



Rethinking the gazebo

And Thunder Mountain's timber harvest

The gazebo in the Village of Greenwich's Mowry Park is very high profile, but, erected in 1987, it has seen better days. A committee has formed, seeking to raze and replace it.



"Our mission is to create a really vibrant gathering space for the community, and have the gazebo be that focal point of what can happen," said committee co-chair Ken Facin.

"It really is the anchor of the community. So we are reimagining it in a way that allows multi-uses."

Also in the Village of Greenwich,

find out about the extensive clearing of trees that took place at the so-called Thunder Mountain park.

In this issue, we also look at local English Language Arts and math proficiency scores for third through eighth graders.

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Timber harvest results up for discussion

Rachel Clothier
Journal & Press

Forester James Allen made his last trip to oversee the logging phase of the Hayes Reservoir (nicknamed by locals “Thunder Mountain”) timber harvest a week and a half before Christmas. He had been a constant presence up on the mountain two to three days a week since September. Upon his exit he removed the padlock and closed signs from the gate that crosses the reservoir’s access off North Road. He started working on the project in 2022, as a forest management advisor to the Village of Greenwich. He has attending many public meetings, given many tours of the Hayes Reservoir property and made himself available by phone for questions from the public.

Allen said that he was pleased with the results of the project. The harvester Sweeney Land and Tree Management out of Petersburg, NY, was able to extract 580,000 board feet, 60% of it being spruce. The Village profited \$278,000 from the lumber sale. The additional figures for the stumps and pulp are outstanding. The equipment used by the harvester was carefully selected and trucks were limited to the landing area to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the property. The company plans to come back and finish the project with some ground leveling and seeding when weather permits. Sweeney does work around the Troy area; they were chosen as the highest bidder of four competitors. They have a reputation of being fast workers, and promised to have the project done in 3 to 4 months.

A lot of trees were removed during the project. The patch cutting in the areas around the pond and the northside of the powerline resulted in a total of 16 ½ to 17 ½ acres being cleared, a little more than 10% of the 134 acres. Originally it was proposed that 11 to 13 acres would be clear cut. Covering those acres were mostly Norway Spruce that were intentionally planted as part of the 3.5 billion trees that Franklin Delano Roosevelt directed the Civilian Conservation Corps to plant 90 years ago. They were long overdue to be harvested. A buffer of 100 to 150 feet around the pond was reduced to 50 feet due to the shallow root system of the very tall trees in that area that created a hazard.

The increased clearing allowed for the project to remain profitable while sparing the old giant oak and maple hardwoods at the top of the property. The community members that attended public meetings and toured the property with the forester vocalized their objection to cutting the big beauties that had been branded with blue X’s. Those trees are nearing the end of their lifespan, but are reasonably healthy and magnificent to view.



Quinn Saunders, a nearby resident and arborist by trade, hiked the trails after the New Year and photographed the new landscape from several different locations. The photographs look like scenes of mass destruction, the bleak of winter emphasizing the nothingness of the clear cutting. Allen had promised scarification to be minimized, but warned that the land would have to look worse before it got better. Saunders’ photographs got much attention on the Greenwich Community Facebook page, members are upset about the mess that is left, that so much time will need to pass before the property’s beauty is restored, and that the scope was so massive. Saunders is in favor of responsible timber harvesting that is done slow and methodically, but not rushed and destructively. Purposeful planting will be necessary to get wanted species to return, and to avoid the spread of invasive boxwood and poplars. Saunders has offered to volunteer time to get the trails repaired and help replant.

Thunder Mountain is advertised as a recreation park with hiking and fishing amenities. Volunteers built the dock and both the hiking and mountain bike trails. There are two mapped out hiking

trails, one red and one yellow. The red hiking trail suffered the bulk of the damage, and there are plans to rebuild the trail in a manner that will be easier to maintain. The yellow hiking trail is mostly intact and should be reusable. The clearing at the northside of the powerlines has opened up the view from the top overlooking the Thunder Mountain property.

A Park and Recreation Task Force was created by the Village in early 2023 to create a vision and organize volunteers. A survey created by the Park and Recreation Task Force asked residents what they would like to see be done at Thunder Mountain; responses included the ability to facilitate events, fishing, and hiking trails. The Park and Recreation Task Force held a clean up day in July 2023, and likely will be planning more volunteer events. Members of the Parks and Recreation Task Force are John Peck, Megan Davis, Sarah Tuttle and Dorothea Casey. The next Village Hall meeting is January 17 at 7pm, it is expected that members of the public will wish to discuss the outcome of the timber harvest.



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Reimagining Greenwich's gazebo



—Summer 2023 photo courtesy Sarah Murphy

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

On January 15, this newspaper interviewed Greenwich residents Ken Facin, Audrey Fischer and Sara Idleman about their efforts in forming a committee to replace the gazebo in Mowry Park. Facin is a longtime school administrator who was raised in Greenwich and came back to retire here. He's currently serving as interim superintendent for Cambridge CSD. Fischer serves in the popular local chapter of the Lions Club and Idleman is a former town supervisor and former Greenwich representative to the Washington County Board of Supervisors. Below is our chat, edited for space.

J&P: What was the impetus for this project?

Facin: I moved into the village six years ago. And seeing the political atmosphere and everything else, I just thought it would be nice to do an apolitical beautification project – no politics.

So when I started to research about the gazebo, I had heard there was some challenges with doing restoration and doing some work to it. I asked the mayor if I could look into it. I met with everybody who was involved... the Lions, Sherwin Bowen, Harold Snell and the Snells who built it and had dedicated it to Bob Shaw. And then Megan Davis; and I went to the village board meeting about a year later and asked this past August if we could form a gazebo beautification committee to reimagine and reconstitute a new gazebo and approach to Mowry Park.

They said, yes, go for it. And we were really pleased with that. So I ran into Audrey in the park and said, you've got to be on this committee. You had started this before me, wanting to get this gazebo reimaged. She was the first one I approached. And then others have come on, and we've just started meeting and putting things together. We also have Seth Boddery, who's the Greenwich CSD senior class president, on board. It's a really exciting group.

J&P: When do you meet and where?

Fischer: We meet at the Greenwich Free Library on Mondays once a month. And it's starting to gain some momentum with members. We're looking for a few more, a few more members. Our next meeting is Monday, February 5th at 6 o'clock.

J&P: What's the backstory of the gazebo in Mowry Park? Its current state?

Fischer: The Lions funded that project back in 1987. That was when it was built and constructed. It has never been renovated. No re-

pair work. Maybe some glass work. It was yearly stained and the Lions paid for that upkeep, but then that fell away. ...There are electrical issues with the power coming in.

J&P: What's the goal?

Facin: Our mission is to create a really vibrant gathering space for the community, and have the gazebo be that focal point of what can happen. Whether it's music in the park, or it's historical speakers talking about the Underground Railroad, or the students who take their prom pictures there, they gather there, gatherings after championships as well. There are just so many things that can bring the community out.

J&P: Would your plan be to renovate it, raze it?

Facin: Raze it. We really want to make it historically in concert with the community architecture. Very similar to the tourist information booth, the little booth between the village and the town hall. And to Audrey's point, we really want to have some more community members join us so we can have a design group that can present various design concepts to the village and town, and then a fundraising group, a subgroup, so that we could fund this through all of the service organizations in the community.

J&P: So the goal is to create community spirit and goodwill so people rally behind this project?

Fischer: The groups in town are really benevolent. I mean, if you look at the Lions and what they do, and the American Legion, the Elks, the VFW, there's a lot of giving. Very generous group and they kind of operate under the radar. There are a lot of great people in Greenwich.

J&P: You mention you want this to be apolitical, above the bickering that often comes when someone proposes something new.

Facin: I wish the whole vitriol, you know, national politics stuff would go away. But it's crept into small towns and people may create controversy over something like a park and where it is. It's like, why? A park is a wonderful thing. But I think this is one of the things that's so nice about this project; it is so visible.

It really is the anchor of the community. So we are reimaging it in a way that allows multi-uses and more uses.

J&P: If you raze it, you're putting another gazebo there or something else?

Facin: I think it would still be a gazebo; it might not be an octagon gazebo, but it's going to be a gazebo.

J&P: How will this be funded?

Facin: It is important to note that funding this project is not going to come from taxpayer dollars. We're not even looking for grants. We want this to be 100 percent community funded, and we want people to invest in their communities. Make a donation. I think that would be a strong statement, and I think one of the things that one of our members said the other day – Elizabeth Finkelstein, who's on the committee as well – it's so visible, we really need to promote more activities that will be in there, then more people will come out. It's sort of like build it, and they will come. I think it will be an economic generator for Greenwich.

J&P: The Greenwich Free Library is across the street, and they have been very active in hosting events that bring out a lot of people. How might they get involved?

Facin: The librarian, Sarah Murphy, has done a tremendous job. We were at a lecture on Friday night and it was a full house. And she wrote the grant to get funding for music in the park this past summer. It was really well received. I can see that as an extension having lectures there and people putting a chair up and listening to a speaker speak about, say, Susan B. Anthony or the women's suffrage movement or abolitionists, or, we have so much history to celebrate in Greenwich. And I think people will travel here to hear that.

J&P: What inspires you to take on such a big project?

Facin: I'm an '81 grad from Greenwich, and I want to invest in the community. I've retired here, so I want to see the community prosper. I think it's a wonderful place.

J&P: Currently, the gazebo really only can be used in warm, dry weather. Could its season be stretched a little longer?

Fischer: One of the things we said was that we need weatherproof sound system, and it be plug-and-play so that it can be used any time.

J&P: Besides the gazebo, what are some other ideas that could enhance Mowry Park? Are you looking into that?

In pursuit of 'Cheap Old Houses'

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

Reality show home-rehab couple Elizabeth and Ethan Finkelstein recently visited the Greenwich Free Library to discuss their new book, "Cheap Old Houses: An Unconventional Guide to Loving and Restoring a Forgotten Home," inspired by their wildly popular Instagram account and HGTV show, "Cheap Old Houses." They also are working on debuting a new show.

The Finkelsteins started the Instagram account Cheap Old Houses in 2016 to uncover hidden gem houses across America for under \$100,000. This newspaper previously covered their documenting of the rehab of a local former one-room schoolhouse (the Tefft family's Gramp's Old School House: See the August 1, 2021 issue of the Journal & Press at JournalandPress.com).

They have garnered millions of followers and have grown their brand into the HGTV show and a newsletter. According to a press release, they've been featured widely in such publications as New York magazine, Architectural Digest, The Financial Times, Forbes, Daily Mail, and Business Insider. Oh, yeah, and the Journal & Press.

They are local Battenkill Valley, Washington County, residents and the library event had a full audience, however, I could not attend. So I caught up with Elizabeth Finkelstein after to see how it went, and to learn more about their projects. Here is our Q&A:

Darren: So what brought here, how long have you been here?

Elizabeth: *I grew up in the area. I recently moved but I grew up in the area and I'm still here. I could say quite confidently that I've always wanted to move back here. I've always loved Washington County. I think that it's the most beautiful place in the entire world.*

Darren: Where else have you lived?

Elizabeth: *My husband is from the Philadelphia area. I went to college in New York City for 17 years. And then we moved to New York. That was our first home when we had our son, we moved here. I guess we've been here a year and a half.*

Darren: How did you get into the viral video business?

Elizabeth: *We had, for a long time, a website called CircaOldHouses.com. It's a website that hosts real estate listings for historical homes for sale all over the country. We started a little Instagram feed called Cheap Old Houses just as a fun spinoff of that because we personally love fixer uppers and houses that no one notices or seems to want to invest in. We've been doing it since 2016 and it's taken off. We now have a website and subscription newsletters focused on specific kinds of cheap old houses for sale, a*



The Finkelsteins

book, and a TV show on HGTV.

Darren: How's the TV show doing? I watched the episode you did on the schoolhouse because we did a story on it back when.

Elizabeth: *Yeah. That was the TV show, and we're doing another one that is coming out in the spring. It's called "Who's Afraid of a Cheap Old House?" There's not a set release date yet.*

Darren: You were an early adopter on Instagram because in 2016 it wasn't doing much.

Elizabeth: *Yeah, I suppose we were. We were definitely one of the first people to use it. Well, I don't want to say we were one of the first people, but definitely in the real estate space, it wasn't really being used the way that we had chosen to use it. I think it started out for people to sort of just like post photos. And we kind of flipped it on its head a little bit and found a formula to use it as its own sort of content feed. We were the first ones to put the price and the town, write all the photo captions, and make it its own little news feed as it relates to real estate. Definitely we succeeded in the old house space.*

Darren: How do you get your tips on which houses to profile?

Elizabeth: *So, I search the internet every day. I look at all the houses for sale. We also get a lot of submissions from the community. It's totally curated based on what we know after all these years will resonate with people. I'm more interested in houses being intact than their condition.*

Darren: That's what I like about your show vs. other home rehab shows. Other shows seem to mock old houses as being out-of-date, but you are kinder to the history of the houses and the people who had lived in them before. I wonder why more people don't just buy old people's houses and simply leave them exactly the way they are; of course, repairing and painting things, but keeping their overall authenticity.

Elizabeth: *I think that's what so much of our book is really about. You*

don't have to make huge overhaul transformations to your house to make it work and livable. It's not always necessary to gut everything and start anew.

Darren: What should people know if they want to buy an old house?

Elizabeth: *They should know that there will be projects and maintenance involved. Every house requires maintenance, whether it's new or old. But going into an old house, they should be prepared for the work and the process. It's important to educate yourself through resources available online and learn from others' experiences.*

Darren: That's good advice. So, how's the reception for your book been?

Elizabeth: *The book has been well-received. We wanted to write a book that showcases normal people buying and restoring old houses, making it feel accessible to everyone. It's not a typical design book, but more about inspiring and giving permission to pursue restoring old houses based on personal style and resources.*

Darren: That's great to hear. Why do you think upstate New York has so many intact old houses available?

Elizabeth: *Upstate New York has a rich history with homes from different eras. There's an abundance of different styles of homes here because of the early development. The rural nature in our area has helped preserve many of these homes. In other parts of the country, where there's more wealth and development, old houses get turned over quickly.*

What I love about Upstate New York is that every style of home can be found here; it's such an old part of the country, where people came through from different eras. So we have an abundance of Victorians, and we have craftsmen bungalows, and we have Greek Revival farmhouses, and we have salt boxes, and even earlier than that.

Whereas in so many other parts of the country, they were developed later, and so you don't have the multiple century stages of development that you have in Upstate New York. I think our part of Upstate New York is a little too far to have ever been a bedroom community for city dwellers.

You can find the Finkelsteins' book at local bookstores as well as on Amazon.com.



