



# The Lakeville Journal

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16 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 127 NUMBER 23 © 2024 The Lakeville Journal Company, Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039 THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024 \$3.00

Covering The News In Connecticut's Northwest Corner And Its Environs Since 1897



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The view from the Salisbury Association Land Trust's newly purchased Salmon Kill Preserve.

## Land trust's \$800K purchase of Salmon Kill acreage aided by community

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY— One hundred and seventy people helped raise \$800,000 so that the Salisbury Association Land Trust (SALT) could purchase and protect in perpetuity 14 acres of environmentally and aesthetically valuable farmland in the scenic Salmon Kill Valley.

The property transaction between SALT and the landowners took place in mid-December, according to John Landon, co-chairman of the Salisbury Association Land Trust Committee. The parcel purchased by the land trust is a portion of the larger Belter family farm, said SALT officials.

"We are preserving one of our town's most magnificent views," Landon explained.

Sellers include James and Melinda Belter, and Ann and Stephen Torrey. "Ann and James' father had farmed it," for many decades, said Landon, noting that in recent years the parcel had also been farmed by Allen Cockerline of Whipoorwill Farm.

Landon explained that SALT has had its eye on the property on and off for several years, but it wasn't until this past summer that the two sides came to an agreement on the purchase price. "That is when we started actively fundraising," he said.

"There was a proposal to build some houses on it, and a lot of people in the area didn't want to see that happening, including us.

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## Portable propane heater linked to fatal Winsted blaze

By Debra A. Aleksinas

WINSTED — An early morning blaze that claimed the lives of a man and a dog at a Walnut Street residence Dec. 27 has been linked to a portable liquid propane heater fueled by two 20-pound LP tanks inside the home, according to Winchester Fire Marshal Steven Williams.

The case remains open pending positive identification of the victim from the deceased's relatives and an official report from the chief medical examiner's office, said Williams

during a phone interview Jan. 4.

"The cause at this time is still under investigation by myself and the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit, but I will say that the deceased was utilizing a portable liquid propane heater in the home which was hooked up to some propane tanks" the size commonly used for outdoor grills and heaters, the fire marshal explained.

Williams explained that propane heaters consume oxygen and can be fatal if not ventilated correctly.

"He also had a kerosene heater in one of the hallways, but it wasn't in use," Williams said. "The

See FIRE, Page A10

## Sharon voters approve solar project 338 to 171

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — By a margin of 338 to 171, the proposed solar array project at Sharon Center School was approved by voters at a referendum on Friday, Jan. 5. Nearly 30% of registered voters in Sharon turned out to the polls.

Significant controversy had arisen over whether the project to install multiple solar panels on town-owned property adjacent to Sharon Center School should be allowed to proceed. Opposing the plan were Hilltop Road residents living near the project and others concerned about environmental issues and the condition and fate of the nature trail on site.

A town meeting in the summer of 2022, with 14 in attendance, had authorized entering into a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Green Bank organization that had proposed the project in

See SOLAR PROJECT, Page A10



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Officials begin the process of tallying vote results at the town-wide referendum held on Friday, Jan. 5. The single-issue vote would approve the proposed solar array at Sharon Center School.

## Region One referendum passes

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Jan. 8 referendum vote on a \$5.64 million capital improvement and renovation project at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) passed, 579-206.

North Canaan was the only Region One town to vote against the project, 97 no votes to 80 yes votes. In Cornwall, the vote was 46-7

in favor. In Kent, the tally came to 102-26.

Falls Village approved by a 65-22 vote. Sharon was overwhelmingly in favor at 114-40, and it was even more lopsided in Salisbury, with 172 yes votes to 14 no votes.

The improvements and renovations are extensive. Included are cafeteria and auditorium renovations, including new seats in the auditorium, new furniture in the

cafeteria, and new sound equipment in both venues.

Also included are rehabilitation of the tennis courts located north of the HVRHS campus, installation of a new whole school generator in the southern end of the school, inspection and repairs to all masonry, installation of a new fire alarm system, and replacement of the cupola on the roof of the main building.



PHOTO BY JOHN DOLAN, COURTESY OF BERKSHIRE TACONIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
Since 2016, Betsey Mauro has guided Project SAGE through significant expansion and has solidified a network of support.

## Mauro steps down as leader of Project SAGE

By Natalia Zukerman

After nearly a decade of dedicated service, Betsey Mauro has retired as the executive director of Project SAGE, leaving behind a legacy of growth, and a commitment to social justice and community health.

Her work at Project SAGE, a community-focused organization dedicated to supporting, advo-

See MAURO, Page A10



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## In The Journal this week

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## Online This Week

### Sharon receives positive audit

The town's auditor determined everything is in order. More on [www.lakevillejournal.com](http://www.lakevillejournal.com)

## POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### Hits tree on Route 44

On Thursday, Dec. 28, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Lisa Douyard, 59, of Pine Meadow, was driving on Route 44 in East Canaan in a 2013 Honda Cr-v when she failed to break for a downed tree that was obstructing both lanes of traffic, striking it. Douyard declined medical attention and was found not at fault for the accident. The airbag deployed.

### Cellphone-use accident

On Monday, Jan. 1, at approximately 12:20 p.m., Russian Peirce, 20, of Salisbury, was northbound on Great Hill Road in Cornwall in a 2013 Toyota Corolla and was attempting to change the music on his cellphone while approaching a curve in the roadway. As Peirce looked at his phone, the vehicle veered off the road, striking a utility pole. The Toyota came to a rest on an embankment and Peirce was issued an infraction for failure to maintain lane and given a warning for using a cellphone while driving.

### Ends in a ditch

On Friday, Jan. 5, at approximately 6:45 p.m., Cindy Odell, 58, of Sharon, was traveling north on Route 41 in Sharon in a 2006 Kia Spectra5 and while proceeding straight the vehicle left the road and ended in a ditch. The car was towed from the scene and Odell was issued an infraction for failure to maintain lane.

### Arrest warrant served

On Friday, Jan. 5, at approximately 8:45 a.m., Troopers from Troop B served an arrest warrant on Michael Moore, 54, of Sharon, at his residence. The charges were evading responsibility, failure to grant a right of way at an intersection, and failure to display lights. Moore was placed into custody and transported to Troop B. He posted a \$5,000 cash/surety bond and was released.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to [johnc@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:johnc@lakevillejournal.com).

# Space heaters spark regional fire concerns

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Late December and early January saw a rash of house and structure fires in the region, among them a fatal house fire, chimney fire and structure fire in Winsted and a house fire on Barton Street in Millerton, New York, to which several Northwest Corner fire departments provided mutual aid.

Elsewhere in the region and state, in late December, a two-story house fire in Torrington displaced five residents and claimed a dog's life, and four children perished in a fire that tore through a home in Somers on Jan. 2.

While the causes of several of the recent fires are under investigation, as temperatures drop and people feel the financial crunch of heating their homes, fire officials are warning consumers to be mindful when using portable space heaters, fireplaces and pellet stoves.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the top three causes of fires in homes are cooking, heating equipment and electrical malfunction.

"We discourage the use of portable electric heaters, but if a person is going to use them, we recommend following the manufacturer's safety information and definitely keep them at least a minimum of 3 feet from any type of combustible materials," such as sofas, beds, curtains and other furniture, said Winchester Fire Marshal Steven Williams. Some electrical units now come with an automatic shut-off feature should they be accidentally knocked over.

"The other important thing about electric heaters



PHOTO BY JAMES SHULTZ

**A house fire in Millerton, N.Y. broke out on Jan. 2. The cause of the fire is under investigation.**

is you want to make sure to plug them directly into the wall outlet and not use an extension cord" or power strip, and never leave them on when you go to sleep or leave the room, he said. Children and pets should be supervised when around space heaters.

Whether portable or stationary, space heaters account for 82% of home heating fire deaths, according to latest statistics from the National Fire Protection Association.

Williams also suggested using seasoned firewood, which is dried for about a year, in wood stoves or fireplaces. "With fresh-cut wood

there's a lot of moisture, and it burns a lot smokier and contributes to the build-up of creosote."

He stressed the importance of installing and maintaining, smoke alarms, as well as carbon monoxide detectors, on every level of the home, as the devices can detect odorless and potentially deadly carbon monoxide leaks from gas heaters or wood pellet stoves.

Under no conditions, said fire officials, is it safe to use a portable propane heater with an LP tank indoors, such as those commonly used to fire up grills. Propane heaters produce carbon monoxide, which can be deadly if in-

haled in an enclosed space. Pellet stoves should be cleaned each season before use, and chimneys need to be cleaned regularly to prevent the buildup of creosote, a dangerous byproduct that comes from burning wood and stays in the chimney until it's removed.

Live Christmas trees that are beginning to dry out also pose a fire risk this time of year.

"A dried-out Christmas tree is like a roman candle: If it catches fire it goes up quickly. Don't keep the tree any longer than you have to," noted Williams.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, it can take just 30 seconds for a small flame to turn into a major blaze.

Above all, never attempt to put out a fire yourself, and designate a meeting place where everyone can gather outside the home, said Williams.

"You have about two and a half minutes to get out of the house before that fire really gets going. Fires today get hot quicker and a lot hotter than years ago," he said, due to petroleum and plastic products commonly used in home furnishings.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing to amend the Town of Salisbury Zoning Regulations to add section 207.20- Publicly Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), add section 703.11 "Electric Vehicle Charging Stations" and adopt a new definition "Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS). The hearing will be held on Tuesday January 16, 2024 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The proposed amendments have been posted, and agenda and meeting instructions for participation will be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting at [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us). Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to [landuse@salisburyct.us](mailto:landuse@salisburyct.us). Paper copies of the proposed amendments may be reviewed at the Town Clerk's Office in the Salisbury Town Hall during regular business hours (9:00AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:00 PM) Monday through Friday.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Martin Whalen, Secretary  
01-04-24  
01-11-24

### NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the North Canaan, Connecticut

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on January 16, 2024, at 6:30pm, at North Canaan Town Hall, 100 Pease Street, North Canaan, Connecticut to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated at North Canaan, Connecticut, on

January 6, 2024.

North Canaan Democratic Town Committee  
Christian P. Allyn  
Chairperson  
01-11-24

### NOTICE OF INSOLVENT ESTATE ESTATE OF JOHN W. CLOUSER, SR., Late of Falls Village (22-00437)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, at a hearing held on December 14, 2023, found the above state to be insolvent. Any creditor who fails to present his or her claim to the fiduciary below, on or before May 12, 2024, shall be forever be barred from asserting or recovering on such claim from the fiduciary, the estate of the decedent, or any creditor of the estate.

The fiduciaries are:  
Kimberly J. Ketchen and John Clouser, Jr.  
c/o Donna D Vincenti  
Law Offices of Donna D Vincenti, Atty LLC, 12 Porter Street, PO Box 1399, Lakeville, CT 06039

Beth L. McGuire  
Chief Clerk  
01-11-24

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF THOMAS C. JONES (23-00490)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 28, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciaries are:  
Samuel W. Jones and Michael W. Jones  
c/o Ellen C Marino, Ellen C Marino, 596 Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
01-11-24

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ELIZABETH T. HAGEN Late of North Canaan (23-00515)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated December 26, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Karen H. Tolman  
c/o Ellen C Marino, Ellen C Marino, 596 Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098

Beth L. McGuire  
Chief Clerk  
01-11-24

### Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2023-0237 by owner Lime Rock Park II, LLC for up to 25 private events per year not customary or incidental to a track for racing motor vehicles at 497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, Map 4, Lot 16 per Section 221.4 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us). Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to [aconroy@salisburyct.us](mailto:aconroy@salisburyct.us). Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Martin Whalen, Secretary  
01-04-24  
01-11-24

## Charlotte Hungerford Hospital welcomes first baby of 2024

The first baby born at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in 2024 arrived on the second day of the year. Weighing in at 6 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches, Solana Centrella made her grand entrance into the world at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2. Shane and Shannon Centrella from Winsted felt blessed to be "starting 2024 filled with love."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Send news tips to [johnc@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:johnc@lakevillejournal.com)

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Text and a reproducible photograph are due two weeks before the desired publication date. If sending a photograph (jpg or .tiff file), please include the names of everyone in the picture in the body of your email.

For more information, or to submit your paid announcement, please email [publisher@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:publisher@lakevillejournal.com).



# Our Towns

## Looking back on Norfolk's highs and lows in 2023

By Jennifer Almquist

NORFOLK — Home of the 6,400-acre Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk, a small town rich in history, volunteerism, music and art, had many challenges in 2023.

The year began in the aftermath of a treacherous tanker-truck accident Nov. 5, 2022, which resulted in 8,200 gallons of gasoline pouring like a river down the roadway into the heart of the town via the sewers. The truck driver was transported to the hospital for minor injuries and was issued a warning for failure to maintain lane. His vehicle struck a telephone pole in a residential section of Route 44, ruptured on a hydrant, and slid sideways 100 feet. First responders in the early dawn hours evacuated 15 surrounding homes, moved the inhabitants into Botelle School, and the emergency crew had the foresight to turn off any nearby generators.

Now, 14 months later, the cleanup and environmental testing continues. Some residents have yet to return home, and the final work removing contaminated soil from Maple Avenue south of the spill is ongoing. It is reported on the town website that Maple Avenue is "believed to be free of contamination one year after the massive gas spill." Millions of dollars have been spent, families were disrupted as some properties remain uninhabitable, but there is optimism and pride in the community response to this unprecedented disaster.

Like the trials of Job, the town was devastated by flooding in mid-July after torrential rains. Roadways washed out, bridges washed



PHOTO BY JOHN BARBAGALLO

Storm damage caused millions in repairs for Norfolk after a rainy July 2023.

away, and residents had some scary moments as 25 homes were isolated, cut off from emergency services. Norfolk declared a state of emergency after receiving 10.2 inches of rain in 24 hours. The flash flooding caused more than \$4 million dollars in damage to the southern part of Norfolk. FEMA denied financial assistance for flood repairs. U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal came to Norfolk to view the damage with First Selectman Matt Riiska, Road Supervisor Troy LaMere, and emergency first responders. The state Department of Transportation pitched in to repair Route 272. Some bridges remain damaged awaiting repair.

