

Neighbors Paper

A little paper big on community

Serving the inhabitants and environment of northeastern Connecticut and beyond



The 'Traveling Fish Heads' celebrate our community during the 4th of July Boom Box Parade in Willimantic. Randy McMahon photo.

Willimantic, Now and Then:

Serendipity Thrives in Our Community! People and events join to fulfill a fantasy

By Mark Svetz

I have spent much of the last few days at the keyboard working on a story I began 15 or 18 years ago. When I started, I could hardly tear myself away from it. When I finished the rough draft of what turned out to be 300 pages of fictional fun and games, my excitement began to flag. I had written it; that seemed like enough. For quite a few years that story has been at the back of my mind and the bottom of my pile of jobs unfinished. Now, it is front and center in my life again, all because an old friend stopped by to pick up a job Sarah had done!



called "El Viejo" for \$89. Jobs have opened up when I needed one, apartments have become vacant when I needed to move and a few years ago, when I was suffering kidney failure and had gone on dialysis, someone from this community gave me a kidney! I find it difficult to put into words just how much this community means to me.

When we moved home from NYC, Sarah and I were walking down Bridge Street when a man gave me a huge hug and told me how the needle exchange Tony and I ran for five years had saved his life! Recently a student at QVCC told me her mom remembered learning English in my classes in the 80s. Willimantic is a great place to call home.

I read a book a few years ago about some ancient Irish people who believed that our path in life is not a linear trail or road, but a complex web upon which the activities of our lives take place. They believed if we are doing what is right for us, if we are on the right part of the web at the right time, it will vibrate in a way that gives us peace. I have always found peace in Willimantic; sometimes I had to fight to get back to the right strand of that web, but I have always found peace here.

I love that Janet asked Sarah to make something for her and ended up in our back yard talking about the editing process with a bunch of friends and now I am one step closer to this fantasy of publishing my novel celebrating community. I think it is only in a strong, vibrant community that the connections and relationships exist to support that kind of serendipity.

It reminds me of a night many years ago when a friend had given me a camera with a zoom lens. The lens no longer zoomed; I could turn the ring as much as I wanted but nothing would happen. I went into the pub that night and was showing the camera and its problem to Tony when a friend leaned over and said, "I don't know anything about cameras, but I have a lot of tiny tools. I'd give it a try." I shrugged and gave the camera to Spike. A few months later he brought it back to the pub, good as new.

That's what I love about community: Open yourself to the possibilities and you never know what might happen.

Mark Svetz, now (mostly) retired, has been a journalist, activist, teacher and self-appointed knight errant in Willimantic for the last 45 years. You can read more of Mark's writing at www.sarahwinterclothworks.com/writing.

Janet Dauphin used to edit stories at Neighbors Paper, and now works for herself as a professional editor. She came by our house last Friday to pick up the job and as it turned out we were sitting with a few friends in the backyard when she showed up. This is where the serendipity comes in, because as Janet joined the group one friend was asking me about the relationship between a writer and an editor. When Janet joined the conversation, it just seemed perfect.

Perhaps it was this wonderful coming together of subjects and people that caused me to blurt out to Janet, "Would you ever help me edit a novel I wrote?" Janet said yes and now I am back in New York City with the characters and events in my novel. I started to get my manuscript ready and the first thing I did was read the last few chapters. When it brought tears to my eyes, I was really glad about this little turn of events.

My novel is about community, which is a central theme of my life. In the case of the book, it is about a community of squatters and activists who are being forced out of their homes and neighborhood by the process we sometimes call gentrification. The neighborhood where the events of the novel take place was home to Sarah and me for nine years around the beginning of the 21st Century. I was shocked and saddened as we watched the last of a culture disappear from a neighborhood, and this novel celebrates that culture.

In my real life, I celebrate my community every day. It is, after all, my lifeblood. I have come to accept that my community has what I need. Many years ago, I needed a car and my old friend Randy McMahon sold me the little car that I

Hope for Peace

By Loretta Wrobel



Given the political climate of these Trump days, I was determined not to miss the viewing of the movie, *Disturbing the Peace*. The film is about the disruptions in Israel, the constant violence between Palestinians and Israelis. At first, I wasn't sure I would be able to sit through this movie. The beginning shows wrenching images of the horror of warfare in Tel Aviv and in Palestinian homes.

After this jarring beginning, the film abruptly switches to individuals, who are presently members of Combatants for Peace, sharing their personal accounts of how they renounced violence, and are now laboring for peace. These brave souls have decided to challenge the status quo, and are committed to stopping the killing. Their task is colossal, to steer two warring sides towards dialogue and resolution. The Combatants for Peace are ex-military and paramilitary persons who have witnessed the dangers and pain in violence and are now demanding their country be open to nonviolent solutions. They support a two-state solution as the only sane choice in a country that has been ripped apart by armed hostilities for decades.

I was totally spellbound by these narratives-- my eyes riveted on the screen. Surprisingly, it left me with hope for our world. Shifa al-Qudsi recounts her decision to become a suicide bomber. Before she could carry out her attack, she was arrested and jailed for six years. During her imprisonment, she meets a guard who had lost a brother in a suicide attack. She tells the guard, "You must want to slit my throat." The guard answers that she weeps for all the dead and doesn't want more killings. Shifa-al-Qudsi is transformed by this encounter and takes a life-altering leap to become an advocate for peace, not war.

Another person, who participated in a killing attack, returns home and glimpses the bodies on TV. As he comprehends what he has done, killing random human beings, he knows he must renounce armed conflict and work towards ending violence. If these individuals can turn it around, I too can be an advocate for nonviolence. If these people who grew up in a culture of hatred and opposition can become gentle and strong ambassadors of nonviolent conflict resolution, can't anyone?

An Israeli father talks of his a-ha moment when he turned away a Palestinian father at the checkpoint, who was attempting to get medical attention for sick children. In that instant, the Israeli Army soldier realized the Palestinian is a loving father, just as he is. Both are human beings attempting to take care of and protect their children.

That night I learned of the Combatants for Peace and I understood possibilities for a different script. These men and

women, Israeli and Palestinian, know of bombings, deaths and wounding. They look beyond retaliation and move into reconciliation. They accept that neither side can push the other out and that the only path is to coexist with one another.

From my view, this is astonishing and so brutally real. In Israel a hotbed of conflict and tension, there exists a group of human beings who are putting aside their pain and carving new paths to work together. This group brings a breath of fresh air to me, and I eagerly spread the good news. Even vicious enemies can experience a deeper understanding of the horrors of combat, reframe their revenge, and move to the place of seeing their similarities with former enemies. All of the Combatants for Peace have suffered the loss of loved ones and are dedicated to ending the carnage.

Combatants for Peace began in 2006 and is focused on nonviolent actions and dialogue. At the Q&A at the end of the film, the director was asked about Combatants for Peace. The director shared that the organization is growing and now has more satellite groups in Israel. This is occurring even though, wherever they appear, they are met with criticisms and derogatory insults. Still they persist, as it is imperative that they convince others of the wisdom of their actions.

In that discussion, I witnessed the director fielding a few hostile remarks. He responded to these remarks with openness, honesty and eloquent nonviolent communication. What a perfect example for what he was delivering-- a message to not give up in despair but look for commonalities and similar goals. I witnessed firsthand how adopting a nonaggressive stance can lead to dialogue and acceptance.

This way of the peaceful warrior is not for the faint of heart. It requires a strong discipline, a clarity of mind and a powerful sense of community. I left the movie with utmost admiration for those who made the transformation from being willing to kill someone that they didn't know, for a cause, to becoming nonviolent soldiers. The situation in Israel is complicated and the solution to the ongoing conflicts is not simple

nor easy. Generations have been raised with the unrest, brutality and fear of the enemy.

Combatants for Peace (cfpeace.org) is a bi-national, egalitarian, grassroots organization that has the core belief that only when Israeli and Palestinians join forces can the cycle of violence be ended. They are attempting to build a peaceful future for both peoples. They use demonstrations, education and their own experiences to promote a different way.

Disturbing the Peace is being shown all over the world. It premiered at the Jerusalem Film Festival and has won awards. Director and producer Stephen Apkon's mission is to engage in dialogue with the audiences everywhere. The film is not just about strife in Israeli or the Middle East, but about all conflicts, everywhere.

I encourage you to check out this inspiring and beautiful film about the human spirit. It will fill you with awesome hope.





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A Thank You Note-

On Friday, June 16, 2017, I had to do some banking at Liberty Bank on the corner of Main and Church streets in Willimantic. I parked on one-way Church about thirty feet up the right curb from the building. In pouring rain I walked as fast as I could down the sidewalk, flipping the hood of my raincoat over my head. Into the bank front entrance I went. Business done I walked at least as quickly back to my car. I pulled away from the curb and took a left turn onto Valley at the stop sign. I didn't get as far as Willards when I realized something was wrong. I touched behind my left ear - my hearing aid was gone. I don't wear them all the time and usually never in bad weather, but forgot to take them out on this stormy afternoon. How could I lose one only nine months after I got the pair at extreme cost to my (thank God I have) insurance company? I don't have the funds to replace it.

I turned the car around, taking North Street to the parking lot that brought me back to Church Street. I was walking up and down the sidewalk, in the pouring rain, looking everywhere for the tiny device. I checked the street, the walks, adjacent landscaping and driveways that lead to the rear of buildings. No hearing aid. I left my name at the bank in case someone turned it in. I drove to Mansfield where my wife was shopping and gave her the news. I told her I had to go back. A second search also failed. On Saturday the weather cleared. I went back for a third search in dry conditions. No aid.

Sunday was Father's Day and I was lucky enough to enjoy a home-cooked brunch in Mansfield with my wife, children, their spouses and our grandchildren. We went from there to visit my wife, Karen's, folks in Lebanon. On the way home, as we took a left off Pleasant Street and onto the Frog Bridge I said to Karen, "I'm thinking of stopping at the ATM." She fumbled through her bag and stated, "I have \$72 we don't need money now." I mumbled something and got into the left lane to make a left turn off the bridge. I took a right onto Church and pulled up along the empty right curb next to Liberty's ATM room. Pulling my wallet from back pocket as I walked to the ATM door, I slid the card out of its leather sleeping bag. As I was about to insert it to open the door, I looked down along where the building meets the concrete walk. And there it was. Nestled safely in an inside corner. Protected from the elements. Waiting for me. I was stunned. I did not go near there on Friday.

I turned to Karen, who was only ten feet away in the passenger seat. "Karen, come here." She got out of the car. I pointed. "My hearing aid." I felt weak, I almost cried. Back in the car, holding the aid in my hand, I said. "I feel I've been touched by God."

We still had to pick up some groceries. While Karen went in the store I called my best friend, Bob Marche of Bolton, who is a very spiritual person. Experiences like what just happened to me happen often to Bob. He didn't know I lost the hearing aid. I needed to tell him what happened, while I was still in some form of natural euphoria. Bob thanked me for calling him with such a fresh, wonderful story. He told me my spirit guides were with me. I don't know what spirits, natural forces or human intervention happened to bring my hearing and me back together. I just know I am very thankful.

Tom King, Ashford

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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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The ladies of the Windham Free Library - (left to right) Assistant Librarian Lori Guillard, Head Librarian Carol Santa Lucia, Sandy Lemire and Assistant Librarian Deb Kobor. Contributed photo.

Mirror, Mirror On The Wall- “Will the Windham Free Library keep up with it all?”

Submitted by Virginia L. Siege

The Windham Free Library is Connecticut's smallest nonprofit historic library and sits opposite the Windham Green and next to the Dr. Chester Hunt office, circa 1790, in Windham Center.

In the State of Connecticut there are 239 library buildings and of those 193 are independent with 47 branches according to the Statistics for Connecticut Public Libraries. These few library facilities serve over 3 million residents who live here in our State. Although there are no new libraries presently being constructed, it appears that currently the census of use is steady or may have increased as libraries create new activities and ways to compete with the modern electronic challenges of the 21st century. However, the answer to the question of the riddle is--- absolutely “YES” -- all 5 staff members and 11 board members of the Windham Free Library agree that the 630 square foot library can indeed keep up with it all and continue to be an integral part of the community!

How is this accomplished? One of the driving forces and philosophy of this particular library is that it prides itself with the care and personal attention that is afforded each individual that enters through the library door of this converted 1897 former Windham National Bank. The head Librarian, Carol Santa Lucia who has managed the library for 10 years and her assistants, know the reading preferences of most, if not all of the library's patrons. All individuals are greeted by name with a warm “Hello” and if a member is homebound and needs a book or is ill and unable to come to the library, one of the librarians will volunteer to hand deliver a request right to their front door. The Windham free library continues to strive to enhance the personal community bond between the library and their patrons.

Another way the Windham Free Library has worked to embrace the neighborhood over the years is by forming an alliance with the local bilingual elementary school. This is an important aspect of outreach in the community. The total student visits from the school to the Windham Free Library during the year is close to 1,350. The Windham Elementary School is within walking distance of the library and many a day, one can see a line of kindergarten students or perhaps a 5th grade class escorted by their teachers walking one by one, while passing historic homes, on their way to visit the children's librarian, Cheryl McClain. At that point, a tour and a story may be read and perhaps a history of both landmark buildings and their artifacts. Each child is given membership information in their name and encouraged to borrow books of their choice to take home to their families and enjoy. Hopefully this format forms a long term attachment for the students to libraries and their educational opportunities.

Not only is the Windham Free Library on the ‘Pokemon Go’ site but it also sponsors an event called the ‘Discover, Draw and Create’ children's programs held annually on the Windham Green. Scheduled this summer

is a discussion on threatened and endanger species in Connecticut and ways to promote survival in their native environment, presented by Horizon Wings. Children will see American Kestrels, a Saw-whet Owl and a Peregrine Falcon. Included in the series is a book reading of ‘Adele and Simon in America’ by our Connecticut local artist and author, Barbara McClintock along with a separate ‘Mother Hubbard’ event. A new and exciting addition to the children's program is called the ‘Story Book Walk’. During the year each Windham school in the district alternates receiving the giant laminated picture book with enlarged pages that are then mounted on a school playground fence. The enlarged pages encourage reading skills and introduce new concepts for read-as-you-play. All these activities are designed to stay in touch with new and old trends and compete with cell phones and TV. It is important to mention that there are hundreds of volunteer hours given to the Windham Free Library, including patrons that contribute magazines and periodicals, handmade needlepoint bookmarks, and maintain the lovely gardens and the area around the water fountain.

Similar to many libraries, the Windham Free Library has a monthly book group called ‘Book Hunters’ with meetings held in the nearby Douglas Manor Facility. There are also family summer music programs in July and August including a Willimantic Band Concert, Café Guitars on the Green with musical performances and songs for all to enjoy. Of course, the library has an updated web site, a computer and study space for public use, an integrated Bibliomation system and portals to over 60 libraries. These electronic updates play an important role fulfilling a critical multipoint contact with the community.

