

# Neighbors



No. 142

September–October 2016

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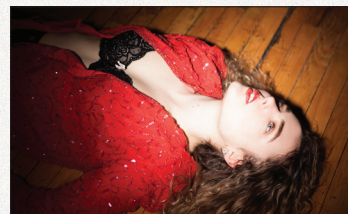
CONCERT  
*"TAKE A DRUM RIDE"*

**BOB BLOOM**  
Sept. 10 | 8:00pm



CONCERT  
*AMERICANA / ALT COUNTRY*

**JEFF PRZECH**  
WITH DENNIS FANCHER  
Sept. 17 | 7:30pm



CONCERT  
*BLUES / JAZZ*

**LEXI WEEGE**  
Sept. 24 | 7:30pm



CONCERT  
*JJAZZ*

**BOB DEGEN TRIO**  
Oct. 1 | 8:00pm



CONCERT  
*FOLK*

**LISA MARTIN**  
Oct. 8 | 7:30pm



CONCERT  
*FOLK*

**KATE CALLAHAN**  
Oct. 15 | 7:30pm



CONCERT  
*JAZZ*

**GREG ABATE QUARTET**  
Oct. 22 | 8:00pm



CONCERT  
*BLUEGRASS / FOLK*

**SEAT OF OUR PANTS**  
Oct. 29 | 7:30pm

**TALENT SHOWCASE:**  
(2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH)  
7:00pm: Sept. 8; Oct. 13

**FILM SHOWING:**  
Sept. 30 | 7:30pm  
*"Surrogate Valentine"* (NR)  
Oct. 28 | 7:30pm  
*"Blues Legend"* (NR)  
An Evening with Film  
Maker Dan McGinley

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## September-October 2016

Panoramic photo above: Lori and David Ducat (sister and brother-in-law of photographer) of Lebanon at Head of the Meadow beach in Truro on Cape Cod. June 2016. Karen King photo.

Cover photo: Sawyer King and his grandpa. Karen King photo.

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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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Thomas A. King, member

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# One Small Change - Infinite Impact

By Loretta Wrobel



Attending a program sponsored by Clean Water Action in Pomfret, I run into a longtime friend presently living in Bloomfield. She shares frightening news of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Bloomfield Town Council agreeing to sell MDC water to the Niagara Company. The Niagara Company will build a bottling company in Bloomfield. This bottled water will be shipped wherever the company deems it will make the greatest profit.

This secret deal went through without notification to residents of Bloomfield. The Niagara Company was given rate discounts and a 4.9 million-dollar tax incentive to extract water from the greater metropolitan area that comprises eight Connecticut towns. A group of active (and I do mean active) citizens have been fighting this shocking takeover of our public water supply. To date they have experienced failure in getting legislation passed at the Capitol.

One way to help combat this corporate infringement on a public resource is to release yourself from any dependence on bottled water. In the grand scheme of your life, it is a minor adjustment, simply a reprogramming of carrying your own water bottle with water from your own faucet in it. You then know where the H<sub>2</sub>O comes from and know that the water hasn't been sitting in a plastic container for how many decades!

You also would be contributing to lessening your carbon footprint by drinking water from your local environment and your own watershed. This cuts down on energy use as the water is not being shipped unlimited miles. With decreased demand, less oil is used to produce all these ubiquitous plastic bottles. Your local landfill could halt its climb to the Big Dipper. And you grin, feeling smug about doing your part to mitigate climate change.

I know you are extremely busy, and to stop to fill a metal water bottle each time you go out seems to be tedious, crunching into your already impossibly squeezed life. Perhaps you fill two bottles at a time, cutting in half your time wasted. Or train your dog (or cat) to fill the bottle as you slip into your sandals/shoes. Or you allow more time to get ready, and pare down your schedule to a more manageable and healthier day.

With reduced stress and tension, you can enjoy your day and are more kind to your partner/pet/kid/mother. Feeling lower stress and tension, you will drive slower, using less gas and again minimize your carbon footprint. You smile at passing cars and make those individuals feel benevolent and content, thus upgrading their satisfaction with their life. Happier people equals decreased rage and violence in the world and an upswing in peaceful interactions. You understand how this process can grow and create a pleasant day for you and others you encounter.

Your savings will expand because you are not purchas-

ing expensive plastic containers with unknown water quality. You are more fit from the exercise you get, turning your tap on and off. You feel empowered as you fill your very own reusable bottle that doesn't leach toxins when you leave it in your car on a hot summer's day.

If peace and love doesn't grab you, ponder some hair-raising facts. Americans buy 29 billion single serve bottles of water every year. The bottled water industry was an 11.5 billion-dollar business far back in 2007. Think of how that number has escalated in 2016. It takes 18 million barrels of oil to transport bottled water. This year bottled water sales are surpassing sales of soda for the first time since beverage companies started tracking sales in the 1970's. Bottled water costs from 89 cents per gallon to 8 dollars and 26 cents per gallon, compared to costing fractions of a penny from your tap. And I haven't mentioned the hazardous repercussions tons of empty plastic water bottles create in the ocean, our landfills, and our pocketbooks.

The potential for plastic water bottles to leach chemicals into the water it contains is unknown. We do know the damage to wildlife due to throwaway plastic. As plastic decomposes, it releases toxins into the air, water, and earth.

By now you have figured it out. This is about control and ownership of an essential resource--water. We humans have a daily need for water, and whoever controls our water supply ultimately controls us. Who do you want to control your water--Corporate America (Nestle, Coke, etc.) or a local public agency?

The bottled water addiction grows in America, as do the profits of the bottled water companies and the negative effects on our health and climate. Selling bottled water leads to more pollution and increases our reliance on oil.

Back to our small suburban Bloomfield, the Niagara Company has been granted up to 1.8 million gallons per day to pour into bottles to be shipped out of the region. When Niagara uses over 500,000 gallons, it receives a discounted rate. So the Niagara bottling plant is being subsidized to draw more water from the local watershed! In drought conditions no provisions are in place to reduce Niagara's usage, even though residents are often restricted in water use.

These corporate maneuvers are happening all over the US--in Michigan, Maine, Oregon, and of course Connecticut. The public needs to be made aware of this outrage and the ramifications of these actions.

What can be done? Contact your legislators about setting regulations on these water companies. Read Gay Hawkins book *Plastic Water: The Social and Material Life of Bottled Water*. Go to SaveOurWaterCT web site to learn of updates and actions. In Ashford the documentary "Tapped" will be shown later this year. Most significantly, stop purchasing water in plastic bottles, which is likely less regulated than the water running from your own faucet. Some solutions are easy, and carrying a reusable water bottle doesn't make you a camel. It makes you a concerned, reasonable person, doing your best to save our most precious gem--clean water.



# Letters and Emails

Dear Editor-

I love reading the eclectic collection of personal essays in *Neighbors*, especially those penned by Mark Svetz and Andrew Gibson. Thus I was disappointed not to find in the July-August 2016 issue Part 6 to Andrew Gibson's "How to Start a Bakery." Even worse, I found an irate Letter to the Editor vilifying Mr Gibson for his humor and candor in Part 5.

Mr Gibson would heap me into his classifications as a food faddist, because since 1977 I have eaten only whole grains and so have never eaten any of his breads or pastries. And while I walk with crutches outside my home, I use a wheelchair in my home. But I never felt offended by his critiques about food faddists nor, as did the letter writer, by his observations about the lady who visits the farmers market in her wheelchair.

I hope Mr Gibson continues writing Part 6, and maybe even expand his humorous social commentaries by changing the title of his essays to "Half Baked Ideas."

Mark Mathew Braunstein  
Quaker Hill, CT

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# Indonesian Misadventure

By David Corsini

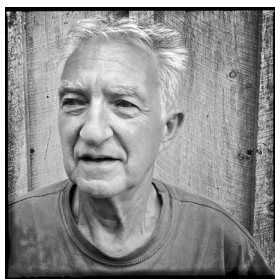
In previous articles in *Neighbors* I have described two of my adventures with the citizen scientist organization called Earthwatch. One was to Costa Rica with the leatherback sea turtles and another was to Joshua Tree National Park in California to study the impact of climate change. My participation in Earthwatch expeditions began in 1990, at age 50, went I went to the islands of the South China Sea around Hong Kong to inventory frogs and snakes. After travel to Hong Kong on three consecutive summers, I was feeling confident in my ability to travel alone to meet up with another research team for a new adventure.

The 1995 Earthwatch catalogue described a new project with a focus on aspects of biodiversity on one of the Togian Islands in Indonesia. Wow—this was right up my alley and I was quite excited by the prospect of being among the first to visit this project. What happened on this expedition is a good example of the old adage: Be careful what you wish for.

My Indonesian adventure, at age 55, started by flying to Bali—a 21 hour flight that was difficult enough in itself. I arrived late in the day and had a room in an idyllic resort but was too tired to appreciate the setting. At least I had a good laugh when at a restaurant I ordered “Chicken and Green Peace”. The next morning I got up early to catch a plane to fly on to Sulawesi— one of the larger islands that make up Indonesia. Shortly after I had checked my bag, it was announced that my plane had been canceled— come next day. I didn’t know what I was going to do.

It is an understatement to say that when it comes to fashion, I am not typically on the cutting edge. If you don’t believe me, ask Delia. But happily on that day I was wearing a colorful, floral short-sleeve shirt that attracted the attention of two Australian sisters who were in the fashion industry and doing business in Bali. Their plane also had been canceled and they asked me if I needed help.

They knew of a place near where they lived in Bali that was a restaurant and also rented rooms. So they brought me to this establishment and helped me arrange for a room and even invited me to a small gathering at their apartment. I made phone contact with Delia and told her that my plane to Sulawesi had been cancelled but I was ok because two sisters



had taken me under their wings. Delia was happy that I was being taken care of by two “nuns”! Well not exactly.

I was happy to have a room but it was adjacent to an air conditioner compressor that was malfunctioning and turning on and off all night long resulting in not much sleep. I got to the airport the next morning but my “nuns” were not there to help. I could not understand anything being said on the loud speakers and I was having trouble finding anyone who spoke English. Finally, I found an Italian couple who spoke English and they helped me figure out the gate and boarding times.

The plane took off and I was very happy to land in Palu, Sulawesi and finally meet someone from the Earthwatch team. I was with the team but we were not yet close to the research station. I called Delia to inform her I had gotten this far but would not be able to call until I got back from the research island. Not calling her probably was a good thing, as what I would have had to say would have made her more anxious than she already was.



The author in Indonesia.

Later in the day the four volunteers and two scientists got in a van that was to take us to a village from which we would take a boat to the small island where the research station was located. It was supposed to be the dry season but someone had forgotten to mention that to the weather gods. We were traveling at night and the torrential rains made driving very difficult. I was pretty exhausted and had managed to fall asleep, but woke up to see the driver of the van standing over me with a machete. A tree had fallen across the road and the driver was getting out to clear the road so we could continue. And continue we did until the van stopped again. This time it was a bit more serious.

The rains had washed out a bridge and there was no way around. We spent the night in a truck stop. The next morning we woke to find that a ladder had been set up so we could climb up to the road on the other side of the washed out bridge. We hauled our luggage (at least I only had one large backpack and sleeping pad) up the ladder, where the Earthwatch staff had made arrangements for us to continue our journey in the back of a

construction truck loaded with bags of cement. Accompanying us in the back of this truck was an elderly woman, who appeared near death, in a makeshift chair. The people accompanying the woman didn’t comfort her as she moaned during the uncomfortable ride.

Finally we arrived to the village where we were to take a boat to the research island. However, it was quickly determined that we could not proceed as planned because the ocean conditions were too rough for the small boat. So we

Contributed photo



had to stay the night in the house of the boat owner. The next morning the weather had cleared enough for us to make the two hour trip with six of us in an open, outboard motor boat. We made it, but then there was being there and getting back. The research station was on one of the Togian Islands which are an archipelago of 56 islands off Sulawesi. There are 37 villages on the various islands occupied by the Bajau people---the sea gypsies. The research station was on one of the larger islands called Togian.

The station had been constructed quite recently and the conditions were a bit primitive. There was a dock with a deck leading to an open but covered eating area. There was a meeting room and several small bedrooms. Water for showers was gravity fed from a swamp above the camp. The water was collected in a small bag to be heated by the sun. So, if you timed your shower correctly, you might have some hot water. The toilet was a simple outhouse. As I had experience with outhouses as a child, this did not bother me. Drinking water was obtained from a spring that was a boat ride away. There was a small village that we could visit at low tide but there were no stores on this island.

I slept on the floor in an 8' X 10' room. There was one problem: the room was built over the water and during the night, the action of the ocean caused a large log to bump against a post supporting the structure. After the second night of interrupted sleep, I went into the water and was able to move the log.

The day after we arrived to the research station, the contingent of four volunteers from Australia arrived. One of the volunteers was a somewhat hefty woman. As she was climbing the ladder to the dock, a rung of the ladder gave way and she and her luggage were in the drink. There were a few bugs to be worked out.

The food was scarce and poor. There was always rice. The cook was a young man without much experience. Most meals consisted of crisp, barbecued, bony fish, a spinach like green and rice. And there was no beer to wash this down. But sometimes, praise-be, we had a spam-like, canned meat to go with the rice and green. It is difficult to image being happy with the prospect of spam, but I was. One day we took a boat ride to a small market where we purchased one live chicken. The chicken was scrawny and would not have won a ribbon at a country fair. That night we had chicken. But one chicken for the 12 of us didn't amount to much.

There was another small island a short boat ride away with a village with rudimentary houses. When we visited that island, I was challenged to a game of ping pong in the public square. Although I thought that I played a decent game of ping pong, I was quickly trounced to the delight of the locals. I challenged my opponent to a rematch on my home table. I am still waiting for him to show up.

We visited another island with a small store where I managed to buy several bottles of beer to bring back to our center and share with others. As I had chest congestion, I imitated a cough to the proprietor of a small kiosk. Quickly she handed me a tube of cough syrup. I bought several. I am sure it was not FDA approved, but it worked great.

Getting to the research island had been a major

*continued on page 43*

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## From the Ground Up - Buying Local in Connecticut

# New Leadership at Coventry Farmers Market

By Dennis Pierce

Fall is sneaking up on us like an oncoming storm. Glimpses of leaves are turning color and schools have brought the increased traffic and excitement to a college town. Farm stands and farm markets are offering a bountiful harvest. Canning supplies are becoming scarce and corn is plentiful. It is interesting that as the gardens are providing an endless supply of vegetables you suddenly find offerings of squash left on your doorstep. Over the years this has happened more frequently. Upon finding the unexpected gift I often pause, and wonder are these from a friend or maybe my enemies. Retribution by squash.

I visit a variety of Farmer's markets in my travels. I recently stopped by the Coventry Market under the new leadership of Erica Pagliuco. The market, which opened its 13th summer season this past May, has grown from a 17-vendor event to a massive weekly undertaking at the Nathan Hale Homestead on Coventry's South Street. A multitude of vendors and about 5,000 people attend the Sunday morning markets held from late spring to October, with a considerably larger audience during themed events. There is also a winter version of the market, which is held indoors at Coventry High School from November to February.

The market began in 2004 at the Museum of Connecticut Glass. I fondly remember this start up. At that time I was a co-market master for the Storrs' Market and I was always checking on our competition. In 2006, the market featured themed events and by 2007, every [weekly] market had an event. In 2008, the market had grown so large that the organizers were searched for a new venue. They relocated to the Hale Homestead, owned by the Connecticut Landmarks organization. In 2012, the market ran into obstacles as it negotiated to remain at the Hale Homestead and explored the



possibility of moving to a new location in town. Arrangements were made and the market continued until the announcement came that the 2015 season would be its last. The organizers have come to a point that the task to run the market was too arduous. The town of Coventry then came to the rescue and restructured the market so it can continue to be one of the largest in the state and also bring Connecticut agriculture to those that like to buy local.

The current summer market began on Sunday, June 5th and runs to October 30th. The market opens at 11:00am and ends at 2:00pm. There is plenty of free parking but plan to arrive early to get the best offerings. The following is a list of the 2016 season vendors obtained from the market's web site: 18th Century Purity Farm, AMOR Food Truck, Apis Verdi Farm, Baker's Dozen Dog Treats, Beltane Farm, Blue Moon Woolworks + Turtle Creek, Blueberry Hill Organic Farm, Bluebird Hill Farm, Capa di Roma, Cato Corner

Farm ,Chet's Italian Ice and Gelato, Colgan Farm, CT Valley Farms, DiFiore Ravioli Shop, Dragon's Blood Elixir, Easy Pickin's Orchard, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, Fabyan Sugar Shack, Faddy's Donuts ,Falls Creek Farm, GourmAvian Farms, Granny's Pie Factory, Green Valley Farm , Hartford Baking Company , Keifer's Kettle Korn & Italian Ice , La Petite France, Lazizah Bakery, Little Bird Provision Co., Lizzie's Curbside and

Catering , Maharaja Indian Restaurant, Meadow Stone Farm Artisan Cheese , Mercado, Meriano's Bakery & Cannoli Truck, Muddy Feet Flower Farm, Munchies Food Truck , Never a Dull Moment , New Boston Beef, New England Green Mushrooms, NoRA Cupcake Company, Norm's Best , Not Only Juice, Oak Leaf Dairy, Oxen Hill Farm, Pine Lake Mushrooms, Pure Love Granola, Quiet Corner Coffee Roasters, Quiet Corner Fudge, Raw You-niverse, Riverview Farm, Root Down Farm, Savor , Sean Patrick's Plants , Shayna B's & The Pickle, Sixpence Pie Co., Soleil & Suns Bakery , Spuds Your Way, Stonewall Apiary, Tacos La Rosa , The Fish Market , The Nut Guy, The Whey Station , Wayne's Organic Garden , Whole Harmony , and Woodstock Hill Preserves.

The upcoming themes for this year's market are





September 4: Dog Days, September 11: Homesteading Skills, September 18: Apples, Apples, Apples, September 25: Fiber Fest. October brings: October 2: Cheese Fest, October 9: Farm to Shaker, October 16: Fire & Ice: Spicy & Icy is the Name of the Game! October 23: Holiday Makers' Market, October 30: Pumpkin Fest and this is the last summer market of 2016.

Hat's off to Erica and her crew. I cannot say that there is a better event in the Quiet Corner. If you are coming to spend some time in the country, buy local or bringing guests that are visiting, this is a great opportunity to celebrate Connecticut Grown. Yes, it is true when they say the Coventry Farmer's Market is like having a country fair every Sunday. Detailed information regarding the market and upcoming events can be found on their web site: <https://www.coventryfarmersmarket.org/>

So by the time this article is printed you might also see a gift of squash either by friends, fellow co-workers or you may even purchase some at the Coventry Market. Let fall enter early and enjoy the following recipe.