An early morning fire Sept. 10 destroyed a historic home in town, heartbreakingly following a memorial service the day before, held for the doctor who had raised his family in the home. It was

just by grace that the sleeping inhabitants, the Langendoerfer/Munch family of four, escaped unharmed, but they lost their precious cat. Norfolk Volunteer firemen, assisted by fire departments from Woodbury, Watertown, Thomaston, Bantam and Harwinton, valiantly fought the blaze, yet in the morning light, all that remained was the charred outline of the 19th-century wooden structure, a skeleton still held together by its massive beams. Neighbors and friends reached out to help the family, who lost everything. A GoFundMe effort raised initial funds, and folks donated clothing and necessary items.

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department made plans for a new firehouse in town. State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) and state Sen. Lisa Seminara (R-8) succeeded in obtaining a \$2.5 million grant from the

state Bond Commission to begin to cover the predicted \$5 million cost of the building. Architect's plans have been presented to the community, and Norfolk Planning and Zoning is finalizing its approvals.

To end the year on a happier note, Norfolk sculptor Jon Riedeman was commissioned as the first artist chosen by the Norfolk Community Association, established in 1895, to create public art for the town as the beginning of a sculpture trail.

According to Walter Godlewski, co-director of the trail project, "We are looking to connect the cultural islands in town that are separated by Route 44 by installing contemporary works that will draw people from one end of town to the other."

Co-presidents of the NCA, Doreen Kelly and Barry Webber, expressed their



PHOTO: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Owl of Good Fortune bronze sculpture by Norfolk artist Jon Riedeman keeps vigil over Norfolk's City Meadow and distant Haystack Mountain.

approval of Riedeman's piece. "It clearly meets our goal to enhance Norfolk's reputation as a place where art meets nature," said Kelly.

Riedeman's powerful bronze creation, the "Owl of Good Fortune" was installed on a granite plinth at the edge of the newly renovated Robertson Plaza in the center of town. The unveiling on Sept. 2 was a joyous community event with speeches, and music provided by Norfolk's own Michael Cobb.

The wise old raptor keeps vigil over City Meadow, the enhanced series of wooden walkways leading through the protected wetlands and natural grasses at the heart of town, and Haystack Mountain in the distance.

Riedeman stated: "The 'Owl of Good Fortune' was inspired by the dichotomy that exists in our minds and our culture about the owl. I wanted to christen this owl as an owl of good spirits, of good fortune."

## Cornwall plans repairs on Essex Hill

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — With Essex Hill Road closed due to a December landslide, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) discussed the damage and planned for repairs at a meeting Jan. 2.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway recently toured the site with Steve McDonnell of WMC Engineers and Jim Vanicky of the Cornwall Highway Department. McDonnell, who is also consulting on the West Cornwall Wastewater Project and the River Road retaining wall repair, said the landslide was caused by oversaturated soil and excess groundwater.

"You have an exposed area of highly erodible soils that could end up in the brook," said McDonnell. "The damage was significant enough that the road, as you know, needed to be closed."

Yield Industries of Torrington, which submitted the lowest bid for the River Road repair, also reviewed the damage on Essex Hill and said the repairs could be completed in about one week's time.

The proposal involved building a roughly three foot stone wall to strengthen and rebuild the slope on the downhill side of the road. Cornwall stone and gravel could be used for the materials. Yield would also improve drainage on the uphill side of the road to prevent further runoff erosion.

"I reviewed the cost assessment... I think it's a good approach," said Selectman Rocco Botto.

The repairs were estimated at \$175,000 but could



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORNWALL TOWN HALL

Oversaturated soil led to a small landslide on Essex Hill Road after heavy rain in December 2023.

come in lower due to savings from use of local materials. Approval from the Inland Wetlands Commission is required before work can begin.

Heavy rain in December also dislodged rocks in the abutment beneath Furnace Brook Bridge at Popple Swamp Road. Ridgway said the repairs at this location are much less critical and will cost "a couple thousand dollars."

"Jim [Vanicky] has contacted Josh Tyson about the town hauling rocks. Josh will put them in there," said Ridgway. "We could start on this fairly quickly."

Inland Wetlands Commission has already approved

the work and repairs are expected to begin later this month.

BOS appointed Botto to represent the selectmen at Economic Development Committee meetings.

"Given my background in marketing and business development, I'd be happy to serve as the BOS rep on the EDC," said Botto.

Park and Recreation's New Year's Day pancake breakfast was well attended Jan. 1. Michelle Shipp of Park and Rec said about 150 people were served breakfast.

"It was a learning experience to make pancakes and sausage for that many people," said Shipp. "Happy New Year to everyone."

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# Our Towns

## North Canaan proposes restructuring Region One tax assessments

By Riley Klein

**NORTH CANAAN** — The per-pupil tax basis in the Region One school district has been in place for roughly 90 years.

North Canaan sends the most students to Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) and, under the current model, pays the most of the six towns in the district.

Frustrated with ever increasing education expenses, North Canaan residents have sought to redesign the tax assessment model within the school district.

At a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on Jan. 3, there was a discussion on restructuring the assessment model to be based on each town's grand list as opposed to total students.

"What that means for North Canaan is about a seven to eight mill [rate] reduction," said First Selectman Brian Ohler. "What it means for Salisbury, Sharon, Kent — the more affluent towns, towns that may be able to absorb it a little better than we can — it's a nominal increase of .5 mills, half a mill, or one mill."

To accomplish this change, all six towns must agree to the restructure. Ohler said as of Jan. 3, the towns are split on the issue, and he was optimistic that new leaders in the district may get on board.

"From what we've heard, there are a few towns right now that are accepting of it because it's going to benefit them as well," said Ohler. "It's

50/50 right now and I believe others are close to accepting it."

BOS plans to speak with each town's leaders one-on-one in the coming months. If all six towns agree, the proposal will be brought to the state legislature for approval.

In an effort to improve permitting in town, "Make it happen Mondays" will begin at North Canaan Town Hall later in January. The goal of the initiative is to have all necessary town personnel present in the same building at the same time.

"Starting Monday the 22nd, we're going to have zoning enforcement official, the building department, fire marshal's office, and Torrington Area Health all here from 8 to 11 [a.m.]," said Ohler. "All the main players and stakeholders are going to be in here... so we'll get your answers, get the permits signed off, and everyone's on their way to complete their projects."

Additionally, Ohler said he would be in Town Hall as early as 5 a.m. on Mondays.

The transfer station began the new year with a redesign of its layout. There is a new spot to place mattresses, electronics, donations and appliances. Directional signs have been placed to guide visitors. Each car entering the transfer station is required to have a permit sticker.

BOS discussed improving cell phone coverage on Canaan Valley Road. Plans to install a new cell tower were discussed. Potential sites will be reviewed by BOS with more information to come.

## Kent marches into 2024 in unity

By Kathryn Boughton  
*Kent Good Times Dispatch*

**KENT** — The state of the world may be parlous, the geopolitical universe spinning out of control, but Kent business leaders refuse to let divisiveness trickle down into their community.

The Chamber of Commerce has launched a campaign to knit together the frayed edges of communal cooperation and to bring the town together.

Ellen Corsell, vice president of the Chamber, explained this week that she had perceived that Kent, which once boasted a vibrant and close-knit business community, was becoming fragmented, with an aura of distrust among its people.

Although retired from her own business, Heron Gallery, Corsell viewed the situation with dismay and decided to rejoin the Chamber membership. "The world has become so divided," she said. "There is so much animosity and distrust. We can't do anything at the global level, but we can work in our own town. So, we developed the idea CommUNITY, of creating events in the town that will bring people together."

The first flowerings of the effort bloomed almost immediately in the form of a convivial Quiz Night, which was followed by December's wildly successful holiday celebration that engaged the entire business community.

"The Parade of Lights is always wonderful," Corsell said, "but this year it was bigger than ever. All of the businesses stayed open late and there were tons of people in the street."



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BOUGHTON

**Gary Kidd, co-owner of 45 on Main, and Ellen Corsell, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce.**

The spirit permeated the community with nonprofits and businesses alike cooperating to turn Main Street into a welcoming wonderland.

"Lara Hanson contacted me and said, 'Let's light up St. Andrew's,'" recounted Corsell. "In just a few days we raised \$2,000 to make it happen. Everyone said, 'Just do it' and we had donations that ranged from \$25 to \$500. There was this sense of people coming together to make this wonderful feeling on the street. It was just joyful."

An influx of new businesses has added to the sense of vibrancy this year, including the opening of 45 on Main, a coffee and chocolate shop. Co-owner Gary Kidd bathes his business in color, changing the decor

with each passing holiday.

"Look at this," said Corsell, waving a hand at the colorful Christmas decor and indicating the vault in one side of the converted building, where Santa Claus took up residence on several occasions during the Christmas season. Outside, the Grinch held court, his lurid green face luring visitors to the Christmas Wonderland inside.

But perhaps the most surprising — and charming — result of Kidd's imagination were the disco-type lights he installed in the spacious bathroom. He whipped out his phone and called up a video of children dancing in the bathroom to piped-in music.

"I want to make coming

here like kids coming into a candy store for my customers," said Kidd, who will soon transform the decorations for Valentine's Day.

"We're flourishing when so many towns in Connecticut are not," said Corsell. Indeed, in December, Kent was highlighted as the final town in a six-part series by Laura Benys in Connecticut Magazine. She extolled all the diverse, upscale businesses in town that draw weekend crowds from metropolitan regions.

That does not mean that the business community is resting on its laurels, however. The Chamber is already planning its next event, a Robbie Burn's Night at the Community Hall on Jan. 27. Kidd, a Glaswegian, brings his familiarity with Scottish society to the event, and community members are pitching in to make the evening festive and diverse.

Kidd said the evening's entertainment is still developing, but could include a bagpiper, instruction in ceilidh dancing, a tasting of Scottish liquors, a reading of Burns' poems, and a Scottish dinner with — hang on, folks — haggis!

"The piper would pipe in the haggis," Kidd said. "I've asked the House of Books [people] to read Burns' original poems and Ira Shapiro of Kent Wine and Spirits will do the tasting."

Other townspeople are already indicating their willingness to participate in making the event a bright spot in a dark January night.

"The people are the bread and butter of the town," said Corsell. "The sense of community is spreading."



**The Salisbury Association Land Trust thanks these generous donors who enabled us to purchase 14 pristine acres in the beautiful Salmon Kill Valley, saving one of our town's most iconic views from development.**



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Linda Yowell and Richard Zuckerman



SALISBURY ASSOCIATION



# OBITUARIES

## Robert Andrew Parker

WEST CORNWALL — Robert “Bob” Andrew Parker, 96, passed away at home on Dec. 27, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Husband to the late Judith Mellecker, who died in August, he was a father of five sons and a grandfather of six.

Born in 1927, in Norfolk, Virginia, to Harriett Cowdin Parker and William Clay Parker, a dentist with the Public Health Service, the family moved frequently, living in New Mexico, Seattle, Indiana, and Chicago. He began drawing as a child while sick at home with tuberculosis.

Near the end of World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps, where he worked as an airplane mechanic. After being honorably discharged from military service in 1949, he attended the Art Institute of Chicago, beginning a long and prolific career as an illustrator, painter, and print-maker.

His work was expressive, often cheeky, with an implied narrative that reflected a wry sense of humor; some of his favorite subjects were war scenes, battleships, airplanes, dogs, monkeys, insects, landscapes, portraits, and lingerie-clad women. Known for his evocative watercolors and vivid prints, he had a loose style of drawing. Print Magazine described him as, “One of the great masters of 20th century illustration.”

In 1952, he was the youngest artist to show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Later, he attended the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, and Atelier 17 in New York City.

He went on to create illustrations for the New Yorker, Playboy, Penthouse, Fortune, Sports Illustrated, Esquire, Time, New York, and other magazines. He played the hands of Vincent van Gogh, recreating his work in the 1956 film “Lust for Life,” starring Kirk Douglas. After the film, he was able to work as a full-time artist.

Blending his passion for jazz and art, he painted album covers for Columbia Records musicians from Duke Ellington to Thelonious Monk, and illustrated works by literary giants such as Vladimir Nabokov, Stendahl, and poet

Marianne Moore, who wrote of him as an artist “for whom small things could be great things.”

Parker raised five sons with his first wife, Dorothy Daniels Parker, in Carmel, New York, where their home was filled with music and art, which passed on to his boys — one, now an artist, and four who became professional drummers.

He illustrated dozens of children’s books, earning a Schneider Family Book Award and a Randolph Caldecott Medal, among many awards. He also taught art at the New York School for the Deaf, Parsons School of Design, Rhode Island School of Design, Geritt Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam, and the School of Visual Arts in New York.

His world travels included treks in the Himalayas, and forays to Central America and West Africa on assignment for Fortune Magazine. Aside from his art, he loved fly fishing on the Housatonic River, hunting pheasant in Ireland, and drumming in his jazz band, Jive by Five, playing at New England venues for 30 years.

His work appears in permanent collections of the Guggenheim, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and others. Inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame in 2004, his life and work are showcased in a 2019 documentary “A is for Artist,” produced by the Vision & Art Project.

He is survived by sons Christopher, Anthony, Eric, Geoffrey, and Nicholas; daughters-in-law Janice Parker, Toni Marie Casella, and Shantal Riley; grandchildren Claudia, Jack, Max, Russell, Willem, and Reed, along with scores of dear friends and colleagues.

Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation, PO Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Send obituaries to [johnc@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:johnc@lakevillejournal.com)

## Dorothy Cass

CORNWALL — After a long, full life Dorothy Cass entered eternal rest on Jan. 5, 2023.

She was born on June 15, 1925, and grew up in Queens, New York, a daughter to Susanna and Frederick York and sister to siblings, Dolores Orton, her twin, Germaine Winger and Howard York.

She married her husband Joseph B. Cass and moved to the country where she resided with him and their children. They moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana, until his death, at which time she returned to Connecticut to be closer to her children. She resided in Cornwall for the last twenty five years of her life.

She died in her home surrounded by family.

She was an avid gardener and had many treasured friends. Dorothy was an active member of the Woman’s Society of Cornwall and helped in many fund raisers.

In addition to her husband Joseph B. Cass, she was predeceased by three children; Brad, Michael and Amanda, three grandchildren; Wendy

Jackson, Jody Cass and Michael Southworth.

She is survived by her three sons; Kenny, Frederick and his wife Maryann, Brian Cass, and her two daughters Jane Jackson (Cass) and her husband Roger, Susanne Scott (Cass) and her husband Robert Pierce. She is also survived by 9 grandchildren; Stephanie and Allison Chase, Marty Cass, Jan-

CORNWALL — Lisa Lansing (Simont), age 81, of Cornwall, passed away on Dec. 24, 2023, after a short illness.