Gramp's Old Schoolhouse

PTSA leads Outdoor Learning Center

The Greenwich Central School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) announced the approval of the Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) project, a groundbreaking initiative designed to create an interactive outdoor classroom space for students, staff, and community members. The project, recently presented to the Greenwich School District Board of Education, received unanimous approval, marking a significant step towards enhancing the educational experience within the district.

The Outdoor Learning Center is envisioned as a pavilion space featuring picnic tables and seating, providing a covered area for shade while maintaining open sides for an immersive outdoor experience. While power connectivity may not be feasible, the structure will be equipped with WiFi, allowing for connectivity to the Primary building.

The OLC aims to serve as a versatile space where teachers can conduct hands-on, experiential learning activities. Whether used for science experiments, art classes, or simply as an alternative setting for lessons, this outdoor space promises to enrich the educational land-

scape of Greenwich CSD.

In 2022, the school received a generous anonymous donation of six heavy-duty picnic tables, with the stipulation that they be protected from inclement weather. Subsequently, in February 2023, PTSA board members collaborated with GCS Administration and business officials to discuss the feasibility of a covered outdoor space, solidifying the concept of the Outdoor Learning Center.

Committed to making this vision a reality, the PTSA has been actively fundraising, raising over \$9,000 through various events since last spring. This includes dedicated efforts during both spring and fall fundraising sales events, with a focus on the Outdoor Learning Space. The PTSA's dedication to the project underscores the community's commitment to fostering a dynamic and innovative learning environment.

With the goal of completing construction before the 6th-grade graduation in June, the Greenwich Central School District is now invit-



ing local contractors to submit bids for the construction of this vital educational asset. Interested contractors are encouraged to participate in this exciting project that promises to have a lasting impact on the educational experiences of Greenwich CSD students.

For further information and to obtain bid details, please contact Rachel Clothier at legaleagle518@gmail.com or 518-932-3760.

HVCC Biotech Connect program Feb. 5

An ongoing effort to draw more underserved people into the biotechnology and biomanufacturing industries will continue with the next session of Biotech Connect, a free four-day introductory workshop which starts Feb. 5 at HVCC South in Albany.

Hudson Valley Community College and the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center are partnering with Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS) to bring a new and diverse audience to the career fields of biotechnology and biomanufacturing through the Biotech Connect program.

Biotech Connect hopes to recruit post-secondary-GED/high school graduates, women, people of color and refugees into a field that has been growing steadily in the Capital Region for decades.

The four-day workshop is a way to introduce

participants to the Capital Region's growing biomanufacturing and life sciences sector. The program is sponsored by the Stack Family Center for Biopharmaceutical Education and Training at ACPHS.

The workshop will run from 5 - 8 p.m. on Feb. 5, 8, 12 and 15, and introduces some of the concepts, tools and skills needed for entry-level careers in biotech and biomanufacturing with a goal of encouraging people in the community to pursue a career in the field. Participants must attend all four sessions to receive a certificate of completion from Hudson Valley.

Dinner is provided to participants thanks to funding and support from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.



For questions details about the program or to register, email cbet.programs@acphs.edu.

HVCC South is located at the Capital South Campus Center, 20 Warren Street, Albany.

Two musical additions to Fort Salem schedule

Fort Salem Theater is thrilled to announce additional live arts events in their upcoming 2024 season. Among the highlights are two groundbreaking performances: the new musical "Beethoven: Live in Concert" and "Music From Salem."

Taking the stage from April 19-21, 2024, "Beethoven: Live in Concert" is an original musical penned by Al Budde Scholarship Recipient Jad Jacob of Niskayuna, NY. This dynamic production delves into the life of the world's first Rock Star, Ludwig van Beethoven. Set against the backdrop of the rock 'n roll revolution of the 70s, the electrifying show explores Beethoven's tumultuous life, weaving together political upheaval and family drama to narrate the tale of the man who defied fate and forever changed the landscape of classical music.

In a symphonic celebration on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at 4:00 PM, Fort Salem Theater presents "Music From Salem." Led by the acclaimed Artistic Director Lila Brown on viola, this exclusive concert promises an enchanting evening of classical chamber music. The esteemed ensemble, originating in 1986, has earned international acclaim for its intimate and evocative performances, creating a profound musical dialogue that bridges the gap between artist and audience.

Additionally, Fort Salem Theater invites audiences to indulge in an enchanting Valentine's Day Cabaret featuring the extraordinary singer, actor, and cabaret performer Brittany Rolfs on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM. With a remarkable career spanning various productions across the east coast, Brittany promises an unforgettable evening with her unparalleled vocal prowess. Limited seating is available, with VIP tables for an enhanced experience.

Fort Salem Theater continues to champion local talent with the New



Works Readings series, featuring "Moving On" by Jeremy Buechner on Friday, June 21, 2024, and "Been Bad" by Sarah Zweighaft on Friday, August 16, 2024. Both authors are Al Budde Scholarship finalists (and veterans of the Fort Salem stage), contributing to the vibrant cultural tapestry of the region.

These additional events complement Fort Salem Theater's previously announced lineup, including acclaimed productions like "Agnes of God," "Into the Woods," "Godspell," "Mary Poppins," "The Drowsy Chaperone," "Our Town," and "Snow Business." Tickets for all events are now on sale at FortSalem.com or by calling 518-854-9200.

Lost his mind, and then his estate

Here's our regular look at articles that appeared in *The Journal* from decades past...

180 Years Ago

January 25, 1844

SALE OF LUNATIC'S ESTATE — In Chancery, fourth circuit, in the matter of Nathaniel Bentley, a lunatic. By virtue of an order of this honorable court, made in this case, dated the 18th day of January 1844, the subscriber, as committee of said lunatic, will sell at public venue on the eighth day of March next, at 1 o'clock, p.m., as a dwelling house on the premises here and after described, all the real estate of Nathaniel Bentley, the lunatic named and said order, consisting of 32 acres of land in North Greenwich, with a house and some other buildings, and an orchard, etc. etc. Said premises are bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of lot number 42, and a patent granted to Donald Campbell and others, in 1763, at a stake and stones...to the west line of Walter Faxon land; thence north 12° east 10 chains and 35 links to a stake and stones standing on Nathaniel Rood's south line.... to the place of beginning, containing 32 acres, two routes and 11 purchase of land, the same more or less.

Said sale will be for cash to about 2/3 the amount thereof, and the other 1/3 can probably remain secured by bond and mortgage. Terms will be made known at sale.

Abram Mosher, committee.

ED Culver, solicitor.

170 Years Ago

January 19, 1854

Communicated (Letter to the Editor, who was then the paper's founder, John Curtis) — Mr. Curtis. As very much is now being said, and done on the subject of slavery, and it, as much as there is only one practical way of ridding the nation of it, or of palliating its terrible effects, and the only way is colonization (aka, the Back to Africa movement), I feel more than anxious. The people should be better acquainted with its true principles.

I hear with send you the annual report of the

New York State colonization society for 1844, in this report may be seen at once where the colonization scheme originated, and with whom, and at the same time, what we're still, it's principles and objects. I hope I am a Christian and while I feel for the slaves and desire, their highest good, still, I must stand for the American Church and the Union. And taking measures for the removal of slavery, I will not be blind, nor indifferent to the consequences of rash and unjust measures. Politic impolitic course of the so-called free Democrats and rash and denunciatory course of the infidel set called Garson, is doing much to rivet the chains more firmly on the slave and destruction to the union and subversion of all our free institutions in both the church and the state. if you will be so kind as to give this note, and the report a place in your paper, you will confer a favor on your readers and very much oblige your friend. Dated: January 13, 1854. Signed, I.P.

The report: In presenting to the society, their annual report, the board of managers regarded as alike, their duty and their privilege to acknowledge with profound gratitude, the fostering care of God, and to recognize his hand in the blessings which the officers and members of the society have enjoyed during the past year.

A spirit of fear and uncompromising hostility has persecuted this blessed cause through a course of years, and employed against it, with untiring zeal, every weapon, which does subtlety and ingenuity of opponents could invent. This has led many Christian minds to a reexamination of the whole enterprise of African colonization — to inquire into its origin, ascertain its genius, and examine its results, as far as its progress has developed them, and the consequence has been, a reestablish confidence in it, and renovated hopes of its ultimate success and triumphs. ... It was not prejudiced against color — it was not the desire that slaves might be held more securely, by the removal of the free blacks, from among them; nor that the price of those in bondage might be enhanced by the emancipation of some of their number. It was not for political or commercial purposes. These were not the motives; this was not the spirit in which the enterprise of African colonization originated. ... Without strangely perverting the constitution, which God has given us, we cannot avoid feeling a deep, and sometimes even a tragic interest in the sorrows and suffering of our fellow men, it is on the supposition that the human mind naturally possesses, the susceptibility of pity and kindred, tender emotions, that we can count for the existence of the drama, and the influence which

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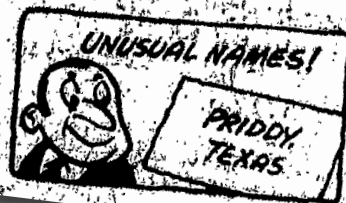
Firemen Will Start
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Ads on these pages are from 40 years ago

the representation of fictitious distress exerts on the populous. And perhaps it is the misfortune of the colonization cause in these days of morbid sensibility, that it makes its appeal to our humanity, from scenes of real distress only. Did it create imaginary wolves, and dress them out in the tragic element of romance, and invest them with some degree of that concealment and mystery which

Burke says, is an element of the sublime, it would doubtless excite a much stronger temporary emotion...



160 Years Ago
January 28, 1864

Mr. Editor: I desire through the medium of your columns, to brand as wickedly and maliciously false the report now in circulation that I robbed William Langworthy, a reenlisted veteran, of his money; and whoever started such report is a liar, and can be proved to be such by me. Yours, Lyman Tucker.

120 Years Ago

January 20, 1904

The reflection of a large fire was plainly seen in the eastern sky from Greenwich early Wednesday evening. It was afterward learned that the Methodist Church at Shaftsbury Depot, Vermont, and schoolhouse nearby were burned to the ground. Nothing of the contents was saved. The fire took in the school house after school was closed, and with the strong wind blowing the fire quickly communicated to the church. The school house was built about a

Please read more on the next page

GIANT WOODSTOVE

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WELKIN

Saturday, January 21

"A Little Bit of Everything"

Shot at for having 250 bottles of ale

year ago, and was modern in all its details. The church was in good condition, and would seat about 150. The Rutland railroad station was but a short distance away, but the wind was in the wrong direction for the flames to reach it. There was an insurance of \$800 on the church and \$1000 on the school house, besides \$150 on the furniture.

100 Years Ago
January 30, 1924

Charged with being a partner in the enterprise of bootlegging 250 bottles of Canadian ale, Mrs. Helen Durkee of Whitehall is held on \$1000 bail for appearance of the hearing Friday of this week. Mrs. Durkee was captured after a thrilling chase across snow covered fields south of Whitehall. She said to have led the officers for about a mile before she gave up and submitted to capture.

Francis Aiken of Whitehall, who with Durkee is alleged to have abandoned the Hudson speedster containing the ale, was still at large at last reports.

The arrest was made by Whitehall policemen. Two shots were fired at the fleeing car by chief of police Fred B. Hebert and patrolman George Bellow inside the village limits at about 11 o'clock Tuesday morning, but the machine failed to stop. The police gave chase and found the Hudson abandoned 2 miles south of the village, and a short time after captured Mrs. Durkee, who tired in the cross country tramp, and could not make her getaway.

It is understood that Mrs. Durkee has a husband, living in Glens Falls, and according to our testimony, her stepfather and mother reside in Hudson Falls.

80 Years Ago
January 19, 1944

Floyd Joseph Marra, a former Shushan resident who has a long record of stealing cars with no idea of profiting by such acts, was given another chance to reform when Judge WS Bascom

in Washington County court at Hudson Falls, suspended the execution of a 5 to 10 year prison sentence and allowed him to go back to his farm job near Comstock. Marra promised to pay for damages he had caused to the car which he stole from Herman Chapin of Smiths Basin on New Year's Eve.

Marra stole the Chapin car in Granville, drove it into a ditch near Salem, and then sought shelter at Salem jail, where he is well-known, and where nobody was surprised when the information about the stolen car was obtained. Marra's departures from the paths of rectitude in the past have usually taken the form of taking other people's cars and going places in them. Liquor is blamed for his indulgence in the mania.

60 Years Ago
January 30, 1964

NEXT WEEK'S LUNCHES — Menus for the week of February 3-7 at Cambridge Central school will be as follows: Monday — macaroni, and cheese, sliced bologna, bread, and butter, and a fruit cup; Tuesday — vegetable soup, egg, and olive sandwich in a bun, potato chips and peaches and cookie; Wednesday — spaghetti and meat sauce, cabbage, salad, Jell-O; Thursday — tomato juice, turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, roll and butter, cake with fruit sauce; and Friday — celery, and tomato soup, tuna, sandwich, cranberry and orange salad, and pudding.

40 Years Ago
January 19, 1984

Harold C Kipp, 64, a lifelong resident of Greenwich, and former superintendent of public works for the village of Greenwich, died Sunday, January 15, at Mary McClellan Hospital following a short illness.

Mr. Kipp was born in Greenwich, September 19, 1919, the son of the late Frank and Susan Durham Kipp. He had retired as DPW superintendent for the village of Greenwich April 1, 1982, after serving in that position for 25 years.


"Kippy," as he was known, was US Army veteran of World War II, a member and chief of the Greenwich volunteer fire department, and a member of the Rough and Ready Engine company.

30 Years Ago
January 20, 1994

It must be a dream come true. Hal Ketchum has notified family and friends here that he will be inducted into the Grand Ole Opry this Saturday evening. The Nashville institution is one of the music industry's leading and certainly country music's premier organizations.

The ceremony will take place Saturday night at the Grand Ole Opry Hotel at Opryland, Nashville, Tennessee. According to brother Frank Jr., the ceremony will be on cable television's TNN. The Greenwich native has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry stage a number of times.

Help dreams come true.



Buy Girl Scout Cookies.

If a Girl Scout does not come to you between January 13 and January 29.

The \$1.75 you pay per box will go to: the bakery (75¢), the Scout "salesgirl's" council (64¢), her troop (30¢) and her award (6¢). \$1.00 is tax deductible.



GIRL SCOUTS

A Lytle Fabric/Lytle Oil Co.

The country singer is only the 10th to join the Opry since 1990.

20 Years Ago
January 29, 2004

Dear Editor (Sally) Tefft: I sat up a long while last night, reading the "Chapters in the History of Greenwich." I concluded that I grew up in a fascinating part of the country — railroads, famous women, feminists and abolitionists, energetic male entrepreneurs, such as LeRoy Thompson, and IC Blandy, etc.; people, who, if one thing petered out, quickly got something else going. They certainly did not sit around and bring them life on a platter — in short, welfare. The only welfare I have read about so far is in Susan B. Anthony's family when she loaned her father some money to help him pay his debts.