#### Maple Squash Conserve (Makes 2+ cups)

##### Ingredients:

2 lbs. of acorn or butternut squash  
½ cup of maple syrup  
1 Tbl. of butter  
1 Tbl. finely chopped orange zest  
1 Tbl of Triple Sec or other orange liqueur (you can obtain this at any liquor store. Don't buy a large bottle. Purchase a "nip" which is usually held behind the counter.

##### Directions:

Pre heat oven to 375 degrees.  
Cut the squash in half. Clean by removing the seeds and fibers. Scrape the surface until clean. Place squash halves, cut side down in a baking dish filled with 1 inch of water. Bake until the skin is easily pierced with a fork and the pulp is fork tender... approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. Add more water if needed. Remove and let cool.

When cool enough, scoop out pulp. In a food processor or blender puree it with maple syrup until smooth.  
Melt butter in a nonstick pan. Add squash mixture and cook low, stirring frequently until reduced by approximately half. Add orange zest and liqueur and cook for 5 minutes more. Remove from heat and use immediately or cool and store in refrigerator for up to 5 days.

Serve alongside of a Turkey dinner or a real unique option is to place 1/4 cup in 8 individual bowls, add a scoop of vanilla ice cream (preferably UConn Dairy Bar) and drizzle over the top, heated maple syrup...yum...Serve and smile.

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](mailto:Codfish53@yahoo.com). Peas be with you.

*Coventry Farmers Market photo by Dennis Pierce.*



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## “We Are UCONN Nation”

By Phoebe C. Godfrey

A new semester has begun and as I sat in excessively slow “move-in-day” traffic last Friday (I was foolish enough to try to get to my office to prepare my classes), I looked over to the new UCONN campus sign across from E.O Smith and to my horror I saw an even newer banner boldly proclaiming “We are UCONN Nation”! Then after inching forward a bit more I saw a group of students outside Dog Lane café all wearing t-shirts proclaiming the same. Partly out of a mix of frustration from the traffic and my own disgust that I now worked for a ‘nation’ as opposed to a state run university I yelled at my windscreen – “What the f—k does that even mean? Who got paid to come up with that idiocy??” Then I noticed that the UCONN Co-Op bookstore has its new name - Barnes & Noble- and the connections began to be made, including the memory of Susan Herbst hiring of Tysen Kendig, Vice President for Communications who makes upwards of \$300k and who came to UCONN from the corporate world. This must be a product of his office I thought, and the on-going systemic makeover to turn a state land-grant university mandated to serve the public interests into a corporation, or rather a corpor-nation – better known as a corporatocracy.

The economist Jeffery Sachs referred to the United States as a corporatocracy in his book *The Price of Civilization* (2011) defining it as a situation when “powerful corporate interest groups dominate the policy agenda.” Sacks’ critique is based on his view that US politics are controlled by four powerful lobbies; (1) military-industrial complex (2) Wall Street–Washington complex (3) Big Oil–transport–military complex (4) the health care industry. The result, according to Sacks, are the excessively high levels of income inequality (as

of 2014 the richest 1 percent in the United States own more additional income than the bottom 90 percent) that are eroding what little practical democracy we might have based on varying levels of social class, racial and gender privileges. In this vein, if UCONN is a self-proclaimed nation then it too could be described as a corporatocracy given that public educational intuitions generally mirror the values of their surrounding societies, even as they make claims to primarily be serving the public good. My assertion can be supported by the increased economic inequality on campus represented by administrative salaries that were further increased this past spring at the same time that faculty salaries were frozen, tuition increased and the state on the whole eliminated over 900 state jobs to try and close deficit gap. This prioritizing of administrators over students and faculty with more and more being non-tenure / part-time employees, represents a national trend and adds to the imbalance in incomes, hence in power. In addition, in linking this hierarchical structure with Sacks’ four powerful lobbies (I would add the agriculture industrial complex as a fifth one) it is not hard to see the connection between these interests and grant funding to UCONN and other universities for corporate research and development that then leads to the privatization of patents and products to further generate corporate profits.

Given this situation, what a corporatocracy, or any nation that is highly unequal seeks from its ‘citizens’ is allegiance, brand loyalty and core identification with the national ideals and images in order to obscure the more alarming realities. By marketing UCONN now as a ‘nation’, ‘nationalism’ is the logical stance of the ‘nationals’ / ‘citizens’ within that nation- a stance that is highly problematic within a globally recognized nation, let alone for a university that is now taking on this Disney type national identity. The purpose



of a university is ideally to foster critical thinking, public dissent, social / political / economic critique and the search for philosophical, spiritual and empirical truth. In contrast, nationalism tends to do the opposite. In fact, in seeking quotes about nationalism I was reassured that my rage at this new marketing ploy on the part of UCONN was not excessive given the acerbic statements I came across by those thinkers worthy of quoting. Here is just a small sample:

“Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind”.  
Albert Einstein

“Pervading nationalism imposes its dominion on man today in many different forms and with an aggressiveness that spares no one. The challenge that is already with us is the temptation to accept as true freedom what in reality is only a new form of slavery”. Pope John Paul II

“All of nationalism can be understood as a kind of collective narcissism”. Geoff Mulgan

“Nationalism has a way of oppressing others”. Noam Chomsky

“Nationalism is power hunger tempered by self-deception”. George Orwell

“Corporate nationalism to me is a little bit like what would have happened if Hitler had won. It’s scary stuff. It’s totalitarianism in a different from, under a different flavor”. Lance Henriksen

“I have been thinking about the notion of perfect love as being without fear, and what that means for us in a world that’s becoming increasingly xenophobic, tortured by fundamentalism and nationalism”. bell hooks

Anyone of these quotes could be used to describe Trump’s call to build a wall from the Pacific to the Atlantic and to ban Muslims from entering the US, let alone the on-going themes of American exceptionalism that fuel and obscure our self-servicing militaristic foreign policy. That said, what might on the surface seem like a innocuous PR campaign at UCONN, complete with cute images of Jonathan

the husky and college rah-rah t-shirts for incoming students actually is much more insidious and disturbing. It sets the stage for students to first and foremost have blind allegiance for the very institution that they and their families help fund and that is supposed to be serving their intellectual and professional needs (not just their emotional need to belong), as opposed to it being the other way round. In googling UCONN Nation, I got the page ‘Welcome to UCONN Nation’ that is part of the Alumni magazine where the first sentence states, “Everywhere you go, everywhere you look, you can feel the enthusiasm for everything Husky” and the last one is “...together, we strengthen and grow our UConn Nation!” Such meaninglessness again resonates with the type of vacuousness of Trump’s speeches where he declares himself as the answer to any given problem, as opposed to offering any critical analysis or creative insight into an issue. For example, in the

case of Mexican immigration instead of proposing the absurd idea of building a wall he should be exploring what might be causing immigration and what role the US play is playing in that cause (as in tax subsidized corn that due to NAFTA makes it cheaper than Mexican corn thereby putting Mexican farmers out of business and creating the impetus for immigration). Likewise, alumni of UCONN, as well as current students, would be much better off if they critically explored what might be causing the increases in tuition or in the number of administrators or in the number of part-time faculty or in class sizes ... etc rather than being swept up in the ‘excitement for everything husky’. I for one plan to continue referring to UCONN as a University and to teach as if I am at one, even if in the aggregate, given all the evidence, it less and less deserves the name.

*Contributed photo.*

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# Open Letter to Third-Party Fans

By Delia Berlin



Your train has long left the station and is traveling downhill. Ahead, you can see a fork on the tracks: one side leads to a raging wild fire, and the other one to a neighborhood you don't like. You have a brief window of opportunity to try to steer the train towards one track or the other. Liking neither alternative, you wonder if you could avert both. Perhaps you could fly up... But no matter what you do, when that window closes your train will be either in that raging fire or in that unsavory neighborhood. Believe me: your train won't fly.

On November 9th, 2016, we will wake up to a new president elect. Only one of two people, Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, will have captured enough electoral votes to be in that position. That fate will be decided by a fraction of potential voters. Many Americans will sit out this election, and still others will cast their votes for a third-party candidate. Everyone has a right to follow their conscience, but that doesn't mean that all choices are right. No matter what your position, in the knowledge that Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump will win, if you see any difference at all between them, you must choose the best option for your country and your fellow citizens. And if you don't see enough difference to care, I beg to differ and strongly so.

Many third-party voters of today are too young to have voted for Nader in 2000. But those who did voted with full knowledge that their vote was just a "protest" vote. Nobody held any hopes that Nader could win. Yet, his meager following gave us eight years of George W. Bush. Those who wouldn't settle for Gore left us with a lasting legacy, including Justice Alito, Citizens United, the war in Iraq, and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. President Obama's eight years barely dug us out of the hole we were left in by Bush. Bernie Sanders, whom I supported, understands this. He is doing all he can to steer the train away from the fire into that less-than-perfect neighborhood where improvements can still be made. So I ask, if you were with Bernie during the primaries, why would you abandon him now? His accomplishments so far have proven that his revolution can continue to move forward, even without a win. Now more than ever we must be the force behind him, and not a self-indulging gang of protest voters standing in his way.

Please follow Bernie Sanders in supporting Hillary Clinton and don't let the hype distract you from choosing legislative candidates who will advance his platform. Add your name to pledge support to his new organization or contribute at <https://go.berniesanders.com/page/s/future-of-our-revolution>. No president will be able to do much without breaking the legislative gridlock of the last few years. The train has long left the station and this is now the only way left to avert disaster.

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## Sally Rogers Children's Concert in Hampton

Submitted by Gay Wagner

Well known Connecticut troubadour, folksinger and songwriter Sally Rogers will be at the Hampton Community Center, 168 Main Street, Sunday September 11th at 2:30pm, to celebrate the season with a special children's concert, "Sing a Song of Harvest."

Families and children of all ages are invited to this FREE event of the Hampton Recreation and Community Activities Commission, due to the generous support of the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the REGI grant program administered by Windham Arts in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sally Rogers performs traditional, contemporary and original ballads and song, interwoven with stories taken from her life as a performer, a wife and a mother. Throughout her concerts, she accompanies herself on guitar and Appalachian dulcimer, or performs without accompaniment in a voice that needs no further enhancement. Reviewers have described her voice in superlatives ranging from "remarkable" to "mesmeriz-



ing." As one critic summarized, "...it's really next to impossible to do justice to a voice of that quality." Much of the material performed by Sally includes compositions of her own, many of which are considered classics of the folk and popular genre. The audience will have an opportunity to participate in some harvest-season song writing and performing.

INFO: Gay Wagner, 860-455-9875, [gwagner1@mind-spring.com](mailto:gwagner1@mind-spring.com)



## Lebanon's 50th Antiques Show



For almost half a century, rain or shine, antique dealers and collectors gather on the Green in Lebanon, CT. Once a common sight in Connecticut towns, outdoor antiques shows are now almost gone from the landscape. The show on the Lebanon Green offers a bit of nostalgia for everyone. Now in its 50th year, the Lebanon Historical Society's Outdoor Antiques Show is open 9:00 to 3:00 on Saturday, September 24th 2016.

Up to 80 dealers will offer antiques and high-quality collectibles to buyers who come from around the state and through-out southern New England. The event started in 1966 as a money-making effort to fund Society programs and, eventually, to help pay for the land needed to build a Museum. Today, the Antiques Show is still the Historical Society's largest and most important fund raising event with proceeds supporting school programs, exhibits and historical presentations.

Some dealers have been participating for many years, but new-to-the-field dealers are added every year. Visitors can expect to find everything from 19th century furniture to vintage tools and from traditional pottery to textiles, glassware and jewelry.

For the \$5 admission fee visitors can spend the day wandering the field, talking with dealers and finding a bargain. Lunch and snacks are available for purchase all day including home-made chowder and baked goods as well as grilled burgers and hot dogs. Parking is free.

For more information contact the Lebanon Historical Society 860-642-6579 / [museum@historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org) or visit us on the web at [www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org).

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# Scouts assemble new footbridge in Brooklyn



Life Scout and Eagle Scout Candidate Richard L. LaBonte, Jr. (left), holds a board as his Scoutmaster, Peter A. Lombardo, of Putnam, drives a nail, as part of the construction of the new footbridge over Creamery Brook in Brooklyn. Vikki LaBonte photo

By John D. Ryan

Brooklyn town officials and Putnam Boy Scouts dedicated a new, wooden footbridge on Saturday morning, July 16, at the Donald Francis Recreation Park, a 110-acre town-owned park at the intersection of Route 6 and Prince Hill Road. Bridging Creamery Brook, the 40-foot span is at the beginning of two recreational trails that end at the town's Prince Hill Park. It replaced the decaying wooden bridge that Brooklyn Parks and Recreation Department Director Matthew "Bucky" Lohbusch said was built when the park opened in 1987.

"This new bridge fits in perfectly with the park. We can't say for sure how many people use the trails, but they're very popular. We have people on them all year, from hikers, horse riders and mountain bikers in the warmer months to snowshoeing in the winter," he said.

Work began in March, when 16-year-old Eagle Scout Candidate and Life Scout Richard L. LaBonte, Jr., started planning demolition of the old bridge and assembly and staining of the new one. LaBonte lives in Pomfret and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 21, which is chartered to St. Mary Church of the Visitation in Putnam. This fall, he'll be a junior at H. H. Ellis Technical High School in Danielson, where he studies electronics.

The Boy Scouts of America requires that a candidate for Scouting's highest rank plan and lead others in completing a significant service project to benefit the candidate's school, church or community. Since LaBonte works as a paid summer camp counselor for the recreation department, he asked Lohbusch if he had any potential projects available. The new bridge topped the list, so Lohbusch and LaBonte agreed that the

town would provide lumber, nails and tools, cut the lumber to size and deliver it to the park. Lohbusch said the lumber and nails cost the town about \$500.

Scouts and other project volunteers then took over, handling demolition, laying new planks and assembling new railings, staining everything when that was done. Volunteers also cut down brush at the bridge's four corners. Led by the young man, the project's 16 youth and adult volunteers, including the Scouts from Troop 21, spent almost 190 man-hours on the job, finishing July 9.

"The whole thing went better than I thought at first it was going to, even though it rained a couple of times," LaBonte said. "I learned (from doing this project) that when you're the leader, everyone looks up to you to make the right choice."

In addition to a service project, an Eagle Scout candidate must also earn a total of 21 required and elective merit badges covering various subjects, including citizenship, camping, the environment, family life, first aid, physical fitness and financial management, among others. LaBonte said he has ten merit badges to go. He has until his eighteenth birthday to earn them.

Former Brooklyn First Selectman Donald Francis, whom the park is named after, was at the dedication ceremonies. Francis was the town's top elected official from 1987 to 2001. He smiled admiringly as he looked at the new bridge, saying he was extremely pleased with LaBonte and his volunteers.

"I'd hire that young man to work at my house," he said.



# Labor Day Origins Were No Picnic



By Bev York

The Windham Textile & History Museum, a.k.a. the Mill Museum, holds its annual Labor Day event to provide the community with the true meaning of Labor Day. This year, the Museum will present the Molly Maguires, in conjunction with its Irish Eyes Exhibit. The focus will be coal mining past and present, and then we will reenact the 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike in Pennsylvania. The public is invited to dress as coal miners and bring brooms and mops to participate in the strike.

Nineteenth century wages and working conditions often exploited American workers including immigrants and children. Following the Civil War, wages remained low and hours long yet company profits soared. The laboring class organized unions, protests, and strikes for decades, which eventually led to some reforms during the Progressive Era.

The Molly Maguires are believed to have been a secret society of Irish radicals, active in Ireland, England, and the anthracite coal fields of Eastern Pennsylvania in the United States. The Mollies were accused of murder, arson, and other crimes against the coal companies. Between 1876 and 1878, twenty men were tried and hanged.

The Molly Maguires used the Ancient Order of the Hibernians as a cover. The AOH was an Irish Catholic fraternal organization, which was founded in 1836. It was organized to support and protect the Irish in response to rising nativism and anti-Catholic forces. By 1912 there were over 14,000 members in Connecticut. There was an active AOH in Willimantic that met on Main Street.

The 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike lasted 163 days from May to October. 150,000 strikers demanded wage increases, an eight hour day, and union recognition. Strikebreakers, or "scabs," brought in by the company were attacked. The strike may have been responsible for 29 deaths of scabs, strikers, and company employees.

As cold weather approached, schools and businesses suffered, and some closed for lack of affordable coal. In an unprecedented move President Theodore Roosevelt became the

Neighbors 15

first president to intervene in a labor dispute as a neutral third party. He called the parties together and pleaded on behalf of the American public for some resolution.

To find out what happened come to the Labor Day Strike event on Monday, September 5 at 5:00 p. m. at the Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street Willimantic. Admission of any donation is appreciated. 1902 dress is optional. Bring signs or brooms. 860-456-2178

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# The Flashbacks: A Reminiscence

## Part Three – Master Talent

By David Light

One afternoon after school, Mike Giblin, Bob Peelstrom and I piled into Bob's Z-28 Camaro and headed out to look for gigs. Long story short: we ended up in Provincetown. We got back home after midnight empty-handed: no gigs. That trip was a defining moment. That trip, although good for the soul and camaraderie, told us we had better things to do with our time. So, we decided in order to make money, we had to spend money. Time to get on-board with an agent.

We had become a well-oiled machine. Our song sets were diverse; our theatrics became more flamboyant and visually appealing; and we were musically tight as a group. Bob had been doing all the booking back in our infancy. We agreed (shortly after that Provincetown trip) that it was time to put The Flashbacks into the hands of a professional talent agency that could drum up gigs for us while we concentrated on the music. It turned out to be the right decision. A great decision!

Master Talent Agency in Wethersfield, CT took us on. We worked with a gentleman named Tony, and through his efforts The Flashbacks got publicized in Connecticut and eventually throughout New England. Financially, we also began to command more money for a night's show. We started at Spiro's in 1973 at \$150 a night. When we started to wind down in 1976, we would get \$650 to \$800 a night. That increased cash flow allowed us to upgrade equipment, purchase costumes, and even buy a bus (more on that in another post). Personally, it would help to build a rec room in my basement, and bought me a new stereo system. The flyers and booklets Master Talent Agency sent out promoted us in creative ways. Here is an excerpt from an interview that Bob wrote and which appeared in one of Master Talent's advertising directories:

MTA: What's your favorite color?