Lisa was born on May 13, 1942, to Tod and Elizabeth Lansing in Providence, Rhode Island. After she graduated from Roger Ludlow High School in Fairfield, she went on to get her undergraduate degree in 1964 at Mount Holyoke College where she was the chief editor of the Mount Holyoke News.

After her college graduation and knowing that she wanted to be a newspaper reporter, Lisa started a three-year stint working for the Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield, Massachusetts

In 1967 Lisa left Pittsfield for Washington, D.C. where she took a position at the Congressional Quarterly.

In early 1968, Lisa left the Congressional Quarterly to join her first husband, Milton Gwirtzman, to work on the campaign of Presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy.

Lisa, who worked for Pierre Salinger, the head of the press operation for Kennedy’s campaign, was with the campaign in California when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated and returned to New York on Air Force One with his body on board.

In 1969, Lisa’s journalistic work in politics took a back seat to motherhood after Matthew, the first of her two children, was born. A year later she spent 18 months in Paris to absorb the culture and to pursue her passion for cooking where she took a six-week course at Cordon Bleu.

While pregnant with her second child, Dan, in 1971, Lisa came back to the US to live in Chevy Chase, Maryland where, throughout the 1970s, she often volunteered her talents to causes she embraced.

In 1976 her family moved to Newton, Massachusetts.

In 1981, Lisa earned a master’s degree in business administration with a specialty in public management from Boston University. Later in the 1980s she worked in the development office of the Museum of Science in Boston.

Lisa was passionate about art. She worked at the China Trade Museum until its 1984 merger with the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem.

Often the traveler and adventurer, in 1976, she visited China with Milton in one of the first groups to travel there from the west since 1949. In the mid 1980s Lisa went on an Outward-Bound trip in the Everglades in the south-west coast of Florida.

In 1989, Lisa and Milton had an amicable divorce and she soon met Marc Dalton (Doc) Simont who became her close companion and future husband. She bought a

house in Cornwall in 1990, where she spent the rest of her life.

Lisa was the Finance Director for the Town of Cornwall for 16 years until she retired in 2007. She volunteered for a number of societies, served on the board of the Cornwall Library, and also was the President of the Cornwall Historical Society until her death.

Her survivors include her husband, Doc Simont; her two sons, Matthew and Daniel Gwirtzman; a sister, Miss Lydia Lansing, and a brother, Robert Lansing. She was predeceased by a sister, Mary Lansing.

There will be a service for Lisa in the spring. In lieu of flowers, gifts to the Cornwall Historical Society and/or the Cornwall Library will be welcome.

For more obituaries, see page A7

## Lisa Lansing Simont



## Joan Schuster

MILLERTON — Joan C. Schuster, 88, a fifteen year resident of Cedar Hill, Texas and a thirty-four year resident of Stanfordville, New York, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at her home in Cedar Hill. Joan was a retired school bus driver for Dutchess B.O.C.E.S in Poughkeepsie, NY.



Born July 30, 1935, in Millerton, New York, she was the daughter of the late Albert N. and Florence (Parmalee) Silvernail. She was educated in the Webutuck Central School District. On April 9, 1955 in Millerton, she married Robert F. “Bob” Schuster. Their marriage lasted nearly fifty-four years. Mr. Schuster passed away on December 4, 2008.

Joan was a parishioner of the North East Baptist Church in Millerton for over fifty years where she served as a Sunday school teacher as well. She was currently a member of the Cedar Heights Baptist Church in Cedar Hill, Texas. Joan was also a member of the Senior Activity Center in Midlothian, Texas. She enjoyed playing cards and Bingo in her spare time and was an avid reader and also liked puzzles. She will be dearly missed by her loving family and many friends.

Joan is survived by her daughter, Terry Young and her son, Mark Schuster; seven grandchildren, Ryan Young, Amanda L. Young, Jessica L. (Young) McGowan, Jennifer (Schuster) Copley, Jacob Schuster, Kellie (Schuster) Derryberry and Kim Schuster; nine great grandchildren, Gavin Singh, Kira Khadivi, Kayla Khadivi, Ryalee Copley, Hailey McGowan, Caitlyn McGowan, Trinity McGowan, Abby Derryberry and Branson Derryberry; her sister-in-law, Joan Silvernail and her nephews, Robbie Silvernail and David and Peter Corbett and many friends. In addition to her parents and husband, Joan was predeceased by her brother, Bernard O. “Bernie” Silvernail and her sister, Isabel Corbett.

Private committal prayers followed by burial in the family plot will take place at Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains, New York this week. To send an online condolence to the family or plant a tree in Joan’s memory, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

ice Barnes, Skeeter (Roger) Garren and his wife Chrissy, Chelby and Ben Cass, Rebecca Scott and Emily Svenningsen; six great grandchildren; Dyllan Munson, Willie, Katy, and Izzy Barnes, Colton and Brianna Southworth and two great great grandchildren; Ryker and Tallyn Munson.

She will be sadly missed by her nieces who loved her

as a surrogate mom; Annie Barnes, Lisa Morales, Mary Mosegard, Karolyn Shepard and Kathy Venute.

It gave her great joy when they, along with all of her nieces and nephews came to visit her.

She also had a special fondness for Rob Budny who was a caregiver for Kenny and became like another son to her.

At her request services will be private for the family.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

### Worship Services

Week of January 14, 2023

**Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.**

<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God’s shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>St. John’s Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a> 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a> Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes <b>The Revs. Heidi Truax &amp; Felix Rivera</b> <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627</p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God’s people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am <a href="http://www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a> 860-824-7252</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m. <b>2024 The Year Ahead</b> For information, contact Jo Loi at <a href="mailto:joiauloi@gmail.com">joiauloi@gmail.com</a> All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm <a href="http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org">www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</a></p>	<p><b>Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green</b> 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 Childrens Camp   Shabbat Services Hebrew School   CTeen   YIP Judaism With A Smile! <a href="http://chabadNW.org">chabadNW.org</a> 860.567.3577   office@chabadNW.org</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at <a href="http://congbethdavid.org">congbethdavid.org</a>) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 <a href="mailto:info@congbethdavid.org">info@congbethdavid.org</a></p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville <b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church <b>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</b> Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 <a href="http://www.uccincornwall.org">www.uccincornwall.org</a> Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a></p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thesmithfieldchurch.org">www.thesmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a></p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanct-umc.com">canaanct-umc.com</a> <a href="mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com">canaanctumc@gmail.com</a> We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   <a href="http://allsaintsofamerica.us">allsaintsofamerica.us</a></p>
<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</p>	

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EDITORIAL  
Community

This week's front page showcases stories about how the citizens of the Northwest Corner are making it a better place to live. Debra Aleksinas details efforts to protect environmentally and aesthetically sensitive land in the Salmon Kill River Valley. Natalia Zukerman profiles a crusader for social justice and women's health.

In Compass, in the third part of a series about the healing power of theater, Lee Davies writes about how The Sharon Playhouse has been instrumental in bringing invigorating, in-person experiences to us.

These stories remind us how our friends and neighbors are making a difference.

More than 170 people raised \$800,000 so that the Salisbury Association Land Trust could purchase 14 acres of farmland property in the Salmon Kill Valley. The valley and the creek itself have long been considered some of the most beautiful and ecologically valuable resources in Connecticut, Aleksinas writes. As Jeanette Weber, president of the Salisbury Association says, "We are very grateful to have received donations from so many people in the community."

From many to one. Our community also needs to appreciate what one woman has done for many. Betsey Mauro, the departing executive director of Project SAGE, leaves behind a strong, community-based organization that supports, advocates for, guides and educates the victims of relationship violence through services and outreach programs in the Northwest Corner. When Mauro began in 2016, the organization was called Women's Support Services. It has since changed its name to Project SAGE. Mauro expanded the organization and created a network that reaches far beyond Lakeville. "Whether I'm in a church or I've been in this role here, it's all about how we lift up people and also challenge the systems that are unfair, that keep people from accessing their full selves," Mauro says.

In Part III of Davies' series on the role of theater in a community, Lee writes about how the Sharon Playhouse is partnering with local support groups, including Project Sage on the 2023 production of "Oliver!" Last fall, The Sharon Playhouse teamed up with The Salisbury Forum and this newspaper to co-sponsor a panel discussion about its production of "Lifespan of a Fact" on the hot issue of truth in journalism. It also worked with the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon to make its "Little Women" community read a success. During the 2023 season, Davies reports that The Sharon

Our Trees: Let 'em live

On any given workday, open your door, go outside, and listen. Chances are what you will hear mingled with everyday sounds is the wailing of chainsaws and the moaning of chippers — tree removal equipment transforming life into death.

Hardly a week goes by we are not prompted to stop our cars for a poor soul holding a stop/slow sign while the tree crews impose the carnage on roadside trees. What is equally alarming is the removal of perfectly healthy trees and other vegetation on private property. The short-sighted reasoning behind this wonton elimination of biomass is varied.

Some homeowners have been instilled with a fear that their trees are going to topple onto their homes or where they recreate, so those menacing trees must be removed before they can cause harm.

Still others wish to open up vistas of distant views for their personal viewing pleasure, totally disregarding the damage they may be doing to their own ecosystems. And the most ludicrous reason: cut down the trees to grow more lawn!

How did we get here? The truth is there are plenty of trees that pose a real hazard and are best removed preemptively. The pestilences that have been wrought on our native vegetation — many by human intercession — like climate change, non-indigenous invasive plants, the Emerald Ash Borer, and the Spongy Moth, to name a few, have left many trees in sore straits. This is where skilled arborists with their chainsaws and

chippers, and those minimum wage workers with their stop/slow signs, are put to their best and highest use.

It is the otherwise healthy native trees and other vegetation that is the focus of this article.

Ponder for a moment that tree-like life forms have been on this planet between 350 and 420 million years! In contrast, human-like creatures have been around for a mere 1.5-2 million years; modern Homo sapiens for 160,000 years. Weren't we taught to respect our elders?

Maybe our human brain chauvinism has clouded our ability to see the wisdom and the value in a living being that is other than ourselves.

What wisdom can a tree hold, you ask? Think of a time when the sun was too hot and you moved toward the shade, or were thirsty and took a drink of water, or the myriad reasons we do things for our comfort and survival. Now think of a tree, rooted in place.

They have developed mechanisms that allow them to persist through the tribulations of their lives, right where they are, in some cases for thousands of years. Pretty smart.

Countless ecological services trees provide to sustain all life, like oxygen to breathe, climate modification, carbon storage, and the transcendent wellbeing we feel just being among them, is reason enough to consider every tree as sacrosanct and to think and feel first before we end a life unnecessarily. If trees had lawyers, we'd be in trouble!

Mike Nadeau Sharon



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's stand by the Constitution

As controversy intensifies about whether the Constitution disqualifies Trump from holding office, we trust our election officials, judges, and justices to enforce the Constitution as their oaths of office require.

From 1776, Thomas Paine inspires:

THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer judge and the sunshine justice will, in this crisis, shrink from enforcing the constitution of their country; but he that stands by it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. (Based on The American Crisis Number 1)

1. Section 3 of Amendment XIV is clear:  
No person shall ... hold

any office, ... who, having previously taken an oath ... to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same .... But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

2. There is only one critical question — Did Trump engage in insurrection against the Constitution? If "Yes," Section 3 prohibits Trump from holding office. If "No," Section 3 does not apply.

3. The prohibition is automatic and absolute ("No person shall ..."). The prohibition does not require action by Congress or conviction of any crime.

4. While Section 3 does not require Congressional

action in order to disqualify, it permits Congress (by two-thirds of each House) to remove the disqualification. Congress has not removed the disqualification; the prohibition is in effect if Trump engaged in insurrection.

5. In the second impeachment of Donald J. Trump, the House of Representatives voted 232 to 197 to indict Trump for "Incitement of Insurrection," and the Senate voted "Guilty" by a vote of 57 to 43. While the Senate vote fell short of the two-thirds necessary to convict in an impeachment trial, Congress has determined by a majority vote of both the House of Representatives and the Senate that Trump engaged in insurrection.

6. The results of criminal

LETTERS

Thanking Sharon voters

We on the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission thank the voters of Sharon for their support of the solar array which will provide both clean and inexpensive energy for the Sharon Center School. We appreciate the fact that there are reasonable objections to the siting of the array and to various aspects of solar in general. However, we also know that continued reliance on fossil fuels will leave a damaged if not dying planet to future generations. The solar array in Sharon represents a small saving in fossil fuels, but if towns across America follow our example, we may hope for a brighter future than our current pattern of energy consumption suggests.

Lyn Mattoon  
Helena Barnes  
Katy Kinsolving  
Roger Liddell  
Mike Nadeau  
Doug Rick  
Shrevie Shepherd  
Jane Strong

prosecutions of Trump are not relevant to the Constitutional question of qualification to hold office.

7. State courts and election officials are considering the issue in the context of the preparation of ballots for Republican Party primaries. Both the District Court and the Supreme Court of Colorado determined that Trump engaged in insurrection as did the Secretary of State of Maine. Some state courts and election officials have avoided the issue on procedural grounds. There will be more decisions shortly.

8. Some argue that enforcing Section 3 to disqualify Trump from office and the ballot would be anti-democratic and that voters should be able to vote for Trump even if he is an oath-breaking insurrectionist. On the contrary, in the context of the determination by Congress and state courts and election officials that Trump has engaged in insurrection, failure to enforce Section 3 would be anti-democratic. American democracy will shine as Section 3 is enforced and Trump is prohibited from holding office again. We shall then be able to express our love and thanks to the election officials, judges, and justices who stand by the Constitution.

G. A. Mudge Sharon

Observations on Salisbury housing

As an attendee at a meeting on the evening of Jan. 4, to move forward a plan to build houses in an already relatively crowded area near the center of Salisbury, I would like to state my observations.

1. All the decisions being made, and all the praise for the project, were being made almost entirely by people whose own homes will not be affected.

2. It seemed as if letters in opposition to using this building site, which contain the reasons for that opposition in the voices of those affected, had not been given to all members of the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission and the Salisbury Housing Trust. It looked as though those who had not seen them had formed their opinions in a bubble created by people who find the building site so ideal.

