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2024' lists

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Plus our Top 10 covers, page 39

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# VILLAGE OF GREENWICH MATTERS

## A year in review

**Amanda Hurley**  
**Mayor, Village of Greenwich**  
*Special to Journal & Press*

As we wrap up 2024, I want to start by thanking everyone in Greenwich for your support, feedback, and willingness to roll up your sleeves to make our community stronger. Over the past year, I've learned a lot from your experience, historical knowledge, and ideas. It's been a true team effort, and I'm proud of all we've accomplished together.

On my very first day as mayor, we broke ground on the long-awaited water infrastructure upgrade project. It was a messy process (to put it lightly!), but I want to personally thank all our residents for their patience and grace throughout the construction. This spring, we'll be finishing up by returning the sidewalks to concrete, restoring grassy areas, and paving the roads curb to curb where the water project took place.

Spring also brought fresh life to our public spaces, thanks to our incredible volunteers. The Greenwich Gardeners, led by Sandra Herbst, designed and maintained our parks, filling them with vibrant flowers that brought joy to everyone who passed by. Debbie Anderson worked her magic with the planters that brightened Main Street, adding bursts of color and cheer. Lisa Perkins led the charge to "glow up" the gazebo, bringing fresh paint, new lights, and inspiring holiday décor that made our community proud.

This summer, Greenwich (the Village and Town) became the first Pro-Housing Community in Washington County—a recognition of our efforts to create policies that support housing development. This designation will make us more competitive for grants like NY Forward and DRI. Speaking of grants, we applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help income-eligible residents with essential home repairs. While we weren't awarded this round, it's common to miss out on the first try. We'll resubmit it in the spring/summer and encourage anyone needing ADA accessibility updates, water

connections, heaters, roofs, or other repairs to get on our list.

The summer also brought a fantastic opportunity for kids in the community with the Greenwich Fire Department's (GFD) free Fire Camp. My son participated this year, and it was a highlight of his summer. He had so much fun learning the basics of fire safety, practicing with a real fire hose, and even exploring fire trucks. The camp sparked ongoing discussions about fire safety in our home—conversations about creating escape plans, testing smoke detectors, and other precautions we can take as a family. The camp gave him a hands-on understanding of what it means to be a firefighter while building confidence and teamwork skills. He's already looking forward to joining the Junior Firefighter program one day! Programs like this highlight how deeply invested GFD is in both our safety and the next generation, and we're so fortunate to have them.

We also celebrated a thriving downtown with the openings of Whistle Bell Bottoms, Clutch Market, Whipple City Health and Wellness Center, Windy Hill Wellness Cannabis Dispensary, and Green Art Supply. Each of these businesses contributes to the vibrancy of Greenwich, offering unique services and experiences that draw both residents and visitors. Whistle Bell Bottoms brings charm and creativity to our retail offerings, Clutch Market serves as your one-stop-shop for locally sourced products, everyday essentials, and quick, quality food. Their diverse selection of handpicked items is curated to meet the community's every need. Whipple City Health and Wellness Center provides critical support for physical and mental well-be-



Fire camp

ing, while Green Art Supply, an art supply thrift shop, offers affordable and sustainable resources for artists and fosters creativity in our community.

Windy Hill Wellness has added a new and exciting dimension to our local economy, with a portion of its cannabis sales directly benefiting the village through state revenue-sharing. As I shared during their grand opening, this business represents more than just economic growth—it's a commitment to investing in our community's future. These funds will help support vital infrastructure projects, public services, and other initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all Greenwich residents.

This fall, we submitted a joint application for the NY Forward and DRI grants, aiming to revitalize Main Street and create more housing. The NY Forward application included a variety of exciting projects such as cre-



The gazebo

# VILLAGE OF GREENWICH MATTERS

## (cont.)

ating more housing at Mill Hollow, adding a boat launch and park in Mill Hollow, expanding outdoor event and atrium programming space at the library, additional housing on Main Street, and transforming the taproom and an outdoor atrium at Argyle Brewing. If we are awarded, there will be an opportunity for residents and business owners to propose additional projects that align with the vision for a more vibrant and connected downtown. We're hopeful of hearing results by the end of the first quarter, and if awarded, work could begin in 2026.

In October, I had the great honor of dedicating our DPW building to the late Leo Flynn, who served this village for 50 years with incredible dedication and heart. Leo wasn't just a DPW employee—he was a member of the Greenwich Fire Department, mentor, coach, and beloved community member who touched so many lives here in Greenwich. His legacy will continue to inspire and remind us of the value of community service.

To keep Greenwich “The Emerald Village,” we're exploring a Tree City USA designation. While some may see this as just “beautification,” trees play a crucial role in stormwater management, cooling, and quality of life. With several large, old trees on Main Street being removed during the water project, this initiative will ensure we maintain and grow our tree canopy responsibly. To qualify for funding through the Arbor Foundation, we've adopted a new tree ordinance, created a tree committee, and celebrated our first Arbor Day on October 12th with a tree planting in Memorial Park.

We also updated our animal law to better define what types of animals can be housed within village limits, balancing the needs of animal owners with the peace and safety of all residents. This was a collaborative effort with Animal Control Officer Shannon Celeste and included public hearings to ensure everyone's voice was heard.

We have also been actively working on an interactive Bike/Pedestrian Connectivity Plan with the Town of Greenwich. Residents identified unsafe areas for walking and bik-

ing, helping us address over 100 specific concerns. In September, we kicked off our Drinking Water Source Protection project. This plan will help protect our water supply by identifying potential contaminants and solutions in collaboration with landowners, the Town of Easton, and other partners. The plan should be nearing completion in the spring and then we will present it to NYS DEC.

Our Parks and Recreation Group has been busy too. Volunteers cleaned up Hayes Reservoir, clearing trails and planning for future improvements like invasive species removal and better hiking and biking access. Other exciting ideas include a potential dog park on Rock Street, better kayak access, and pond stocking for fishing.

Finally, we've been working to improve our recycling program to ensure it operates as efficiently as possible while meeting environmental standards. One key area of focus has been addressing the issue of mixing wet, non-recyclable materials with recyclable ones. This not only makes sorting more challenging but can also contaminate otherwise recyclable materials, rendering them unsuitable for processing. To tackle this, we've prioritized educating residents about proper recycling practices, such as keeping paper and cardboard dry. On rainy days, we encourage folks to either store recyclables until they can be kept dry or place them in covered containers to prevent water damage.

### Looking Ahead to 2025

In the coming year, we'll continue to build on this momentum. Key projects include upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet DEC standards, replacing a portion of John Street sidewalks, and planting more trees. We'll also explore adopting Animal Safe Harbor Laws to help residents care for their pets during emergencies. Parks and Recreation will remain a focus as we expand opportunities for outdoor activities in our green spaces. And of course, we'll keep pushing forward with initiatives to make Greenwich safer, more connected, and vibrant.



### A Big Thank You

This recap is just a snapshot of the administrative work we've done this year. Behind the scenes, our incredible DPW, Fire, and Police Departments keep this village running day in and day out. From clearing roads to responding to emergencies, their dedication and hard work never cease to amaze me.

Thank you all for an amazing year, and here's to a happy, healthy, and successful 2025! As always, feel free to reach out to me directly with your ideas or concerns—I'm here to listen.

*Amanda Hurley is Mayor of the Village of Greenwich.*



# Ashlar breakfast celebrates fire dept.

Start 2025 on the right note by joining Ashlar Lodge for a celebration of health, community, and gratitude at the New Year's Resolution Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, January 5, 2025. From 8:00 a.m. to noon, this family-friendly event offers a delicious start to the year while honoring the Greenwich Fire Department for their dedicated service. With a suggested donation of just \$12 for adults and \$6 for veterans and children under 12, attendees can enjoy an inspiring morning filled with good food and heartfelt appreciation.



The breakfast, hosted at Ashlar Lodge in Greenwich, promises a blend of wholesome flavors and uplifting activities. The menu features locally sourced delights, including farm-

fresh scrambled eggs from Thomas Poultry Farm, golden waffles with fruit toppings, Ruts Ridge maple sausage and smoked bacon, herb-seasoned home fries, and a vibrant fresh fruit selection. Whether you're savoring a plateful of these hearty options or packing up a take-out meal, every bite supports Ashlar Lodge's local charitable initiatives.

At the heart of the morning is a special recognition ceremony for the Greenwich Fire Department, taking place from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Lodge members and community attendees will come together to honor the firefighters for their dedication and sacrifice. Children and adults alike can share their thanks by writing messages at a thank-you card station, while younger guests can dive into a firefighter-themed coloring contest, with a free family breakfast in 2025 awarded to the best artwork.

"This is about bringing our community together to celebrate the new year with gratitude and purpose," said Harry Booth, Master of Ashlar Lodge. "We're thrilled to recognize the incredible work of our fire-

fighters while encouraging families to kick off the year with healthy habits."

With nearly two centuries of community service, Ashlar Lodge continues to be a cornerstone of Greenwich's civic life. All proceeds from the breakfast will fund local projects, ensuring the lodge's legacy of giving back thrives well into the future.

The event is handicap accessible, offers ample parking, and is ideal for families. For updates, follow Ashlar Lodge on Facebook, or contact Brian Nilsen at (518) 366-3108 for more information.

Kick off 2025 with a morning of good food, great company, and heartfelt gratitude. Don't miss this chance to celebrate wellness and honor Greenwich's everyday heroes!



## Greenberger to perform at UPH

Greenwich's own David Greenberger and the Huckleberries will host a world premiere of a newly commissioned work: "Universal Preservation."

The concert is on Sunday, January 19, 2025, 3PM, at UPH, 25 Washington St., Saratoga Springs.

Find tickets (starting at \$23) at [atuph.org](http://atuph.org) or by calling (518) 346-6204.

Join them for an exclusive event with Greenberger and The Huckleberries. Commissioned specifically for the opening of the new theatre, "Universal Preservation" is a showcase of the magic that lies in the art of conversation. With a specialty in sparking lively and spontaneous dialogue with all he meets, Greenberger's latest artistic venture is a playground of conversation filled with knock-knock jokes, not-so-rhetorical questions and ob-

servations about the world akin to that of a child's imagination and wonder.

The work was commissioned in 2018 and the debut was set for March 2020, to be one the first concerts presented at the newly renovated Universal Preservation Hall. And like with so many other moments in our lives, COVID 19 cancelled the event. It has finally be rescheduled for January 19, 2025.

Greenberger has been an area resident since 1980, and during that time (through the 1980-90s), spoke with many of the Greenwich seniors at community lunches.

Greenberger's approach to interviewing is a well-rehearsed and unique dance with each conversation partner. He is not an interviewer, but rather a conversationalist who turns every exchange into a one-of-a-kind event. The result? An enchanting,

vivid tale every time, making each conversation as distinctive as each of his conversation partners and allowing the listener to walk in the shoes of each character.

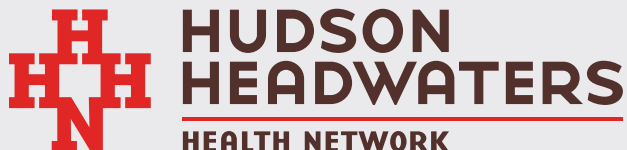


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# Giving back

The Greenwich Equality Club ran a donation drive this December to assist the local food pantry, Comfort Foods.

The club collected and tallied donations several times before loading the goods and bringing them to the food pantry right before the holiday break. The club was able to collect over 200 pounds of food and hygiene products. The class period which collected the most points received a visit from our lo-

cal "Santa" who came with his elves to deliver early holiday gifts.

**Pictured:** Bringing gifts to donation drive winners, from left to right: Kayla Stewart (secretary), Santa (Coach Jensen), Ms. Hoffman (club advisor), Olive Magowan and Allie Chuhta.



## Artists on view

From Thursday, January 2 to Friday, January 31, Greenwich Free Library will host the second annual "New Beginnings" group art exhibit, presented by the Greenwich Library & Arts Association (GALA). The artists represented in the show run the gamut in terms of styles and media of visual arts, from paintings to photography, sculpture to pastels. The exhibit will be available to view during library hours in the Community Room.

There will be an artist reception on Sunday, January 12 from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Light refreshments will be served and patrons are invited to come meet the artists. The opening and the exhibit are open to all.



Adriano Manocchia's "Fall Memories"

Participating artists include: Cyndy Barbone, Arthur Brod, Donald Cook, Judith Ellers, Adriano Manocchia, Valorie Nichols, Clifford Oliver, Gail Peck, Ken Perry, Hannie Varosy and others.

**Good Sunday Morning  
Breakfast Buffet** 

**Greenwich Fire Department  
Recognition Presentation:**  
From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. 

 **1st Sunday** Pancakes, Waffles, Eggs, Bacon,  
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## My Top 10 recent video watches

**Adam Harrison Levy**  
*Journal & Press*

Dear Readers,

What follows is a list of ten interviews that make for eclectic viewing -- some humorous, some political, and some cultural. Browse at will and find one or two that might cut through long Christmas movies, loaded family conversations, or scrolling on TikTok or Instagram.

These are not the best interviews, or the most influential, but what I've been looking at recently, two of which were inspired by current movies about Maria Callas and Bob Dylan.