Although circulation and activity in libraries have increased from year to year most libraries still face continual financial challenges and cut backs. Even though the Windham Free library gratefully receives some local funding and a grant for individual projects it is critical to have an annual fund raiser called “Jazz in the Garden” that enables the maintenance and primary operation of the building. The social occasion, celebrating the 15th year, is planned a year in advance by dedicated local families who hold frequent pot luck planning meetings in nearby homes. The Windham Free Library also enjoys the commitment and support from many neighboring towns.

On Sunday, September 10th from 3pm to 6pm the “Jazz in the Garden” fund raiser is held in the magnificent gardens at the home of Drs. Andrew and Barbara Gibson across from the Windham Free Library near the Green. Included in the event is a antique car ride, an artesian and local art auction, food delicacies, wine choices and splendid jazz melodies from Rob Zappulla and his band. All are welcome and your participation helps support the Library's programs. You can find information and the ticket cost as well as the schedule of free summer events at: Windhamfreelibrary.org or by calling the library at 860-423-0636.

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It Tastes Good and It's Free

By David Corsini



In 2015 I wrote an article for Neighbors about the spring at Alex Cassie Park in Willimantic. Since then, I have learned more about the spring and talked with more water gatherers. I find the spring itself and talking with the people who visit it interesting. The park where the spring is located was given to Willimantic in 1890 with the stipulation that the "watering tub on Jackson (RT 195)" be maintained and the public have the right to use the water from the spring. The spring house was built with Works Progress Administration funds in 1938.

Some characteristics of the spring have recently been studied by Dr. Catherine Carlson, professor of Environmental Earth Science at Eastern CT State University, and her students. The purpose of the study was to determine the source of the spring and the seasonal variations in the quantity and quality of the water.

For more than a year, Dr. Carlson and her students measured the flow of water at the spring and some characteristics of the water. One characteristic was specific conductance, which is an indirect measure of dissolved solids in the water. A second characteristic measured was chloride content.

The research determined that the average flow of water is 11 gallons/minute. But there is significant variation in the rate of flow. In summer and early autumn the flow is lowest-- 9 gallons/minute. The flow is highest in early spring, when the rate is 20 gallons/minute. These observations of flow correlate with seasonal variation in rainfall and snow melt-- the sources of the water.

The source of the spring water is rain and snow melt within the slopping area from High St, near Windham High School and ECSU, down to RT 195 near Cassie Park. Rainwater and snow melt filter through the earth until they hit bedrock and head downhill. In Cassie Park itself there are marshy areas and distinctive vegetation that show where water seeps through fissures in the bedrock.

From the pattern of flow at the spring, it is estimated that there is a basin in the bedrock that holds up to 10 million gallons of water. Each year 5.7 million gallons flow through the spring. The water that is not collected flows into the pond at Cassie Park and then under RT 195, through Lauter Park into the Natchaug River, then into the Shetucket and Thames Rivers and then on to the sea. During Dr. Carlson's research, the water was tested for chloride. Chloride content was low in late summer and early winter and increased in February through May. This increase is not considered a risk for health, but does illustrate that the spring water comes from rain/snow melt and is impacted by road salt use in winter. I have not found any information about tests of the spring water for chemicals other than chlorides, but it surely does have other chemical properties that probably vary over the year.

People who come to gather water often think the water is tested. It is tested but not to the degree that most people think. The water is periodically tested by Windham Water Works, but only for evidence of coliform bacteria. When bacteria are detected, the spring is closed until three subsequent tests are negative. The bacteria are probably not in the spring water per se but come from the hands of people who touch the water spout in the process of collecting water. As I have observed people taking water in their

hands to throw over their heads and face and almost take a shower, it is not difficult to believe that contamination of the spout can take place.

Over the last several months I have periodically stopped at the spring and sat on the wall near where people gather water. When people came, I introduced myself and said I was asking people why they gather water at the spring. I told the water gatherers that I write stories for Neighbors and had the most recent issue to give them. While some people were reluctant to talk with me, many easily discussed their water issues and often issues unrelated to water.

One day, a man stopped to wash his hands and



The author at the spring at Alex Cassie Park in Willimantic.

time I stopped at the spring, town workers were mowing in Cassie Park and the trash container had been moved back to the park.

Often water gatherers told me they were getting spring water for their pets. This spring water was used to fill aquariums, and for cats, dogs and chickens to drink. Another interesting thing I observed about people at the spring was the variety and number of containers that were used and how organized the collectors were. A surprising number stopped just to fill their daily water bottle. Many stopped to collect four to ten gallons but some stopped to collect 20 gallons or more. Lots of people come with plastic gallon containers that once had contained water bought in a store. The more organized had plastic crates that held four gallon jugs. One person came to fill six 2-liter soda bottles and then tried to carry them away in one plastic grocery bag. It was like trying to carry a bag full of kittens. A few brought only glass containers.

In terms of variety of containers there was one man that stood out. He had about 15 containers that included plastic bleach, vinegar and milk bottles, soda bottles of various sizes and a five-gallon, red container that said gasoline. I sure hope he lived alone. The bumper sticker on his truck said: Not A Liberal.

I was surprised by the number of people who said they had city water but could not stand the smell and taste of chlorine. While my sense of smell is not good, I do have some sense of taste and my city water tastes fine to me.

Most of the people who gathered water at the spring have well water at home. Water gatherers would describe how their well water smelled and tasted bad. Some said their water smelled and tasted like rotten eggs, while others talked

of metallic tastes. In addition to bad smell and taste, people who depended upon wells often spoke of sand, grit, rust and worry about bacteria. One man told me that his water at home had tested high for radon and that was why he collected water to drink.

Several people told me that their well had been seriously impacted by the drought last summer. Some said their well had not fully recovered, others indicated they did not want to stress their well, and others said they had gotten used to drinking the good water from the spring.

One day, a couple who were renting in Ashford came to get water. The guy said that his water was very rusty and tasted terrible. He said that because he is 6' 6", when he rents an apartment, he checks out the height of the shower and then the water pressure. But this time he forgot to taste the water and check for iron. He claimed that the water was so rusty that when they did a wash, all the clothes came out orange. He came to get water with his girlfriend, who had red hair. When they left, I wondered whether his girlfriend might really be a blonde that had stayed too long in the shower.

It has been interesting to talk with people at the spring. It is not always about water. People talk about health issues, house related issues, political issues, town issues, personal accomplishments, dreams and nature. Clearly, there are many people in our community who have wells that don't provide good drinking water and that is probably why grocery stores have whole aisles devoted to water.

The spring at Cassie Park is a local treasure. When I asked people why they came to the spring, in addition to stories about their own water, they said: "It tastes good, and it's free!" Amen to that!

Save the Date - Vendors Wanted!

Submitted by Alice Rubin

We are pleased to announce that planning has begun for the Co-op's 2017 Downtown Country Fair! This year's event will be Saturday September 30th from 10 am to 4 pm and will once again be held in Jillson Square.

A huge thank you to all of the musicians, volunteers and vendors that made last year's event a huge success. The planning committee wants to make this year even better, so we're putting out the call for vendors. This is a great opportunity to get

exposure to the hundreds of people that attend the event. There are just a few requirements for selling your wares: 1) Products must be made locally 2) The selling of handmade items is encouraged 3) The selling of re-purposed, recycled and used items will be considered

If you're interested in being put on the list to receive an application or if you have any questions regarding vending at the event, please contact Angela Walker at awalk66@gmail.com or Alice Rubin at alice.rubin@willimanticfood.coop



Joshua's Trust Walk

Submitted by Angelika Hansen

Discover Whetton Woods

Saturday, July 15 from 10 am – noon, Rob Beach will lead a summertime discovery walk at Whetton Woods in Storrs. Meet at Hope Lutheran Church on Dog Lane. Children and dogs are welcome at this easy walk. Rain Date is July 29. For additional information, call Joshua's Trust at 860-429-9023

Letters and Emails

Dear Editor:

Trump Cannot Fool Mother Nature

It is now clear that President Trump and the Republican majority in Congress are intent on destroying all controls on greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions are primarily the carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels and producing cement; however, a significant amount of the emissions come from methane. The leakage of natural gas which is 97% methane is a major contributor to this.

The new head of EPA, Scott Pruitt, recently said, "I would not agree that [carbon dioxide] is a major contributor to the global warming that we see". Rex Tillerson, former CEO of Exxon-Mobil and now Secretary of State, has said he believes climate change is occurring but refuses to say that humans are contributing to it. Of course, almost 100% of the congressional Republicans say that climate change is happening. Then they say that the climate has always changed, and humans have very little to do with it.

That is the wrong question to ask. People should be asked whether global warming is happening and if humans are the major reason for it. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), composed of thousands of the world's best climate scientists, have issued reports every five to six years since 1990 stating that global warming is occurring and the burning of fossil fuels is primarily responsible for it. The 2013 IPCC report said that it is 95% certain that human activity is responsible for global warming. Every national scientific society in the world agrees with this report. The US National Academy of Sciences has been asked several times since by Congress and various presidents to assess the IPCC reports. Each time they have reported that global warming is occurring and human activity is primarily responsible for it.

The increase in surface temperature of the earth caused by global warming is changing the climate of the

earth. Straight forward thermodynamics shows that increased droughts, heat waves, and extreme weather events are linked to global warming. It is curious that so many people can deny this science while using it to enjoy electricity in their homes, the mobility of modern transportation, and the conveniences of modern communication.

For anyone paying attention it is clear that these climate changes have been occurring since 1980. They have also been predicted by climate models. The models also predict that, unless we can restrict future warming to 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century, the world will experience changes in the climate that humans have not experienced since our civilization began 10,000 years ago. (The 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit change by the end of the century corresponds to the two degrees Celcius change from 1780 to 2100 agreed to at the Paris Conference on Climate Change.)

Since the United States is second largest emitter of carbon dioxide (slightly behind China) and emits much more carbon dioxide per person than China, we should be taking a leadership role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, with Trump as president and the Republicans in control of Congress, we are rapidly destroying the Paris agreement. Why should other countries follow the Paris agreement when we have pulled out and are increasing emissions?

The only upside to this is that Nature does not pay any attention to the pronouncements of politicians. The laws of physics, chemistry, and biology will continue to operate no matter what laws are passed or executive orders issued. In the next four years, changes in climate may be so clear that only fools will deny they are occurring. Then there is a chance to get some national leadership that will do something about global warming and climate change.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Bent

Experience Eastford!

Submitted by Carol Davidge

Did you know there is only one Eastford in the USA? This unique little town in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut will hold Experience Eastford, a town-wide event to be held on Saturday, July 8, 2017. The day includes the following activities:

Heritage Day Event from 10 am to 1 pm at the Eastford Elementary School (12 Westford Rd.) with free family fun: Live Birds of Prey, Climbing Wall, Bulb Swap, Bounce House, Contests, Kid's Games, Food, Silent Auction, Vendors, Give-aways and more! Bring nonperishable foods (including pet food) or donate to the Eastford Food Pantry. Bring 5 CFL or incandescent lightbulbs to swap for free LEDs.

Complimentary Pancake Breakfast for Eastford residents at the Eastford Independent Fire Company (6 Westford Rd) from 8 to 10 am. Followed by an Open House till 1 pm. Includes Fire truck and equipment displays, blood pressure tests, and fire extinguisher demonstrations.

Grand Opening of the Florence Warren Latham Museum of Eastford History (65 John Perry Rd) from 11 am to 2 pm. featuring local historical items and artifacts. Vintage Car Show at Bowen's Garage from 9 am to 1 pm, with awards at 12:30pm. Craft Fair at Coriander Café from 10 am to 1 pm.

General Lyon Cemetery Tour at 2:30 pm (35 General Lyon Rd., Eastford with a talk about General Lyon's life and death by Revolutionary War Re-enactor Ed Parry. Frog Jump Contest at the Congregational Church of Eastford starting at 5 pm. In addition to the contest, the evening will include a Bounce House, Cake Walk, Free Cook-Out and Band Concert.

You will find something for all ages, so bring your friends and family, meet your neighbors and come check it out. Events are free and will be held rain or shine. A full schedule of activities and events can be found on the Eastford website at eastfordct.org/townofeastford.

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On Gypsy Moths and a 'Gem in the Rough'



Shoppers at the Ashford Farmers Market interact with the Barton Farmers and their offerings.

Dennis Pierce photo.

By C. Dennis Pierce

As many in the Quiet Corner know, Gurleyville, in Mansfield, was one of the first sites for a silk mill in America. Residents in Gurleyville raised caterpillars in their attics and the webs were brought to the mill on the Fenton River to be spun into silk. However, not all entrepreneurial attempts were successful. In fact we have one to blame for the current plague of gypsy moths that are devastating our yards and gardens. To trace the source of the infestation requires going back not three decades but a century. Étienne Léopold Trouvelot, a French astronomer, living near Boston who was a better artist than he was an entomologist, wanted to see if he could find an animal superior to the silkworm for textile production. His experiment with gypsy moths, imported from Europe, was doubly a failure: The moths did not produce better fibers, and on a blustery day in 1868 or 1869 a gust of wind blew some of Trouvelot's bugs free from a windowsill.



The insects took to the Medford, Mass., countryside with gusto. There, the caterpillars grew rapidly in number; there were no familiar carnivores to keep the animals in check, and the insects sport irritating spines that deter most North American insect-eaters. There are a few native birds that are capable of munching on the gypsy moth larvae: Specifically, the yellow- and black-billed cuckoos are capable of collecting the spines in their stomach linings and then expelling the hairs as concentrated pellets. Each year, in late spring and summer, the caterpillar populations swell.

What may be effective in culling the animals, as The Washington Post's Angela Fritz wrote, is the fungus *Entomophaga maimaga*. The spores, native to Japan, infect the gypsy moth larvae, often fatally so. Cornell University's mushroom blog describes the fungus as the "caterpillar killer" for its efficiency at consuming the critters from within. The preceding information was gleaned from several sources from the internet. I found it interesting because it is the answer to my frustration that I have when I look at my leafless apple trees and wonder if they are to survive and bear fruit next year.

So now that we have someone to blame for messing with Mother Nature let's turn to a positive note and review a great find of Mother Nature's offerings in the way of a Farmer's Market in the area. Last Sunday, despite a threatening sky, I ventured to the eleven year old, Ashford's Farmer's Market which is held every Sunday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The market is located at 25 Tremko Lane / Pompey Hollow in Ashford, which is directly across from the Ashford Town Hall.

Over the years I have visited many markets throughout New England. The Ashford Market has that feeling that you discovered a gem in the rough. It offers a variety and well balanced local products with a range from produce to cheese to soaps and meat. Set up in a parking lot the "L" formation allows for ample parking and a weekly selection of live entertainment.

The following make up the markets community:

Barton Farms who provides the market with a huge variety of vegetables and some fruit. You can find many heirloom vegetables along with unusual items such as fava beans,

Mexican sour gherkin cucumbers, okra and much more. They always have fresh eggs (bartonfarmshampton@aol.com).

Full Boer Farm, has a large variety of lamb and pork cuts as well as bacon and sausage. They also have whole and halved broiler chickens for sale. (www.fullboer.com).

Creamy Creations has a selection of gift items including goat's milk soap (Facebook - [creamycreationssoap](https://www.facebook.com/creamycreationssoap)).

