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**NEW PUB SCHEDULE
FEB. 3-17, 2023**



MAYOR, PART II 5



PTSA 12



SONG 2



SWIPING RIGHT 4



ART 7



SOLVE 20

Medium and message

Schuylerville art students create, send cards to those who may not get many.

In the first year of the pandemic, Schuylerville art teacher Su Luke and her class had a warm idea – during this time of social distancing and isolation, why not use class time for service learning, directing their creative energies to reach out to the people who needed it most?

Please read more on page 13



Playoff bound

The Greenwich girls basketball team has been cruising along with a perfect record, led by prolific scorers NaNa Rojas and Nora Niesz (inset), who combined have 2000 career points. We talk with Coach Jason Slater about their prospects.

Please read more on back page



-dan pemrick photos



Our Green Witch Wants You to Know...

This newspaper is changing its publication schedule.

We now will print the first and third Friday of each month and locally mail starting the Saturday after.

HISTORIC IMPRINTS

The Greenwich Journal
The Salem Press

The Fort Edward Advertiser.

The Schuylerville Standard.



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January Argyle Council meeting notes

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

The Argyle Town Board held its monthly meeting on January 15. Present were Councilmembers Steve Bonhote, Kevin Hayes, and Patrick Sullivan; and Clerk Shelley McKernon. Absent were Supervisor Bob Henke and Councilmember Scott Lufkin. Kevin Hayes chaired the meeting in the absence of the Supervisor. Two town residents were also present.

Argyle's Right to Farm Law Amendment Public Hearing

The public hearing was opened. This reporter asked how the law will be enforced. Councilman Steve Bonhote stated that a resident might bring a complaint to the Farm Grievances Committee, which Bonhote chairs. In this case, the committee will attempt to negotiate an agreement between the two parties.

Councilman Hayes stated that an alternative is a complaint is brought to the town's peace officer or other law enforcement agency. If a ticket is issued as a result of a complaint, it will be handled by the town court. The Town Justice would establish whether a fine will be imposed and the amount of the fine.

The public hearing was not closed and the amendment will be on the agenda again at the monthly board meeting on February 8 at 7:05 p.m. The board is seeking clarification from the town attorney on the amount of the fine before voting on the Right to Farm Amendment. The board is unsure whether NYS Agri-

culture and Markets allows a fine in the amount of \$1,000 for this type of offense.

McEachron Hill Ext

Councilman Patrick Sullivan and Highway Supervisor Mark St. Jacques met with resident Don Previtali regarding closing McEachron Hill Ext. The home owner requests that the road no longer be maintained between his property line and Cramer Road.

If an agreement is reached, the road will not be removed but a sign will announce that the road is closed. A "cul de sac" for town (and other) vehicles to turn around will need to be created. The town representatives stated that the cul de sac, if approved, would be located just past the Previtali property line. This is necessary for safety considerations to allow for a flat area for snow plows and other vehicles to turn around.

If an agreement is reached, the road beyond the cul de sac would, in effect, be abandoned by the town with no further maintenance or plowing. There are still many outstanding issues with this request such as who will pay for the work of making a cul de sac, whether the area being considered is optimum according to Washington County Soil and Water Conservation, and consideration of the needs and desires of area residents.

Mutual Aid for the Town of Hartford?

Stating that its number one priority is local taxpayers, the board passed a motion stating that the "Town of Argyle, unless in a life or

death emergency, is not going to plow the roads in Hartford, NY." The resignation of most of Hartford's highway crew led to this declaration. The Hartford highway crew have been working without a contract or raise since 2019. According to The Chronicle (12/22/2022), the crew asked for a raise from \$18.50 to \$22.50 per hour.

In Other Business

- Councilmember Steve Bonhote reported on the installation of a septic system at the town's recreational fields. He stated that the new parking lot has been completed, the drainage and pipes are run. The only remaining work is the electrical service for the pump system. The contractor who offered to complete the work at no cost has backed out and the town is seeking a replacement.

- Councilmember Kevin Hayes reported that the town received \$101,489 in mortgage taxes. This is significantly more than the \$35,000 that the town budgeted. Hayes reported that this will help with the fund balance as sales tax receipts were down a bit from last year.