Bob: What is this, a Dick Clark interview?

MTA: Seriously, how did you get into this business of changing costumes every set?

Bob: Well, we're a total oldies act. We try to re-create the 50s in every detail. Changing costumes helps us depict not only the hoods on the streets but the kids in school with their thin ties and pointy shoes. It also lets us pay tribute to the tuxedo-dressed "bird" groups: The Orioles, The Robins, and The Penguins.

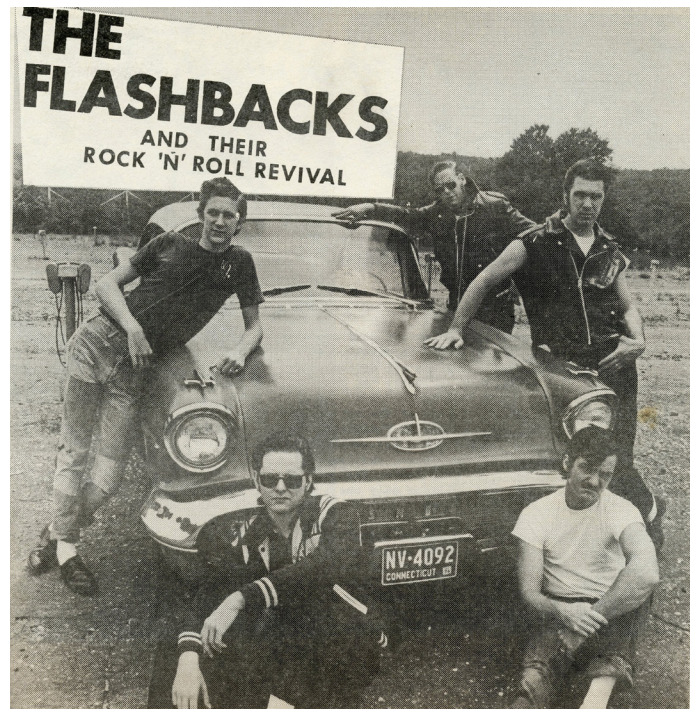
MTA: What approach should we use to advertise the band next season?

Bob: I think you can show a lot about the band by stating one simple fact: we know who cracked the bullwhip on Frankie Laine's recording of "Mule Train".

MTA: But that's trivia...

Bob: Not if you're a bull!

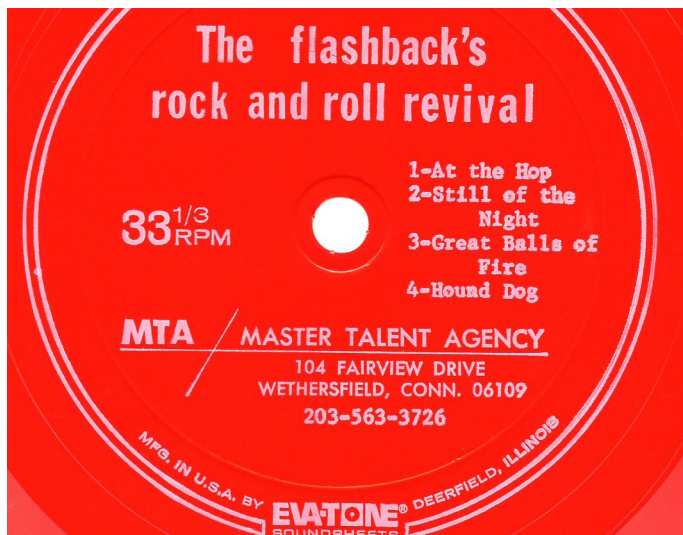
Going with Master Talent Agency to help get us gigs



throughout New England was a great move. As I had said earlier, it was Bob Peelstrom's business-sense that launched our popularity to a whole new level. Shortly after Master Talent took us over he floated out the idea of another promotion strategy. Let's cut a record. Well, not a real vinyl record, but a red, plastic record with four songs that would be inserted into a gatefold picture sleeve that showed photos of the band and the Flashmobile (more on that later). This record would be sent out separate from Master Talent's annual band directory. The photo on the front of the picture sleeve was taken at the Mansfield Drive-In. Putting text onto the projection screen was Bob's idea, and it was a creatively great one. Colleges and high schools and organizations now had the opportunity to hear who they would be hiring. The recording of the songs was done in a studio in West Hartford. The cuts were recorded in about six hours. We had great fun, but the songs were "studio" songs and did not capture the energy and intensity of our live shows. The only known "live" recording of The Flashbacks to exist is on two Ampex cassettes which I have and hope to get digitized. In the meantime, you can go the Facebook Group Page: The Flashbacks and Their Rock and Roll Revival and catch the songs from our red plastic promotional record. You will also be able to view other Master Talent promotional items. We even had bumper stickers made up.

Heading into late 1974 and early 1975 our bookings multiplied almost immediately; we were getting booked every single weekend. We saw less of the bar / lounge scene and more of various venues throughout New England: universities, high schools, beer fests, colleges, private organizations, and even played with Chubby Checker at the Groton Sub Base, Bo Diddley at a Meriden nightclub, and Jay and the Americans at





the Norwich Rose Arts Festival. At one point our popularity got us an offer to play at U. S. military bases in Europe for six months. We did not accept the offer. We had families; we had jobs (remember, four of us were teachers). We were weekend warriors, but during the week we did what we really loved: teach.

In the November / December issue of *Neighbors* you will hear how our guest singer, Johnny Crystal, was created. In the meantime, check out the Facebook Group Page: The Flashbacks and Their Rock and Roll Revival. You will see more band photos and listen to the songs from the red, plastic vinyl record.

## CLIR Begins Fall Session

Submitted by Blanche Boucher, CLIR secretary

CLIR, UConn's lifelong learning program, begins its Fall session Wednesday, September 7. Come join us to hear about the history of drugs, the symphony, gems and crystals, the controversial Talpiot Tomb in Jerusalem, and a critique of alternative medicine. These are only a few of the many classes offered; a fee of \$20 covers any or all of them. For a complete listing see [clir.uconn.edu](http://clir.uconn.edu) or the brochure available at your local library or by calling 860-570-9012. Classes are held during the day on UConn's Depot campus on Route 44.

Dear Reader-

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

T. King, Publisher

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# Westford Hill: Pioneers of a Distilling Renaissance

By Tyler Margid

Ashford is home to one of America's first craft distilleries. Westford Hill Distillers is located off a twisting road through thick woods, several miles off interstate 84. The distillery consists of two large, red barns that crown a grassy hill. One side of the hill faces the road, with patches of flowers and freckled with mulberry trees. Next to the barns is a house that dates back to 1711.

The husband and wife team Margaret and Louis Chatey both run the distillery. Louis gloats about working 1,000 feet from his home. His open collared, short sleeve shirt and blue jeans reflect the easy convenience of his commute. Margaret admires a patch of purple and yellow flowers which match her unbuttoned pink shirt she wears with a colorful polka-dot scarf. "The bees are happy today," she remarks. Inside the distilling barn, the air is pungent with the aroma of alcohol. Wooden walls reach up to a high ceiling. Square windows and an opening to the crushpad in back blend natural light with lamplight. Just outside on the crushpad patio sits a hammer mill, which looks like the younger cousin of a wood chipper. It purees the fruit before it is put in large tanks for fermentation. Margaret explains, "The first thing we're interested in is how sweet the fruit is. So we have something that's called a refractometer, and you can squeeze a little bit of the fruit juice onto it and it'll tell you how sweet the fruit is."

This is an important first step because "we aren't allowed to add any sugar, so we rely on the fruit's natural sweetness." In the barn there are three tanks roughly the size of Volkswagen Beetles. Across from the tanks are stacked barrels for aging some of the fruits, mostly apples, for their award winning aged apple brandy. The Chateys also distill vodka, raspberry, cherry, strawberry, and pear brandies, with plans to start distilling gin, and whiskey from grain grown on location.

Margaret and Louis originally intended to use the property as a winery, until they teamed up with the godfather of American craft distilling, Alsatian-born Jorg Rupf. Rupf, with his legal background, was able to change post-prohibition legislation that made it impossible for small scale distilling operations in 1982, inciting the big bang of American craft spirits. Rupf spent a week in Ashford teaching the Chateys secrets of his craft he learned from distilling in his home country. After, he went on to become a legend in the world of craft distilling, earning a lifetime achievement award from

the American Distilling Institute (ADI) and recognition by the James Beard.

The ADI also recognized Westford Hill's contribution to the world of craft spirits in 2012 when they gave the Best of Category and gold medal to Margaret and Louis' New World Aged Apple Brandy. Apple brandy has a rich New England history that spans all the way back to the 18th century with the folk legend Johnny Appleseed. Before he was Johnny Appleseed, he was John Chapman, and what your elementary school teacher may have left out of the story is that he distilled hard cider. He birthed a powerful New England tradition of distilling apple brandy. Most of this was lost in the days of prohibition when the government destroyed many New England orchards and stills to prevent production of hard cider and brandy—until craft spirits pioneers including Margaret and Louis started bottling their aged apple brandy.

The apple brandy tradition has been kept alive in what the French call Calvados. "It's produced in the northern, Normandy region," Louis explains. "They've been doing it for hundreds of years, but we lost a lot of our knowledge during prohibition, so we're working to revive the whole heritage of apple brandy." This revival resembles a more scientific process than a culinary one, because most of it takes place in the experimentation of the various factors that affect the taste of the final product. There is no single type of apple that has been recognized as the perfect, all-encompassing brandy apple. Louis

says, "Like cider, there is a blend of apples that go into it; brandy is the same way. Some have great aromatics; some have great front of the palate flavors, others don't. So it's been an experiment over the past sixteen years." Like proper scientists, the Chateys keep all the varieties separate, to isolate and identify these various qualities they offer.

There's no Nobel Prize for brandy, but in addition to the ADI award, the Chateys' spirits has attracted attention of the Smithsonian, and Westford Hill's was invited to pour their apple brandy in Washington D.C. last fall. Through the Chateys' efforts, American Apple Brandy has been inducted into Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity's "Arc of Taste" and Westford Hill's products were sent to Italy to Salone del Gusto to represent American apple brandy's inclusion. According to their website, Westford Hill's brandy features "the sweetness of apple fruit in the nose with an underlayment of vanilla and caramel from the oak." The brandy hits you first with a strong, earthy aromatic. It lands on your tongue with



Margaret and Louis Chatey with their granddaughter and still.  
Tom King photo



an aggressive apple taste then warms your throat as a sweet, caramel flavor reverberates in your mouth. The bottle is tall, dark, and curvy.

“New World Aged Apple Brandy” is embroidered onto a fabric patch in flowing script. A ribboned sticker sits above the patch with hand-written series and bottle number. Just below the wax—real wax—sealed cork cap is a sticker that indicates the brandy has aged fourteen years before bottling. When the Chateys opened their distillery, America had fewer than a dozen small-scale distilleries. Currently there are craft spirits produced in all fifty states, and about five hundred small scale distilleries in America. This trend exhibits a demand from the consumers for hands-on attention to craft and individuality. Louis stands next to the still and says, “If I were running a continuous still producing a large national brand, I’d be sitting at a booth, looking at some gauges, and maybe reading a magazine. Because it’s all done mechanically, I’d never need to go near the actual still.” There are also some imitators masquerading as craft that will purchase large quantities of a mass produced spirit, add something of their own flavoring, and bottle it with the illusion to consumers that it was all distilled and produced on location.

In a room attached to the barn is the heart of Westford Hill’s craft operation. The first thing you’re faced with upon entering is the custom-built German made still, which looks like a cross between an old fashioned oven and some kind of 90s sci-fi laboratory equipment. It’s made of copper and has a large round base with a hatch that looks like a miniature bank vault door. Attached to the base is a copper tube extending upwards with four small, circular windows which are sprinkled on the inside with condensation. At the top, it attaches to a smaller metal tube that extends downwards to a spigot which dispels the distilled product. Above the spigot is an open basin with a hydrometer bob, which looks like a floating thermometer that measures the alcohol content. The first congeners, known as the heads of the run, are flavor compounds which give any spirit its distinctive character and alcohol content. This comes out smell like acetone. After a while, the distillate fades in aroma and loses flavor; this part of the run is called the tails. But between the two are the hearts—the goldilocks zone of spirits where the aroma and flavor are just right. Louis leans over the open basin, wafting and using his trained nose and palate to detect when the distilled spirit’s qualities are just right.

The Chateys are happy to call Ashford home, in fact Chatey family has called Ashford home since 1919. The distillery address is on Chatey Road. The tightness of small community and bucolic air, coupled with its proximity to the major metropolitan areas of Boston and NYC, provide the ideal setting for Westford Hill’s soaring success. Louis gazes out a window overlooking the field sloping away from the barn and says, “The whole craft thing tends to start out in major metro areas. San Francisco is a major hotbed, and obviously New York City. They walk up these trends from the urban areas, and that’s why it takes so long to get here, but it is catching on.” Out here where cellphone reception is spotty and the birds don’t share the sky with any airplanes, the Chateys are deeply rooted in the apple brandy tradition of New England. And if the city-slickers don’t understand it yet, they will soon.



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# Farm-to-Table Feast To Benefit CLiCK



In photo at left: Roaming Fresh Farm-to-Table Feast planners Rachael LaPorte ("Fresh Solutions") and Suzanne Ingalls ("Gleanings"), both of Lebanon, at CLiCK's non-profit commercial kitchen in Willimantic. In photo above: On August 24th, Eastern Connecticut State University student volunteers helped CLiCK General Manager Rachael LaPorte (right) use CLiCK's nonprofit, cooperative commercial kitchen to turn 200 pounds of donated organic tomatoes into preserved tomato products that will be sold at the Willimantic Food Coop as a fundraiser for CLiCK. Submitted photos.

By Carol Davidge, CLiCK Volunteer

On October 2 from 12 to 4 pm, CLiCK's "Roaming Farm to Table Feast" will be held at Beltane Farm, 59 Taylor Bridge Road in Lebanon, CT. You'll sample amazing taste sensations such as Beltane Farm ricotta gundi, chef-prepared specialties, a gourmet burger bar, fresh and pickled vegetables, squash bisque, assorted desserts, apple cider donuts, local wine and crafted kombucha from Live On Calm-bucha, move to the live Latin music of Tierra Mestiza..and many other delicious treats. Admission includes a gift of gourmet recipes based on local products by Rachael LaPorte of Lebanon, a chef who has worked in major cities of the US and who is both CLiCK's General Manager and owner of "Simply Fresh Solutions," a pre-order, prepared meal company that works out of CLiCK. Tickets are \$75 if purchased by September 23 or \$100 at the door. Checks for "Roaming" tickets may be mailed to CLiCK, PO Box 788, Willimantic 06226 (donations welcome). Proceeds benefit CLiCK. For information, call (860) 786-7907, E-mail: [clickwillimantic@gmail.com](mailto:clickwillimantic@gmail.com), or on Facebook: [CLiCKWillimantic](https://www.facebook.com/CLiCKWillimantic).

CLiCK is a nonprofit 501(c)3 commercially licensed co-operative kitchen in Willimantic where more than a dozen new businesses in the past year began creating products for sale.

CLiCK also has grants to provide farm-to-school meals for children and has taught more than 200 low-income children about nutrition and cooking this past year. It offers many food services to area residents.

According to Rachael, "CLiCK's purpose with this Roaming Feast is to demonstrate not only the bounty from farms that is readily available in eastern Connecticut, but also the unexpected taste experiences that can come from local farms, such as created by M&K Dairy, Sweet Acre Farm, Dragon's Blood Elixir Hot Sauces, Big Baby's Pops, and Superbaked. In addition, chefs like me will be cooking and serving our innovations," she said.

Another product that is being incubated at CLiCK addresses the timely issue of food waste. Spearheaded by Suzanne Ingalls of Lebanon, this project is called "Gleanings," which according to Suzanne "will use unwanted farm produce to serve needy people. Using the production facilities at CLiCK will make my dream come true," said Suzanne. She will provide chocolate lovers taste delights at the October 2 fundraiser.

For anyone who supports the local, sustainable food movement and has a desire to see more economic development in Connecticut - AND - who enjoys good food and music, this fundraiser is a must.

As CLiCK's Board President Phoebe Godfrey states, "CLiCK is playing a vital role in bringing both economic development through food, and health and nutrition education to eastern Connecticut."



# GOTCHA!

By Ed Adelman

Recently, while selecting the appropriate worn and muddy clothes for yard work, I chose a mostly-broken belt that a sensible person would have tossed long ago. To me, however, there was still a shred of usefulness in it so I kept it to occupy the lowest rung of my very short wardrobe ladder. The belt had problems; the holes for the various sizes became seriously enlarged after the first few uses making it barely functional and quite unattractive. As I cinched it, I felt something give, only to discover that one of the two screws that held the buckle to the belt tore through the cheap belt material rendering it now, even to me, totally useless. As I grumbled and inspected the problem, I noticed the brand name proudly displayed on the buckle -- Donald J. Trump.

A few thoughts about this belt came to mind. I remembered buying it a few years ago and thinking it was a handsome leather belt for \$10—seemingly a good deal. It held up well for about a week and then the holes became shredded and enlarged. My inspection revealed that it was “bonded leather”, whatever that means. “Believe me folks, it’s not just leather, it’s *bonded* leather.” My assumptions about bonded leather being a certified higher quality of leather proved false as I could now plainly see it was merely two super-thin leather layers wrapping some cheap fabric filling. This was a product in a race with itself to see which part would fail first as it contained no quality materials.

I own other belts that I have worn for over 20 years. In a sense, belts are the definition of an over-engineered product. A strap of leather (or canvas or hemp) and a metal buckle should never wear out in doing the not overly taxing job of holding up one’s pants. Trump’s team worked very hard to figure out how to under-engineer this product—using cheap materials which would soon break down. The concept of this belt actually working and lasting must have been a very low priority. Attaching his name on this shoddy merchandise, produced in China, apparently doesn’t bother him.

I wondered about confronting Mr. Trump with my concerns and imagined his “customer service” skills. First, he would blame and then insult me for putting on weight over the past few years. He might even insult me with a short person joke or two just for good measure despite being totally unrelated to the belt problem. Then I would be berated for being so stupid as to buy a product with his name on it and expecting any type of quality or satisfaction (I do deserve that one). The whole experience would be a “gotcha” moment, where like other hucksters, once the money changes hands, you are stuck with the product, like it or not. Those of us with marketplace expectations of fair play, quality merchandise and honest representation of the product are easy pickings for con artists like him.