Birch Hill Farm located in Ashford, offers maple syrup, jams, jellies, and fruit syrups (birchhill@sbcglobal.net).

Meadow Stone Farm from Brooklyn, has a variety of cow and goat, fresh cheeses. They have a nice selection of cheeses that you can sample prior to purchase (MissJulie@meadowstonefarm.com).

Charter Beef from Ellington offers a wide selection of beef. They also, periodically offer veal (860.875.1062). Mara's Bake Shop offers a yummy selection of breads, muffins, turnovers, cookies, empanadas and more. (Information can be found on their Facebook page).

Willow Valley Farm which is located on 65 acres of field and forestland in Willington, CT. They use all organic practices and have taken the CT NOFA Farmer's Pledge. Crops include vegetables (many heirloom and open pollinated varieties), herbs, blueberries, mushrooms, and more (www.wvfcsa.wordpress.com).

KD Crop Farms is run by Kelly and Derrick Caisse with help from their two boys. They started in 2006, the farm is environmentally safe and produces a multitude of plants, vegetables, herbs, fruit, chicken eggs, duck eggs, pickles, relish and jams. They own a five acre farm in Chaplin (you can find further info on their Facebook page - KD Crop).

Hundred Acre Farms is a small family run business specializing in non-traditional flavors of jams, jellies and fruit butters. They want "the fruit to shine" so they do low to no sugar. They have been selling to diabetics for three years now. You can contact them by calling 860-705-1703, and their email is, hundredacrejams@gmail.com

As I meandered around the market my selections were some cheese from Birch Hill Farm and duck eggs from KD Crop Farms. My ingredients turned into a great omelet for my lunch.

As we are moving towards the mid-summer harvest get ready for a bountiful crop of tomatoes. The following is a nice recipe that will be a star at any picnic or summer gathering.

Ginger Marinated Tomatoes with Watermelon, Mozzarella Cheese, & Spicy Arugula
Makes 6 servings

Ingredients:
1 piece of fresh ginger (6 inches), peeled
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons of sherry vinegar
24 small tomatoes, cut into 2 inch pieces. You can also use cherry tomatoes cut in half but increase the number.
½ cup thinly sliced red onion

¼ cup roughly chopped fresh basil
2 cups, 1 inch pieces of seedless watermelon (or regular watermelon with seeds removed)
2 cups of baby arugula
¼ cup of cured black olives, pitted and sliced
8 ounces of whole milk mozzarella cheese cut into 1 inch cubes

Directions:

Grate the ginger against the large holes of a grater. Wrap the grated ginger in a piece of cheesecloth or thin kitchen towel and squeeze over a medium bowl to extract the juice. You should have about 4 tablespoons of juice.

Whisk the ginger juice, the ½ cup of olive oil (hold back the 1 tablespoon of olive oil for later use) and the sherry vinegar in a medium bowl to blend. Add the tomatoes, red onion and half of the basil and toss until well combined. Season with salt and pepper.

Allow tomatoes to marinate at room temperature for thirty minutes.

Add watermelon to the marinated tomatoes and toss until well combined.

Toss the arugula in another bowl with the one remaining tablespoon of olive oil and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Divide the marinated tomato and watermelon mixture among 6, pre-chilled plates. Garnish with the remaining basil and black olives.

Divide the cubed mozzarella cheese among the 6 plates and top with arugula.

Serve immediately and sit back and listen for the "yums".

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8- Local food builds relationship with the farmers who have a wealth of information about their products.

9 - Local food supports a clean environment and benefits wildlife.

10 - Local food is about the future.

As I end this column I will leave you with a quote from Bryant Terry, "What makes the farmer's market such a special place is that you are actually creating community around food." If you have a suggestion or a farm or a local grower you would like featured in a future column drop me a line at Codfish53@Yahoo.com. Peas be with you.

Confronting Bias to Protect Fairness

By Delia Berlin

Democracies depend on mutual trust, and trust depends on fairness. In recent decades, socioeconomic inequalities have grown, eroding trust in the fairness of our institutions and our government. This increase in inequality can be seen in many areas, including income, education, health care, and housing. Perhaps, given human nature, such a cyclical evolution is inevitable. We all have strong self-preservation tendencies that make us favor our own interests, even when we try to be fair. It's not hard to understand how, over time, the class in charge of making the rules would take the lead.

Our system of government has multiple checks and balances to counter these tendencies, but these controlling mechanisms must be continuously watched and updated to defeat constant attempts to circumvent them. Unfortunately, sometimes those with the strongest self-dealing traits are also more likely to seek positions of power, and once there, they fight these checks and balances at their roots, threatening fairness for all of us.

Undermining fairness from the top can have sweeping consequences. It takes an alert and vigilant people to preserve and rebuild democratic safeguards through peaceful means, like civic discourse and grassroots participation. But recognizing unfairness doesn't necessarily makes us fair. We all have egotistic tendencies and egocentric biases. Working at exposing our own biases and at helping others see their own can foster productive communication, conflict resolution and problem solving. There are strategies we can use to help ourselves and others to become fairer in our judgments and actions.

A first necessary step is to accept that we all, including ourselves, have trouble being impartial. Therefore, unfairness will not disappear just by changing the ruling party. Monitoring and ethical scrutiny to prevent self-dealing must be strong, continuous and as independent as possible from politics. Since the motivation to weaken these safeguards is usually desire for a power grab, if they get fully dismantled, fairness may no longer be regained through peaceful means.

But even when power is centralized, the checks and balances on power are dispersed. As citizens, we can all be monitors of fairness, and fairer monitors do make a fairer society. Since we are only human, our system won't be fool proof. Valuing fairness doesn't guarantee recognizing it. Our biases will always color our own assessments, but becoming aware of such biases can be a powerful first step, and trying to overcome them, a hefty goal.

Since children are developing citizens, starting with the children in our lives makes sense. Children always become better thinkers when guided through questions: "How would you feel if your friend did that to you?" or "How do you think your friend would feel if you did that?" are similar questions that should elicit similar responses. But they rarely do, because they require children to examine an issue from two different perspectives. Impartiality and fairness are not innate, but must be learned.

My father used to say that one of the hardest things to learn was to be impartial. Often, he would try to insert perspective-taking games into common activities, to illustrate the point. One particular type of exercise he liked to use addressed our siblings' quarrels. Whenever we had to divide something into equal parts to share it, invariably all of us felt that we were ending up with the smallest part. His solution was to turn this problem into a game with a single rule: whomever divided the "bounty" would be the last one to take her piece.

This strategy had a built-in fairness mechanism. It divided the powers governing the division of goods. The "divider" was empowered to apportion. But the rest were able to choose their own portions after that division. If you were in charge of cutting a bar of chocolate and failed to produce exactly identical pieces, you would certainly end up with the smallest one. These were checks and balances, lived and learned. Unfortunately, today most of the dividers get to choose their portions too.

Historically, our government and institutions belonged to white men. Only recently have women and people of color been able to participate in our democracy. Because of these roots, we have internalized many assumptions and biases that we may not even be aware of.



Coupled with normal self-preservation tendencies, these biases are enemies of fairness.

Justice Ruth Ginsburg was once asked when will there be enough women on the supreme court. She said: "When there are nine." She elaborated about the reactions this answer usually triggered: "People are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that." In fact, the Supreme Court was established in 1869 and had nine men for 113 years, until the confirmation of Justice Sandra O'Connor in 1981. And everyone, including all of 102 male justices who preceded Justice O'Connor were just fine with nine men on the court. What was your own reaction to Justice Ginsburg's answer? What biases did your reaction expose?



Contributed photo.

Justice Ginsburg was right. It really would take having an all-female Supreme Court, and nobody minding that, to prove that gender bias is gone. I don't mean this in a "let's even the score" way, but in recognition that eliminating bias would require equal reaction to an all-female versus an all-male court, and since all-male courts are still commonly accepted, this benchmark would seem like the only real and fair test.

Both my father's exercise for dividing things fairly and Justice Ginsburg's illustration share the same strategy: to encourage empathy by forcing the participant to step into someone else's shoes, to look at the situation from the other side of the fence. We could (and should) challenge ourselves to use this type of strategy often. Opportunities abound. Here are some examples:

Substitute the characters in analysis of current events:

An impartial judgment of the ethics of a given situation should yield the same result, regardless of the characters involved. For example, if you are comfortable with Trump's children's roles in the White House, you should see yourself approving the same arrangement for the Clintons, had Hillary become our President.

Switch the gender or ethnic background of subjects in news reports:

Let's say you read that a black man shot a white woman; would you react similarly if you were reading that a white woman shot a black man? If not, ask yourself why and reflect on the scenario and your potential biases.

Look for parallel situations to help resolve conflicts:

For instance, a school system wants to ban head covers because they obscure identity and you don't know if that's fair. Analyze the problem thinking about a hoodie, a head scarf and a nun's habit. Does your assessment change in each case? If so, why?

Switch roles when you react to differences:

You read about a controversy involving the rights of foreigners. When traveling abroad, what rights do you expect to have in the countries you visit? What language do you expect to use? Should foreigners visiting the US have similar rights and privileges?

The possibilities are endless, but the strategy is the same: seeking a different angle, stepping into someone else's shoes, trying to broaden empathy in others and ourselves. Completely eliminating bias is impossible, but reducing the impact of our biases through self-awareness, in order to become more fair citizens, is something for which we all should strive.



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We Are One Species But We Are Not One Culture: The Biophilia Hypothesis Critiqued

Biophilia, if it exists, and I believe it exists, is the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. E.O. Wilson

By Phoebe C. Godfrey



I have just returned from a conference in Arizona with the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) and the keynote speaker was Thomas L. Fleischner, the Executive Director of the Natural History Institute and an Emeritus Professor at Prescott College. His topic was “Natural History and the Deep Well of Community” and one of the means he came to speak about this ‘deep well of community’ was through reference to E.O. Wilson’s *Biophilia Hypothesis*. Wilson, a biologist / environmentalist who began studying ants, articulates his hypothesis as being, “the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms” (The Biophilia Hypothesis; Kellert, R., Wilson, E.O., Eds.; Island Press: Washington, DC, USA, 1993:31). For Wilson, our ‘innately emotional affiliation’ is theorized to be genetic and comes from our obvious co-evolution with nature. Yet something I noticed in Fleischner’s talk and in other readings I have done on biophilia is the tendency to make the biological object of our seemingly innate love something other than ourselves and to limit the scope of these innate emotions only to love. Furthermore, the result of doing so seems to additionally limit the cultural influences upon how the said biology is understood and how said love (and possibly other emotions) is expressed.

To give an example, in Fleischner’s talk there were numerous pictures of blond white children looking lovingly at frogs or at beautiful pristine wilderness, or of groups of white college students collecting samples of flowers by snowmelt lakes and other examples of ‘untouched’ nature. What’s not to love? The lake waters are calm and pure, the mountains distant, the frogs non-poisonous, the flowers free and a hearty lunch and portable water are no doubt within close proximity. In other words, in all his examples, of what one would assume mostly inspires biophilia, the object of our love is separate not only from us as biological beings, but also consequently from our biological abilities and needs to sustain ourselves and to do so through our cultures.

Appius Claudius Caecus, a Roman politician from 340 -273 BC coined the term *Homo Faber* in his *Sententiae*, referring to the ability of humans to control our destiny and what surrounds him: *Homo faber suae quisque fortunae* (Every man is the artificer of his destiny). I make reference to this term in that what makes us ‘*homo sapien sapien*’, (a subspecies of *homo sapien*, meaning wise human) are our cultures identified as including the creation and use of tools (beginning with tools for hunting and gathering), art (beginning with cave paintings), burial of the dead with stuff, body adornment (beginning with body painting and beads), creating of clothing (beginning with using skins and then rudimentary sewing), use of fire (beginning with for protection and then for food)...etc.

And from these rudimentary beginnings, including for some humans about ten thousand plus years ago with the development of agriculture, up until today, we have created 1000’s of cultures, all with complex differentiated and / or related languages, beliefs, religions, gods, musical forms, art forms, structures, food systems, laws, institutions, technologies...etc. into which members were /are socialized and become identified with, including the geographic places and surrounding natural spaces that form the material for culture construction. Human cultures are created out of and are inseparable from what we experience within our own bodies and through our bodies’ experiences of the surrounding natural world and the cultural meanings given to those experiences.

Therefore, the problem I had with Fleischner’s talk and his use of images that featured only one cultural identity (whites) and only in ‘nature’ (as opposed to seeing cultures as part of nature) was his failure to recognize that this view of ‘nature’ as being ‘tame and pristine’ and separate from human society is in itself a product of our culture. In particular, this specific view of ‘nature’ as a place to experience ‘adventure’, ‘recreation’, ‘a place where we go by choice’, and for which we ‘feel love’ is typical of those in our culture who are privileged to not be engaged in the types of labor that use nature as resources to sustain their and our lives- labor activities such as farming, fishing, min-

ing, logging...etc. As a result, a distorted view of nature, as in Fleischner’s images / talk is created, that obscures the very labor activities that make human cultures possible. In other words, my larger problem with Wilson’s original concept of biophilia is that any innate experience of biophilia one may or may not have is inevitably a cultural experience. Furthermore, by situating the bio for which we may feel love as being other than ourselves and our cultures, Wilson and then Fleischner are assuming a separation between humans / human cultures and the ‘natural world’ that is in of itself a cultural construct (primarily of our culture), not a ‘biological’ reality.

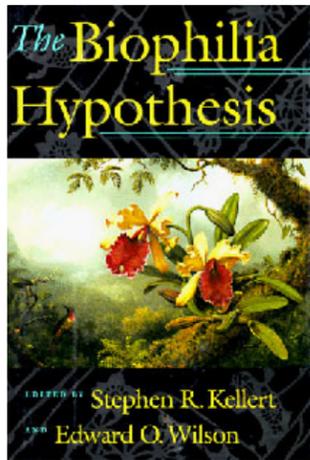
This is not to say that I don’t think humans have an innate connection with nature / biology—I just happen to think that their most profound experience of philia-love-is with themselves / their own progeny (which are all expressions of biology / living organisms) and with their own cultural realities (that includes their languages, their religions / gods, music, sacred places, technologies, geographic places and surrounding natural spaces). Additionally, I think in each of these examples the specific cultural framework shapes the extent to which and means by which any potential feelings of love are experienced / expressed and that such expressions / experiences are not homogeneous throughout a given culture. In fact, many around the world including in our own culture, who have experienced typhoons, floods, twisters, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches, droughts...etc. may well fear nature and in this manner may experience biophobia (not

mentioned by either Wilson or Fleischner, although has been written about by followers / critics of Wilson), as well as a wide range of other emotions that are both innate (the capacity to experience them) and culturally shaped, regulated and mediated. To further illustrate the role of culture we can look at biologist Rachel Carson’s apt observation that, “...man is part of nature and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself”. However, although she correctly recognized humans as part of nature (bio) she failed to see that the lack of philia is not a sentiment shared by all humans. Hence, like so many Western scientists, including Wilson and Fleischner, Carson homogenizes all humans into one culture, our culture. For when she says “man’s war against nature” she is not speaking of all humans, many of whom have not been and are still not at ‘war with nature / themselves’ but rather have lived and / or are living in what could be described as balance with nature / themselves.