These interviews are, on the whole, historical - from the 50s, the 60s, 70s and 80s and just a few later. That is how the dice fell (perhaps a nostalgic turn of mind as we hurtle into an unknown future) but not planned.

You can scan the QR codes with your smartphone to view.

If you have any suggestions for interviews that made an impact on you, please send your suggestions to the editor at [editor@journalandpress.com](mailto:editor@journalandpress.com)

### **Frost / Nixon, 1977**



In this interview (this is an edited excerpt from the Nixon Library) Nixon comes as close as he could to admitting his culpability in the Watergate scandal. His careful choice of words seems quaint by today's barroom standards. Wait for the end when he uses the astonishing Shakespearean metaphor of the sword.

### **Brad Pitt / Zach Galifianakis Between Two Ferns, 2014**



Brad Pitt probably knew that he would be skewered but you can tell a lot of this episode is spontaneous. This is the best use of chewing gum for laughs during any interview I've ever seen.

### **James Baldwin/Nikki Giovanni, Soul, 1978**



For an in-depth and sophisticated conversation about race and identity, it doesn't get any better than this. Baldwin is astonishingly articulate and moving. The young poet Giovanni is admiring and a wonderful listener. It's beautifully filmed as well.

### **Andy Kaufman / David Letterman, 1980**



This is one of the most uncomfortable talk show performances I've ever seen. Is Kaufman acting? Or is he genuinely down on his luck and having a breakdown? He turns the normally upbeat television format

on its head. The end of the interview, when he panhandles in the audience, is both pathetic and hilarious.



### **Jack Nicholson answers a phone call from Anjelica Houston, 1982**



Nicholson is so suave and so wicked when the phone rings in the middle of the interview.

**Please read more on the next page**



# RIDE ALONG

## (cont.)

**John Ford/Peter Bogdanovich, 1971**



Even for those of you who don't know or care for John Ford's Westerns (*Stagecoach*, *The Searchers*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*) this interview is an example of an epic fail. Ford replies to Bogdanovich's questions with hilariously curt one-sentence replies.

**Tom Cruise/Oprah Winfrey, Oprah Winfrey Show, 2005**



Cruise is famously unhinged during this interview, he gets down on his knees in front of Winfrey and jumps up on the couch like an overexcited dog. He had recently fallen in love with Katie Holmes (or so they say, it looks to me like he's on some substance besides hormones).

**Maria Callas/Edward R. Murrow, Person to Person, 1958**



Murrow interviewed an impressive num-

ber of famous people in the late 1950s on his program *Person to Person* including Duke Ellington and Harry Truman but I went back to watch this interview with Maria Callas after seeing the recent film *Maria* starring Angelina Jolie. Murrow probes Callas for being "temperamental" but she doesn't fall for the bait and keeps up an elegant exterior. Her most memorable revelation is that she shops for clothes in Europe but prefers American undergarments.

**Bob Dylan sketches his BBC interviewer while being interviewed, 1986**



Brilliant! Dylan subverts the power dynamic of this interview by drawing the interviewer during the interview. The interviewer stumbles and fawns and can't get traction while Dylan subtly plays with him while giving absolutely nothing away. Another interview choice by the release of a new movie, *A Complete Unknown*.

**Jeremy Paxman/Michael Howard, BBC Newsnight, 1997**



Bob Dylan on the BBC

The politics of this interview are not essential to know, except that Michael Howard was starting a campaign to run for Prime Minister of England. What is essential is to witness how Paxman, at the end of the interview (wait for it!) nails Howard's evasions with a series of 12 repeated questions. No American politician could stomach such a grilling, and no current American journalist would have such polite but ruthless persistence. After this interview, Howard dropped out of the race.



Tom Cruise on 'Oprah'

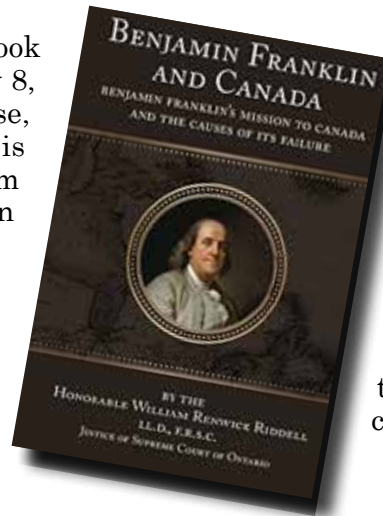
*Adam Harrison Levy is a freelance author and journalist (The Guardian, BBC). He teaches writing at the School of Visual Arts and offers workshops and private lessons in Salem, NY.*



# History Book Club revisits Ben Franklin

Washington County Historical Society's Local History Book Club will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 PM on Wednesday, January 8, at the historical society headquarters, the Wing-Northup House, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward. Historical society membership is not required for the book club. Attendees will discuss William Renwick Riddell's "Benjamin Franklin and Canada, Benjamin Franklin's Mission to Canada and the Causes of Its Failure."

The session will focus on Franklin's 1776 journey through Wing's Falls, Fort George, and Ticonderoga on the way to Quebec. Mention is made of Wing's Tavern which was located near the present Centennial Circle in Glens Falls. The author was a noted judge, historian, and Supreme Court Justice in Ontario at the time of the book's original publication in 1923. It was re-published in 2014 and is available



online at Internet Archive.

Future sessions of the club will include books about the larger Adirondack area as well as works by local authors. Upcoming topics include William Miller and the origin of the Seventh Day Adventists in Hampton, local area Freemasonry during and after the Revolution, and the early life of Chester Arthur, 21st President. For additional information, email Connie Harris Farrington at [connieandlee@roadrunner.com](mailto:connieandlee@roadrunner.com).

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# 'Elton John' returns for dinner show

Back by a very popular demand is Elton John tribute artist Bill Connors in the wonderfully produced tribute concert American Elton. American Elton is more than a tribute show - it's an immersive experience that takes you on a journey through the music of one of the greatest artists of all time. The talented Connors and production team work tirelessly to create an unforgettable show that pays tribute to Elton John's music and legacy.

Presented by the Cambridge Lions Club, this year's installment of the winter concert will take place on Saturday February 8, 2025, at the Greenwich Elks Lodge. Show start time is 7pm with doors opening at 6pm. Prior to the performance from 6pm to 7pm, a specialty prepared Italian Dinner buffet catered by the Wandering Food Dude of Schuylerville. The buffet will include authentic Italian Meatballs, Spaghetti and Marinara and Italian Style Sausage Pepper and Onions, with fresh garden salad and garlic bread.

American Elton will take you back to a nostalgic time when rock was young, and Captain Fantastic was constantly in the Billboard #1 Position. William embodies Elton John's distinctive voice with meticulous attention to detail, from its powerful falsettos to its textured lows. This vocal resemblance, combined with colorful and larger-than-life costumes and an engaging audience rapport, is not just imitation; it's an homage to Sir Elton's unparalleled range and



Bill Connors

emotive power. Fans at an American Elton show can often forget they are not seeing the man himself.

Also, lite fare snacks available, basket raffle, 50/50 and a cash bar provided by Greenwich Elks. The proceeds from this event will help with Cambridge Lion's Gazebo Revitalization Project.

Tickets are on sale now! Reserved seating and General Admission available. Tickets for the show only are \$30, add the Italian Buffet for \$20. For more information, please contact Tina in Doctor Mattison's Office at 518-677-5422.

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# Winter events at HCP

Hudson Crossing Park is happy to offer three free programs this winter, thanks to the generous support of the New York State Canal Corporation “On the Canals” program. These programs celebrate the beauty of the season while providing unique ways to engage with nature.

Capturing Winter On The Canals invites participants to experience the transformation of Hudson Crossing Park and the Champlain Canal as winter blankets the area in the beauty of snow and ice. This hands-on program explores the art of photography using smartphones while being guided by a local photographer. Participants will learn techniques for capturing and sharing the beauty of everyday moments.

Fire and Ice: Winter Stargazing takes advantage of winter’s long nights and clear

skies to explore the wonders of the night sky. Scheduled on or near the new moon for optimal darkness, this program includes a guided stargazing experience. Participants can enjoy complimentary hot cider or cocoa while warming up by a fire pit. The evening will include opportunities to spot seasonal constellations and enjoy the serene beauty of a winter night.

Searching for Signs of Spring On The Canals offers a refreshing guided hike as spring begins to emerge. Perfect for nature enthusiasts, this program highlights early signs of spring’s arrival. Participants will explore the park’s native wildflower gardens as they awaken from winter,



listen for migratory birds returning along seasonal pathways, and learn to spot other indicators of spring.

All programs are free, but advance registration is required as space is limited. For more information or to reserve your spot, visit [www.hudsoncrossingpark.org](http://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org).

# Trauma Informed Care online session

SUNY Adirondack’s Healthcare Pathways and Hudson Mohawk Area Health partner to offer Trauma Informed Care from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Jan 10, 2025.

This free two-hour training will be delivered via Zoom, and is funded by SUNY Adirondack through a State University of New York Future of Work Centers grant.

“This training will provide us with the understanding and tools to recognize the effects trauma has on individuals,” said

Kim Comisky, director of Healthcare Pathways at SUNY Adirondack. “By embracing a compassionate and responsive approach, we can learn to create an environment where individuals affected by trauma feel safe and supported.”

Trauma Informed Care will provide an overview of how trauma affects learning and behaviors, the brain and body; impacts professionals; and its connection to the brain and body, and its connections to mental health, substance use and chronic

disease; and creating a trauma-informed environment.

This program is geared toward those working health care, social care and education. Continuing education credits (CEC) are available for social work, licensed mental health counselors, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology.

Please contact Kelly Owens at [kowens@hmahec.org](mailto:kowens@hmahec.org) for a link to the online event.

# Salem FFA exceeds fundraising goal

The Salem FFA group would like to thank the local community for the great support of one of their major fundraising drives, the fruit and cheesecake sales, both sold in-person and online.

The FFA group had set a goal of raising \$5,000 but when the final tally was totaled, they surpassed their goal and earned nearly \$2,200 for the FFA chapter which will be used for trips, training and activities.

The photo shows the FFA members unloading the truck delivering the fruit to Salem Central School.



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**Wednesdays**  
**starting January 8th**  
**@6:30pm**

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## Wren Day

**Bob Henke**  
*Journal & Press*

I am still at a point in life where holidays are, overall, sort of melancholy affairs. I would like to recover the fun; maybe someday. I do try to focus on fun traditions. Most of these are individual family things, like always giving Granddaughter One a brightly-wrapped can of pineapple (slices only,) inviting the dog to share the traditional Christmas morning breakfast, of always cutting a load of firewood before coming in for breakfast and gifts. There are fewer totally amusing things available at Christmas than there are for other holidays. For example, in the realm of traditional weirdness, Christmas does not hold a candle to New Year's.

In graduate school (Anthropology,) someone working on traditional Japanese cultures discovered that Buddhism contends there are 108 evil passions in humans. On New Year's, nearly every Japanese cultural group had some ritual involving 108 repetitions of something to banish each of these evils. Although we were never completely clear as to what exactly the evils were, the graduate students developed a number of interesting rituals ourselves. For example, we discovered that one professor, not noted for his good humor, had done a PhD dissertation of exactly 108 pages. Therefore, the core of our New Year's celebrations involved burning a copy of this document. The other 108s tended to vary based on the creativity or collective state of inebriation we had achieved. Examples included consuming 198 potato chips, throwing snowballs at 108 cars, and calling 108 people chosen at random and wishing them a Happy New Year. There were, of course, other less tasteful iterations but you get the point. As a practical matter, after the first year, we always stopped at 107 figuring there ought to be something fun remaining in the coming year.

As someone learned of and could document other New Years traditions in any culture, we added it to our celebrations. Ones that stick in my mind involve smashing dishes

(Denmark,) wearing brightly colored underwear on the outside of your clothing (Turkey,) tossing furniture at each other (South Africa,) and dropping all sorts of strange things from great height. Of course, this encompasses the Times Square ball but others drop giant potatoes, 200 pound marshmallows, a giant fish called Wylie the Walleye, and the not to be forgotten possum drop in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. For a couple years, our group combined the dropping something concept with a tradition in Ecuador where they burn scarecrows. Several flaming scarecrows flew from the top of my silo until the neighbors, apparently insensitive to other cultures, called the authorities.

I find a bit of solace in some of the less famous holidays. The one I currently look forward to is the day after Christmas which is—Wren Day.

This came to mind as I was filling the bird feeders yesterday. I have not gotten around to cleaning out the bird houses and there is one that hangs in the pear tree beside the feeders. This house is interesting. My son made it for me from old license plates. The reflective surfaces still give me a start when a light plays across it at night but it has proved popular with chickadees and titmice over the years. This summer, however, it was taken over by a rather fierce wren who always took great umbrage at me doing anything in the area. When it would emerge from the nest box, there was a scratching noise, amplified

## Sighting

A number of people have been sending pictures of great numbers of crows and basically asking where they all come from? The answer is—from all over. Crows from wide areas gather into winter flocks and, as they travel and forage together, can give the impression of lots of crows EVERYWHERE! When there is a good tracking snow, like now, their passing can leave quite an impression as well.