Anyone who had not read them would then have voted to recommend that the plan be passed forward after only just hearing those people speak for the brief opportunity they were allowed. It is doubtful that the momentum built by then would have allowed a pause to reconsider based on what those people said. Isn't it part of the responsibility of the leaders of these groups to be sure all members consider those

voices well in advance, and not just the voices of those who choose to look at it as a good idea from properties far from the proposed site?

3. By passing the proposal closer to a town-wide vote, the people affected by the addition of these buildings so near to their own homes will be guaranteed a much greater minority than it would be if the whole committee had heard them. On top of that, a public campaign is being conducted that can only continue to drown their voices out.

The question is not whether affordable housing is a good idea. Everyone is in favor of it. Please do not think that being against building on this site is being against affordable housing.

And the decision to build on the land that has been proposed should not be based on it being town land and therefore being relatively easy to get, and especially not be made to satisfy a project deadline. The effects would be permanent.

The issue here is whether the town will take seriously the voices of people in their concern for not crowding Salisbury in this particular place; they are people with a very real motivation to speak for the welfare of the whole town by addressing this issue and for preventing the effects

of crowding that other people cannot as clearly see.

To honestly agree with this proposal, you must also agree that you would be willing to have the buildings built in the equivalent space to your back yard — how many people moving this forward would do that? — instead of finding a location, difficult as that might be, that does not have the damaging effects that voting yes on this proposal would have.

L. Tomaino Lakeville

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

(USPS 303280)  
An Independent Connecticut Newspaper  
Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company  
Owned by The Lakeville Journal Foundation; Noreen Doyle, Chair  
64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031  
P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-9989  
(860) 435-9873 • lakevillejournal.com • editor@lakevillejournal.com

Volume 127, Number 23 Thursday, January 11, 2024

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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The Lakeville Journal Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Subscription Rates - One Year: \$82.00 in Litchfield County, \$98.00 outside county  
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Lakeville, CT 06039. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Lakeville Journal Company, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m.  
Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.  
More letters on page A7.



## Viewpoint

## SCOTUS on trial

No other democratic nation on earth has its highest court Justices appointed for life. In all other countries there are mandatory term limits and/or mandatory retirement age for high court Justices (like U.S. corporations where CEO's retire at 65). The nation's "marriage" to confirmed justices "til death us do part" is non-comprehensible to other nations, and resented by many Americans.

There is no national election for Supreme Court Justice, rather a Presidential appointment which requires Senate confirmation — no confirmation — no ascension — ask Bork. The Senate confirmation is a republic validation for a Justice — the process certainly isn't democratic. California with a population of 40 million has two Senators — 1 per 20 million citizens. Eight states have populations of less than 1.1 million — 6 of these states have 1 of their 2 Senators representing about 250,000 citizens. Like the Electoral College, voters in all 50 states are not equally represented. Half of U.S. states, 25 states, have less than 5 million citizens — one eighth the number of voters living in California, one quarter the voters living in New York, one third the number living in Pennsylvania.

Up to 1991, when Clarence Thomas was confirmed by a Senate vote of 52-48, appointed Justices received over 90 confirmation votes: O'Connor in 1986 was a 99-0 confirmation (followed by Alito 58-42), Ginsburg 96-3 (Barrett 52-48), Scalia 98-0 (Gorsuch 54-45), Stevens 98-0 (Kagan 68-37), Kennedy 97-0 (Kavanaugh 50-48). Many Justices privileged by "til death us do part" terms, have recently received less than 60% of the nation's Senate confirmation, some questionably confirmed by a national majority.

## GUEST

## COLUMN

By KATHY  
HERALD-MARLOWE

Let's review Thomas' confirmation vote in 1991 — 52-48. When one researches who, which Senators voted for Thomas's confirmation to a lifetime appointment, one finds that though Thomas squeezed through on 52 Senator confirmation votes, when one researches what actual Senators with what state population voted for Thomas, he was shy of 50% of the national vote. The majority of American voices were lost in the unequal distribution of Senators to actual voters. So what about Alito, Kavanaugh, Barrett, Gorsuch, Jackson — which states with what populations confirmed their life-time appointment to the highest court in the land?

Early in 2024, SCOTUS will not only host trials of high interest, high impact related to Trump, his 91 indictments and his eligibility to be on a state ballot but the Court, the Justices themselves will be on trial — intensely scrutinized for their deliberations and decisions, their process and their substance. With continued investigatory adeptness, individual Justices will be scoured — already much grist for dissatisfaction with a trio of the Justices. The Court itself is at question, is it fit to be at the constitutionally prescribed pentacle of the American judicial system?

With the highest disapproval rating ever for a Supreme Court, continuous headlines boldly unmask

individual ethical and legal misbehavior — a bundle of fiscal follies/corruption. Some justices petulantly dismiss the American public's preferences and opinions as well as exhibit disdain for the core SCOTUS precept of stare decisis "to stand by things decided." At their very public confirmations at least three of the recent appointees swore allegiance to stare decisis then within months overturned Roe vs. Wade.

Not elected, appointed for life, some SCOTUS Justices are brazenly draped not in black gowned prudent judgment but sharp-tongued arrogance, personally having histories, decades, of misconduct, fiscal advantages

**Early in 2024, SCOTUS will not only host trials of high interest, high impact related to Trump, ... but the Court, the Justices themselves will be on trial.**

parlayed by persons seeking Court favor. Alito with vim and venom toward the Congress falsely states: "No provision in the Constitution gives them the authority to regulate the Supreme Court — period." Really? What about confirmations, removals/impeachment, the number of Justices, terms of office, procedures such as motion dockets (i.e., shadow dockets judicial actions taken without any reported documentation)?

Regardless of sizzling rhetoric, the Supreme Court and its Justices collectively and individually are bound by law and order. It is past time to, in particular, reassess and revise not only codified ethical conduct but terms with limits — this isn't a marriage — it is a prominent position that ought have designated terms like the President, the Senate, the House.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

## OBITUARIES

## Charlotte Irving Lindsey

KENT — Charlotte Irving Lindsey, 89, of Kent, passed away peacefully at her new home on Cape Cod on Dec. 2, 2023. A gifted wood carving artist, skilled drug and alcohol counselor, admired second grade teacher, and revered volunteer extraordinaire, Charlotte was a woman of many talents. She was a cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, and recent widow of her husband of 45 years, Richard "Dick" Lindsey.



A Journalism major at Boston University, Charlotte nimbly employed those skills in many capacities throughout the years as a proficient relationship-builder. No matter the locale, many people she met walked away with a new friend. Several Appalachian Trail hikers likely still remember her generosity of a tasty meal and hot shower at their home on Main Street. Her second grade students from 60+ years ago, many of whom she kept in contact with over the years, shared sentiments such as, "she made learning natural and fun," and stories of how she made them feel valued while infusing the love of learning. Her counseling colleagues remembered her as compassionate and caring with clients.

One of the things Charlotte was most proud of was her long sobriety and subsequent career as a drug and alcohol counselor after getting sober at the age of 50. Her message to many in the

throes of addiction was that it's never too late. Right to the end, she modeled not being afraid to start something new.

Not one to shy away from adventure, some of Charlotte's fondest memories were when she and her beloved husband, Dick, would say, "Yes" to something new like moving to Maine for several years; traveling for months in a borrowed pop-up camper across the Trans-Canada Highway and then winding their way home through the United States; or adopting Luke, Beau, and Rosie, her treasured donkeys. In her late-60's, having survived lung, breast, and skin cancer all at once, she wrote a letter that began, "Dear Intrepid Women..." to five fellow cancer survivors — all women from Kent — inviting them to join her for a high ropes course adventure. With her friends by her side, she courageously wrangled her fear of heights, donned a harness, climbed 30+ feet into the trees and cables where she proudly and successfully navigated the aerial challenge course.

Despite growing up in Darien, she considered Kent her hometown having summered there on her grandfather's farm in South Kent since she was a toddler and moving to Kent full time after college. Serving the town in a variety of capacities brought her great pleasure. Some of her service included the Veterans Memorial Committee (and co-authoring a book

called, "One Small Town in World War II," with Fran Johnson about Kent's contribution to the war), Kent Garden Club, Kent Historical Society, and the Kent Center School Scholarship Fund (to which she brought the idea for The Chocolate Fest). Charlotte and Dick were also members of a local Unitarian Fellowship and enjoyed many community activities.

The daughter of the late James E. and Cecile (Cottrell) Irving, Charlotte leaves five children, Polly Goddard (Andy); Melissa Makris; Constance Hedden (Don); Elizabeth Tobin; and William R. Tobin, III (Terry); three step-children, James Lindsey; Jennifer Lindsey; and Katherine Dunn; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her brother Walter Irving (Pam), sisters-in-law Claire Irving (Bill) and Shari Adams (Rob) as well as many nieces and nephews, and her uncle, Griggs Irving. She was predeceased by her brothers William C. and Robert M. Irving, her parents, and her husband, Dick.

In her memory, donations are welcome at: Kent Center School Scholarship Fund where a scholarship in memory of Charlotte & Dick will soon be created so please be sure to designate donations in memory of Charlotte and/or Dick Lindsey: [www.kcssf.org/support.html](http://www.kcssf.org/support.html) or PO Box 794, Kent, CT 06757 or Kent Historical Society [www.kent-historical-society.org/memberships/become-member/](http://www.kent-historical-society.org/memberships/become-member/) (scroll to bottom of membership page) or PO Box 651, Kent, CT 06757.

A Celebration of Life will be held later this year in Kent.

## Patricia A. Conway

LAKEVILLE — Patricia A. (Marquette) Conway, loved watching them grown and become parents to her beloved daughter of the late Edmund and Agnes (Eichler) Marquette, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2024 with her family at her side, at the age of 76.



Born in New York City, Pat grew up in both New York City and then Lakeville.

A graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, class of 1964, Pat then attended St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Hartford, and proudly earned her degree and became a Registered Nurse. She worked at St. Francis, later coming to Boston, working for New England Deaconess Hospital as the transplant coordinator. Pat furthered her education by attending and obtaining a Master's Degree from Simmons College in Boston. Earning this degree was another proud accomplishment for Pat. She flourished at being a nurse. When she moved on from Lahey New England Deaconess, she finished her career at the Greater Lawrence Community Family Health Center, where she retired from her extensive and rewarding career.

Pat volunteered her time at the Mission of Deeds in Reading as well as volunteering in St. Lucia for families that needed care. When she was not working, Pat enjoyed traveling, walking along the beach collecting sea glass and being with her beloved pets. Pat took great delight in her nieces and nephews and

loved watching them grown and become parents to her great nieces and nephews. Pat will be missed by her loving family and many close friends.

Pat is the devoted sister of Margaret Card and her husband Dennis of Lakeville, and Ann Zona and her husband Peter of Scituate, Massachusetts. Cherished aunt of Allison Pena and her husband Balta of Melrose, Massachusetts, Laura Zona and her husband John Lupo of New Jersey, Timothy Zona and his partner Stephanie Rattigan of Maine and Brian Zona and his wife Hillary of New Hampshire. Beloved great aunt to Amalia and Clara

Pena, Harper and Isla Lupo and Weston and Madison Zona. She also leaves dear friend Lisa LaCroix, close cousin Diane Lehtola and many other family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Pat's memory to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, P.O. Box 582, Salisbury, CT 06068 or online at [www.salisburyambulance.org](http://www.salisburyambulance.org). or to the MSPCA, Attn: Donations, 350 South Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130.

Arrangements by the Cota Funeral Home, 335 Park St., North Reading, MA.

For information, directions and to leave an online condolence, please visit [www.cotafuneralhomes.com](http://www.cotafuneralhomes.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Thank you David Baranowski

Who would have thought on an ordinary first Friday in January after a little mundane business in the town hall one could go across

the street and experience a soul soothing, little slice of musical heaven at the Congregational Church in Salisbury. Thank you David

Baranowski!

Check it out, every first Friday.

Susie Pelletier  
Salisbury

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago —  
January 1924

E.L. Peabody, C.E. Miller and Grant Eggleston are in Litchfield on jury duty this week.

Mr. and Mrs. John McChesney are now at home in Miss Spaulding's cottage on Church Street.

Adv.: Lost — Jan. 8th One Weed Tire Chain 31 x 4 between Brinton's Garage and Lakeville. Will finder please notify R.E. Treat, Salisbury.

50 years ago —  
January 1974

The seven schools of Regional District 1 will open and close a half hour later each day for two weeks, beginning Jan. 14. The purpose of the switch is to prevent accidents to children waiting at bus stops or walking to school in pre-dawn darkness. This week's time change to Daylight Saving Time has meant that

many school bus routes now start well before dawn.

The Public Utilities Commission has granted a request for the removal of the railroad crossing gates and the watchman's shanty at the Main Street intersection in Canaan. Notice of the approval came in a letter received by town officials last Friday. The crossing gates have not been used in over a year and their removal was requested to improve foot and highway traffic in the area. A town hall spokesman said that a Lakeville contractor, Richard Snyder, has offered to remove the gates free of charge if he was allowed to keep them. Mr. Snyder, a railroad buff, is the new owner and renovator of the Railroad Depot.

25 years ago —  
January 1999

KENT — Teachers and friends of Seth MacFarlane saved samples of his childhood artwork. His talent,

even then, was apparent. Their judgment proved correct as witnessed by his recent signing of a multi-million dollar contract with Twentieth Century Fox TV for his animated comedy creation "Family Guy." The pilot will be shown following the Super Bowl on Jan. 31, and the series is expected to start its run sometime in March.

He wasn't born on New Year's Day, but Nicholas Francis Lachaine is Sharon Hospital's first baby of 1999. With a full head of dark hair, Nicholas weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces when he arrived at 5:51 a.m. on Jan. 2 — four days after he was due. His parents, Rebecca and Jean Paul Lachaine, couldn't be happier.

*These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.*

## More obituaries, Page A5.

## Realtor® at Large

In checking several of our listed houses in the storm yesterday, I found one where the jet well pump was running and that there was no water pressure in the house. A jet well pump is designed for shallow wells and is usually installed in the basement and not in the well itself. So the first thing to do was to shut the pump off at the electrical box so it would not burn out. Second is to call your plumber. The cause may be that the pump has lost its prime, which means that there is a leak either in the line or one of the seals allowing air into the system. Additionally there may be a blockage in the line. For more information, please visit: [www.grecoandhaines.com/how-do-you-prime-a-well-pump](http://www.grecoandhaines.com/how-do-you-prime-a-well-pump)



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# Our Towns

## Discovering secrets in Scoville Memorial Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Curious patrons of the Scoville Memorial Library got an extensive look at the areas of the building that visitors don't often see Thursday, Dec. 28.

