits, such as

- Improved intestinal tract health
- Enhanced immune system function
- Improved availability of nutrients
- Decreased allergies
- Inflammation relief
- Protection against microbial infection

Maintenance of gut flora that may help to control weight gain and appetite

So by the time this article is printed you will see the local farmers markets with a glut of garden vegetables. Take the time to make and store the following. Not only is it healthful for you but you can also use them as gifts when invited as a guest to a friend's dinner party. Won't they be impressed?

Pickled vegetables (Makes an 8 cup jar)

How to prepare jars: If you are planning to can your pickles for long-term storage, bring a large pot of water to a boil and sterilize the jars and their lids. If you are planning to make refrigerator pickled vegetable, simply washing the jars and lids. More information about canning can be found on the web.

Prepared cauliflower or carrots before preparing the brine.

For the pickling brine:

1 1/3 cups of white wine vinegar

14 oz. of dry white wine

2 cups of water

11 oz. of extra virgin olive oil

4 large red chilies, split, but left whole

16 black, whole peppercorns

8 cloves

8 allspice berries

A pinch of nutmeg

1 bunch of thyme

12 bay leaves

4 stalks of rosemary

A good pinch of salt and two pinches of sugar

Directions for the brine:

To make the pickling brine, put all of the ingredients together in a saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Continue to boil for 10 minutes. You should end up with 5 cups of brine. Remove the pan from the heat.

Directions for the pickles:

1 cauliflower about 2 lbs. and 4 oz., cut into florets (small bunches). or 3 bunches of baby carrots, peeled.

To pickle the cauliflower, put the florets in a large bowl that is large enough to take the vegetables and all of the brine. Pour the hot brine over the florets. Take a piece of plastic wrap and place it on top of the cauliflower to ensure that everything remains submerged. You might want to put a plate on top of the plastic wrap to hold the cauliflower down. Allow to cool completely, then transfer to a sterilized 8 cup jar if you are keeping them for a long term or put in an airtight container if you are just storing in the refrigerator. For best results allow the cauliflower to sit for at least 24 hours before eating.

To pickle the carrots, bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil and briefly cook the carrots for 2 to 3 minutes. When you test the carrots they should be still crunchy. Strain and run the carrots under cold water until completely cool. Allow the brine to cool completely, then pour it over the cooked carrots. They are now ready to store either in a sterilized 8 cup jar or airtight container. They are best stored for 48 hours before eating.

The summer is hastily moving along. Take every opportunity to get outside, visit the local farmers market or produce stand and enjoy the lazy days of summer. A good source of local farms and markets can be found at <http://www.ctfarmfresh.org/locations.html> If you have a suggestion or a farm or local grower you would like featured in this column drop me a line at Codfish53@Yahoo.com. Peas be with you.

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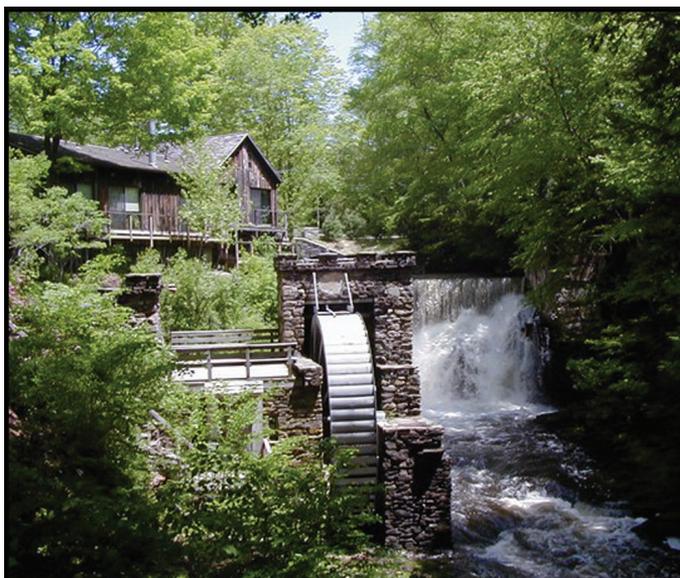


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Looking Up:

Gypsies, ghostly canopies and looking down from the mountain

By Bob Grindle

Watching the Moon rise last night through the ghostly bones of a stand of leafless oaks was a rather peculiar mix of sadness and pleasure. The absence of a view-blocking canopy of life-sustaining leaves did allow for some unnaturally good night sky viewing as Saturn and Spica and Mars and Antares and even Jupiter spread across a southerly sky that would normally have been blocked by the fully dressed treetops. One member of our group of four did comment on the perverse upside to what has been a frustrating and almost completely unheralded return to the ravages of earlier years as this invasive insect gypsies its way through our beloved northeastern forests. This double-edged enjoyment of sky-gazing through the treetops should be short-lived, however, since most trees—the healthy deciduous ones anyway—will send out new growth soon. Every living thing handles the stresses of living differently and if we don't get some significant rainfall soon, there is a real likelihood that many of our region's trees, even the healthy ones, will succumb to the combined stresses of defoliation and drought.

No matter how much we need the rain though, everyone hopes their particular activity won't be rained out. Riding with the top down, bicycling, motorcycling, picnicking, hiking, grilling, beachcombing, tanning, holiday parties, pool lounging and, maybe especially, stargazing—since even a stoic can't see through the overcast skies—all favor clear, dry weather. A friend recently pointed out that this late spring and now early summer season have been notably, even uncommonly, good for night sky viewing. Night after night the skies have been clear, the air dry, and almost charmingly full of great chances to look at the planets, stars, Moon and International Space Station (ISS). There are several events coming up in July and August that are worth stepping off life's treadmill to enjoy.

The night of July 4th will be especially dark with no Moon at all, and if you look to the west about 9:30 that bright star you see low on the horizon is actually the planet Jupiter. To the very close upper left is the constellation Virgo with its bright star Spica, and very near lower right is Leo with its bright star Regulus. When you look at Jupiter, if you look, it is worth knowing that NASA's space probe Juno is arriving on July 4th, after a 5 year journey through space, and is set to go into a yearlong polar orbit around the giant planet. With the plague of gypsy moths eating across our small planet home, it's hard not to think of mankind's own gypsy nature.

Anyway, by July 11th, looking to the south, the first quarter Moon is above Spica and by midmonth, a gibbous Moon appears to almost sit on Saturn, with the red giant Antares directly below, the similarly colored reddish Mars to the West, and Jupiter nearly lost in the western horizon. By simply turning around and looking north, there's the Big Dipper on the left. Turn again to the east and the Summer Triangle of the very bright star Vega, top center, slightly less bright Altair to the lower right, and Deneb to the left, are easy to locate.

August, of course, brings everyone's favorite meteor shower, the Perseids. This celestial show peaks between midnight of August 11th and dawn of the 12th and is usually worth finding a good vantage point, lying on your back and enjoying the sort of rambling conversation with your companions that often yields a sense of connection that this writer feels is all too rare in today's lifescape. The waxing gibbous Moon sets shortly after midnight, so views may not be as glorious as last year's, but they should be good. August 24th will find a vertical alignment of Saturn, Mars and Antares (top to bottom) just about in the middle of the sky, looking south, and slightly above the horizon.

One of the most visually impressive events of the summer occurs on August 27th shortly after sunset. Between 7:30 and 8 pm Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest objects in



the sky...after the Sun and Moon..., will appear to be separated by less than a tenth of a degree. Four Hundred million miles of separation between these two planets seem to evaporate as this conjunction dazzles all who see it in the low southwestern sky. Venus will be slightly above Jupiter. It doesn't happen often, and since it occurs very close to sunset, you may have to squint to see it despite the brightness of the two planets, but if skies are clear, your effort will be rewarded.

On Father's Day, my son and I hiked up Mt. Monadnock. We left at daybreak with the intention of eating breakfast when we reached the top. As my son scampered and I more or less clambered up some fairly steep granite faces and stacks of boulders, it occurred to me how easy it is not to look up, whether engaged in climbing a mountain or the simple, repetitive tasks of just living, day to day. We tend to keep our eyes on the trail or whatever is the current task at hand. As we climbed higher and higher, it occurred to me that our necks are not really adapted all that well to looking up. Spend a long time looking up and most people's necks begin to feel strained. Paying attention to the trail required that we keep our eyes pretty much down for safety's sake, so I kept pausing in the climb both to look up at the mountaintop that was our goal and to look down at what were now the stunning vistas of the New Hampshire and Massachusetts countryside.

We reached our goal, the peak of Monadnock, in about 90 minutes of what I thought was a pretty challenging climb up the White Dot Trail. As I lay on my back looking up at a perfectly clear 8:30a.m. sky—no neck strain in this position—I could imagine looking through Earth's atmosphere and seeing the constellation Orion and the dog star Sirius traveling unseen toward their autumn appearance in our night skies. Curiously, the ancients believed that since Sirius was such a bright star and shared the sky with the Sun during the late summer months, it added its heat to the Sun's and accounted for the extra hot Dog Days of summer.

May you all enjoy your journey through the coming season and find plenty of chances to look up...or down...from whatever trail you may be hiking.

Bob Grindle is a Windham Hospital retiree and a student in the Astronomy Minor program at Eastern Connecticut State University. Photos of Mt. Monadnock (and Bob's son) by the author.

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Water, Water...Everywhere?

By William Hooper

Farmers in the Northeast are already experiencing consequences of climate change. In addition to direct crop damage from increasingly intense precipitation events, wet springs can delay planting for grain and vegetables (...) This is an issue for agriculture nationally, but is particularly acute for the Northeast, where heavy rainfall events have increased more than in any other region of the country (...) In the future, farmers may also face too little water in summer to meet increased crop water demand as summers become hotter and growing seasons lengthen. Increased frequency of summer heat stress is also projected, which can negatively affect crop yields and milk production.

National Climate Assessment Report (2014), <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report>, subsection "Northeast Region"

The best data available paints a future New England in which temperatures creep upwards and total precipitation increases even as it becomes less evenly distributed. This will often play out, as it has already begun to, as snow-hammered winters, soakingly wet springs, and then drought-riddled, longer and hotter summers. A sobering visualization of these coming patterns can be seen at <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/details.cgi?aid=4028>.

The social, infrastructure, and economic implications of these increasingly common and increasingly severe climate "issues" is in the multi-trillion dollar range. On the very local scale of our own land, we can dial in from the overwhelming catastrophic scope of total societal upheaval and focus our energies where we may be able to make tangible impact.

Let us focus, for the moment, on water.

Dealing with a "feast or famine" pattern of drought interspersed by torrential rainfall demands an approach to land stewardship where resilience in the face of both extremes is designed into the system from the beginning. The whole parcel must be capable of storing large quantities of water to sustain it in the lean times, while at other times distributing and dismissing excess rainfall with minimal impact. There are many useful and straightforward ways to capture and store excess water, such as rainwater barrels, cisterns, and ponds. Rainwater barrels are very straightforward, whereas ponds and cisterns are major and complex undertakings, so I'll focus on a water storage matrix everyone can implement but which may not be obvious: the soil itself.

Realize that organic-rich, plant-rich soil, when it absorbs water, *is acting as water storage*. Healthy soil will triple its weight after a good rain, retaining water which it will slowly give away to plants and microfauna. This is, hands

down, the easiest water-storage method you will have available; a quarter-acre lot can hold over 7000 gallons of plant-usable water in its top twelve inches of soil.

The best way to both protect land from rainfall-induced destruction, and to maximize its water-holding ability, is to never leave it barren. Every square foot should be growing something, or failing that, should be heavily mulched. The only time soil should appear 'naked' is when it's freshly seeded, and even that can be minimized by intercropping seeds among plants at the end of their growth, using temporary physical barriers like netting or lightweight sheeting over land while seeds germinate, or even planting seeds more shallowly so that they can be mulched during sprouting. Growing plants, particularly deeper-rooted perennials, absorb most of the impact energy of raindrops, softening their effect on the ground. In turn, their deeper roots keep the soil more porous, giving it superior capacity to absorb rainfall; they foster soil rich with organic matter, which can triple the water-absorbing capacity of a given volume of soil; and the plants' roots physically hold the soil together, protecting against erosion. Finally, they shade the soil after the rain ends, slowing the evaporative loss of the fresh water. In the absence of plants, mulch should be thick and constant, and ideal mulches have maximal surface area and absorptive capacity (that is, choose shredded wood or leaves over plastic sheeting or bare cardboard.)

Keeping soil never barren relates to earlier columns I've written here - the use of cover crops to minimize and then eliminate periods of 'exposed soil', the avoidance of plowing in order to avoid periods of open wounds in the earth, the use of thick mulches to keep soil erosion-resistant and water-absorbing, and the use of hugelkultur mounds to form 'batteries' for storing water and soluble nutrients.

A related strategy for handling high rainfall is shaping the land to absorb and distribute it more effectively, primarily with swales and berms. A *swale* is a broad shallow low area used to contain and redirect water, and a *berm* is a raised area used to block and redirect water. If you can imagine a standard divided highway, where two parallel roads ride on raised land with a grassy low area between them, you are imagining two berms (the roads) that shed water into a swale (the lower median).

Simple implementations can be done with a shovel, as digging a shallow swale provides the dirt for a low berm. Position your swales to follow the contours of the land, because a swale going sharply downhill will channel and accelerate water, becoming an eroding ditch flushing away your soil. A swale that follows the contour line of the land, staying at a constant elevation, will instead distribute water that hits it over its whole length, allowing most of the water to be absorbed into the soil. This technique, called a *keyline swale*, has been used to turn rapidly-eroding steep hillsides into swaled-and-bermed, highly productive terraced cropland. I frequently

use hugelkultur mounds as keyline berms; by running them perpendicular to slopes, runoff spreads and absorbs along their whole length, saturating the mound with water while also preventing erosion.

Alternatively, a swale with a gentle slope can direct water towards a drainage tile, pond, storm drain, or other water-sink, without experiencing such rapid flow as to strip it of soil. Make sure your berms provide additional escape routes for extreme excess water, directing it away from garden and house foundations, such as to a low-lying pond, a storm drain, or even a low area where you could tolerate temporary flooding. This can be as simple as cutting a divot in the top to act as a spillway if the water gets too high; in effect, you create a secondary emergency swale. Berms and swales are also useful for gently directing water away from water-sensitive areas like a low-lying leach field or house foundation. This is often much simpler than solutions like french drains.

It may seem odd, given the reality of civilization-threatening climate disruption, to focus on building up your yard's soil and making sure your strawberry patch doesn't flood. I am not advocating that you do these things to the exclusion of political engagement, lifestyle changes, funding scientific research, prayer, and so forth.

However - in a world where increasing climate chaos is reality, it behooves all of us to think about resilient systems at all levels. The best place to cultivate that approach begins, literally, in your own backyard.

William Hooper is a professional permaculturist, offering usable and efficient plans and implementations for home-scale permaculture. He specializes in evolving suburban lots from maintenance-heavy grassy expanses toward food-producing regenerative systems through teaching, system design, and practical installations. Contact him at whooper@gmail.com or (205)-292-8590.