People using the trail along the Canal south of Lock 9 have sent sightings of very large areas completely covered with small bird tracks. The answer is, once again, crows. In that same area, someone noticed the strange track in the picture, asking if something had been picked off by a hawk or eagle. The answer is far less sinister. The track in question is definitely a crow and just as the tracks start veering to the left, they disappear. The explanation is simply that the crow in question wanted to head to the left and immediately banked to the left on take-off, hence the deeper feather tracks on the port side. A good tracking snow can be a lot of fun.

by the metal, warning me attack was imminent.

I heard the same sound yesterday and instinctively ducked but instead the little bird just flew up into the pear tree. A short while later I heard the cheery sound of a wren song. This is unusual. Typically, our wrens have migrated by now but this fellow seems determined to spend the winter eating mealworms from the bird feeder.

Wrens are one of the few birds that contin-

**Please read more on the next page**

# OUTDOORS TOMORROW

**(cont.)**

ues singing unabated all winter wherever it is and, far from finding it as uplifting as I do, people in the past found it quite upsetting. There are all sorts of stories about wrens calling down deadly blizzards or betraying Irish soldiers to their Viking enemies. Out of these came the practice of celebrating Wren Day on December 26.

It was quite the hoorah. Every boy in town was given an arm band designating him as a “wrenboy” and the whole cadre was sent off to capture a wren. This involved a heroic chase lasting hours until the poor wren was too exhausted to fly and could be captured. It was then tied to the top of a pole and led a grand parade through town. The wrenboys exhorted onlookers for a donation, rewarding large sums with a feather from the poor bird. The money was used to sponsor a dance lasting until dawn with the pole and bird as a centerpiece much like a Maypole. In modern times, the “wren” is an ornate effigy not a real bird.

Wren Day traditions notwithstanding, I consider the house wren an interesting singer, both summer and winter and I wish it no ill. Both genders sing and, in the spring,

males may repeat their long, jumbled bubbling call as many as 10 times a minute for hours at a time. Of course, like all bird song, we find it melodious but to them it is horrible threats of violence issued to all others of the species.

This is the cute, active little “Jenny Wren” of children’s stories and, at one time, there was quite a push to put up wren houses. They were made as art projects in school, hawked in garden books, and no proper suburban backyard was considered complete without one or two ornately decorated little wren cottages for the bird was considered the ideal songbird neighbor. Like the misguided front-of-the-roll people, many of the wren folks are quite adamant in the practice of what may not be an altogether good idea.

The idea that the house wren might not quite live up to her fairytale image is not new. A woman named Althea Sherman published a paper called “The Problem of the House Wren” in the May-June issue of *Bird-Lore* in 1925. She was a brilliant and fastidious researcher but was a self-educated biologist in a field dominated by men with Phds. She started out with great fascination for the “little Jenny wren” and kept extensive journals on their behavior and nesting habits. She recorded with great delight when the first male picked out a bird house and

began to sing to attract a mate. At length, however, she found her study area becoming increasingly devoid of other songbird species as her wren population increased. It was with a horrible start that Sherman realized she might have been responsible for placing an assassin in their midst.

Wrens, it turns out, are highly territorial and intolerant of any other bird species. They are one of the few species that fights to the death, although it is the females that do this. If a female wren discovers another checking out the nest sites of a particular male, there is, without preamble or negotiations, a fierce fight. Oblivious to anything else, the two ladies tumble over and over on the ground, each seeking to stab her sharp beak into a vital area of the other. Sometimes the loser manages to escape with only a few holes but more often than not, the vanquished is left dying on the ground. Throughout the murderous fracas the male simply continues singing on top of one of the houses, trying to draw in even more females.

Males are the primary builders and tend to fill every available nesting cavity with sticks. When the victorious females makes her choice, he does not stop guarding the other nests. Should any other bird seek to use the house, he drives them off with continual harassment and constructs a new twig nest on top of whatever they began. Worse yet, when they are not flitting from nest box to nest box, the males seek out other bird’s nests. If they find an unguarded one or can intimidate the incubating female to leave it, they then stab their bill into every egg in every nest they find. This has even been recorded to include chicken eggs and the nests of the waterfowl!

Starting to generate some mixed emotions about Wren Day but Happy New Year to all our readers.

*Contact Bob Henke with your sightings or questions by mail c/o The Greenwich Journal & Salem Press, by email at [outdoors.tomorrow@gmail.com](mailto:outdoors.tomorrow@gmail.com), on Twitter at @Bob-Henke, or on Facebook.*



## Schuylerville Library award

The Alfred Z Solomon Charitable Trust has awarded \$25,000 to the Advocates for the Schuylerville Public Library “ASPL” to support the Library’s Building Expansion and Renovation Project. Two Library spaces will honor the Trust founder in name, including the Alfred Z Solomon Trust Local History Area and the Madcaps Pavilion, named after Mr. Solomon’s former hat store. Mr. Solomon was a well-known Saratoga Springs icon who lived in Northumberland and passed in 2004, leaving a posthumous legacy of charitable giving.

Library Director, Caitlin Johnson, says that the Library has developed plans to expand and renovate their current building in response to community input. The Library serves over 10,000 Schuylerville School District residents, but functions in a space built to serve only 1,400 in 1968. The plans include an 80-person multi-purpose room for performances and gatherings, free public meeting rooms, a dedicated children’s room and teen room, plus additional public restrooms and amenities. A public vote will be held in mid-2025, but meanwhile the ASPL is raising funds to help offset the tax burden. “Our amazing friends’ group has raised almost \$50,000 in just a few short months to help support our project. We are blown away by the community’s support!” said Johnson.

## My best of 2024

**Lance Allen Wang**  
*Journal & Press*

Really, the better way to describe it is “the best I enjoyed in 2024,” since some of the list consists of items I merely discovered this year. It’s not always first-run stuff, especially the music. In the case of books, I couldn’t get to all my 2023 purchases in the calendar year...! Anyway, rather than a pure top ten, I’m simply going to go with my top five books and top five albums.

In books, my best reads this year were:

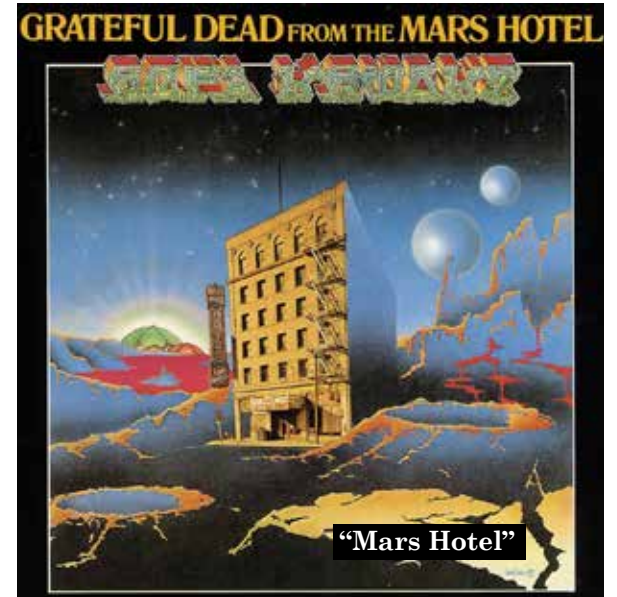
“**War,**” by **Bob Woodward (2024)**. The dean of American journalists, Bob Woodward has been the unofficial chronicler of record for the Presidency since Watergate. At least two of his books – 1991’s “The Commanders,” about the Panama invasion and the lead-up to Desert Storm, and 2002’s “Bush at War,” about the start of the Afghanistan War, were required reading at some higher-level Army courses I attended. Woodward’s talent has always been achieving access and trust and then reporting events as they happened, providing an instructive narrative with little spin. In “War,” he can separate competing narratives and provide a clear picture of how President Biden addressed events in Ukraine and Gaza, as usual providing a far more complete picture beyond sound bites and brief. He talks about how the Presidential campaign unfolded and impacted both domestic and international events. I’m a big fan of books which leave me a little more knowledgeable about the world and impactful issues.

“**So Many Ways to Lose,**” by **Devin Gordon (2024)**. I’m spoiled in that I’ve gotten to read some of the best books on baseball history – David Halberstam’s “October 1964,” and “Summer of ‘49,” to start with. The flip side of being spoiled is that the bar is pretty high for me when it comes to sports books so I tend not to read a lot of them. Happily, “So Many Ways to Lose,” a history of the New York Mets, is a very enjoyable read by Mr. Gordon, who also writes

for the New York Times, the Atlantic, and ESPN. The biggest risk of books like this is that it is a new rehash of the the same tired old stories. That is not the case here. For long-suffering Mets fans, this book is fresh air, as well as a walk down memory lane.

“**An Ordinary Man: The Surprising Life and Historic Presidency of Gerald R. Ford,**” by **Richard Norton Smith (2023)**. Biggest surprise of the year for me was that an 850-page biography of our only President who was never elected to the office of Vice President or President could be so engaging. And refreshing. Ford reminds me of President Biden in the sense that he was primarily a long-time creature of the legislative branch of government – a decent man with little guile and who made his name building bi-partisan consensus for decades. Clouded as Ford’s presidency was by the overwhelming fallout of Watergate, Ford’s tends to get historical short shrift, yet having now traveled along the arc of history another 50 years, it now brings into focus other things about his presidency: the slow fade of the Republican party’s liberal wing (President Ford and the First Lady were both supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment) and the rise of others who would figure strongly in more conservative Republican politics in the future like Ford’s Chief of Staff, Donald Rumsfeld.

“**Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South,**” (2023) by **Elizabeth R. Varon**. The passage of time helps bring new aspects of historical research to the forefront, and sometimes that changes our view of events. In particular, the 2021 book by the chair of the United States Military Academy’s history department, Colonel Ty Seidel, “General Lee and Me: A Southerner’s Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause” brought to the fore how much the United Daughters of the Confederacy essentially rewrote popular history of the Civil War in the postwar era, resulting in the cherished myths which have permeated Civil War remembrance



for years, especially in the South. The ones that whitewash the role of slavery as a precipitant of the Civil War. The ones that elevate Lee to the level of military genius, statesman without compare, and possibly minor deity. Varon’s book looks at General James Longstreet, arguably the South’s most able General, and his efforts to support the terms of peace with the Union, giving strong support to Reconstruction efforts and attempts to fully integrate freed slaves into society in the south, including government and militia. At the same time, he was fighting efforts to tarnish his war record, including being used as a scapegoat for Lee’s loss at Gettysburg.

“Nuclear War: A Scenario” (2024) by Annie Jacobsen. As you read this, nuclear sentinels overwatch the peace, ready to release unimaginable destruction, even an extinction-level event by our own hand. Of course, the problem is not our hand so much as our mind – the computers which control our detection of enemy missiles process countless transactions – space junk, meteors, peaceful satellites and launches – in the time that it takes humans to process far less. In other words, we depend on these systems, and the systems are NOT fool-proof. Near-war scares in 1979, 1983, and 1995 are only some of the most prominent. Much like my favorite book on this topic, “The Day After World War III”

**Please read more on the next page**



## ON THE SQUARE

### (cont.)

(1984), this follows the how an attack on the US might present, and how our executive leadership, military commands, and other related agencies respond to it. Most importantly, it shows how a strained command and control system might weather the storm. Or not.

As for my top 5 listens of 2024, I'm not a fan of new music generally. I don't scoff at it, I'm just not all that interested. To be fair, I don't think I'm really the target audience. No, I'm basically just an old guy who enjoys "deep-dive" classic rock, blues, and jazz.

**"Living in the Material World [50th Anniversary]," by George Harrison (2024).** George Harrison's follow-up to the epic "All Things Must Pass" from 1970 was this more stripped-down album, headlined by its hit single "Give Me Love (Give Me Peace on Earth)." Besides a high-quality remaster, this reissue includes the best alternate take of each of the album's tracks.

**"Apostrophe (") [50th Anniversary]" by Frank Zappa (2024).** There were a couple of excellent releases from the Zappa

vaults this year, including a great release of the Mothers of Invention at the Whiskey-a-Go-Go in 1968. Here forced to choose one, it's this release of one of his best and most popular albums, 1974's "Apostrophe (")." Zappa had been very highly regarded in jazz circles ever since 1969's "Hot Rats," and it is somehow ironic that this album, featuring my favorite of his band lineups, offers amazing musicianship, yet was most notorious for its opening track, "Don't Eat the Yellow Snow," a staple on Dr. Demento's radio show back in the day. The bonus? Two live shows from 1974.

**"From the Mars Hotel [50th Anniversary]" by Grateful Dead (2024).** For a band whose musical strength was in their ability to create at-times brilliant live improvisation, this studio album gets a quality remaster but more importantly, contains 22 live tracks from May 12, 1974 at the University of Nevada that alone are worth the price of admission.

These last two are the best albums I "discovered" this year...