To illustrate, in an article in the Huffington Post (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/iucn-planet-at-the-crossroads/people-and-nature-blur-in_b_12881508.html) about a meeting last year of Indigenous people from around the world at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai’i it was highlighted that many indigenous cultures / languages don’t have separate terms for ‘people’ and for ‘nature’. As one Maori attendee from New Zealand stated, “If you ask me the value of nature for my well-being it’s like asking me the value of my head for my well-being. It doesn’t make sense.” Another example, is from a common Hawaiian phrase that states, ‘He ali’i ka ‘āina, he kauwa ke kanaka’ – which translates into ‘the land is the chief and man is its servant.’ When we take care of our resources they also take care of us.” From these cultural perspectives, Wilson’s entire concept (hypothesis) of biophilia makes no sense, just as the Maori attendee talking about the value of her head declared.

Additionally, it makes no sense to not talk about human cultures as the means through which all of our experiences are shaped, in particular through our languages. What does make sense however, is to see Wilson, Fleischner and Carson, as well as most members of our culture, as repeating the same ethnocentric errors- errors that in of themselves are inseparable from the very crises they aim to address –our culture’s “war against nature” (biobellum), including “ourselves”, other cultures (in particular indigenous ones) and other life forms. We need to stop saying that the fault lies with “man” (making the problem biological) and begin to recognize that it is our culture and our culture’s distorted thinking—that we are the ‘chief’ and that the land is the ‘servant’.

Hence what we in this culture need at this time is not another culturally shaped scientific hypothesis but rather a good dose of biological / physical reality that includes the realization that even if many in our government claim to not believe in climate change, motivating them to seek a better ‘deal’ than the Paris climate agreement, nature herself doesn’t negotiate.



The Etiology of Curmudgeonry

By Robert E. Miller

I was under the impression that I had reached the classification of “senior” gracefully and without a noticeable change in my demeanor. Of late, however, my good wife believes that I have become something of a curmudgeon. “Me, a curmudgeon?” I asked. “Whatever would cause you to make a statement like that?”

I pulled out my Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (no, I did not Google it!) and found that one of the definitions of curmudgeon is “a crusty, ill-tempered and (usually) old man.” I was wounded. “Not so”, I protested. ‘Old man’, maybe. But ‘crusty, ill-tempered’? I don’t think so.”

“Listen, old man. Every time you return from shopping, traveling, or eating out you have a complaint of one sort or another. Maybe you should make a list of some of the more recent ones and you’ll see what I mean.”

“Its our churlish society”, I fumed. “A lack of consideration, poor manners, thoughtlessness. Its becoming a hallmark of our society. But let me take your advice and cite some of the notable examples of crassitude and mind-numbing stupidity. Consider the following:

~ The clerk at the check-out counter who rings up your tab wordlessly and then slaps the change and receipt in your hand without so much as a “thank you”.

~ The little lady who pokes through her purse looking for the exact change while three customers fidget behind her.

~ The clerk who insists on calling for a price check with five people standing behind you even though you are absolutely certain of the price.

~ The waitperson at the restaurant who asks for your drink order before you have settled into your chair.

~ The waitperson who reappears three minutes after you have been given the menu and asks, “Are you guys ready to order?”.

~ The waitperson who doesn’t appear for fifteen minutes after you have been seated.

~ The men at the next table who do not remove their caps and engage in loud conversation and raucous laughter that overwhelms efforts to communicate at your table.

~ The eight dollar-a-glass of wine you order that has such a small amount in it that you think they want you to taste it before they pour the rest of it.

~ The driver who tears by your mailbox at twenty miles over the speed limit while you are extracting mail from it, spraying you with slush from the recent snowstorm.

~ The person you are holding the door for who walks by without so much as a nod.

~ The person who walks ahead of you and lets the door slam in your face.

~ The spry, healthy-looking fiftyish man who bounds out of his car after parking it in the handicap parking space and displaying a permit.

~ The owners of several cars ahead of you, at various points in your journey, who have inoperative directional signals and surprise you with a sudden turn to the left or right.

How’s that for a start? And I’m not even going near cell phones, body-piercing or green hair!”

“An impressive list”, my wife said. “Do you feel better now?”

“Oh, I feel wonderful”, I said, as I shuffled off to my recliner humming my favorite tune from Gilbert & Sullivan’s *The Mikado*: Let the Punishment Fit the Crime.

To all our contributors-
Thank You!

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

Curiosity for Carroll at Jillson Square



Dagmar Noll (l) and friend, Jean DeSalle, and Jean's children.

Contributed photo.

By N. B. Goldzer

Magic stopped into Willimantic this past month as the Jillson House Museum, in partnership with the Windham Historical Society, hosted its fifth major event of the year, the Alice in Wonderland festival. Adorning the Jillson Green on June, Saturday the 3rd and a very warm and sunny Sunday the 4th, the event, organized by Jillson House director Ron Black, celebrated the works and aesthetics of writer Charles Dodgson, better known to the world at large as Lewis Carroll. Homages to Carroll's original style of nonsense and fantasy were on great display on the square and drew all manner of passersby and picnickers.

Splashing the Green with a festive red were organizers from the Windham Textile and History Museum who challenged all-comers to croquet, the favorite pastime of Carroll's fictional villain, the Queen of Hearts. Windham's queen, in full regal regalia, was played by Textile Education Director Bev York who slipped eerily without-effort into the role. Between her shouts of "off with their heads!" attendees to the Wonderland event were also treated to the folk music of Ruth O'Neil and Jim Hammet, from Song-a-Day Music Center in Coventry, CT. Ruth and Jim, accomplished guitar, banjo and ukulele players, performed period-appropriate music of Carroll's 19th century spaced with more modern classics such as Lewis Armstrong's aptly named "What a Wonderful World".

To outfit themselves in the décor of the event, members of the community were invited to shop at the booths of several local steampunk vendors in attendance. Among them were seamstress and painter Kli Mawson, functional artist and steampunk decorator Elisha Sherman and Tony Rogers of Smoke and Steam Productions who, in addition to selling props and gadgets, drove about a remote-controlled car mounted with a silver teapot to the surprised glances of onlookers. For those looking for less

permanent investments into the scene, Lauren Grover of Paisley Peacock Body Arts set up beside Jackson street to apply glitter, henna and face painting.

The festival drew a few native notables including Willimantic Mayor Ernie Eldridge who arrived in great fashion, towing his 1909 model, International Harvester High Wheeler. "Ms. Hattie," he called her, was is a cranked-start, battery-powered motor buggy, which the mayor, a well-known auctioneer and collector lamented, though usually operational, was in need of a last-minute part and could not be driven. A sight not out of place among the costumes of the day, the High Wheeler sports kerosene headlamps and lacks a roof or windshield, which, as Eldridge put it, "made the [road safety] inspection really interesting".

The opus of the event however, was the arrival and performance of magician Pete Haddad. Haddad's act included many classics enacted slightly off kilter, including drinking the mayor's own Hosmer Mountain soda from the unsoiled shoe of a volunteer and pulling a rubber chicken, rather than a rabbit, from his to phat. "Herb, the magic chicken," proved an integral part of Haddad's act which marveled the children sitting on picnic blankets in the grass while the magician bantered in witty euphemisms with Luzella Roos, dressed as the Windham Historic Society's own White Rabbit.

Event organizer and museum director Ron Black was hard to track down at the green, as the event attracted so many interested patrons to the museum that he gave near-constant tours of its rooms and histories. "This was supposed to be an event for the kids," Black said, "but the amount of adults who came to see the museum is just great." Tours of the Jillson House remain free but, as Black put it, "donations let us do more things like the Wonderland event and are very appreciated."

In contributed photo below: Ruth O'Neil and Jim Hammet, from Song-a-Day Music Center in Coventry, CT.




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History and Fun Can Be Found at Joshua's Trust

By Corey Sipe

School is out but education and fun are always in session at Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, also known as Joshua's Trust. They offer plenty of opportunities for visitors and volunteers to learn about history and the great outdoors. Known as northeastern Connecticut's largest land trust, the group recently celebrated Connecticut Open House Day 2017, their third year participating in the annual event. "We had a total of about 100 people and that's holding steady with the past," said Joshua's Trust Executive Director Michael Hveem, of Mansfield, who is the trust's only part-time employee, while others in the trust are volunteers. Gurleyville Gristmill, Gov. Wilbur Lucius Cross Birthplace Museum, and the Atwood Farm Museum, all in Mansfield, were open to the public on Open House Day, June 10. Many volunteers wore green "50 Years of Trust" t-shirts, commemorating the organization's beginning in 1966 as a joint initiative of the Mansfield Historical Society and the Mansfield Conservation Commission.



Water flows down Codfish Falls.

flows into the Fenton River. Manchester resident Vince Salvatore was checking out Codfish Falls for the first time on Open House Day after reading about it in the book "New England Waterfalls." "It's more impressive seeing it in person," he said, promising to come back again to take photos, describing himself as a part-time landscape and nature photographer. Quentin Kessel, of Mansfield, a long-time trust member, said that Codfish Falls, on the appropriately-named Codfish Falls Road, has always been a popular spot. "Mansfield residents for years have tried to keep it preserved," he said. Those efforts paid off as the property is protected through two separate easements given to Joshua's Trust in 1998 and 2005.

Over at the Atwood Farm Museum, visitors can learn about the farm's rich history dating back to the late 19th century.

Mansfield resident Rudy Favretti, who has been a trustee for the organization for many years and author of the 2016 book "50 Years of Trust: The Story of Joshua's Tract Conservation and Trust," welcomed visitors on Open House Day in the blacksmith shop. He pointed to the shop's three sections, which include an area where farm implements were made or repaired, a carpentry bench with tools, and a carriage and sleigh area for vehicle repairs. "We're lucky it's a nice sunny afternoon. Isabelle Atwood, who gave us the property, would be very happy about what has been done to display the content of these buildings," Favretti said. Atwood bequeathed her historic home and farm to the trust in 2012 and its office moved from the Eagleville Schoolhouse to the Atwood Farm Homestead, at 624 Wormwood Hill Road, in Mansfield, in 2016.



Allen Barstow shows off a miniature replica of the Gurleyville Gristmill.

The gristmill, the only stone mill of its kind in Connecticut, and the Cross Museum, which is in a wing of a house almost directly across the street, are part of the Gurleyville Historic District that was first recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The Gurleyville Gristmill was operated by the Cross Family in the 19th century. Gov. Cross was born in 1862 and served as governor from 1931 to 1938. He was known for his successful measures in abolishing child labor, instituting a minimum wage, improving factory laws, and authorizing

funds for the first library, named the Wilbur Cross Library, at Connecticut State College, now known as the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Cross wrote an autobiography in 1943 entitled "Connecticut Yankee," with a chapter about his childhood in Gurleyville, one of 17 historic villages in Mansfield. Trust docent Fran Funk said, "the museum has brochures, information on Gov. Wilbur Cross, a list of the millers who operated the mill over the years, and information on the houses in Gurleyville." The gristmill site was home to a sawmill in 1723. The gristmill was added in 1750 but was replaced in the 1830's and closed in 1941. The sawmill was destroyed in the early 1950's from heavy snow and the nearby dam washed out in the winter of 1958-59.

Mansfield resident Allen Barstow, founder of the trust's gristmill committee, who gives tours of the two-level building, shows off its equipment including gears, grinding stones, and a flour sifter. "I love it when kids get interested, or when anyone responds. I love the history of it, I love the mill," Barstow enthusiastically said. For Stephanie Ouellette, of Lebanon, an eighth-grade teacher at Rham Middle School in Hebron, Open House Day was her first time exploring the mill. "The detail and the tour guide were amazing. I went on the (Connecticut) Trails Day hike last weekend and they told me about this (Open House Day)," she said, adding "I would love to bring the eighth grade here. We go to Sturbridge (Mass.) but we have this right here." Gurleyville Gristmill, at 125 Stonemill Road, along with the Cross Museum, at 134 Stonemill Road, are open Sundays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., from the third Sunday in May through the second Sunday in October.

Not far from the gristmill is a picturesque 100-acre parcel in Mansfield featuring the Codfish Falls, a 15-foot-high, three-tier waterfall on Fishers Brook, which



Peggy Church sits at a flax wheel inside the weaver's cottage.

Mona Anderson, of Mansfield, who serves as head of the trust's Atwood committee, gave tours of the main level of the farm's large two-level 1883 barn. She showed the new signs and labels that were added to identify artifacts. The main level is divided into sections for soil preparation, planting and harvesting, processing, which is a kitchen, and a tack room. When asked what she likes most about volunteering, Anderson said "It's working with the people. They are all interesting and good people."

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Julia Rogers (left) and Michael Hveem at the Atwood Farm. Corey Sipe photo.

At the two-room weaver's cottage, folks enjoyed watching trust volunteer Peggy Church, of Chaplin, work on a flax wheel, used to make finer yarn, as well as viewing a display of live silk worms, used to make silk. The silk worms were raised by Ann Galonska, from Tolland, who serves as director of the Mansfield Historical Society Museum. Regarding the turnout that day, Church smiled and said, "Sometimes it was non-stop."

Sitting behind an information table, Chaplin resident Warren Church, who is Peggy Church's husband, and Carol Enright of Mansfield welcomed visitors. Both gave their reasons for volunteering. "It's not really like working when you are doing it for a cause you believe in and love," Warren said. He serves as chairman of the acquisition committee and is a member of the organization's board of trustees. Enright, former secretary and treasurer, said, "I always loved the farm and I'm very happy it's been preserved." The Atwood Farm Museum is open during special events and by appointment on a limited basis. Outside self-guided tours are regularly available for the rest of the farm which includes a smoke house, pig sty, hen house, ice house, privy, corn crib, wagon shed, and an apple orchard.

This summer is the perfect time to explore the more than 60 properties on over 4,000 acres that Joshua's Trust preserves in perpetuity, either by ownership or easement.

Julia Rogers, of Mansfield, who donned an orange reflective vest for the day, helped with parking and traffic control at the farm. She is one of the trust's newest volunteers. Rogers is a graduate student at UConn studying natural resources and is on the trust's mapping team. She is the newest steward of the Mason's Mill Preserve, which is located along the Fenton River and near Old Turnpike Road in Mansfield. As a steward, Rogers ensures the property is maintained for visitors to enjoy. "I will be working with a bunch of high school students in removing invasive (species) and will work to keep all plants from growing near the foundation (of the old Mason's Mill)," she explained. Rogers moved to Connecticut this past January and lives two miles away from the Atwood Property. She saw one of the trust's medallions on a tree one day, which prompted her to research the organization,

reach out to a member, and ultimately volunteer. "It's a wonderful collection of people at the trust. They are very dedicated and focused on the idea of preserving land," Rogers said.

Rob Beach, of Mansfield, regional coordinator for several trust properties, said that their newest property is the 81-acre Rankin Preserve in Ashford on Route 89, just north of its intersection with Route 44. "We just put the trail in after looking at drainage there at different times of the year," he said, adding that the loop trail goes near some of the most picturesque parts of the property. "The trail has a few steep places but most of it is easy and we will mark it as being moderate," Beach said.