- The board reported having one active application for the town historian position. Another applicant backed out.

The Argyle Town Board meets monthly on the second Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building located at 41 Main Street. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 8th. All meetings are open to the public.

Folklife Concerts free at Courthouse

The Historic Salem Courthouse is collaborating with the Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library in presenting the Live! Folklife Concert series. This Spring three-concert series will be performed at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls on Thursdays with a second showing the following night at the Courthouse in Salem. Admission at both venues is free and open to the public, no reservations are necessary.

Concerts begin at 7 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is first come, first served. Light refreshments and drinks will be available for purchase at the Courthouse. Donations are greatly appreciated! The Salem concerts will be held upstairs in the Courtroom of the Historic Salem Courthouse, 58 E Broadway Salem, NY.

Fellow Pynins appear on Thursday, February 16th at the Crandall and Friday, February 17th at the Courthouse.

The Fellow Pynins is an Ashland, Oregon based award-winning contemporary folk duo. Dani Aubert (claw-hammer banjo, bouzouki) and Ian George (guitar, mandolin) are songwriters, collectors, and interpreters. Since 2016 the duo has toured the US and UK/Ireland, and in 2019 were named by NPR as one of the best Tiny Desk submissions and the same year won the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time duet competition. In 2020/2021 the duo relocated from Minneapolis back to Oregon to build two tiny houses on wheels for their family. Additional information can be found on their website www.fellowpynins.com.

Tim O'Shea appears Thursday March 23rd

at the Crandall and Friday March 24th at the Courthouse.

Tim O'Shea is from Killarney in the southwest of Ireland. He's been working solo and in several bands since the late 1980s. Tim's repertoire draws from the dance music of his native Sliabh Luachra and West Kerry folk traditions and the singing of Irish and Scottish performers like Jimmy McCarthy, Paul Brady, Dick Gaughan and Andy M. Stewart.

The Faux Paws will round out the series on Thursday, April 13th at the Crandall and Friday, April 14th at the Courthouse.

From raging fiddle tunes, to saxophone solos and unrequited love songs, the music of The Faux Paws would be hard to pin down with standard genre descriptions. The trio's contagious groove, and feel-good melting pot folk music has been honed over ten years of playing together and is the sound of three close friends (two of which happen to be brothers), who feel a musical kinship that transcends any stylistic limitations. Additional information can be found on their website www.thefauxpawsmusic.com.

These live music events are produced by the Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library, and made possible with grant funding from the New York State Council on the Arts - Folk Arts Program, with the support of the Governor and the NYS Legislature.



Schuylerville's Annual Winter Gala returns

Samantha Simmons
Journal & Press

For the first time since 2020, the non-profit fundraising group, the Advocates For The Schuylerville Public Library, AFSPL, hosted their Winter Gala event.

The 5th annual gala was held at the American Legion on Clancy Street in Schuylerville. In previous years this event had been held in surrounding communities, but it is preferred that the event be held in Schuylerville.

This year's theme was fire and ice. The committee decided to be less specific as they have been in years past so attendees could interpret the theme as they may. With the price of virtually everything increasing, the advocates wanted to keep the event as accessible as possible. Tickets for the event went for \$40 per, up from the typical \$30 cost from previous years. This is in part due to the rising costs to host the event, which the hosts paid for the space to host the event and the dishes catered and more.

Some took the interpretation to mean having fun hair colors, costumes of "frost kings and queens" and others were dressed more formally in silver and white dresses.

Lori Schultz, who has been a member of the group for three years and recently took over as President of AFSPL said, "I plan to focus my time as president on getting the word out about our group and working on building up events." She referred to the gala as their "relaunch" year since the event was absent for almost three years.

Schultz was excited to see attendees mingling, especially because this is their first year "post" COVID-19. Baskets were donated by local small businesses and families and were then raffled off. These baskets included gift cards, handmade items, and other goods. The library's Board of Trustees donated twelve gift cards from local businesses.

Instead of doing a traditional sit-down style dinner, small plates of chili and chowder were served. The food was catered by Randy Squires of the American Legion in Schuylerville. Sweeney's Restaurant donated cupcakes for the event.