My crappy Trump belt is a cheap lesson to learn as long as it helps prevent a far more costly lesson this November. Don’t be caught with your pants down. Caveat emptor---buyer beware!





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# Hospitalized veterans helped by local Knights

By John D. Ryan

The Quiet Corner's Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus are looking back on a successful fraternal year of service just completed, while looking forward to a great year already under way.

"We're very pleased with what we've done for veterans," said Faithful Navigator Matthew R. Frederick, of Brooklyn, taking a break from cooking a recent Sunday's annual Fourth Degree assembly picnic. Having begun his one-year term on July 1, Frederick is the elected leader of the Right Rev. Monsignor Jean C. Mathieu Fourth Degree Assembly 114, based in Putnam, with 170 members from Ashford to Moosup.

"Over the past year several of our members made four trips on Sundays to the veteran's hospital in West Haven," Frederick said, talking about the assembly's continuing support of the patients at the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospital at the other end of the state. "They drove over 180 miles round-trip every three months to bring Catholic patients to and from Mass in the chapel at the hospital. They're needed because hospital orderlies don't work on Sundays."

Also, in the last year the assembly bought and personally delivered 50 new Catholic missals for patients and visitors. At the same time, the Knights collected and delivered new toiletries and used cell phones for all patients at the hospital.

"The books have helped our people live their faith in a very special way," said Rev. Christopher Opara, one of the hospital's two Catholic chaplains. The priests had asked for the missals last fall. "The books have all the music and the readings the people need to celebrate Mass here throughout the year. We're very grateful, because this allows them all to fully participate."

The Fourth Degree, also known as the Patriotic Degree, is part of the worldwide Knights of Columbus organization, a fraternal benefit society made up of Catholic men and their families. Many people have seen Fourth Degree Knights at a parade, funeral or other event, wearing their black tuxedos and colorful knee-length silk capes and ostrich-plumed

hats.

What is not generally known, however, is that fewer than one out of five of the world's 1.9 million Knights of Columbus have taken on the optional, extra commitment of joining the Fourth Degree. Every Fourth Degree Knight is also a member of a local K of C council. Nearly all of the members of Mathieu Assembly 114 are also members of a local council in northern Windham County, with a few participating in local councils elsewhere.

"We're very proud of what our state's 5,500 Fourth Degree Knights do to support our veterans and our country," said Connecticut District Master of the Fourth Degree Charles H. Sullivan, of Southington, who oversees operations statewide. "The Knights of Columbus is in thirteen countries throughout the world. The Fourth Degree is there to support patriotism and the Catholic Church in each of those countries. It's wonderful to see that Mathieu Assembly 114 is setting such a great example of patriotism in northeastern Connecticut."

Assembly members are also committed to having fun, so every summer they hold a picnic. On Sunday, however, the unusually hot weather caused a change of location. "Our picnics are usually held outside at a member's home, but with things over 90 degrees, we moved indoors," said Fourth Degree Knight David J. Meunier, Sr., of Putnam.

Putnam's local K of C council, Cargill Council 64, generously offered the use of its hall on Providence Street.

"They have air conditioning," Meunier said.



Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus David J. Meunier, Sr., and his wife Debbie, of Putnam, enjoyed a recent Sunday's annual picnic, sponsored by the Right Rev. Monsignor Jean C. Mathieu Fourth Degree Assembly 114, based in Putnam.  
John D. Ryan photo

## "Inspiring Images" in Pomfret

The Northeastern CT Art Guild is presenting "Inspiring Images", an Art Show from August 28-September 29. The show is being held at the Connecticut Audubon Center located at 218 Day Rd, Pomfret Center, CT. There will be watercolors, oils, pastel, fiber art and pen and ink. Free and open to the public.

View all issues of Neighbors from January 2015 to present on our website: [neighborspaper.com](http://neighborspaper.com) You will also find advertising and circulation information.



## Joshua's Trust 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### "Passport Walks" September-October 2016

Submitted by Angelika Hansen

Sunday September 25 at 1:00 pm come to Pigeon Swamp in Lebanon and find out from Dennis Latchum about this area where "Pigeons Once Flocked". Directions: from intersection of Rt. 32 and 203, take Main St, cross Babcock Hill Rd, go up the hill, take first left just beyond blue Fire House. This is Pigeon Swamp Rd, follow this road to end of pavement. For more information/updates email Dennis at dlatchum@gmail.com.

Friday, September 30 at 6:30 pm join John G. Morey at the Knowlton Hill Preserve in Ashford for a hilltop tour of the Autumn Night to see Stars, Constellations and Planets. If cloudy, back up date is Saturday, Oct. 1. Bring folding chairs, binoculars, telescopes. If bringing a flashlight, RED COLORED lights are strongly recommended. Directions: Preserve entrance near 74 Knowlton Hill Rd. For more information email John at jgmorey@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 1 1:30 pm - 4 pm Hike the Preserve and then Some, in Franklin. Explore the newest section of the 500 acre SPRAGUE LAND PRESERVE and see how this Preserve fits into a nearly 3,000 acre wildlife corridor. Moderately strenuous 3.5 mile hike. Rain date Oct. 2 @ 1:30 pm. Directions: Meet at parking area end of Holton Rd, Franklin. Look for sign. For more information, call 860-642-6976.

Sunday, October 2 10 am - 12 pm visit the Josias Byles Sanctuary in Ashford. Connect past to present by walking the trail and coming to the Historic BYLES HOMESTEAD for snacks, drinks and a few stories. Enjoy the 2 mile long, easy to moderate loop trail as you pass a meadowland, descend a short steep section to a stream, then travel through a bio-diverse climax forest and maybe observe a beaver dam on the Mt. Hope River. Directions: Park at the trail entrance just across from North Vet.

Clinic on Rt. 44, ¾ mile east of the Rt.89/Rt.44 junction. For information, contact Marian Matthews, 860-477-0318

Saturday, October 15 10:00 am- 12 pm, tour the CHENES-ROCHES PRESERVE in Willington. A moderate 2 hour, 1.7 mile hike through an open hardwood forest and stands of old pines along a hemlock shaded stream in a steep

Neighbors 23

sided-vale. View the magnificent white oak and huge glacial boulder that give this preserve its name. Directions: 0.6 miles from intersection of Village Hill Rd. and Blair Rd. park on left side of road. For more information, call 860-429-1276.

Saturday, October 22 2 pm - 4 pm Join Robert Thorson at the WOLF ROCK PRESERVE in Mansfield Center for a geological look. A meaning-making

*continued on page 45*

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# Defining Non-stealing, Asteya

By P.K. Willey

All the ideals that Gandhi evolved visions of through the demonstration of his life are interwoven. If one is picked up and examined, all the others are found in tow. Likewise, the spheres he worked his ideals through: economics, political activity, education, religious expression, health care and diet, are similarly inseparable from one another.

This is the beauty of a life lived with clarity of intention. Imperfections are of course there: distortions on that intention abound in Gandhi's life also. Yet his burning effort to clarify, his constant work at refining his own understanding, leaves a legacy worth contemplating for defining and becoming aware of our own personal life intentions. Those intentions are known less by what we do, than 'how we are' with ourselves, with others.

We touched on Gandhi's definitions of non-possession (#11) then moved into a cursory view of the foundations of what was to become his educational thought (#12). This article re-visits the theme of one's relationship to material possessions through the ideal Gandhi sought to follow of non-stealing. His unending effort leaves a record of good thinking, and action upon those thoughts.

Non-stealing is the English translation of the more 'comprehensive' term that Gandhi used, the Sanskrit 'asteya'. I say 'comprehensive', as 'asteya', non-stealing, is ultimately an attitude that becomes a quality of personal character. A careful and wise public education would address itself to the cultivation of this virtue to ensure a more just society.

Reflecting on this principle during one of his terms of imprisonment, Gandhi gave this definition which pierces our laxity and unawareness of the critical importance of this ideal, our deep sleep in front of our own conscience:

"It is impossible that a person should steal and simultaneously claim to know Truth or cherish Love. Yet every one of us is consciously or unconsciously more or less, guilty of theft. We may steal not only what belongs to others, but also what belongs to ourselves, as is done, for instance, by a father who eats something secretly, keeping his children in the dark about it. The ashram kitchen stores are our common property, but one who secretly removes a single crystal of sugar from it stamps himself a thief...It

is theft to take anything belonging to another without his permission, even if it be with his knowledge. It is equally theft to take something in the belief that it is nobody's property. Things found on the roadside belong to the ruler or the local authority. Anything found near the ashram must be handed over to the secretary, who in his turn will pass it on to the police if it is not ashram property."

Gandhi was able to define his understanding of theft through several contextual refinements which provide food for thought. The first is the outer, physical form of theft. In this form alone, he found several different types.



Gandhi's adherence to his ideals struck the universal chord of truth found in all consciences. People were awed and desperate to see one who would insistently follow what we all know to be true.

Contributed photo.

trusting and gracious if these principles were followed, at least in part. At the next stage of physical theft, the line between non-stealing and non-possession, appears to merge:

"Thus far it is pretty smooth sailing. But the observance of non-stealing goes very much farther. It is theft to take something from another even with his permission if we have no real need of it. We should not receive any single thing that we do not need...We are not always aware of our real needs and most of us improperly multiply our wants and thus unconsciously make thieves of ourselves...One who follows the observance of non-stealing will bring about a progressive reduction of his wants. Much of the distressing poverty in this world has arisen out of breaches of the principle of non-stealing."

"...Non-hoarding refers to stocking of things not needed. Non-stealing refers to the use of such things. If I need only one shirt to cover myself with, but use two, I am guilty of stealing one from another. For a shirt which could have been of use to someone else does not belong to me. If five bananas are enough to keep me going, my eating a sixth one is a form of theft. Suppose we have a stock of 50 limes, thinking that among us all we would need them. I need only two, but take three because there are so many. This is theft."

Gandhi also noted that, "It is also theft to use a thing for a purpose different from the one intended by the lender or to use it for a period longer than that which has been fixed with him."

It would be a different world, our relations with one another would be more open,



I will give you a talisman.

Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubt and your self melting away.

Gandhi's Talisman. To reflect on when faced with coveting desires. Contributed graphic.

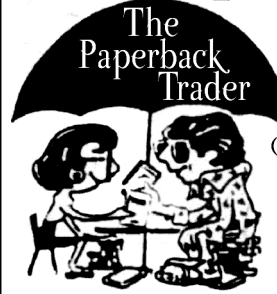
If we can look at it honestly, stealing starts in the mind, through what is really, greediness, coveting. This negative quality of coveting has been enhanced and encouraged to our detriment by an economic system based upon indefinite consumption. For example, equality, a sense of ourself in relation to others, has been distorted by coveting, through shopping for the latest fad. It is perhaps almost a 'spiritual need' that in order to feel our larger self-identity with a group of those who have what we have, and are therefore, equal materially, we try to buy the same things. Yet, coveting, greediness, becomes an energy, a force impelling action in our lives. Gandhi saw its ramifications and reigned his own horse in tightly.

"Theft thus far considered may be termed external or physical theft. There is, besides, another kind of theft, subtler and far more degrading to the human spirit. It is theft mentally to desire acquisition of anything belonging to others, or to cast a greedy eye on it. It is mental theft if anyone, whether a grown-up person or a child, feels tempted by the sight of an attractive thing. One who observes the principle of non-stealing will refuse to bother himself about things to be acquired in future. This evil anxiety for the future will be found at the root of many a theft. Ideas may be stolen no less than material things."

This is particularly relevant to the raising of our children, our own self-discipline regarding what we subject our minds to, what we consider important to learn and know about.

*continued on page 43*

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SLIDING SCALE

# Garden Club Inspires Public Plantings

By Faith Kenton, Public Spaces chairperson

This year, the Garden Club of Windham invites you all to share the pleasures of gardening both for private enjoyment and public enhancement. At monthly meetings, its members have learned from expert speakers on horticultural and environmental topics, have taken part in hands-on demonstrations, and have shared gardening tips and friendship with each other and members of other clubs. We invite you all to our Celebration of Gardens, Wednesday September 21st at 7 pm to 750 Main St, Willimantic. It is free and will include music, refreshments, cash bar, artwork for sale, and an overview of Willimantic's varied planted places installed and/or maintained by the club.

The Garden Club of Windham was formed in 2002 by Virginia Darrow, a long time city resident and civic booster. She walked and drove around her Willimantic neighborhoods looking for attractive residential plantings. She then left a letter of invitation with homeowners and collected 85 names on a petition to the Town Council, which heartily approved the adoption of this club. In addition to a dozen flowering public spaces now supported by the Garden Club of Windham, there are two memorials to Virginia. One is on the High Street side of Town Hall with a plaque and a pink dogwood tree. The other is a photo plaque of Virginia in a planter on the Garden on the Bridge.

With this club in place, local citizens worked on creating the Garden on the Bridge, today the most ambitious of the Club's public spaces. Much like the 1928 Flower Bridge in Shelburne Falls, Ma., our "flower bridge" is on the site of a bridge that the town outgrew. The iron Victorian arch built locally by Windham Industries is reminiscent of the arch that mill workers used to pass under from "across the river" to the mills. In the planter at the base of the arch is a cultivar of our native redbud tree, a "Forest Pansy". Where the Garden on the Bridge is now was formerly SR 601 leading to Rte 32 the main road from Willimantic out of town to the south, with its stone arch bridge over the Willimantic River as well as a rail line that is still in use. SR 602 now crosses upstream onto Main Street (Rte 66) over the Thread City Crossing Bridge, more familiarly

called the Frog Bridge famous for its 12' bronze frogs sitting on American Thread Mill type spools. The large green Heritage Park below was the site of several American Thread Co mill buildings, now demolished.

The Garden on the Bridge was a multi-year multi-level project. It was a complex partnership between the federal government, the state of Connecticut, and the Town of Windham. The goal was to "recycle" an abandoned road into a riverside park with benches, picnic space, an outdoor event location, and many stone planters for the Master Gardener



A Saturday Garden Club clean-up this past Spring. Left to right, Rose Reyes, Dagmar Noll, St Marys School custodian Jamie Borgos, Donna Niccolino, Faith Kenton. Contributed photo.

program at UConn to fill with appropriate plantings. The now-established garden club in town continued to work on developing public plantings, and cheering on the progress of the Garden on the Bridge. The final dedication of the Garden on the Bridge to Virginia Darrow was 2007 with the Garden Club of Windham agreeing to be its caretakers.

Since the Bridge dedication, the club has continued Virginia's mission of enhancing public space appearances in Willimantic. With a core of dedicated volunteers and periodic

help from community service groups based at ECSU and UConn, the Alternative Incarceration Corps (AIC) and with big-job support from Public Works, the club now cares for a dozen public spaces. The club raises its own funds with modest dues, a plant sale, and small grant writing. For a fuller write up and photos, please go to [www.gardenclubofwindham.org](http://www.gardenclubofwindham.org).

Since the Garden Club has become active, there has been a resurgence of public planting—houses of worship, small businesses, and homes, even vacant lots. Most schools now have growing plots, there are several community garden areas, and Public Works has enhanced all our public parks.

The following is a quick guide to a Main Street downtown walk including plantings near our Victorian Town Hall with its brand new rose garden, Main St Café, Thread City Diner, the Railroad Museum entry, Bridge St & Main corner as well as the adjacent Abundant Life Community Church, and the base of the historic Footbridge facing North St with its historic marker.

Further down Main Street, walk toward the Jillson house and relax on a bench in the Schilberg Butterfly Garden



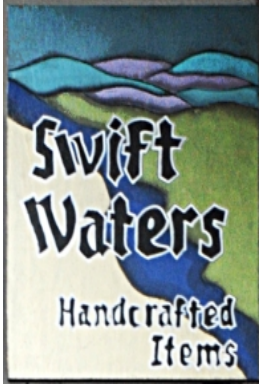
planted with native habitat-friendly perennials and shrubs in 2010 with funding from the Benjamin Schilberg family and maintained by the garden club. Go across the Jillson parcel and see what is in bloom on Valley St. at the Willimantic Food Co-Op Monet-style front yard maintained by co-op volunteers. And venture across Jackson St to spend a quiet moment at the triangular Veterans of Foreign Wars memorial garden, which marks the in-town beginning of the now completed Eastern Greenway bike/hike through-trail to North Windham and Putnam. Then on down Union Street to Dugan Hall with its twin plantings of all-season plants. Around to the front of Dugan, you come to the main building of the Windham Textile and History Museum and will see its corner garden put in years ago as an Eagle Scout project with railroad ties and climbing roses. And on down Main Street, you can stop in at Tony's Pizza (Cardinal Square) and admire the town-installed club-maintained street corner garden across the way. A popular spot for literary folks to gather for readings is Julia de Burgos Park (Poets Park) on Jackson St. / Terry Ct. installed by the town public works, and originally planted with only white-blooming bulbs and shrubs.

Many of the sites mentioned above are "reclaimed" with the Garden on the Bridge as the most dramatic example. Poets Park was the site of a derelict tenement fire. Main Street Café and the two Textile Museum gardens were urban gravel, weeds, and city street litter. Cardinal Square garden had been an abandoned Cumberland Farms. Whitewater Park ([www.willimanticwhitewater.org](http://www.willimanticwhitewater.org)) is now on a multiyear multiagency project to restore a "brownfield" oil dealer site for a riverside park with public recreational kayak access to the Willimantic River. And public works with state/federal funding and with land donated by WilliWaste Co has just opened the connecting piece of the Eastern Greenway trail already very popular for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers. The Whitewater Park project is strongly supported by the Willimantic Wildlife Habitat (see Facebook page) which is a successful offshoot of the Garden Club, and promotes plantings of habitat-friendly shrubs, trees, and flowers to support native wildlife. The Wildlife Habitat has certified more than two dozen local homes and addresses as supporters of native habitat for animals and plants.

As you can see, Willimantic is having great success recycling unsightly urban spaces. The Garden Club, in addition to holding regular meetings and events, can point with pride to lots of color around the city and is proud to take out of town visitors on our own garden tour. We have had a part in promoting positive change. There is much to do, other spots could use our attention but we are motivated individuals who find satisfaction and relaxation doing whatever bit we can to help green and flowering growth. Our working members report that when we work, passersby most frequently say "Thank you," and even "Can I help," may ask for (or give us) garden advice, or will tell you how much difference they notice.

So, please come join us on Sept 21, and help us celebrate all our gardens. We think you will be impressed. New members are welcome, welcome, welcome.