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Windham Free Library Presents 2016 Jazz in the Garden

By Nancy Thorpe

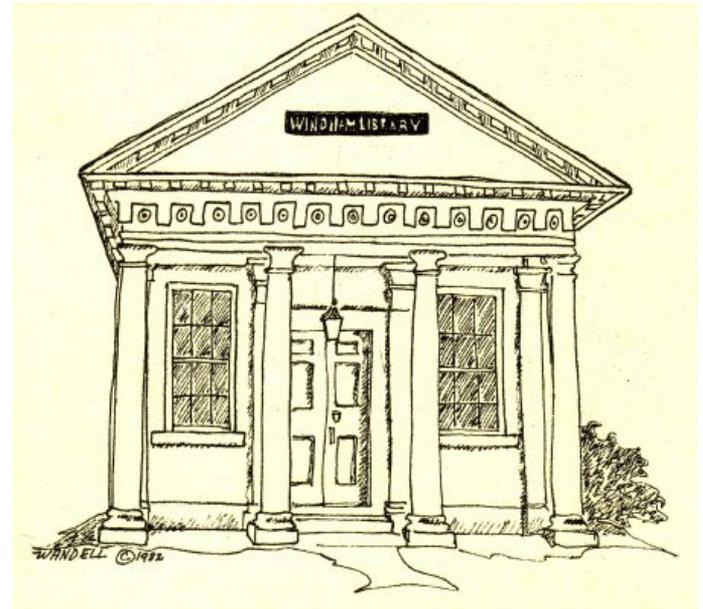
On a cold winter's night in February a group of folks from Windham Center gathered in the warmth of a neighbor's home to begin planning for Windham's 2016 Jazz in the Garden which will be held on September 11, 2016. Planning that begins in the winter months and continues until the day of the event requires the talents and team work of a committee of twenty-five to thirty people who meet monthly to assure that there will be yet another successful annual fund raiser for the Windham Free Library.

This event, always on a beautiful September afternoon, is attended by one to two hundred people who come to mingle with friends and neighbors from surrounding towns. This highly successful annual event is both a social highlight of the season and the largest annual fundraiser for the library in Windham Center. Folks come for the wonderful music, wine, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts, all served in the lovely Victorian garden of Drs. Andrew and Barbara Gibson, at 10 Windham Center Road.

Plans for this year include the return of guest chefs Dennis Anderson, Chef de Cuisine, at the Windham Golf Club, and Elizabeth Wolter, Head Pastry Chef at Connecticut Gourmet. Also returning this year is the ever popular Rob Zappulla with his quartet, "Come Fly with Me", celebrating the music of Frank Sinatra.

A silent auction, highlight of the afternoon, features works of many local artisans that have continued to support this annual event. Original works of art include a varied selection of paintings, photography, woodcuts, pottery, and jewelry. There will also be gift certificates from area businesses, tickets for theater performances, a ride in the country in an antique car complete with picnic lunch, a fall yard clean-up, bike services and art lessons. A very special item in the auction is a copy of a new book, *Rare Light: J. Alden Weir in Windham, Connecticut, 1882-1919*, edited by Dr. Anne Dawson, Professor of Art History and Chair of the Visual Arts Department at Eastern Connecticut State University. The book, expected to be published sometime this summer, is the culmination of seven years of research on this important American impressionist painter who lived and worked in Windham Center over a span of forty years, creating a number of notable works that featured views and landmarks in and around Windham.

This library has been a centerpiece in the Windham Center community since 1897. The building selected for the Library was the Windham Bank, built in 1832. The building had been vacated in 1879 when the bank moved to Willimantic. Various historical documents tell the story of the inception Windham Free Library. The Willimantic Daily Chronicle, September 18, 1897 reported. "The movement for a public library was begun and has been largely assisted by all of the young men and young ladies of the place." Extensive remodeling of the building was needed to make it suitable as a



library and there was a need to generate funds for the project.

The Daily Chronicle reported that, "a group of talented town's people, under the lead of Mr. Robert Bates, and with the aid of Mr. Dewitt Lockman as scene painter, there were two performances of Mister Bob which netted \$100 for the library fund." The article goes on to describe in detail the work done to the old bank building with contractors either taking a loss for their efforts or contributing services which included carpentry, painting, and furnishings. The article also noted that, "several large gifts of money have come from summer residents". To add to the original 250 volumes, there was intent to add "a well collected lot of books including the best works of fiction, history, poetry, travel and general literature which will require more than \$150." The writer goes on to say, "It would be of great help if different ones could give sets, or portions of sets of Shakespeare, Scott, Dickens or Thackeray. The article noted that the annual membership was \$1, giving a "vote in the affairs of the library for one year." The article closes with "Miss Julia Swift of Windham is to be the librarian." This brave venture has been well supported since its beginnings in 1897 and continues to flourish today in the same building with the same sense of community pride.

The Windham Free Library has continued to serve the people of the area continuously for 119 years. The present collections in the library include many artifacts that have been donated to the library over that period of time including an amazing original sculptural tavern sign created in the likeness of Bacchus, the Roman God of Wine. This is one of two which exist, the other being at the Connecticut Historical Society in Harford. The amazing story of the Bacchus is in the library collection, as are several versions of the "Battle of the Frogs". There are many other artifacts relating to Windham history at the library. Now, in the Twenty-first Century, computers are available for public use, along with current magazines,

collections of books for both adults and children, and a service through which patrons can get books from other Connecticut libraries.

Through the hard work of a very dedicated library staff and Board of Directors; and funded through strong community support from the Windham Taxing District and fund raisers like the Jazz in the Garden, this "little" library is able to provide personalized service to patrons, adults and children alike, and the community at-large. A very popular adult book group, the Book Hunters meets monthly at Douglas Manor to select and discuss a wide variety of adult literature. The library maintains a web site and a very informative Facebook page which includes numerous articles of interest to both children and adults. In addition, the Library Board maintains vigilant stewardship of two historical buildings which have been landmarks on the Windham Center Green for over a century. The library has continued its partnership with the Windham Center School, giving each student the opportunity to visit the library on a regular basis throughout the school year. Teachers and Librarians work together to enrich classroom opportunities by providing materials and story-times that supplement study themes for all grades. This year, through a grant from the Ossen Family Foundation, and a donation from Charles Burlingham Jr., the interior of the adjacent Dr. Hunt Office was refurbished as a story center for the students. To celebrate this accomplishment the library offered two opportunities for children to visit with Barbara McClintock, local children's author and illustrator as she read the story, *My Grandfather's Coat* by Jim Aylesworth, which she illustrated. Each child who attended was given a personal copy of this beautiful book. During the months of May through July the library is offering special events for children supported by a grant from the Leo J. and Rose Pageau Trust. Also through June and July, the library is offering a series of concerts on the Green. Dates and times for these events can be found on the Windham Free Library web site, at windhamfreelibrary.org, and brochures are available at the library

The theme for this year's Jazz in the Garden will focus on the legacy of J. Alden Weir and his life in Windham during the latter part of the Victorian era. All aspects of the day are planned to be reminiscent of a carefree summer afternoon in the late 19th Century, in a lovely garden setting with soft music, choice wines, elaborate Victorian hors d'oeuvres and desserts served from silver trays, and the gaiety of good friends and neighbors gathering together to benefit the Windham Free Library.

Submitted by Virginia Siege.

Respect Is A Two-Way Street

By Josephine Aivaz Sabino



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An Intersectional Analysis of the Orlando Shooting

By Phoebe C. Godfrey

*To see a world in a grain of sand
and a heaven in a wild flower,
hold infinity in the palm of your hand
and eternity in an hour.*

William Blake



In any given week there is so much going on globally to distress even the most unwavering optimist but for me, and no doubt many others, the last few weeks have delivered a highly disturbing array of events. To reverse some lines of Shakespeare, one could state “how does the world distress me, let us count the ways...” But rather than counting lots of separate incidents of violence, injustice, intolerance, bigotry...etc I’m going to count all the ways that one event is distressing and to analyze these ‘ways’ in relation to each other. To do this I want to share a theoretical lens developed by a number of prominent African American feminist scholars known as intersectionality, which enables one to do an intersectional analysis. Such an analysis investigates the ways in which the socially constructed (meaning that their meanings are continually created by a given society in a given time / place) identities of race, gender and social class intersect and in so doing transform each other in complex ways, as if they were atoms combining to form new molecules. Other socially constructed identities such as sexuality, nationality, religion, body type ...etc also form part of the intersections and inform and change each other, even as they all change in an on-going social dance. Although as stated an intersectional analysis is complex, it is also easily illustrated by comparing two white people who are of different social classes. A middle-class white person is just a ‘person’, whereas a working class, poor white might be described as ‘white trash’ to make it clear that they are a different sort of white person than a ‘regular’ white person, who is just a person. Then if we make one male and one female things change again in terms of how we see their whiteness and their social class. Or if we then address their sexuality, a white male person who is LGBTQ is less ‘male’, hence less ‘white’ than a straight white male, just as a lesbian working class white woman is viewed as a different type of lesbian to a middle-class one. And so it goes on and on...

My one event is the semi-automatic shooting and killing of 49 people at a gay night club in Orlando done a few weeks ago by a young American Muslim male now also dead. In order to organize my analysis, I’m going to focus on the ‘different ways’ though the lens of intersectionality and then I will link them back together. The purpose of doing this is so that we don’t just condemn acts of violence but rather that through analyzing them intersectionally we can better come to understand why some people behave the ways in which they do.

Gender and Sexuality / Sexism and Homophobia

The Old Testament, also known to Jews as the Torah and to Muslims as the Tawrat, is seen by believers as the divine word of God. In the book of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 it very clearly states that men who lie with men should be killed. It also says in Leviticus 20:9 that children who talk back to their parents should be killed but for most the part this directive is not followed. These are just a few examples of all the other ways in which believers should kill others, including other believers, who do not do as God commands. Since believers are highly selective in which of God’s directive they follow and which they don’t the whole issue of homophobia can’t be understood without also looking at the constructions of masculinity, both within the ‘sacred texts’ and consequently of the given homophobic cultures. The God of the Abrahamic religions has dominating, intolerant, controlling tendencies, along with his softer qualities that he shares with his chosen ones when they are obedient. As such His view of women is not surprisingly less than favorable relegating them to the role of property in his commandment not to covet those that belong to your neighbor, along with his animals and slaves. Thus, the treatment of women by the most fundamental of Christian, Jewish and Muslim believers is based on patriarchal power and control. Misogyny and homophobia are therefore inseparable, for to lie with another man is to be like a woman and that is unforgivable. The shooter, who it seems felt same sex attraction, came from a homophobic family (his father was highly homophobic) and was part of a highly homophobic culture (both in the USA from Christianity and from Islam), despite some legal advances in rights and protections here and in some other countries worldwide. A perfect example of this homophobia among certain Christians is the Pastor Roger Jimenez of California who stated that the real tragedy was that more of them (us) didn’t die and that he wishes the government would round them (us) all up and “blow their [our] brains out”. In returning to Leviticus which he no doubt thinks is God’s word, he is only ‘doing his job’, no matter how vile his sermon may seem. I stress this point for even though Pope Francis has said that the Church needs to apologize to gay people, I have yet to hear anyone say that Leviticus might be wrong on gay people, just as it is obviously wrong on killing rebellious children.

Race / Racism

Islamophobia is endemic in this country with 25% of American Muslims reporting harassment, discrimination or attack since 9/11. Obviously, this racism, mixed with imperial desires, has also shaped our foreign policy long before 9/11. For example, the shooter’s parents came from Afghanistan in the 1980’s. If readers know their American history, they would know that we were involved in a proxy war against the USSR that took place in Afghanistan from 1979-1988.

The result of this war was they country was destroyed, over a million civilians had been killed and close to 3 million had fled, including to the US. The resulting social, economic and political collapse was enhanced once the US lost interest paving the way to the rise of the Taliban who use the military training camps set up by the CIA to train militant terrorists, including Osama Bin Laden. After 9/11 the US again engaged in war against Afghanistan this time supposedly to remove the very same Taliban we helped to create. According to the Watson Institute of Brown University this latest war has resulted in "About 92,000 people ...killed in the [with] ..more than 26,000 of those killed ... civilians. Nearly 100,000 people have been injured and in 2009 [as well suffering from] ...elevated rates of disease due to lack of clean drinking water, malnutrition, and reduced access to health care. Nearly every factor associated with premature death — poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation, lack of access to health care, environmental degradation — is exacerbated by the current war" (<http://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/human/civilians/afghan>) . Needless to say this situation is a perfect breeding ground for a new round to militant terrorists now known as ISIS. The fact that the shooter linked himself with them was perhaps more true in symbolic terms than literal ones. It seems he wasn't working with ISIS but certainly he was connected through a legacy of US war mongering and failed humanitarian policies, as well as the fact that his claim gave his act of violence a more masculine narrative than any trappings of internalized homophobia and racism (towards himself and seemingly Latinos in that he chose Latino-night to unleash his wrath) ever could.

Class / Classism

The issue with war, weapons, and guns that needs to be stated over and over is that these are highly profitable industries. In fact, we are the largest manufacture of arms in the world accounting for 31% of the global arms sales, many of which are headed to the Middle East (including of course Israel) and we are also the largest spenders on military, accounting for \$1.1 trillion- 54 % of all discretionary spending in 2015. The 100 largest contractors sold \$410 billion in arms and military services in 2011. In addition, domestically the sale of guns is thriving with sales in 2012 totaling \$31.8 billion. The gun used by the shooter that he had easily bought the week before was an AR-15, a semi-automatic rifle that can shoot up to 100 rounds but needs the trigger pulled each time. Since Orlando the sales of AR-15's have greatly increased with one store selling 30,000 of them since at \$500 apiece. This sales increase is said to be spurred on by fear of stricter laws and that this will both increase the value of the guns for the individual owners who wants them and on the market is they seek to sell them. Thus, for all the attempts by Democratic Senators in terms of staging sit-ins, filibustering and speeches unless the financial aspect of the gun and arms industry is addressed I don't see us even touching the roots of the problem, let alone the trunk and the branches. And those roots are that as long a money is being made by the corporate elites anything goes, no matter how many innocent people continue to be killed around the world.

continued on page 33



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T. King, Publisher

Clarifying Gandhi #12:

Educational Ideals

By P.K. Willey

As a young parent, a while ago, the education of my children became of paramount importance to me. What were they learning, why? To what end? I found in Gandhi a standard for all education that resonates.

Gandhi's thinking towards education as with everything else was evolutionary. Caste and colonialism were two heavy oppressions of free thought in him. The role of colonialism in the hearts and minds of individuals that it oppresses, to prize, respect, defer and submit to their colonizers, is beyond our present understanding. It is undeniably true that Gandhi was deeply affected by the experience of colonialism. For years, it shaped and tailored his actions and thinking without his conscious awareness.