Today grown sons and daughters seek to remain or return to the parental home and have their solicitous parents continue to make their life easy and pleasant: or is what I read or see on "Dr. Phil."

The one word that characterizes Greenwich, New York, and area is "energy." It all seems so alive. Today our lives are more dull and dead no matter how much we enjoy what we are doing. Cities are too large, and we are uninvolved in the lives of others

Schools are too large and the youth are miserable if others pick on them because of the clothes they wear — what they do or don't do.

I'm speaking now of Greenwich of this history book. The energy, perhaps, of early America.

I have not heard of anyone going to school and shooting up the school in early Greenwich. They were too busy, earning a living, making sure there was something to eat, or a house to live in.

Today there is an amazing number of million dollar homes, often described in the St. Petersburg Times. I doubt that this makes people any happier than those struggling for survival, as, for example, Susan B. Anthony's father and family.

Signed, Molly Gill
Largo, Florida

—Compiled and curated by Darren Johnson



Stewart's
WE ARE CLOSER TO YOU

WEEKLY SPECIALS FOR
JANUARY 16-22

chocolate swirl
ice cream topped
with crumbled
chocolate chunk
girl scout
cookies, hot
fudge, &
whipped cream

double dutch
SUNDAE **1.49** plus tax

cookie profits benefit girl scouts

Stewart's Soup 'n Sandwich
Main St., Greenwich · Park St., Cambridge · Main St., Salem

Stewart's Bread 'n Butter
Main St., Salem

Things to do when it's cold outside

Shirley Renauld
Journal & Press

With your holiday decorations put away, what will you use the space for? Taking the place of the Christmas tree could be a table for playing games with family and friends, games from learning skills to strategy, from playing favorites to learning new ones. Which card games are favorites, from Go Fish and Uno, to Spades or Hearts, to Bridge and Cribbage? Board games, from Candyland and Chutes and Ladders, to Trouble, Memory and Clue, to Monopoly, Life, Battleship, Chinese Checkers, and Sequence, to Catan, Seven Wonders, from Checkers, to Chess. What about Pictionary? What about a game night? Do you or friends have game tables: ping pong, air hockey, foosball, pool? A local group planned and played a pool tournament. Perhaps you will set up a large jigsaw puzzle for family members to work on. You see them set up at libraries, senior or community centers for you to help complete.

Other popular indoor places this time of year are the shop and kitchen. Work together in the shop repairing and doing maintenance, especially on the farm equipment to get it ready for the coming growing and harvesting seasons. Get creative in the woodshop. We can always use more shelving. John made himself a pair of stilts. With wood scraps, make a set of building blocks. Then into the kitchen: "No matter where I serve my guests, they seem to like the kitchen best." Why? Because there are the homey smells and warmth from baking homemade bread, rolls, and biscuits, to eat with fruit preserves you made. Soups and chowders are simmering on the stovetop and casseroles in the oven giving us luring smells and warming humidity. Perhaps you made them with the garden produce you froze or offerings from the farm-to-library program. (Are you benefiting from the farm-to-school program, getting free lunches at school? Can you notice that you're getting whole milk once again, not two percent?)

While eating, there's much conversation:

memories are shared, and plans are made:

- You farm families have so many shows and expos to go to, to see new equipment and get ideas for planning your next season.
- What activities are you Saratoga Co 4-Hers planning in your new education rooms?
- Since it's such a good time for reading, maybe it's time to start a book club with your friends. Adults have theirs. Would you prefer the kind in which everyone reads the same book and you discuss it together, like the one at the Schuylerville Library and others? Would you prefer to have members take turns giving a book review and then passing the book around for members to read, like the Easton Book Club? (The Easton one started during the Suffrage movement and its tradition continues.)
- Perhaps you will take a hike at Carter's Pond Nature Trail. Start by walking along the boardwalk to the observation deck to get an overview of the whole area. Since it's a NYDEC wetland wildlife management area, look for beaver lodges, Wood Ducks, nesting boxes on tall poles and the flow of the water. Then walk the loop of the prepared trail to observe more closely: Look for pointed stumps and imagine the beavers cutting down those small trees for their lodges that dam up sections of the water. At another section, see the water going over the short waterfall. Walk the footbridge over a stream going into the pond. Look for other wildlife. At the end of the loop, enjoy the lunch that you brought and plan to come again, during the plant-growing seasons to see changes in the water, what wetland plants are growing, insects at work in the decaying wood, listen for birds...
- Perhaps you'll take a walking tour of a village. You could use "A Walk in the Village" by Helen Andrews Hoag as a guide to walk one or all four of the historic areas of Greenwich. To make it even better, join one of Cliff Oliver's walking tours. You could walk the central area of Schuylerville and sketch a map as you walk along Broad St, but also include Rt 29/Ferry St and west out of the village, around to include

the library and churches, the Battle Monument, Fish Creek, and the Schuyler House. This would become a more-than-one-day, a group project and end with a large map to display in a public place. Such a map was made as a driving tour of the Town of Easton for its Bicentennial and is on display in its town building, Burton Hall.

- A family who just got pickleball sets for each member is making plans of where to use them, indoors or out.
- Good time to learn new skills. Music makes happy sounds. Learn to play the piano with Debbie. Learn to play the guitar with Bob. So many musical instruments to learn at school. String instruments will form an ensemble. Start with the flutophone and move on to woodwind instruments. Mallory is a percussionist. Playing in the brass section of the band, Nancy played the French Horn. Amy played the trumpet and became a bugler at the Saratoga Race Track. With Rural Soul Studio, Chelsie teaches drumming. Your interests could lead to forming a group with your friends, to play your favorite type of music. Evan formed a band to play for enjoyment and they went on to play at paying performances. Maybe you prefer vocal music. Are you singing with your chorus as part of a Winter Concert? Sing with your church choir. We enjoy Erich accompanying the Battenkill Chorale on the organ.
- The seed catalogs are coming in. It's time to plan your gardens. It will be so good to notice the Spring green leaves poking through the ground. What annual flowers will you want to add to the perennial ones already there? What changes will you want to make to your vegetable garden? Try some new ones. What plants will you want to start indoors? Will you need to enlarge the garden? What theme garden will you grow this year? How about a Three Sisters' Garden? Remember to use seeds that you saved last year. Will you help with community gardens?

We continue to get cardboard tubes and lint from the dryer, so stuff lint into the tubes to make starters for indoor or outdoor fires. They will help the wood get started. Tear cardboard boxes into pieces to put between the pieces of wood, too. You are recycling, not adding to the roadside pick-up, and getting a cozy fire going, too. It could be a woodstove fire that you will curl up beside with a cup of hot chocolate to read. It could be an outdoor fire in a firepit for toasting marshmallows or a tepee fire, maybe built around your dry Christmas tree, that will last long enough for your family and friends to have a sing-along around or to warm up around after ice-skating--should your shallow pond be frozen safe and solid. It would be special to be able to do this when it's the Full Moon on Jan 25. Our Native Americans called the Jan one the Wolf Moon because they would hear wolves howling at the moon. We could hear coyotes while we're around our fire. We might even see an owl glide overhead (remember "Owl Moon"?)

In the daylight, we're seeing hawks and crows. Count them as they fly around. Create and sing a version of "One Little, Two Little, Three Little ___" as you read Leo Lionni's "Six Crows." Mary likes to let her chickens free-range. They especially liked to scratch for food in her nearby old garden, but she was afraid of hawks capturing them for their food, so she strung/reused tinsel garland over the garden to scare the hawks away. It worked: the chickens could scratch and eat. The hawks can look for field mice to eat. And we're done with holiday decorations!

Kindergarten signup

Cambridge Elementary School has finalized its plans for the kindergarten orientation process for the 2024-25 school year. Parents of children residing in the Cambridge Central School District who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2024 must register to provide the district with the required information. Please register prior to the informational meeting. This information will assist in developing our kindergarten lists for the upcoming school year.

A parent information meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6 p.m. At this meeting, parents will meet the kindergarten teachers and learn about our program. Administrators and other school personnel will describe the intent and scope of the kindergarten screening process. Parents will be able to sign-up for appointments to have their child(ren) screened. The school nurse will review the New York State Health Department requirements and registration packets will be distributed. Parents who are unable to attend the informational meeting should call the elementary office after Tuesday, April 16 to sign-up for a screening appointment.

\$15 dinners help pantry

It's time to start a new year for the Cambridge Food Pantry, known as "Loaves & Fishes." The monthly dinners are held at the pantry at 59 South Park St. in Cambridge (Route 22 South near the school), usually on the 4th Saturday of the month. Watch local papers and posters. This is a very successful source of income and support of the community and beyond is very much appreciated.

The January dinner will be held on Saturday, January 27th from 4:30 to 6:30. Diners can eat in or take their dinner home to enjoy. The cost is only \$15 per person. Lasagna with meat sauce, homemade bread, salad and dessert will be served this month. Bring your family and friends.

ELA/math proficiency scores down

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

For the past two decades, the State of New York Education Department has administered English Language Arts and math standardized proficiency tests, among others, to all public grade 3-8 school students, but this year the tests introduced new standards and local results weren't as positive as in previous years.

"We continue to see the effects of learning loss among students who had interruptions in their foundational learning during COVID; especially our younger students," said Salem superintendent Julie Adams.

Greenwich CSD superintendent Jennifer Steimle added: "It is important to note that the results of the 2022-23 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Math represent student achievement on the 'Next Generation Learning Standards.' Because the tests measure different learning standards, the results are not comparable to those from prior years."

Looking at the state's website, it appears that many local school districts, especially at the lower grade levels, did not fare very well – largely attributed to the pandemic's effects on early learning for those younger age groups as well as changes in the type of test questions. They appear to be more STEM-based now, to promote innovative careers of the future.

- Greenwich 3rd graders had a proficiency rate of 41% and 55% for ELA and math, respectively. Meanwhile, here is how other grades did at Greenwich CSD (ELA/math): 4th, 52%/53%; 5th, 35%/29%; 6th, 45%/47%; 7th, 47%/63%, and 8th, 63%/54%.
- Schuylerville (ELA/math): 3rd, 37%/58%; 4th, 71%/71%; 5th, 51%/63%; 6th, 44%/63%; 7th, 54%/60%, and 8th, 71%/65%.
- Salem (ELA/math): 3rd, 24%/47%; 4th, 47%/50%; 5th, 44%/59%; 6th, 33%/53%; 7th, 52%/69%, and 8th, 41%/43%.
- Cambridge (ELA/math): 3rd, 33%/40%; 4th, 39%/19%; 5th, 38%/52%; 6th, 41%/44%; 7th, 31%/55%, and 8th, 29%/62%.
- Argyle (ELA/math): 3rd, 28%/48%; 4th, 36%/30%; 5th, 24%/66%; 6th, 37%/45%; 7th, 53%/54%, and 8th, 26%/29%.

Apparently, practically every school district in the state fared a bit poorer this time around. We asked the school districts in our area for statements on the results.

Cambridge spokesmam Chris Crucetti said: "As a district, we are focused on providing our students with the remediation and instruction to close the gaps that were established throughout the COVID pandemic. We are seeing an increase in the social emotional needs of our students. We are implementing research based interventions and revamping our curriculum to meet the Next Generation Learning Standards. The district created a literacy task force based on the results and is reimagining its approaches to reading and writing for grades UPK-12. The district is committed to the success of our stu-



dents, both academically and socially."

Greenwich's Steimle added: "Greenwich's assessment scores, on average, are comparable to those across the state, however, some elementary grade level results are below the statewide average. This may be attributed to the interruption of our normal, day-to-day lives during the pandemic. We continue to focus on developing foundational skills in our younger students, and we are utilizing a multi-tiered system of support for all students to address gaps and ensure that every child is on track to graduate high school with the skills needed for success in college and careers."

Schuylerville superintendent Gregg Barthelmas said: "The Governor has made it clear that a scientific-based literacy program is the direction the state is going. Schuylerville CSD is committed to supporting the NYS Literacy Initiative, and is always evaluating its annual grades 3-8 state test scores. But in addition to state test scores, Schuylerville uses other points of data and information to make sure the district is providing targeted instruction. This process is something we engage in throughout the school year as a way to ensure benchmarks are being met."

Salem's Adams said: "In order to close learning gaps, we continue to focus on skill development and improving curriculum. We are utilizing data-informed instruction and working to develop a comprehensive system for effective use of Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) to recognize each student's strengths as well as identify learning gaps and target areas for growth. The district is committed to our goal of preparing students to become future ready."

Steimle added: "I encourage parents and guardians to reach out to their child's teacher, principal, or myself if they have any questions or concerns. We are committed to working together with families to make sure students succeed."

Survivor event at Greenwich Library

On Tuesday January 23 at 6:30pm, author Suzanne Cohen of Greenwich will visit the Greenwich Free Library to discuss her book, "My Father's Family." Registration is required and can be found on the Greenwich Free Library website.

Suzanne D. Cohen's father escaped Nazi Germany along with his parents and three older brothers. Decades later, Cohen conducted interviews with her family members, and their first-hand accounts com-

prise the basis for her book. She says, "There is sadness in these stories of hardship and cruelty, of course, but they are also stories of strength and survival."

This event is presented in connection with the traveling exhibit "Messages from Survivors: One Family's Holocaust Legacy," which will be on view at the Greenwich Free Library throughout the month of January. Messages from Survivors is built on 40 years of filming a family of Holocaust survivors in the Bronx, Miami and a bungalow colony in the Catskills between 1962 and 2016. It is on view during regular library hours in the library's lower level.

Kuzmich hits 1000th

Greenwich sophomore Brooke Kuzmich scored 21 points on Jan. 4, passing 1000 for her career. Brooke is the fourth family member to reach the milestone, joining her mom Candance at 1371, brother Jesse at 1315 and Uncle Kevin at 1146.

Grace Autiello dropped 23 points as Greenwich beat Spa Catholic 91-27. Nana Rojas added 22.

—DAN PEMRICK PHOTO



LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

2023 Capital Outlay

The Owner, the School Board of Argyle Central School District, will receive sealed bids to furnish materials and labor to complete the 2023 Capital Outlay Project which includes re-roofing areas of the Main Building. Bid shall be on a stipulated sum basis for the following contract:

Contract No. 06 – Roofing Construction (RC)

Sealed bids will be received until 3:30 PM Eastern Standard Time, on Friday, February 2nd, 2024 at the District Offices, Argyle Central School District, 5023 State Route 40, Argyle, NY 12809. Bids received after this time will not be accepted and returned to Bidder unopened. Bids will be opened and read aloud after the specified receipt time. An abstract of Bids received will be made available via www.csarchplanroom.com.