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# THE PACKING HOUSE

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HISTORIC VENUE FOR PERFORMANCE & EVENTS



By Friends of The Mill Works

Two months have passed since our last article, and Pete Segar's original 1955 lyric ("Where have all the flowers gone...") sticks in our heads... Where have all the summer days gone??? Some are convinced that the perception of "time speed" may be a phenomenon of our aging... Since we're not interested in facing the age thing, our current theory (unknown to the prominent scientists of the world) is that some eternal force is causing the earth's rotation to accelerate in small, equally-spaced units on the time scale. Of course we must attribute this to some conspiracy, as most unexplained things are today. Since this topic is beyond the scope of this article, we will address this important issue in a subsequent piece - if we can remember... and have the time...

The Friends of The Mill Works would like to thank all of those who have supported our first season at The Packing House! It is only through your ongoing support that we can continue to offer programming in the performing arts.

We have spent the brief summer months evaluating our initial experience, making improvements within our means, and gearing up for an outstanding second season of performance at The Packing House. Some of the changes we have made include: the ability to subscribe to performance updates and news on our home page; the availability of individual recordings to performers at our Talent Showcase series; the ability to purchase tickets at the door via credit card; and the availability of CDs of artists who have performed at The Packing House. Ongoing improvements include the evaluation and improvement of sound quality and acoustic treatment; lighting enhancements; further web development offering unique features to our patrons and supporters; and wifi availability.

This is an exciting time! In an effort to better serve our communities and allow us to pursue our mission and focus on history, performance, and the arts, we have engaged in the process of reorganization. We believe our new organizational framework will effectively position us to achieve our long-term vision of creating a cultural destination that serves Northeastern Connecticut and beyond. As we transition to this new organizational model, we are inviting you to join us on this journey. We are seeking your thoughts and suggestions, your interests and needs, and your help, support, and involvement. Should you be interested in providing feedback and learning how you can be a part of this project, please call or email us at: [info@friendsofthemillworks.org](mailto:info@friendsofthemillworks.org).

Here's a look at the line-up for our "Acoustic Artist Series", "Film Series", and "Talent Showcase" offerings at The Packing House for September and October:

"Talent Showcase": 2nd Thursday of the Month (September 8th and October 13th).

Our Talent Showcase will now be offered on the 2nd Thursday of the month in an effort to minimize conflicting schedules. Admission is free and open to the general public.

Acoustic musicians, film makers, puppeteers, dancers, poets, comedians, and creative artists of all ages are invited to perform at The Packing House. Here is an opportunity to showcase your work in an intimate historic venue before a live audience. Test ideas and concepts and solicit feedback. PA / sound reinforcement (up to 3-mics) and video projection provided. Invite your friends, colleagues, grandma, second cousins, the guy next door, and everybody you know!

We recommend that those interested in performing call to register in advance (518-791-9474). Performers may also sign in at the door before the show (time permitting). Doors open at 6:30pm with the show beginning at 7:00pm.

"TAKE A DRUM RIDE": Bob Bloom – Saturday, September 10th, 8:00pm

Spend an evening with Bob Bloom as he takes you on a drum ride extraordinaire! This interactive drumming experience will have your feet stomping and your heart pounding as Bob introduces rhythms to familiar songs and riffs.



Bring your favorite hand drum (djembe, bongos, bodhran, timbau, conga, ...) to play. Don't have a hand drum? No problem. You'll get your hands around one from the colorful cargo that BB is trucking to The Packing House. Newbie and seasoned drummers rollick together!

Tickets \$8.00 Advance / \$10.00 Door.

Jeff Przech with Dennis Fancher: Concert – September 17th, 7:30pm

Jeff's musical stories, thoughtful songwriting and deep, soulful vocals bring a classic meaning to "Americana". His influences come from contemporary artists like Jason Isbell, Ryan Adams, and Sturgill Simpson, along with classic artists like Kristofferson, Jennings, and Dylan.

Jeff will be joined once again by Dennis Fancher, seasoned guitarist and musical colleague - a part of Przech's new band, "The Outfit". Dennis's guitar licks will just leave you wanting more...

Tickets \$12.00 Advance / \$15.00 Door

Lexi Weege: Concert – September 24th, 7:30pm

Join us for the return of Lexi Weege to The Packing House! A touring singer songwriter who combines a unique sound of blues and jazz, bringing original lyrics to the keyboard and guitar.



Her music is passionate, alive, awakened; the narrative of a woman unashamed of her desires and unafraid to seize control. Weege conjures up decadent scenes of the roaring twenties with her stellar voice and jazz-influenced compositions.

Tickets \$12.00 Advance / \$15.00 Door.

Film Showing: Surrogate Valentine (NR) – Friday, September 30th, 7:30pm

Join us for the showing of independent film “Surrogate Valentine” (2011) as part of The Packing House Film Series.

Summary: “San Francisco musician Goh Nakamura (playing himself) is barely scraping by playing live gigs and teaching guitar. So when a filmmaker friend asks him to teach guitar lessons to TV star Danny Turner for his upcoming movie role, Goh jumps at the chance. While on tour together, things get complicated when Goh’s high school flame Rachel shows up.” (Fandor)

Suggested donation \$5.00.

Bob Degen Trio: Concert – October 1st, 8:00pm

We are excited to have the Bob Degen Trio join us for a rare “state side” performance. The trio is led by international pianist/composer Bob Degen, featuring Connecticut native Peter Perfido on drums, and renowned bassist Harvie S up from NYC.



The Bob Degen Trio has its roots firmly planted in the foundations of Jazz tradition with branches spanning out to embrace contemporary improvisation. 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.

For more information about these artists, visit: [www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming](http://www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming).

Tickets \$20.00 Advance / \$25.00 Door.

Lisa Martin: Concert – October 8th, 7:30pm

Emotionally charged Americana music is singer songwriter Lisa Martin’s hallmark sound.

Drawing on diverse influences spanning the last 4 decades, Martin’s music bridges the elements of folk, rock, country and blues with her pop sensibilities always highly evident in the mix. Whether performing solo or with a full band, she is always well received and captivates the audience with her expressive vocals, guitar prowess, heartfelt delivery and quick wit.

For more information about Lisa Martin, visit: [www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming](http://www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming).

Tickets \$12.00 Advance / \$15.00 Door.

Kate Callahan: Concert – October 15th, 7:30pm

Connecticut’s 16th State Troubadour, Kate Callahan

gives a concert of compelling original music plus songs by Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan. She is unapologetically optimistic in concert, singing original songs about the Earth, gratitude, marriage, love, and spirit.



Kate is one of the most awarded songwriters in her home state of Connecticut, acknowledged as the United Arts Campaign’s Featured Artist of the year in 2014 by the Greater Hartford Arts Council. She has been named Connecticut’s Best Singer-Songwriter, and received Hartford’s Woman of Character Award.

For more information about Kate Callahan, visit: [www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming](http://www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming).

Tickets \$12.00 Advance / \$15.00 Door.

Greg Abate Quartet: Concert – October 22nd, 8:00pm

Greg Abate jazz saxophonist, flutist, and composer continues as an International Jazz/Recording Artist with 225 days a year touring the globe.

After completing his work at Berklee College of Music in 1970, Greg went on to play lead alto for the Ray Charles Orchestra, and has continued to share the stage with numerous renowned jazz artists to this day.

Greg will be joined at The Packing House by Matt deChamplain on piano, Josh Uguccioni on bass, and Ben Bilello on drums.

For more information about these artists, visit: [www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming](http://www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming).

Tickets \$20.00 Advance / \$25.00 Door.



Film SCREENING: Blues Legend (NR) – Friday, October 28th, 7:30pm

Join Ashford, CT film-maker Dan McGinley for the premiere screening of his independent film Blues Legend exclusively at The Packing House!

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. Inspired by a passion for blues guitar and a dream, McGinley put it all together. Dan McGinley’s efforts nearly made cinematic history by being selected for the Cannes Film Festival (Le Festival de Cannes).



30 Neighbors

Looking Up:

# “Earth-like” ...?

By Bob Grindle

Although autumn arrives later this month, with its noticeably earlier onset of darkness and normally drier and star-twinkling crisp air, the Summer Triangle’s arrangement of three very bright stars remains parked—if parking is a concept that can be applied to an always moving universe—prominently overhead. For most of September, Vega, the brightest star in this handy tool for sky navigation, will be at the very top of the early night sky. If you are facing South, a quick glance up and you will see Vega, at or very near top dead center of the sky, the second brightest star, after Arcturus, in our northern hemisphere. About 12,000 BC (or BCE, if you insist) Vega was the pole star, and will be again in another 12,000 or so years. It would have been much easier to locate than Polaris, which is only about the 50th brightest star in our night sky. Anyway, back to the Summer Triangle: Vega, in the constellation Lyra—the Lyre; Altair, in the constellation Aquila—the Eagle; and Deneb, in the constellation Cygnus—the Swan, are the 2nd, 12th and 19th brightest stars respectively in the night sky from mid-spring until late fall and, as such, are hard not to notice since there are few other bright stars in their vicinity.

Finding the Summer Triangle makes it very easy to then find the entire constellation Cygnus. It’s kind of a cool constellation really, because it is also known as the Northern Cross. If you are facing South and look as high up as you can, Vega is the brightest star at the top of the night sky. To the left of Vega and a bit higher is Deneb (its name comes from *dhanab*, the Arabic word for tail) the tip of the Swan’s tail—also the top of the Northern Cross. Quite honestly, I think it’s easier to find the Northern Cross, which is larger and more distinctive than the fabled Southern Cross—which, by the way, is the smallest of all the 88 named constellations. The shape of the cross is more intuitive; although it doesn’t conjure up images as beautiful as a swan in flight. If you prefer to imagine a swan, the bird is flying into the more or less empty space of the Summer Triangle and by following the line of 5 stars from Deneb you’ll come to Albireo (from an Arabic word meaning “hen’s beak”) which is the head of the swan. A small telescope reveals Albireo to be a lovely double star, both greenish and amber—something of a celestial traffic signal.

Looking at Cygnus and the Summer Triangle will keep your neck pretty well craned up. When your head finally comes down to a more normal orientation, and is still facing South, there is an impressively bright and reddish Mars almost dead center between Sagittarius on the left and Scorpius on the right. Saturn will be sparkling brilliantly a few degrees to the right of Mars. On the night of September 8th, keep your fingers crossed for a clear night sky; an almost complete first quarter Moon will appear to practically balance on top of Saturn with Antares, the heart of Scorpius, directly below.

As much as I love the night, I have to be up very early every morning and, by the last week of September, the



planet Mercury will be at its best viewing aspect of the entire year. Because of its nearness to the Sun, Mercury is never very high in the sky and, when it is visible, it helps to have some sort of viewing aid. The morning of September 29th—that’s a Thursday—about 6 am or very shortly before, and only if you have a good easterly aspect, a whisker-thin waning crescent of the Moon will appear to cradle the tiny shining gem that is Mercury. Similarly, at dawn—nearly 7 am—on October 28th, the same scenario will occur, but this time with Jupiter nestled by the hair-thin waning Moon. I can’t avoid once again plugging WILI’s Eastern Connecticut Weather Calendar. Many of the things I write about are logged in the astonishing amount of information in this monthly calendar.

In early October, Venus begins to brighten the Southwestern sky and, on the 3rd, at about 7 pm, this most beautiful of all evening “stars” hangs just under a waxing crescent moon. By late in the month, Venus has crashed through the head of Scorpius and, on the 27th, at about 6:15 pm, Saturn on top, Venus in the middle and Antares on the bottom, the three bright objects form a nearly straight vertical line in the Southwest sky. It delights me to be able to look into the night sky and see three familiar objects glowing rather like lightning bugs in formation and know that Venus is really 26 million miles away, Saturn is 800 million miles distant and Antares is a mind-warping 600 light years off...that’s 3600 trillion miles!

The recent discovery of an “Earth-like” planet, Proxima b, orbiting our Solar system’s closest stellar neighbor, Proxima Centauri, makes me chuckle. I love science, all kinds of science, and as a kid I dreamed of space travel and jumped out of the chair every time a rocket lifted off to put a man into orbit or onto the Moon, but sometimes *Homo Sapiens*’ passion for exploration and sense of adventure overrides our ability to set priorities and use our astounding brains for some rather mundane rational behavior. It is altogether charming that our universe of trillions upon trillions of other worlds might support other habitats, but the “Earth-like” planet we call Earth; the habitat we call home that shelters, feeds, entertains, excites and nurtures us all, is in need of attention. I sorely hope that the excitement looking up into the cosmos fires into our very core comes out as a passion for caring for and attending to the needs of our very wondrous “Earth-like” planet.

*Bob Grindle is a Windham Hospital retiree and a student in the Astronomy Minor program at ECSU.*



# Our Community Calendar

Compiled By Dagmar Noll

## September 3, Saturday

**Nature:** Dragons and Damsels: A Look Into the World of a Super Predator, 10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m. Explore the world of dragonflies. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

## September 5, Monday

**Reenactment:** Labor Day Strike, 5:00p.m. Join in a reenactment of the 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike in Pennsylvania. Bring brooms and mops and dress as a miner. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

## September 6, Tuesday

**Skill Share:** Ruth Schilling Fiddle Workshop on Intonation and Rythmn, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. \$5-10. Ganaden Apartments Community Hall, 441 Ash Street, Willimantic. RSVP: 860-456-9913.

**Live Music:** Lung, Connor Dotay, and Sentiments, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Free. Willimantic Records, 744 Main Street, rear, Willimantic. Info: 860-450-7000 www.willimanticrecords.com

## September 7, Wednesday

**Art Show Opening:** Sarah Tyson Illustration: Storytelling & Symbolism, 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. Kerri Art Studio & Gallery, 861 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-8615 www.kerriquirk.com

## September 8, Thursday

**Market:** Canterbury Town Market, 4:30p.m. - 7:00p.m. Craftsmen, artisans and agriculture. No vendor fee. Canterbury Town Hall Parking Lot, Canterbury. Info: 860-645-9693

**Performance:** Talent Showcase, 7:00p.m. Free. Open to all ages. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wine and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Register ahead (recommended): 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

## September 10, Saturday

**Books:** Annual Book Sale, 8:00a.m. - 10:00a.m with \$7 early admission fee or 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. Thousands of books. Willington Public Library, 7 Ruby Road, Willington. Willingtonpubliclibrary.org

**Tag Sale:** Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. 199 Ivanhill Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-423-7142

**Books:** Book Sale, 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. Mansfield Public Library, 54 Warrenville Road, Mansfield.

**Festival:** Burning Woman Arts Weekend at the Sanctuary, 12:00p.m. (through Sept. 11, 5:00p.m.). A weekend dedicated to making and sharing art, live musical performances, aerial circus yoga, and communal picnicking. 59 Bogel Road, East Haddam. Tickets: www.oursanctuary.org

**Kids:** Who is J. Alden Weir?, 2:00p.m. Includes an activity, craft, story and snack. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Register: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

**Community Food:** Wine-tasting fundraiser for Babcock Library, 3:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. Church Farm Senter, 396 Westford Road/Route 89, Ashford. Info: babcocklibrary.org

calendar continued on page 41

Neighbors 31

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# Film Premiere of *Blues Legend*

By Dan McGinley

I've done so many film edits in the last four years it's impossible to try and take count, but it would come out to six figures without a problem, if not over a million. There were hundreds in one night sometimes, but counting doesn't help the end result, or bolster ego, or get me anywhere at all. Edits are the improvement in film we can never do in life, to go back and change events to make things more interesting. Editing is that second or third or whatever chance to tweak until things seem right, to make films flow with images and soundtrack. It is a form of necromancy to me, and a weird art form that will never end, even when our film is released to a very limited audience this fall. I will always think about improving the film.

If I could only edit my life, how crazy things would become. If I could change past events every night, and test the end result . . . whoa . . . head rush. What if I played well enough for that scout up in New Hampshire, and got a full hockey scholarship? What if - and this one is tough - I could bring my parents back, having lost them both during the years of filming? It is painful to contemplate, but maybe this is part of the reason I love editing. Why four-plus years of "film duty" seemed to fly by like nothing. You can always change an outcome.

I have gotten lost in it, consumed by it, driven almost mad sometimes. We were so close at Cannes, doing well against the likes of Steven Spielberg, then scrambling to rethink our approach. There are thousands of film festivals, and you can spend endless amounts of time and money on them, so which ones to choose if any at all? Maybe just try to sell the film, and see if it gets me in the door to make another, with an actual budget.

It's really hard to describe the filming *Blues Legend*,



or to try and plan where it should go, but one thing is certain; our premiere had to be right here in The Quiet Corner, and like many things, it fell right into my lap.

I had been contacted a while back by Tom Buccino, who followed the film's production progress in *Neighbors* and asked if I would be interested in talking about it at The Mill Works in Willington. I had to decline at the time because we were flat-out nearly every weekend. I kept it in the back of my mind, until my daughter went to participate in a poetry slam at The Packing House, which is a beautiful, spacious, and stately performance venue within The Mill Works. I was very fortunate to meet Tom there, and when he asked if I would be interested in showing the film, I was extremely honored. It was a natural choice, and felt so right. This is where it belongs, and the Quiet Corner provided some very serious mojo.

Our entire crew of 32 was living in this area during filming, and viewers will quickly recognize local landmarks, which are presented as parts of New Orleans. The most noticeable is the Frog Bridge and other areas of Willimantic, which could easily pass as The Big Easy, with its beautiful waterways and old street "lanterns." The only places used outside of our Northeast kingdom is a bar interior in West Townsend, Massachusetts, and East Haddam, which also looks like parts of the Big Easy. Gillette Castle suddenly became the home of a very powerful Voodoo Queen.

So if you're free on the Friday evening of October 28th, please come on down to The Packing House for our 7:30 showing of *Blues Legend*, which is approximately one hour long.. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance online ([thepackinghouse.us/upcoming/2016/film-screening-blues-legend-an-evening-with-film-maker-dan-mcginley](http://thepackinghouse.us/upcoming/2016/film-screening-blues-legend-an-evening-with-film-maker-dan-mcginley)), or \$10.00 at the door. I will be there to answer any questions until 9:30, and talk about the film.

*Ed. note: See more about The Packing House on inside front cover and pages 28-29.*

## CALL TO ARTISTS

Joshua's Trust 50th Anniversary Exhibit, September 24- 25 from 10 am – 5 pm, at the ATWOOD FARM, Joshua's Trust headquarters. Paintings and drawings of the picturesque Atwood Farm and immediate vicinity will be displayed in the historic barn at the farm, 624 Wormwood Hill Rd. Mansfield, Ct. 06250. Artists are invited to paint on the property anytime.