The event idea came from a member who saw another advocate group hosting a gala fundraiser and the idea took off from there. With the funds the AFSPL is able to raise, they supplement the library's income and provide items that do not make it in the regular budget. This



The raffle ticket table -photo courtesy Schuylerville Public Library

past summer the group was able to provide a Nintendo Switch to the library and has also provided the library with rugs, furniture, and a projector in the past.

The gala has always been a January event because, "people need something to do in the winter," said Schultz.

The event, which is open to the entire Schuylerville community and those surrounding it serves as the biggest fundraiser for the advocate group. This year, the gala, which is an adult-only event, hosted roughly 60-65 attendees, which brought in just over two-thousand

'Some would look at it and say it wasn't a success, but I look at it and see it as "wow!"'

dollars. While this is a dip in return from previous years, Schultz said, "Some would look at it and say it wasn't a success, but I look at it and see it as 'wow!'"

Other members of the committee said it is hard to put a pin on the exact "vibe" of the event, but there seemed to be "a lot more action on the dance floor than in years past."

She added that she noticed some changes she would make to next year's event, but that trial and error is part of the beauty of planning events. This year the event welcomed two Ruby

Level sponsors, which provided the group with monetary donations between \$100 and \$599 from each sponsor, The Village Tart of Schuylerville, and Glens Falls National Bank.

Planning for the event starts in early spring where a committee is formed to take over the tasks needed to put together the large event. From there the planning takes shape and members always handcraft the decorations used at the event. Over the last month the group has seen a jump in members. Events like these help bring awareness to the cause and invite others to join as members or "friends," as the group refers to themselves.

The group currently has 10 members and holds monthly "friends" meetings on top of gala committee meetings when planning is in swing. "If you love your library, this is a small thing you can do," said Schultz.

Other events the advocates host are book sales four times a year, consisting of donated books or withdraws from the library itself, sometimes combined with bake sales which, in conjunction, serves as a fundraising event and summer soirees to thank the community for supporting them and the library with catering and basket raffles.

Schultz said her biggest take away from seeing the event come together and unfold was the boundless support they received saying, "local small businesses are our biggest supporters," and, "it gives me goosebumps how amazing the community is. It's inspiring."

Story Court returns

On February 22, 2023 the public is invited back for the Historic Salem Courthouse's second Story Court. Learn about your neighbors, days of the past and how it all started... the Historic Salem Courthouse has recruited Anne Lourie and Charles Perry to tell stories from their lives as educators in the Village of Salem.

The Story Court program will be similar to StoryCorps, a national organization, in the way that personal stories are recorded and preserved for future retrieval. The program invites speakers to tell "their story" to friends and neighbors.

Al Cormier will be the moderator and the event will be recorded by Thomas McMorris. McMorris has published the first Story Court from October 6 with guests Dick

McGuire and Neil Adams on YouTube, it can be found on his channel and the Courthouse website www.salemcourthouse.org.

The Story Court program aims to promote community building by gathering people together for an entertaining and educational program, all the while preserving the rich history and heritage that Salem and Washington County has. As a Revolutionary War site, a former county seat, an agriculture producer, and a hot spot for the arts, there is a plethora to share and learn in Salem.

The gathering is informal and seeks a diverse range of topics. A soup and salad will be shared at 6 p.m., with the program starting at 7 p.m. in the Archive Room of the Courthouse.

Those with questions or to sign up to be a

speaker please contact Rachel Clothier or Krista Sullivan at hsepa@salemcourthouse.org or call 518-854-7053.



Swipe right for this story slam at Library

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

Greenwich native Grace Peck is hosting a free “Dating in Washington County Story Slam” on Friday, Feb. 10, in the Community Room of the Greenwich Free Library with doors opening at 5 p.m. and the event 5:30 to 7 p.m.

A story slam is an open-mic storytelling event, popularized by The Moth in New York City. Participants should prepare a five-minute story on a specific theme. It will be performed live without notes, often with help from the audience.