Well over 50 people showed up and were divided into groups by library staff.

The blue group started in the reading room, which is not one of the "hidden" spots. Guide Macey Levin discussed the stone carving in the wall, from Salisbury Cathedral in England, the Oak Room and the map on the wall showing the old 14 school districts within Salisbury.

The group then descended into the basement, where Lakeville native Kendra Percy, now head of children and family services at the library, showed off a display of miniature books donated by the late Whitney North Seymour.

Percy said the display used to be in the main room, migrated to the director's office, and was then relocated downstairs during the most recent renovation.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

### Scoville Memorial Library's archives reveal the past.

Percy then focused on bound copies of The Lakeville Journal, pulling out the volume that contained 1987 and the graduation photos from Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

"And there I am," she said. "I'm so grateful I get to work in my town."

The blue group then went up the narrow stairs into the room just below the bell tower, where David Rogers awaited, tenor saxophone at the ready.

Rogers explained that there are four bells in the

belfry, plus a bigger bell that chimes the hour.

The four bells that chime on the quarter hour weigh 300, 450, 700 and 1,200 pounds respectively. Rogers wasn't sure about the fifth bell, but it is more than 1,200 pounds. He played the sequence of tones, called the "Parsifal Peal," used on the quarter hour on his sax as the bells are not currently working.

Back in the main room, library director Karin Goodell asked "Ever get the feeling you're being watched?"



### Karen Vrotsos shared the story of a mysterious sword of unknown origin.

She then directed everyone's attention to the Ellen Emmet Rand portraits above the circulation desk.

In the main hallway, the portrait of Andrew Warner, one of the founders of Hartford, was displayed temporarily. Goodell recounted the story from August 2023, when Jeremy Warner, the 10th great-grandson of Andrew Warner, came to see the portrait of his ancestor. The current Warner is a sculptor, and plans to make a bust of his ancestor.

The grand finale of the tour for the blue group was a small room above the director's office, reached via a narrow spiral staircase.

Here awaited Karen Vrotsos, who runs adult programming and was armed with a

sword.

Yes, a sword, engraved with the name "Klingenthal" and the legend "Victory or Death."

Vrotsos subsequently sent some additional information about the sword in an email.

She wrote that the library has no information on the sword, and indeed she just noticed the "Klingenthal" when looking at the sword with a visitor just before the tour.

"A search on Klingenthal revealed that the sword may be a French Grenadier hanger, manufactured in France in the late 1770s, and possibly imported for use in the Revolution, as many of its kind were. The style of the sword and all of its inscriptions match museum descriptions

of the Grenadier, including the inscription 'Grenadeer' with two e's, and a hallmark, just decipherable, near the hilt."

"If it is a Grenadier hanger, it is likely to be valuable. We're storing it safely until we can get an expert to take a look."

Less dramatic was a collection of children's books donated in 1803 by Caleb Bingham. The books are kept in protective boxes and are in excellent shape. Vrotsos pulled one out. It dealt with the proper approach to prayer.

There was also a painting of a fox, done in 1859 by one J.B. Spencer. Vrotsos said it used to hang in Town Hall, and was damaged in the 1985 fire.

## HVRHS announces honor roll

Principal Ian Strever announced the first quarter marking period Honor Roll at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) for the 2023-2024 school year.

### HIGHEST HONOR ROLL:

GRADE 9: John DeDonato (Salisbury), Adelyn Diorio (Canaan), Sydney Howe (Canaan), Jonas Johnson (Canaan), Daniel Lesch (Cornwall), Finian Malone (Sharon), Francisco Mendoza Ratzan (Canaan), Meadow Moerschell (Kent), Ishaan Tantri (Salisbury), Ivy Zheng (Canaan).

GRADE 10: Elizabeth Allyn (Salisbury), Lily Beurket (Cornwall), Colton Bodwell (Cornwall), Ryder Conte (Falls Village), Mia DiRocco (Cornwall), Shanaya Duprey (Canaan), Sara Garcia Pulido (Canaan), Anna Gillette (Salisbury), Maureen Graney (Falls Village), Hannah Johnson (Canaan), Madelyn Johnson (Canaan), Alexa Meach (Canaan), Madison Melino (Austerlitz), Deiby Romero Gualan (Canaan), Ibbly Sadeh (Falls Village), Silas Tripp (Falls Village), Alex Woodworth (Salisbury).

GRADE 11: Bernice Boyden (Falls Village), Sara Huber (Salisbury), Rosemary Koller (Canaan), Tess Marks (Salisbury), Manasseh Matsudaira (Cornwall), Lola Moerschell (Kent), Elinor Wolgemuth (Salisbury).

GRADE 12: Evan Bocking (Canaan), Kathleen Bodwell (Cornwall), Finn Cousins (Sharon), Lorelei Gnerre (Salisbury), Mary Ireland (Salisbury), Dana Saccardi (Cornwall), Isaac Watkins (Kent).

### HIGH HONOR ROLL:

GRADE 9: Byron Bell (Cornwall), Sofia Bindley (Cornwall), Selena Black (Cornwall), Sophia Camphouse (Sharon), Hadley Casey (Canaan), Karen Chavez-Sanchez (Salisbury), Georgie Clayton (Salisbury), Christian DeDonato (Salisbury), Natasha Dennis (Canaan), Lydia Fleming (Canaan), James Flores (Kent), Grace Graney (Falls Village), Riley Heady (Sharon), Oli-

ver Hernandez (Kent), Alexa Hoadley (Kent), Makenzie Lidstone (Salisbury), Logan Padelli (Canaan), Gustavo Portillo (Canaan), Darwin Wolfe (Falls Village), Juan Xeché Coche (Canaan), Nathan Zani (Ashley Falls).

GRADE 10: Everet Belanicik (Cornwall), Olivia Brooks (Salisbury), Victoria Brooks (Salisbury), Christopher Crane (Canaan), Katherine Crane (Canaan), Richard Crane (Canaan), Arianna Danforth Gold (Cornwall), Dominick DeLonge (Kent), Elizabeth Forbes (Wassaic), Mollie Ford (Falls Village), Chloe Hill (Salisbury), Adam Hock (Kent), Sara Ireland (Salisbury), Brooke Jenkins (Sharon), Delanie Keeley (New Marlboro), Abram Kirshner (Kent), Neve Kline (Salisbury), Eric Lopez Espinosa (Salisbury), Riley Mahaffey (Amenia), Ava Segalla (Salisbury), Cole Simonds (Canaan), Lauren Sorrell (Canaan), Celeste Trabucco (Kent), Ayden Wheeler (Amenia).

GRADE 11: Tyler Anderson (Sharon), Zachery Bezerra (Kent), Daniela Brennan (Canaan), Tryston Bronson (Cornwall), Georgette Campagne (Salisbury), Lucas Caranci (Canaan), Sidney Crouch (Cornwall), Dylan Deane (Canaan), Tessa Dekker (Falls Village), Andy Delgado (Sharon), Cole Dennis (Canaan), Tara Djeladin (Falls Village), Amelia Dodge (Canaan), Leah Drislane (Canaan), Rose Fitch (Cornwall), Madison Gulotta (Sheffield), Lou Haemmerle (Salisbury), Harper Howe (Canaan), Naomi Lesamana (Falls Village), Katelin Lopes (Falls Village), Khyra McClellan (Amenia), Katerin McEnroe (Sharon), Jassim Mohyidin (Salisbury), Sophie Nason (Canaan), Tristan Oyanadel (Falls Village), Olivia Peterson (Sharon), Maximilian Posse (Kent), Taylor Terwilliger (Canaan), Gabriela Titone (Salisbury), Junxin Zhang (Kent).

GRADE 12: Myranda Cables (Canaan), Taylor Christen (Kent), Damian Cortsen (Canaan), Joshua Crump (Sharon), Logan Dean (Falls Village), Juan Estrada-Arbelaez (Canaan), Kayla Jacquier (Canaan), Abby Jones (Salisbury),

Haley Leonard (Canaan), Leland Macaire (Salisbury), Saylor Macchi (Canaan), Riley Marshall (Amenia), Jerome Maury (Salisbury), Anne Moran (Norfolk), Grace Riva (Canaan), Alexis Rougeot (Cornwall), Yaritza Vega (Salisbury), Ryan Zani (Ashley Falls), Eason Zhang (Kent).

### HONOR ROLL:

GRADE 9: Braeden Duncan (Salisbury), Carmela Egan (Salisbury), Kellie Eisermann (Salisbury), Levi Elliott (Millerton), Matthew McGuire (Canaan), Daniel Moran (Norfolk), Marlene Perez (Canaan), Joseph Yuranich (Salisbury).

GRADE 10: Wesley Allyn (Canaan), Peter Austin (Kent), Steven Barber (Cornwall), Hayden Bell (Cornwall), Cohen Cecchinato (Canaan), Nicholas Crodelle (Sharon), Julissa Gonzalez (Cornwall), Nicolas Gonzalez (Salisbury), Taylor Green (Kent), Kiera Greene (Canaan), Marc Hafner (Falls Village), Logan Labshere (Canaan), Ava McDougall (Cornwall), Owen Riemer (Canaan), Kyle Rosier (Canaan), Melanie Rundall (Kent), Joseph Villa Arpi (Cornwall).

GRADE 11: Jesse Bonhotel (Salisbury), Kaylin Clark (Canaan), Lola Clayton (Salisbury), Madeline Collingwood (South Egremont), Ian Crowell (Canaan), Madison DeWitt (Canaan), Ava Gandarillas (Canaan), Abigail Hogan (Canaan), Antonis Karampasis (Canaan), Ellanor Karcheski (Canaan), Leesean Kelly-Santiago (Canaan), Kyle McCarron (Kent), Wayne McGhee (Sharon), Patrick Money (Kent), Mason O'Neil (Salisbury), Keira Ongley (Canaan), Ledvia Orellana-Lemus (Canaan), Angelica Perez (Falls Village), Diana Portillo (Canaan), Olivia Robson (Salisbury), Abigail White (Canaan).

GRADE 12: Leonid Clayton (Salisbury), Kara Franks (Kent), Ayla Hill (Salisbury), Owen Hosier (Cornwall), Azen Labshere (Canaan), Izaiah Robles (Cornwall), Flynn Ryan (Salisbury), Hudson Sebranek (Cornwall), Sophia Seng (Canaan).

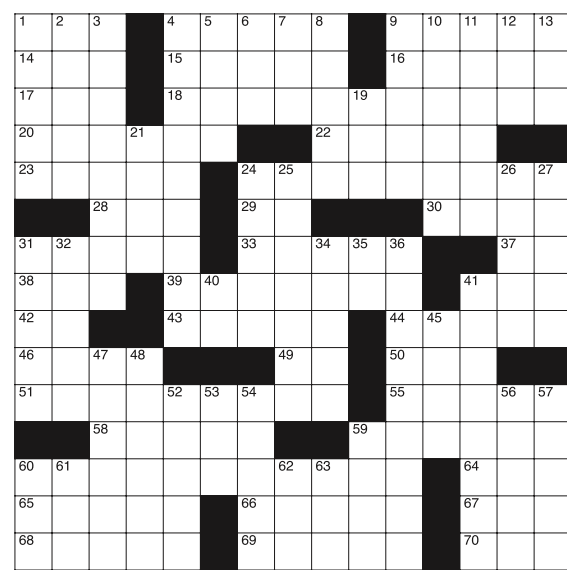
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Defensive nuclear weapon
4. Moved back and forth
9. One-time coach of the Cowboys
14. Last letter
15. Cause to become less intense
16. Genus of tree bugs
17. Body art
18. Romance novelist
20. Be filled with love for
22. City
23. Make vivid
24. Horses
28. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
29. Atomic #18
30. Shortly
31. A type of prejudice
33. Whirls
37. Six
38. Old world, new
39. \_\_ Hess, oil company
41. Talk
42. Not off
43. Begets
44. Cars need them
46. Computing architecture (abbr.)
49. Of I
50. Journalist, activist Wells
51. Takes apart
55. Lists
58. Positively charged electrode
59. Hard, colorless compound
60. Inflammation of the peritoneum
64. Trent Reznor's band
65. Simply dry fruit
66. "Ivanhoe" author
67. Google certification
68. French commune
69. Medieval circuit courts
70. Soviet Socialist Republic

### CLUES DOWN

1. Indigenous people of Mexico
2. Dietary supplement
3. Having a particular sheen or luster
4. Views
5. Academic Bill of Rights
6. Automobile
7. When you anticipate

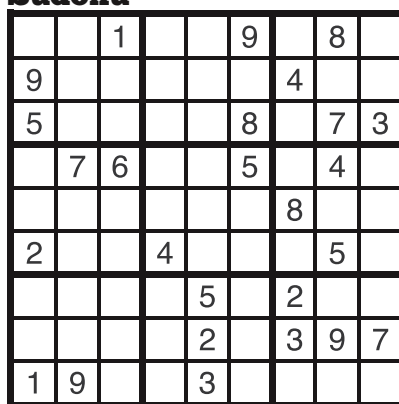


- arriving
8. Beef or chicken intestine
9. Conspiracy
10. Blood disorder
11. Long-time NBAer Shawn
12. Time zone
13. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
19. Upton Sinclair novel
21. What a cow does
24. Cavalry-sword
25. Ancient Greek war galley
26. Stars
27. Rebukes
31. Billion year periods
32. Some are in a bottle
34. Tears down
35. Lethal dose
36. Humorists
40. Midwestern US state (abbr.)
41. Frameworks
45. Rocker Billy
47. More thin
48. Dog
52. Habitual repetitions
53. State of fuss
54. Uneasy
56. Chemical compounds
57. More cognizant of reality
59. A place to build
60. Exclamation that denotes disgust
61. Supplement with difficulty
62. Very slick
63. Hill or rocky peak

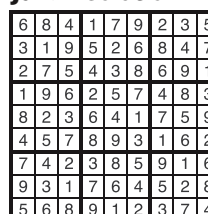
### Jan. 4 Solution



### Sudoku



### Jan. 4 Solution



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# Our Towns

## North Canaan Elementary School releases first trimester honor roll

### Honor Roll Trimester One 2023-2024

Honors - Grade 5  
Jasey Cooper  
Dontae Duprey

Honors - Grade 6  
Remmy Bergin  
Landyn Dingee  
Brayden Foley  
Katherine Perez

Honors - Grade 7  
Sophia Bascetta  
Autumn McKone  
Sofia Paz-Cortez  
Mason Routhier  
Abigail Veilleux

Honors - Grade 8  
Kailyne Foley  
Samuel Garcia Pulido  
Joseph Linkovich

High Honors - Grade 5  
Toni Bascetta  
Milo Ellison  
Zander Gwinn  
Ronin Hinman  
Christopher Johnson

Bentley King  
Finley Lemon  
Harper Lemon  
Stella Richard  
Nikola Trotta  
Brayden Zinke

High Honors - Grade 6  
Greyson Brooks  
Rayna Doyen  
Marius Flunory  
Jackson Holst-Grubbe  
Paige Holst-Grubbe  
Taylen Leonard  
Brayden Meach  
Henry Perotti  
Isabella Portillo  
Victor Valencia Sandoval

High Honors - Grade 7  
Destini Dingee  
Lainey Diorio  
Carter Finney  
Ryan Hinman  
Katelyn Holst-Grubbe  
Ava Humes  
Tyler LaPlante  
Roshwen Rivas  
Owen Simmons  
Justin Sorrell  
Scarlett Visconti  
Kaylea Wolfe

High Honors - Grade 8  
Alisa Christiansen Mad-  
sen  
Sierra Szymanski  
Camdyn Tallon  
Erick Trotta  
Collin Walsh

Highest Honors - Grade 5  
Grady Morey  
Rylan Soule

Highest Honors - Grade 6  
Marrisa Christiansen  
Sarah Devino  
Eden Rost

Highest Honors - Grade 7  
Lyla Diorio  
Elexis Petkovich  
Olivia Simonds

Highest Honors - Grade 8  
Caitlin Devino  
Kartel Henry  
Grace Koller  
Abigail Perotti  
Federico Vargas Tobon

## Taconic Learning Center winter courses open

SALISBURY — Registration for the Taconic Learning Center winter term 2024 is now open.