Drop off is Friday, Sept. 23 from 10 am – 2 pm. Pick up is Sunday, Sept. 25 from 5 pm – 7 pm. For more information, contact Shauna Shane 860-429-3646 or Nancy Silander 860-933-0159



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## Free Puppet-Building Workshops at Ballard

Submitted by Emily Wicks

The Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry at the University of Connecticut will once again offer fall community puppet-building workshops with acclaimed Boston puppeteer Sara Peattie, to design and build life-size and over-life-size puppets of Shakespeare characters for the Celebrate Mansfield Parade in downtown Storrs, Connecticut. These free workshops will take place Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Ballard Institute workshop space in Storrs Center. Workshop participants will be invited to parade with their puppets as part of the Celebrate Mansfield Parade on Sunday, September 18 at noon (Line-up begins at 11:00 AM at Farrell Field near the Post Office), and then help perform iconic Shakespeare monologues, dialogues, and fight scenes on the Town Square. The Parade is a part of the 13th Annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival.

As part of university-wide events celebrating the September exhibition of Shakespeare's First Folio at UConn, this year's puppet-building workshops will focus on the creation of eminent characters from Shakespeare's tragedies and comedies. Join us and Sara Peattie to realize your Shakespearean dreams! Published in 1623, the First Folio is the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, and only 235 copies are known today. This year, to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the Folger Shakespeare Library is sending a First Folio to every state in the United States, and UConn has been selected as the host site for Connecticut. Join us in September 1-25, 2016 in celebrating the greatest playwright of the English language with this exhibit from the world's largest Shakespeare collection.

Celebrated in a recent front-page Boston Globe article as "the legendary keeper of one of the Back Bay's best-kept secrets," Sara Peattie and her dramatic puppet creations have been central features of community parades and pageants across the United States. Long a mainstay of Boston First Night festivities and the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade in New York City, Sara Peattie's work--through her Boston-based Puppeteers Cooperative company and Puppet Free Library--combines community participation; simple, cheap, and practical puppet-building techniques; and a brilliant design sense to allow community members of all ages to take part in the age-old pleasures of participatory puppet performance in public spaces.

No experience is necessary to participate in these free community puppet-building workshops with Sara Peattie. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. To register for the workshop, contact the Ballard Institute at [bimp@uconn.edu](mailto:bimp@uconn.edu) or 860.486.8580. Ballard is located at 1 Royce Circle, Storrs.

## Quiet Corner Fiddlers, eastern CT



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 Thur Sep 15, 3:30...Farmers' Market, Lisbon Meadows Park, Rt 169, Lisbon  
 Tue Oct 11, 7-8:30...Midway Restaurant, 174 Ashford Center Road (Rt 44), Ashford  
 Fiddlers of all skill levels welcome at our sessions  
 Every Tuesday evening 7:00-8:30  
 Info Bernie:[b.schreiber@snet.net](mailto:b.schreiber@snet.net)

## 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 monthly. Please contact us for next date and site. Thank you.

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

Contact us at [mediamonds2006@gmail.com](mailto:mediamonds2006@gmail.com)/860-895-7413

# Expanded Library Would Serve to Enhance Town Green

By Alicia Talarico, Senior Library Aide,  
Jonathan Trumbull Library, Lebanon

No one is disputing the natural beauty or historical significance of the Lebanon Town Green. In fact, it is for these reasons that the space has remained so well preserved since the 1700s. Lined with churches, farms, private homes, as well as a walking path – the Green has remained a center for community life in the town. It is punctuated at one end by the Jonathan Trumbull Library which is looking to expand and update its facilities but has been stalled by bureaucracy.

The town does not technically own the Green; instead it belongs to about 10,000 possible descendants of the original proprietors. While this arrangement has helped protect the area from commercial development, it does not bode well for plans to expand the library. Funded partially by grants as well as the taxpayers, the project was voted on and approved by residents last year, with the proposal meant to renovate and enlarge the aging facilities and comply with ADA regulations.

As it stands, the current building cannot properly accommodate its patrons. If a library is meant to provide free and open access to all, is it not failing the public it's meant to serve by not addressing the accessibility issues of the property? Patrons with canes, walkers, or wheelchairs must struggle to literally enter the building. Mothers with strollers can't fit into the restrooms to change a child's diaper. Only two restrooms and a small parking lot are meant for use by the library as well as the public enjoying the Green.

The issue with ownership has halted a much needed update to the library and brought up a new set of issues regarding protection of the Green, as the proposed expansion would impact about 1% of the land. But frankly opponents who would assert that this project is unnecessary or would diminish the beauty or relevance of this historic area are mistaken. As an employee of the Jonathan Trumbull Library, I am privy to the relevance and importance of this facility to the community every day.

Historically the town green served as a literal center of public life and Lebanon has managed to maintain this ideal with the preservation of its own mile-long green. One can argue that the town library has also traditionally acted as a community hub – where information, knowledge, and ideas meet. Named for a patriot and former governor of the state, the Jonathan Trumbull Library is an undisputed pillar on the town green and embodies the values that the town holds dear. Its expansion would do nothing to sully the image of the Green, but rather enrich it.

Allowing the issue of 10,000 nameless owners of the Green to disrupt the expansion of the library would be a great disservice to the community. Advocates of keeping the Green intact have attempted to justify their argument by undermining the importance of the public library in modern times. This view is not only limited but also needlessly obtuse. As technology changes and advances, so does the library. We embrace it,

intertwine together, and provide an unparalleled access to information and services.

Public libraries began springing up around America during the period of history when the Lebanon Green was a bustling town center. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I have often thought that nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a small circulating library in every county to consist of a few well-chosen books, to be lent to the people of the county under such regulations as would secure their safe return in due time."

The Jonathan Trumbull Library is a reflection of this vision and its location on the town green allows a community to continue to enjoy a beautiful and important historic landmark. We must seize the opportunity to revitalize the building as the expansion would enhance the Green and bring together the public who appreciate it.

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## Practice May Not Always Make Perfect, But It Sure Helps!

By Ruth O'Neill

The school bus would drop me off at the top of our street. I wouldn't have far to go to be home. My younger brothers and sisters if not romping around the backyard were likely on the swing set. Indoors, I would haul my schoolbag up to my room, change out of my school uniform and head downstairs to the den. There, before I heard my mother call me to either set the dinner table or make the salad...I would escape for a while. Just myself and the family piano. Maybe for a half hour. Maybe longer, if I was lucky.

Sometimes I would work over the new material from my latest lesson first, stumbling over the measures where my hands might have to bounce around the keyboard or play in an unfamiliar key. A friend of mine had given me a book of songs popular at the time. I would pick one, play it note for note and wonder why I didn't sound like the song on the radio. I always had a favorite fast piece to play and see how quickly my fingers could fly across the keys. Before too long, I would hear my father arrive home from work and knew I would be called upstairs at any point.

Those were lucky years. And I played every day. No one reminded me to practice. I just came home from school and did it. The weekends and vacations were even better. Hide away on a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon to be ready for my lesson on Monday.

What about you or your child? Is there someone in your household taking formal lessons in voice or on an instrument? Are you excited about having that bit of time just to yourself where you can play, explore, connect with music you create? Or do you find it a struggle to make the time to practice, to prepare for your weekly lessons? Do you feel quietly embarrassed when you arrive at your lesson wishing you had spent



just a little more time on that new piece? Are you constantly reminding your child to practice? If so may I suggest a few ideas for turning what might be thought of as a chore into a joy. Select a particular time each day. Before the school bus arrives, before supper, a few minutes before bedtime. Reward yourself (or your child) with a novel activity afterward... a bike ride, a craft, even a treat (or that extra cup of coffee). Set and keep track of a reasonable plan (or goal) for the number of times to play each week. If it is four, you can always play more...and feel proud that you did. Some of our students find stickers or stampers a help. Rather than playing a set length of time each day, I suggest: (a) warming up with an exercise, scale, or chords; (b) reviewing a previously learned piece; (c) going over new material in a focused manner once or twice; (d) finishing up with a favorite piece. And again, you can always do more. One of my adult students puts a check mark next to each piece in her assignment books each time she plays... creating quite a sense of accomplishment. Develop your own routine that is successful. If your child is young, oversee what he/she has to do each week until you can tell they do well independently. And remember, to either ask your child to play a surprise song for you or if you are the student play a surprise song for someone in your household.

Just a few thoughts, especially with your back to school schedule filling up! If you would like to talk further about ways to making practicing a successful habit, please feel free to contact me at any point. At the Song-a-day Music Center 860-742-6878 or [songadaymusic.com](http://songadaymusic.com). May beautiful music fill your household.



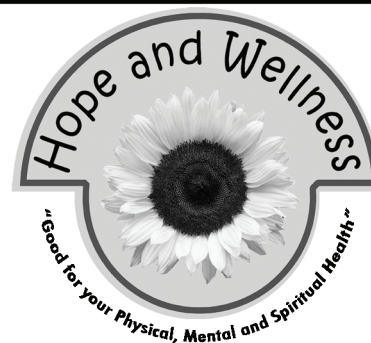
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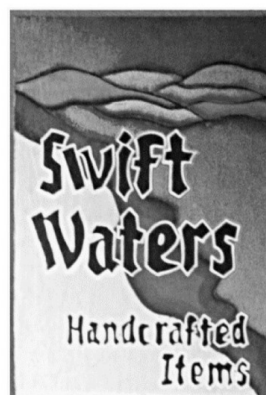


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## Ask “Dr. Mac”

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#### Apple I.D. Security a Real Problem



#### How secure is YOUR Apple ID?

Remember when all those celebrities had their iCloud accounts hacked? Did it make you wonder about your data? There is good news, you can do the two-step! In this article, I will explain the difference between two-step verification and two-step authentication both of which can help make your Apple ID and data more secure.

I really didn't know much about two-step authentication until I started testing the Mac OS Sierra beta and the Watch OS beta to play around with unlocking my Mac with my Apple Watch. I love that capability and I know you will, too. In order to take advantage of this unlocking feature I had to activate two-step authentication. So, I did that and I will show you how. But then I noticed that I was not getting any mail from my iCloud email address. Well, it turns out that if you are using apps that do not support two-step authentication, such as my favorite email client – Airmail, that you need to generate an app-specific password. That got me interested in the two-step and I don't mean line dancing.

Which two-step? Two-step Authentication.

#### Two-step verification

Two-step verification will require you to enter a 4-digit code sent to one of your devices. Apple requires two-step verification for many of the sites we use for sales and service information. When I surf over to those sites and enter my Apple ID and password it will ask if I want to send a code. When I say yes, a four digit code is sent to my devices that are registered with Apple. Usually, that means I simultaneously get the code on

my Mac, my iPad, my iPhone and my Apple Watch. Once I enter the code, I gain access to the site. Two step verification protects your Apple ID even if someone knows your password. Two-step verification, once activated is needed whenever you:

Sign in to your Apple ID account page  
Sign in to iCloud on a new device or at iCloud.com

Sign in to Messages, Game Center, or FaceTime

Make an iTunes, iBooks, or App Store purchase from a new device  
Get Apple ID related support from Apple

To set up two-step verification you have to surf over to the Apple ID account page – <https://appleid.apple.com/#!&page=signin>  
Sign-in and under two-step verification click “getting started” and answer your security questions and follow the steps to finish setting it up.

#### Two-step Authentication

Two-step Authentication is a more advanced security feature built into the later operating systems. So, before you activate it make sure you meet or exceed these requirements:

iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch with iOS 9  
Mac with OS X El Capitan and iTunes 12.3

Apple Watch with watchOS 2  
Windows PC with iCloud for Windows v5 and iTunes 12.3.3

With two-step authentication, your account can only be accessed on devices you trust, like your iPhone, iPad, or Mac.

When you want to sign in to a new device for the first time, you'll need to provide two pieces of information—your password and the six-digit verification code that's automatically displayed on your trusted devices. By entering the code, you're verifying that you trust the new device. For example, if you have an iPad and are signing into your account for the first time on a newly purchased Mac, you'll be prompted to enter your password and the verification code that's

automatically displayed on your iPad.

The good thing about authentication is that once you have signed in you won't be asked for a verification

code for that device again, unless you sign-out completely, erase the device or change your password. When you sign in on the web, you will be asked if you want to trust your browser so you won't be asked for a verification code the next time you sign in from that computer.

The code is sent to a “trusted device or phone number”. A trusted device is an iPhone, iPad, iPod touch or Mac that you have already signed in to using two-factor authentication. It is a device that Apple knows is yours and can be used to display an authentication code. A trusted phone is a phone number that can be used to receive a text or phone call with the code. You MUST have at least one trusted phone number to utilize two-step authentication.

Two-factor authentication is currently available to iCloud users with at least one device that's using iOS 9 or OS X El





Capitan or later.

Follow these steps to turn on two-step authentication.

On your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch with iOS 9 or later:

Go to Settings > iCloud > tap your Apple ID.

Tap Password & Security.

Tap Turn on Two-Factor Authentication.

On your Mac with OS X El Capitan or later:

Go to Apple () menu > System Preferences > iCloud > Account Details.

Click Security.

Click Turn on Two-Factor Authentication.

A few things to remember once you have activated two-factor authentication. Keep your trusted phone numbers up to date. You can do this at the AppleID account page. At that page you can also view and manage your trusted devices. So, if you sell your Mac to upgrade, you want to remove it here.

#### App-specific Passwords

This is what led me to learn all I can about the two-step. As you may know, I run AirMail as my email client. I love it and am part of their beta program, too. But it is not Apple's Mail client (which does NOT require an app-specific password). But for AirMail and other apps that might need to utilize your Apple ID you can generate a password just for that app. You will need one of these special passwords for each device. So, when I generated an app-specific password for my Mac it only works for my Mac for that one app. I had to generate another for my iPad and one for my iPhone too, since they are all running AirMail.

Here's how you generate an app-specific password:

Sign in to your Apple ID account page.

In the Security section, click Edit.

Click Generate Password and follow the steps on your screen.

After you generate your app-specific password, enter or paste it into the password field of the app as you would normally.

You will be asked to name this password and I recommend that you make it as specific as possible so you can manage these later. So, in my case I named them "AirMail-Mac", "AirMail-iPhone", etc.

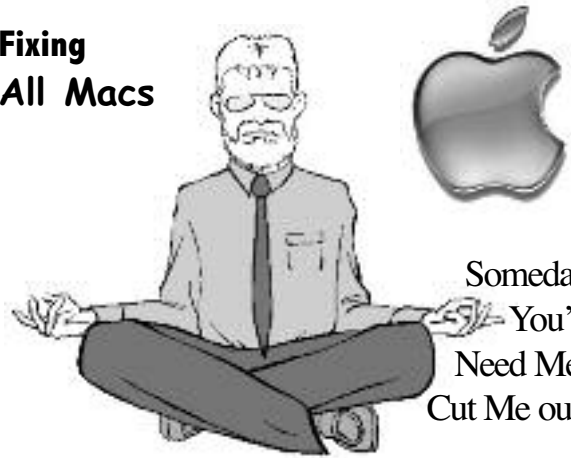
You can have up to 25 app-specific passwords and can manage them at your Apple ID account page.

I do recommend that all users activate two-factor authentication. It is the most unobtrusive and easiest to use manner of protecting your Apple ID and hence, anything that might be connected with it. Just get out there and do the two-step!

Steve Woron is an artist and Mac technician and lives in Vernon CT. Leave a message at (860) 871-9933 or [illstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:illstudio@yahoo.com)

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# Musical Memory – Impressions

By Tom French

The annual crisis of my childhood piano training was memorizing a piece for the year-end recital. The assumption was that music will be absorbed into memory simply by playing a piece often over an extended period of time, the sponge effect. Some people possess what is usually called a photographic memory, an ability to experience something once and easily remember it thereafter. And although “photographic memory” is not assumed to apply to music, some people do memorize music easier than others. Unfortunately for me, it was not easy and the stress of having to memorize made the task rather impossible. Each person is different and I’m sure that each of you has a different story. Yet we all do remember tunes: kids songs, seasonal songs, popular music, and essentially any tune which we hear often. The sponge effect does happen without effort. Why? I often like to say that each of us is an expert on the music of Western civilization. We have heard it since lullabies were sung to us, and whether your preference be classical or popular music, it is all the same. Whether or not we ever studied music, we each are thoroughly saturated with musical knowledge. Plato described learning as a process of pouring out of an individual the knowledge that is already within. Musical learning is more of a matter of becoming acquainted with what you already possess in your true musical memory.

We are beginning the 3<sup>rd</sup> season of Fiddle & Song this September. The program is committed to the idea that there are other ways to access and use our musical mind. Playing music by ear is central to what we do in our free program for children and adults. What is true, is that music that we know well is usually sung with full expression. What is also true is that after learning a few instrumental skills, one also plays with musical expression, rather than struggle with making sounds. Everyone can play musically if they can clearly rely on and directly connect to their inner musical knowledge. In the folk world, there are fabulous instrumental musicians who simply connected to music without the aid of teachers or any other formal musical training. Old fiddlers have a saying, “If you can whistle a tune you can play it!” One notable Irish fiddler, at age 11, discovered that she could readily play a very large number of tunes that she had heard played in the kitchen of her house throughout her childhood. As she expressed it, “The tunes were simply a part of me.” F&S is a method to introduce people to what they already possess. We encourage people to start with tunes that are already thoroughly planted in their memory. We use the fiddle because it is one of the most abstract of instruments, a blank fingerboard that demands reliance on one’s mental inner ear. The fiddle forces us to rely on our tonal memory. Other than the four open strings, there



are no keys, buttons or frets which guarantee a specific tone. Essentially you can only play a fiddle in the same fashion you always sing a song. The tune is first in your head and then you adjust your fingers and bow to create a sound that echoes your mental musical image.

With fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) the ability to observe the brain responding to music has led to new understandings of musical perception. The brain perceives music directly rather than rationally. Formerly music was regarded as an offshoot of language ability. Now we firmly believe that musicality either preceded language ability or developed independently along with language. Music directly affects the motor centers of the brain, which is why music triggers muscular rhythm responses whether we intended them or not. We start to move perhaps with a subtle rhythmic nod; we hear music and we dance in one fashion or another. There is also a direct connection to our emotional centers. Music pleases us, and in fact heals us and extends other mental abilities. Musical training is now regarded to be as important as reading, writing and mathematical skills. Music is also rapidly gaining new applications in medical health; there are successes that cannot be accomplished with drugs or other therapies. Thus what we do in F&S goes far beyond simply having fun. In playing by ear, we attempt to tap into the direct motor and emotional perceptions of music. We consciously avoid rational approaches as much as possible and focus on relaxing into musical creation, tapping into our inner musical resources. In this article I would like to share some specifics that have come about in the first two years of our program.