Beach will lead a summertime discovery walk at the Nate and Thora Whetten Woods Preserve, in Mansfield, on July 15. Participants should meet at 10 a.m. in the Hope Lutheran Church parking lot, at 62 Dog Lane, for the hour-long walk. A connector trail provides access from the lot to the preserve. Children and dogs are welcome to come along on this easy walk. There is a rain date of July 29.

Folks who visit the preserve, and are living in or visiting Storrs Center, can more easily access it after



Rudy Favretti stands in front of a historic carriage inside the blacksmith shop. Corey Sipe photo.

all ages where folks follow clues to locate a waterproof box with a unique stamp, stamp pad, and log booklet. Explorers can bring their own stamps and booklets, use a preserve's stamp to mark their booklets, and use their stamps to mark the preserve's booklet. "We now have 12 boxes in 12 different preserves," Sue said, which includes: Abraham R. and Samuel H. Friedman Memorial Forest in Ashford, Iron Mine Valley Preserve in Ashford, Utley Hill Preserve in Columbia, Elizabeth Couch Preserve in Coventry, H.E. Preston Nature Sanctuary in Hampton, Atwood Farm in Mansfield, Bradley-Buchanan Woods in Mansfield, Dorothy Goodwin Reserve in Mansfield, Lof Woodlands in Mansfield, Whetten Woods in Mansfield, Wolf Rock Nature Preserve in Mansfield, and Allanach-Wolf Woodlands in Windham. Brochures, with clues on how to find the letterboxes, are available at the Joshua's Trust office.

Pam Archangeli, of Marlborough, has been helping the trust since Memorial Day 2002 with planting and maintaining letterboxes. "I enjoy promoting letterboxing, it's kind of a quiet and silent group of people and it's nice to get people involved in the hobby," she said, adding "it allows them to explore places that they didn't know existed like Joshua's Trust properties."

Columbia resident Ann Dunnack, chairman of the trust's stewardship committee, said that volunteers "come from so many backgrounds: entrepreneurs, soil scientists, lawyers, college professors and bankers. They volunteer for the love of land and the organization." She said that more than 100 people donate their time to the trust and the organization is always looking for more folks to help.

Additionally, the trust wants to show its appreciation for its unsung heroes. Windham resident Dave Parry, chairman of the trust's development committee, said, "We are looking to identify people who may have already done something for us, such as leaving property to us or supported us, and we want to thank them properly for their thoughtful gifts." Today, Joshua's Trust has properties in 13 towns including Andover, Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Franklin, Hampton, Lebanon, Mansfield, Scotland, Tolland, Willington, and Windham. For more information on Joshua's Trust, call 860-429-9023 and visit joshuastrust.org.



Carol Enright (left) and Warren Church welcomed visitors at a table. Corey Sipe photo.

the recent opening of a new town connector trail. The connector trail is near the Main Street Homes at Storrs Center Clubhouse and is not far from the Storrs Center Parking Garage that offers complimentary two-hour parking. Sue Beach, of Mansfield, who is Rob Beach's wife and is a trust volunteer, said that the new connection "brings people within walking distance to a preserve because so many people live in the area but they didn't have a preserve they could walk to." The trust maintains a small parking area for preserve visitors on the north side of Hanks Hill Road, while pedestrian access is still available through Farrell Fields, next to the Storrs Post Office. Sue is proud that the trust "combined our educational programming with the Town of Mansfield preschool development program." An example of this is a letterboxing challenge, a treasure-hunt style adventure for

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"All you need is love." John Lennon

Your Local Community Media:

Resources for Human Connection and Action

By John Murphy

This column is about the locally-based electronic media channels and programs in our region—radio, TV, cable and web-based. They reflect many different experiences of life with a wide variety of social, political and cultural perspectives. Local news coverage is limited in our region and these community channels offer a great opportunity to connect and learn. This month's topics include:



Is There Room for Mansfield in UConn Nation? A Live Media Forum and Program Series
The Shaboo Reunion 2017: Culture and Community to Protect the Safety Net
Heroin Town Revisited: Conversations to Celebrate Recovery and Healing of a Community

Is There Room for Mansfield in UConn Nation? A Live Media Forum and Program Series

I am pleased to announce that this fall I will be part of a team that will use local media to explore the quality of the relationship between the people of Mansfield and The University of Connecticut. Planning will be done over the summer to prepare for the first program in September. This will be a year-long effort that we hope will make a difference and support the co-creation of a holistic and long-term successful solution.

During recent years there has been increasing debate and tension regarding the growth of the student population at UConn, the level of on-campus housing available to them, and the rapid expansion of student rentals in neighborhoods all over town. The quality of life in neighborhoods has changed and while change itself is not a bad thing, the quality of daily living is at the heart of citizen and family concern. It's not about students, per se, it is about being good neighbors and also about helping abusive and indifferent landlords find a conscience.

TV, radio and *Neighbors Paper* will provide important coverage in the form of interviews, group discussions and live forums. They will provide much needed opportunities for more open and useful conversations to help people understand UConn's needs and future plans—and help UConn improve its relationship with residents and local government. After at least two years of various committee and Town Council meetings the basic facts are still in dispute, the numbers are fluid and changing, and this confusion must end.

There is real trouble in River City, if you will, and appropriate use of local media channels can serve all involved very well. The issues and impacts demand higher-level conversations of mutual concern that transcend the limitations of "us and them," "winners and losers," and "good guys and bad guys." Media coverage of this issue has been sporadic and limited and much more is needed. Attention must be paid!

I covered this issue previously as a media story about the use of Facebook and social media as a local citizen communication network to share information and strategies in the absence of meaningful press coverage. In Mansfield two significant FB groups include the Mansfield Neighborhood Preservation Group and Keep E.O. Smith Downtown. Groups in other towns focused their local networks on a proposed State Police training facility in Willington and also on proposed fracking plans in many towns across our state. Feel free to browse my columns in the Neighbors archive to review articles about local Facebook groups that are very active.

Feel free to contact me with ideas and suggestions for this series: john@humanartsmedia.com.

The Shaboo Reunion 2017 Culture and Community to Protect the Safety Net

I hope many of you were with me and thousands in Jillson Square on June 24 for the Shaboo Reunion!

The Universe was with event planners and the spirit of this gathering as a rainy morning passed by... just in time for a bath of glorious sunshine that dried the field and gave us fantastic weather all day and into the evening. It was a magical time that also brought back the memory of last August's Blue Moon Music Fest with Windham Arts.

Both festivals were precious gifts to our community and its social safety net from David Foster and the Foster Family Foundation. This year's gathering raised funds to help pay off the mortgage of the Covenant Soup Kitchen. Last year David supported two area organizations



A huge crowd blanketed the Jillson Square field in Willimantic on Saturday, June 24th for the Shaboo 50th reunion concert to benefit the Covenant Soup Kitchen. The Temptations (below) started the days festivities which included Jonathan Edwards, NRBQ and the Shaboo All-Stars. Photos by Randy McMahon.



dedicated to serving women's needs in our region.

For many years David has used what I call Community Karma to connect wonderful music with people to provide financial support to local groups and service organizations that are underfunded and struggling to help with ever increasing social and human needs.

This past year David sponsored an excellent music series at the new Fine Arts Instructional Center at Eastern to create an endowment that will support sending students from Windham High School to study at Eastern. He paid all music fees for four outstanding nights of world-class music to jump start this campaign, so that every dollar from ticket sales went directly into the endowment fund. Pat Metheny, Arturo Sandoval, Spyro Gyra and the Shaboo All Stars performed to sold-out crowds making history in our area. And there will be more to come.

Deep and sincere thanks to David and his Shaboo co-owner/co-conspirator Bruce John, who is the other Music Angel in our community! The Bread Music Box series is an ongoing engine of love and spirit based in the Sanctuary of St. Paul's Church, dedicated to helping the Covenant Soup Kitchen serve over 175,000 meals a year. Bruce and Terry John work very hard every year to program and produce this great series. Visit their website for news about next season and tickets: <http://www.breadboxfolk.org/>

A final reminder about the heart of how these things happen: the people in our community are the other half of the music/spirit engine. These events would not happen without many local sponsors, volunteers and people who buy tickets. David and Bruce are a fantastic team but without the positive energy and love of everyone else I would not be writing these words today. Thank you and blessings to all!

Heroin Town Revisited Conversations to Celebrate Recovery and Healing of a Community

With so much new and positive energy coming into the Willimantic/Windham region these days I believe people are ready and able to review and reconcile some very painful history that is still with us. Some folk may not be willing yet, but our current social, economic and spiritual crisis related to the epidemic of heroin/opioid addiction—across all lines of race, class and circumstance—demands local thinking, planning and action.

Many people today may have heard about the original 60 Minutes story by Dan Rather from 2003 that shocked and awakened the people of Willimantic and Eastern Connecticut. The picture it painted was powerful and painful, and many felt it exploited the people featured in the story and the whole town overall.

As challenging as that story was I believe it triggered a community awakening that has produced a renaissance! This recovery and restoration of community will not be complete until we integrate our present realities with

the picture of Willi presented in 2003. And, by the way, I am tired of people who still complain about or diminish our town, those who are blind to the progress small and large that you can see in so many places. Get on board!

One important response was the formation of a Special Task Force in December 2002 to examine Willimantic's heroin problem and the quality of community life in our region and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen (at the time). The initiatives and proposals of the Task Force grew out of more than three months of meetings where serious, deliberate, and probing dialogue was advanced. The members of the Task Force unanimously agreed that it was time to write a new chapter in the ongoing story of Willimantic.

The Task Force issued its final report on March 25, 2003, and a review of that process is one focus of the program series being planned. Studio guests and phone callers will explore ways to find new strategies and solutions to help our community heal itself and move forward. The complete Task Force report is available at: <http://humanartsmedia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Heroin-Town-Doc-Blue-Ribbon-Task-Force-Report-March-25-2003.pdf>

The On the Homefront series on Charter Spectrum Public Access TV will rebroadcast the original series of 4 programs about the Heroin Town CBS story and the community response. The programs were full of life and emotion and the struggle to find a positive response to the national media exposure. They will provide a launching pad for a 2017 reality check and public discussion.

I am inviting the original members of the Task Force and other people who were involved in committee meetings to join us and share their experiences at the time and reflect on how much and how little has changed. People in our region will be invited to participate as well, in person on locations, in-studio and on the phone.

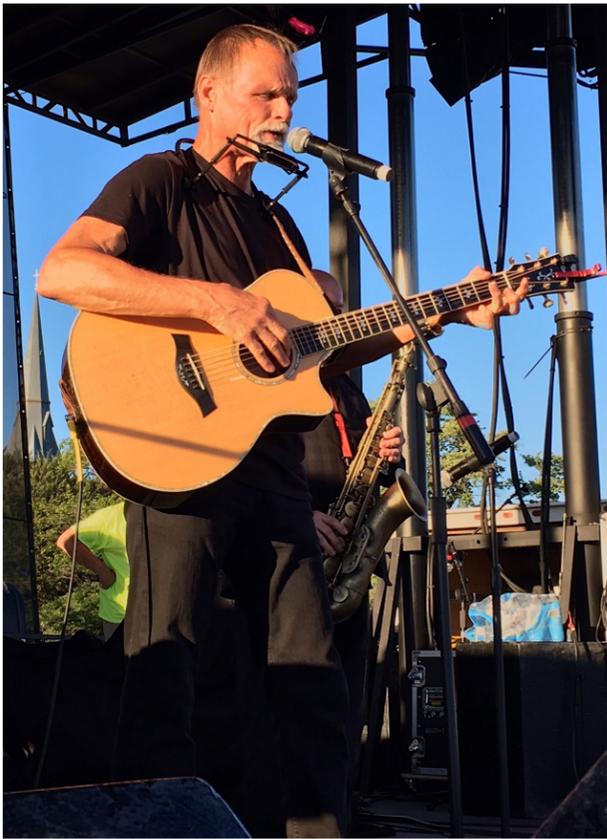
One thing is painfully true. In 2017 we are living in Heroin-Opioid Nation and we better talk about it together, out in the open and with the intention of completing the process of rectification and restoration that the original 2003 60 Minutes story started.

The only way to heal community wounds is to clean them out and apply love and positive action. Let's throw away the judgements and the baggage and the fears and bring all of our cousins to the table...

Below I am providing some media-based reference material for you to review and share with others. When you have time take a look and it will bring some important history to mind as you prepare to join us.

Transcript excerpt from the opening of Dan Rather's CBS 60 Minutes story:

The original 60 Minutes video from 2003 with Dan Rather was removed from YouTube and as far as I know it is no longer available. Below is the opening section from the official transcript. Take a look!



Jonathan Edwards performs at the Shaboo 50th Reunion concert. Randy McMahon photo.

“If you drive through the streets, you might think you’re in almost any state in the country. If life’s been good to you, you might even think about buying an elegant Victorian houses and raising a family, far from the troubles and trauma of a big city.

Well, think again.

Jessica Canwell was a heroin user who became an addict. Like the town she lived in, the drug seemed to promise her peace.

“It looks like it’s going to be a nice walk in the park. And it’s not. It’s the most miserable thing you could ever do. It destroys lives and it takes lives,” says Canwell. A lot of people think that heroin is a big city, urban drug.

But Canwell disagrees:

“It’s not. It’s in Willimantic. And it’s infesting Willimantic. And it’s a small town.”

Willimantic is a drug-infested small town, with a population of 15,000-16,000 people, in the middle of Connecticut. It’s in the middle, some say, of nowhere – unless you want to buy or sell drugs.

The little town of Willimantic has been big on the drug dealer’s map for more than 30 years. Drugs have plagued this town, located halfway between Boston and New York, in the middle of what’s called the New England drug transportation pipeline.”

For the full transcript go to www.humanartsmedia.com

Heroin Town Related Videos

Background and Context for 2017 Dialogue Series

Watch these two programs that are 10 years apart. Notice any changes in messaging and the feelings of the people involved? What has changed? What has not? How are things different today? How many of the 2003 Task Force recommendations have been implemented?

Video #1: 2004 Documentary — “Heroin Town” Directed and Produced by Josh Goldbloom
The Hotel Hooker was once a quiet rooming house nestled in the suburbs of Connecticut. In the summer of 2003, the national media exploited it as a drug stop, a prostitution ring, and a dangerous place to live. Don’t believe everything that you hear. Meet the residents of the Hotel Hooker, as they struggle to uncover the truth behind the controversy. This is the story of a town fighting back against their image. This is a story about the lies we read and listen to every day. This is the story about the labels we place and

Car Cruise Nights



Last Thursday of the month
May through September, 5-8pm
Midway Restaurant on Rt. 44 in Ashford
Please bring a non-perishable food item
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Cruisin’ Music Provided by the ‘PO’M’ Oldies
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the stereotypes that exist around us. Through intimate and often hilarious interviews, HEROIN TOWN follows the residents of the hotel and the people of Willimantic, Connecticut as they try to restore the damage that destroyed their hometown. It is a story of hope, dedication, humor, and ultimately survival.