**"Newport Jazz Festival 1958," (2006).** I'd heard the story of Chuck Berry playing at Newport in '58, how the stodgier members of the "jazz crowd" were upset that a



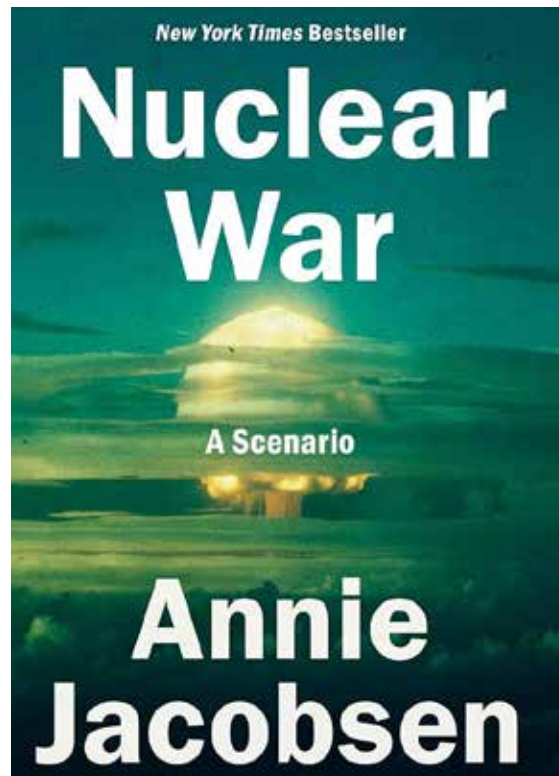
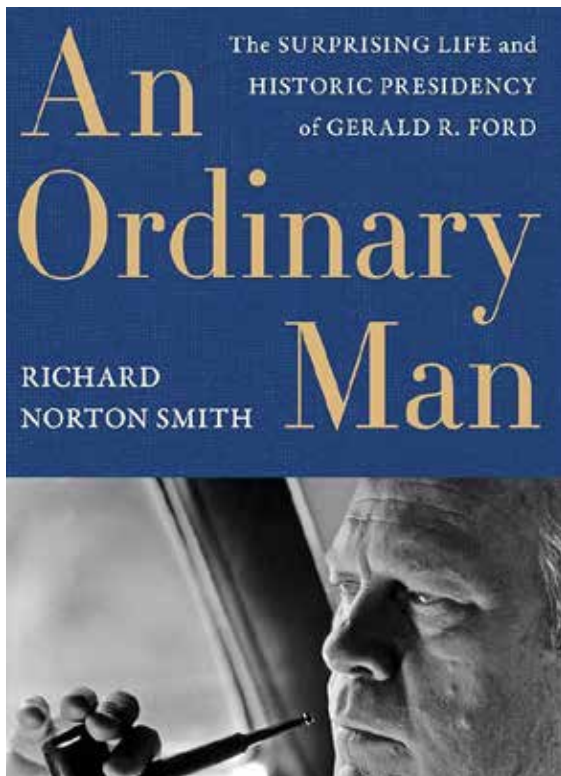
"Aereo Plane"

rock and roller was performing. Before this, I had never actually heard Berry's set. This recording shows a young Berry performing with all the energy that you would expect a mere three years into his recording career, which eventually draws in several jam partners including jazzers from the Dixieland era and members of Count Basie's band. He is followed by Big Maybelle, a bona-fide old-school blues shouter, who in 1955 recorded a song called "Great Balls of Fire" which would become a hit for Jerry Lee Lewis.

**"Aereo-Plain" (1971) by John Hartford.** Every few years I discover an old record that comes out of left field, and its so good that I am embarrassed that I'd never heard it before. This was 2024's. This song cycle includes classic bluegrass, acoustic music, and a little bit of bizarreness. 1971. 'nuff said.

So, as I leave the world of music, in the words of the late Kasey Casem - "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars!" All the best to our readers, and warmest wishes for a great 2025!

*Lance Allen Wang is an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer who lives in Eagle Bridge, NY, with his wife Hatti.*



# Reading for a cause

Over the past few years, students and families from Salem Central School District have supported the Ronald McDonald House Charities program through the annual READ fundraiser. SWA is excited to announce that the fundraiser is returning and will begin after the holiday break, January 8.

The local Ronald McDonald House in Albany provides essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare. This vital work is made possible through donations and volunteers, who assist families facing a medical crisis.

The Read for A Cause fundraiser will run for four weeks, from Wednesday, January 8 to Wednesday, February 5. During this time, Salem CSD students are invited to participate by simply reading! Here's how it works: students can ask friends, family, and community members to pledge a certain amount for the time they spend reading throughout the fundraiser. Each day, students will track their reading time and collect pledges based on their total at the end of the month.

Last year, 23 students from the Salem Central School district participated and raised \$3,195 for families in need. Contact the school offices for more information.



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# A poem to start the New Year

*Here's our regular look at articles that appeared in the various editions of our Journal & Press family of newspapers from decades past...*

### 150 Years Ago

**January 14, 1875**

#### A NEW YEAR'S WISH

*I ask one little boon*

*Of the New Year:*

*May I through all its days*

*Carry some cheer*

*To those who sit in gloom,*

*Weeping for loss;*

*To hearts that slowly break*

*Under a cross.*

*I who have left my dead,*

*With none to care;*

*I who have wept alone,*

*Facing despair,*

*Would gladly sweeten lives,*

*And make them dear.*

*This little boon I ask*

*Of the New Year.*

*The best can serve the gods,*

*Their errands run,*

*Who call no love their own,*

*Under the sun.*

*Let me bear help to want,*

*And hope to fear;*

*I ask no other boon*

*Of the New Year.*

—The Aldine for January

### 100 Years Ago

**January 7, 1925**

Sheriff N. Austin Baker of Salem celebrated his first week in office last night by heading a raid in gambling places in Granville. Accompanied by several deputies he went to Granville early last night, and at about 9:30 o'clock the men made a rapid round of visits on three suspected places and gathered in eight slot machines. The proprietors of the three places were arrested.

The places were visited by Thomas Lawler's in which three slot machines were found, three machines in William's bowling alley and two machines in a place known as Pete Gotta's.

The proprietors of the three places will be arranged in court at Hudson Falls today charged with illegal possession and operation of slot machines.

### 90 Years Ago

**January 2, 1934**

Failure of the fire siren to sound when an alarm of fire was sent in Sunday morning resulted in just enough delay in getting effective action from the fire department to mean the wrecking of the building on Whipple Street which houses is the bottling and pasteurizing plant of Harry T. Marshall, local milk dealer. The fire truck arrived soon after the blaze was discovered at 10:30 Sunday morning, but there was several minutes delay in turning on the high-pressure and the flames ate rapidly through the interior of the building while the firemen had only a feeble stream trickling a few feet from their hose nozzle.

When the pressure finally came on, short work was made of the fire, but by that time the building was practically gutted, and a portion of the roof had fallen in.

Neighbors who were early on the scene helped to carry out quantities of bottles and other equipment, and it was said that the pasteurizing outfit is not damaged beyond

restoring. Mr. Marshall had only \$500 insurance on the building and none on the equipment, so his losses will be rather heavy.

The fire is believed to have started from the smokestack. It was discovered by Mrs. William Marshall, who was on her way to the milk house, and she telephoned in the alarm.

Fire chief Couser states that the failure of the fire alarm was due to the freezing of snow or sleet around the apparatus.

### 70 Years Ago

**January 12, 1955**

The body of James W. Pitts, 73, was found frozen on the floor in his camp at Cossayuna Lake last Saturday by state police from the Cambridge outpost. Police investigated when Clyde B. Upton, postmaster at Cossayuna, reported that Mr. Pitts had not called for his mail since December 20.

Dr. Charles H. Cole of Cambridge, Washington county coroner, investigated the death. He said that there was no evidence of foul play, and an examination indicated that Pitts had died before his body froze.

Mr. Upton notified state police that Pitts had not been in the post office since December 20, and he was concerned about the man's welfare. Dr. Cole in his report said there was evidence that the man was alive on December 27, and he placed the date of death at approximately December 28.

The Gloversville Morning Herald plans to cease operations with the issue of January 22. The increased cost of operation was given as the reason. The paper has been published since 1897 and William H. Evans, managing editor, stated that circulation was insufficient to meet the cost of publishing.

**Please read more on next page**

## Lost papers (cont.)

60 Years Ago

January 14, 1965

Henry Robertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James H Robertson, East Greenwich, has a tendency to throw "Dr. Spock's Book of Baby and Child Care," which most mothers rely on, way off balance. Early this fall he lost his first baby tooth and now has his first permanent tooth. He is only four years old and is two years ahead of the average child. But his parents weren't too surprised as he got his first baby tooth at three months of age and all 20 teeth at one and a half years of age.

50 Years Ago

January 2, 1975

The Journal-Press this week resumes the publication of items gleaned from its files of a century ago. From 1942, when the Greenwich Journal celebrated its 100th anniversary, through 1968, excerpts from the paper of 100 years before appeared regularly in the Faded Files column. Starting in 1969 the custom had to be suspended because there is a gap in the newspapers files for the period from 1869 through 1874.

The Journal-Press was founded in 1842 by John W. Curtis, who came to Greenwich (then Union Village) from Salem. There had been several other newspapers in Union Village before Mr. Curtis started his publication, which he called the Washington Journal. There were other papers here, too, during the early days of Mr. Curtis's

editorial efforts, but his paper was the only one to survive the vicissitudes of small town journalism, and the paper is now in it's 133rd year.

Mr. Curtis was editor and publisher from 1842 through 1867. On January 1, 1868, HC Page became Mr. Curtis's successor, and the former publisher retired to his home, now the residence of Kurt Claus, on Cottage Street in Greenwich. Mr. Page is kind of a shadowy figure about whom we know little.

We do know that he was born in Greenwich, and that he went to the City to pursue a career in journalism. He eventually was the editor of the New York Era. Mr. Page was first mentioned in the Journal in 1866 when he was reported vacationing in Union Village. In January 1867, he bought a 121-acre farm on what is now Route 40 leading toward Argyle. The farm included the present William J. Donahue, Sr. house. In May 1867, the Journal reported Mr. Page had sold his New York establishment and was about to retire to his farm. Ill health was cited as his reason for retiring.

The rural air apparently restored Mr. Page's ailing health quickly, for he immediately began making the news every week. We suspect that, like other city newspapermen, he had a hankering all along to own a country weekly, for within six months of his retirement, Mr. Page became the editor and publisher of the Journal. The appearance of the paper changed markedly when the new publisher took over. It is apparent from the content of the 1868 papers that Mr. Page was a sportsman with a fancy for horse flesh and was a live wire. Today he would be called an extrovert. More than this, we cannot say about him, for with the December 25, 1868, issue of the Journal all of his connection with Greenwich, as recorded in his papers, is gone, probably forever.

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Ads from 40 years ago

Mr. Page did continue to publish the Journal for some time after 1868, but for how long we do not know. Subsequent owners of the paper have handed down the story that as time went on Mr. Page lost some of his enthusiasm for his hometown and sold the newspaper. There was some rancor in Mr. Page's feelings, as apparently, so the story goes, he announced in his final issue of the Journal that he was "going to New York and the people of Greenwich can go to hell."

He did go back to city journalism and was connected with a paper in Bayonne, New Jersey, in the last years of his life. When he left Greenwich, he took with him the files of the Journal from January 1869 through the period of his ownership of the paper.

So far as we know, that was the last anyone in Greenwich ever heard of Mr. Page until after his death, which occurred in Bayonne in 1909. At that time, the Journal was notified that he had directed in his will that the files should be returned to the newspaper. They were never received.

Maybe they could not be located after Mr. Page's death. Perhaps someone in New Jersey failed to carry out his wishes. Certainly someone in Greenwich was negligent in not

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## Cable rates rise (cont.)

pursuing the matter immediately when the files did not appear.

Many years later, we verified through correspondence with the surrogate's office in Hudson County, New Jersey, that Mr. Page did indeed leave the files to the Journal. We also corresponded with an attorney in Bayonne, who had known Mr. Page and who was a law partner with the executor of Mr. Page's will. He could not locate the files.

We have hoped for years that one day we would receive a letter from some New Jersey housewife, saying she had found some Greenwich newspapers in her attic. They probably will never come, but we continue to live in hope.

DW Mandell was the editor of the paper, then known as the People's Journal, in 1875. When we looked at the January 7, 1875, issue, he was only a name we vaguely remember having heard. We know a bit more about him now, thanks to Evelyn Warner at the Greenwich Free Library. Mrs. Warner found him mentioned in a Holmes family genealogy in the LVH Gill Room at the library.

Mr. Gill noted that Marion Bishop Holmes (1837-1904) married Daniel Webster Mandell (1826-1913) in 1860. Marion was the daughter of Henry Holmes and granddaughter of William M. Mowry, who was the founder of the most prominent family in the early days of Union Village. Mr. Gill apparently did not know where DW Mandell was born.

"Fresh out of Middlebury College," Mr. Gill says, "Mr. Mandell came to Greenwich to be employed by Mrs. Holmes as tutor for her daughter, Marion. He fell in love with his pupil, and she with him. They married and lived hap-

pily together throughout their lives. He was a modest, unpretentious, cultured gentleman, much respected for his integrity and wisdom, and loved for a sense of humor and good fellowship.

"He had little ambition to acquire either influence or wealth. For a time he was editor and proprietor of the Greenwich Journal. He operated a considerable fire insurance agency during the remainder of his life, and was for many years of justice of the peace. The Mandell's home was on Salem Street facing Washington Square (now the home of Blanche Binger)."