Musical memory is a skill far more than it is an ability. When you demand it of yourself, you improve your ability to memorize. Even I have now learned how to memorize music and now know how to avoid the stress that blocks that skill. Our basic music at F&S is essentially folk music, which offers shorter and simpler tunes. Folk tunes have been honed by everyone to the point that they retain only what people easily remembered. Quirks in tunes were quickly forgotten. Fiddle tunes, while being individually distinctive, all share many common basic attributes. Fiddlers also stick to three keys: G, D, and A, because they are easy keys to finger and make extended use of the open strings. The basic finger patterns are shared by those three keys. And without a doubt the patterns that appear in all fiddle tunes are there because they were easier for all other players in hundreds of years of the folk world. The preference for repetition led to standard AABB tune form: a first tune with a repeat, followed by a second tune and its repeat. The two tunes share exact and similar phrases. Song structure settled on AABA, and the B tune strongly returns to the A tune. (In classical music this same concept is the basis for the sonata form which eventually led to expansive symphonic composition.) In all our music, our inner ear demands a balance between what is new and stirring and what is repeated and calming. Music is a blend of surprise with a



return to the familiar, avoiding boredom and chaos.

Not only do we basically use folk music, we also adopt the folk tradition of letting folksongs and fiddle tunes change at will and adjust to our individual skill levels. This is of course the soul of jazz and we accept and explore the syncopated rhythms of jazz and the unmatched ability of the fiddle to bend and slur bluesy notes. There are no wrong notes. There are only other notes. The adoption of improvisation builds relaxation by offering freedom from specific notation preconceptions. It is okay to let your inner musical ear take you into new sound possibilities. It is okay to make music that fits your earliest skill levels. Enjoy what you can do now; don't be concerned with what you will eventually also be able to do. Relaxation approached your inner musical ear makes learning easier. If we tackle an unknown tune, we break it up into short phrases and master a tune phrase before moving to next phrase and ultimately connecting the many learned phrases. Finally, throughout the learning we sing the tune to reinforce our memory of it. Thinking back to what the old fiddlers were saying the antithesis is also true: if you can't sing it, you certainly can't play it. But usually we can always sing it. And we learn to sing it very slowly to more clearly identify the tune patterns and ready our fingers and arm to play it slowly. Along with encouraging F&S students to select their own tunes, is the encouragement to be free and inventive with all tunes and with the sounds and rhythms available on the fiddle.

If Western civilization's music is essentially all the same, there are obviously core musical elements that recur in all tunes. Tunes have tonal centers, one note which is the home note of the tune. Everybody can spot the home tone without any musical training. Tunes move by scales. Everybody has the ability to perceive stepwise tonal direction. We learn the five tone Pentatonic (Do, Re, Mi, So, La) scale as well as the seven tone scale (Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti). Historically, the pentatonic scale was the ancient skeleton of music in most all cultures and it still controls our everyday tunes. Since we have listened to Western music from birth, we know the sound structures of the pentatonic pattern. When there are no words to a tune, we use the solfege (Do Re...) syllables to identify sounds within their home tone family. Knowing a scale avoids guessing what notes are needed for a tune and the expectation that the home note will dominate the tune is some manner. Have you ever wondered why you can readily make up your own tune? It is because you possess the full ability within your musical memory. The ingrained coming musical elements have always allowed us to be excellent informal musicians. Tap into those resources a bit deeper and apply them to your instrument, be it a fiddle or not. You can create your own fiddle solo. Nothing is quite as exhilarating as soaring around the fingerboard and flying with the fiddle bow. From scale identity, we can also learn about sequences, the way a scale can be played in repeating patterns. We also can spot the harmony of notes that jump rather than travel by scale (ie: Do-Mi-So is the chord of the home tone Do). Out of this understanding,



each student can create unique exercises to improve playing skills. And as Chopin proved, exercises can be unique and beautiful compositions. More important, encouraging the student to create exercises increases the crucial relaxation element needed to perceive music directly. Exercises are useful because they are distinct repetitions of common simple patterns.

Musical memory goes far beyond the perception of sound. A very large part of F&S is rhythmic training. A famous French-Canadian fiddler once said that it takes about 10 years to develop the full ability of the left-hand fingers on the fiddle fingerboard, but there is no end to learning what can be done with the bow. I sometimes like to refer to the bow as being by far the most versatile drumstick ever invented; all rhythm patterns and sustained sounds are possible. Fiddling is a matter of getting into the beat and groove of a tune. The bow and arm dance. We have already noted that music directly relates to the brain's motor centers. As described there are a myriad of tonal patterns in tunes and exercises. Each of these patterns can rather infinitely be altered with bowing rhythmic patterns, which is why a lifetime can be spent on the bowing possibilities. When a tune is learned the physical coordination to make sound are a very large part of the musical memory. In fact, to bow a tune two different ways essentially creates two different tunes or make a single tune become ambiguous. What is correct and what is improved can only identified by the resulting sound. The physical intricacies cannot be described. The ability of your musical brain to seek a more perfect sound defies rational understanding. One only arrives at these skill pofections by simply playing. This also further explains why relaxation is crucial. F&S provides basic suggestions of how to move arm, hand and fingers, but the application of playing suggestions lies within your mind. Many musicians suggest that rhythm is at least 90% of what music is: a shaping of time through sound. Dance is a shaping of time through moving image, although cloggers and tap dancers always tell their audience to hear the dance and watch the music.

Finally music occurs in time. When a piece is fast there is no time to be conscious of any detail of fingers, bowing, or even the notes of the tune that you are playing. As one plays there is only time to follow the tune as it spins out. If you have to think of anything, you have hesitated and interrupted the tune. Playing is not a rationalizing experience. The musical mind puts all musical learnings together and sails with it. What is left is rather the musical mind at ease, and in direct connection with the total musical intention.

*Tom French leads the Fiddle & Song program Mondays throughout the school year. You can see schedule details in the Community Calendar section. Feel free to contact Tom at tomfrench@charter.net or 860-974-0197. You can also sign up for our F&S mail list and receive a full set of computer operated Scorch tune musical aides as well as periodic updates to the library.*

# Hampton's Fall Festival

By Roger Burten

Autumn begins September 22nd, whether you live in Arizona, Alabama or Alaska. For those of us who live in the New England states, it's a very special time of the year. The Summer heat and humidity are distant memories. The kids are back in school and the Summer tourists are long gone. The world has started to slow down and life has become a little quieter...for the moment. Then, like hearing a distant locomotive ominously approaching, The Autumn Express rushes into the station and someone shouts, "The leaves are changing color!" This common New England cry is a signal for those who wish to experience this natural wonder up close and personal. In fact, people arrive this time of the year from all over the globe, booking 8-10 day bus tours that will take them from Bridgeport, CT to Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and from Cape Cod, MA to Burlington, VT. Many of those who drive meander the back roads and ramble through the small towns and villages cameras in hand ready to be amazed when they spy the perfect tree, which, at that moment, has the sunlight illuminating the red, yellow, purple, and orange leaves just right.

This year, for the first time, the quiet hamlet of Hampton CT, incorporated in 1786, will be celebrating the colorful Fall season with "Hampton's Fall Festival". This event will be a good time for those who haven't discovered Hampton to visit. "Hampton's Fall Festival" will take place on Main Street in and around the Hampton Town Hall on Saturday, October 1st and will feature a Family Fun Run, live music, a library book & bake sale, agricultural exhibits, children's games, hay rides, a tag sale, and much more. As you can see below, there are events for all ages and all interests.

The schedule of events:

Family Fun Road Race 9am (registration 8-9am) Approx. 5 k (non-sanctioned)

Library Book & Bake sale 8am-2pm

Town Hall "Find a Treasure" Tag Sale -8am-3pm

Live Music - 10:30am-1:30pm Folk and bluegrass by The Hampton Folk Music Society

Hay Rides, Pumpkin painting -You can bring your own pumpkin!

Children's games

Chickens & raising chickens - exhibit

Antique Tractor exhibit

Agricultural Product Competition (ribbons for best veggies, jams/jellies, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, largest pumpkin) 9am-3pm, Plant swap/veggie swap 10-11am Many other vendors and exhibits!

Food, of course! Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Chips, Soda, We-Lik-It ice cream & baked goods

On October 1, as you're meandering the back roads of the Northeast corner of the State, an area designated "The Quiet Corner" and "The Last Green Valley of Connecticut", come visit "Hampton's Fall Festival" for some local New England

flavor.

For those who would like more information about Hampton, the Fletcher Library, resources and history it can all be found at: <http://hamptonct.org/AboutHampton.htm#>  
Directions: "Hampton's Fall Festival" takes place at 164 Main Street/Highway 97, just off of Route 6. Follow the signs! See you there!

NOTE: If interested in reserving a 10' by 10' space for \$10.00 for the "Find a Treasure" Tag Sale, or, Vendors interested in reserving a 10' by 10' space for \$15.00 selling harvest or craft-related products, or for general information: contact Anne at [hamptonfallfest@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonfallfest@gmail.com) or call 860 455-9979. (Advance registration required for vendors.)

NOTE: Anyone wanting to compete in the agricultural product and largest pumpkin competition needs to drop off the items between 8 and 9 am at the lower level of Town Hall.

**HAMPTON FALL FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, October 1**

**ON MAIN STREET**

**NO ADMISSION FEE! FREE PARKING!**

**HAY RIDES**

**TAG SALE 8-3**

**LIVE MUSIC!**  
The Hampton Folk Music Society

**FOOD!**  
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs on the grill!  
**WE-LIK-IT Ice Cream**

**FAMILY FUN RUN!**

**BOOK/BAKE SALE 8-2**

**GAMES EXHIBITS VENDORS**  
all day!

**HAMPTONCT.ORG**

**DON'T YOU DARE MISS IT!**

See Neighbors  
in beautiful **COLOR**  
at [neighborspaper.com](http://neighborspaper.com)



Calendar continued from page 31

**Community Food:** Hampton Congregational Church Chicken BBQ, 5:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. \$5-11. Dine in for take out. Hampton Congregational Church, 263 Main Street, Hampton. Ticket info: 860-455-9677 hc06247@gmail.com

**Skill Share:** "Drum Ride" with Bob Bloom, 8:00p.m. \$8-10. BYO wine and beer (I.d. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Reservations: 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

### September 11, Sunday

**Books:** Book Sale, 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. (See 9/10)

**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 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**Nature:** Guided walk, 2:00p.m. \$5. 93 Kenyon Road, Hampton. Register: 860-928-4948 www.ctaudobon.org

**Meditation:** Willimantic Mindfulness Sangha Meditation, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. Non-sectarian, Buddhist-style sitting and walking meditations, teaching and sharing. Info: 860-450-1464 dmangum617@gmail.com

### September 12, Monday

**Skill Share:** Fiddle and Song learning to play fiddle by ear, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. children and 5:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. adults. Eastford Elementary School, Westford Road, Eastford. Info: 860-974-0197 tomfrench@charter.net

**Live Music:** Songs of Peace & Teaching with Bruce John & Friends, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Donation. Fundraiser for a volunteer traveling to Greece to teach Syrian refugees English for one month. Storrs Congregational Church, 2 N Eagleville Rd, Storrs. Donate: www.gofundme.com/2fqjfy

**Film:** A Walking Tour of the 9/11 Memorial Museum, 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.

**Nature:** Bats! With Gerri Griswold, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. \$5. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

### September 13, Tuesday

**Live Music:** The Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. Apollo Restaurant, Route 32, South Windham. Info: 860-456-9913 qcf.webs.com

**Kids:** Dances with Leaves: An Autumn Adventure for Young Explorers, 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. Ages 4-7 welcome to look for signs of autumn. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

### September 14, Wednesday

**Hike:** Senior Walk, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Easy to moderate walks. Not just for seniors! Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**Kids:** After School Nature Club, 3:15p.m. - 5:00p.m. Fresh air, exercise and fun for grades 1-6. 93 Kenyon Road, Hampton. Register: 860-928-4948 www.ctaudobon.org

### September 15, Thursday

**Nature:** Trail Wood Bird Walks, 8:00a.m. 93 Kenyon Road, Hampton. \$10 Register: 860-928-4948 www.ctaudobon.org

calendar continued on page 42

## Car Cruise Nights



Last Thursday of the  
month

May through September 5-8pm  
Midway Restaurant on Route 44 in Ashford  
Please bring a non-perishable food item for the  
Ashford Food Bank  
Cruisin' Music Provided by the 'PO'M' Oldies  
Presented by the Ashford Business Association

Advertise in Neighbors  
Locally Written  
Locally Read

## 2016 JAZZ IN THE GARDEN



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](http://www.jazzinthegarden.info) or call the **Windham Free Library** at **860-423-0636**.

**"Come Fly With Me"® featuring Rob Zappulla**  
**Celebrating the Music of Frank Sinatra**

## 42 Neighbors

*Calendar continued from page 41*

**Hike:** Senior Walk, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Easy to moderate walks. Not just for seniors! Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**Community Food:** Farmers' Market, 3:30p.m. Lison Meadows Park, Route 169, Lisbon.

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

**September 16, Friday**

**Clean-Up:** Willimantic Trash Mob, 5:00p.m.-5:30p.m. Help tidy up town! Bring gloves and bags to the Old Willimantic Cemetery and the VFW lawn next to Stop & Shop on Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-423-1878 bevishistory@yahoo.com

**Nature:** Full Moon Walk, 7:30p.m. 93 Kenyon Road, Hampton. Register: 860-928-4948 www.ctaudobon.org

**September 17, Saturday**

**Live Music:** Parsonsfield, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. \$20. The Eclectic, 25 Meadow Street, Willimantic. Info: www.parsonsfield.com

**Skill Share:** Gardeners Roundtable, 10:00a.m. - 11:30a.m. Workshop for experienced gardeners to share best practices and pitfalls: tricks for the summer garden and vegetables that can be grown in September/October. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**Hike:** Preparing for Next Spring: Plants to Attract Beneficial Insects, 11:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. Dr. Legrand discusses the conservation of beneficial insect predators, parasitoids and pollinators. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**September 18, Sunday**

**Nature:** Spotlight on the Forest: A Discover Goodwin Nature Walk, 1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**September 19, Monday**

**Skill Share:** Fiddle and Song learning to play fiddle by ear, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/19)

**September 21, Wednesday**

**Kids:** After School Nature Club, 3:15p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/14)

**Kids:** Bricks & Blocks, 4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m. Building with LEGO bricks and KEVA Planks. Willimantic Public Library, 905 Main Street, Willimantic Register: 860-465-3082 www.willimanticlibrary.org

**Skill Share:** 6-week Fiddle Course for Adults, 7:00p.m. The first night of six classes sponsored by Old Fiddlers' Club of Rhode Island. Danielson. Register: 860-928-6797

**September 22, Thursday**

**Nature:** Nature Immersion: The Art of the Sit Spot, 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. Discover the lost art of the Sit Spot. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**September 24, Saturday**

**Skill Share:** Spinning Bee, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Bring a

wheel or spindle and some roving. Beginners welcome. Dugan Building, 155 Union Street, Willimantic. Info: peggychurch@earthlink.net 860-455-0724 www.millmuseum.org  
**Live Music:** Lexi Weege, 7:30p.m. \$12-\$15. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wine and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Register ahead (recommended): 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

**September 25, Sunday**

**Skill Share:** Autumnal Writer's Workshop. 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. \$20. 93 Kenyon Road, Hampton. Info: 860-928-4948 www.ctaudobon.org

**September 26, Monday**

**Skill Share:** Fiddle and Song learning to play fiddle by ear, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/12)

**September 28, Wednesday**

**Kids:** After School Nature Club, 3:15p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/14)

**September 29, Thursday**

**Nature:** Smellnasion: Follow Your Nose in Nature, 2:00p.m. - 3:30p.m. Experience a journey of olfactory discovery. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

**September 30, Saturday**

**Clean-Up:** Willimantic Trash Mob, 5:00p.m.-5:30p.m. Help tidy up town! Bring gloves and bags to Bridge Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-423-1878 bevishistory@yahoo.com

**Skill Share:** New England Builders' Ball, 7:00p.m. - 11:00p.m. Handbuilt bicycle show. \$5. Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, 205 E Thompson Rd, Thompson. Info: www.newenglandbuildersball.com

**Film:** Surrogate Valentine, 7:30p.m. \$5. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wine and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Reservations: 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

**Live Music:** CAB and Synaptic Groove, 8:00p.m. - 12:00a.m. \$10. BYOB and BYO food. The Eclectic, 25 Meadow Street, Willimantic.

**October 1, Saturday**

**Live Music:** Bob Degen Trio, 8:00p.m. Snacks and soft drinks available. \$20-25. BYO wine and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Register ahead (recommended): 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

**October 2, Sunday**

**Community Food:** Roaming Farm to Table Feast to Benefit CliCK, 12:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. \$75-100. Beltane Farm, 59 Taylor Bridge Rd, Lebanon. Reservations: www.tinyurl.com/ClickFarmToTable Info: 860-786-7907 www.clickwillimantic.com

**October 3, Monday**

**Skill Share:** Fiddle and Song learning to play fiddle by ear, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/12)

**October 5, Wednesday**

**Kids:** After School Nature Club, 3:15p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/14)



*David Corsini continued from page 7*

accomplishment. While the research plan had been to inventory fish and corals in the reefs and birds and wildlife around the research site, no specific protocols had been developed. The research site was difficult. At high tide we could not go anywhere by land except up a steep hill to no place in particular. I climbed the hill several mornings to look for birds. The two research staff did not know much about birds so I was on my own without a bird guide. I observed a species of sunbird and several times I saw pairs of hornbills fly over. The image of the flying hornbill pairs still remains etched in my memory.

I snorkeled in front of the research station and the fish, eels, and corals were amazing, but no data was taken. There was really nothing to do in terms of serious research. And it did not help that I had a touch of bronchitis and was worried about the trip back.

It was interesting to observe people in dugout canoes and to visit in several villages. It was the most primitive place I have ever been to. Also, I got to see firsthand areas of the coral reef that had been destroyed by fishing practices I had read about ---the use of explosives and cyanide.