From YouTube/Length: 1 hour 22 minutes...and worth every minute! View at www.humanartsmedia.com.

Video #2: 2014 Film — “The Underclass of Willimantic.” By Patrick Blair, Sky Robitaille and David Nilson
From YouTube/Length: 22 minutes...and also worth every minute! View at www.humanartsmedia.com.

Watch this space for more information about the Heroin Town Revisited series being planned for this fall. Updates will be shared on WECS Radio, Neighbors and on the On the Homefront TV series on Charter Spectrum Public Access Channel 192. Many other local programs available at: www.ctv192.com.

Three Community Media Resources for Our Region

A great deal of programming about the spectrum of local life in our region is available throughout the year. Watch, listen and read—and let us know you are out there. Connect for cooperative action!

WECS Radio at Eastern Connecticut State University
A 24/7 team of student and community program producers, an eclectic electric experience
90.1 FM and www.wecsfm.com —full program schedule on the website
My weekly series The Pan American Express, a music fusion from across the Americas and local talk
Tuesdays 12—3 pm and guests are invited! Contact me at john@humanartsmedia.com
YouTube Radio/TV Simulcast archive available: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLW5WLT18OaAccZQX-21UsgbkGVXfrYfs0w>

Neighbors Newspaper/Magazine
Monthly print version distributed throughout 22-town region in the Quiet Corner
Available online in color at www.neighborspaper.com with full archive
Contact Tom King, Owner/Publisher, as neighborspaper@yahoo.com
Send calendar/event listings to “Attention Dagmar Noll” in Subject Line

Charter Public Access TV Channel 192/NE Connecticut Area/North Windham Studio

For 24/7 on-demand access to CTV192 programs on the Internet:

1. Go to the website = www.ctv192.com
2. Open the Programming Tab and select “watch programs.”
3. When you open you will see a display listing current shows
4. Make your selections based on the channel, program title, topic or date and enjoy!
5. My series is On the Homefront, online and Tuesdays 2:30 pm, Thursdays 8:00 pm and Saturdays 2:00 pm.

Remember the Charter Public Access Channel moved from channel 14 to channel 192. Make it a “favorite” on your cable channel remote control and take a ride with community TV—it’s free and worth every cent.

So that’s it for this issue. Thanks for reading, keep the faith and best wishes for a great summer!

John Murphy
john@humanartsmedia.com

The Neighbors Paper Black and White And Read All Over!!!

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Go to neighborspaper.com for link to current and past editions.
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The deadline for the August issue of Neighbors Paper is Wednesday, July 19th.

Let's Do Bread Labor!

By P.K. Willey, Ph.D.

In Gandhi's lifetime (1869-1948), there was a philosophical renaissance that sought to address deeper questions mankind faces. 1863 saw slavery ended in the USA. Truth, Justice, Social Equality, righteous governance, meaningful and moral education...these were issues that questing minds addressed as they faced new directions and pressures that industrialization was chaotically creating. A man of his time and place, Gandhi became a timeless, universal being; breathing in those influences that supported his love for humanity; initially from Christian oriented lands.

After getting his Law degree in England (1891), Gandhi found a position with an Indian firm in South Africa (1893). There, his spiritual efforts towards integration between his ideals and his actions began in earnest; there he founded his first intentional communities, Phoenix (1904) and Tolstoy Farm (1910). Through intentional Earth Ethical community life, *ashram*, he popularized the principles and practices that devotion to his ideals gave him.

In the writings of exiled Russian serf and profound philosopher, Thimofei Bondarev . (d. 1898) Gandhi found the principle of Bread Labor: for truly moral development of humanity, all people regardless of status could ethically improve themselves and society if they were to undertake manual labor to maintain themselves. Tolstoy was impressed with Bondarev's thinking and later published a translation of Bondarev's work as *Triumph of the Farmer or Industry and Parasitism*. Gandhi was to link John Ruskin's book *Unto This Last*, to Bondarev and Tolstoy's ideas, particularly questioning the role of the machine in human society. From the three he found his own beliefs reinforced:

"I believe that I discovered some of my deepest convictions reflected in this great book of Ruskin, and that is why it so captured me and made me transform my life. A poet is one who can call forth the good latent in the human breast."

The teachings that Gandhi understood from Ruskin, he summarised as follows:

"That the good of the individual is contained in the good of all.

That a lawyer's work has the same value as the barber's, inasmuch as all have the same right of earning their livelihood from their work.

That a life of labor, i.e., the life of the tiller of the soil and the handicraftsman is the life worth living.

The first of these I know. The second I had dimly realized. The third had never occurred to me. Ruskin made it as clear as daylight for me that the second and the third were contained in the first. I arose with the dawn, ready to reduce these principles to practice."

Gandhi corresponded with Tolstoy on Bread Labor and later said:

"Tolstoy made a deep impression on my mind, and even in South Africa I began to observe the rule to the best of my ability. And ever since the ashram was founded, Bread Labor has been perhaps its most characteristic feature."

Gandhi found a call to Bread Labor in an authoritative scripture from India's indigenous religion called Sanathana Dharma or Hinduism. "In my view, the same principle has been set forth in Chapter III of the Gita where we are told that he who eats without offering sacrifice eats stolen food. Sacrifice here can only mean Bread Labor. Be that as it may, that verse is the origin of our observance."

As such Gandhi was adamantly against the free giving of food to those who could work for it. "My Ahimsa would not tolerate the idea of giving a free meal to a healthy person who has not worked for it in some honest way." When beggars came to his door; "I will not send away a beggar without offering him work and food. If he will not work, I should let him go without food. Those who are physically disabled like the halt and the maimed have got to be supported by the state."

As he deepened his study of Indian philosophy, Gandhi found the ideal of Bread-labor supported by India's ancient social ordering system, originally known as varna ashrama (Clarifying Gandhi # 4):

"[There are] two fundamental principles, namely that there are no high and low and every one is entitled to a living wage, the living wage being the same for all. In so far as these principles win acceptance they will render a positive service to society."

In presenting the principle of Bread Labor to the minds around him, he left no stone or scripture unturned; his thinking on Bread Labor supported his theory of Trusteeship:

"Reason too, leads us to an identical conclusion.

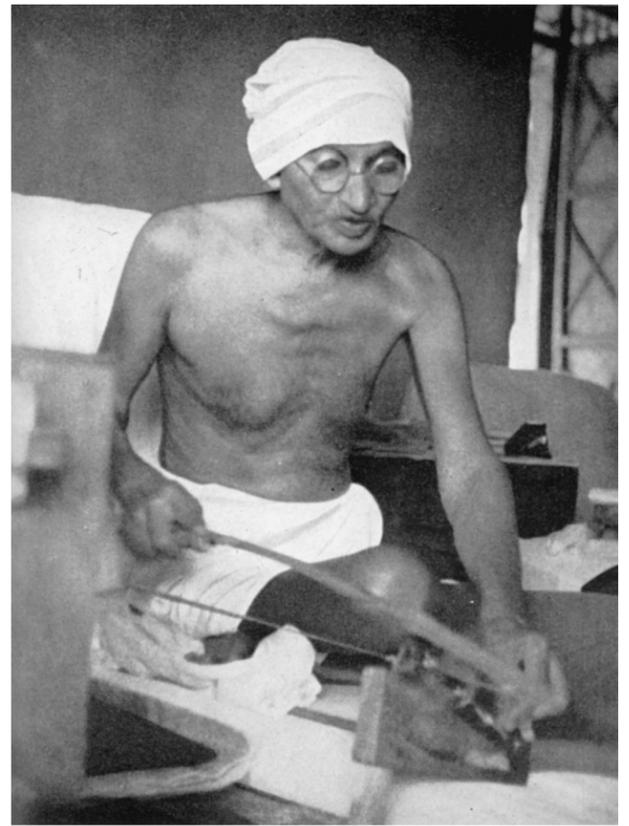
How can a man who does not do body labor have the right to eat? "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat thy Bread." [Genesis 3:19] says the Bible...There is a world-wide conflict between capital and labor, and the poor envy the rich. If all worked for their Bread, distinctions of rank would be obliterated; the rich would still be there, but they would deem themselves only trustees of their property and would use it mainly in the public interest.

"Bread-labor is a veritable blessing to one who would observe non-violence, worship Truth and make the observance of *brahmacharya* a natural act. This labor can truly be related to agriculture alone. But at present at any rate everybody is not in a position to take to it. A person can, therefore, spin or weave, or take up carpentry or smithery, instead of tilling the soil, always regarding agriculture, however, to be the ideal. Everyone must be his own scavenger. Evacuation is as necessary as eating, and the best thing would be for everyone to dispose of his own waste."

Gandhi saw that intellectual talent and contribution has its place in social development, but that it is not an end unto itself, as is presently accepted:

"Intellectual work is important and has an undoubted place in the scheme of life. But what I insist on is the necessity of physical labor. No man, I claim, ought to be free from that obligation. It will serve to improve even the quality of his intellectual output."

Taking cash and status value out of education would certainly produce more people pursuing their chosen



Gandhi during hot season, with cooling head wrap. He chose carding and spinning cotton for his daily bread labor; it provided him with a deep sense of unity with all who labor in service to society. Contributed photo.

occupations in the interest of rendering meaningful service to humanity. At present, to paraphrase R. Tagore, this Earth is waiting for the human intelligence that She has so carefully nurtured and created throughout the eons to fall back upon Her, like a cool, misting rain on a parching hot day. Looking at the educated elite in India then, Gandhi commented:

"How useful it would be if the engineers in India were to apply their ability to the perfecting of village tools and machines. This must not be beneath their dignity."

When one vow is examined, we see that it is tied to all the others. All of Gandhi's observances sprung from his singular desire: to merge into Love for all: perfect *Ahimsa*. Gandhi saw that the ideal of Bread Labor is tied to *yajna* – sacrifice – necessary for an individual's personal ethical development. "All labor when done intelligently and to some high purpose becomes at once re-creation and recreation." He said: "A life of sacrifice is the pinnacle of art, and it is full of true joy. Yajna is not yajna, if one feels it to be burdensome or annoying...Joy has no independent existence. Joy, therefore, is a matter of individual and national education."

As with Trusteeship, Bread Labor can not be enforced through the State or by statutes.

"Compulsory obedience to the law of Bread Labor breeds poverty, disease, and discontent. It is a state of slavery. Willing obedience to it must bring contentment and health. And it is health which is real wealth, not pieces of silver and gold."

Through Bread Labor, Gandhi saw that a new society could arise:

"Obedience to the law of Bread Labor will bring about a silent revolution in the structure of society. Man's triumph will consist in substituting the struggle for existence by the struggle for mutual service. The law of the brute will be replaced by the law of man."

What's Reflexology?

By Hope Mayhew



Reflexology is a science and an art which deals with the principles of reflex points corresponding to all parts of the body, glands, organs, etc. It dates back 4 – 5 thousand years ago, to the Chinese and Egyptian Cultures. Pressure and stimulation to these points eliminates blockages that produce pain or disease. The goal is to bring the body back into balance.

We all start life with the potential for good health. Most of our illness is the result of improper maintenance of the body. The continuous imbalances in our bodies

due to diet, stress, trauma and over-use creates a buildup of toxins in the system which inhibits the free flow of energy that is the system which inhibits the free flow of energy that is essential to our well-being. Reflexology relaxes the body, releases blockages in the body and restores the vitality and balance. It encourages the body's own healing system to take over.

After a Reflexology treatment, the body feels recharged. The treatment of stimulation to reflex points on the feet and body provides renewed physical and emotional strength. There is a free flow of energy in the body which in turn activates healing forces building the immune system and alleviating pain by releasing endorphins and our natural pain relief dopamine. It is this free flow of energy that improves

cooperation and communication between all of our bodily systems.

Reflexology body work and stimulation is capable of inducing the alpha state of relaxation. It is the most serene level at which healing can be effective and take place. It un-clutters and frees the mind to open it to great tranquility. It is comparable to a meditative state. The treatment of the entire foot and all of the reflex points is a gentle and safe alternative for maintaining overall health and promoting a feeling of well-being.

Reflexology Body Benefits and Relief Of:

- TMJ
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- Relieves Emotional/Physical Pain

- Increases Energy/Vigor/Opens Pathways
- Induces Deep Relaxation
- Improves Overall Circulation
- Helps with Sleep/Restlessness
- Boosts Immune System

Hope Mayhew is a Master Reflexologist and Teacher. She is the owner of the Hope and Wellness Center and Salon in Ashford. See ad on back page for more information.

The Neighbors Paper

A little paper

Big on community.

Are We in the Springtime of Separation?

By Len Krimerman



Last month, we examined two “seeds of separation” — Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) and Personalized Learning, No Grades and No Grading (NG2) — emerging within public education.

Both of these seeds oppose and detach from the perversely standardized mis-education all too often imposed on young learners. As John Gatto, himself a Teacher of the Year in both NYC and New York State, put it, our education system is “Dumbing us Down” (the title of his powerful, separatist book). After Gatto won his second award, he quit public school teaching, contending that “All I have taught is obedience”.

OK, you might be thinking, there are some signs of a hopeful shift away from one size fits all and excessive adult interference in public education. In many places, rural as well as urban, youth and their allies have begun separating from the agency-destroying collection of abuses young people have had to suffer through for generations. Still, as the Greek philosopher Aristotle taught us, one lone sparrow does not make a Spring. Is the education shift an isolated anomaly?

Hardly. Indeed, wherever one looks, sparrows of separation can be found. Here are just a few:

(i) How the USA will bypass Trump, and honor the Paris Accords:

Early in June, the Trump autocracy withdrew our country from its prior commitment to recognize and cope with climate change. Swiftly, governors from three states (now joined by nine others and Puerto Rico), along with a huge number (274 as of last week) of cities, condemned Trump’s misguided decision. But they did more than disagree or denounce: they continued to recognize the Paris Accords, by forming the bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance and Mayor’s National Action Agenda, both of which will, within their own regions, abide by the Paris climate agreement, and urge other states, cities, businesses, and universities to follow suit. In doing so, they went far beyond protest, i.e., they announced a major separation from what my first separatist article called MIGE — the USA’s Military Industrial Global Empire. (For a map, and discussion, showing how far the “Climate Rebellion” against Trump has grown, go to the National Geographic’s link: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/06/states-cities-usa-climate-policy-environment/>)

(ii) From Sanctuary to Separation:

Much the same could be said about a good part of the current Sanctuary movements. For they are not just striking for a day or week, they are working towards permanent protection, as well as citizenship, for the undocumented, and especially those who have committed no crimes and whose children are already legalized citizens. It’s well known that, again, several states and many cities and towns, including our own Willimantic, have declared themselves supporters of sanctuary seekers. So have many religious groups and college campuses.

Here’s a clear, strong, and separatist statement from Cosecha, one of the most fearless and far-sighted sanctuary movements (movimientocosecha.com/):

“This summer, we enter the next phase in our struggle for permanent protection, dignity and respect. From July 7th-9th, immigrant workers, parents, and youth will gather for the New England Regional Gathering in Boston, MA to launch a season of boycotts. Are you ready to get involved?”