Bidding Documents, Drawings and Specifications may be examined as of January 10th, 2024 free of charge by appointment only, at the following locations:

Argyle Central School District
5023 State Route 40
Argyle, NY 12809
CSArch
40 Beaver Street
Albany, New York 12207-1511
518-463-8068

It is the intention of this Project to be both environmentally and fiscally conscious of paper use and consumption. Therefore, documents will be distributed as digital sets. Bidding Documents may be viewed online free of charge beginning January 10th, 2024 at www.csarchplanroom.com under 'Public Projects', or electronically downloaded for a non-refundable fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00).

Complete sets of Bidding Documents, Drawings, and Specifications, on compact disc (CD) or USB flash drive may be obtained from Rev, 28 Church Street, Warwick, New York 10990 Tel: (877) 272-0216 upon depositing the sum of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00). Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Argyle Central School District.

Bidder must provide Bid Security in the amount and form, per the conditions provided in Section Instructions to Bidders.

All Bids will remain subject to acceptance for forty-five (45) days following the receipt of Bids. The Owner may, in its sole discretion, release any Bid and return Bid Security prior to that date.

A Pre-Bid Conference will not be held for this project. Bidders shall make arrangements for appointment to access and view the building, by contacting Mr. Bob Ellis, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds, at (518) 638-8243, ext. 520.

Bids shall not include New York State sales and compensating use taxes on materials and supplies incorporated into the Work, as the Owner being exempt therefrom. Bidders must comply with New York State Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rate Schedule and conditions of employment.

The School Board of Argyle Central School District reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the Bids received, or to reject all Bids without explanation.

By Order Of: Argyle Central School District

1/16,2/1

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

The resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on the 8th day of January, 2024, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Greenwich Central School District is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

A complete copy of the bond resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the School District Clerk of the School District for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Rachel Logan
District Clerk

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 8, 2024 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED \$940,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SERIAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$800,000 FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION,

RECONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND SITES, AT AN ESTIMATED AGGREGATE MAXIMUM COST OF \$1,740,000, LEVY OF TAX IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN PAYMENT THEREOF, THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH SUM FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Class of objects or purposes: construction, reconstruction, renovation and improvements to various School District buildings, facilities and sites, acquisition of original furnishings, equipment,

machinery or apparatus required for the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are to be used and payment of costs incidental thereto

Maximum Estimated Cost:
\$1,740,000

Period of probable usefulness: Thirty (30) years

Amount of obligations to be issued:
\$940,000

Amount to be expended from available funds: \$800,000

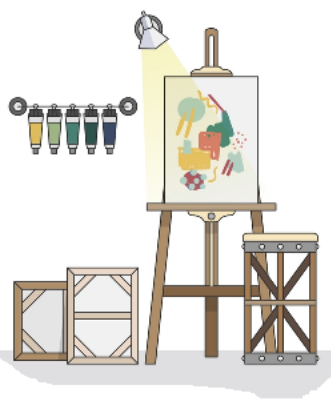
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Supervisor plans for the new year (part II)

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

Part one of this series – featuring supervisors from Greenwich, White Creek and Argyle – was in our last issue. Find that on *JournalandPress.com*. We conclude with Part II.

Hebron's Supervisor, Brian Campbell, has served the town since 2008. He is also the designated Budget Officer for the county. His first priority for the town is the construction of a new highway barn. An aging building and changes in the size of the town's fleet create safety and time issues. Built roughly 60 years ago when most plow trucks were single axle, the current barn is too small to accommodate the town's larger trucks with the snow plow attached. When a storm is anticipated, the trucks are loaded with sand and parked inside the garage to keep the load dry. It's not until the highway crew arrives to clear the roads, however, that they can attach the plows. This creates a delay. The project will be sent out for bids within a couple of weeks.

Simultaneously, Campbell is working with the Board of Supervisors to build a new high-

way barn for the county. The current facility is located in Ft. Ann, right next to that town's highway garage. Since both garages need to be upgraded, the Board of Supervisors has decided to coordinate with Ft. Ann to replace them with one building that will serve both the town and the county. While it is anticipated that the county and town will have separate fleets of vehicles, they may share some machines, such as payloaders. Campbell intends to work with the Board to define the scope of this construction project so the county can solicit bids in 2024.

Campbell also wants to improve Hebron's website. His goal is to make it easier for town personnel to add information to the website and to make it more user friendly.

Jackson farmer, Jay Skellie, has been supervisor of that town since his election in 2015. His 2024 priority for the county is to expand internet and cellular service. "Jackson probably has the highest number of residents with inadequate coverage in Washington County," Skellie stated, pointing to surveys conducted by the county and based on funding available through USDA to underserved households. Skellie plans to get more funding for residents and to work with cellular providers to upgrade towers serving the area.

At the town level, Skellie has set his sights on completing a comprehensive plan that was first initiated before he became Supervisor eight years ago. A comprehensive plan is needed whenever the town is working with the state or applying for grant money. The plan will identify the town's assets along with a vision for the future. The earlier effort took a back seat as the town focused on site planning and solar laws. A sub-committee has been designated by Jackson's Planning Board for the renewed effort. The board is looking for funding to help complete the project.

Finally, Skellie plans to guide Jackson through two infrastructure projects. The first is the addition of a records storage room onto the town offices. The town has records dating back to the early 1800s and frequently receives requests to examine various records. The records are currently cluttering the town's office space and are not easily accessible by the public. A storage room will help to ensure that records are properly protected, as well.

Skellie also stated that the town barns are old and the salt shed is outdated. He will look into replacing the salt shed this year.

McCrea as Revolutionary martyr

Long-time Fort Edward Town Historian Paul McCarty will tell the story of Jane McCrea, on Thursday, January 18. The life and death of Jane McCrea on July 26, 1777. McCarty will unravel the mythological stories of the death of Jane McCrea. The presentation will be conducted at the Fort Edward Free Library, 23 East Street, Fort Edward, New York. The pro-

gram will begin a 7 pm.

McCarty has been Fort Edward Town Historian for nearly fifty years. He has researched and written numerous articles on Washington County history and specially Fort Edward history. McCarty has become the go-to guy for historian on topic such as Jane McCrea, Solomon Northup, and the Champlain Canal. He has been interviewed on several historical documentaries such as the death of Jane McCrea. He has spoken throughout the area on these topics as well.

The questions surrounding the Jane McCrea were who was she, how did she come to be in Fort Edward during Burgoyne's invasion of the North Country, how was she captured, and how was she killed. Why was her body was reinterred several times. These questions will be answered

during Mr. McCarty's talk.

Well known historian Richard Ketchum, states in his book, "Saratoga," "Her (McCrea) demise was one of the first and in some respects the most dramatic of the atrocities now being committed almost daily by Burgoyne's Indians, and coming on the heels of his earlier threats, it made for extremely effective propaganda." Was the killing of Jane McCrea a boost to the American cause?

The program is currently scheduled for January 18, 7 pm at the Fort Edward Free Library, a snow date has been scheduled for January 25, same location, in case of inclement weather.



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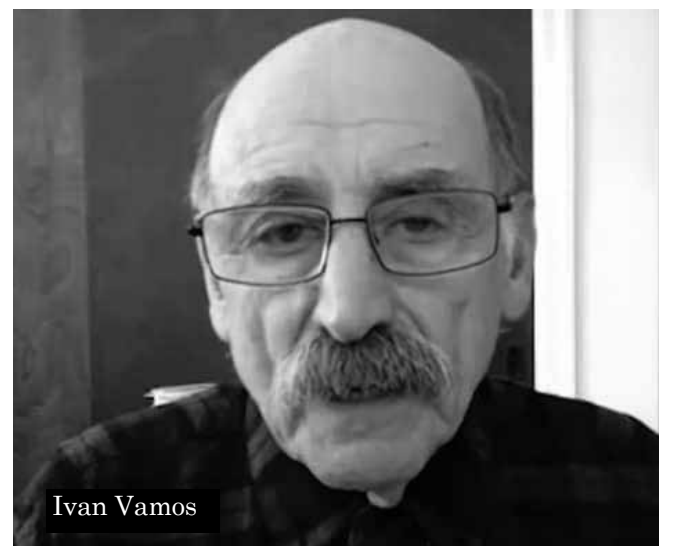
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Holocaust Remembrance

To commemorate the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Schuylerville Public Library will display the powerful travelling history exhibit, called "Messages From Survivors: One Family's Holocaust Legacy" for the month of January 2024. The exhibit includes six panels of survivor stories, each one unique but linked, as well as take-home cards featuring some of the stories and links to more resources. This opportunity to view the material is thanks to a partnership between the Southern Adirondack Library System, Assemblymember Carrie Woerner and the creators at the Memory Project Productions.



Ivan Vamos

Schuylerville Public Library will also host a holocaust survivor, Ivan Vamos, who will speak of his early childhood memories in war-torn Hungary with his family and his later emigration from home on Monday, Jan. 29 at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Vamos will display some photos and documents from his early years, display some drawings he has made of his time in Hungary, and offer a brief Q & A after his presentation. Those interested in attending, may come in person to the Library at 52 Ferry St Schuylerville or view the discussion via Zoom. The link to join via Zoom is found on the Library's event calendar at svl.libcal.com.

Announcing a new Salem art collective

Rooted in Salem, a dynamic platform dedicated to amplifying the voices of talented and inspired artists, announces its inaugural opening on Friday, March 1, 2024, from 5:30 to 7:30. Nestled in the enchanting landscapes of upstate New York, the gallery provides a captivating space for artists to showcase their work.

Situated in a neighborhood pulsating with the fusion of art, culture, and the esteemed Salem Art Works, celebrating its 19th year, According to a press release: “Rooted in Salem thrives amidst a theatrical and cultural revival. This transformation has turned the neighborhood into a magnet for art enthusiasts and tourists alike, establishing it as a vibrant hub of creativity.”

As the beating heart of this artistic community, Rooted in Salem invites residents and visitors “to immerse themselves in a carefully curated selection of artists and art styles, catering to a diverse audience while upholding uncompromising standards of excellence.”

The business model of Rooted in Salem is centered around supporting artists, valuing their creations. Through a commission-based system, the gallery ensures that 60% of the sales revenue goes directly to the artists, with the remaining 40% contributing to the growth and sustainability of the gallery.

The gallery’s inaugural lineup promises captivating exhibitions throughout the spring and summer seasons. The schedule for the upcoming Spring and Summer Receptions is as follows:

Spring Lineup:

Zack Lobdell: “The Fire Remembers”

Duration of Show: March 1 - 31

Opening Reception: Friday, March 1, 5:30 - 7:30



7:30

Coco Everson: “Pieces of Me”

Duration of Show: April 8 - April 26

Opening Reception: Friday, April 12, 5:30 - 7:30

Anthony Cafritz - Title TBD

Duration of Show: July 4 - July 30

Opening Reception: Friday, July 12, 5:30 - 7:30

Cafritz Family: “In House Production”

Duration of Show: May 1 - May 31

Opening Reception: Friday, May 10, 5:30 - 7:30

Richard Criddle - Title TBD

Duration of Show: August 9 - 31

Opening Reception: Friday, August 9, 5:30 - 7:30

Summer Lineup:

Benj Gleeksman - “The Land of Milk and Hot Dogs”

Duration of Show: June 7 - June 27

Opening Reception: Friday, June 7, 5:30 -

The release adds: “Don’t miss the opportunity to be part of this artistic journey. Rooted in Salem promises an immersive experience into the world of creativity and expression.” They can be reached at rootedinsalem@gmail.com



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INCOME TAX
ASSISTANCE

FREE TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

for families and individuals whose household income is \$60,000 or less per year

Call 1-800-211-5128

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A Tri-County United Way Collaborative

Wallie's

54 Main St • Greenwich, NY

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Early Bird Special

Soup or Salad,
Entree & Dessert

\$29.95

Offered Wed, Thu, Fri
4-5:00pm

HOURS:

Wed/Thu: 4-8:00pm

Fri: 4-9:00pm

Sat: noon-9:00pm

Sun: noon-7:00pm



- Private Events
- Banquets
- Bridal/Baby Showers
- Nightly Specials
- Cocktail Menu

LIVE TRIVIA: Winter Thursdays @6:30pm

Artists reception at Greenwich Library

From Tuesday, January 2 to Saturday, February 3, Greenwich Free Library will host New Beginnings, a group art exhibit to celebrate the new year, presented by the Greenwich Library & Arts Association (GALA). The exhibit will be available to view during library hours in the Community Room.

There will be an artist reception on Friday, January 19 from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Light refreshments will be served and patrons are invited to come meet the artists. The opening and the exhibit are open to all.

Participating artists include:

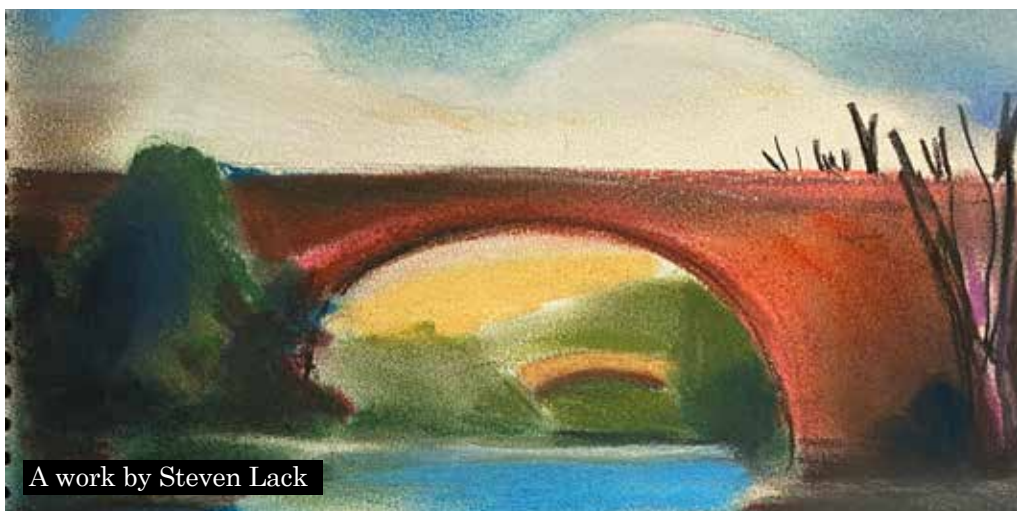
- Arthur Brod
- Matt Chinian
- Don Cook
- Judith Ellers
- Ann Fitzgibbons
- Cheryl Horning
- Stephen Lack

- Adriano Manocchia
- Leslie Peck
- Valorie Nichols
- Clifford Oliver
- Ken Perry
- Anne Sutherland
- Marguerite Takvorian-Holmes
- Frank Vurraro

The artists represented run the gamut in terms of styles and media of visual arts, from paintings to photography, sculpture to pastels. The subjects of the selected pieces are even more diverse than the media. Frank Vurraro's paintings are in a classic old-world style, and address religious matters; Cheryl Horning delves into the intricacies

of the human face. Landscapes, politics, fantasy and life are addressed through the diverse talents of our neighbors.