### 40 Years Ago

**December 27, 1984**

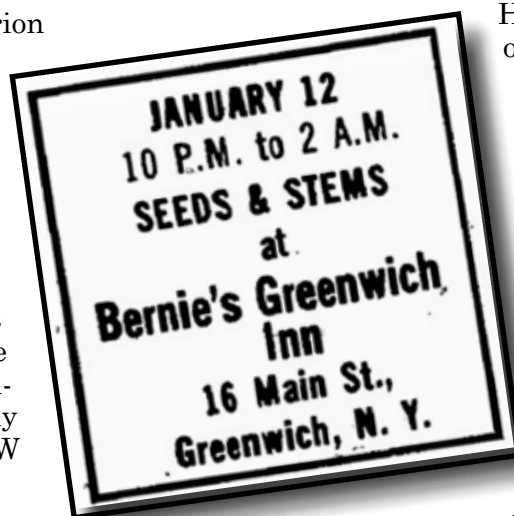
NewChannels Cable TV has announced an adjustment in its basic monthly cable rate, effective January 1, 1985. ...

As of January 1, the Basic converter monthly rate will increase \$.45 a month and the monthly charge for a Home Box Office increase one dollar per month. ...

NewChannels system manager, Fred Gage stated that the recently enacted Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, recognizing that a cable TV subscription is discretionary not mandatory, "allows cable TV companies to adjust your monthly rates by 5% annually without local government approval. Further,

the act clarifies the local municipality's regulatory authority over the cable company, especially in those matters of local concern, such as franchising."

The legislation earned the joint endorse-



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ment of both the National League of Cities and the National Cable Television Association.

### 20 Years Ago

**January 20, 2005**

At the meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors on January 21, Andrew Williamson, chairman of the board, and Deborah Beahan, county clerk, will unveil the new "With Pride from Washington County" custom license plates. The plates are immediately available at the Department of Motor Vehicles office in the County Municipal Center. ...

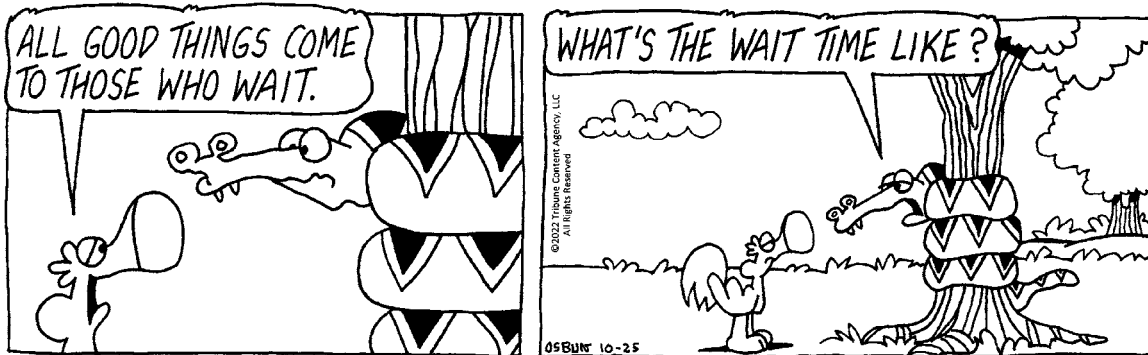
The plates feature the "With Pride" logo designed by Mike Shissler of Greenwich Central School. The county's "With Pride" campaign is designed to encourage the purchase of locally made products. ...

The initial cost of the plate with the number assigned by the Department of Motor Vehicles is \$43; the annual renewal fee is \$25, which is in addition to the regular registration fee.

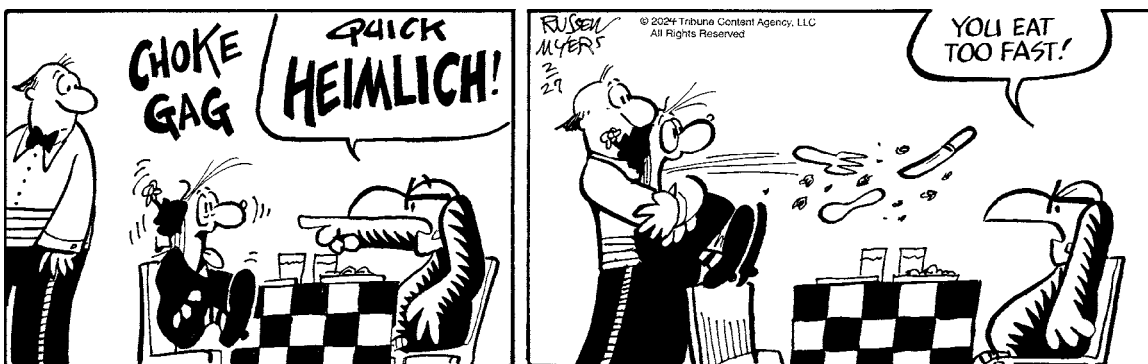
*-Compiled by Darren Johnson*

# FUN & GAMES

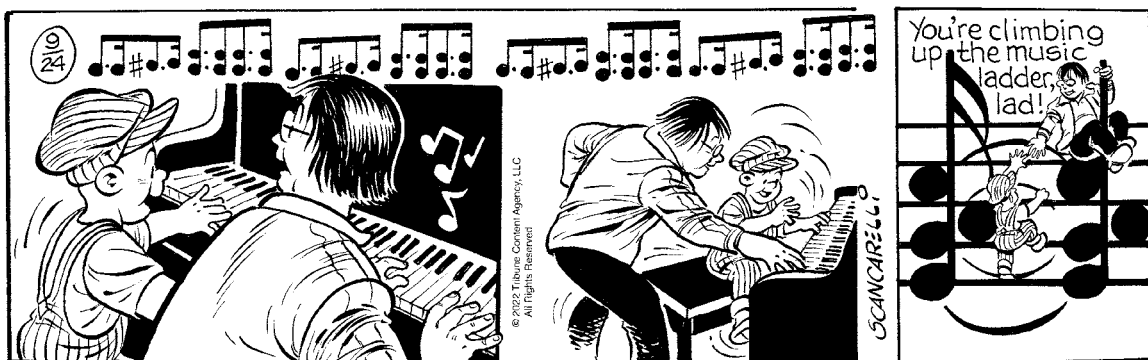
## Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



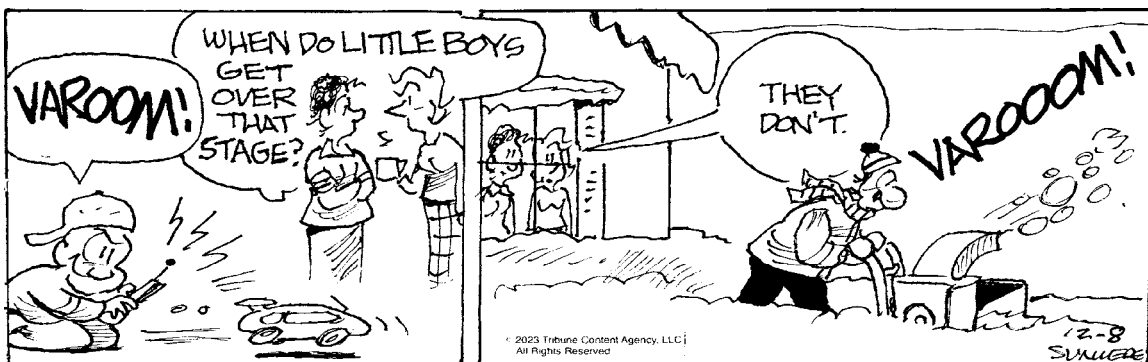
## Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



## Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



## The Middletons by Dana Summers



## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



"You are accused of 'insider trading.' Before I sentence you, do you have any stock tips you'd like to pass along?"

## Word Play Answers Page 24

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CENUL

GINVE

AMPIRI

CAUNNE

CAUNNE

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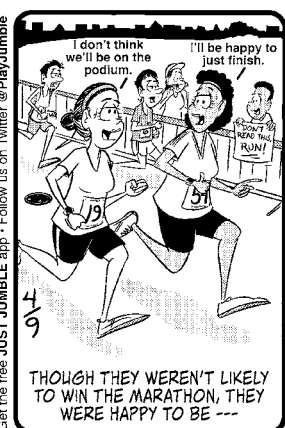
CAUNNE

CAUNNE

CAUNNE

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: THE

### Boggle BrainBusters!

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Garner
7 letters = 5 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
8+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



### Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find at LEAST EIGHT U.S. STATES in the grid of letters.

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# Wallie's raises over \$6600 for Cambridge FFA

This fall, Wallie's of Greenwich successfully raised over \$6,600 during its second annual golf fundraising tournament, benefiting the newly revived Cambridge Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. The 2023 tournament raised \$5,000 for the Greenwich FFA program. These funds help cover out-of-pocket expenses for families, including travel to the New York State FFA Convention and the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, as well as funding for special student projects.

A key contributor to the event's success was the support from Battenkill Country Club. Local businesses and community members have rallied behind Wallie's charity golf tournament for the past two years, and their generosity continues to grow. Premier sponsors for the 2024 tournament included Farm Credit East, Greenwich Ford, Washington County Cooperative Insurance, and Greenwich Self Storage. Through their combined efforts, along with the support of the participating golf teams, \$3,300 was raised. An additional matching donation of \$3,300 from the Fort Miller Group (FMG) capped off the record-breaking fundraising drive.

## A Growing FFA Program

The Cambridge FFA chapter, which returned to Cambridge last year after being dormant for nearly 30 years, continues to thrive. Starting with an inaugural membership of around 30 students, the chapter now boasts approximately 45 members in its second year. Under the guidance of FFA

Advisor Brooklin Drake, the chapter has already achieved significant success in a variety of competitions.

Notable accomplishments from the past year include top finishes in Career Development Events (CDE) and Leadership Development Events (LDE). Franklin Ziehm earned 3rd place in the state for Junior People in Agriculture, while Isabella LeBaron took 3rd place at the Sub-States in Senior People in Agriculture. The chapter also placed 3rd in Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, and Milk Quality and Products, as well as 2nd in Vegetable Production.

As the Cambridge FFA chapter prepares for another exciting competition season, 24 members will participate in various contests. FFA Advisor Brooklin Drake expressed her pride in the students' growth and dedication, saying, "These members are not afraid to jump in and try something new. It's incredibly rewarding to see them trust the process and step outside their comfort zones every day. Their hard work has made our first year so rewarding, and I can't wait to see what our FFA chapter will ac-



Wallie's giving the check to the Cambridge FFA officers

complish in the years to come."

## A Grateful Chapter

Cambridge FFA Treasurer Danyele Trinkle and President Isabella LeBaron expressed their deep gratitude for the generous donation, noting that it will significantly benefit their chapter. Both students highlighted how the funds would help them attend the National FFA Convention in October, providing valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth.

—Submitted by Carter Hamilton,  
Cambridge FFA Secretary

## FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

**Boggle:** IOWA OHIO  
ALASKA KANSAS  
ARIZONA FLORIDA  
COLORADO ARKAN-  
SAS

**Jumble:** UNCLE GIV-  
EN IMPAIR NUANCE  
— IN THE RUNNING

SCRABBLE G R A M S SOLUTION									
D <sub>2</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 1 =	<u>68</u>	
P <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>4</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 2 =	<u>64</u>	
S <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	<u>59</u>	
C <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	RACK 4 =	<u>63</u>	
M <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	RACK 5 =	<u>80</u>	
PAR SCORE 265-275							TOTAL	<u>334</u>	

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7	9	3	1	5	8	2	6	4
6	8	1	2	4	7	9	5	3
2	5	4	9	3	6	1	8	7
1	6	5	8	2	4	7	3	9
8	4	7	6	9	3	5	2	1
9	3	2	7	1	5	8	4	6
3	1	9	4	8	2	6	7	5
5	7	8	3	6	1	4	9	2
4	2	6	5	7	9	3	1	8





# Healing soul weariness

**Dr. Daneen Skube**  
Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press

**Q:** *I'm ending this year exhausted. No amount of sleep seems to help. I'm daydreaming about desert islands. I've checked out medical reasons and doctors don't find anything. How can I be productive when I'm absolutely bone weary?*

**A:** You can get back to productivity if you realize that sleep doesn't help when it's your soul that's fatigued. Bone weariness is a combination of being burned out, depressed, and having feelings of powerlessness, and fatigue. To recover, you'll need to address each of these issues.

Being burned out means you've put too much emphasis on work and too little on wellness. Look at your schedule and consider taking mini breaks. Do you have a respite room at work? Could you rest or learn to meditate there? When do you move your

body? Can you join a group, church, or see family members to increase support? Who do you tell the truth to about your life?

Being depressed can be a combination of suppressing anger and low levels of self-advocacy. Ask yourself what you're frustrated about? Now... are you channeling that anger into negotiations to change what you don't like?

When we take action, depression tends to dissipate, like mist on a sunny morning.

Being powerless is a lie we tell ourselves. We are never completely powerless. Telling ourselves we can't do anything can feel safer than the truth that our well-being is always up to us. If we don't care about what we need, nobody else will ride up on a white horse and make it happen!

Fatigue is helped by sleep, naps, meditation, and good nutrition. But soul-level fatigue requires that we give ourselves a break from the daily routine. Take a sick day or a vacation, and do something you daydream about. Everyone's soul requires different food. Ask yourself when you feel most profoundly nurtured and do that.