I think it is fair to say that building this research station on this island had been a major accomplishment. The mission of the biologist who had initiated this project was to educate the native population about such things as sustainable fishing practices and other uses and misuses of the natural environment. It was a good beginning and there was promise. However, I think the primary researcher, because of the difficulties in getting to and living at the site, had been premature in hosting Earthwatch volunteers. The current practice of Earthwatch is to have staff check out research projects before sponsoring volunteers to them. I am sure that Earthwatch staff had not checked out this project.

After we got to the research island, my main concern was getting back. For communication there was only a short-wave radio and trying to reconfirm my flight reservations was impossible. Several days before we were to leave the island, the man with the boat left. The motor had developed a problem and he had gone back home to fix it. Would he return? He did return and came back, along with someone with a second smaller outboard motor boat we would need because all volunteers and staff now exceeded the capacity of the first boat.

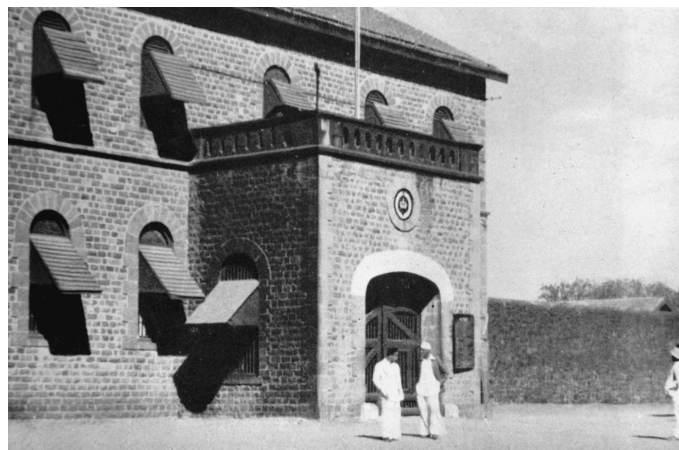
On the day of departure, the two boats headed off. About 45 minutes out, the small boat lost the propeller to the motor. The larger boat had to attach a line and pull the smaller boat. It was very slow going and the ride took so long that some of us had to urinate into a cup and others off the side of the boat. It was dark before we made our way to shore. On the positive side, this was the only time I had observed flying fish and at least I enjoyed that. But I was not yet home free.

When we got back to Palu, where I was to take a plane to Bali, there was a great deal of uncertainty about flight schedules and confirmation status. Finally, we went to the airport and it seemed we were scheduled to take off on Garuda Indonesia Air. We watched as one Garuda airplane took off, began smoking, and returned to the airport. This was not very reassuring, to say the least. But there was no alternative, so I

eventually boarded another Garuda plane and made it to Bali.

I was pretty sick with bronchitis at this point but, since several people had urged me to visit the beautiful town of Ubud, I hired a driver and visited the town described as the “perfect place for you to experience spiritual awakening and enlightenment.” It was a beautiful spot but I cannot say it worked for me as advertised. Perhaps it would have worked had I stayed longer or had felt better during my visit. So, I can say that I have been to Bali but only long enough to sense, but not fully experience, the magic. The next day I flew to JFK and I stuck close to home for a good long time.

*P.K. Willey continued from page 25*



Yeravda Prison, called by Gandhi Yeravda Mandir (temple) for there he had quiet and concentration, penning clear descriptions of the ideals he was evolving to. Contributed photo.

Gandhi said:

“We should remember that non-possession is a principle applicable to thoughts as well as to things. A man who fills his brain with useless knowledge violates that inestimable principle. Thoughts which turn us away from God or do not turn us towards Him are unnecessary possessions and constitute impediments in our way...We are there [in the World’s Scriptures] told that humility, etc. constitute real knowledge and that all the rest is ignorance.”

In seeking to follow Gandhi’s observances, we must exercise commonsense. If someone in an effort to emulate Gandhi were to take the vow of non-possession and non-stealing, and divest themselves of all their material possessions and live upon the charity of others it could be disastrous. The external observance can only meaningfully and practically come about through inner renunciation. Gandhi had trust and certainty in God as being the Truth within himself. Once the light of renunciation dawns within, dispassion and detachment naturally and spontaneously arise. Once that dialogue with the ideals within begins, light is shed on how to adhere to and practice them. In the beginning stages, we can consciously strive to move in that direction, seeking not to collect and acquire what we do not need. For me personally, Gandhi’s thinking on this subject is a challenge and an inspiration. I have far to go, and even further to think in regard to non-stealing in my own life.

44 Neighbors

*Calendar continued from page 42*

### October 6, Thursday

**Nature:** Trail Wood Bird Walks, 8:00a.m. (See 10/6)

### October 7, Friday

**History:** Irish Wake Program, 7:00p.m. Experience an Irish Wake at the close of the Irish Eyes exhibit. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

### October 8, Saturday

**Kids:** Windham Center Green, 2:00p.m. Includes a tour, old-fashioned games, a craft, and a snack. Sponsored by the Windham Textile & History Museum. Register: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

**Live Music:** Lisa Martin, 7:30p.m. \$12-15. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wind and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Reservations: 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

### October 9, Sunday

**Nature:** Guided walk, 2:00p.m. (See 9/11)

### October 11, Tuesday

**Live Music:** Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 7:00p.m. Midway Restaurant, 147 Rte 44, Ashford. Info: 860-456-9913 qcf.webs.com

### October 12, Wednesday

**Kids:** After School Nature Club, 3:15p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/14)

### October 13, Thursday

**Performance:** Talent Showcase, 7:00p.m. (See 9/8)

**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

### October 15, Saturday

**Author:** The Non-Profit Murders, 4:00p.m. Book talk and book signing with local author Diana Perkins. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

**Live Music:** Kate Callahan, 7:30p.m. \$12-15. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wind and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Reservations: 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

### October 16, Sunday

**Nature:** Full Moon Walk, 7:30p.m. (See 9/16)

### October 17, Monday

**Skill Share:** Fiddle and Song learning to play fiddle by ear, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/12)

### October 19, Wednesday

**Kids:** After School Nature Club, 3:15p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/14)

**Kids:** Bricks & Blocks, 4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m. (See 10/19)

**Kids:** Reading with Rosie, 4:30p.m. - 5:30p.m. Children read from their favorite books with Rosie, a registered reading therapy dog. Willimantic Public Library, 905 Main Street, Willimantic Info: 860-465-3082 www.willimanticlibrary.org

### October 21, Friday

**Haunted House:** Nightmare on Main: The Horror of Confinement, 7:00p.m. - 9:30p.m. \$10. Not recommended for young children. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

### October 22, Saturday

**History:** Mill of the Month Travels to Baltic, 10:00a.m. Tour the village of Baltic and walk along the Shetucket River. Mill of the Month is sponsored by the Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

**Haunted House:** Nightmare on Main: The Horror of Confinement, 7:00p.m. - 9:30p.m. (See 10/21)

**Live Music:** Greg Abate Quarter, 8:00p.m. \$20-25. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wind and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Reservations: 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

### October 23, Sunday

**Community Food:** Ashford Farmers' Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Music by Quiet Corner Fiddlers. Pompey Hollow Park, Rt 44, Ashford.

**Haunted House:** Nightmare on Main: The Horror of Confinement, 7:00p.m. - 9:30p.m. (See 10/21)

### October 24, Monday

**Skill Share:** Fiddle and Song learning to play fiddle by ear, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/12)

### October 26, Wednesday

**Kids:** After School Nature Club, 3:15p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/14)

### October 28, Friday

**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

**History:** Spirits of Downtown walk, 6:00p.m. \$5. Walktober walk featuring chilling stories of some of the abiding apparitions and the pub history. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Register: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

**Film:** Premiere Screening of "Blues Legend" with filmmaker Dan McGinley, 7:30p.m. \$8-10. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wine and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Reservations: 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

### October 29, Saturday

**Skill Share:** Spinning Bee, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. (See 9/24)

**History:** Walking with Weir, 6:00p.m. Walktober walk featuring impressionist artist J. Alden Weir. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Register: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

**Live Music:** Seat of Our Pants, 7:30p.m. \$12-15. Snacks and soft drinks available. BYO wind and beer (I.D. Required). The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington. Reservations: 518-791-9474 www.thepackinghouse.us

### October 31, Monday

**Skill Share:** Fiddle and Song learning to play fiddle by ear, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. (See 9/12)



*Packing House continued from page 29*

For more information about this film, visit: [www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming](http://www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming).

Tickets \$8.00 Advance / \$10.00 Door.

**SEAT OF OUR PANTS:** Concert – October 29th, 7:30pm

Seat Of Our Pants (SOOP) has been playing their own brand of contemporary acoustic folk by the “seat of their pants” for the past 5 years, and having a whole heck of a lot of fun doing it... but don’t let the name fool you. Carolyn, Jeff, Mark, and Mike have the whole package with tight vocals, guitar, bass, violin, percussion, and two CDs under their belts. They deliver a fabulous combination of original material and unique covers of current and not so current tunes, with genuine ease and grace.

From their humble beginnings at an open-mic, to appearances at venues across the state, to taking 2nd place this Summer in the Open Mic Competition at The Majestic Theater in West Springfield, SOOP has attracted a word of mouth following in Connecticut and beyond that continues to grow.

Tickets \$12.00 Advance / \$15.00 Door.

**SAVE THE DATE!** - ZOE LEWIS Concert – Nov. 5th, 8:00pm

You’ll want to SAVE THE DATE for Zoe Lewis joining us at The Packing House on November 5th!

Zoe Lewis is a band in a body! Vintage jazz, gypsy jive, Latin grooves, international folk and funk originals on anything from the piano to the spoons! This multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter, vaudevillian hails originally from the UK but has made Provincetown, MA her home for the last 25 years.

For more information about Zoe Lewis, visit: [www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming](http://www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming).



Tickets, Reservations, and Contact

Tickets for all shows can be purchased online at [www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming](http://www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming) or at the door. Table reservations and cabaret seating available. Unless specified otherwise, all events 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.

Did you know that The Packing House is available to rent for your event? Whether it’s a business meeting, a creative project, or a private function, we can support your needs in our historic setting. Call anytime for details.

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.

*JT’s Passport Walks continued from page 23*

trip of 1 mile, it will explore the origin of the New England landscape and the role of iconic visual settings like this in its literary history. This will be less of a hike and more of a walk

Neighbors 45

with pauses for reflection, reading, explanation and questions. Directions: On Crane Hill Rd, 0.2 miles west of Crane Hill and Browns Rd. junction. For information, call 860-429-9023

Sunday, October 23 1 pm – 2:30 pm Enjoy a moderate, 1.5 mile hike through Tolland’s TOBIASSEN FOREST as you cross streams, traverse stonewalls and experience a forest in the finest colors of fall. Directions: Noah Lane off Grant Hill Rd. near Tolland/Coventry border. Park at end of cul-de-sac on Noah Lane. Call 860-871-7592 for more information.

Saturday, October 29 10:00 am – 12 pm CONEY ROCK- What a Rock! Coney Rock is a wonderful site for a fall hike. Bounded on the south by a prominent escarpment providing magnificent vistas of up to 5 miles across the Mansfield Hollow area which lies 250 feet below this tabletop property (bring binoculars). The escarpment marks a major fault formed when Africa pulled away from North America forming the Atlantic Ocean some 185 million years ago. A mere 22,000 years ago the last continental ice sheet flowing south from Canada scraped across Coney Rock, ripping off huge blocks from the escarpment. The 2 mile hike passes through various forest types reflecting the nature of the underlying glacial deposits. Join Anthony Philpotts, UConn Emeritus Professor of Geology and Geophysics and Carl Lindquist on this geologically and historically interesting property. Directions: Mulberry Rd, near Chaffeville Rd intersection, look for park sign at trailhead. For information, call 860-455-9914

## Interested in adopting a pet?

Visit our Ashford Sanctuary, Saturdays 1-3pm and be prepared to fall in love...



Spend time with cats and dogs available for adoption or just come for a tour!

Application (in advance) is required to adopt a pet. For more information, contact our Helpline at 860-242-9999 ext. 302 or [Helpline@OurCompanions.org](mailto:Helpline@OurCompanions.org)

Adoption meetings are also available by appointment anytime!



[www.OurCompanions.org](http://www.OurCompanions.org) 860-242-9999

Photos wanted!

See your photos in print!

Email them to: [neighborspaper@yahoo.com](mailto:neighborspaper@yahoo.com)

# The Environmental Corner

By Rita Kornblum, member of the Mansfield Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Trash is one of those things that nobody likes to see, smell or deal with but if we don't make a concerted effort to deal with it, all of us end up dealing with its unpleasant consequences. The Town of Mansfield prides itself in offering a number of ways for residents to lower the amount of trash they create and to dispose of it in an efficient manner. Anyone interested in learning more about it should visit <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/trash>

One of the annual initiatives that require more involvement from residents, students and any group of volunteers looking for a good cause is "Rid Litter Day" which usually takes place in the spring. The Mansfield Solid Waste Advisory Committee is attempting to get an earlier start and run this event with greater success in 2017. Rid Litter Day is a day dedicated to encourage residents to keep a section of their road free of litter. The Mansfield Public Works Department can be of assistance. Litter taken to the transfer station is not subject to trash fees on this day. Those who choose to participate need to let the attendant at the transfer station know

that they are bringing in litter as part of this event and they will not be charged for it. Volunteers, who are signed up for trash collection service, can place bags of litter next to their household trash. It is helpful if volunteers write "litter" on any bags that put them over their service level. For large volumes of litter, the public works department can be contacted at 860-429-3333 to arrange for a public works crew to make a special pick-up.

So, it seems fairly simple but in order to plan for a successful event, volunteers interested in keeping their town clean and litter free should contact Ginny Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 860-429-3333 or [waltonvd@mansfieldct.org](mailto:waltonvd@mansfieldct.org).

If we start planning early and allow time to work with as many volunteers as possible, we can expand this event to all different areas of town. Please consider lending a hand. Thanks. Coming up in the near future:

Repair Café Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the First Congregational Church in Willimantic located at 199 Valley Street. Bring items that can be fixed by volunteers at no charge. This will be the last Repair Café of this year!

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## WTG Presents Children's Letters to God

Submitted by Robin Rice

The Windham Theatre Guild is excited to present a wonderfully refreshing musical featuring a cast of talented young actors...Children's Letters To God, opening September 16th at the Burton Leavitt Theatre. This is the first Main Stage show in Windham Theatre Guild history that features only children ranging in ages 9-14 years old.

Based on the international best-selling book by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall, Children's Letters To God is a musical written by Douglas Cohen, Stuart Hample and David Evans. Douglas Cohen hails from Mansfield, CT and graduated from EO Smith High School and Amherst College. He received the 2010 Frank Ebb Award for Musical Theatre Songwriting and won two Richard Rogers Awards for No Way To Treat A Lady and The Gig. He was nominated for a 2005 Drama Desk Award for his contributions to Children's Letters To God.

This entertaining show follows the lives of seven young friends as they voice beliefs, desires, questions and doubts common to all people but most disarmingly expressed by children. Sixteen tuneful songs and assorted scenes (some based on actual letters) explore timeless issues such as sibling rivalry, divorce, holidays, loss of a beloved pet, the trials of not being athletic and first love. It carries a universal message which crosses the boundaries of age, geography, and religion. As in the best-selling book, the musical is not specifically religious in nature. It's about kids and various events in their lives that lead them to ask a lot of questions -- some funny, some serious, some surprising.

Director Pam Pellegrine has directed two previous children's productions for the Windham Theatre Guild including The Best Christmas Pageant Ever and The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: a Holiday Musical Review. The cast includes Aurua Buswell and Kiernan Buswell from Andover, Josh Grover from North Windham, Olivia Hackett from Willimantic and Galen Hoover, Teagen Hoover and Lucy Provost from Columbia. Five of the cast members have previously participated in the WTG Youth Chorus. Two of the cast members are new to the area, originally hailing from East Hartford, CT. To quote Ms. Pellegrine, "This show is for adults and children alike, because whatever your age, faith, belief, or background you've probably asked some higher power questions when life doesn't make sense. And in the beginning---before GOOGLE and AskJeeves, for many of us that higher power is God."

Children's Letters To God runs September 16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th at 8:00pm, Thursday September 22nd at 7:30pm, and Sunday Matinees on September 18th and 25th at 2:00pm at the Burton Leavitt Theatre, 779 Main Street, Willimantic. Ticket prices are \$22 for Adults, \$19 for Students/Seniors, and \$14 for children under 12. All UCONN, ECSU & QVCC students (with ID) pay the discounted price of \$14. Group discounts are also available. Anyone who buys a ticket at the door on Thursday, September 22nd will pay the kid's price of just \$14. This special offer does NOT apply to tickets reserved in advance. For reservations and information, call the Windham Theatre Guild at 860-423-2245 or buy your tickets on-line at [windhamtheatreguild.org](http://windhamtheatreguild.org).



# WILLIMANTIC DOWNTOWN COUNTRY FAIR

*The Willimantic  
Downtown Country Fair  
is moving to  
Jillson Square!!!*

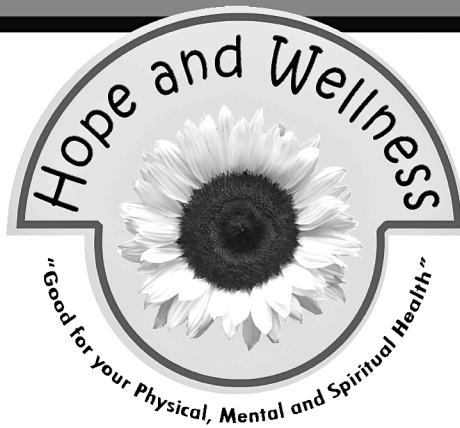
*This year we will be  
joining the Willimantic  
Farmers Market  
on Saturday, October 1st,  
10am-4pm*

*There will be music  
throughout the day,  
food and local craft vendors  
and children's activities...all  
in the middle of our beautiful  
Town Green!*



**A FREE EVENT WHERE  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

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**Bobbi-Jo Wicklund**  
 Nail Technician/Artist

**Tina Hernberg**  
 Usui Reiki Master Practitioner

**Tammy Lavigne**  
 Esthetician

**Sarah Garrison**  
 Stylist, Paul Mitchell Specialist

**Rachel Meikle**  
 Stylist, Redken Specialist  
 Keratin Complex Certified

**Kate Bentley**  
 Stylist, Paul Mitchell Specialist  
 Make-up Artist

**Deborah Maccarone**  
 MA, CH  
 Advanced Study in  
 Educational Psychology  
 Certified Hypnotist

**Jim York**  
 American Red Cross-C.P.R.  
 First Aid Instructor

**Darlene Reviczky**  
 Team Coordinator