Classes run mid-January through late February and early March at Geer Village in North Canaan, Noble Horizons in Salisbury, or online.

Upcoming courses:  
— Self-Improvement: What's it All About?

— Miles Davis' Kind of Blue: The Greatest & Most Influential Jazz Recording of the 20th Century.

— Andrew Jackson: A law unto himself in life and in office.

— The Middle East: Yesterday and Today, Part One.

— United States v. Donald J. Trump: An Exploration of the Legal, Tactical and Ethical Issues Under-

lying the Pending Trump Criminal Cases.

— Empires, Dictatorships & Republics Come and Go, But Some Go Sooner Than Others.

— Shakespeare Reading: Antony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

For more information, go to [taconiclearningcenter.org](http://taconiclearningcenter.org)



PHOTO BY JAMES CLARK

*In from the cold*

### Correction

In the Jan. 4 issue, it was incorrectly stated that Simon Markow won the 2023 Eastern Regional FFA Safe Tractor/Equipment Operating Career Development Event. In fact, Simon's older brother Spencer Markow was the winner of the competition.

### Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Wendy Miller and her avian teacher's assistant, Bob the American kestrel, taught guests about birds of prey at David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Jan. 2.

## Learning about birds of prey at David M. Hunt Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Wendy Miller from Sharon Audubon Center dropped by the David M. Hunt Library Tuesday, Jan. 2.

She brought Bob, an American kestrel, and a couple of his friends: a red-tailed hawk and a turkey vulture.

Miller explained that Bob is not an injured bird, as are almost all of the permanent avian residents at the center.

Rather, Bob is "imprint-

ed," or raised as a pet.

"He thinks he's a person," Miller said Bob is similar to a hawk but smaller and "built for speed."

Kestrels eat dragonflies and other insects. This is a diet that requires a certain amount of airborne agility, dragonflies being elusive creatures.

Kestrels also enjoy exceptional night vision, which allows them to feast on nocturnal animals such as voles.

Prior to bringing out the

birds, Miller gave the crowd of a dozen children and 16 adults a quick primer on birds of prey.

They are distinguished from other birds by their talons, "which act like a fork."

Their curved beaks serve as the knife.

Birds of prey are mostly carnivorous, dragonflies notwithstanding, Miller said.

"So if you see one at the bird feeder, it's visiting for the squirrel that eats the bird seed."

## The Lakeville Journal FOUNDATION

Dear Friends and Readers,

There is GOOD NEWS to report about The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News! We have added more journalists to our staff, expanded our news coverage and we are about to launch new websites for both papers with seven-day-a-week news coverage.

Like many newspapers across the country, we face financial pressures that threaten our ability to continue this vital work. Even after a successful matching campaign, we still need your help. As a non-profit news organization, we must close the gap between what we earn by selling newspapers and ads and our operating expenses. That's why we are reaching out to you, our loyal readers and community members.

The papers led the way this year in reporting on important issues to our community: Sharon Hospital, affordable housing, and environmental challenges to our lakes and state parks. And, of course, we remain the place to catch up on the police blotter, town meetings, local elections, local sports, festivals, movies, and the latest bear and wildlife sightings.

Since The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News were converted to non-profit status last year, you have kept us in business with your generous contributions. We are asking you once again to consider a tax-deductible contribution as part of your year-end giving. Every donation goes to support our journalists and the mission to deliver the stories that matter to you.

To donate, please visit [lakevillejournal.com/donate](http://lakevillejournal.com/donate) or fill out the form below and mail a check. For information on donating shares of stock, please email [donation@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:donation@lakevillejournal.com).

Thank you for your continued support!

*Noreen Doyle*

Noreen Doyle, Chair

*Susan Hassler*

Susan Hassler, CEO, publisher

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The Lakeville Journal

The MILLERTON NEWS

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## SOLAR PROJECT

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO FROM METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

### An example of a solar array field.

collaboration with the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission (SEEC).

Based on a petition submitted by residents calling for a town-wide referendum vote on the project, a town meeting was held in late November of 2023, leading to the early January referendum.

Under the 2022 PPA, Verogy, a West Hartford Solar Energy engineering company, had submitted an application to the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) for project design approval, but ultimately requested a postponement of a P&Z decision until after the referendum vote.

Accordingly, the P&Z was expected to consider the Verogy application at its next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, January 10.

"It is very gratifying to witness the vote this evening," said SEEC member Doug Rick, commenting on the referendum results with two-thirds of voters having approved the project.

"I'd like to thank all who came out to vote, despite the controversy," Rick said. Speaking of the solar project, he added, "It's a small but important first step for Sharon on the journey to 100% renewable energy."

First Selectman Casey Flanagan said that he was pleased by the vote count and the strong turnout.

"I applaud the efforts of both sides of the debate," Flanagan added. "This is a step in the right direction for Sharon in reducing our carbon footprint."

Resident David Levinson, who represented the efforts of those in opposition to the project, was present on Friday to hear the vote announced, provided a statement the following day in response.

"Although I am disappointed in the results, I would like to thank everyone who came out and voted. Although the majority voted for the project, I think it is very important to recognize that 171 residents (or one-third of the votes cast) asked the town to reconsider the location and the details of the plan," Levinson said.

Levinson said that he and the group opposing the plan remain hopeful that the P&Z will consider the merits of the data provided by their engineer and an environmental scientist.

"We ask the P&Z to work with the applicant to make sure everything being planned is within the Town and State regulations. We want to make sure any impact on the abutting property / wetlands is avoided, that proper screening is being planned to protect the beauty of the town and the neighborhood, and that the promises made to protect and rejuvenate the Kelemen Nature Trail will be fulfilled," Levinson said.

Speaking of the nature trail, selectwoman Lynn Kearcher said that she was disappointed that school administration had allowed the trail area to deteriorate and become overgrown, and that "the town did not have the foresight to fortify the school roof to accommodate solar panels."

"I feel the school needs to engage in a more concerted effort to provide a firm assessment of the true energy costs once their costly new heat pumps are up and running," Kearcher added.

About the referendum results, Kearcher said, "I am proud of the debate this has inspired, and the people have spoken. I honor their decision."

## Dutchess County issues grants of \$2 million to nonprofits

By John Coston

POUGHKEEPSIE — Dutchess County provided nearly \$2 million in grants to 32 nonprofit organizations in the county in the last week of 2023.

Dubbed Agency Partner Grants, the program distributes funding to 501(c)(3) organizations on a biennial basis. The previous distribution, made at the end of 2022, totaled \$1.5 million for 34 programs.

Last September, the county also distributed \$1 million for six infrastructure projects associated with agencies currently funded under the APG.

Financial grants are provided based on an organization's ability to "fulfill an unmet community need," according to the county's program description.

The 2024 allocation comprises \$1.5 million in grants awarded under what is labeled the traditional APG program. An additional \$484,880 in funds from the Department of Community and Family Services and the Department of Behavioral and Community Health were awarded through the APG competitive grant process to ensure critical services and programs are administered, according to

the county executive's office.

The APG program has been in existence for 12 years. The focus of its support has been to bolster funding for youth development, homelessness prevention, workforce development, mental health and wellness, and literacy programs. Under the program, funds are provided on a biennial basis unless additional funds become available. The work of the agencies funded in 2024 includes: providing help for students, parents and grandparents, such as assisting students with special needs, offering afterschool programs supporting academic, social and behavioral development, ENL (English as a New Language) for elementary students and promoting literacy, job skills training and 4-H youth development.

Funding also aims to address a wide range of community needs, such as homelessness prevention, senior nonemergency medical transportation, initiatives to reduce recidivism, enhancing parenting skills, helping grandparents and other relatives caring for children, LGBTQ+ teen support and food, nutrition and health programs.

For a list of nonprofits receiving grants, go to [www.millertonnews.com](http://www.millertonnews.com)

## LAND TRUST

Continued from Page A1

So we reached an agreement with the Belter family. If a couple of houses were to be built there, it would have ruined that whole view of that magnificent valley."

"We are very grateful to have received donations from so many people in the community," said Jeanette Weber, president of the Salisbury Association. "As a result, we were able to sign the final papers just before Christmas, thus preserving the land."

Landon said the work of SALT in protecting pristine parcels of land like the 14 acres of unspoiled farmland in the Salmon Kill Valley would not be possible without the generosity of past, present and future landowners and conservationists.

The newly purchased land, one portion of which borders the Salmon Kill — also referred to locally as the

**"If a couple of houses were to be built there, it would have ruined that whole view of that magnificent valley."**  
— John Landon, co-chairman of the Salisbury Association Land Trust Committee

stream, creek or river — will be known as SALT's Salmon Kill Preserve, said Landon.

"It will continue to be farmed, that's our plan," said Landon. "Our goal is to try to preserve as much agricultural land in town as possible."

The Salmon Kill Valley and the creek itself have long been considered some of the most beautiful and ecologically valuable in Connecticut. The 6 miles of the Salmon Kill Creek flow through Salisbury, from the confluence of several mountain streams to its eventual

confluence with the Housatonic River across from Housatonic Valley Region High School and directly above the Housatonic Trout Management Area.

Nearly a decade ago, Trout Unlimited, working with Salisbury's private landowners and community groups dedicated to preserving the Salmon Kill Valley, launched the Salmon Kill Enhancement and Restoration Project. SALT was among the conservation groups engaged in the effort at that time.

The initiative, aimed

at projects to improve the aquatic habitat of the Salmon Kill stream, was funded as part of the Natural Resource Damages (NRD) assessed to General Electric for the release of PCB's into the Housatonic River Basin.

"It was all about trying to make it a better habitat for the fish. The trout need cooler water," said Landon.

According to the Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT), America today is losing agricultural land at the alarming rate of 175 acres every hour and 1.5 million acres every year.

"The quality of the natural world benefits from farmland protection. Protecting farmland protects wetlands and water quality and protects properties from flooding. Farmland is also a major source of habitat for birds and wildlife," according to CFT.

## MAURO

Continued from Page A1

cating, guiding and educating victims of relationship violence through a range of services and outreach programs in Lakeville, Connecticut, began eight years ago in January 2016. Since then, she has guided the organization through a time of significant expansion and innovation, and has solidified a network of connections in the community and beyond.

Reflecting on her tenure at Project SAGE, Mauro described her departure as "entirely bittersweet." A native of northwestern Connecticut, Mauro's return to her roots was not merely a homecoming but a mission to make a substantial difference in the community she grew up in.

With a background in ministry and higher education, including work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, Mauro brought a unique blend of compassion and leadership to Project SAGE. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in geology from the University of New Hampshire, a Master of Divinity from Earlham School of Religion, and a doctorate in ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Throughout her leadership at Project SAGE, Mauro was driven by a profound sense of social justice, influenced by her faith and her time at the Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker institution known for its focus on peace and social justice. Her approach to leadership has not been about seeking personal accolades but about creating a supportive, learning environment among her staff.

She said: "My role has really been to find the right people at the right time and put them in the right place. So, if I'm proud of anything, it's the fact that I've been able to open the door for clients to work with really amazing people."

When Mauro began in 2016, the organization was called Women's Support Services. It has since changed its name to Project SAGE.

Under her stewardship, Project SAGE outgrew its old building, moving to a larger, more accessible location at 13A Porter St. in Lakeville.

The new space, renovated with a focus on health and accessibility, reflects the agency's growth from a staff of six to over a dozen dedicated professionals. This expansion has allowed for an enhanced range of services to victims of relationship violence, including counseling, legal advocacy and a robust prevention education program that has tripled the number of sessions taught.

Asked about her plans post-retirement, Mauro looked forward to some planned trips; hiking and kayaking; and spending time with her partner, Paul, who is the head of maintenance at Mountainside Addiction Treatment Center in Canaan. Yet her commitment to social justice and community remains at the center of her life.

"You know, I'm not the kind of person who's going to sit still," she said. "I don't know if it will be paid or volunteer, but I'm really sort of taking time to just take a deep breath, come back to myself in a way."

Having done prior work in hospice, Mauro shared that that would be an area she might be interested in taking up again. She shared, "Social justice wise, I'm really concerned about housing, and particularly housing in this area."

She explained that COVID-19 led to a period of hiring people who worked remotely, with the express idea that they'd relocate to the area post-pandemic. But, she shared: "Housing has been a real barrier. And we find housing is a real barrier for our clients as well. How can people start anew when they can't get affordable housing? It's a huge challenge."