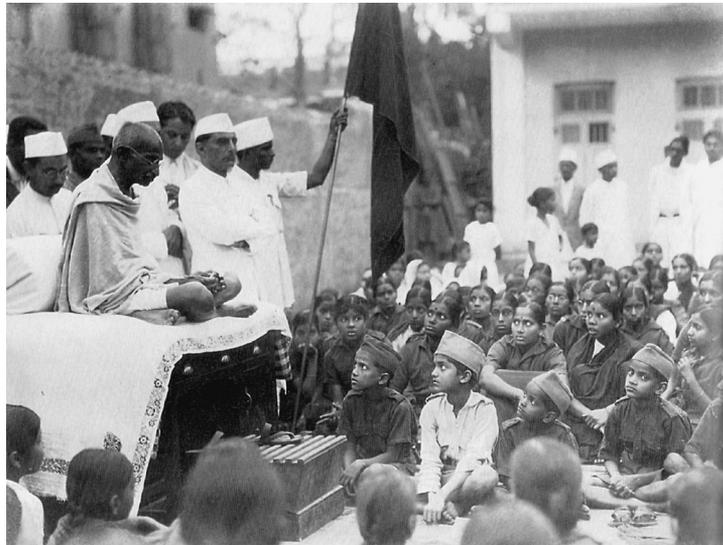
It was in South Africa, where he passed the meridian of his life span (from age 23, in 1893 to age 44, in 1915) that Gandhi's entire outlook on education underwent a massive overhaul. He had been educated in English-style patterns while a youth, and having continued his studies in England, was firmly entrenched with a sense of moral 'rightness' in that style of education. When he became a lawyer, Gandhi had, in certain ways, achieved the final purpose of that system of education: a position of standing in the community, service to it, in line with the needs and desires of the authors of that education. He was trained to interpret the established system of law and economic justification to others. Social and environmental factors Gandhi encountered in South Africa forced him to question the purpose and conditioning of his own education and to evolve his educational philosophies for emancipating youth from a processing system that trained people to serve the interests of a few.

As he began clarifying his educational philosophy to himself, he began putting those ideals into practice in his home and the intentional communities he started there – Phoenix, and later, Tolstoy Farm. His ideals and means for education are of utmost relevance to today, as they were then. Once the ideal is clear, the ways and means suggest themselves as circumstances require and duty dictates.

The core of his educational philosophy was the ideal

of service to God. This central pillar, the inculcation of a thirst for service, in all its forms, never changed for him. For Gandhi, God is all that we can see, behold, and be aware of in the manifested world. This means service to one another as people, as family, to the Creation. To support service, community was the real school. To impart such education, a vital teacher was the key.

Gandhi was clear that a child's first school and first teachers were found in the family home. Early on, a young father in racially divisive South Africa with four sons, Gandhi sought to home-school his young children:



Children absorb the character of their teachers, even without words.
Contributed photo.

“There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to honest, virtuous parents.”

“We labour under a sort of superstition that the child has nothing to learn during the first five years of its life. On the contrary the fact is that the child never learns in [later] life what it does in its first five years. The education of the child begins with conception. The physical and mental states of the parents at the moment of conception are reproduced in the baby. Then during the period of pregnancy it continues to be affected by the mother's moods, desires and

temperament, as also by her ways of life. After birth the child imitates the parents, and for a considerable number of years entirely depends upon them for its growth.”

He saw that the smattering of subjects in shallow depths, imparting information without context, interdependent connection, without response to immediate environmental, social and economic realities, found in most public educational norms globally today, was and is almost useless:

“Modern high school education is a dead weight on the villagers. Their children will never be able to get it, and thank God they will never miss it, if they have the training of a decent home.”

Establishing a newspaper, Indian Opinion, Gandhi sought to educate the South African public as to his ideals and the struggle to implement them in society. He paraphrased a retired headmaster of Eton boys school in the UK, Dr. Weir, to emphasize his understanding that education was much more than imparting, retaining, then releasing, information:

We hold that real education does not consist merely in

acquainting oneself with ancient or modern books. It consists in the habits which one knowingly or unknowingly imbibes from the atmosphere, one's surroundings and the company one keeps and above all in work...The primary function of teacher, is, therefore, not to teach the alphabet, but to inculcate humanity.⁴ Against his own growing better-judgment, he sent his eldest son Harilal, along with his nephew, back to India to attend an elite residential school, yet called them back to South Africa after one semester. Later, Harilal was to break away from his father altogether. Of this painful aspect in his life, he said:

"I have always felt that the undesirable traits I see today in my eldest son are an echo of my own undisciplined and unformulated early life. I regard that time as a period of half-baked knowledge and indulgence. It coincided with the most impressionable years of my eldest son, and naturally he has refused to regard it as my time of indulgence and inexperience."

For a while, I too, home-schooled. The ability to be a sincerely vigilant parent, to protect and deepen a child's moral integrity, occurs often in small and mundane moments. Yet economic realities of our advanced society reigned; to both work and school proved un-do-able. Through long conversations, developing critical thinking to an extent, I was able to help my children have a broader outlook on what they were being taught.

The public schools in Gandhi's day, were sponsored by Church and State, both entirely foreign to the culture and ecology of India. Ultimately, all his sons felt the lack of exposure to English literature in their education, but Gandhi saw this as a relatively minor issue in the larger scope of life: the most important and self satisfying part of any person's life and education, is their moral integrity:

"Nevertheless I am of opinion that, if I had insisted on their being educated somehow at public schools, they would have been deprived of the training that can be had only at the school of experience, or from constant contact with the parents. I should never have been free, as I am today, from anxiety on their score, and the artificial education that they could have had in England or South Africa, torn from me, would never have taught them the simplicity and the spirit of service that they show in their lives today, while their artificial ways of living might have been a serious handicap in my public work. Therefore, though I have not been able to give them a literary education either to their or to my satisfaction, I am not quite sure, as I look back on my past years, that I have not done my duty by them to the best of my capacity. Nor do I regret not having sent them to public schools."

After he had returned to India (1915), Gandhi worked to establish a national form and system of education that would be able to address the horrendous social inequality, poverty, social sanitation, malnutrition, colonial mindset and numerous other ills India was burdened with. Then, as now, Gandhi saw that as long as capital, or financial power, could direct education, exploitation of labor and social injustice would

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SLIDING SCALE

Your Local Community Media and the Future

By John Murphy

My columns support local community media programs and producers, to promote their good work to inform, connect, entertain and inspire the wide diversity of people in our region. Our traditional media are struggling to survive in the new media environment and there is a growing gap in coverage of major local issues that affect our everyday lives.

As this issue goes to press summer is finally here and the temperature is rising, but the streets in Mansfield were hot all winter. And in a good way! Read on—this is not just a Mansfield story. By the way, for full disclosure, I should mention that I am a resident of Mansfield and I have attended many meetings and spoken with many people to learn the history and context for what I share now.

The media campaigns described below can be adapted by people in any town that are working for positive change and responsible sustainable growth for the future. One recent example of this technology toolbox in action concerned coverage of the unWillington campaign, a powerful town response to the proposed State Police firing range and training center. Another example involved the ongoing debate over the approval and installation of fracked gas pipelines in towns across the state. Another major challenge is the rapidly changing system for health care delivery in our region. The appropriate balance of power between local towns and state initiatives is getting harder to find these days and local media can help with the work of identifying common ground and solutions.

Citizen Activists Unite to Renew Democracy in Mansfield

A new and unique combination of locally based social media channels and independent local radio, print, websites and public access cable TV channels is growing a shared platform for information sharing and dialogue to resolve two major challenges for the town.

The focus so far has been on (1) the rapid growth of the University of Connecticut/Storrs and its increasing impact on people and the environment—and (2) the increasing debate over proposals to renovate or relocate E.O. Smith High School to the UConn Depot Campus. Whatever the outcomes this new media model is now built and it will continue to serve people in town concerning any new issue or challenge in the future. I am excited and enthusiastic about this campaign because it has created a historic opportunity to reconfigure and realign the basic operating relationships between people in Mansfield, their



local government, their board of education and the University of Connecticut.

During recent years this balance has been tested and stressed many times over unresolved yet related issues—and whatever “side” people are on I think they can all agree that these relationships need to be corrected. They must unite with shared hopes and good will to find common ground across differences to end the years of limbo. Who else can do this? Local government is the boiler room and the firewall between change, impact, responsibility, accountability and continuity. Our local elected officials are dedicated and devoted to helping the community face the future and preserve the past at the same time. We are blessed to have citizens who step up to this responsibility and do their best to serve all of us. Thank you! I must commend Mansfield Mayor Paul Shapiro highly for his spirit of service to people in town, his commitment to fulfilling his role as their elected representative, and especially the humor and light touch he brings to meetings that could otherwise be heated and contentious. He is serving this process of negotiated change very well. Council members have been helpful to keep the process open, ask the necessary questions, and wait for the answers to emerge. Town Manager Matt Hart has been cooperative and helpful to people involved with Facebook groups who have requested that meetings in the past that were not recorded are now recorded for sharing.

Join and explore these Facebook groups to learn more about the issues and history. Watch or listen to the programs below providing history and context. Share your concerns and ideas, and participate in this new form of local democracy and citizen-journalism. Use the links below or copy and paste the address into your browser and enjoy!

The impact of UConn growth and development on the Town of Mansfield:

Facebook Group = Mansfield Neighborhood Preservation Group



February 3, 2016: first WECS Radio interview introducing the issues with background

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/dxq3pja9w0mz4ik/WECS%20Radio%20Interview%20Mansfield%20Housing%20Issues%202-2-16%20J%20Murphy%20R%20Shafer%20B%20Roe.mp3?dl=0>

March 26, 2016: second WECS Radio interview with updates and review of local actions

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zn5hbb21p58qiek/Rebecca%20Shafer%20%2B%20Bill%20Rowe%20%2B%20Mark%20SargentMansfield%20Neighborhood%20Preservation%20Group%20with%20John%20Murphy%203-15-16%20Pan%20American%20Express%20WECS%20Radio%2090.1%20FM.mp3?dl=0>

April 13, 2016 Episode #658 On the Homefront Public Access TV Series at Charter Cable

<http://ctv14.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=817b54a939c196e479850509f268f266>

The first TV interview introducing the issues, current status and history.

The second TV interview will be recorded July 6 and will be posted.

The renovation or relocation of E.O. Smith High School to the UConn Depot Campus:
Facebook Group = Keep EO Smith Downtown

June 7, 2016: public comments at Region 19 Board of Education meeting

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ykvjtlv2qvvj47d/Region%2019%20EOS%20BoE%20Public%20Comments%206-7-16%20Final%20Edit%20from%20John%20Murphy.mp3?dl=0>
Please note the library room acoustics were poor and for the first few minutes it was raining hard on the roof. Audio was processed for best quality possible, but you can hear it all.

Town of Mansfield University/Town Relations Committee (Town & Gown)

June 14, 2016 meeting includes the status of both issues and public comments

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ejtg2tqa4qqbne/Mansfield%20Town-University%20Meeting%206-14-16%20Raw%20Audio.mp3?dl=0>

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Quiet Corner Fiddlers, eastern CT



Join us for QCF playing out dates:
Sun Jul 3: 3pm, Garden on the Bridge Concert, Wmtc.
Tue Jul 12: 7pm, Dinos Restaurant, 180 Westminster Rd (Rt 14), Canterbury
Sat Jul 16: 11am, Windham Textile Museum; The Irish Experience, Willimantic
Sun Jul 31: 10am, Ashford Farmers' Mkt, 25 Tremko Lane, Ashford
Aug 9: 7pm, Dog Lane Café, 1 Dog Lane, Storrs
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The Think and Do Club Wants You!

Submitted by Edmund Smith

What is the Think and Do Club? We are a group of folks who get together every week to talk philosophy. From these talks, some pretty cool thoughts happen. These, as thoughts often do, may turn into some pretty interesting, different behavior, from person life style choices to decisions to go forth and change the world.

What kind of things do we talk about?

To date, we have discussed such wide-ranging topics as global warming, evolution, the nature of consciousness, the political economy of banking, the origins of the universe, and racism. We have also begun to explore the formal branches of philosophy, such as metaphysics and epistemology. But we are not limited to any one discipline



or topic, because life itself... philosophical! So join us! We meet on Mondays 6:30-9:30pm. at the Song-a-Day Music Store, 2809 Boston Turnpike, Coventry, CT 06238

Like us at <https://www.facebook.com/CTThinkAndDo/?fref=ts>

Contact us at mediamonds2006@gmail.com/860-895-7413



By Friends of The Mill Works

Thank You!

We are grateful for all the support and kind wishes from friends, visitors, and performers who joined us for our first season at The Packing House! You have helped us to realize a dream... We wish to extend a special thanks to our sponsor and colleagues at "Wilmington Pizza House" and "Wilmington Pizza Too" for their support and belief in our project. We also wish to thank Tom King, Editor and Publisher of *Neighbors*, for his steadfast support of The Packing House and The Mill Works.

The Friends of The Mill Works are pleased to provide local artists with a platform to perform in our "Talent Showcase"; offer selected film showings and conversations with relevant film makers; and host live concerts as a part of our *Acoustic Artist Series*. As a newly established venue, we strive to make The Packing House a unique environment to experience high quality talent.

With your continued support, we plan to be around for a long time - offering communities and guests to our region the opportunity to experience the sights and sounds of engaging performance in a unique historic setting. We appreciate the feedback we have received, and will use this input to help make The Packing House a better venue for performance and space to host your events.

We will use July and August to reflect on what we learned over the last 10 months. We plan to make improvements to our infrastructure, complete a number of technical upgrades, continue to seek out great performers, and develop programs that we believe our local and regional communities will enjoy.

Why "The Packing House"?

The Packing House carries its name from its roots... The historic structure that houses The Packing House was built in 1870 as the original "Packing and Shipping Building" for the Gardiner Hall Jr Company ~ the first spooled thread company in the United States.

Photographic evidence and maps suggest the Packing and Shipping Building, part of what is now The Mill Works, represents the oldest original standing production facility from the Hall Thread Company. Whether by plan of the original founders or by chance, the Packing and Shipping Building evolved as a central structure within the South Willington manufacturing complex, situated adjacent to the Company General Store and between the Winding/Spooling Operation and Bleach and Dye House. Documentation confirms that in 1906 Hall began providing free movies to his employees as a



form of entertainment. Though records are not definitive, we believe The Packing House served as a first theatre for these early films.

The Gardiner Hall Jr. Company produced fine cotton threads that grew to national and international acclaim. The Hall Company played a significant role in the industrialization and development of the region, and in 1919 the Town of Willington adopted the spool design as its corporate seal.