Ironically for most of us we are the last thing on our list. Work, family, and social commitments come before our own needs. We may fall into bed exhausted without having done a single thing for ourselves.

In working with exceptional leaders in my coaching practice and highly functional adults in therapy, I've watched how fatigued most of my clients are. Many are still recovering from COVID related issues and the election. Most of us need a "stop-the-world" series of moments to bounce back.

Be aware that rest doesn't mean literally moving to a

desert island. I've spent time on many and within a week I'm bored. If you move to an island but take the same poor self-care habits with you, the exhaustion will not recede. The recovery process is about what you do habitually — not where you do it.

We have a million reasons why we don't take care of ourselves. Combat this tendency by writing down the ways you could improve self-care that do not amount to another burden. Small moments can help a lot: a cup of tea, a warm bath, early bedtime, a walk with a friend, or reading a chapter of a book you love — these can be mini vacations.

At the end of each day, contemplate where you missed opportunities or changed your habits. Watch your exhaustion meter, and how what you're doing is helping or hurting.

Use exhaustion as an adviser that points a finger at what and where you need to change. You won't wake up tomorrow transformed into the energizer bunny, but in the long-run every aspect of your life will benefit from you listening to your fatigue.

### The last word(s)

**Q:** *I feel like I've wasted a lot of time in 2024 and want to turn that around. But I keep beating myself for letting so much of this last year go flying by. Is there a way I can think about starting over that might motivate me?*

**A:** Yes, as Mason Cooley (1927–2002), an American professor of speech, observed: "Regret for wasted time is more wasted time."

*Daneen Skube, Ph.D., executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday.*



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# Know ice safety before you go out

**Bob Henke**  
*Journal & Press*

During my first winter as a Conservation Officer, I found myself hurtling along the frozen surface of Lake George on a snowmobile, trying to keep up with my more seasoned partner who was leading on a more powerful sled. “Hurtling” is a relative term. In those days, a 60 MPH snowmobile was a rocket, and the ones the state purchased were lucky to hit 35. However, it predated snowmobile suits, helmets, heated hand grips and suspensions so it was quite a ride, particularly in below zero weather. The other officer was Tom Callahan, riding a big orange Massy-Harris snowmobile. I was on a bottom-of-the-line Ski-Doo, which did not even have a brake—you had to pay extra for that as well as for a windshield, which it also lacked. Our radios were the lunch-box portables that took 12 D-cell batteries and had an effective range measured in yards although they could be used to heat up hot dogs speared on the antenna or set your jacket on fire if it was against you while transmitting. Speaking of setting your jacket on fire, the reason that I had that machine was because Conservation Officer Ron Robert decided to buy his own to use—one with a windshield. Seems he was roaring down Brant Lake on the Ski-doo, with his ubiquitous corn cob pipe clenched in his teeth. The wind coming over the top of cowling stoked it like a forge, causing the glowing pipe to burn right through the bottom, showering Ron’s jacket with sparks and setting him quite on fire. He wound up in his red union suit trying to load the sled back on the trailer and get home for more clothes.

But back to the original story. As we crossed a small bay, I was horrified as the ice shattered as my partner’s sled passed. Ten feet behind him, and following along for about 30 yards, the ice exploded, going from solid trail to platter-sized ice floes floating over 40 feet of black water. Stopping was not an option because, remember, brakes were too, and the state did not pay for “frills.” My only choice was full throttle and try to skip over the abyss. Unbelievably, this worked, and I made the shore, plunging into about three feet of fluffy snow, where I sat gibbering and thanking my genes for good bladder control.

My partner did not miss me for 15 minutes. When he finally called on the radio, I told him what happened and a half hour later he arrived, coming along the shore, not on the ice. It was then I learned the proper procedure when your sled got wet was to turn it on its side and race the engine, spinning the track to dry it. Otherwise the bogey wheels might freeze solid—which they had. After three hours by a roaring fire, the sled was operable, and I was thoroughly lectured. We were back to the cars well before midnight, having bushwhacked along the shore the whole way. Callahan contended it was entirely my fault for not “reading the ice.”

I recall my grandfather waxing eloquent about “reading the ice.”

There is folk wisdom about ice safety. Gramp said, “two inches will hold a man, four inches will hold a team, and 5 inches will hold a wagon.” Then he qualified it with elaborate explanations about blue ice, black ice, fluff ice, honeycomb ice, new ice, old ice, slob ice and a few other descriptors calculated to boggle a 10-year-old.

It worked.

It was not until college physics, where I learned how water freezes, that it became clear. Ever notice how lakes seem to freeze over suddenly? One night there is open water and the next morning it is solid ice. It works like this. The surface water is cooled by the cold air. This makes it denser than the water underneath and the cold-water sinks. The downward movement of cold water takes place all around the edges of the lake and forces warmer water up in the center of the lake where it in turn is cooled. This starts a circular movement, up in the center, down around the edges, which continues until the entire mass of water is cooled to about 45 degrees. Now there is not enough temperature difference to move the water, ice forms across the entire surface of the lake in a few hours of cold and people start wanting to walk on it. The first keys to evaluating ice safety are visual. When water first freezes, “new” or “black” ice is clear and brittle. It rests direct-



**Tip up fishermen, Cossayuna**

ly on top of a very dense, cold layer of water. It is transparent, you see the water beneath and the ice appears dark. Black ice may get up to two inches thick but is very treacherous! Its brittleness makes it sensitive to vibration so the rhythm of walking or, as I learned so well, a motor can cause an area up to several hundred square feet to suddenly shatter into palm-sized pieces. It is a crystal, like glass, so ice itself is not strong. It supports weight because it floats. Like a boat, it can hold only so much weight. If it snows on black ice, the weight forces the ice downward, opening cracks, and allowing water to seep to the surface where the snow soaks it up like a giant sponge. This freezes on top of the black ice and is milky white. White or “fluff” ice is filled with air bubbles and is dangerous. It is like walking on a floating block of Styrofoam. It supports a lot unless there is a crack, whereupon it flips up, dumps you in, and closes back over the top. Snow cover or a layer of white ice insulates and slows the freezing process, but clear cold nights will finally “make ice,” freezing from the bottom in successive interconnected layers. The best ice is that which builds up these interlocking layers of crystals. You may have noticed this as both vertical and horizontal lines in sides of ice fishing holes. The strong interlaced structure makes it opaque and gives the ice a blue or flat grey color. Four inches of “blue ice” is usually considered safe for most winter activities—but I like a foot or more. Blue ice also reflects most of the indirect winter sun, accounting for that sunburned face after a

**Please read more on next page**

## (cont.)

day of ice fishing.

In the spring, increasingly direct rays of the sunshine through the ice, warming the underlying layer of water and restarting the circular movement in reverse. This movement, coupled with warm water from spring run-off, melts certain areas faster than others. In a smooth bottomed lake, melting takes place first along the edges. Now we can have a very inconsistent cover known as “honeycomb” ice. The pockets of much thinner ice look dark, giving the surface a spotted appearance. This is the ice that holds you just fine in one place and drops you through a few feet away.

Falling through the ice is never fun. I wound up with only psychological scars; you may not be so lucky. The fact that someone went ahead of you is no assurance that you can also proceed safely, especially during a winter with fluctuating temperatures. Reading the ice is a valuable skill but far better is checking the ice as you go. Back in the Conservation Officer days, I made a “Game Warden Staff” for each of my officers. The point was sharpened and, after a little practice getting the force right, a sharp poke would thrust it through any ice less than two inches thick. The back of the hook was flattened to catch against the ice and allow you to push up and slowly back off the thin ice. The hook itself was designed to probe under the ice on a beaver trap site so the chain with the trapper’s name could be withdrawn and checked without exposing a hand to the anchored trap below the ice. The end of the hook was sharpened so if the worst happened, it could be driven into the ice to

pull yourself out of the water. The handle was intentionally long so it was buoyant enough to float the staff if you lost your grip at any time in the fracas.

There are also commercial products available. The Bohning Company, an archery and sporting equipment manufacturer, makes an ice safety device called the ADK 3-in-1 Spud. This has a special stepped chisel head to quickly cut through ice and a built-in scale to measure the ice thickness. It comes apart to produce a very secure anchor to hold a rope used in rescue operations if someone goes through. In less than a minute, the tool can be used to make a hole in the ice, set an anchor, and get a rope to someone who has fallen through the ice. Every second is precious in these conditions.

If you go through in a vehicle, it is critical to get away from that machine as rapidly as possible. Research has shown that in water depths above about eight feet, every type of vehicle somersaults and sinks upside down. If an article of clothing is hooked on a sled or ATV, you can be anchored to it and, in a vehicle, it often buries itself in the bottom muck so deep you cannot get out of a window.

For any trip on the ice, you should have some minimum equipment. There are specially designed float coats made specifically for ice sports. These keep you warm as well as buoyant during a plunge. If you are not carrying a staff, a pair of ice spikes on a lanyard around your neck, will be crucial to saving yourself if



Ice safety equipment

you are alone. No one should go on or around the ice without a 100-foot length of floating rope. The thicker the better—a minimum of half inch. It is difficult to grip thinner lines during emergency situations. Once again, there are commercial alternatives, ropes inside a “throw bag” that make it easy to accurately toss the line long distances and provide a thick gripping point for the victim. In the game warden days, we coiled it inside plastic half-gallon jugs with the back cut out to achieve the same result.

Finally, the victim must assist in their own rescue. The tendency, whether saving yourself or being saved, is to bend over the ice edge with your legs pointing downward. This makes a very effective “hook” so it is impossible to pull you out. If being pulled out, the best approach is to come out of the hole either on your back or side instead of frontwards. If you are pulling yourself out either with spikes or simply flailing out, strongly arch your back backwards and kick as hard as possible to essentially swim out of the hole.

The best solution, however, is to be careful and be aware so as not to fall through in the first place.



Lone fisherman, Carter’s Pond

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# Welcoming the unexpected: Faith lessons from the past year

MaryAnne Brown  
*Journal & Press*

As I write today's article, it has been just two weeks since I said goodbye to my beloved Don, as he slipped away peacefully to be at home with his God. The week in the hospital leading up to that day was trying, yet graceful, as Don remained his usual noble, gentle self. The care team worked diligently with great competence and compassion. My experience as an RN helped us both through a number of emerging issues and decisions.

Certainly, his loss was unexpected. He was 92, but one hopes for more time with someone like him. With the unexpected came many blessings: he had some discomfort but no pain; he was alert and conversing until the last couple of hours; and I was surrounded by love and support as he breathed his last. Our family and friends have embraced us as we begin to live beyond this loss.

Life often unfolds in ways we cannot predict, and I must say that my faith in God, my Holy Friend, the Great Spirit of our ancestors, has given me solid strength. This life experience is a true test of my "Good Faith," and I am relying on the tools of spirituality to help me navigate the uncertainty.

Regular readers of the Greenwich Journal may remember that my previous article was about "Good Grief," and it offered those living with loss some practical ways to journey through the holidays. Little did I know that I would be referring to these very practices over the past few days. This is yet another unexpected blessing.

How did unexpected events shape your year? Perhaps you could look over your calendar, scroll through photos from 2024, or review your journal entries, if this is one of your practices. These activities may prompt deeper reflection on how surprising experiences—both good and bad—offered opportunities for growth, humility, and reliance on something greater than ourselves.

For example, perhaps you had a difficult conversation with someone but managed to reestablish trust in a longtime friendship. Maybe you left a stressful job for a lower-paying one that brought you more satisfaction and a more balanced life. For someone else, a recent diagnosis may have been devastating at first, but now she is exploring how to learn about the illness and its treatment so she can live as healthily as possible.

The shared experience of the pandemic was one of disruption, yet many of us discovered new ways to connect, learn, shop, and cope. Difficulties such as loss, illness, or hardship can deepen resilience and spiritual understanding.

I am rereading a book titled "Keep Going: The Art of Perseverance" by Joseph M. Marshall III, a member of the Lakota tribe in South Dakota. In it, he recounts how a wise grandfather answered his grandson's question about why life is so difficult at times. The grandfather teaches:

"Life can give you strength. Strength can come from facing the storms of life, from knowing loss, feeling sadness and heartache, from falling into the depths of grief. You must stand up against the storm...for it is teaching you to be strong." This is wisdom from the Lakota way.

As I watched over Don during his final days, I was deeply moved by how he lived those days with openness and trust—in me, his care team, and, most profoundly, his trust in God. He was on an unknown journey yet faced it with peace and courage.

We spoke of being mindful and present, and our prayer was one of surrender and acceptance. I am reminded of Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." With this belief, we can face the storm, the loss, the heartache, and not break. We can follow the words of the wise Lakota grandfather and "keep going."

Let us carefully ponder this year's surpris-



es and consider how they formed our faith journey. The unexpected moments of the coming year will surely bring new lessons, blessings, and opportunities for growth. As we navigate these moments, let us embrace the mystery of life with courage and faith.

May I offer you this "Soul-Gathering Prayer after a Sudden Shock" by Caitlin Matthews. It has been especially meaningful these early days since Don's death.

*Gatherer of Souls,  
Draw to me my scattered soul,  
May no part be lost,  
May no part be straying.  
Preserve my soul in peace  
In the soul-shrine of my body.*

May your New Year be filled with great peace. And yes. Keep going.