Local photographer Cliff Oliver, who is also a library volunteer and board member, says of the exhibit, "What's cool about this show is the genius involved in making the art. They walk among us proclaiming thought, beauty, emotion with colors, shapes, forms...art."



A work by Steven Lack



A work by Leslie Peck

In Cambridge, reading is 'Better Together'

Throughout the 2023-24 school year, CCS students are participating in the new 'Better Together' reading initiatives. Each month has a new book with a variety of activities available to support the theme. The themes are connected to the character education program (SEL). Sue Varone, elementary literacy liaison, collaborated with Melissa Johnson, elementary counselor, to connect literature with the character education word of the month. Rachel Salisbury, secondary literacy liaison, developed monthly reading and writing challenges that are also connected to the character education themes.

Sue Varone and Rachel Salisbury are coordinating all of the initiatives and events throughout the year. With input from administration and staff, the goal is to create a united UPK-12 through literacy. Strengthening ties with home and community is an additional goal.

"Since this is a UPK-12 initiative, we wanted all students to have the opportunity to hear the same story and be part of a school-wide activity," said Sue Varone. "The book, 'The Together Tree' by Aisha Saeed, was purchased and read to all of the students. We asked for a tree to be created to decorate our hallways. Since October, the trees have been decorated with a variety of items based on the monthly book. We have additional books and ideas for the remainder of the school year. In the spring, all students will read 'Wishtree' by Katherine Applegate. The goal is to plant our own tree and decorate it with our wishes."

In September, students and teachers built paper trees and displayed them throughout the building. The secondary also hosted an ice cream party for those who participated in summer reading. The district would like to thank Stewart's Shops for their generous donation of

the ice cream. In October, the district hosted a storytelling night, featuring members of the Cambridge Historical Society with individuals and businesses from the Cambridge community. In November, the district began participating in the Read for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The Read for Ronald McDonald House Charities was a big success. More than 50 students participated and earned a total of \$4,474.30! Eli Woelfersheim, a third grader, earned more than \$500 in donations. As a result, the Ronald McDonald House is providing him with a Read for RMHC t-shirt. Ethan McCauley was the high school student who raised the most money. All participants will receive a special certificate, reward and pizza party!

Additionally, students were encouraged to read both in and out of school and complete a "reading ticket" to add to the reading themed box. In November, 319 books were read and in December, 63 reading tickets were submitted. The student who read and submitted the most reading tickets in November and December was Oliver Andrew in kindergarten. Kindergarten was the grade level with the most submitted tickets for November and December. In November, Mrs. Keyes' class read the most. In December, it was Ms. Kress' class. These students, classes and grade levels will be honored at a future assembly. The reading tickets will be collected for the remainder of the school year.

The secondary is also using reading tickets for their reading challenges. A tree has been built in the hallway where titles of books that



participants are reading are posted. Currently, the 11th and 12th graders in Mrs. Andrew's classes are reading the most this year, with the 10th graders coming in second. Ms. Salisbury has also re-established the HS Book Club that has about 10 members so far this year.

The initiative is working to ensure that all students in grades UPK-12 find pleasure in reading.

"The secondary English department has been rededicating time to reading for enjoyment," said Rachel Salisbury. "Approximately two to three times a week students at all grade levels read for a set amount of time. There is no grade attached to this reading and the students can read anything of their choice. We have also added some free writing and drawing activity time in order to give students some more time to decompress and tap into their creativity. The English department is highlighting some of the themes that will be discussed in 'Wishtree' this spring."

There are a number of fun and exciting activities planned for the remainder of the school year. There will be at least one more evening event for families of all ages (more information to follow). The district is hoping to do a fundraiser with the American Heart Association starting in February. The overall goal of the initiative is to increase student participation and create school wide enthusiasm for literacy at all grade levels.



Soccer awards

The Greenwich Varsity Girls Soccer awards are in and the Greenwich girls team was honored as a 2023 Scholar Athlete Team. The following girls earned the Award: Molly Abate, Ava Aierstok, Grace Autiello, Allison Chuhta, Morgan Foster, Kate Fowler, Emily Gonzalez, Brooke Kuzmich, Elizabeth Marci, Eliza McQueen, Isabelle Miller, Luna Paradis Wiebe, Sarah Radovich, Julia

Sgambelluri, Ella Smith.

The following Individual players also earned awards:

Molly Abate (9) was named as a Section 2 All-Star. Molly was also named a member of the Girls Soccer Class C, All-State, 3rd team.

Summary:

1st Team Wasaren All-Star: Molly Abate (9) and Elizabeth Marci (11).

2nd Team Wasaren All-Star: Sarah Radovich (7) and Eliza McQueen(4).

Wasaren League Honorable Mention: Emily Gonzalez (6), Luna Paradis Wiebe (5), Taylor Poovey (10).

-DAN PEMRICK PHOTOS



Stretch your savings at the library

Sarah Murphy
Greenwich Free Library

Recently a young patron interviewed me for a school assignment. She prepared excellent questions about the library and my work. She asked about my training and education and what courses or subjects I wish I had taken to feel better prepared. My answer came easily, but I felt surprised even as I said it, realizing that I had never quite articulated this before. Economics, I told her. I took one required semester of econ in high school, but I never sought it out in college, and it was not a requirement of my library degree. I've had experience creating and maintaining budgets, but I recognize that a wider and deeper knowledge of economic forces at play in our broader society would help me allocate scarce resources and anticipate trends and needs among our patrons.

One need not have studied economics to understand that cost-of-living is a concern that influences the behavior and choices of all of our patrons. Because the library is a not-for-profit, my job isn't to get you to buy something you can't afford, or get you to choose my product over a competitor's, or to predict how many units of what might move. How lucky for me that during strong economies and weak ones, one aspect of my job remains the same: to save you money.

If you follow the library on Instagram or Facebook, or if you receive our monthly newsletter, you may have noticed our recent boast about the year's worth of money patrons saved by visiting the library. Every time you check out a physical item, your account adds up how much money you saved by borrowing rather than purchasing. Your check-out receipt provides that figure along with a yearly total. At the end of December, we ran the yearly total report for all patrons, and the number astonished me. The total retail value of the physical items you borrowed in 2023 was \$494,075. That's pretty darn close to half a million dollars! If you're not borrowing books, movies, games, computers, museum passes, fishing poles, ukuleles, and birding backpacks from the library, why not? Why not claim some of that half a million?

And that number is only a portion of what the library saves our community. Despite truly believing that what a library offers is invaluable, I'll attempt a little arithmetic here to see if I can come up with a reasonable estimate.

In 2023, over 450 groups and individuals booked space for meetings and events. Office Evolution workspace rentals estimates that, "Across the United States, rental rates can run between \$30 per hour on the low end to \$250 at the high end." Using the low-end figure, those 450 meetings saved \$13,500.

If you're bringing your food scraps and compostables to the library, you've helped to divert 6,917 pounds of waste out of landfills and out of your own trash. If we could cram 15 pounds of moldy cheese and citrus peels into every 13 gallon kitchen bag, that's \$1,383 saved on trash stickers.

In 2023, 2,847 people enjoyed fresh fruits, veggies, and more from Farm2Library thanks to Comfort Food Community. Assuming each individual averaged about \$4 worth of food per visit, that's \$11,388.

Greenwich patrons watched 1,314 films or programs on Kanopy. Film rental prices on Amazon Prime range from \$3.99 to \$19.99, with \$6 being a typical price. Streaming with

Greenwich patrons watched 1,314 films on Kanopy and downloaded 4,304 books.'



Reading with Lola the Therapy Dog



Chess Club

your library card saves about \$7,884.

Borrowers downloaded 4,304 eBooks and audiobooks in 2023. EBook prices are all over the place, but Greenwich's most popular book of the year, *Demon Copperhead*, will cost you \$16.99 on Kindle. Digital audiobooks are even trickier to price, but an Audible membership is \$14.99 per month. So let's split the difference and say \$16 is the typical cost. That's a savings of \$68,864.

About 3,000 kids came through for after-school programs and special events this year. Estimating that each of them ate a snack that might cost \$3 in a store, that's \$9,000 saved.

About 500 people came out for our Music at the Library series this summer and fall. Had those events charged a reasonable \$5 at the "door," we've saved \$2,500.

It's far more difficult to estimate the "value" of

our other programs, and the library has provided education, entertainment, and enrichment for 7,253 people of all ages this year. Can you put a price on the chance to meet an author? What's the monetary value of Emily's guidance and care with pre-school aged kids? How can we quantify the thoughtfulness that the library staff gives to every printer challenge or book recommendation? How much is Sandy's Gill Room expertise "worth"? What does it mean in numbers to have a safe, warm place to go in the winter or a cool, relaxing spot in the summer? What's it worth to know that your children are welcome after school, that you're all welcome and wanted here? That we're glad to see you?

Adding all of this up, we've got \$494,075 + \$13,500 + \$1,383 + \$11,388 + \$7,884 + \$68,864 + \$9,000 + \$2,500 + infinity. I'm no economist, but I'd say it's a pretty good deal.

Sarah Murphy is director of the Greenwich Free Library.



Want a niche? Try quiet communication.

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

Q: *My workplace is loud and full of people trying to stand out. I'm exhausted at meetings because it's impossible to get a word in. How do I speak up when my workplace seems designed to drown me out?*

A: You can speak up despite the general yelling for attention at work if you realize that Plato, the ancient Greek philosopher, had a point when he observed: "Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something."

All words are not created equal and the more words someone speaks, generally the lower the quality they are. If you try to compete with volume and quantity, you'll be both more exhausted and only add to the chaos.

If you sit quietly and wait till you have something useful to say, you can send an email, text, or approach someone with influence after a meeting. In work environments full of foolish, flashy talking, a concise well thought out idea automatically stands out.

Remember that if you're trying to win the battle for self-esteem, being somebody, and elevating your ego, you're in a crowded game. Instead aim for actual effectiveness and solutions, and you're likely to discover that you're in a game with few players.

Buddhist teachers recommend to their students that they should walk into a room and "be what the space needs." In most workplaces, the space doesn't need more quantity or a high volume of words; it needs more quality.

I recommend to my clients that they practice the art of being "nobody." If you walk into a room and don't need to be somebody, it's amazing what you'll see and think about.

You don't need to jump into chaos to stand out. If you create a calm center in any meeting you join rather than fighting for attention, you'll draw others to you. Also in business environments, people who don't hog the limelight are unusual. If you only speak when you have something to say, that's an automatic niche.

As I write this column regularly, I consider how many words my readers wade through on an average day. There are podcasts, YouTubers, emails, texts, and so many other word creators. When I, as a columnist, speak into this loud, overloaded space I think carefully about what I can say that is quiet, true, practical, and serves my readers.

Yes, there are many people who believe that the more words you utter and the louder you are the better. I say there are enough people screaming for attention, but few sitting quietly until they have something valuable to say to others.

When we have the patience to sit with ourselves until we can be of genuine service to others, we have little competition. I think of the joke that goes like this: "A highway to hell but a ladder to heaven should tell you about the numbers."

Waiting also affords us the gift of timing. When we don't yell while others are shouting for attention, we pay attention to what's going on around us. We are more able to say what

works, when someone who can implement our idea is receptive.

Being effective at work means not only talking when you have something helpful to say, but also when someone is listening. With all your co-workers talking loudly, they are unlikely to have their seeds of ideas land on fertile ground.

If you really want to stand out, emulate nature in your workplace. People run away and are overwhelmed by a ferocious ocean, but will seek out and sit by a gently lapping lake. Be the calm water, and let others come to you.

The last word(s)

Q: *There's a clique of people in my workplace that persistently gossips about me behind my back. Is there a way I can understand this behavior so it would upset me less?*

A: Yes, as the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius noted: "If they spit at you behind your back, it means you're ahead of them."

People only gossip about those they envy!

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday morning. She's the author of "Interpersonal Edge: Breakthrough Tools for Talking to Anyone, Anywhere, About Anything."



JILL ON MONEY

Financial resolutions for 2024

Jill Schlesinger
Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press

Have you made New Year's resolutions?

If you are a non-believer in the annual ritual, the folks at History.com say that it dates back to "the ancient Babylonians," who started the trend "some 4,000 years ago."

Author Daniel Pink added more current context and research to the resolution movement in his 2018 book, *When*, noting that the date you choose to motivate yourself is no accident.

"The first day of the year is what social scientists call a 'temporal landmark,'" or a date that stands out from most others on the calendar. A New Year provides us with "a chance to start again," and to leave behind our "mistakes and imperfections."

When it comes to our money, there are plenty of mistakes and imperfections to go around, which is why Fidelity Investments has conducted a New Year's Financial Resolution study. The 2024 version shows two-thirds of Americans are considering a financial resolution and for the fifteenth consecutive year, the top resolutions are: save more (41 percent), pay down debt (38%) and spend less (30%).

Like Fidelity's results, my resolution advice has been consistent. Here's the 2024 update!

Track spending

The idea behind tracking what's coming in and what's going out is to determine how much money is available to help achieve your resolu-

tions. With that information, you can create an actionable plan. To help, lean on technology. You can use your bank's app or the free versions of PocketGuard, Goodbudget and Honeydue, which focuses on couples. (Users of You Need a Budget (YNAB) say that the \$99 annual fee (after an initial free 34-day trial) is worth it.

Replenish savings

Did you spend a little too much on those Taylor Swift tickets or take a post-pandemic family vacation splurge?

If so, it's time to replenish or fund an emergency reserve that can cover 6 - 12 months of your living expenses. Rising interest rates which have caused misery to borrowers, continue to help savers. Many high yield savings accounts and certificates of deposit are still yielding about 5%.

Establish an automatic transfer of a set amount of money from your checking to build this fund. You should also use this fund to hold the money necessary to fund any large expenses that will occur over the next 12 months.

Reduce credit card/high interest debt

While the Federal Reserve may be finished with its rate hike campaign, the cost of servicing debt is not going away any time soon.

After funding your emergency reserve, redirect the automatic payments to accelerate your debt pay-down, chipping away at the highest interest debt first and working your way down. Don't forget to include those student loans as part of your debt pay-down strategy.

Contribute to your retirement account, to the best of your ability

The IRS announced increases to the annual limit on contributions to work-based retirement plans (401(k), 403(b), 457), which will increase to \$23,000 (catch-up contributions for those over 50 remain at \$7,500). The IRA limit will increase to \$7,000, and the over-50 catch-up remains at \$1,000.)

Get back to investing basics

If the deep losses of 2022 and the big gains of 2023 taught investors anything, it is that very few can predict with any consistency how financial markets will move over the short term.