The Gardiner Hall Jr. Company operated for nearly a century, from 1860 to 1954. Much of the Hall property was then purchased by the New England Development Company in 1955, subdivided and sold over time as smaller parcels of land and buildings. The original Packing and Shipping Building, Dye and Bleach House, and six other structures and property that now comprise The Mill Works were purchased in 1962 by Tom and Irma Buccino. The couple relocated their small tool and die company to the space now called The Packing House, which became home for the Andover Machine Tool Company.



In 2014, The Mill Works was recognized for its historic significance and the facility was listed on the *Connecticut Register of Historic Places*. The Packing House at The Mill Works has been reborn once again as an historic performance venue and event space - the culmination of a long standing dream. It will serve as a cultural stage and focal point where synergistic relationships may further evolve.

"Talent Showcase" or "Open Mic"?

We have been asked, "Why don't you call your 'Talent Showcase' an 'Open Mic'?" Everyone knows what that is."

The *Talent Showcase* at The Packing House was designed to provide performers of *all* genres the opportunity to share their talent in a relaxed environment. On occasion, we have referred to the Talent Showcase as an "Open Mic Night"



as this term is more recognizable by most. Much like an “Open Mic”, performers can express their artistic talent before a live audience.

Traditional Open Mic events have often been scheduled as incentives to generate traffic during off peak periods in food and beverage establishments. This approach has typically served as a means of generating supplemental revenue for the venue while offering an outlet for artists to perform. We have struggled with this “Open Mic” label, and have come to the conclusion that this does not fit who we are...

Since we are not a bar, restaurant, bistro, coffeehouse, or saloon, our primary product is not food or beverage. Our product is to serve as a *vessel* for sharing talent. Similar to those other venues however, we have costs of operation that need to be offset by revenue to allow us to sustain what we do. Though we had initially tried a nominal admission fee, it just didn't feel right. We offer snacks and soft drinks simply as a courtesy at a very nominal fee. Since there is no cost to perform or attend the Talent Showcase, we must rely on primary support through donations and ticket sales from our paid events.

There are a couple of other significant distinctions between the vision and objectives we have for our Talent Showcase and the traditional “Open Mic”. First, we wish to provide a platform where just about *any* talent and *any* age can perform ~ acoustic musicians, poets, comedians, puppeteers, film makers, dancers, jugglers – you name it (short of illegal, dangerous, obscene events or those involving large farm animals).

Second, we want to provide an *interactive experience* that would allow for a positive exchange of ideas and feedback between the performer and those in attendance. This creates a learning experience and synergy for continuous improvement. Thus far we have not been able to provide this facilitation due to a lack of staff and resources... We are seeking volunteers that are willing and able to introduce talent and facilitate audience exchange where desired by the performer. If you are interested in supporting our vision and joining our team of “Friends”, please call or email!

If thinking of our “Talent Showcase” as an “Open Mic” provides the mental model to help you grab your instrument, writings, or props, and enter our doors to perform or listen, great! However, for the reasons mentioned above, we will no longer refer to the *Talent Showcase* as an “Open Mic” event. It's just not the right fit...

Upcoming Fall Performance Highlights: Save The Dates!

We have already started to prepare for our 2nd Season of performances at The Packing House and are extremely excited about the new and returning talent that will be joining us! Though our schedule is far from full, we would like to share a few fall dates in advance. We plan to provide more information in the September-October issue of *Neighbors*, and complete details will continue to be listed on our website over the summer so please check back often.

September 10th: Bob Bloom Presents “A Drum Ride”

Take ‘A Drum Ride’ with Bob Bloom as he drives melodic rhythms to legendary songs by The Beatles, Olatunji, James Brown, Chuck Berry, The Grateful Dead, Buddy Holly, and more. Bob’s audience-participation drumming hoots have sparkled numerous venues across New England.

Bring your favorite hand drum - djembe, bongos, bodhran, timbau, conga - to play at this funk, folk, and boogie shindig. Don't have a hand drum? No problem. You'll get your hands around one from the colorful cargo that Bob is trucking to The Packing House. Newbie and seasoned drummers rollick together.

Also joining us in September will be returning artists Jeff Przech (Americana/Alternative Country) and Lexi Weege (Jazz/Blues). We welcome these talented singer/songwriters back to The Packing House!

October 1st: Bob Degen Trio



We are delighted to feature the Bob Degen Trio at The Packing House! The Bob Degen Trio has its roots firmly planted in the foundations of Jazz tradition with branches spanning out to embrace contemporary improvisation. This

continued on page 45

Bubble Burst

By Tom Woron

“What is it?” I would ask myself every time I saw the photo. Is it a prehistoric marine dinosaur when all dinosaurs have supposedly been extinct for millions of years? Or is it a sea serpent that found its way into a large lake when supposedly there is no such thing as sea serpents? That would be so exciting if there really was a living dinosaur or sea serpent living somewhere on the earth. The photo was in numerous books and other publications all over the world and had been so for decades. It was taken in 1934 by a respected London surgeon so what better picture could there be? But was the photo absolute proof of the existence of a legendary water creature that people have reported seeing for years? It sure looked convincing. The “surgeon’s photo” as it became famously known, was said to show the fabled Loch Ness Monster.

Loch Ness is a large, deep freshwater loch (the Gaelic word for lake) in the Highlands of Scotland. The loch is about 24 miles long, a mile wide in most areas, and over 700 feet deep in some places. For over 1,400 years the long deep loch was said to be inhabited by a large, unidentified water creature possibly resembling a sea reptile that lived during the time of the dinosaurs. Indeed the first recorded account of a water creature took place in the year 565 A.D. In that year, as the story goes, the Irish Monk, Saint Columba saw that a “water beast” was about to attack a man swimming across the River Ness, which connects to Loch Ness. Columba then made the sign of the cross and in a loud voice commanded the beast not to attack the swimmer. The beast reportedly backed off and fled.

Sightings, however, of an alleged unknown water creature in Loch Ness were sporadic before the 1930s. It was in 1933 though, that numerous sightings of an unusual creature surfacing in the waters of Loch Ness began to be reported more frequently than ever before. It made perfect sense for in that year a new, long road was being constructed along much of the length of Loch Ness. Dynamite blasting for road construction shook the ground and sent many boulders crashing down the banks of the loch and into the water. These disturbances seemed to arouse something large in the loch and thus trigger many sightings of an unusual aquatic creature. Add to this the



fact that many miles of trees were cleared from the banks of Loch Ness for the road construction, trees that had previously blocked any view of the loch. A clear view of many miles of the loch’s waters was now possible. Not only did sightings of an alleged unusual water creature suddenly increase in 1933, the sightings began to be reported worldwide thus dramatically increasing interest in the phenomenon. There were even a few reported sightings of a bizarre creature on land near the loch. The creature was said to flee into the water when encountered.

The term “monster” began to be used about this time due to the fact that eyewitnesses often estimated the size of the unknown creature to be 20 or more feet long. The expression “Loch Ness Monster” was coined during this time. Additionally the Loch Ness Monster is most often referred to in a singular sense but logic would have to dictate that a thriving population of the creatures must be present if they did exist at all. Consider that whatever creature was being reported in the waters of Loch Ness in 1933 was almost certainly not the same “water beast” seen by Saint Columba in 565 A.D.

Plural or singular, the Loch Ness Monster has long been known affectionately by the name “Nessie” and referred to in the feminine gender.

Once the word travelled throughout the world that Loch Ness was the home of a large and mysterious water creature, naturally the loch became the center of much study and interest. Scientists and civilians alike converged on the shores and in boats on the waters of Loch Ness all hoping to catch a glimpse of Nessie.

Many of the eyewitness descriptions of the creature described humps visible at the surface of the water and a long snake-like neck with a small reptilian head. Almost inevitably with the large number of sightings of the Loch Ness Monster beginning in 1933, photos allegedly showing the unknown creature began to appear in the newspapers. Indeed in 1934 a photo alleged to be the Loch Ness Monster, showing a long neck and small head protruding out of the waters of the loch, was published worldwide. The soon to be famous photo was said to have been taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson, a respected London surgeon. According to Wilson, he was at the loch and witnessed a disturbance in the water. He then grabbed his camera and snapped five photos of which the clearest one became known worldwide as the photo of the head and neck of the Loch Ness Monster. Wilson did not want his name associated with it, so the photo became known as the “surgeon’s photograph.”

For sixty years the surgeon’s photo of the Loch Ness



Monster was the most famous one alleged to show the creature. There was hardly any book or other publication about the legend of Loch Ness and its unknown monster that did not include the famous surgeon's photo. For 60 years the world BELIEVED that this was the best photo of the beast and that it was good enough proof of its existence.

I myself first saw the surgeon's photo in a publication for elementary school kids in the 1970s. My interest in the Loch Ness Monster got more intense in the late 1970s and at that time I read as much material as I could find on the topic. The 1934 surgeon's photo was everywhere to be found in my research. For years scientists studied Loch Ness but could never prove nor disprove the existence of a large unknown aquatic creature in its waters. There was often tantalizing but inconclusive evidence. This evidence included many other photos, movie films of something moving in the loch, and sonar contacts. But there just HAD TO BE something unusual living in Loch Ness. It had a serpentine head and neck. The surgeon's photograph showed it.

Some years later in 1994 I worked in a computer operations room. There usually wasn't much work first thing in the morning so one day I went to the building's cafeteria to get coffee for my co-worker and myself. The cafeteria staff always had a radio on. Upon entering the cafeteria I heard something on the news that I wish I never heard. I heard a news report that the famous head and neck photo of the Loch Ness Monster, the surgeon's photo, was recently revealed to be an elaborate hoax. My bubble was burst.

*Tom lives in East Hartford. E-mail: tjfworon@sbcglobal.net
Photo was contributed.*

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The Flashbacks: A Reminiscence

Part Two – The Theatrics

By David Light

I had my first guitar lessons at Frank's Music on Railroad Street in Willimantic in 1959. I was eleven years old. My interest in playing the guitar came after my mother had bought me several Elvis 45s at a record store on Church Street in Willimantic (I believe it was Modesto's – had the RCA Victor Records' white dog out on the sidewalk - you could actually go into a soundproof booth and listen to the 45), and I played the records while standing in front of a mirror, pretending I was singing and playing a guitar. I wanted to be Elvis! I wanted a guitar. My first public performance was at age eleven when I played *Tom Dooley* at my little league team's banquet. I started up a garage band with Carl Kusmer in 1965 when we attended Windham High School. We were called **The Sunns**. There were many, many bands vying for the spotlight back in my high school days. There were frequent Battle of the Bands held at the Elks' Club and the Willimantic Armory. Sadly, **The Sunns** never made it out of the garage (actually, we rehearsed in Carl's cellar). During my early college years at Willimantic State Teacher's College (1966-70) I taught guitar lessons at Hall's Music on Main Street in Willimantic. I didn't pick up the guitar again to play in a band until 1973, fourteen years after standing in front of that mirror pretending I was Elvis Presley.

Bob Peelstrom and Bill Tyler had the musical background and experience that helped to shape the initial song selections of **The Flashbacks**. Bob's leadership in musically arranging the songs was critical throughout the band's history. Our song selection was based on personal preferences, and we each would take responsibility for those songs. Initially, we typically would have a four-set night of just songs – no major theatrics like that of **Sha Na Na**. We would experiment with many songs during our evenings at Spiro's, the Dean's Office, and at Caesar's. We were raw but it was in the bars where we developed our sense of presence. We started to look for other venues outside of Willimantic. But we soon realized that our music lacked a visual interpretation. We realized that more could be done to encourage audience involvement, if we were more involved. We were eager to have the audience "get into it." We needed to grab them and take them on a four-hour "magical musical tour."

Initially, we did not have theatrics. As the crowds grew we knew we needed to start fine-tuning the music and doing more than just the music. Our music improved and short skits were written to lead into songs. Bob Peelstrom started to show his wit (he was the John Lennon of the band) by substituting lyrics for some songs. These lyric changes were sung at bars and adult gatherings. High school dances were more tamed. But short skits weren't enough. It was time to up the ante with crowd participation. Theatrics was needed – musically and visually. Rehearsals started to include discussions on how we could visually interpret the music for the audience. It was important to represent the music and the times that the audience could embrace with enthusiasm. Theatrics.

Our night was typically four sets; each set musically thematic in nature. The first set we came on dressed as hoods – white tee shirts, sunglasses, black leather jackets. The second set we came out in white sport coats and ties; the third set belonged to Johnny Crystal, the guest singer; and the fourth set we came out in black and orange (band colors) windbreakers.

Some of us took on stage names. Mike Giblin was known as Stretch Trojan (again, only in front of bar crowds). He would be known for taking a bottle of Vaseline, emptying it into his hair, and singing "Brylcreem - A Little Dab'll Do Ya! Brylcreem - You'll look so debonaire. Brylcreem - The gals'll all pursue ya; they'll love to run their fingers through your hair!" One of our drummers, Bill Very, was known as Chuck Moon. He loved to creep around the stage and in

the audience, giving his imitation of Igor when he sang the *Monster Mash*. During Jim Davis' singing of *Teen Angel*, we would form a chapel effect around him. Jim had a great voice. However, toward the end of the song we would all crowd around him, preventing him from being seen by the audience. And me? I would become the "guest singer," the infamous Johnny Crystal. That story will be told in a future installment.

We would have dance contests. The most popular was the Shakin' Contest. We would only have the women take the dance floor. During Bob's singing of Jerry Lee Lewis's *Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On*, one of us would eliminate the ladies until there was just three. We would have them perform a Shake-Off, and at the end we asked the crowd to applaud for the one they liked the best. We would use our guitars as applause meters to register how each contestant rated according to the applause we heard.

Then there was the crowd sing-a-longs. The most



Bob Peelstrom and David Light

Contributed photo.

popular was singing *The Mickey Mouse Club Song*. We would all put on Mickey Mouse Ears, and the audience would join in as we sang. That brought back many great memories to those in the audience – particularly of Annette. One night when we sang the song at a repeat venue, many people in the audience (to our surprise) had brought their own Mickey Mouse Ears in anticipation of the sing-a-long. Finally, my grabbing Bob’s leg during my singing of *Little Darlin’* was always a hit, and I think Bob really enjoyed it! And toward the end of **The Flashbacks**, drummer Gary Pomo would give the audience his Wolfman Jack routine. He *was* Wolfman Jack!

It wasn’t easy getting gigs on our own. It was time consuming while putting on many miles in the van. We would play at a Connecticut high school here and a college there. It wasn’t long before we all agreed we needed to sign up with a talent agency. By the beginning of 1974 we felt that **The Flashbacks** had become the total package. It was time to promote that package to a wider audience. More on that in the next issue of *Neighbors*. Be sure to visit **The Flashbacks and Their Rock and Roll Revival** on FACEBOOK where you will find more band photos.