*MaryAnne Brown, RN, BSN, MA is a music minister at St. Joseph's Church and has a special interest in spirituality and health. She serves on the Retreat Team at Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna and provides grantwriting services.*



# Don't stop with the 'golden at-bat' rule

**Greg Schwem**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press*

I recently read, with a combination of amusement and horror, online chatter concerning the “golden at-bat” rule that is being tossed around major league baseball.

I would have dismissed it as a conspiracy theory, so ludicrous is the proposal, except Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred addressed the proposed rule. In short, the idea is that, once per game, each team gets the chance to send the batter of its choice to the plate, regardless of where that player is in the batting order.

Former Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees flamethrower Roger Clemens summed up the concept, and its potential hiccups, perfectly via his X account:

“Hypothetical.... You have bases loaded (with) no outs and (Los Angeles Dodgers superstar Shohei) Ohtani is up. You strike him out. Then they can just use this rule to let him stay up and I have to face him again?”

Manfred discussed the rule on a podcast shortly before the 2024 World Series, saying there had been a “little buzz” about it at an owner’s meeting. But, as speculation grew about when the idea might become part of the game itself, Manfred backtracked. Implementing the golden at-bat rule was, he told the YES Network, was “a very, very long road.”

Hey, tweaking the rules of a long-established institution seems to be commonplace these days. Just ask some politicians who want to do that with our nation’s Constitution. Sometimes it makes sense though. I was ecstatic when the pitch clock rule was created in 2023, ensuring night games didn’t stretch into “next morning” or “Midnight Madness!” games.

But this? It sounds like something dreamed up by prepubescent boys after sides had been chosen for a game on a lazy summer day. Growing up, I participated in many such games and they were nothing if not

creative. While we never experimented with a golden at-bat, here are a few of our rules Major League Baseball might want to consider:

1. The “invisible man” on base rule. Used when players had to return home for dinner and team rosters dwindled to four or less. The idea: If a player got a hit and successfully ran to first base, he didn’t have to stand on the bag. He could return home and reenter the hitting lineup. If the next player got a single, the “invisible man” on first moved to second.

This could be a great major league rule in inclement weather. Why should New York Yankee Aaron Judge stand on the bag in the pouring rain when his invisible self can do it while he remains warm and dry in the dug-out?

2. The “CAR!” rule. While most of my pick-up games were played on sandlots, occasionally we created a diamond out of a suburban street. Those games were often interrupted by a passing motorist who chose to drive right over the pitcher’s mound and second base. Realizing the driver held all the cards in this territory dispute, we could only yell, “CAR!” and step aside until the offending vehicle passed. Play resumed thereafter.

I’ve never seen a car on a major league baseball field unless it was part of a pre-game celebration. But why not allow players to eliminate overhead distractions by yelling, “Plane!,” “Comet!” or “Flock of birds!” Play wouldn’t resume until the skies were clear. True, this would negate any time saved by the pitch clock rule; but fly balls would be



less difficult to catch.

3. The “snack” rule. A huge part of my Little League experience. Win or lose, all players chowed down on post-game treats while their manager told them it’s just a game and they all tried their best, and asked if they had fun. If this rule reaches the majors, all teams would have to add team moms to their bulging payrolls, ensuring snacks were delivered on time and some were void of peanuts, just in case.

I would pay good money to hang around after the game just to see Shohei Ohtani take down a juice box.

*Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of two books: “Text Me If You’re Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad” and the recently released “The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian,” available at Amazon.com. Visit Greg on the web at [www.gregschwem.com](http://www.gregschwem.com).*



# *A Season for Remembering*

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# Closing the books on 2024

**Sarah Murphy**

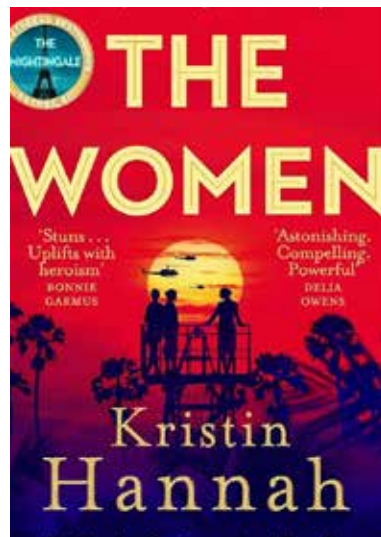
*Special to Journal & Press*

Here it is, readers, the list of most circulated library titles of the year that was. Are they the best of the year? Not for me to say! But they were the most popular, if we gauge popularity by the number of times an item leaves the library and goes home with one of you. And that is precisely how we gauge popularity on this annual list. This time, we'll take a look at the top five adult fiction titles, the top four nonfiction picks, and the top three DVDs.

## Fiction

I'll start with fiction, which happens to be my personal favorite category. My own preferences are totally irrelevant, however, as I've not read a single book on the list that follows. Am I totally out of touch? Or were these just in circulation so much that I never even had a shot at them? I'll save my own top five for another column, but without further ado, here are the most circulated fiction books of the year:

1. "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. No surprise here, this title had a request queue in the hundreds across the SALS system, and our two copies were almost always checked out. Fans of 20th-century history and of



Hannah's previous novels found her latest to be riveting and humane. The New York Times says, "Kristin Hannah takes up the Vietnam epic and re-centers the story on the experience of women." "The Women" was

released in February, so the request queue has finally calmed, and readers can pick it up today to join in the conversation.

2. "Missing Persons" by James Patterson and Adam Hamdy. This is the newest installment in Patterson's "Private" series, and came out in January, and as with most Patterson titles, no matter who he's teamed up with, if we stock it, people will read it.

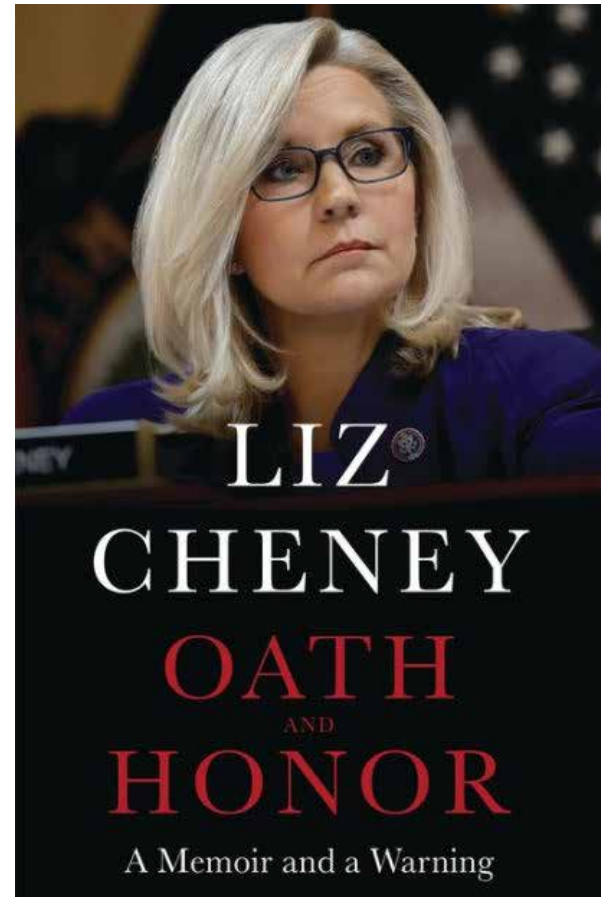
3. Tied for third, another surefire hit from popular author C.J. Box, "Three-Inch Teeth" and one of the many titles that made a splash this year from relative newcomer Frieda McFadden, "The Inmate." McFadden began self publishing in 2013, but it was her 2022 thriller, "The Housemaid" that seemed to catapult her into what felt, to this librarian, like overnight success. She published four books in 2024 alone, with at least two scheduled for 2025. Who even is this lady? Great question, because Frieda McFadden is a pen name; she's also a practicing physician and in the interest of patient/doctor privacy, doesn't really want you to know much about her. She does have an author photo that's widely available online, but she appears to be wearing a wig. Not, like a super obvious wig, but if I had to put money on it, I'd say it's definitely a wig.

4. In addition to "The Inmate," two other McFadden books made our top five this year. I'm not one for resolutions, but I'm making one right now: I will read a Frieda McFadden book in 2025. McFadden fans out there: come and tell me which one is the best. Is it "Never Lie," which tied for 4th on this list with Ariel Lawhorn's historical mystery, "The Frozen River"?

5. Or is it "The Teacher" vying for that fifth spot with dependable bestseller Harlan Coben and his latest, "Think Twice"?

## Nonfiction

I've got to say, this year's nonfiction list is a lot weirder, less expected, than the fiction. It's tougher to truly analyze popularity because these titles circulate far less than



fiction overall, and each loan is likely to take considerably longer (it's not often you hear somebody exclaim, "I burned through the new Meacham in one night!"), meaning that a nonfiction book that circulates eight times in a 12-month period has spent no more than a quarter of its shelf life...on a shelf. So while our fiction could really be any library's list, reflecting what's popular in mass culture, our nonfiction list is maybe a little more random, reflecting what was either requested, or available, on display, and of interest to our browsers at any given time. And, something I love about nonfiction: title + subtitle + author pretty much tells you what you need to know about each book.

1. Coming in at number one this year is Liz Cheney's "Oath and Honor: a memoir and a Warning." Well, you can't say you weren't warned.

**Please read more on page 35**



## (cont.)

2. We take a sharp turn (and so does the author, who was heretofore mostly known for military history and speculative historical fiction) with number two. It's "My Beloved Monster: Masha, the half-wild rescue cat who rescued me" by Caleb Carr.

3. Readers pushed three titles into a tie for number three, and I've got to say, these make you sound pretty darn thoughtful, Greenwich: "The Deerfield Massacre: a surprise attack, a forced march, and the fight for survival in early America" by James L. Swanson, "The Lede: dispatches from a life in the press" by Calvin Trillin, and "In My Time of Dying: how I came face to face with the idea of an afterlife" by Sebastian Junger.

4. The four-spot sees a record (this has to be a record, right?) seventeen titles tied. A seventeen-way tie?! Seventeen titles that reflect the varied tastes and interests of our neighbors! Here we go.

- "Barons: money, power, and the corruption of America's Food Industry" by Austin Frerick
- "After 1177 B.C.: the survival of civilizations" by Eric H. Cline
- "They Came for the Schools: one town's fight over race and identity, and the new war for America's classrooms" by Mike Hixenbaugh
- "The Way of the Hermit: my incredible 40 years living in the wilderness" by Ken Smith (Hermit of Treig)
- "Lovers in Auschwitz: a true story" by Karen Blankfeld
- "Among the Bros: under the influence and above the law in an American fraternity" by Max Marshall
- "The Black Woods: pursuing racial justice on the Adirondack frontier" by Amy Godine (who happened to visit our library last winter!)
- "When Being a Nurse Was Fun: tales from my life as a nurse" by Ann Watt
- "Where Rivers Part: a story of my

mother's life" by Kao Kalia Yang

- "The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt: the women who created a president" by Edward F. O'Keefe
- "You Never Know: a memoir" by Tom Selleck
- "Shakespeare: the man who pays the rent" by Judi Dench
- "An Unfinished Love Story: a personal history of the 1960s" by Dorris Kearns Goodwin
- "Enough" by Cassidy Hutchinson
- "The Art Thief: a true story of love, crime, and a dangerous obsession" by Michael Finkel
- "Our Town: a play in three acts" by Thornton Wilder
- "Hillbilly Elegy: a memoir of a family and culture in crisis" by J.D. Vance

### Videos

DVDs present another tricky category when it comes to assessing popularity. Fewer and fewer titles are being released in that format, and although we continue to add to our collection, we cannot possibly keep up with all of the content available on streaming services. But we have a steady cohort of patrons who continue to prefer their media in a physical format and free of charge, so while the new releases section might not be what it once was, these aren't departing the shelves any time soon.

1. Two films topped the circulation list for 2024, and in my opinion, both are excellent: director Greta Gerwig's monumental box office smash, "Barbie," starring heartthrobs Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling; and Alexander Payne's sweet, sad Christmas film, "The Holdovers" featuring a cross-eyed Paul Giamatti. Both films deliver outstanding performances and perfectly detailed design and art direction. Which best fits your mood today, an endless pastel beachy wonderland or a snow-covered, corduroy-clad New England boarding school? Immerse yourself in these gorgeous, poignant films, and enjoy.



2. The first season of "1923: a Yellowstone origin story" sits alone atop the number two spot. As with all of the "Yellowstone" IP, this series is quite popular among fans of westerns and drama. Oh, and it features Helen Mirren and Harrison Ford, who honestly could give Robbie and Gosling a run for their Barbie/Ken money, am I right? Talk about dreamboats.

3. And at number three, Greenwich viewers picked the Oscar-winning "Oppenheimer," directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Cillian Murphy. Well, our patrons have shown which side of Barbenheimer we're on, but we made it close!

In reading over the above lists, I don't see a whole lot in terms of patterns or obvious tastes, which I think is pretty cool. Whether you see your preferences reflected above or not, we hope you'll find something you love in our stacks. When you do, ask at the circulation desk for a "Recommended" bookmark, and we'll display it. With enough hype, you just might push your favorites onto next year's list.