In February, 350 immigrant leaders from all over the country went to Boston to participate in the launch of the May 1st campaign - A Day Without Immigrants. Since then, hundreds of thousands of immigrants took the streets on May 1st, and hundreds joined local Cosecha teams across the country. Now it is time for the movement to assemble and prepare for the next phase of boycotts and escalated actions!

Immigrants contribute billions of dollars every year to the economy, yet we are exploited and attacked. Corporations make billions of dollars from our consumption, yet some are the largest funders of the detention and deportation of our people.

This summer we will stop business as usual. We are going after corporations and businesses who thrive off the money of immigrants, but refuse to acknowledge that they need us. This summer, they will feel the power of our people. Join us.”

(iii) An “inside” Separatist Initiative, from France:

France’s recent Presidential and Parliamentary

elections produced improbable, even unbelievable, results. Little known, and with a wholly new party, Emmanuel Macron first won the Presidency in a landslide and then, “an overwhelming majority in France’s National Assembly”. According to many observers, “Macron has all but obliterated the traditional political parties that have dominated politics in France for about 50 years.” (Sounds like something we could use in the USA!)

Here we see an inside, or electoral, separation, one that might be considered “top down”, rather than “grassroots”. But a wider understanding is that the rest of us are fed up with the traditional crop of party-based politicians. And the new French Prez has begun to transform his administration so that many new sources and centers of power could replace the singular state and the domination of professional politicians. Macron’s cabinet includes numerous folks from outside political parties, e.g., people with experience in business, environmental justice, education, etc. All in all, it appears evenly divided between career politicians and those who come from the private sector or nonprofits. (And it has equal numbers of men and women.) Politics detached from, or at least not controlled by, politicians...this strikes me as a beautiful form of separation.

(iv) Building a Separate and Democratic Economy:

This past weekend brought me to an amazing event in the Big Apple, and one that illustrates the nearly ubiquitous presence of separation initiatives.

The event was the ninth Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy (ECWD), and it brought together nearly 400 folks engaged in “Resistance and Transformation” of the current faltering and inequitable economy. The economy that is run by mega-corporations and for the wealthiest 1% of Americans, providing only minimal jobs and diminishing incomes for almost all of us.

Quietly, but more and more strongly over the past two decades, something alternatively called the Solidarity Economy, Cooperative Economy, or the Grassroots Democratic Economy has emerged, and grown in both numbers and effectiveness. One of its provocative slogans is: “Think Outside the Boss”; the workplaces they are building are owned and controlled by their workers and/or the local communities served by those workplaces. If YPAR and NG2 prioritize learner agency, solidarity and democratic economies prioritize worker and consumer agency.

Two of the most influential and long-lasting cooperative models of this new economy were represented at this year’s ECWD Conference: Equal Exchange, a fair trade organic food distributor in Greater Boston with over 100 worker owners, and NYC’s Cooperative Home Care Associates, the largest worker co-op in North America, run by over 2000 workers. Mysteriously, both of these began operating in 1985 with a tiny cohort of worker owners, but they have managed to become leaders within their respective sectors. And they have provided workers with fair wage jobs, shares of their enterprise’s surplus profits, and a workspace designed to be controlled by their voices and imaginations.

When I first worked, in Willimantic, with these real life, free-thinking alternative economies some 40 years ago, they were largely unknown to the general public as well as to one another, and had little access to experienced business assistance. And they were way too often initiated, and even run, by older white males. All that has now changed dramatically. There are numerous regional hubs — in all parts of the country — as well as national organizations that provide mentoring assistance to enterprises that are engaged, or wish to become engaged, in a solidarity economy. And the leadership of these “second tier” hubs and organizations, as well as the rank and file itself, is now drawn mainly from people of color and people in their forties — and younger.

Here are some examples of economic separatist seeds being sowed:

- New York City’s 2014 approved budget allocated \$1.2 million for developing and supporting worker-owned cooperative businesses. This year, the NYC Council approved a more than \$3 million allocation for this budding separatist economy.

- On remote Deer Isle, Maine, the movement for a more just and democratic economy won a major victory this summer. More than 60 employees of three retail businesses — Burnt Cove Market, V&S Variety and Pharmacy, and The Galley — banded together to buy the stores and create the largest worker cooperative in Maine and the second largest in New England. (<http://www.geo.coop/gleanings?page=4>)

- In short, as many observers have noted, “The worker cooperative movement has hit a new stride. Re-emerging

in the 1960s, cooperatives tend to elicit thoughts of natural food stores and specialty bookshops but the movement has grown to include tech companies, co-working spaces, international businesses, large factories and much more.” (www.shareable.net/blog/16-worker-coops-redefining-the-cooperative-movement)

A final, hopeful note: the US Federation of Worker Co-operatives (USFWC) has just begun a new campaign, which they call “Sanctuary Workplaces”. This, they say, is a “strategy to expand Sanctuaries to keep our communities safe...and a call to action to extend protection and safety to all communities facing harassment and persecution in the workplace, including all people of color, immigrants, Muslims, and people with disabilities.” Their “online platform”, sanctuaryworkplaces.info, offers a directory of organizations providing legal assistance or developing sanctuary resources, a “Know Your Rights” section, and strategies to expand Sanctuary Workplaces and hate-free zones.

In short, we have a clear instance of separatists uniting!

Summing Up

Separation, I think, is a Spring-like notion: like the season, it welcomes and nurtures virtually any seed. If so, there’s room in a “Big Separatist Tent” for many other separatist forms beyond the four just explored — especially those that honor the hunted, oppressed, exploited, and discounted among us. More on all of that down the road.

But for July, if you’ve read this far, why not send me any comments, supportive or critical, where you think I’ve gone off track or hit the proverbial nail’s head, on what I’ve proposed thus far? (E.g., perhaps you feel my notion of separation would only generate more discord and divisiveness than we already endure?) These thoughts of yours can be brief or lengthy, and I’ll devote July’s article to responding to them. They can be sent to me at: lenisageo@gmail.com.

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Info Bernie: b.schreiber@snet

By Pamm Summers, Museum Curator

By EC-CHAP

The Eastern Connecticut Center for History Art, and Performance (EC-CHAP) would like to thank all of our patrons, performers, sponsors, members, and volunteers who have allowed us to complete a successful 2nd season! It is only through the support of our local and regional municipalities, and community members that we will be able to continue to offer unique cultural opportunities for all ages.

July and August will provide time for continued focus on membership and program development. Our monthly "Talent Showcase" will be moved to the 2nd Wednesday of the month (from Thursday), and we hope to be able to offer a funded "Artist In Residence" (AIR) program during the 2017-2018 season. We will also continue to provide our quarterly *First Sunday at The Mill Works* series featuring resident artist open studios, *The Gardiner Hall Jr. Museum*, and a variety of performances and activities for the entire family.

We have an exceptional line-up of initial performances and programs scheduled for next season beginning in September! A sampling is provided below. Subscribing to our "Performance Updates" will keep you informed of upcoming events, and signing-up is easy from the home page on The Packing House website. Please check www.thepackinghouse.us for frequently changes or additions.

Performances and programs planned for the 2017-2018 Season include:

Acoustic Artist Series:

Don Braden Trio
Greg Abate Quartet
Eric Lee
Bob Malone
Jacqui Naylor
Kris Adams Quartet
Kala Farnham
Tim Ray Trio
Bruno Raberg & Triolka

Nicole Zuraitis
Belle of the Fall
Lisa Martin and more...

Workshop Series Topics:

Song writing and composition
Health and wellness
Literature – writing and publishing
Historical presentations
and more...

Film Series:

The Doors (R)

A Great Day in Harlem/The Spitball Story (NR)

Woodstock: 3 Days of Peace and Music (R) and more...

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 summer months are a perfect time to stop by one of our sponsors for tasty meal or vintage tunes. Ask for "The Packing House" pizza special at "Willington Pizza House" or "Willington Pizza Too" (the secret recipe is on The Packing House website) – you won't be disappointed. And if you're looking for that hard to find vintage vinyl or CD on your wish list, swing over to "Records – The Good Kind" located at 435-Q Hartford Turnpike in Vernon, in the corner of the Shops at 30 Plaza (home of Rein's Deli).

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable 4th of July Holiday!

For more information, membership questions, program or rental information, please call 518-791-9474; or email The Packing House (info@thepackinghouse.us) or EC-CHAP (info@ec-chap.org). The Packing House and EC-CHAP are located at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279. Parking is located onsite and across the street.

Summertime is here and the time is right to plan a visit to Willington's Gardiner Hall Jr. Museum at The Mill Works!

Do you know all the significant contributions Gardiner Hall Jr., his Company, and his descendants have made to the town of Willington? The history of the Hall's involvement reaches from 1860 to the present day. Their history and that of the Mill is vast, informative and sure to fascinate both residents of this historic town and visitors as well.

Stop by Wednesdays from 9:30am to 11:30am or by appointment and spend some time exploring the innovations this Thread Company has achieved, and its impact on Willington's past.

The primary entrance door is located in the center of the main building of The Mill Works beneath the "1860–1916" granite marker; press the Intercom Station #17 to access the museum.

WANTED

EC-CHAP is seeking original photographs, equipment, artifacts, and any physical items associated with the Gardiner Hall Jr. Company, its founders, employees, and customers. Items that are donated or loaned to the museum will be identified by the donor's name, and included on display and in any print materials created for the museum. In addition, the EC-CHAP is also interested in conducting interviews with folks that may have worked for or had a relationship with the Hall Company.

If you possess any related items, have knowledge of any, or are interested in sharing thoughts or reflections about the Hall Company, please contact: Pamm Summers at 301-500-8403, email curator@gardinerhalljrmuseum.org or info@ec-chap.org, and visit www.ec-chap.org. The Gardiner Hall Jr. Museum is located at The Mill Works, Suite 2106-A, 156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279.

Our Community Calendar

Compiled By Dagmar Noll

July 1, Saturday

Community Food: Storrs Farmers Market, 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Mansfield Town Hall, 4 S. Eagleville Road, Storrs. Info: storrsfarmersmarket.org

July 2, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Pompey Hollow Park, Route 44, Ashford.
Hiking: Long Distance Guided Hike, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. Free. 5-7 mile hike. Friendly dogs welcome. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

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

July 3, Monday

Film: "The Trap: What Happened to Our Dream of Freedom?" Part 2 of 3, 7:00p.m. Free. 46 Spring Hill Road, Storrs. Info: "Second Monday Film Series" on Facebook 860-428-4846 qcf.webs.com

July 4, Tuesday

Parade: WILI Boom Box Parade, 11:00a.m. Line-up on Jillson Square beforehand. Info: www.wili-am.com/parade.htm

July 5, Wednesday

Kids: Let's Go Exploring!, 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. A walk for families with reading, coloring, and a walk through the forest. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
Skill Share: Djembe Drumming Lessons, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Authentic West African Rhythms, all ages, all levels. Drum provided if needed. BENCH SHOP, 786 Main St, Willimantic. Info: 860-423-8331

July 6, Thursday

Live Music: Windham Concert Band, 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m. Betsy Paterson Square,

Mansfield. Info: mansfieldmusic.org
Film: The Future of Energy-Lateral Power of the People, 7:00p.m. Followed by discussion about homeowner solar and energy efficiency options. Goodwin Forest, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534

July 8, Saturday

Festival: Experience Eastford, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m., Cookout, 5:00p.m. Vintage car show, climbing wall, grand opening of historical society museum, crafts fair, frog jump contest, concert, and cookout. Eastford. Info: eastfordct.org/townfeastford
Skill Share: Foraging with the 3 Foragers, 10:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. \$5. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
Community Food: Storrs Farmers Market, 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. (See 7/1)

July 9, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. (See 7/2)
History: Second Sunday Guided Museum Tour, 2:00p.m. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.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

July 11, Tuesday

Community Food: Women Entrepreneurs Luncheon, 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. \$20-25 includes lunch. Willimantic Brewing Company, 967 Main St, Willimantic.
Live Music: Quiet Corner Fiddlers, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. Yantic River Inn, 270 Town St, Norwich. Info: b.schreiber@snet.net qcf.webs.com

July 12, Wednesday

Hiking: Senior Walk, 12:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. Free. Easy walk not just for seniors. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education

Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
History: Windham Walks for the 325th Anniversary, 6:00p.m. \$3.25 donation. Windham Center Cemetary, Windham Info: 860-456-2178
Skill Share: Djembe Drumming Lessons, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. (See 7/5)

July 13, Thursday

Hiking: Senior Walk, 10:00p.m. - 12:00p.m. Free. Easy walk not just for seniors. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
Live Music: Sweet Crude, 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m. Betsy Paterson Square, Mansfield. Info: mansfieldmusic.org

July 14, Friday

Nature: Nature Immersion: The Art of the Sit Spot, 10:00a.m. - 11:30a.m. Discover the lost art of the Sit Spot. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
Exhibit: History of Windham and Willimantic in Maps. Discover 325 years of Windham history through visual interpretations in a series of maps from the museum archives. Exhibit runs through mid September. Hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org

July 15, Saturday

Skill Share: Gardeners Roundtable, 10:00a.m. - 11:30a.m. Workshop for experienced gardeners to share best practices and pitfalls. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
Community Food: Storrs Farmers Market, 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. (See 7/1)
History: Museum Lyceum: Famous Stories in Windham History, 4:00p.m. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178

July 16, Sunday

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

July 18, Tuesday

Kids: Vacation Bible School "Clothed in Compassion", 7:30p.m. All ages welcome. Dinner, kids' crafts, recreation, music, Bible learning, adult study. Hampton Congregational Church, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9677

July 19, Wednesday

Kids: Let's Find Birds!, 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. A walk for families with reading, coloring, and a walk through the forest. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
Reading: Goodwin Book Club, "Last Child in the Woods", 3:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. Read about the environment and nature with like-minded folk. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov
Skill Share: Djembe Drumming Lessons, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. (See 7/5)

July 20, Thursday

Festival: 3rd Thursday Street Festival, 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Main Street, Willimantic closes for food, music and fun! Info: www.willimanticstreetfest.com
Live Music: The Crane Wives, 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m. Betsy Paterson Square, Mansfield. Info: mansfieldmusic.org
Nature: Blacklighting for Moths, 8:30p.m. - 10:30p.m. Study moths at our mercury vapor lamp and sugaring sites. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

July 22, Saturday

History: Mill of the Month goes to Stafford Springs. Carpool from Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Register: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org
Skill Share: Spinning, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Windham Textile & History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic. Info: 860-456-2178 www.millmuseum.org
Community Food: Storrs Farmers Market, 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. (See 7/1)

calendar continues on another page



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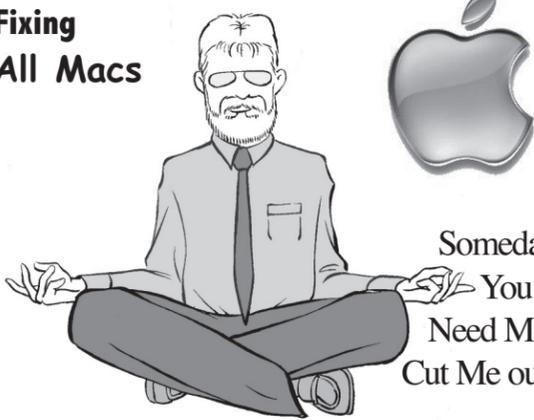
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Ask "Dr. Mac" All your Apple Macintosh Mac, iMac and iPod Questions **Identify Counterfeit Accessories and What's AirDrop?**



Let's face it, our usb and lightning cables take alot of abuse. We pull them by the cords and not the connectors, we leave them in very hot or cold enviroments or we just lose them. I love 3rd party items and I love a bargain but when it comes to charging anything that expensive or containing a lithion battery I don't recommend knock offs.