Phoebe C. Godfrey continued from page 23

Intersectional Analysis

The Orlando shooting, like all of them that go on day after day, whether they result in killing one person or many and whether done by civilians or people in uniforms, must be understood in more complex and intersectional ways as shown here. The shooter himself was a product of a homophobic, patriarchal, racist, warmongering, capitalist culture. This, as stated above, in no way excuses his actions but rather attempts to understand them as a small part of the collective culture of violence and oppression we all play a part in creating. As Patricia Hill Collins, one of the theorists who develop intersectionality and author of *Race, Class, Gender as Categories of Analysis and Connection* states, “While a piece of the oppressor may be planted deep within each of us, we each have a choice of accepting that piece or of challenging it as a part of the “true focus of revolutionary change” (1993). Thus, even given our surrounding cultures there are nevertheless those who do challenge ‘the piece of the oppressor within’ and who are consequently attempting to create another authentically democratic culture —one where we spend resources and energy on creating plowshares not swords, where we judge not who we / others are, where we turn the other cheek if confronted in order to resolve differences diplomatically and where we love our neighbors as ourselves regardless of what they believe, what they look like or who they love.

Neighbors-
A little paper,
Big on community.

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The **2016 Jazz in the Garden** will be held on **Sunday, September 11** from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** This year’s entertainment will be provided by the Rob Zappulla group. Tickets are **\$50 per person**. For additional information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation, please visit *www.jazzinthegarden.info* or call the

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Alice Rothchild To Speak in Storrs

By Joyce Rawitscher

My life was permanently changed sixty-six years ago when I walked into my Fourth Grade classroom and found that we had a substitute teacher, Dr. Rosenberg. I was ten-eleven years old, and World War II had been over for only five years. During his two days with us, Dr. Rosenberg shared a few of his experiences as a teen-age prisoner at Auschwitz Concentration Camp. His witness shattered my childhood naivety and was the springboard from which I made most of my major life decisions. Never again for anyone!

On Saturday, July 30 at 4:00 PM, the Israel-Palestine Peace Group of Northeastern Connecticut will have its 7th Annual Potluck Picnic at the home of Joyce and George Rawitscher, 343 Codfish Falls Road in Storrs. The event is free and open to the public. Palestinian olive oil and handicrafts will be available for sale. Bring a dish to share and, if possible, a lawn chair. If it rains, the event will be held at the Storrs Friends Meetinghouse, 57 Hunting Lodge Road (intersection of Hunting Lodge and North Eagleville Roads, off Route 195).

Alice Rothchild, M.D., will be the featured speaker for the program, which will begin at 6:30 PM. Her talk is entitled: "A Personal Journey: Facing Historical and Ethical Challenges in Israel/Palestine". Boston-based, she is a nationally and internationally known speaker, author, filmmaker and activist. She has focused on the Israel-Palestine conflict since 1997. While now retired, she practiced OB/GYN for almost forty years, serving as Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Harvard Medical School. She writes, blogs and lectures widely and has led several delegations of medical professionals to Israel and Palestine. She is the author of *On the Brink: Israel and Palestine on the Eve of the 2014 Gaza Invasion* (2014), and *Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience* (2007). *Condition Critical: Life and Death in Israel/Palestine* will be published in early 2017. She directed a documentary film, "Voices Across the Divide", and is active in Jewish Voice for Peace. She is currently writing a children's book.

The Israel/Palestine Peace Group of Northeastern Connecticut was organized in March 2008. Its purpose is to promote better understanding of the Israel/Palestine conflict by providing a safe and respectful setting in which ideas and differences may be shared. It promotes activities that will lead to the conflict's peaceful resolution. To date the Group has sponsored more than 35 public programs. Its speakers have included a joint presentation by representatives from Americans for Peace Now and The American Task Force on

Palestine (co-sponsored with the Northeast Regional Office of J Street); Jeff Halper, co-founder and Coordinating Director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, and Rebecca Vilkomerson, Executive Director of Jewish Voice For Peace. The Group tries especially to highlight area people who have a special relationship with this conflict. Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg from Chester, Connecticut was a speaker during the time that she was secretary of Rabbis for Human Rights/North America. It has featured and supported University of Connecticut Drama Department professor, Gary English, who has made many trips to the Jenin Freedom Theatre in the West



Alice Rothchild, M.D.

Contributed photo.

Bank where he has provided leadership for the theatre's administration and drama coaching for its students. He was instrumental in bringing the Theatre's adaptation of Athol Fugard's play, "The Island", to UConn for several performances. Other programs have included documentary films. The United Nations Association of Connecticut has co-sponsored several programs. Meetings are held annually with Congressman Joe Courtney. In 2013 the Group was awarded a grant from the Haymarket Foundation/ Boston.

Other organizations in Connecticut are also addressing the conflict. They include the Middle East Crisis Committee (formed in 1982 after the massacre of predominantly Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut, Lebanon); We Refuse To Be Enemies, a coalition of Jews, Muslims and Christians, and the Tree of Life Educational Fund, located in Old Lyme. The latter holds conferences throughout the United States that feature internationally known activists, journalists and religious figures who are speaking out and working to end the conflict. Among other initiatives, it sponsors delegations to Israel and Palestine and has a scholarship program that enables West Bank students to attend Bethlehem University. Connecticut has two chapters of Jewish Voice for Peace and four chapters of Students For Justice In Palestine. Collaboration among these groups occurs frequently.

Among the issues discussed:

The conflation of anti-Semitism and criticism of the Israeli government's policies toward Palestinians (the military occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza)

The catastrophic effects of the conflict on both Israelis and Palestinians

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS)—a request made in 2005 from more than 170 Palestinian civil society organizations

The pros and cons of the U.S./Israel relationship

The stark imbalance in power between Israel and Palestine (military, economic, et al)

Members of these Connecticut organizations are keenly interested in promoting peace and social justice throughout the world and are frequently critical of United States foreign policy. The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of many, but it continues to be a lynchpin in the overall chaos of the Middle East. Adherence by all parties to international law and human rights law could end the conflict within a few months. Resolving the Israel/Palestine conflict will go a long way toward quelling the region's many other problems. It is not good for Israelis, Palestinians or Americans.

Destruction: (data from Human Rights Watch, If Americans Knew, United Nations):

Period: September 29, 2000 to Present

Israelis	Palestinians
1,224 killed	9,370 killed
133 children killed	2,112 children killed
11,755 injured	87,305 injured

1967 to present: 0 homes demolished by Palestinians

48,488 homes demolished by Israelis

The United States has given 128 billion dollars in aid to Israel since the latter's foundation in 1948.

You are welcome to attend the 7th Annual Potluck Picnic of the Israel/Palestine Peace Group of Northeastern Connecticut, Saturday, July 30—Dr. Alice Rothchild will be our speaker. Come to learn, bring a dish to share, and enjoy.

For additional information: joycerawitscher@gmail.com 860-429-3107

Touched

Have you touched a life today,
if even in the smallest way?
It could simply be a warm smile,
Or you could just stop and listen awhile.
Maybe it's just a gentle touch
At the right time that would mean so much.
The gesture doesn't have to be grand,
to lend a life a helping hand.
So tell me friend, won't you say
Have you touched a life today?

L.C. Bowen, Pomfret

More letters and emails

Dear Editor-

It has been quite a while since I have seen a copy of Neighbors. A friend I was visiting slid a copy under my nose and asked me, "What do you think of this article?" The title of the article was "How to Start a Bakery—Part 5 continued", which led me to believe that I was about to read a detailed piece about the nuts and bolts of starting a bakery.

Much to my surprise, though, the first sentence dealt with dog owners. The writer, Andrew Gibson, opined, "People with dogs are like people who smoke. They have a different set of boundaries than the rest of us." He then proceeded to complain about the behavior of dog owners at a farmers market where he sells his products. Three paragraphs later he was at last ready to move on. Okay, I thought, that was kind of snarky. What has this to do with starting a bakery?

The fourth paragraph began with this sentence fragment, "The halt and the lame". At this I could feel my eyebrows drawing into a confused frown. Was he now going to launch into a diatribe concerning people with handicaps at the market? Gibson describes a wheelchair bound customer, who is a "regular" at the market. He claims he doesn't know whether "she really likes farmer's markets or just needs to get out." He seems to imply that a person with a handicapping condition couldn't possibly have much of a life, that rather than attending the market for the purpose of doing business she is there for entertainment. (Is this a problem?)

I have known people who relied on wheelchairs, and all of them worked interesting, challenging jobs and had families. Gibson devotes three paragraphs to this woman and the fluctuating attendance of summer versus winter markets. He observes that the winter market has been cancelled. He says, "She will survive, of course, but her weekly antidote to boredom ended." It sounds to me as though he has presumptuously concluded that this customer really does "just need to get out." Does he have a problem with people in wheelchairs, I wonder? And again, what does this have to do with starting a bakery?

On and on Gibson wrote, complaining about the "health conscious" customers at the market, the "thin", "the working poor". He devoted a sentence to his appreciation of "Plus-sized People", who apparently look like him. He also wrote in praise of men, for whom he was willing to compose a recipe, featuring what he considers to be guy-friendly ingredients such as beer, cheese, garlic and ale. Here he finally approached good advice for starting a bakery—offer items that your customers will like!

I would like to offer a little food for thought to Andrew Gibson. He may want to consider the possibility that publishing his misanthropic, so-called advice column on how to start a bakery might be offensive to potential customers, starting with this responsible dog owner.

M. Lynn Castelli, LMT

Prescription Ice Cream Sodas

By Jim McGaughey

One of the most important things my father taught me is that when you are down, or worried, or have just been through something hard, there is nothing quite like an ice cream soda to restore your spirits.

I remember the night when he first shared this important insight. I was nine. We were staying at our shore cottage, taking our usual evening walk along the beach with my dog, Brighty - so named for his bright eyes, not for his intelligence. Intelligence was an attribute he simply did not possess. For reasons I have never understood, Brighty decided to growl and lunge at a much larger dog being walked by one of our neighbors. He had always previously ignored that other dog, and the fight that ensued took us by surprise. It was awful. Brighty was seriously injured - shaken violently, unable to lift himself up, bleeding from large, oozing holes in his neck and back. Dad and the other dog's owner had both gone to the ground to wrestle them apart, and then Dad carried Brighty across the beach and into the house, where he lay motionless in his bed. Dad called the vet who said he would stay late and see what he could do. It was a forty-five minute ride. I sat in the rear seat next to Brighty, trying to comfort him. I thought he was going to die, he lay so still, only occasionally moving his eyes and licking his lips. The vet cleaned the wounds, gave him some shots and said he would have to put in some drains and sutures, and watch him. He was pretty sure Brighty would make a full recovery, but we had to leave him there for a couple of days.

On the way back to the cottage, Dad suggested we stop at Douden's Drug Store in Guilford for a Checkerberry Ice Cream soda. With a straight face, in his most reassuring professional tone, he told me, "As a physician, I have always found that ice cream sodas have unique therapeutic properties. Your Grandpa always recommended them to his patients, and from time to time, so have I."

Dad was right. I did feel a lot better after that soda. And, I have relied on that bit of wisdom on many other occasions. But, it is becoming harder to do so. The problem is that, today, there are few places that know how to make ice cream sodas. Douden's Drug Store closed its soda fountain over thirty years ago. For a while they continued to sell jars of their locally famous "Checkerberry" syrup - prepared according to a secret, proprietary recipe. But, now it is completely out of business. So are virtually all the other small, owner-operated drug stores that maintained their own soda fountains. They have been replaced by large pharmacy chains that locate and lay out their stores according to the dictates of marketing science, selling everything from breakfast cereal to printer cartridges. Which, ironically, is a real loss for discerning comparison shoppers: Dad said that when Grandpa was practicing medicine, he used to recommend particular pharmacies to his patients based largely on how generously they prepared sundaes, banana splits and ice cream sodas. His

theory was that a drug store's approach to ice cream spoke volumes about the values underlying all other areas of that store's operation.

The art of ice cream soda-making is even slipping away at ice-cream shops. Friendly's no longer lists them on its menu. If you can find a Friendly's that is still open, you can ask for one, and hope that someone there still remembers how to make them. Or, that they are willing to take your directions. (See below.)

The UCONN Dairy Bar does make ice cream sodas. Sometimes, however, the counter workers get confused and think you are asking for a milkshake or a float. Pay attention. You might have to explain what you mean by "ice cream soda". One time I had to argue with the student worker at the cash register, who gave me a dismissive look and insisted that "we don't sell that here". They do - I pursued the question with one of the managers, who understood what I wanted and corrected her young employee. In fact, I recently noticed that ice cream sodas are now officially listed on the menu displayed above the registers. They must have also improved their visibility on the cash register screens, because lately they have been very quick about taking my order.

If the place you normally go doesn't list ice cream sodas on its menu, but it does have a seltzer dispenser, try asking for one. And, if you get a puzzled look, you can explain how to go about it: An inch or so of whole milk in the bottom of a tall glass, followed by two good squirts of syrup. (Some purists use half-and-half instead of milk. If you want to live in their world, go ahead. Even Martha Stewart uses milk.) Stir the milk and syrup with a long handled spoon and add seltzer until you are about three inches from the top of the glass. Then put in two scoops of ice cream - one floating on the soda, the other perched on the rim. (At the Dairy Bar, it looks like they only put in one scoop, but it's almost a double - they use paper cups and can't plant one firmly on the edge without courting disaster.) Then, if the seltzer dispenser is the old-fashioned kind with two delivery rates depending on which way you move the handle, very slowly fill the remaining space in the glass to the rim with seltzer, being careful not to cause a lot of spontaneous over-fizzing. Some people like to cover the ice cream with a squirt of whipped cream, topped by a maraschino cherry. I'll take the whipped cream, but I think the cherry is overkill.

Personally, I like my ice cream sodas to be made with chocolate syrup and vanilla ice cream. But, you can choose any combination that appeals to you. You need both a straw and a tall spoon to properly enjoy, and usually a few napkins for the inevitable dribbles. When I was growing up, we were allowed one noisy slurp through the straw as the glass emptied. Anything more than that demonstrated a lack of manners. Given their unique curative powers, it's a shame that making ice cream sodas has become such a vanishing art. The way the world is, we need them now more than ever.

Jim lives in Mansfield.

Arts in the Park Festival

More Letters and Emails

By Ruth O'Neil

The newly formed Coventry Arts Guild is pleased to announce that it will host its Premiere Kick-Off event, the First Annual Arts in the Park Festival on Saturday, September 10. The event will be held at Patriots Park in Coventry and will run from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. The day will showcase area visual, literary and performing artists. Member and non-member artists will exhibit their works. Local and area musicians and dancers will perform continuously on the park band shell stage. Art demonstrations and readings are scheduled throughout the day. A special children's corner will offer many hands on arts projects. Guild members will display their works in a select Festival Gallery set up in the Community Center. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public. Artists will have their wares for sale and donations to benefit the new organization will be accepted.

Arts in the Park is the first major event organized and sponsored by the Coventry Arts Guild. The Guild formed as a result of a grant received by the town over a year ago to survey, assess and develop a plan for promoting the arts in the community.