In her ongoing pursuit of creating a better, more just world, Mauro will undoubtedly continue to be of service. "I really believe that my faith informs my strong sense of social justice and so in that regard, I see a continuum," she said. "Whether I'm in a church or I've been in this role here, it's all about how we lift up people and also challenge the systems that are unfair, that keep people from accessing their full selves."

## FIRE

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO COURTESY THE PASSERI FAMILY

### Fire engulfed a barn in Pine Plains, N.Y. on Jan. 2.

state fire code doesn't have a problem using them in single-family and two-family homes, but residences with three or greater dwellings, that's where the fire code kicks in and prohibits the use of kerosene heaters."

On the other hand, "portable LP [liquid propane] heaters," the fire marshal said, "are not allowed under the fire code." Those who choose to heat their homes with propane should only use units professionally installed, mounted to a wall and vented to the outdoors.

Two additional unre-

lated fires in early January kept Winsted firefighters scrambling. One involved a chimney fire caused by a build-up of creosote, and the other blaze at a garage-type structure on Perkins Street caused by a faulty electric motor in a furnace which seized up and ignited, said the Winchester fire marshal.

"In that situation, the fire department got there quickly so there was substantial smoke, but not a lot of damage done," said Williams. "I've been to two fire situations this week, and I hope we don't have any more."



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• SUN DRIED PEPPERS	• RASPBERRIES IN ARMAGNAC
• CORNICHONS	• FRENCH CAKES
• PEPPERONCINIS	• MINT TRUFFLES
• CALABRIAN CHILI PEPPERS	• NOUGAT
• SLIBRIC CHAMPIGNON MUSHROOMS	• DURANTE'S HOMEMADE PASTA
• CAPERS IN SEA SALT	

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

SCHOOLS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## A safe space at Simon's Rock

The Bard Queer Leadership Project (BQLP), originally slated to begin in the fall of 2024, opened its doors a year ahead of schedule.

Due to the alarming rise in anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation nationwide aimed particularly at schools of all levels, from elementary through college, the starting date was pushed up to September 2023, making this the first year for this progressive program.

Carla Stephens, director of the new project on the campus of Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Mass., described BQLP as a transformative space for LGBTQ+ students. The program offers a dual concentration bachelor's degree, integrating leadership with students' chosen fields of study.

The average age of this first BQLP cohort is 17 years old. "The project was conceived as one for traditional college-aged students seeking their B.A. degrees and a couple of current BQLP participants are 18 and older," said Stephens. "We are very excited to invite high school seniors and college transfer students to apply to the BQLP."

Simon's Rock is known as "an early college" so when recruiting for the program, Stephens and John B. Weinstein, provost and vice president of Bard Academy and Bard College at Simon's Rock, have found that early college applicants (ninth and 10th graders) are attracted to the opportunity to participate in the BQLP Bachelor of Arts



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARD QUEER LEADERSHIP PROJECT

degree program. They understand that Simon's Rock is, and historically has been, a welcoming community for LGBTQ+ young people, faculty and staff.

Said Stephens, "We have a good proportion of our students who identify as LGBTQIA+ so it just seems very natural that this new innovation, this effort to become possibly the first LGBTQ+ college within the college, it just seems like a natural place for it to start."

BQLP offers a safe space for students. Stephens said of the program that it is, "sadly, an escape from persecution as the current political environment seems to be becoming worse."

From drag bans to sports restrictions, 75 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have become law in 2023 along with restrictions on gender-affirming care for transgender youth the most common. In total, 21 such laws passed this year. Stephens said, "The original plan was

for this project to start next year but there was an 'urgency of now,' to steal a phrase from the civil rights movement."

With 13 incoming students this year, Stephens and Weinstein began working with various community partners and avenues of outreach to expand over the next few years, making BQLP the first intentionally queer-serving college in the world.

Stephens recently attended the Learning with Love Conference, the PFLAG — the nation's first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families — convention in Washington, D.C. She said, "It was a bit sad for me to have parents of queer young people and chapter members and leaders tell me that they are grateful that our program exists."

Stephens participated in a lobby day with PFLAG and said: "The politicians in Massachu-

setts, not surprisingly, are amazing. So they were fantastic visits. However, I was talking with some PFLAG members from Texas and their meeting with an assistant to [Sen.] Ted Cruz [R-Texas] was terrible. The assistant actually denied the existence of trans folks to a trans person. It was terrible. And so, again, it's sad that we are we are so necessary."

BQLP's curriculum is further enriched through its speaker series, The Queer Leaders Vision Forum, which provides opportunities for students, as well as other audience members, to learn about leadership and the LGBTQ+ community directly from LGBTQ+ leaders.

The four pillars of the BQLP are: queer leadership in theory and practice; queer theory; queer history and culture; and career pathways.

Through storytelling about their lived experience, intellectual exploration, career paths and visions for the future, the

*Continued on next page*



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

'Jane's Garden' by Robert Adzema

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## Watercolors of Cornwall views in all seasons

Sometimes the title says it all.

"Cornwall Landscapes," a collection of countryside watercolors by resident Robert Adzema, opened at The Cornwall Library Saturday, Jan. 6, and will remain on display through Saturday, Feb. 17. Painted outdoors without the use of photo references, Adzema's watercolors on paper highlight the extremes of the changing seasons in the small northwestern Connecticut town and include notable landmarks like the red lattice truss bridge that extends over the Housatonic River. The covered bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Seven of Cornwall's barns are listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places, and Adzema made sure to include a landscape of a classic red barn and silo, darkened in shadow as a low winter sun illuminates a field shrouded in snow.

The 79-year-old artist, who moved to Cornwall in 2019, is best known for his public sculptures of sundials, including an 18-foot nautical-inspired canary yellow sundial commissioned in 1994 for Port Richmond High School in Staten Island, New York. The freestanding steel sundial uses light to mark high noon in solar time. Adzema also co-authored "The

Great Sundial Cutout Book" with his former wife, the late artist and writer Mable Jones, for Penguin's Dutton boutique imprint in 1978. His current wife is potter Jane Herold, who has a pottery showroom on Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall. Her handmade dinnerware and bone glaze saucers are used at The Mayflower Inn in Washington, Connecticut, as well as notable New York City restaurants like the seasonal Scandinavian-inspired Aska in Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood and the rustic farm-to-table Marc Forgione eatery in Tribeca. Herold's green thumb is celebrated in one of Adzema's most charming spring watercolors, "Jane's Garden."

"The sundials are challenging and beautiful and mathematical and precise," Adzema said at the opening reception at Cornwall Library. "My watercolors are loose, and I need that artistic balance. There's a great challenge in getting the numbers to work when building the sundials, but I come back to painting because it is my real love."

Adzema's works are done in the plein air method that many Litchfield County scenic artists are quick to cite (who doesn't want to draw comparison to Claude Monet?). The style of outdoor painting was made initially possible for artists in the mid-1800s by the invention of portable easels and collapsible paint tubes. His one "cheat" can be seen in his single depiction of fauna — "Coltsfoot Valley with Cows" — in which Adzema relied on some bovine photography to position the farm animals in formation. Cows do not make patient models, Adzema found.



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PHOTOS BY HILLARY HAWK

**Vigil at Race Brook Lodge**

**From the Vigil & Fundraiser for Gaza that took place Dec. 23, 2023, at Race Brook Lodge in Sheffield. The gathering featured performances by Palestinian-American vocalist Mona Miari with multi-instrumentalist Zafer Tawil, and Rabbi Zach Fredman. Proceeds from the event went to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and its efforts to support people in Gaza.**



**THEATER: LEE A. DAVIES**

**The healing power of live theater: Part 3**

Live theater has a long and robust legacy of outreach-ing into the local community, be it in ancient Greece and the Hellenic era, the Romans, medieval times, pre- and post-Renaissance, Elizabethan England and onward through our current modern live theater, which will certainly evolve in years to come.

This was generally done to bring live productions — music and dance, pantomimes, comedic plays — to the masses, who were frequently less educated and certainly of small means. True, archaeologists have unearthed and explored majestic amphitheatres in ancient Greece and Rome, and even in Cornwall (no, not our Cornwall) and the southwest of England. Yet most performances were taken to the people rather than drawing audiences to a permanent structure.

Depending on the area of the performances, the plays were performed in the middle of the street, on maneuvered wooden pageant wagons in the streets of great cities. All the staging for traveling productions — the precursors of our modern “touring” productions — was considered temporary and expected to be removed upon the completion of the performances. The upside: They would attract large masses of

audiences in outdoor markets and festivals who could investigate the scene as they passed by. The downside: It was not an environment conducive to elaborate staging and performances.

This new type of stage changed the number of people who could view the plays: Instead of people having to travel to the church to see the play, the stage and the play could now come to them. The wagons often made cycles through towns or cities and would perform the acts multiple times so people could view them. The wagons would be dragged through the area and the actors would perform their roles over and over for the changing audiences.

In Sharon and neighboring communities, The Sharon Playhouse has been proudly instrumental in engaging directly with our community.

We’ve partnered with local support groups, as we did with Project Sage of Lakeville for our popular 2023 production of “Oliver!”

In conjunction with our 2023 production of “Lifespan of a Fact,” The Sharon Playhouse partnered with The Salisbury Forum and The Lakeville Journal to co-sponsor a presentation and audience talkback on the hot issue of truth in journalism.

We worked with the

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon to make its “Little Women” community read a success.

The Playhouse had a season-long presence with a fun raffle at the Kent Memorial Library’s popular book sale on weekends.

We conducted a season-long trivia contest with theater ticket prizes to test the theater knowledge of our community — hundreds of responses proved that people enjoyed that, and were pretty much on target.

We’ve even taken productions out into local cemeteries for spooky Halloween play readings.

And as of 2023, just like you, The Sharon Playhouse is now a “homeowner,” with the purchase of a lovely building near Sharon Hospital to house our visiting casts and crews.

From a statistical perspective, look at the additional myriad ways that The Sharon Playhouse has touched our community and beyond.

During the 2023 season, The Sharon Playhouse:

—Provided jobs for 250 professional theater artists, actors, technicians, musicians and educators.

—Welcomed 16,000 patrons to the Playhouse.

—Offered over 95 live, in-person performances of 22 theater productions.

—Produced 10 fully

staged youth productions, four of which were original works.

—Offered 55 on-site educational theater classes for more than 700 students and participated in three off-site school residencies with 300 students.

—Provided theater education and training to more than 1,000 students.

So, add attending live theater to your list of 2024 New Year’s resolutions, and make sure to keep this one. It’s physically and mentally healthy for all of us.

Thank you all for your patronage during The Sharon Playhouse’s record-breaking 2023 season. Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming productions and the 2024 season. This year looks to be a geopolitically turbulent one and, in keeping with the theme of this series, The Sharon Playhouse is striving to bring some extra relief and joy into our audiences’ lives. For more information, and to make a donation to help us keep you mentally and physically fit, please go to [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org)

*Lee A. Davies is a Member of the Board of Directors of The Sharon Playhouse and a resident of Cornwall Bridge. You can reach him with comments and/or questions at [leedavies4@gmail.com](mailto:leedavies4@gmail.com).*

**...Simon's Rock**

*Continued from previous page*

forum guests are models and provoke areas of inquiry for the program’s students.

In December 2023, the forum’s guest was Paula M. Neira, a nurse, lawyer and renowned trans rights and health care advocate.

Neira graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1985, where she served as a surface warfare officer until 1991 when she came to terms with her gender identity. At that point, serving as an openly transgender woman in the military wasn’t an option, which led Neira to leave the Navy behind and begin a career in nursing.

“Nursing allowed me to have a career path where I could continue to serve,” said Neira.

Neira served as an emergency room nurse for five years before attending law school.

Of her varied career as a nurse, lawyer and

naval officer, Neira said the common thread was helping other people. She said leaving the Navy was the hardest thing she’s ever done in her life but added: “I didn’t give up my calling. I gave up my career in uniform because my calling, that sense of purpose, is service. It’s finding ways to try to make the world a little better for everyone. I’ve always considered myself blessed that I could do that.”

Because of her work, Neira shared: “There are now midlevel officers, senior officers that know nothing of being in a service that doesn’t accept them. That’s a wonderful thing. We

have, unfortunately, the realization that those breakthroughs, that progress, is now probably threatened.”

Neira explained that “don’t ask, don’t tell” was essentially a compromise — one could stay in the military as long as they also stayed in the closet. She said: “it forced people to constantly compromise their honor, which also constantly compromises the honor of institutions because there is no honor when you ask people to lie. There’s no moral courage in forcing policies that were grounded in ignorance and prejudice.”

Neira was emotional and vulnerable with the

small crowd and inspired applause by saying: “Yes. You should feel righteous anger. But then you need to channel that anger

into, ‘How can I make change that’s going to achieve what I want to achieve?’ And it’s incremental, folks. So you

have to think in terms of evolution, not revolution and you also have to take care of yourself. This is a long fight.”

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FOOD: JANNA SILLER

# From farm to table with NWCT's Food Hub

The Northwest Connecticut Food Hub connects regional farmers with wholesale customers, even during these winter months when local food is harder to come by.

Farmers list available items each week on the hub's online platform — at this time of year mostly roots, squash, apples, mushrooms and greens. Restaurants, schools, grocery stores, and food pantries can go online and order aggregated items from multiple farms for delivery.

If one farm only has butternut squash left in storage from the fall harvest, another might be flush with arugula coming out of a winterized greenhouse, while another still has beets in the cooler. Alone, each crop might be hard to sell or hard to use, but put them together in a restaurant's shopping cart through the Hub's online platform and you have a winter salad special on the menu.

The Food Hub is a locally developed spin on a more typical industrial food distribution model where large farms that specialize in one item or another ship their crops to warehouses to be repackaged and trucked off to retail grocery stores or food service venues.

By the very nature of our region's topography, farms are relatively small and far from customers. Valleys and slopes don't make for wide, expansive fields, and quiet windy roads often set farmers at a distance from population centers. Growing a

*"The Hub helps with distribution while lifting everyone up. It isn't a place where farms are in competition with one another, but rather gives them an additional outlet to expand their businesses into."*

diverse range of crops is good for the soil and for business resiliency — if a crop is a flop one year, there are others that likely did well. All of these factors make for colorful, bucolic farm landscapes throughout Northwest Connecticut, but they also present local farmers with a significant marketing challenge, and local buyers with the significant logistical question of how to access fresh, local food.