*Sarah Murphy is Director of the Greenwich Free Library.*



## Economy in review — The I's have it!

**Jill Schlesinger**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press*

At this time of year, I like to reflect on larger trends and then highlight lessons that we can take to the following year. To sum up 2024, think of the letter I, as in inflation, i-n-terest rates, and i-n-vestments, which dominated headlines.

### Inflation, the first “I”

Although the rate of inflation retreated from the post-COVID peak of 9.1 percent annually, consumers continued to struggle with still-high prices on everything from insurance to child care to rent.

The final inflation report of 2024 will be released in January, but through November, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased to 2.7% from a year ago and the core rate, which strips out volatile food and energy, is up 3.3% from a year ago.

To translate those numbers in an easy-to-understand way, today it takes almost \$123 to buy what \$100 bought in November 2019.

### Interest rates, the second “I”

To beat back inflation, the Federal Reserve kept interest rates at a 23 year-high

of 5.25 to 5-5.5% throughout most of the year. Those high rates were tough on borrowers, who continued to struggle with almost 22% average rates on credit card balances and 8 to 9% for new and used cars.

If borrowers were the losers of a high-interest rate environment, savers have been the winners. Rates have dipped below 5% on high yield savings accounts and certificates of deposit, but there are still plenty of good deals out there for consumers.

The Fed shifted gears in September, when it cut interest rates for the first time in four years. The central bankers started with a 0.5 percentage point reduction, followed by two quarter-point cuts in November and December.

Although anything can happen, for 2024, the Fed has engineered an economic soft landing. That's the oft-desired, though rarely achieved goal of hiking interest rates to bring down inflation, without triggering a recession.

Although the Fed does not directly control mortgage interest rates, the cost of financing a home remains elevated. A 30-year fixed rate loan stands at the mid 6% range, just one-half of a percentage point lower than it was at the beginning of 2024. High interest rates and still-low inventory remain barriers to entry to would-be home buyers.

### Investments, the third “I”

Prior to the election, investors were already enjoying double-digit returns on stocks. Those gains continued after the election was decided, on hopes that a second Trump administration would keep taxes low and ease regulations.

As stock indexes reach new highs, you may encounter two ends of the



emotional spectrum: euphoria or anxiety. I would caution against either of those extremes, because acting on either of them could cause long term investors a lot of pain.

Ben Carlson, Director of Institutional Asset Management at Ritholtz Wealth Management recently provided this excellent advice: “You should only invest in the stock market an amount you would be willing to hold through both bull and bear markets. No one can predict when stocks will take off or get crushed so your asset allocation should take that into account.”

In fact, the past five years has been an ideal period to remind everyone that market timing does not work. Few can pick the ideal time to buy or sell, which is why adhering to a diversified portfolio of cheap funds over the long term will likely keep you out of trouble.

### Three more “I”s

For many, this is a time of year to catch your breath, refuel, and reconnect with friends and family. With a hat tip to the letter I, may the season inspire, illuminate, and invigorate us all.


*Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at [askjill@jillonmoney.com](mailto:askjill@jillonmoney.com). Check her website at [www.jillonmoney.com](http://www.jillonmoney.com).*



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# NYS BOARD OF REGENTS VACANCY

Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, effective April 1, 2025, for one representative from Kings County for a five-year term; one representative from Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Warren, or Washington County for a five-year term; one representative from Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, or Wyoming County for a five-year term; one representative from Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, or Westchester County for a five-year term; one representative from Nassau or Suffolk County for a five-year term; and one at-large representative for a five-year term. Additionally, effective immediately, one at-large representative for the remaining four years of a five-year term, and one at-large representative for the remaining year of a five-year term. Positions are non-paid. A public interview process is required. The applicant must be a resident of New York State and, where applicable, one of the above-listed counties. Resumes must be submitted by January 22, 2025. Applicant must submit a resume to BOTH:

**NYS Assembly**  
**Room 513, Capitol**  
**Albany, NY 12248**  
**[boardofregents@nyassembly.gov](mailto:boardofregents@nyassembly.gov)**

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## Charles Bailey, 84

Rev. Dr. Charles “Chuck” Bailey died peacefully Saturday morning, December 21, 2024. Chuck was a long-time area pastor and professor who will be remembered and missed by many.

Chuck was born in Logan, WV in 1940 to parents Claude and Eunice Bailey. He

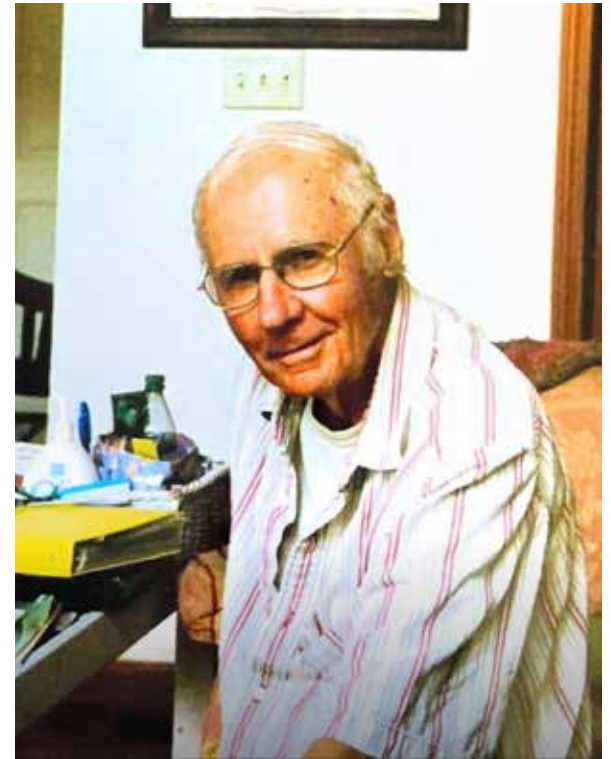
went on to earn a Bachelor’s degree from Bob Jones University, Master’s from Roosevelt University, and PhD from the University of Virginia.

He married Deborah McFarlen on June 15, 1968. They moved to upstate New York in 1972 from Charlottesville, VA, where

Chuck had accepted a teaching position at Adirondack Community College (now SUNY Adirondack). He also began to pastor the Fort Miller Reformed Church, where he preached and ministered to many for 42 years, retiring in 2014. In 2016, due to an impairment from a TBI, Dr. Bailey retired from teaching after 44 years at SUNY ADK as a distinguished professor of German, Comparative Religion, and European History.

Chuck enjoyed traveling frequently with his family, living in England, Germany, France, and Austria. He loved to perform magic tricks for his grandchildren. His passion for books led him to amass a small library of over 3,000 vintage books that he sold privately online and at antique sales. In the past five years, he made three cross-country RV trips with his sons to visit his hometown in West Virginia, his roots in Minnesota, and his family in Tennessee.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 56 years, Deborah Bailey of Greenwich; his three sons Christopher Bailey of Wilton, Peter (Jen) Bailey of Cambridge, Jeremy (Danielle) Bailey of Schuylerville; his sister Kay (Charles) Shafer of Kingsport, TN; niece Shawna Shafer of Kingsport, TN, nephew Dan (Laurie) Shafer



of Flushing, NY; and his seven grandchildren Isabelle (Andrew) Westerman, Mara Bailey, Emily Bailey, Eden (Fritz) Knecht, Ian Bailey, Anna Bailey, and Campbell Bailey.

Arrangements are in the care of the M.B. Kilmer Funeral Home, 123 Main Street, Argyle, NY 12809.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Argyle Presbyterian Church, 48 Main St, Argyle, NY on Saturday, December 28, 2024 at 11:00AM, with calling hours beforehand from 9:30-10:30AM. The service will be streamed on the Argyle Presbyterian Church YouTube channel for those unable to attend. A private burial will follow the service at Riverside Cemetery in Fort Miller. All are invited to stay for a reception at Argyle Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 846 Route 29, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 and Washington County Young Life, PO Box 253, Granville, NY 12832.

InterVarsity: <https://givetoiv.org/DanielleBailey>.

Young Life: <https://giving.younglife.org/raymonroe>.

# THE GREENWICH JOURNAL

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## OBITUARIES

# Brandon D. Wren, 35

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brandon D. Wren, 35, a beloved son, brother, and friend. Brandon passed away in Argyle on Saturday, December 28, 2024.

Brandon was born on April 18, 1989, in Cambridge, New York, and grew up in the community he loved. A graduate of Salem Central School, he continued his education at Adirondack Community College and Hudson Valley Community College. Brandon's hardworking spirit was evident in his career in the waste management industry. He dedicated 12 years to Ace Carting, followed by the last 3 years at Casella Waste, where he was well-known for his commitment and reliability. Before that, he worked for his Uncle Ryan Kirchner who mentored Brandon and gave him a love for building.

Brandon found joy in the simple pleasures of life—whether it was fishing, hunting, or spending time outdoors. He was passionate about nature and cherished the time spent

with family and friends, or the simple comfort of the home that he loved with Caitlyn Bearor and their two dogs. Brandon's love for his family was immeasurable, and he will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering loyalty to those closest to him, especially his dog Murphy.

Brandon is survived by his parents, Lee Kirchner Wren of Salem, NY and David Wren of Salem, NY, as well as his siblings: Caroly (Andres) Wetzels of Jacksonville, FL, Candice (Karl) Sobylak of Latham, NY, Kalynn (Edwin) Droz of Glenville, NY, Cody Wren of Greenwich, NY, and Clayton Wren of Greenwich, NY. He is survived by his cherished nieces and nephews: Natasha, Isabelle, Jake, Valentina, Reese, Mateo, and Marco. Brandon is also survived by his Fiancé, Caitlyn Bearor of Argyle, NY, who saw him through thick and thin. He was predeceased by two aunts, Sue Kirchner and Ruth Kirchner.



Calling hours will be Friday, January 3, 2025 from 4-7 pm at the McClellan-Gariepy Funeral Home, 19 East Broadway, Salem.

To express your sympathy or share a memory, please visit [www.gariepyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.gariepyfuneralhomes.com).

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# The Top 10 covers of 2024

**Darren Johnson**  
*Journal & Press*

We did 32 newspapers in 2024 – eight Greenwich Journals, eight Salem Presses, and to start the year, 16 combined Journal & Press newspapers.

For this issue, I asked our writers to offer Top 10 lists that were reflective on the past year. Now I'll do the same, picking my favorite covers.

I'm not picking based on overall graphic design. That would be self-indulgent. Instead, I am picking them based on their conveying something important that may have some future historical value. I regularly dig into the 183-year-old Journal & Press archives and what's called "Journalism History" does influence my current editorial decisions. You can read more of my journalism musings at [journalpress.substack.com](http://journalpress.substack.com). In any case, here they are, in no particular order.

This one was from mid-February and started off a series we did on local first-responder staffing issues.

When we separated out The Journal and The Press, I tried to convey lots of activity in each town with these busy designs. Historically, I think this will convey that local residents are not just about nostalgia, but also are currently doing great things!

Here is the Salem Press equivalent:

Both The Salem Press and Greenwich Journal took

We also try to give our popular columnists some cover real estate. We added some notable columnists in 2024.

After much planning and with a lot of Salem community input, we separated out the two newspapers to start September.

The Journal had combined with The Press 55 years ago, and you never hear about papers un-pairing like this! Pretty historically important!

I like putting sports on the cover from time to time, so there's this cover, with a Fort Salem play review underneath it.

We went free and big with an issue promoting the Holiday Lighted Tractor Parade. A ton of people read this free issue!

Both The Salem Press and Greenwich Journal took

some time to advocate for local libraries in getting better funding.

Libraries and historic newspapers go hand-in-hand. We can't let them down!

In putting Holly Harris' marijuana dispensary approval story on the cover, we very much had the history of The Journal & Press in mind, as it had covered historic social/political events like Prohibition and its appeal.

Last, we had a lot of fun writing this big essay on the musical Greenwich made about itself 20 years ago!

It's OK to have some nostalgia.

*Have a great New Year!*



Let's work together to keep our village clean and green. The Village of Greenwich uses a single-stream recycling program, making it simple for you to recycle. But here's the catch: Putting the wrong items in your bin or skipping cleaning can contaminate the entire trailer load of recycling.

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## Clean. Green. Greenwich: Your Guide to Recycling Right.

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- ✓ Cans, Loose Metal Lids, Steel Bottle Caps
- ✓ Glass Bottles & Jars
- ✓ Paper Milk/Juice Cartons (No foil pouches)
- ✓ Clean Aluminum Foil (2" or larger), Pie Pans
- ✓ Shredded Paper (in clear plastic bags)
- ✓ Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard Boxes\*\*
- ✓ Paper (office paper, folders, magazines, paperback books, egg cartons)\*\*

\*\*Important: Wet paper products are not accepted.

### Not Accepted (Keep These Out!)

- ✗ Plastic Bags or Microwave Trays
- ✗ Diapers or Household Garbage
- ✗ Napkins, Paper Towels, Wet Paper Products
- ✗ Light Bulbs, Mirrors, Drinking Glasses
- ✗ Hoses, Cords, Chains, or Wire
- ✗ Hazardous Waste, Needles, or Biohazards

**Questions?** Visit our website or call the Village Office at 518.692.2755 for more information. Thank you for your commitment to recycling the right way, Greenwich!