Following a detailed study of a community wide survey, along with several public hearings, a core group of local artists have established the organizational

framework that has become the Coventry Arts Guild. The mission of the Guild is to "enrich and connect artists and arts enthusiasts with the general public by creating opportunities for the performing, visual and literary artists to share knowledge and expertise, educate and teach as well as produce and market their work for the enrichment and enjoyment of the community". The Guild is currently seeking founding members who will benefit by associating with area artists, preferred participation in guild activities as well as inclusion in an artist directory. The upcoming Arts in the Park is meant encourage community membership as well as bring recognition to the Guild and areas artists.

Previously, the Guild sponsored a Student Art Contest as part of the annual Christmas in Coventry Village event last December. The Guild plans to hold Arts in the Park every year. For more information on the Arts in the Park or to be a vendor or exhibiting artist contact festival@coventryartsguild.org For more information on the becoming a member of the Coventry Arts Guild, visit www.coventryartsguild.org

Ruth O'Neil, a regular columnist for Neighbors is owner of the Song-a-Day Music Center in Coventry. She is Vice- President of the Coventry Arts Guild.



Dear Editor-

The demise of WHUS radio is accelerating. For quite a few years now, the community affairs offerings to Eastern Connecticut have been eroding while the "reach" of the station has increased. One after another, various progressive hosts and shows have disappeared, culminating in the recent killing of Democracy Now, the award-winning alternative news show that I have listened to [daily] for over nine years. I and many others are being denied this insightful non-commercial information brought forth by Amy Goodman, Juan Gonzalez and their interesting guests. I hate to tell you what's being substituted...it's certainly a giant step down! The reasons why the student board pulled the plug are weak, including 'cost', new direction, availability on line, and a dirty word slip up. Please. Below is a letter that I sent to the student 'chair' of the board, with hopes that they will reconsider. We are mounting a major stand through personal letters [send to: feedback@whus.org] and several petitions which are on clipboards at the Willi co-op and the Hosmer Mountain store as well as on line at change.org I see a reinstatement as a real possibility. It is at a critical juncture in the fight for media truth! Please consider any act in support of this important fight.

As a graduate of the University of Connecticut, a state taxpayer, and an owner of a one hundred year old Connecticut business, I want to express the outrage that I feel about the termination of the noon-to-one news show, DEMOCRACY NOW.

In this election year the truth-telling that is espoused by Amy Goodman, Juan Gonzalez and their guests is critically important for saving what's left of our democracy!

I and many of my friends were regular listeners and were shocked when the show was unceremoniously dropped. Very unprofessional, (not a word about the decision) especially for students supposedly learning the ropes in the Broadcast Industry.

This decision suggests an alarming disconnect with current affairs, in a year when it's very, very obvious that there is a giant throng of citizens on the left and on the right that are completely disgusted with establishment politics. DEMOCRACY NOW addresses this effectively and intelligently.

Cannot the decision makers see that knocking off five hours of alternative news (a mere 3% of the weekly airtime) seriously dilutes the overall value of WHUS radio?

My time at Storrs, UCONN helped me to be able to think critically about the news content and realize that the corporate media needs some serious competition.... some truth! I have listened faithfully for years and I've made multiple donations to WHUS because of this show.

For years, I've enjoyed working through lunch or driving a vehicle on a schedule adapted around your noontime news show. In my opinion, DEMOCRACY NOW is easily

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The Environmental Corner

Submitted by Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator and staff member to the Mansfield Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Have you heard of the term “zero waste”? Zero waste is the 21st century term for the old adage “Use it up, wear it out, make do or do without.” For the most part the products we use today are not designed with this adage in mind. Instead we are barraged with marketing messages that are counter to this idea of using less.

Producing less waste is one way that we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. According to a 2009 EPA report (1), approximately 42 percent of U. S. greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the energy used to produce, process, transport and dispose of food and goods.

The life of a product begins with mineral, petroleum, timber or agricultural extraction and ends with trash disposal, recycling or composting. If we toss out an item before it is “used up”, we are also tossing out all that went into making and transporting that product. In fact, according to a report from World Resources Institute, for every can of garbage at the curb, there are 87 cans worth of trash that come from the extraction industries, such as timber, agriculture, mining and petroleum. This may be a broad estimate, but it illustrates the volume of waste that is hidden from our view as consumers. Clearly reuse is the preferred approach since it displaces the need to produce, transport and dispose of new goods. Recycling, by eliminating the extraction of raw materials, is the next favored option.

A small number of communities & businesses around the country embrace zero waste. The Town of Mansfield is one of them. In the spring of 2015, the Mansfield Town Council adopted a near zero waste resolution, giving support to those activities that create no waste or very little waste. Here are some of the zero waste strategies Mansfield has been using:

Repair Cafe

The regional Repair Café, which is held quarterly, is a collaborative effort between town staff, the Access Agency and good hearted volunteers. It is an opportunity for anyone to come, broken items in hand, to a place where volunteers of various repair skills will try to fix them. The majority of the items that come to the repair café do get fixed. It is also a place where the “fixee” is encouraged to participate in the fixing. The next Repair Café is October 1, 2016, from 10 to 2 at the First Congregational Church in Willimantic.

Tool Lending Library

Local libraries are our reuse heroes. The Mansfield library just began Connecticut’s first tool lending library. A tool library works just like a traditional book library but instead of books, tools are loaned to community members so they can perform simple home maintenance, cook more adventurously (pots and pans are tools too!), tend their yards and gardens,

build furniture, start projects, and learn new skills in a safe and affordable manner. Anyone with a library card can borrow tools.

Low Waste Events

The Town of Mansfield received a waste reduction grant in 2015. Some of the funds have been used to purchase waste station canopies and banners. If you are involved in a Town or schools sponsored activity you may borrow the low waste “kit” that includes canopies, recycle, compost, trash banners that go with each container and compostable food service supplies. You will even receive guidance from town staff on how to set up the waste stations.

Community Composting

Residents now have access to a community compost pile. Those who live in a multi-family dwelling or who do not want to compost in their backyard can now bring food scraps to the Mansfield transfer station for composting. The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has granted the Town permission to conduct a compost demonstration project at the transfer station that allow residential food scraps and compostable materials from Town sponsored events to be composted in the transfer station leaf pile.

For information contact Virginia Walton at 860-429-3333 or waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

Hop River Chamber Music – Your Summer Escape

Submitted by David H. Vaughan

July 2016 marks the 38th season of the Hop River Chamber Music Series. Thursday evenings concerts are held at 7:30 PM on July 14, 21 and 28 in the air-conditioned First Congregational Church, located at the corner of Route 6 and Long Hill Rd., Andover, CT.

Escape the hustle and bustle of traffic and summer heat and lose yourself in the beauty and power of a live chamber music performance.

Admission is free. A \$10 donation is suggested. Hop River performers are professional Connecticut musicians, providing free, live performances of chamber music. They strive to present a wide variety of styles and instrumentation, often coupling performances of well-loved standards with exciting works new to audiences in Eastern Connecticut. July 14- Beethoven’s String Quartet Opus 59 and more. July 21- The Music of the Bach Family is explored. July 28- Prokofiev’s Overture on Hebrew Themes and more. For more information call 860-429-0865, visit hopriverchambermusic.blogspot.com or e-mail hop.river.music@gmail.com

More Letters and Emails

more important than anything you fill in with. Eastern Connecticut has lost an important alternative voice.

I'm very disappointed with the student "leadership" that felt compelled to do this. WHUS used to be described with the moniker "Radio for the People". I notice that this is not used now, and I can see why! The people are being left out and short changed.

Seriously upset and hoping for a reconsideration,

Bill Potvin, Willimantic

Dear Editor,

I read the May - June issue of *Neighbors* with interest and enthusiasm, as usual. I am a busy small business owner and involved community member, so of course. Some of your regular contributors have been part of my life here in Willimantic for decades. I've contributed an article or two myself in the past.

Imagine my dismay when I read Andrew Gibson's latest piece, "How to Start a Bakery - Part 5." In an earlier article he wrote for the series, I was struck by his misplaced tone of authority as he waxed on about the need for a commercial kitchen for people starting this kind of business, since I know, you know, and he certainly knows that such just such a facility is up and running in the community already - CLiCK, the Commercially Licensed Community Kitchen. I chalked that omission up to heat exhaustion as he toiled over a hot oven, trying and trying to turn out a better batch of bread.

This time, I had to read the "Part 5" piece over to wrap my mind around his intent. I think I've got it - he was trying for comedy. It's too bad that he tastelessly insults so many of us in the process. What a strange way to try to promote one's business venture, I thought.

"People with dogs?" So many of us love dogs and have at least one, that I thought it was reckless to open with that, but I read on. By the way, I have a dog, although I have never brought any dog to a festival or farmers' market, out of concern for the dog. It just doesn't seem like fun for them. But then his piece take the first of several ugly turns.

"The halt and the lame?" Why, I think he must be talking about me!! I use a wheelchair, and I visit outdoor markets and street or river fests whenever I can. I even approached Mr. Gibson recently, and took his reserved demeanor for shyness. Little did I know that he evidently views me and others with disabilities in the community as those who just "need to get out," and thus big wastes of his precious time. Not to worry, baker man, it won't happen again. I do recommend that he gets out more, in order to become more comfortable with people who are not exactly like him. It might help him in his new venture, you just never know.

"Food faddists?" Evidently, this baker's time is too valuable to answer question about his products from those who are interested in improving how they feel with different

approaches to their diets. That's fine - there are others in the community who are willing to entertain these questions, and who have the experience and talent to produce a variety of products. Not his niche, I guess.

"The Working Poor." Really?? "Out of their element at farmers markets... their dress is a giveaway... their questions give them away ... everything is unfamiliar..." These words and the rest of his remarks about income, class, SNAP, etc. inspire no witty comeback from me. This is truly offensive, effete, class-ist nonsense.

At the end of the article, Mr. Gibson comments, "You will continue to profile. That is a given." I assume that he is talking about stereotyping, or a tendency to make sweeping generalizations about people, but I think what he more accurately could have written was "I will continue to profile." I can assure him that those of us in this community who deal with the public comfortably, compassionately, and with open and curious minds meet amazing people every single day, whether we give out free samples, or simply treat others with respect. I repeat, Mr. Gibson - try to get out more. It will probably help.

Respectfully and sincerely,
Stephanie Smith, LPC

Dear Editor:

No Fly List reform is still being fought for by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and remains a strong concern of mine. Any urgency around restricting people on the No Fly List from access to weaponry the rest of the populace has legal access to must be matched with an urgency to protect our civil liberties and reform the process around use of the No Fly List itself.

The ACLU has written to the Senate imploring them not to attach gun control legislation to the No Fly List, and I agree. They write,

"The government contends that it can place Americans on the No Fly List who have never been charged let alone convicted of a crime, on the basis of prediction that they nevertheless pose a threat (which is undefined) of conduct that the government concedes 'may or may not occur.' Criteria like these guarantee a high risk of error and it is imperative that the watchlisting system include due process safeguards—which it does not. In the context of the No Fly List, for example, the government refuses to provide even Americans who know they are on the List with the full reasons for the placement, the basis for those reasons, and a hearing before a neutral decision-maker."

Please consider the importance of protecting civil liberties and due process as bills attached to the No Fly List come to the floor. Please support No Fly List reform.

Dagmar S. Noll
Willimantic, CT

Pick Your Party and Pump

By Ed Adelman

Perhaps you've noticed---this is a Presidential Election year. As you know, it comes around every 4 years with excessive amounts of fanfare and rhetoric. While we go through the messy process of selecting candidates and eventually a president, we cannot forget that it also serves to remind us of our civic responsibilities.

For the past dozen years or so, the Presidential Election cycle has served as a reminder to me of a more humble, yet very important personal responsibility. It is something which could easily be neglected and then lead to dire ecological and economic consequences, not to mention a total disruption of one's daily life. I am referring to the all-important septic system pump-out.

Those of us living in areas without municipal sewage systems have our very own on-site waste system. Although we don't think of it often, it is vital to our way of life. Whatever goes down the various household drains ends up in a large underground tank. While the solids settle to the bottom, the liquids will rise until reaching pipes which carry it to a leach field, where the water gradually gets filtered, cleansed and then ultimately returned to the underground water table. Failure to periodically pump out the solids can clog the leaching area. That can lead to a system replacement involving lots of heavy equipment and building materials, a totally dug-up yard and the kind of money that most of us would prefer to spend on a very nice used pick-up, a remodeled kitchen, college tuition or an above-average European vacation.

Considering our family size and our system capacity, a 4 year pump-out plan was recommended years ago and has worked quite well. Keeping track of the years proved to be a bit of a challenge. Plus, the task needs to be done in warm weather as some digging to expose the clean out port and re-planting grass seed is involved. Years ago, I noticed that my least favorite political party was bloviating at their National Convention while nominating their god-like presidential candidate on the very day the "honey wagon" came by. Although I am not totally sure of the significance, it seemed a natural fit for me to pump it out while the conventioners were pumping it up. I have never missed a pump-out since and I'm looking forward to continuing the tradition this summer.

I don't know why some marketing department for the septic industry hasn't picked up on this. Imagine the bump in their business every fourth year. It would be political, patriotic but also non-partisan. Pick your party and pump.

It occurs to me that the Summer Olympics could also be a suitable reminder for the 4 year cycle. From what I've seen regarding water quality at some of the Olympic venues in Brazil, it might be especially appropriate. However, I tend to like the Olympics, and would have difficulty linking the two activities. I have no difficulty, however, in making the connection with those damn _____s, who will be annoying me again this summer just as I'm taking care of some important personal business.

Ed lives in Hampton.

Connecticut Berners, Berning On

By Dagmar S. Noll

On Sunday, June 26, Bernie Sanders supporters, or "Berners", came together for a "Still Sanders" march and rally at Peace & Protest Corner in Willimantic. Early arrivals lined the popular activist action corner at the intersection of Jackson Street and Main Street with signs and noisemakers, whooping to enthusiastic responses from people driving through the busy intersection. As the group marched over the Frog Bridge singing "This Land Is Your Land", fishermen on the riverbank below chanted back, "Bernie! Bernie! Bernie!"

Marchers convened in the Jillson Square grove for stump speeches and an impromptu open space forum on the pine-needled lawn. Attendees self-organized into interest groups for discussion on pathways to real change in health care, immigration, multicultural education, and income inequality. The approach at the Sanders-inspired People's Summit held in Chicago a week earlier was one of transforming the United States' political system from both the inside and the outside simultaneously, and that approach was reflected in discussions Sunday.

Attendees included Connecticut delegates to the Democratic National Convention, activists, and candidates for local office. Willimantic was one of five cities across the U.S. that held "Still Sanders" marches and rallies on Sunday, including Burlington, VT and Los Angeles, CA.

Nationwide, Berners describe themselves as "awake" to the United States political system and here to stay, looking to the Democratic National Convention, the November election, and beyond to a movement that will remain alive with energy and focus in perpetuity.