The Food Hub began operations in 2017 as a project supported by the region's economic development plan to help bridge these gaps between the unique growers we have in our region and potential customers. It is an initiative of the nonprofit Partners for Sustainable Healthy Communities, whose board oversees operations. Day-to-day management of the Hub falls to Renee Giroux, a farmer herself who knows firsthand the challenges and opportunities of farmers in the area.

"The Hub helps with distribution while lifting everyone up," said Giroux. "It isn't a place where farms are in competition with one another, but rather gives them an additional outlet to expand their businesses into."

While some buyers, like restaurants and grocery stores, pay full wholesale prices for the farm products, others have their deliveries subsidized by different grants. The Hub cobbles together a number of funding sources to allow them to work with schools, food pantries and health care facilities. Ed-Advance, an education nonprofit, helps fund farm-to-school initiatives facilitated by the Hub. A community wellness grant allows diabetes patients to receive produce prescription deliveries through Hartford Healthcare. Community foundations support food pantry purchases.

"Individual farmers don't have time to navigate all the potential funding sources that can help expand their markets," said Food Hub board member Jocelyn Ayer. "That's where the Hub comes in. We work with partners to secure funding for a wide range of projects."

On a frigid December day, Susan Zappulla-Peters arrived bright and early at the Hub's Torrington warehouse with a delivery of radishes and scallions from the farmer her son manages, Maple Bank Farm in Roxbury. "The first time I delivered here, I was so inspired by



PHOTOS BY JANNA SILLER

Northwest Connecticut Food Hub director Renee Giroux moving a pallet of regionally grown produce dropped off by farmers, aggregated, and prepared for outgoing delivery to food access organizations.

what Renee is doing that I asked if I could help. Now I volunteer every week after I drop off Maple Bank's produce."

Zappulla-Peters spent the morning receiving produce off farmers' pickup trucks and compiling orders as generated onto lists by the online purchase platform. The pallets quick-

ly filled up with food, including apples from March Farm in Bethlehem; carrots and cabbage from Vibrant Farm in Bantam; and sweet potatoes and potatoes from River Bank Farm in Roxbury. Zappulla-Peters helped Giroux and driver Stuart Rabinowitz load a van headed for a delivery route that included

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, the Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, and Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry in North Canaan.

"I love that this food, the best our region has to offer, is reaching people who wouldn't otherwise be able to access it," said Zappulla-Peters in between moving pallets.



Locally grown produce aggregated at the food hub for delivery to a local food pantry.



Renee Giroux and Susan Zappulla-Peters with produce aggregated from different regional farms and prepared for deliveries to local food access organizations.

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## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at [www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar](http://www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar). To submit calendar items, email [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com)

## JANUARY 11

## Triplex Cinema Celebrates Daniel Klein in Documentary

Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass. [thetripex.org](http://thetripex.org)

Local writer Daniel Klein will be one of the people included in filmmaker Ralph Arlyck's documentary, "I Like It Here" at the Triplex Cinema on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Q&A immediately following the film with Arlyck and Klein. At the end, there will be refreshments in the lobby for folks to pay tribute to Klein and his literary contribution to the community. For tickets to the film, go to [thetripex.org](http://thetripex.org).

## English Language Classes for Adults

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Thursdays, Jan. 11 through Feb. 8, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., learn basic English language skills or improve your current level through reading, listening to stories, watching video clips, and playing interactive games. These free classes, open to adult learners of all levels, will be taught by Annie Muzaurieta, an instructor in the Global Language department at Indian Mountain School. Drinks and snacks will be available.

Registration is optional. To register or request information, please write to [scovilleadultprograms@biblio.org](mailto:scovilleadultprograms@biblio.org).

## Knitting for Kids

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

Kids in third grade and up are invited to learn to knit at the David M. Hunt Library. The class will be held over four Tuesdays (Jan. 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6) from 3:20 to 4:30 p.m. Participants will learn to knit a scarf. All materials will be provided. Sign up at [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

## JANUARY 18

## What Papa Told Me: Virtual Book Talk

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

On Thursday, Jan. 18 at 5 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host a virtual book talk with Felice Cohen, author of *What Papa Told Me*. *What Papa Told Me* is the story of Felice's grandfather, Murray Schwartzbaum, whose courage and sheer will to live helped him survive eight different labor and concentration camps in the Holocaust, start a new life in America and keep a family intact in the aftermath of his wife's suicide. A copy of the book is available to check out at the library. Register for the talk at [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

## JANUARY 20

## Film Screening

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [cornwalllibrary.org](http://cornwalllibrary.org)

On Saturday, Jan. 20, at 4 p.m., The Cornwall Library will show the award-winning feature documentary film WHAAM!BLAM!,

directed by James L. Hussey. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Mr. Hussey, editor and co-producer Tory Estern Jadow, and visual artist/art historian David Barsalou. The event is live only (no Zoom). Seating is limited. Registration on the library website is required, at: [cornwalllibrary.org/events/](http://cornwalllibrary.org/events/)

## 52 Places to Go in 2024: A Talk with New York Times Travel Editor Amy Virshup

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

On Saturday, Jan. 20, from 4 to 5 p.m., hear the inside story of The New York Times annual "52 Places to Go," the much-awaited annual list of outstanding destinations and insider tips on what to see and do. Times Travel editor Amy Virshup will discuss how this tantalizing travel research gets done, who makes decisions, what distinguishes a list-maker from a runner up, what Times readers look for in travel, and how Times Travel has changed over the years.

Registration is required for this event. Please use this link: [scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11670848](http://scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11670848)

## Painting Class

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

Local artist Shaari Horowitz will lead a painting class at the David M. Hunt Library on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. The class costs \$65 per person, which includes all materials and instruction. Bring an open mind and a smock! Space is limited, register by contacting the David M. Hunt Library via phone or email library by 1/14.

## JANUARY 21

## The North East Historical Society Dine Out for History

Millerton, N.Y.

The North East Historical Society's popular Dine Out for History series returns this month. This year two more dining establishments will participate, bringing the total to five (see below).

On select dates from January 21 through March 11, participating Millerton restaurants will host their own Dine Out for History night, where 10 percent of the proceeds from all patrons that night will be donated to the historical society to support its research, digitize its collection and make historic content more available to the public, particularly educators.

January 21, Sunday, The Millerton Inn, 53 Main Street, 5-9 p.m., (518) 592-1900. Reservations requested.

February 4, Sunday, Oakhurst Diner, 19 Main Street, 5-8 p.m., (518) 592-1313.

February 15, Thursday, Willa, 52 Main Street, 5-9 p.m., (518) 789-0252.

Reservations requested.

February 26, Monday, Round III, 5523 NY-22, 5-9 p.m., (518) 592-1240.

March 11, Monday, Golden Wok, Railroad Plaza, 2 Main Street, 5-10 p.m., (518) 789-9236. Takeout only.

## "The Art of the Stitch and Needle": A Group Show of Fiber Arts

Cornwall UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall Village, Conn.

"The Art of the Stitch and Needle," a Group Show of Fiber Arts, will launch at an Opening Reception on Sunday, Jan. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the UCC Parish House in Cornwall Village. All are welcome! The show will continue until Feb. 29. Artisans exhibiting their work will be: Beth Dinneen, Eileen Gargan, Susan Hellmann, Jen Markow, Dana Saccardi, and Susan Saccardi. A wide variety of crafts will be represented; some will be for sale. Experiencing this exhibit will delight you and brighten your winter.

In addition to the Opening, the show may be viewed Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, Sundays 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. The Parish House is located directly behind the United Church of Christ at 8 Bolton Hill Road in Cornwall Village. For more information, call the church office, 860 672-6840.

## Free Concert

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibrary.org](http://hotchkisslibrary.org)

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and The Guild, in partnership with Music Mountain to announce a free classical music concert series. The concerts will take place in the newly restored Hotchkiss Library of Sharon at 10 Upper Main Street in Sharon. The first concert will take place on Jan. 21 at 3 p.m. with The Ulysses Quartet and Oskar Espina Ruiz, Clarinet. Concert seating is very limited and registration is required, beginning Jan. 3 for the first concert at: [hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/11763366](http://hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/11763366).

## JANUARY 23

## Drawing Workshop

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

On Jan. 23 and Feb. 6 and 20, from 2 to 4 p.m., improve your drawing skills with artist and art educator Pieter Lefferts. This class provides instruction for all levels, from beginner to expert. Draw from a photo or still life, or bring in a drawing project of your own. Drawing materials will be available. Draw from a photo or still life or bring in a drawing project of your own. This workshop is for all levels, from beginner to expert.

Pieter Lefferts, a professional artist and 2023 Nautilus Book Awards Gold Winner, is the founder of the Northlight Art Center in Amenia, NY, where he offers art classes.

## JANUARY 26

## Cornwall Author Talk

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [cornwalllibrary.org](http://cornwalllibrary.org)

On Saturday, Jan. 27, at 4 p.m., The Cornwall Library is starting off its 2024 book talks with an event that should enthrall literature fans throughout the area. Distinguished best-selling novelists and memoirists Dani Shapiro (*Signal Fires, Inheritance*) and A.M. Homes (*The Unfolding, The Mistress's Daughter*) will discuss their work, with Roxana Robinson, celebrated novelist and biographer, moderating. This event is live only (no Zoom).

Registration on the library website

is required, at: [cornwalllibrary.org/events/](http://cornwalllibrary.org/events/)

## JANUARY 27

## Art Exhibition

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host WINTER WONDERLAND, an exhibition of painted winter scenes by art students at Lee H. Kellogg School. There will be a reception for the public, and parents of the artists, on Saturday Jan. 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The exhibition will remain on display during operating hours through Feb. 23.

## FEBRUARY 11

## The Art of the String Quartet

Saint James Place, 352 Main St. Great Barrington, MA 01230

Close Encounters With Music presents the notable Avalon String Quartet. The group returns with another Berkshire premiere on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. "For Such a Time as This" is a retelling of the biblical Esther story for string quartet and vocalist, from a feminist perspective. Afterglow Reception in Saint James Place's Great Hall following the concert in the Sanctuary Space. You are invited to meet the artists and enjoy bites and beverages by Authentic Eats by Oleg.

MEDIA: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

## Eric Veden unveils newest local video

Eric Veden's latest video about Falls Village starts with an interview with First Selectman Dave Barger, who talks about growing up in Esopus, New York, which was "not unlike Falls Village."

Barger comes from a long line of police officers, so when he was out of college, he was busy applying to various law enforcement agencies in New York.

He also applied to the Connecticut State Police, and they called first.

In an eventful few days in 1977, Barger graduated from the state police academy, got married, had a one-day honeymoon and reported to Troop B in North Canaan to begin his career.

His sergeant was Peter G. Lawson, who also served as First Selectman and on various town boards. (He died in 2012.) "He took me under his wing."

Lawson was ready to retire, and told Barger he thought it would be a good thing if Falls Village had another trooper

living in town.

It just so happened that Faye Lawson was starting her career in real estate.

So with one thing and another, the Bargers got a plot on Amy Road.

"And you're sitting in it," Barger says to Veden.

Ronna Welsh, a chef who splits her time between Falls Village and Brooklyn, takes a group through a cooking class at the Congregational Church.

She tells the group that rather than starting with a theme or a specific menu, they are going to try a different approach. "What do I do with what I have?"

Toni Siegel recalls her 19 years at CBS News in New York, where she worked with Walter Cronkite.

She was ready to switch to a teaching career when the phone rang with the news that Bill Play, the CBS News chief, was responding to legal and social pressure to provide more opportunities for women in the new business.

"So I became the first woman in the Director's Guild."

Shamu Sadeh and Janna Siller of Adamah Farm (which supplied many of the ingredients used by Welsh in the cooking class) take a group through the composting process, starting with food waste.

And Episode 31 concludes with Frank Hadsell, who figures he has spent 67 of his 70 years in Falls Village.

He recalls playing sports at every chance with the older children, who looked out for him. "We policed ourselves."

In those days the Lee H. Kellogg School did not have a gym.

So in basketball season, the boys practiced outside in the parking lot, in winter, with hats and gloves.

"We played all our games on the road."

The video is available for borrowing or for sale at the David M. Hunt Library. Veden also has a YouTube channel called "Eric Veden."

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# Sports

## Youth ski jumpers take flight at Satre Hill

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Some 28 youngsters turned out Saturday, Jan. 6 and Sunday, Jan. 7 for the Salisbury Winter Sports Association's ski jump camp.

The camp was originally scheduled for the last weekend in December but warmish rainy weather caused a postponement.

This worked out just fine on Saturday, with clear skies, no wind to speak of and the thermometer in the low 30s, which was quite chilly enough for onlookers and warm enough for the young skiers to break a sweat and maybe shed a layer.

The younger skiers disembarked from the bottom of the 20-meter jump ramp, taking turns with the more advanced children who took on the entire thing.

One girl of about six was having trouble getting up the stairs in her ski boots. A reporter was behind her, and observed that the boots, while admirable for their stated purpose, were not very useful on stairs.

The young skier paused to consider this, and said, "What I really need is someone to carry my skis." She flashed a shy smile, revealing several recently-lost teeth.

The reporter obliged, and she scampered happily up the remaining steps. Moments later, she was whizzing down the hill.

On Sunday the camp participants continued, with the added bonus of a few inches



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

of real snow.

Just before the Christmas break, SWSA members came to Salisbury Central School as part of an ongoing effort to get more children involved in the sport.

Larry Stone, a Salisbury native and long-time coach at Lake Placid, told the students about the 98-year history of Salisbury ski jumping, and reassured anyone wondering about safety. "We don't let kids go on the big hill until they come up on the smaller hills and learn the skills and tools."

That philosophy was evident at the camp, as SWSA volunteers, including Ella Rydingsword, Caleb Gilbert and Seth Gardner, supervised, corralled, instructed and encouraged throughout the day's activities.

SWSA's Scott Fitch reported a total of 28 campers over the two days, 20 of whom had never ski jumped before. Fitch also reported 18 pizzas consumed.

Of the 28 campers, 20 of had never ski jumped before.



Skiers launched from SWSA's 20-meter jump ramp.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

## Diving head-first into varsity swimming

Housatonic Valley Regional High School began the 2024 swim season Friday, Jan. 5, with a meet in Winsted against Northwestern High School. Northwestern won the season opener with a team score of 77-50 over the Mountaineers. HVRHS swimming will be back in the pool Wednesday, Jan. 17, to host Shepaug Valley High School at The Hotchkiss School pool in Mars Athletic Center.



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