Get out of the market timing business and return to the tried-and-true basics of investing: determine your goals and create a plan to diversify your investments across different asset classes.

If you haven't done so lately, rebalance your accounts to make sure that the percentages are in line with your desired allocation.

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. Check her website at www.jillonmoney.com.



And there goes the local news...

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

I've been writing for the Journal and Press since it re-started in its current incarnation in 2020. Since that time, the editor of this paper, Darren Johnson, has been lamenting the decline of local news and local coverage, not just here in Upstate New York, but as a trend across the country. In the newspaper business, smaller local papers are closing the door or like Glens Falls' Post-Star, no longer publishing a daily.

In radio, locally focused stations have gradually lessened in number, and many that remain choose to join national syndication umbrella organizations such as I Heart Radio (formerly Clear Channel) which provides much of their programming. This, in turn, reduces the amount of coverage and debate of local issues. As it becomes more challenging to turn a profit with local news, a few national syndicates are, by definition, setting the agendas which take prominence in local venues.

A FEW NATIONAL SYNDICATES? WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM?

National syndicates are generally for-profit entities. Therefore, they have to satisfy, first, those who directly profit from their success – shareholders or owners. Indirectly, the advertisers who attempt to take advantage of the increased number of eyeballs the syndicate's programming brings to television, website, or newspapers, or ears to the radio or podcasts.

If everything is successful, and a great program finds its way out of, say, Kansas City, the programming syndicate will push that local KC host nationwide. But don't expect KC issues to survive the transition. Now the shareholders and owners ask questions like "Where's the national appeal?" Now I Heart Radio, for example, needs to sell the host to a national audience. So, it looks for national issues with national controversies.

Eventually the formal local host's program finds its way back to the local station, focused on national-level issues, and it crowds out the local programming which may remain.

BUT WAIT! THAT'S JUST THE FREE MARKET AT WORK, RIGHT?

Yes, it's the same problem you see with big box stores versus mom-and-pop main street stores. Big box can afford to buy more inventory, and thus buys it cheaper, thus sells it cheaper, which crowds out Main Street. The same principle applies to information and media, just like anything else.

I remember when USA Today came out in the early 80s. It was the first "national" newspaper, or as we jokingly called it at the time, "Mc-Paper." While the serious press laughed at it, it became a staple for travelers – it was given away at hotels, distributed in airports, and for what it was, it wasn't bad. A little news from home, box scores, and a preview of what was on the national agenda for the day. And I still see USA Today out there – Gannett, the company which founded and still owns the paper, came upon a format which is seen in other local papers today.

More importantly, it widened the role of national media. Coming on the heels of Ted Turner's launch of CNN, and his turning WTBS, an Atlanta television station, into "America's Station" through Cable TV, all of the sudden, homogenous news from 3 major networks and relatively few venues was going the way of

the dinosaur. Before the decade was out, WGN-TV in Chicago and WOR-TV in New York were like TBS, becoming so-called "superstations." It was the dawn of a new information economy.

In that world, before regulation caught up with reality, survival of the fittest contests took place. By 2017, almost all national outlets, with a few notable exceptions, like not-for-profits PBS and NPR, were owned by one of six corporations:

- *National Amusements* (owns CBS, Paramount, CW, Viacom, Simon and Schuster)
- *Disney* (owns ABC, ESPN, Lucasfilm, Marvel, Walt Disney)
- *Time Warner* (owns CNN, Castle Rock, HBO, WB, New Line, Warner Music, Time-Warner Cable)
- *Comcast* (owns NBC, MSNBC, Universal, Comcast/Xfinity, Weather Channel)

'Local newspapers are forced to adapt by devoting space and effort to national issues.'

- *NewsCorp* (owns Fox, Fox News, 20th Century Fox, Wall Street Journal, New York Post, Barrons)
- *Sony* (owns Tristar, Screen Gems, Sony Pictures, Sony brands, Epic)

The mergers and acquisitions still continued after 2017, with Amazon purchasing MGM, and AT&T purchasing Time Warner and DirecTV. Suffice to say, the six continue to change, and the big money changing hands continues to crowd out the smaller, independently owned stations.

Local stations still offer local news programming – but it is not necessarily local perspectives anymore. Local stations which are NewsCorp affiliates are getting the Fox slant on national news, and so on with other major network relationships.

A lot of locally owned newspapers, and thus local news reporting and agenda setting were one casualty of this reordering. National media conglomerates, which work through multiple media, help set the national agenda. The media reflects and thus often impacts the national agenda. Of course, the national agenda is influenced by a number of factors, and it would be simplistic to give the media full credit. But the point is that six corporations have an outsized influence on where the national focus is at any given point.

Social issues always have a certain degree of support among their partisans. But when an issue becomes adopted by party elites, the agenda setters within a political party (usually through the advice of focus groups and other research entities), the amount of attention the



issue receives becomes irresistible to a national media with a 24/7 news cycle. They always need new material, and the more controversial, the better. It brings eyeballs. It increases demand for advertising, thus raising the organization's profits. It becomes a perfect storm.

I began looking at how agendas were set recently, after having found a copy of a Pew Research study from 2012 looking at issues that were "very important" to those polled, by political party. I found it fascinating how neither abortion nor immigration were ranked as Top 10 issues (out of 18) to Republicans polled. It's not that anything significant and new happened in these issues – it is that they got adopted by party elites after the 2012 election loss (following focus group review), stirring up controversy, bringing media attention, and voila! – immigration and abortion suddenly broke the Top 10.

Local news, in particular local newspapers, those most in need of content, talent, and money are crowded out of a market increasingly being taken over by entities with a national focus. They are forced to adapt by devoting space and effort to national issues, or they go out of business. The concentration of power and wealth, mostly among six media companies, creates a huge barrier to entry to local media with limited resources.

In America's days as a British colony, the local newspapers and publishing houses were the first frontiers for American writers and journalists. It is where America's participative form of democracy was born – Founding Father Thomas Jefferson felt that public schools were necessary so that the voting public could read the news and be informed.

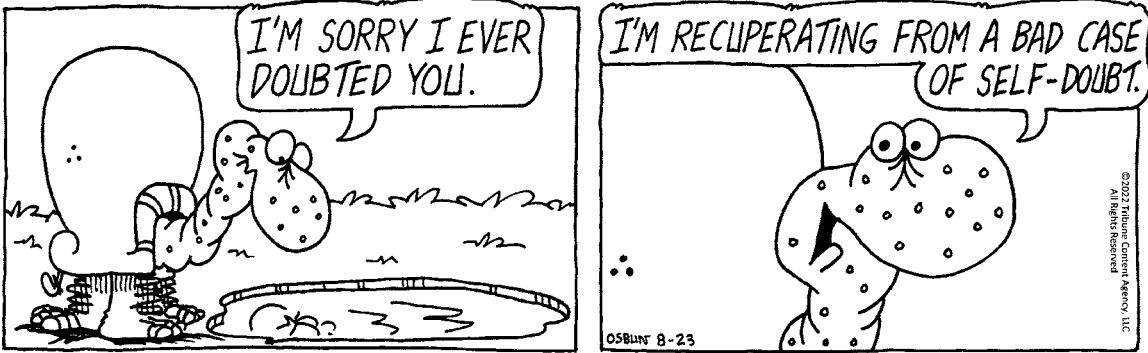
Now, local news finds itself again in a fight – this time to determine whether local news dies, with its first frontier having become its last. The most fundamental rule of economics will determine its fate of course, that being the law of supply and demand. The question is – do we as a public have an appetite to know what is going on in our own communities? The answer to that question says a lot about us, and how we see our role in a democracy.

Lance Allen Wang is Supervisor-elect in the Town of White Creek who is also an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer. He lives in Eagle Bridge with his wife Hatti.



FUN, GAMES & FAST FACTS

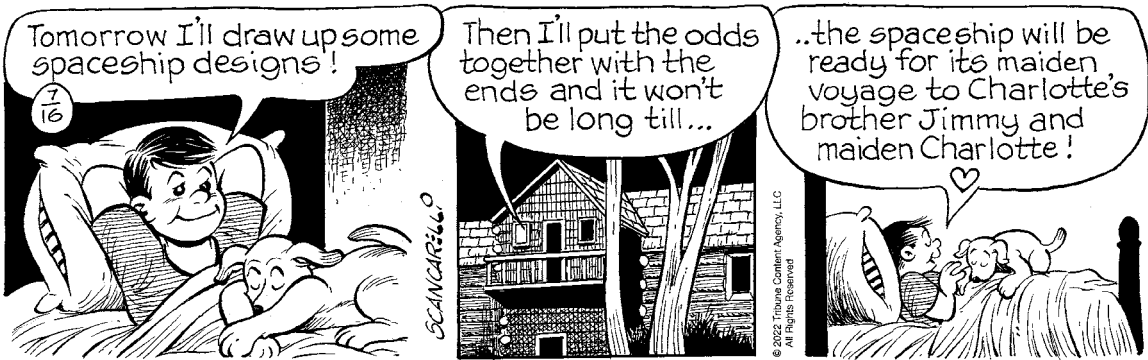
Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



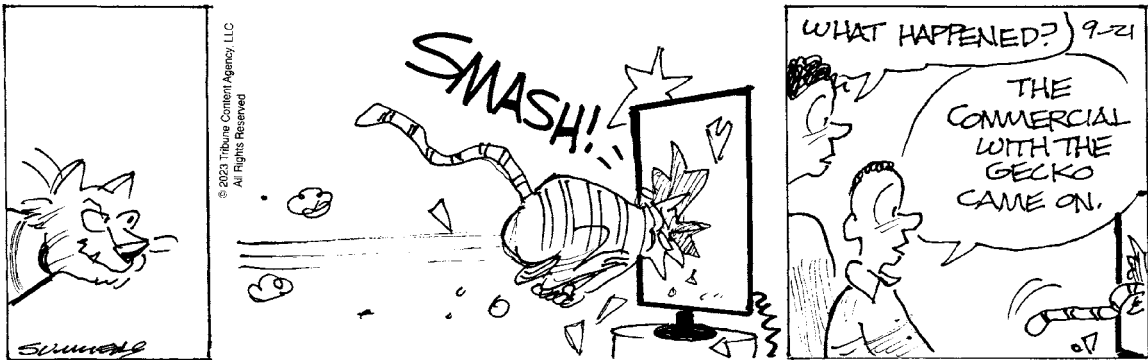
Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



Rover's World by Jim Gray



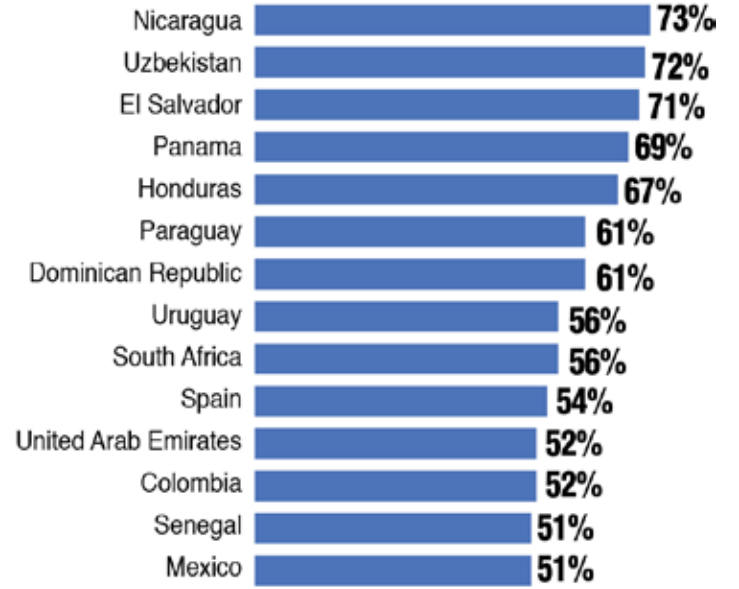
9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



Fast Fact

Countries where majorities always feel at peace

In general, how often do you feel you are at peace with your thoughts and feelings.



Source: Gallup
 Graphic: Staff, TNS

Word Play Answers Page 20

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
 By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

KORCA
 [] [] [] [] [] []

RIYTD
 [] [] [] [] [] []

BUDEOL
 [] [] [] [] [] []

TYREPT
 [] [] [] [] [] []



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Print answer here: [] [] [] [] [] []

SCRABBLE G R A M S

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[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	S ₁	R ₁	C ₃	1st Letter Double
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
A ₁	O ₁	C ₃	N ₁	F ₄	T ₁	N ₁	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
I ₁	O ₁	K ₅	N ₁	P ₃	R ₁	W ₄	Triple Word Score
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
A ₁	E ₁	N ₁	N ₁	W ₄	S ₁	M ₃	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	O ₁	T ₁	N ₁	C ₃	[]

PAR SCORE 255-265
 BEST SCORE 343
 FIVE RACK TOTAL
 TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Boggle BrainBusters!
 By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

W	P	T	S	M
E	H	E	O	I
T	R	N	S	R
A	C	I	U	B
F	L	E	C	O

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 box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
 3 letters = 1 point
 4 letters = 2 points
 5 letters = 3 points
 6 letters = 4 points
 7 letters = 5 points
 8 letters = 10 points
 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
 15+ = Champ
 101-150 = Expert
 61-100 = Pro
 31-60 = Gamer
 21-30 = Rookie
 11-20 = Amateur
 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
 We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?
 Find AT LEAST EIGHT RELATIVES in the grid of letters.