The next action for Connecticut Berners is a "Still Sanders" contingent in Willimantic's Fourth of July Boombox Parade—the "People's Parade", an open parade with no registration that welcomes candidates, supporters, and folks making political statements to line up and join the march. Supporters of Senator Sanders' campaign and key issues are encouraged to participate in local gatherings and actions. Watch the official Bernie Sanders event web site at map.berniesanders.com or find the "Bernie Sanders Connecticut Team" on Facebook for information on upcoming opportunities to stay connected to the movement.

P.K. Willey continued from page 25

be impossible to eradicate. Confronting the terrible beast of British colonialism – unbridled greed on a globally gluttonous spree – Gandhi knew that it was only through the process of building an truly educated public, not merely informed, starting through the family unit and small local communities, everywhere, taking responsibility for educating their youth, that parental and community mindsets could change, and the balance of power shift towards social justice and genuine welfare:

“By education I do not mean the mere rudiments of primary education, but a knowledge of our rights, and along with them of our responsibilities and our duties. It is not enough that such education is spread among a handful of us; it has to be spread amongst the crores [one crore = 10 million] of our people. How is this to be done? We cannot expect this education to be given to the masses by our rulers. For that we have ourselves to be ready and devote time to it.”

“All your education will be in vain if you do not learn the art of feeling one with the poorest in the land.”

Peace and contentment in family life begins with our personal integrity, extends into our social spheres, and subtly governs our community life. Responding to our duties to one another, through our personal genius, expresses our genuine individualism. The task is not impossible, the means are within our reach. The first field of endeavor: in our homes. These are the end-goals of Gandhi’s educational ideals.

John Murphy continued from page 27

In the future these meetings will be recorded by the town for sharing.

This media effort is not partisan. Coverage is offered to help local activists connect with citizens in every way possible to support information exchange and dialogue. Future programs will include other people involved with different roles or perspectives for balance and fairness.

Three Vital Community Media Resources for Coverage of All Local Campaigns-

Watch, listen and read and you will be continuously updated, informed and connected to these campaigns and the local citizens making them happen! A great deal of programming about the spectrum of local life in our region is available throughout the year. Let your friends now, thanks!

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Contact Mike Nelson, Studio Supervisor, at michael.nelson@charter.com

WECS Radio at Eastern Connecticut State University
“The Pan American Express” weekly music and talk series on Tuesdays 12-3 pm; 90.1 FM and www.wecsrudio.com
Many local guests from ECSU and local area
Contact John Murphy, Host/Producer, at john@humanartsmedia.com

Neighbors Newspaper/Magazine
Bi-monthly print version distributed throughout our region

Also available online in color at www.neighborspaper.com with full archive

Contact Tom King, Owner/Publisher, at neighborspaper@yahoo.com

So that’s it for this issue. Thanks for sharing your time and thanks to those who have contacted me about previous columns. I look forward to introducing you to more local programs and arts news in the next *Neighbors*. For more information about this series and to contribute information about your good work in our community feel free to contact me anytime. Keep the faith!

John Murphy
john@humanartsmedia.com

Joshua’s Trust 50th Anniversary “Passport Walks”

Submitted by Angelika Hansen

Saturday, July 9 at 10:00 am, join Deb Russell for a mid-summer Wildflower Walk in the Hubbard Sanctuary, Chaplin. The walk leads through woodlands and Agnes’ pasture with abundant wildflowers. Directions: property is located behind Chaplin Town Hall 498 Phoenixville Rd (Rt. 198). Parking is straight ahead near the fence. For information and updates, please call Deb at 860-423-1230 or email james_r_russel@yahoo.com

Saturday, July 16 at 10:00 am, Eric Thomas will lead a walk at Skungamaug Meadows, Tolland, a 27 acre preserve with varied habitats. Looking for “Birds, Bugs and Butterflies. Directions: Rt. 195 to Goose lane for 1 mile, right turn onto Lemek Lane, park in cul de sac. For information and updates email Eric Thomas at waterthames@yahoo.com

Saturday, August 13 at 10:00 am meet Craig Smith and Anna Marie Stark at the Tinkerville Brook Preserve in Ashford for a fairly easy 1.8 mile walk exploring “Land Use Over the Centuries”. Directions: from Rt.44 and Rt 89, go north on Rt.89 for 5.2 miles to Turnpike Rd-after 0.6 miles turn right on Armitage Rd for 0.7 miles to small dirt road on the left – park near entrance gate.

For more information email Craig at craig.f.smith@gmail.com

Samuel Huntington's Farmhouse

By Christina Mazza

"Whatever my future situation in life may be, I shall always love my country..." Samuel Huntington wrote to George Washington.

The Governor Samuel Huntington Trust owns and maintains the birthplace of Samuel Huntington at 36 Huntington Road, Route 14 in Scotland, CT. The farmhouse dates to circa 1720. For the past 20 years, The GSHT has been applying for grants and fixing up the house as it was in poor condition. Tours have been given, but we have now entered into the museum category and we have exciting new programming beginning this year! Let me tell you first who Samuel was.

Samuel Huntington was born in 1731 and grew up in the Third Society of Windham parish which later became Scotland. His great-grandfather, Joseph, was a of founder of Windham. Samuel was the third son and fourth child born to Nathaniel and Mehitibol. He was not one of the chosen sons to attend Yale, and his refusal to become a farmer led him down a different path. In fact, he has an American dream story!

Becoming an important citizen, Samuel did a lot for colonial Connecticut and our new republic. He first became an attorney by studying with a man who had many books in town; Reverend Ebenezer Devotion. Then, he worked in a law office in Windham Center. In 1760, Samuel moved to Norwich and married Reverend Devotion's daughter, Martha, in 1761. The need arose to become a King's Attorney and Judge and Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. Samuel was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly and in 1775-1783 he was an influential member of Connecticut's Standing Order headed by Jonathan Trumbull. In 1776, Samuel Huntington signed the Declaration of Independence with the fifty-five other signers.

Samuel Huntington became the first president of the Continental Congress in 1779. In 1781, when the last state ratified the Articles of Confederation, our new country became "The United States in Congress Assembled". So, it may be said that he was really the first President of the United States.

Governor of Connecticut for ten years was his final political position. Responsible for having the old Hartford State House built but was not finished until right after his death in 1796. It is our dream to keep his story told.

I want to mention the road in front of the farmhouse; Route 14 is also called the W3R, or the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary War Route. Many French soldiers under Comte de Rochambeau came from France in 1780-1781, docked in Newport, walked on that road all the way down to Yorktown, where they helped us win the war against King George!

Due to some recent generous donations, our 1760's kitchen is now furnished almost completely. Hearth cooking programs have been and will be taking place. Some programs

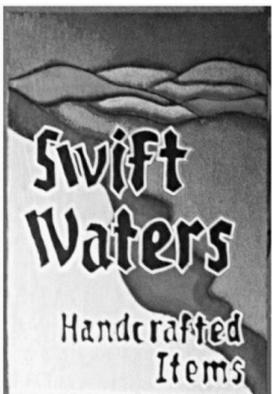
coming up are Samuel's Colonial Breakfast on September 3rd. Experience a breakfast Samuel was probably familiar with in 1747. On October 8th, a speaker from Sheldon's Horse Second Continental Light Dragoons will be interpreting the second French officer in command during the Revolutionary War. We also have our encampment happening on Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25. Samuel Huntington himself will be there in his finest on September 24 and a 1776 midday meal will be cooked over the fire inside The Homestead.

Our first program of the season kicked off with One Misty, Moisty Morning; an 1820's Breakfast. The title comes from a Mother Goose poem that became a song. Common breakfast foods of the new republic were cooked over the fire. Then "the family", dressed in old-styled attire, sat down to eat that breakfast. We were always available to answer any questions from visitors they had.

The program most recently on Saturday, June 11, (CT Open House Day) was 18th century ironing day. Irons were heated over a trivet of hot coals near the fire to keep the irons hot. Visitors could try their hand at ironing or pick a cold iron up to see how heavy one was. Dampened, ironed clothing was scattered around the kitchen to dry. In addition, a food dish called Whitpot was displayed and interpreted.

We are open for tours the first and third Saturdays of every month from 11:00-3:00. Programs are the same time unless otherwise noted and not always on the first and third. Please check listings. You can also check our website at huntingtonhomestead.org for events. Good will donations are welcomed.

The next program will be A Huntington Tea on Saturday, July 2 which will actually be a supper. For rural, New England families, the last meal of the day was Tea. See "the family" enjoying their early nineteenth century supper. We welcome you to come home to the New England past!



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David Corsini continued from page 9

The other unusual event involved two side-blotched lizards. In one trap we found two side-blotched lizards and from an initial examination of the patterning on the backs, one showed the typical male pattern and one showed the typical female pattern. However, when the lizards were turned over, it was determined that both were males. What had happened? Pictures were taken and extensive discussion among the scientists ensued. Had the less dominant male lizard adopted a female look as a defense against the dominate male? Had the less dominant male adopted a female look in order to “sneak” up to unsuspecting females? Or was this just random variation? Sure seems like a good problem for a Master’s thesis or two. About 20 of the 54 Sherman traps caught a mammal. First, the scientist peeked into the closed trap to see what was there. Then the animal in the trap was shaken into a small plastic bag and forced into a corner of the bag. The scientist then reached into the bag and grabbed the animal by the scruff of the neck. This was not as easy as it sounds. Each animal was measured and a species determined. Four species were caught: pocket mouse, deer mouse, kangaroo rat, and desert woodrat. After the data was recorded, the critters were released. The only mammal that was not measured, because it was not a target species, was a young desert cottontail that somehow managed to get into the very small trap. Perhaps it had been very hungry.

As Bill and I and the two scientists were leaving the last set of pitfall traps, I spotted a four foot long snake under a small bush and, of course, yelled: “Snake”! The two scientists quickly identified the snake as a nonpoisonous gopher snake and dove into the bush to catch it. It was a very friendly, beautifully patterned snake. The scientists eventually let me hold it and then I passed it on to Bill. As I watched Bill, I saw he was holding it with too firm a grip and I urged him to let the snake move. The proper way to “hold” a snake is to support it and let it move. When squeezed, even a friendly snake is likely to bite. Bill later told me that it was the first time he had held a snake. We passed the snake around among the four of us, took photos, and then let it go.

There was one endangered species we were always on the lookout for: the desert tortoise. I saw two and Bill had an adventure finding one that had been fitted with a transmitter. The first one I saw was spotted in the middle of the road as we drove along in the park. We stopped, directed traffic, took pictures and then the scientist moved it to the side of the road in the direction the tortoise was facing. I learned how to move a tortoise--- hold it low, move quickly, and then place it down. The reason to do this quickly- as opposed to picking it up, looking it over, and passing it around, is that when stressed, the tortoise might empty its bladder of water that had been stored. Losing this reserve of water could compromise the ability of the tortoise to survive in the desert.

The second tortoise I observed was known to reside in an area near the building where we slept and ate. This tortoise had a very distinctive burrow to which it returned most late afternoons. I spent several hours on two days looking for this tortoise but could not find it. Then one day the word was out that it had been spotted outside its burrow and I hurried to see it. Luckily, the tortoise was not in a hurry and I had a long time to observe it through my binoculars.

Bill was with a 4-person team one afternoon that searched for and found a tortoise named “George” that had been fitted with a transmitter. Finding “George”, who was wedged under a rock and well hidden, took some doing. Given that the transmitter was reaching the end of its life, the scientist removed the old transmitter and mounted a new one using plumber’s epoxy.

The third activity was creating a record of perennial plants within the various 300 X 300 meter plots located at different elevations. In each plot several sets of rebar had been placed 25 meters apart. To begin the inventory, a 25 meter tape was strung between two rebar stakes. Then every perennial under the tape and within two meters on one side of the tape was identified with respect to species and: general condition on a 5 point scale with “1” being dead; whether the plant had buds, was flowering, or had fruit; and the plants’ height, width and breadth. As an indication of the biodiversity in this desert, on one day, in one plot more than 60 species of plants were documented.

Many desert plants have thorns or sharp projections so there are risks involved. At this writing I still have a few scabs on my arm. As Bill was taking notes, he accidentally backed into a cactus and received a few bleeding wounds on his leg. Two of the scientists came to his rescue to remove with tweezers, pliers, and duct tape the many small spines that had attached to his pants. It is important to remove all cactus spines from both skin and clothing. It is not a good idea to back up in the desert without looking!

Many people think of deserts as hot, flat and barren. A visit to Joshua Tree National Park, where two deserts converge, certainly will dispel that notion. This desert area has elevations from 500’ to 5000’ with great diversity of both flora and fauna. In April, even at the low elevations, the temperature was only in the 80s. In the evenings and early mornings it was chilly. There had been period of rain before we arrived and during the night before we left there was a steady rain. Deserts are fascinating places.

If you are at all interested in an adventure with a purpose, you should check out the expeditions offered by Earthwatch. Their expeditions focus on: wildlife & ecosystems; ocean health; climate change; and archaeology & culture with research projects all over the world. Earthwatch support to the research projects is both financial and, by providing volunteers to assist in the collection of data, instrumental. The expedition to Joshua Tree was my 5th Expedition. Previous ones had been to the islands around Hong Kong, the Pantanal wetland in Brazil, an island in Indonesia, and a beach in Costa Rica. Every adventure was different in terms of difficulty in getting there, the living conditions at the research site, the number of participants, the difficulty of data collection, and of course the research objectives. While I sometimes questioned how much help I provided to the scientists, I was always sure that the fees I paid had supported the research projects. And as a volunteer I visited places off the beaten track, had access to many knowledgeable scientists who served as guides, had contact with other interesting volunteers, and had many adventures with wildlife-my passion.

David.Corsini@sbcglobal.net

Our Community Calendar

Compiled By Dagmar Noll

July 2, Saturday

Kids: Canteen Tales: Quest for the Golden Spork puppet show, 11:00a.m. and 2:00p.m. \$6-8. Ballard Institute Theater, 1 Royce Circle, Storrs. Tickets: 860-486-8580 or bimp.ticketleap.com

Live Music: Bruce John, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Oliver's, 490 Boston Post Rd, North Windham.