Knock-offs are sold everywhere and the average buyer won't even know they bought a uncetified or counterfeit cable. They are sold at malls and online right in the open.

Apple recommends using only accessories that Apple has certified and that come with the "Made for iPod/iPhone/iPad" logo. Learn about the issues that counterfeit or uncertified Lightning accessories can cause and how to identify these accessories.

If you use a counterfeit or uncertified Lightning accessory, you could see these issues:

- Your iOS device could become damaged
- The cable might be easily damaged
- The connector end might fall off, get very hot, or might not fit properly into your device
- You might not be able to sync or charge your device

*Only Apple makes the USB-C to Lightning Cable. There are no "Made for iPod/iPhone/iPad" USB-C to Lightning cables.

Compare packaging and writing on the cable

To identify counterfeit or uncertified cables and accessories, look carefully at the accessory's packaging and at the accessory itself. Certified third-party accessories have the MFi logo on their packaging:

Made for



An Apple Lightning to USB cable has "Designed by Apple in California" and either "Assembled in China," "Assembled in Vietnam," or "Indústria Brasileira" on the cable about seven inches from the USB connector. You'll see a 12-digit serial number at the end of this text. A certified, third-party Lightning to USB cable usually has company branding on the Lightning-connector end.

If you look very closely at the end that goes inside your device, if you see a very rough or inconsistent finish and or squared contacts with an uneven surface, you probably have a knock-off. For greater detail on these differences you can google the title of this article to take you to the official Apple website where the differences are explained in detail with closeup pictures.

How to Share content with AirDrop on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch

With AirDrop, you can instantly share your photos, videos, locations, and more with other Apple devices nearby.

You can share content from apps such as Photos, Safari, Contacts, and more.

Open an app and find the content that you want to share. To share multiple items, tap Select, then tap the items. With iOS 10 and later, you can also share apps with AirDrop. Just press and hold the app icon on the Home screen.

Tap Share or the square document with up arrow icon.

Tap the name of a nearby AirDrop user or the Apple device. If you have a Mac or another iOS device that's signed in with your Apple ID, you can also AirDrop content to that device. Don't see the AirDrop user?

If you can't see the person or the device that you're trying to AirDrop to, check the following:

Check that both of you have Wi-Fi and Bluetooth turned on. If either of you have Personal Hotspot on, turn it off.

Make sure that the person you're sending to is nearby. You can't AirDrop to users who are out of Bluetooth and Wi-Fi range.

If the other person's AirDrop receiving setting is set to Contacts Only, and you're not in their Contacts, have them set their AirDrop receiving setting to Everyone.

Receive content with AirDrop

When someone shares content with you using AirDrop, you see an alert with a preview of the content and can tap Accept or Decline.

If you tap Accept, you get the content in the app it was sent from. For example, photos appear in the Photos app and websites open in Safari. App links open in the App Store so you can download or purchase the app.

If you AirDrop content to yourself, like share a photo from your iPhone to your Mac, you won't see an option to Accept or Decline. The content is automatically sent to that device. Just make sure that both devices are signed in with the same Apple ID.

Set your AirDrop receiving options

Use Control Center to choose who can see your device in AirDrop and send you content.

Swipe up from the bottom of your screen to open Control Center. Tap AirDrop.

Choose one of these options:

Receiving Off: You won't receive AirDrop requests.
Contacts Only: Only your contacts can see your device.
Everyone: All nearby iOS devices using AirDrop can see your device.

Steve Woron is an artist and Mac technician and lives in Vernon CT. Contact him at (860) 871-9933 leave a message, or illstudio@snet.net. He also has been doing desktop publishing for 21 years. He also scans slides and negatives professionally. See his ads to the left. See DrMacCT.blogspot.com



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Coventry Arts Guild Seeks Artists for Upcoming Festival

Submitted by Ruth O'Neil

The Coventry Arts Guild is currently seeking Artists, Artisans, Crafters and Volunteers for its 2nd Annual Arts in the Park Festival on Saturday, September 9. The event will be held at Patriots Park in Coventry and will run from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. The day will showcase area visual, literary and performing artists. Member and non-member artists will exhibit their works. Local and area musicians and dancers will perform continuously on the park band shell stage. Art demonstrations and readings are scheduled throughout the day. A special children's corner will offer many hands on arts projects. Guild members will display their works in a select Festival Gallery set up in the Community Center. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public. Artists will have their wares for sale and donations to benefit the Coventry Arts Guild will be accepted.

Arts in the Park is organized and sponsored by the Coventry Arts Guild. The Guild formed two years ago as a result of a grant received by the town to survey, assess and develop a plan for promoting the arts in the community. The mission of the Guild is to "enrich and connect artists and arts enthusiasts with the general public by creating opportunities for the performing, visual and literary artists to share knowledge and expertise, educate and teach as well as produce and market their work for the enrichment and enjoyment of the community".

The Guild is currently seeking new members who will benefit by associating with area artists, preferred participation in guild activities as well as inclusion in an artist directory. The upcoming Arts in the Park is meant to encourage community membership as well as bring recognition to Guild and area artists.

The Guild has sponsored a Student Art Contest as part of the annual Christmas in Coventry Village event in addition to hosting creative arts workshops in the community.

For more information on the Arts in the Park or to be a vendor or exhibiting artist contact festival@coventry-artsguild.org or call 860-377-1338.

For more information on the becoming a member of the Coventry Arts Guild, visit www.coventryartsguild.org

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

Community Calendar continued

July 23, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m (See 7/2)

Hiking: Long Distance Guided Hike, 12:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. Free. 5-7 mile hike. Friendly dogs welcome. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

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

July 25, Tuesday

Skill Share/Hiking: iNaturalist app and Hike, 1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. Use this app to find and identify fauna and flora species in the wild. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

July 26, Wednesday

Nature: Summer Bird Watching, 12:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. Bird education and bird watching. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Info: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

Skill Share: Djembe Drumming Lessons, 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. (See 7/5)

July 27, Thursday

Live Music: The Funky Dawgz Brass Band, 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m. Betsy Paterson Square, Mansfield. Info: mansfieldmusic.org

July 29, Saturday

Skill Share: Game of Logging Certified Training Program: Level II, 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m. \$120. Registration and payment must be received by 7/22. Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton. Register: 860-455-9534 jasper.sha@ct.gov

Community Food: Storrs Farmers Market, 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. (See 7/1)

July 30, Sunday

Community Food: Ashford Farmers Market, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m (See 7/2)

Community Food: 325 Chili Cook-Off and Community Dinner, 4:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. CLiCK, 41 Club Road, Windham. Info: 860-786-7907 office.clickwillimantic@gmail.com

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

To all our contributors-
Thank You!

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

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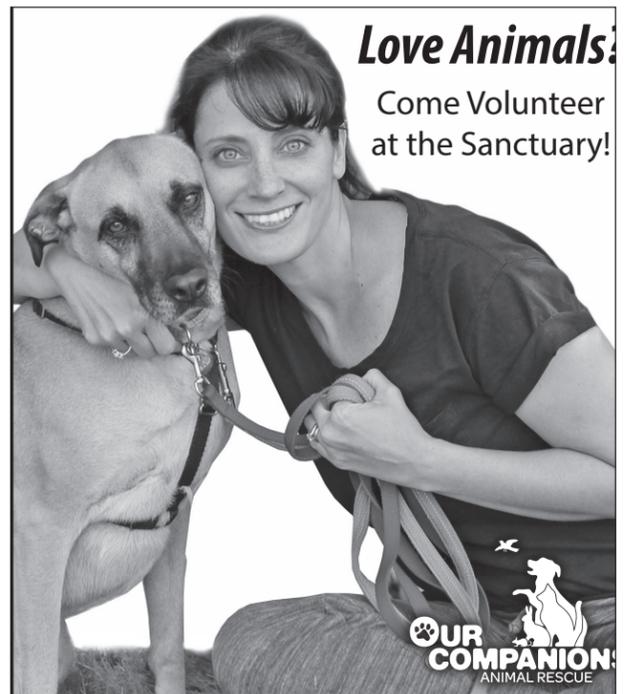
Wednesday - July 12, 2017 ~ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
CAFÉ GUITARS ~ CLASSICAL AND FLAMENCO ENTHUSIASTS

Friday - July 14, 2017 ~ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
BAND CONCERT ON THE GREEN
~ WILLIMANTIC CONCERT BAND ~

Wednesday - July 26, 2017 ~ 6:00pm-7:00pm
VAL ROGERS AND FRIENDS

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 ~ 6:00 pm - 7:00
SELDOM HEARD

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 ~ 6:00 pm - 7:00
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'Exultation' by Willimantic fine art photographer, Jean Henderson. To see more of Jean's work visit her website: jeanhendersonart.com

Summertime

By Felipe

What is summertime? Summertime is supposed to be a time for warm weather and getting outside and enjoying the fresh air. Summertime is also the time to be with friends and family and going to the beach, listening to the sounds of the ocean, kids laughing and playing games with their friends and loved ones.

Summertime for me is the best time of the year because it gives me an opportunity to be outside more and to be able to enjoy nice warm weather and be more independent than I would be in wintertime. Summertime means for me the celebration of birthdays, cookouts, friends having babies, weddings and fireworks. Summertime means that you can escape and get away. You can go on a vacation, which most people do during this special time of the year. The days are longer and the weather is hotter whether we like it

or not. I will say that I enjoy summer. Of the four seasons, summertime is the best time because you can celebrate a year of getting older, celebrating a birthday with friends and family and reflecting on the year that was, whether it was good or bad. Summertime is the best time of year because it allows you to renew that energy that was all locked up during the other three seasons. Summertime allows you to grow as a human being and also allows you the chance to set goals for yourself that you would not necessarily do during the rest of the year. Enjoy each day of summer because it is the best time of the year. Have picnics with friends and family and make sure you reflect on the good times you had during previous summers. Don't forget to laugh and smile and enjoy the occasional sunset because they are very special in the summer. And don't forget to bring some positive energy to someone you know during this special season. It may change your life.



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Darlene Reviczky
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Child of the Americas Poem

I am a mutt,
 A fair skinned east coast cocktail with regional American flavors underneath.

I am a German- Irish-Italian American,
 a product of Ellis Island I've never visited.
 California born but the grandson of an immigrant.
 My tongue is southern and has the sass of my mother before me,
 my cow licked hair and beanstalk height from the man I've never met.

I am a New Englander, my pace is faster than yours,
 the seasons change and so do my interests.
 I'm a Northern tree with Southern roots, born of a Cali seed.
 My language has a twang, and cornbread's still my favorite.

I am Irish, my speech is loud and meat and potatoes are my lifeblood.
 I am German, sour is my favorite flavor and beer is a close second,
 I am Italian, although my connection is severed.
 But most of all I am an American, with a careless bravado that only we've perfected.

I am old and new, North and South, East and West, sweet and sour.
 Hard work and termination made me, laid back smiles raised me.
 I'm a walking contradiction, my blood's muddier than the rivers I used to play in,
 and I am COMPLETELY fine with that.

David J. George

All Children 18 and Under- Free Summer Meals Available

Submitted by Margaret Chatey

WINDHAM, Conn., June 20, 2017 – Windham Public Schools announces that free summer meals will be available for all children ages 18 and younger this summer at locations across Windham. The Windham Board of Education is participating in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program. This program has served Windham children for 28 years, with nutritious meals provided at no charge at nine sites across town, and additional access to free meals all across the state. "Our goal is to serve 25,000 meals in Windham this summer," says Eric Volle, Director of Food Services for Windham Public School who is coordinating this program for the fourth summer. "Our staff of 13 full-time food service employees is organizing a finely tuned schedule of preparing and serving breakfasts and lunches for kids. It's amazing to watch 400 meals be assembled by our team after breakfast and before the lunch schedule begins—it's quite an operation. The schedule is challenging, but it's a tremendous service to aid families this way while summer is out." The summer meal schedule June 19 through August 18 is:

DATE	MEAL	TIME	LOCATION
6/19-8/18/17	Lunch	10:45-11:30	Ivy Gardens*
6/19-8/18/17	Breakfast	8:00-8:30	Windham Heights/BB Court
6/19-8/18/17	Lunch	11:00-11:30	Windham Heights/BB Court
6/19-8/18/17	Breakfast	8:45-9:15	Lauter Park*
6/19-8/18/17	Lunch	11:50-12:30	Lauter Park*
6/19-8/18/17	Breakfast	8:30-9:00	Village Heights
6/19-8/18/17	Lunch	11:00-11:30	Village Heights
6/19-8/18/17	Lunch	11:45-12:15	Memorial Park*
6/19-8/18/17	Lunch	11:45-12:30	West Avenue Comm. Ctr.
6/19-8/18/17	Breakfast	7:30-8:15	Windham High School
6/19-8/18/17	Lunch	11:45-12:45	Windham High School
7/5-7/27/17	Breakfast	9:15-9:45	ECSU Comm. Engag. Ctr.
7/5-7/27/17	Lunch	12:00-12:30	ECSU Comm. Engag. Ctr.
7/5-7/27/17	Breakfast	7:45-8:45	Barrows Stem Academy
7/5-7/27/17	Lunch	11:20-12:30	Barrows Stem Academy

*No service in severe weather

Note: Lunch will be eaten outside at Lauter Park, Ivy Gardens, Windham Heights and Memorial Park. In case of heavy rain, lightning or hail storm, meals will not be delivered to Ivy Gardens or Memorial Park, but will be served at Kramer Building, 322 Prospect St.

Federal guidelines require that children are required to eat their free meal at the site, but there are certain packaged snacks and fruit they may also pick up to enjoy later in the day, a new opportunity that expands the food service. Each meal includes up to five different components that children may choose, including fruits and vegetables they are required to select. Federal guidelines also are very strict about start and end times, so families are urged to be prompt.

Ivy Gardens and Memorial Park are two meal sites outdoors with no cover, so if there is heavy rain, hail or lightning, there is no meal service. Families are encouraged to visit the school district's website, windhamps.org, to find alternative sites, or use the free meal site-finder to find free meals at locations across Connecticut. "Our partners End Hunger CT has included all the free meal sites on a convenient site-finder so families can find a place for children to eat if they're traveling across the state or visiting relatives," says Volle. "In Windham, we can easily be spotted in our sapphire blue shirts and caps."

In addition to summer staff from the school district, two college students, Oscar and Meckla, are serving as Vista Associates with the Windham program. They will be assisting by working within the community to promote the meals, and will be assigned to high-density areas within Windham to ensure families learn about this opportunity. For more information, contact Eric Volle at 860-465-2491.

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