Argyle Acrostic By Frank J. D'Agostino

- | | | | |
|--|------------|---------|-------------|
| Find these words associated with fine art (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon): | Chalk | Mosaic | Style |
| | Colors | Mural | Visual Arts |
| | Concept | Museum | Works |
| | Crayon | Pads | |
| | Design | Pastel | |
| | Easel | Pencil | |
| | Genre | Prints | |
| Artist | Illustrate | Realism | |
| Brush | Lines | Signed | |
| Cartoon | Montage | Sketch | |

M	C	O	N	C	E	P	T	C	H	A	L	K
I	U	C	M	P	A	P	S	I	G	N	E	D
L	S	R	T	O	A	R	T	I	S	T	K	E
L	K	A	A	A	S	L	T	T	V	T	P	S
U	E	Y	M	L	E	A	R	O	C	G	E	I
S	T	O	U	T	U	A	I	S	O	E	N	G
T	C	N	S	L	L	P	W	C	L	N	C	N
R	H	A	E	A	J	R	F	O	O	R	I	F
A	P	S	U	G	D	I	J	J	R	E	L	S
T	A	S	M	L	I	N	E	S	S	K	D	T
E	I	P	M	O	N	T	A	G	E	A	S	Y
V	R	E	A	L	I	S	M	K	P	U	P	L
S	A	D	C	W	B	R	U	S	H	U	Q	E

MORE FUN & GAMES

Filbert by LA Bonté

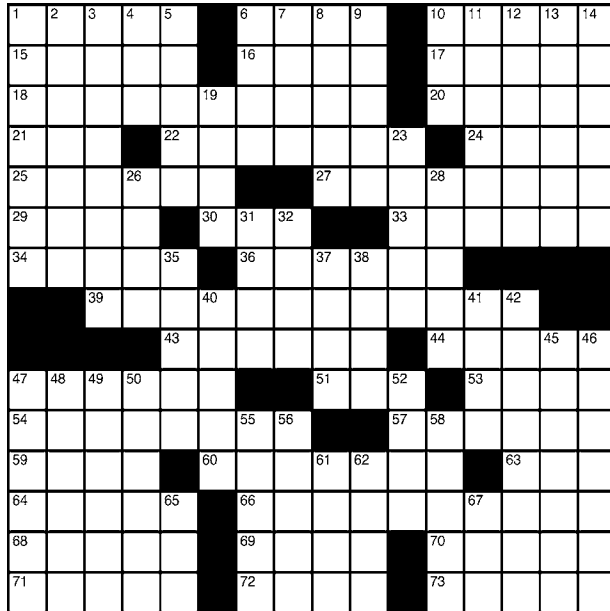


Political Cartoon of the Week by Dana Summers



Cambridge Crossword

- Across
- 1 Fountain output
 - 6 Basics
 - 10 Cause a scene
 - 15 Join forces
 - 16 Bring (out)
 - 17 Old Scottish landholder
 - 18 *Supply on a gift wrap station
 - 20 Cancels
 - 21 As suggested by
 - 22 Cratchit boy
 - 24 Drink that may cause brain freeze
 - 25 Go by
 - 27 *Messaging app
 - 29 Verne captain
 - 30 *Lion* Oscar nominee Patel
 - 33 Zesty Twirls maker
 - 34 Constellation near Ursa Minor
 - 36 Chicago suburb
 - 39 *Some Enchanted Evening* musical
 - 43 Mato ___: third-largest state of Brazil
 - 44 Flower holders
 - 47 First name in mysteries
 - 51 GPS heading
 - 53 Congeal
 - 54 *Second game of a doubleheader
 - 57 Stick (to)
 - 59 *Thanks for explaining*
 - 60 Barbecue spot
 - 63 The way things are usually done, for short
 - 64 Learned league?
 - 66 Difficult time, or what is hidden in each of the answers to the starred clues?
 - 68 Wood used in guitar-making
 - 69 Beachy vacation spot
 - 70 Minimal amount
 - 71 Paper for a pad
- Down
- 1 Hang
 - 2 *The Lorax* voice role for
 - Ed Helms
 - 3 Grade school exhibits
 - 4 NFL passing stat
 - 5 Splinter groups
 - 6 Env. directive
 - 7 Sound like an ass
 - 8 Egyptian Christians
 - 9 Biergarten vessel
 - 10 Off-rd. rig
 - 11 First-class
 - 12 *Meditation in motion* discipline
 - 13 Like zombies
 - 14 Coin replaced by the euro
 - 19 Made haste
 - 23 Haka dancers of New Zealand
 - 26 A bit, in music
 - 28 Faculty figs.
 - 31 Amazon gadget
 - 32 Celebs given the red-carpet treatment
 - 35 Should, with "to"
 - 37 Word in many Encyclopedia Brown titles
 - 38 MBA course
 - 40 Piece of land
 - 41 Hankering
 - 42 Keyboard instruments that sound like glockenspiels
 - 45 *Casablanca* setting
 - 46 Composer Sondheim
 - 47 Twisted balloon shape, often
 - 48 Supermodel BYndchen
 - 49 Board meeting outline
 - 50 Dissertations
 - 52 Per item
 - 55 American Eagle Outfitters lounge-wear brand
 - 56 Unlike poetry
 - 58 Pool statistic
 - 61 Wear the crown
 - 62 Like some dried meats
 - 65 *___ you decent?*
 - 67 Coach Parseghian



Salem Sudoku

Each column/row must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions. The digits can only occur once per block. The sum of every single row, column and block must equal 45.

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

Have something that needs fixing?

What do you do with a broken toaster? Or with a lamp that won't work? Or with a favorite shirt that is ripped? Toss it? No way! Schuylerville Public Library is organizing its third Repair Café on Saturday, February 3 from 10am until 1pm.

At Schuylerville Public Library (52 Ferry Street) on Saturday February 3 everything centers on making repairs. Starting at 10am and ending at 1pm, various volunteer repair experts will be available to help make all possible repairs free of charge. Most tools and materials will also be on hand. People visiting the Repair Café will bring along their broken items from home. Limit of two items per person. Small appliances, lamps, hair dryers, radios, clothes, toys... anything that is broken and small enough to carry is welcome and can more than likely be repaired. The Repair Café specialists almost always have the know-how.

By promoting repairs, the Library wants to help reduce mountains of waste. According to Library Director Caitlin Johnson, "By repairing instead of tossing, we lessen the strain on our environment." This event is being co-sponsored by Climate Smart Schuylerville, a group whose mission is to help the Village of Schuylerville develop and promote environmentally responsible practices in order to preserve Schuylerville's rich heritage, reduce energy and environmental costs to the Village and taxpayers, and move toward environmental sustainability for present and future generations.

Interested in volunteering for this event, as a repairer? Simply contact Caitlin Johnson at cjohnson@sals.edu. Schuylerville Public Library wishes to organize a Repair Café on a regular basis. News about dates of up-and-coming editions will follow as soon as possible!

The Repair Café concept arose in the Netherlands, in 2009, and was formulated by Martine Postma, at the time an Amsterdam-based journalist/publicist. In 2010, she started the Repair Café Foundation (see Repaircafe.org). This foundation provides support to local groups around the world wishing to start their own Repair Café. The foundation also supports the Repair Café in the Schuylerville Public Library.

Can You Help?

Repair Café is looking for local residents with different skills who can be present as repair experts during the Repair Café (on February 3, 2024 from 10am to 1pm at 52 Ferry St, Schuylerville). They are especially looking for people who are handy with small electrical appliances or clothing/sewing and who enjoy sharing their knowledge with their neighbors. Want to sign up as a volunteer? Send an email to Caitlin Johnson at cjohnson@sals.edu and please include Repair Café in the subject line.

Gazebo is reimagined (cont.)

Facin: One person stated, and it was Elizabeth's husband to me; Ethan, said, why do we hide our ice rink way up at Gannon Park? Why don't we put it in Mowry Park and just have that energy there. We need to do more with our parks, and I think the gazebo is the first step, but there are other creative ideas that are sort of flowing from this group that I think have a lot of merit and could really help galvanize the community and start to create that central square type approach to a community.

J&P: Sara, why did you get involved with this project?

Idleman: I think Greenwich is a gem. It's a real gem. And it's interesting because when I was at the county [serving on the Board of Supervisors] a lot of places were jealous of Greenwich, a lot of towns, and they called us Saratoga wannabes, which we aren't, that's the last name we want. Yeah, we don't want to be East Saratoga.

But Greenwich has been able to do things that other towns haven't, and we have a lot of amazing people here, people who have moved in, who have brought new life to the community, people who have lived here forever, and understand the history and the tradition, and are rooted here. I mean, my family goes back

about seven generations.

J&P: It seems like you're all ready to make this a reality.

Facin: We have a goal. We're going to achieve that goal. And we're going to get the finality and make a huge impact on the community. We said in our initial meeting, go back and bring a couple of friends, and it's organically coming around. Everyone is really excited, and we have a good energy. That's important.

What's on top of your refrigerator?

Greg Schwem
Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press

In May 2023, while in the early stages of a life change, I made the decision to live a minimalist existence, also defined as, “purge crap from my life.”

Gone were most contents of a 4,400-square-foot house; kept was, well, very little, save clothes, bedding, computer equipment and a juicer. Hey, minimalists need svelte figures. I once stayed in an Airbnb billed as a “tiny house” and realized I could never exist in such quarters without maintaining a gym membership.

After signing a lease on a 650-square-foot condominium, unpacking, and utilizing every inch of every cabinet (three), closet (two) and drawer (six) I was left with two moving boxes containing assorted items of varying shapes, sizes and uses. All had survived the purge. For now, anyway. I have yet to use the electric wine chiller I brought along, but, again, it has only been eight months.

So where to store these remaining ... things?

Then I spied it.

The top of my refrigerator.

Oh yes, that oasis of storage for city dwellers, studio apartment renters and people who really need a visit from a professional “organizer” or the production team of “Hoarders.” Over the years, I’ve visited single friends and married couples who’ve used the space for everything from a Dutch oven to a nativity set, to Star Wars figures, still in their original packaging. One friend’s dog spent most of its day gazing upward and barking incessantly, seeing that the fridge top contained its food source, encased in a 20-pound bag.

In my prior dwelling, the refrigerator top held only a fly swatter. Its whereabouts were invisible to guests but known to my family, which is key when insects invade one’s home. Forgetting where you put a fly swatter on a summer day is akin to not remembering where you store your .38 caliber revolver after a burglar has made



entry.

Homeowners and kitchen remodelers, before you design a built-in cabinet for that shiny new refrigerator, remember that doing so eliminates storage space. The fridge top needs nothing but air above it. Only then can it hold that two-pound jar of protein powder or that cardboard tray containing 32 cans of Diet Coke.

Yes, I shop at Costco. No, I couldn’t shop there without a refrigerator top to hold the items I return with.

Within minutes, I had utilized every centimeter, with items of no similarity or continuity. An enormous jar of peanut butter filled pretzels and a tub of oatmeal served as bookends. In between stood a few barbecue recipe books I’d brought along, even though barbecue grills are forbidden at my condominium high-rise, unless one chooses to use the community rooftop gas grill, 34 stories above my unit.

I positioned them at the refrigerator top’s

rear, leaving ample space in front for a mixing bowl set and a toaster oven. Reasoning that my unit contained an oven and I rarely eat toast, this seemed a no-brainer decision. Plus, it freed up valuable counter space for the juicer, quickly becoming part of my daily nutritional regimen.

I hoisted a plastic bucket up there, first filling it with a bottle of Pine-Sol, a few rags and a mini broom/dustpan combo. I surveyed the remaining moving container contents and decided the mobile file box, crammed full of tax statements, receipts and other financial documents, would round out the fridge top space quite nicely. Along with the wine chiller.

I broke down the now-empty moving cartons with a satisfied smile. I now felt officially “moved in,” ready to begin my minimalist existence.

If auditors ever come knocking, asking to see my business records, I can confidently reach above and produce everything they requested, while offering them a tasty peanut butter snack. Or a slice of toast. Paired with a cold chardonnay.

And, when they leave, I will clean and disinfect the place. While barbecued ribs sizzle above me.

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.



It’s story time in Hebron

Debi Craig and Dorothea Craig Casey are retired music teachers (and sisters!) who want to bring the joy of reading, music, and movement to children in the Hebron area. A story time will be offered for 3- to 8-year-old children on Saturday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the “Upper Room” at Hebron United Presbyterian Church located in the hamlet of West Hebron. (snow date: Sunday, Jan 28 at 2 p.m.). A parent MUST stay with child. The Winter Fun story time is free and open to the public. The event will take place at the Hebron West facility, 3153 County Route 30

in West Hebron. This event is presented as a community mission of Hebron United Presbyterian Church.



FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

Boggle: LUTE DRUM HARP
OBOE BUGLE BANJO FLUTE
PIANO GUITAR

Jumble: CROAK DIRTY DOUBLE
PRETTY – DEPARTED

SCRABBLE G|R|A|M|S SOLUTION

C ₃	A ₁	R ₁	O ₁	U ₁	S ₁	E ₁	RACK 1 = 62
N ₁	O ₁	N ₁	F ₄	A ₁	C ₃	T ₁	RACK 2 = 62
P ₃	I ₁	N ₁	W ₄	O ₁	R ₁	K ₅	RACK 3 = 98
N ₁	E ₁	W ₄	S ₁	M ₃	A ₁	N ₁	RACK 4 = 62
A ₁	C ₃	E ₁	T ₁	O ₁	N ₁	E ₁	RACK 5 = 59
PAR SCORE 255-265							TOTAL 343

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

S	O	D	A	S	A	B	C	S	A	C	T	U	P		
U	N	I	T	E	T	R	O	T	T	H	A	N	E		
S	C	O	T	C	H	T	A	P	E	V	O	I	D	S	
P	E	R	T	I	N	Y	T	I	M	I	C	E	E		
E	L	A	P	S	E	S	N	A	P	C	H	A	T		
N	E	M	O	D	E	V	O	R	E	I	D	A			
D	R	A	C	O	C	I	C	E	R	O					
S	O	U	T	H	P	A	C	I	F	I	C				
G	R	O	S	S	O	S	T	E	M	S					
A	G	A	T	H	A		E	N	E	C	L	O	T		
N	I	G	H	T	C	A	P		A	D	H	E	R	E	
I	S	E	E	T	E	R	R	A	C	E	S	O	P		
M	E	N	S	A		R	O	U	G	H	P	A	T	C	H
A	L	D	E	R		I	S	L	E		T	R	A	C	E
L	E	A	S	E		E	Y	E	D		H	A	S	O	N



Always, we begin again

Mary Anne Brown
Journal & Press

With each New Year there is a lot of chatter about making resolutions or setting goals. Some people are choosing a key word for the year to help them focus. As I was leaving home last week to offer music and lead a prayer service, (my last one for the holiday season) I heard myself tell my husband, "Gosh! I haven't had time to do this yet!" Thankfully, the prayer service gave me a chance to slow down and be more reflective. I left feeling peaceful and began thinking about the year ahead. Relieved to have a few quieter days, I turned in my journal to a lovely poem by a Quaker songwriter, Susan Stark, which helped me to settle in so I could pray and ponder and make a plan with the Holy One. Perhaps you will find some comfort in the words that follow.

*"When there's no chance for solitude,
Just a pace to maintain,
The heart can grow weary and so full of pain,
And the simple and ordinary tasks seem too much
When the soul is hungering for a sweet, tender touch.
Spirit, come fill up my cup again;
I am weary and I need my Best Friend."*

This wise poet is onto something as she speaks of how the physical toll of "full speed ahead" affects one's soul. After pushing through the holiday pace, do you tend to feel weary and depleted and wonder "what's next?" Yes, the stores are already marketing Valentine's Day. Fans are gearing up for Super Bowl parties and

festivities. Then it will be winter breaks, Girl Scout cookies, Lent and Easter, Ramadan, Passover and on and on.