Live Music: Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 3:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. Concert on the Garden on the Bridge, lower Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-9913 qcf.webs.com

July 3, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Joshua Cleaver. Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

Live Music: Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 3:00p.m. Garden on the Bridge, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-9913 qcf.webs.com

July 4, Monday

Parade: Fourth of July Boombox Parade, 11:00a.m. No registration. Lineup at Jillson Square in Willimantic starts at 9:00a.m. Info: www.wili.com/am/

July 6, Wednesday

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. 257 Main Street, Hampton. Info: 860-455-1086 <http://www.fletchermemoriallibrary.org>

Kids: Summer Reading 2016 Program, 1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Free. Reading challenges with a "Sports & Fitness" theme. 257 Main Street, Hampton. Info: 860-455-1086 <http://www.fletchermemoriallibrary.org>

July 7, Thursday

Skill Share: Beekeeping for Beginners (The Apiary Series), 2:00p.m. - 3:30p.m. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Community Food: Lisbon Farmers' Market, 4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Fresh vegetables and live music by the Quiet Corner Fiddlers. Info: www.lisbonfarmersmarket.com

July 8, Friday

Kids: Story Time, Song & Play, 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Older siblings welcome. 257 Main Street, Hampton. Info: 860-455-1086 <http://www.fletchermemoriallibrary.org>

Clean-Up: Willimantic Trash Mob, 5:00p.m.-5:30p.m. Help tidy up town! Bring gloves and bags to the Crosbie Lot between North Street and Church Street in downtown Willimantic and tidy up lower Main Street. Info: 860-423-1878 bevishistory@yahoo.com

Art: Norbert Garcia Opening Reception, 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. Refreshments and music at Kerri Studio & Gallery, 861 Main

St., Willimantic. Info: 860-456-8615 www.norbertgarcia.com

July 9, Saturday

Fair: EcoFairCT, 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. Functional works of useable art made from natural elements, music, yoga, reiki, henna tattoos, and face painting at Lisbon Community Center, Rte.. 169, Lisbon. Info: www.ecofairct.com

Nature: Midsummer Wildflower Walk, 10:00a.m. Hubbard Sanctuary, 498 Phoenixville Rd, Chaplin. Info: 860-423-1230 james_r_russel@yahoo.com

Nature: Turtle Hurdles: A Look at Painted Turtles – Challenges, Allies and Ponds, 10:00a.m. - 11:30. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Kids: Jacks in the Box puppet show, 11:00a.m. and 2:00p.m. \$6-8. Ballard Institute Theater, 1 Royce Circle, Storrs. Tickets: 860-486-8580 or bimp.ticketleap.com

Fundraiser: Camp Care Golf Tournament and Silent Auction, 11:30p.m. \$125 per golfer includes a game, shared card, snacks, silent auction opportunities, and dinner. The Windham Club, 184 Club Rd., North Windham. Info: www.campcarekids.org

Live Music: Bruce John, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Oliver's, 490 Boston Post Rd, North Windham.

July 10, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Lugnauts (Gino LoRicco). Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

Hike: Long Distance Guided Hike, 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. 5-7 mile hike. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Kids: Mystery Beneath the Trees, Part 1, 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. 5-7 mile hike. Explore the Forest Discovery Trail with magnifying glasses and field guides. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Art: Pop-Up Art Cafe, 4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Featured art exhibit by Jerry Madara and music by the Quiet Corner Fiddlers. Info: manchesterart.org

July 11, Monday

Blood Donation: Canterbury Historical Society Blood Drive, 1:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Community Room of Canterbury Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury. Appointments: 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Film: Trump: What's the Deal?, 7:00p.m. Free. Storrs Unitarian universalist Meetinghouse, 46 Spring Hill Road, Mansfield. Info: 860-428-4867 or find Second Monday Film Series on Facebook.

July 12, Tuesday

Live Music: Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m.

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Packing House continued from page 29

constitutes the heart-wood of the trio's music.

Visiting the states from France, the trio is led by the pianist/composer, Bob Degen and complemented by Peter Perfido (native of Hartford, CT) on drums, and Harvie S. (up from NYC) on bass. Their repertoire draws from a wealth of Bob Degen's original compositions which combine a lush harmonic sense as well as an affinity for spare yet rich melodies.

October 22nd: Greg Abate Quartet

Returning to The Packing House by popular demand is the Greg Abate Quartet! Greg Abate jazz saxophonist, flutist, composer continues as an International Jazz / Recording Artist with 225 days a year touring the globe. Greg's newest release *Kindred Spirits* features Phil Woods, Jesse Green, Evan Gregor and Bill Goodwin (Rhombus Records). Greg will be joined at The Packing House by Matt DeChamplain on piano, Nat Reeves on bass, and Ben Bilello on drums. We are honored to have these talented musicians join us once again!



October 28th: Film Screening of "Blues Legend" with Filmmaker Dan McGinley

You've seen Dan McGinley's standing column in *Neighbors* as he described the evolution and development of his independent film, "Blues Legend".

"Blues Legend" concerns a desperate guitar player down on his luck in New Orleans. A foolish attempt to sell his soul for fame and fortune invokes the wrath of a powerful Voodoo Queen, related to his wife's Cajun side.

As noted in the film's May 10, 2016 press release: "Working with a cast almost entirely from Windham County, an Ashford man (Dan McGinley) who works as a janitor at Putnam Elementary School spent the last four years completing a feature-length (over an hour long) movie. Entitled *Blues Legend*, Dan McGinley's efforts nearly made cinematic history by being selected for the Cannes Film Festival (Le Festival de Cannes)."

New to The Packing House in October also include singer/songwriter and Connecticut State Troubadour, Kate Calahan (folk), and the folk/bluegrass group, "Seat of Our Pants". We welcome these talented performers with open arms!

November 5th: Zoe Lewis ~ "A Vaudeville Extravaganza"

Zoe Lewis is an entertainer, performer, and band in a body! She plays jazz, jump jive, Latin grooves, swing, international folk, funk originals on anything from the piano to the spoons! Troubadour, vaudevillian, storyteller, adventurer, singer-songwriter, and playwright!

Originally from England, she now resides in Provincetown on Cape Cod, MA, where she performs every

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summer. Her music is upbeat, amusing and perfect for young and old alike. She's traveled around the globe to over 70 countries, picking up world-beat grooves and stories on the way; jumping box cars, riding on freight boats and has even played music with an elephant orchestra in Thailand.

We are excited to have Zoe join us at The Packing House this fall!



When performances and programs are not scheduled, The Packing House is available year round for private events including meetings, workshops, creative projects, receptions, recitals, and much more.



We can provide a number of services including sound reinforcement, video projection, internet access, and audio recording to support nearly any type of function. Through our partners, we are able to offer unique catering services and menus ranging from a casual setting featuring *hors d'oeuvres* and "finger foods" to a formal multi-course gourmet meal.

Assorted Tables and Seating	Food & Beverage Partners
Piano Available	Flexible Layout
WiFi	Historic Setting
Playlist Development	Talent Resources
Sound & Video / A/V Support	Audio Recording Services

Contact, Information, and Reservations

Please visit our website at www.thepackinghouse.us to learn more about The Packing House and new additions to our upcoming shows, films and events.

Tickets for all shows can be purchased online at www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming, or at the door. Table reservations and cabaret seating available. Unless specified otherwise, all performances and programs will feature "BYOB" - wine & beer ONLY (I.D.s Required). Snacks and soft drinks will also be available. Doors open 30-minutes prior to show time.

The Packing House is located at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279. Parking is located onsite and across the street. For questions, specific program or rental information, and table reservations, please call 518-791-9474.

46 Neighbors

Dino's Grill and Restaurant, 180 Westminster Road/Rte 14, Canterbury. Info: 860-456-9913 qcf.webs.com

July 13, Wednesday

Hike: Senior Walk, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. This moderate but casual walk is open to all. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 7/6)

Kids: Summer Reading 2016 Program, 1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. (See 7/13)

Live Music: Forget the Times, Gun Shy, Parlay Droner, Spit-Take, 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Willimantic Records, 744 Main St., Willimantic (entrance and parking are on Riverside Dr.). Info: 860-450-7000 www.willimanticrecords.com

Nature: Beetles in the Dark: A Nighttime Observation, 9:30p.m. - 10:30p.m. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

July 14, Thursday

Hike: Senior Walk, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. (See 7/13).

July 15, Friday

Kids: Story Time, Song & Play, 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. (See 7/8)

July 16, Saturday

Nature: Birds, Bugs and Butterflies Walk, 10:00p.m. Skungamaug Meadows, Lemek Lane, tolland. Info: waterthames@yahoo.com

Kids: The Wonderful World of Wonder puppet show, 11:00a.m. and 2:00p.m. \$6-8. Ballard Institute Theater, 1 Royce Circle, Storrs. Tickets: 860-486-8580 or bimp.ticketleap.com

Nature: Slithering Snakes: A Closer Look at Snakes, 11:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. Learn to identify several species of snake. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Skill Share: Gardeners Roundtable, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Best practice discussion for experience gardeners. Topic: plant pests. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Live Music: Bruce John, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Oliver's, 490 Boston Post Rd, North Windham.

Live Music: An Evening of Irish Music with the Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

July 17, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Gypsy Hearts: Micheal/Judy Annati. Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

July 20, Wednesday

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 7/6)

Kids: Mystery Beneath the Trees, Part 2, 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. 5-7 mile hike. Explore the Forest Discovery Trail

with magnifying glasses and field guides. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

Kids: Summer Reading 2016 Program, 1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. (See 7/6)

July 21, Thursday

Festival: 3rd Thursday Street Fest, 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Free admission. Mystic Paper Beasts, live music, food, and vendors in downtown Willimantic. Info: www.willimanticstreetfest.com

July 22, Friday

Kids: Story Time, Song & Play, 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. (See 7/8)

Clean-Up: Willimantic Trash Mob, 5:00p.m.-5:30p.m. Help tidy up town! Bring gloves and bags to the corner of Ash Street and Boston Post Road by Tony's Pizza, Willimantic. Info: 860-423-1878 bevishistory@yahoo.com

July 23, Saturday

Kids: Victoria's Not So Bedtime Story puppet show, 11:00a.m. and 2:00p.m. \$6-8. Ballard Institute Theater, 1 Royce Circle, Storrs. Tickets: 860-486-8580 or bimp.ticketleap.com

Live Music: Bruce John, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Oliver's, 490 Boston Post Rd, North Windham.

Photography: Pictures in Nature: Techniques for Photography in the Great Outdoors, 2:00p.m. - 3:30p.m. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

July 24, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Jay Ames. Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

July 27, Wednesday

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 7/6)

Kids: Summer Reading 2016 Program, 1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. (See 7/6)

July 29, Friday

Kids: Story Time, Song & Play, 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. (See 7/8)

July 30, Saturday

Kids: Luminary puppet show, 11:00a.m. and 2:00p.m. \$6-8. Ballard Institute Theater, 1 Royce Circle, Storrs. Tickets: 860-486-8580 or bimp.ticketleap.com

Nature: Microscopic Topic: Who Swims in Our Lake, 1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Collect samples from the pond by the boad dock and use microscopy to find out who is swimming in our waters. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

July 31, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers' Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Local produce and locally crafted goods, and live

music by Quiet Corner Fiddlers. 25 Tremko Lane, Ashford.

August 3, Wednesday

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 7/6)

August 5, Friday

Kids: Story Time, Song & Play, 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. (See 7/8)

Live Music: Shaboo Reunion, 6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. Jillson Square, Willimantic

August 6, Saturday

Kids: Superheroes, Villains, and Spaceships, Oh My!--The Return puppet show, 11:00a.m. and 2:00p.m. \$6-8. Ballard Institute Theater, 1 Royce Circle, Storrs. Tickets: 860-486-8580 or bimp.ticketleap.com

Live Music: Bruce John, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Oliver's, 490 Boston Post Rd, North Windham.

Paranormal: An Evening with the Haunted Collector, 6:30p.m. - 9:00p.m. Or 9:30p.m. - 12:00a.m. \$75. Learn investigative techniques at one of CT's most haunted and historic sites, the Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South Street, Coventry. Tickets: www.seasideshadows.com/special-events.html Info: 860-742-6917

August 7, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Joshua Cleaver. Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

August 8, Monday

Film: Where to Invade Next?, 7:00p.m. Free. Storrs Unitarian universalist Meetinghouse, 46 Spring Hill Road, Mansfield. Info: 860-428-4867 or find Second Monday Film Series on Facebook.

August 9, Tuesday

Live Music: Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. Dog Lane Cafe, 1 Dog Lane, Storrs. Info: 860-456-9913 qcf.webs.com

August 10, Wednesday

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 7/6)

August 12, Friday

Clean-Up: Willimantic Trash Mob, 5:00p.m.-5:30p.m. Help tidy up town! Bring gloves and bags to the overpass at the intersection of High Street and South Frontage Road, Willimantic. Info: 860-423-1878 bevishistory@yahoo.com

August 13, Saturday

Live Music: Bruce John, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Oliver's, 490 Boston Post Rd, North Windham.

August 14, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Pork Chop Express (Ryan Lizcotte).

Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

August 16, Tuesday

Skill Share: Fiddle Workshop by Cathy Day, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. \$5-10. Bluegrass fiddle workshop. Limited space. Ga-Na-Den Apts, 441 Ash Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-9913 qcf.webs.com

August 17, Wednesday

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 7/6)

August 18, Thursday

Festival: 3rd Thursday Street Fest, 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Free admission. Live music, food, and vendors in downtown Willimantic. Info: www.willimanticstreetfest.com

August 19, Friday

Kids: Story Time, Song & Play, 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. (See 7/8)

August 20, Saturday

Community Food: Ellington Farmers Market, 9:30a.m. - 12:00p.m. Local produce and locally crafted goods, and live music by Quiet Corner Fiddlers. Arbor Park, Main Street (Rt 286), Ellington. Info: www.ellingtonfarmersmarket.com

August 21, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Lugnauts (Gino LoRicco). Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

August 24, Wednesday

Skill Share: Knitting Group, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 7/6)

August 26, Friday

Kids: Story Time, Song & Play, 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. (See 7/8)

Clean-Up: Willimantic Trash Mob, 5:00p.m.-5:30p.m. Help tidy up town! Bring gloves and bags to Jillson Square at the corner of Main Street and Jackson Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-423-1878 bevishistory@yahoo.com

August 27, Saturday

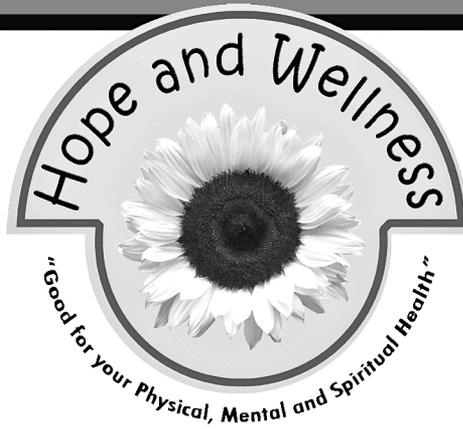
Nature: Program for Butterfly Enthusiasts, 11:00a.m. - 12:00p.m. Presentation on butterflies and larval food plants. 257 Main Street, Hampton. Info: 860-455-1086 <http://www.fletchermemoriallibrary.org>

Live Music: Bruce John, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Oliver's, 490 Boston Post Rd, North Windham.

August 28, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Joshua Cleaver. Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

Hope and Wellness Center and Salon



Hope and Wellness is a complete wellness and salon facility specializing in a variety of services. We are here for your mind, body and spirit to help aid in a healthier and more peaceful way of life. Please come try our gentle care in a warm inviting environment.



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