WAIT! STOP! How does all this ceaseless activity affect one's three-legged milk stool? Let's take a quick pause to assess our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. How am I bearing up physically? How is my emotional stress level? How is my holiness, my spiritual wellbeing? Keeping up with this warp speed of the world will certainly lead to a wobble or two as we try to steady our life in 2024.

It is easy to get caught up in a flurry of activity. In our western culture, being "crazy busy"



is the norm and even thought of as admirable, but busyness is increasingly considered quite unhealthy as we let our attention to wellness go by the wayside. We all know the benefits of physical fitness and mental wellness. In his book, *Care of the Soul*, Thomas Moore reminds us that "When the soul is neglected, it doesn't go away; it appears symptomatically in obses-

'Am I engaging in buying sprees, over-eating, or harmful drug use? Am I prone to temper outbursts?

sions, addictions, violence and loss of meaning." What behaviors are surfacing these days? Am I engaging in buying sprees, over-eating, or harmful drug use? Am I prone to temper outbursts? Do I refuse to listen, cooperate, or problem-solve? Do I blame and shame others? Do I feel hopeless? Have I become petty, and do I gossip? How will I ever know my purpose if I am unceasingly busy and forever moving forward, but never inward?

Always, we begin again. We can regain a healthy perspective by taking time to be still and by slowing down to the pace of nature. In this stillness, we may hear divine words of comfort and wisdom. What do I want

to be for others? How will my goodness bring others joy and comfort? How can I help?

The Lakota tribe speak of a Grandfather, who is ever present, who is the Great Power that others call God. Here is a tender prayer for the New Year: Help me, Grandfather God, to quiet myself, to hush the noise in my mind, to nourish the health of my body and build the strength and peace within my soul. I am most at home with You. Yes, indeed. Amen.

Aha! I think I have my resolution – Slow life down;

My goal – Nurture my physical and spiritual wellness;

And my word – Balance. What's in the New Year for you!

~ Mary Anne

MaryAnne Brown, RN, BSN, MA is a music minister at St. Joseph's Church and has a special interest in spirituality and health. She is the outgoing President of Greenwich Interfaith Fellowship, Inc. and serves as grant writer and retreat leader at Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna.



News from local churches

Roman Catholic Churches

Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Sunday is at 8:15 AM; at St. Patrick's at 11:30 AM and offers the 'Children's Liturgy of the Word'; and at Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls on Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM. Holy Cross offers a coffee and fellowship hour on the 1st Sunday of the month to which all are invited. The sacrament of reconciliation is available before Mass at 7:45 at Holy Cross and after Mass at St. Patrick's. There is still illness in the area and parishioners are encouraged to wear a mask. Fr. Peter can be reached by calling St. Patrick's office at 677-2757. If after hours, please leave a message with your name and number. 2023 tax statements can be requested by calling the parish office.

Wings of Care is a ministry of care for the elderly and homebound. Some of the needs involve socialization, light housekeeping or transportation. If you have a spare hour, please call the parish office.

Consider visiting the Parish website: www.battenkillcatholic.org. People can sign up for Flocknote notifications, prepare for Sunday Liturgy, access Adult Faith information and so much more.

The Salem food pantry is in need of cereal, peanut butter, coffee, pasta, and kid healthy snacks. The Cambridge Food Pantry is in need of dry, boxed cereal, oatmeal, tuna fish, chicken noodle soup and jam or jelly. Thank you for your continued support.

Old Saratoga Reformed Church

Old Saratoga Reformed Church in Schuylerville will be holding its annual Soup Supper on February 10th from 4pm-6pm. The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for kids under 12, and includes soup, green salad, and dessert. You can try as many soups as you would like, so try to arrive as early as possible to ensure the widest selection! Dine-in only, walk-ins welcome. The church is handicapped friendly. All are welcome! For more information, call 518-695-3479.

Have a local church announcement? Send it to editor@journalandpress.com.

Let us be smart about things!

Michael Levy
Journal & Press

Let us explore stupidity for a moment. Feel free to interpret that sentiment as you wish. This intrigue stems from an expected immersion in a burgeoning realm of pervasive foolishness that typically accompanies an election year. The realm of politics always provides ample examples of this phenomena. Perhaps this should attract the scrutiny of scientifically trained professionals, particularly neuroscientists, but I am sure that any science will get lost in the shuffle of the politics.

And maybe using the term “stupid” is too harsh but I will leave that to the reader to decide. Stupidity, in my context, correlates with an inability to establish a “consensual reality” — the failure to agree on an objective set of facts. Here, stupidity is not synonymous with a low IQ, it is a circumstance that creates conflict where none exists. The result divides neighbors and friends. There are those who readily manipulate established facts, disregard common sense, while portraying their intelligence and ignoring the deficit of the knowledge that they could or should have at their disposal. This is best exemplified by their appearances on certain television programs.

Let us stipulate right from the beginning that broadcast or cable television programs rely on ratings to bring in advertisers and to bring in the accompanying advertising revenue. Perhaps it is a sad commentary on human nature, but conflict brings in more viewership than any courteous discussion of the facts can. Different broadcast networks, each representing a different side of the political spectrum, allow politicians to engage in hostile debate, and to present uncivil and occasionally offensive verbal treatise to their political rivals, including

those who are not even present to extend an opposing viewpoint.

Except for a very few truly insane people, most people and politicians do not want to see war, famine, poverty, pestilence, rampant death, and all the other dreadful things that are out there. No matter how politically opposed people can be, they probably can reach consensus on these horrific subjects. The differences then are probably not as great as is often portrayed. What is all the fighting about? It is a question that is bigger than today’s column.

When any politician, including a few of note locally, appears on a cable news program or one of the national network talk shows, here are some things to look for.

Listen carefully to what is being said by the speaker and consider if you, the viewer, are being presented with a complete set of facts or not. If a limited set of facts is being presented and the opposing view is not addressed, is that because the speaker lacks knowledge on the subject, or do they believe that their one-

‘Consider if you are being presented with a complete set of facts.’

sided soundbite will become established fact in the minds of the viewing audience? One root of this problem is that when you watch these programs, the words come at the viewer amazingly fast and are often subliminally absorbed by them. The words may not be recognized or understood by the conscious mind, but they influence the viewer without them even being aware of it.

Admittedly, the time that a politician has on any of these TV shows is admittedly limited and everyone’s natural tendency is to talk faster when you want to convey additional information. Normal speech rates are about 150-175 words per minute. If

someone on these TV shows starts talking at a rate over two hundred words per minute, it will be picked up by the subconscious mind rather than the conscious one. And when the words spew at you at 250 words per minute, the problem is magnified even more.

When I was growing up, my father used to incessantly quote former U.S. Federal Communications Commission Chair Newton Minow, who in 1961 lambasted television as a “vast wasteland”. Mr. Minow derided the “procession of game shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families, blood and thunder, mayhem, violence, sadism, murder, western bad men, western good men, private eyes, gangsters, more violence, and cartoons.” Little did my father realize that I was not watching Gilligan’s Island for the plot, rather I was just trying to resolve the Ginger and Mary Ann debate for myself.

Today, the vast wasteland are these news programs. Instead of whether Politician A can outshine Politician B, coupled with the endless soundbites that make little sense if you read the words in the transcript after hearing them, we need these news purveyors to provide a deep perspective on the subjects that really matter. We need to know what our elected leaders are doing. These programs need to hold our politicians accountable for us.

To our politicians, please do not take a limited set of facts, couple them with unbridled confidence, as you make your positions known. It is a perilous combination that creates an unnecessary divide in this country. Admittedly, you probably will gain votes among voters who gravitate towards exaggerated self-assurance rather than those candidates who take a calm approach to things. We need leadership who will do what is right for their constituents and not necessarily what is best for themselves, their allies, or even their political party.

We need the electorate to increase their understanding of things that matter and look critically at all sides of the issue. And as a random thought, when everyone is “smart,” our world is better for it!

Michael Levy is a government manager, easing toward retirement and residing in Greenwich NY. He is also a Commercial Pilot and a Ham Radio operator.



Schuylerville Winter Gala

Join the Advocates for the Schuylerville Public Library for a fun evening on January 27th. This will be the 6th Winter Gala hosted by the group, and the largest annual fundraiser for the library. Tickets are on sale now right up until 2pm on the 27th at the library for only \$35 per person. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for \$40. Event will be held at the American Legion on 6 Clancy St Schuylerville. Dinner, dancing, live music, and access to the amazing raffles is included. Raffle items are on display at the library now. The event theme is fables and fairy tales, so come and enjoy a fantastical atmosphere with other library supporters.

Salem Fire Department announces events

The Salem Volunteer Fire Department Inc., located at 53 South Main St, announces a series of exciting events in the upcoming months. Mark the following dates on your calendar:

Blood Drive - Wednesday, January 17, 2024

A crucial Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024, from noon to 5 pm. To schedule an appointment, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-Red-Cross.

Breakfast - Sunday, January 28, 2024 (Moved from February)

In consideration of the Superbowl BBQ in February, the regular February breakfast is rescheduled to Sunday, January 28, 2024, from 7 am to 11 am.

Superbowl BBQ - Sunday, February 11, 2024

Gear up for the Superbowl with the sizzling Superbowl BBQ on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Tickets, priced at \$15.00 each, are available for pre-sale only. This is a take-out event featuring a choice of a half a rack of BBQ ribs or a ½ BBQ Chicken. Secure tickets at A & J Agway, Salem Hardware, Salem Firefighters, or by calling 518-321-9430.

Blood Drive - Wednesday, March 13, 2024

The commitment to community well-being continues with another Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from noon to 5 pm. To schedule an appointment, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-Red-Cross.

Breakfast - Sunday, April 14, 2024

Join for a delightful breakfast on Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 7 am to 11 am.

Memorial Day Weekend BBQ - Sunday, May 26, 2024

Kick off Memorial Day Weekend with the BBQ on Sunday, May 26, 2024. This take-out event offers a choice of a half a rack of BBQ ribs or a ½ BBQ Chicken. Tickets are available at A & J Agway, Salem Hardware, Salem Firefighters, or by calling 518-321-9430.

Don't miss these fantastic events brought to you by the Salem Volunteer Fire Department Inc. For inquiries, contact salemfd4434@hotmail.com. Participation is highly encouraged!

Piano Man meets Rocket Man

— Legends collide Saturday February 10, 2024, in an evening of dueling pianos, presented by the Cambridge Lions Club at the Greenwich Elks Lodge! The incredible River of Dreams tribute band starring John Cozolino meets up with the talented Bill Connors starring in American Elton.

River of Dreams is a respectfully crafted tribute to the song catalog of the great Billy Joel. Lead singer and classically trained pianist John Cozolino produced an authentic version of Billy Joel's famous hits and has captured the tone and nuance of the great singers voice. River of Dreams has garnered rave reviews performing all types of venues and working hard for the title of "The Best Billy Joel Tribute Band You Will Find."

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, Sir Elton John. Bill Connors

pays homage to one of the greatest showman and pianists of all time, the American Elton team has worked tirelessly to create an unforgettable show that pays tribute to Eltons' music and legacy.

This year's annual concert will be held on Saturday February 10th, 2024, at the Greenwich Elks Club, doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 7pm. New this year, an Italian Dinner buffet catered by the Wandering Food Dude. 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. For more in-



formation, please contact Tina in Doctor Mattison's Office at 518-677-5422. Tickets are \$30, Pre-Sale special 2 tickets for \$40 ends January 31, 2024.

Cambridge CSD re-ups Facin

The Cambridge Central School District Board of Education announced earlier this month that it intends to extend Ken Facin's contract through the 2024-2025 school year. Facin has been serving as the interim superintendent since Aug. 15.

In a release, the district adds:

"The Board of Education is excited to extend Mr. Facin's contract. Since arriving at CCS, he has brought a fresh perspective and a number of exciting new initiatives that we look forward to seeing to completion. The Board will continue to work alongside Mr. Facin to support the students, parents, staff and entire school community."

"The Cambridge faculty and staff are dedicated to each child in our school, and, along-

side our Board of Education, I am excited to continue these wonderful relationships into the next school year," said Facin. "Our teachers and staff are committed to improving our literacy instruction, implementing STEM initiatives and developing a comprehensive supportive mental health approach that will benefit students for years to come. This work will extend into the next school year and I would like to thank the community and Board for this opportunity to continue leading CCS."

The Board of Education will begin the process of conducting a superintendent search to select Facin's successor. The Board plans to work with the WSWHE BOCES District Superintendent, Dr. Turina Parker, throughout the search process. The process will include involvement from a variety of stakeholders.



When a formal timeline for the search process is finalized, it will be communicated with the entire school community.

Vision Board Workshop for teens

The Greenwich Free Library's After School program will offer patrons ages 12 and up a fun afternoon activity and an opportunity to get the new year off to a great start. On Tuesday, January 23 from 3:00 to 4:00pm, the library will host a Vision Board Workshop. Participants will create picture and word collages, inspired by their dreams for the future and the school year ahead. Led by Beth Shaw, a certified integrative wellness coach, Reiki practitioner,

and Vermont-based business owner, the event will begin with a short guided meditation, followed by open discussion and creative time. Students will be able to take their completed boards home to help them focus on their goals throughout the year. Snacks and all materials will be provided free of charge. No registration is required. For more information, please visit greenwichfreelibrary.org



Strode's paintings on display

The Small Gallery at Valley Artisans Market in Cambridge is set to unveil its latest exhibit, "Then and Now, A Retrospective," featuring the works of acclaimed artist Mary Lou Strode. The exhibit will run from January 19 to February 12, 2024.

Art enthusiasts and the local community are invited to a special "Meet-the-Artist" reception scheduled for Saturday, January 20th, from 3 pm to 5 pm. This provides a unique opportunity

to engage with the artist and gain insights into the inspiration behind her creations.

The Small Gallery, nestled at 25 East Main Street (Rte 372), promises an immersive experience as it showcases Mary Lou Strode's retrospective collection. The artist's journey unfolds through her diverse and captivating works.

Valley Artisans Market encourages the public to explore the exhibit during gallery hours, which are Wednesday through Sunday, from

10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free, and the gallery provides a welcoming space for art enthusiasts of all ages.

For additional information, please contact Valley Artisans



Market at 518-677-2765. Stay updated on upcoming shows by subscribing to the monthly newsletter on the Valley Artisans Market website or by following them on Facebook at Valley Artisans Market.

Discover the beauty of artistic expression and immerse yourself in Mary Lou Strode's retrospective at The Small Gallery.

Heritage Hunters

Heritage Hunters will meet on Saturday, January 20th, at 1 pm at the Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. in Schuylerville. Alan Mad-daus, writer, historical researcher, and engineer, will lead the program. "The Prestons of East Street-the Story of a 19th Century American Family." Alan's book follows the lives of Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Preston and their seven offspring, and how they experienced the many major events of the 1800s while living in the village of Galway. Public is welcome. For info call 518-885-9309.

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