The theme for this one is “Dating in Washington County.” A press release reads: “Locals who dare to date, yearn to date, or have ever dated will join to share stories of adventure, comedy, tragedy, and everything in between.”

“I plan to tell a story or two,” Peck said. “I’ve never been a serial dater, but I always seem to come back from a date with an interesting story.”

Peck said she came up with the idea for this event while in Italy.

“I didn’t quite like the ‘forbi’ slicked back Italian men and their strange dating rituals,” she said, describing “forbi” as Florentine slang for clever like a fox, or “someone who thinks they are very smart and sneaky.”

With some friends, also dismayed by the dating scene, she went to a talk about dating in Italy. The talk was funny and at some points took a darker look into the realities of dating.

Returning to Greenwich single, Peck wanted to continue dating but, “Then I had to deal with a whole new breed of men...the men of Washington County.” This sparked a conversation with some others who shared their experiences with the unique dating pool in the area, and ultimately it led to the creation of this event.

Asked for an example of a local dating disaster she had experienced, Peck declined, saying she’s saving her stories for the slam. “Too close to home. Everyone feels like, or is, your cousin around here,” she said, adding that most dating conversations locally start online.

But Peck noted local men need

to up their game because there are many good local dating prospects. “We are some fine catches! If only the men could keep up,” she said.

This event is for anyone 18 years of age and up. Peck said you do not need to tell a story to attend, but if you do wish to tell your story, keep these story slam guidelines in mind:

- Tell your own story in your own voice: avoid fake accents, cultural appropriation, and tales that aren’t yours to tell.
- The story must be true.
- The story must be related to the theme.
- Your story should not celebrate unwanted sexual advances.
- You have only five minutes: make it count!



Grace Peck

make it count!

Born and raised in Greenwich, Peck studied art history as an undergrad and recently completed a master’s degree. She is currently teaching art at a college in Utica.

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Can we make a voice together?

'The Man, the Myth, the Mayor,' part II

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

Editor's Note: This is Part II of a two-part series. Find Part I on JournalandPress.com.

Sailing enthusiast...behavioral specialist working with challenged youth...personal trainer...village mayor. Darren Smith, 37, says his past gave him important experience and skills for the office.

"I feel like that's those management experiences of having to work with each side to make things [happen]...and running a team. Knowing where the hotspots and fires are...triaging...figuring out what needs to get focused on and what things can we table for now and get back to. And just making those decisions constantly was really my job as a behavior specialist. Running meetings, being a part of having to go before the board, talking to them, making a case for what is important. And going to the core of what is creating the issue. I think those are great skills to have."

His name wasn't even on the ballot. Yet Darren Smith came to office with 30 write-in votes electing him to be the new Mayor of the village of Argyle, population 300 give or take. While Mayor Smith brings a unique background to the office, the challenges facing the village – aging infrastructure, waste management issues, and deteriorating or non-existent sidewalks – are common to small, rural towns and villages throughout New York. How do they navigate big challenges like these with big price tags? This new mayor has set his sights on this very problem.

Forewarned by previous mayors, it wasn't a surprise to Mayor Smith when delivering clean water to village residents' taps presented an immediate challenge.

The emergency water source for the village, Summit Lake, was declining. The water quality was impacted by leaky septic systems and agricultural runoff. So much so that the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) became concerned that the lake's water was no longer safe to drink. NYSDOH, in 2015, issued a mandate to the village. In the village newsletter, Argyle's Water Commissioner Garry Robinson wrote, "Our existing well sources have insufficient capacity to meet the maximum daily demands of the Village... We have been required by the Department of Health to identify and install additional source capacity."

By 2018, a new well, well #7, had been drilled on village property. As of this writing, however, the new well is not yet operational.

This is unfortunate, because

two years later, NYSDOH's concerns over water capacity were validated. During a period of low rainfall, the village wells were not able to keep up with demand.

Since well #7 was still under construction, NYSDOH allowed the village to use water from Summit Lake. But first it had to be treated. Even so, village residents and businesses suffered from periodic boiled water notices and days of relying on bottled water. Water concerns even forced the school to close on occasion.

Meanwhile, the village worked to get well #7 up and running. Costs for the new well mounted. It required a pump house and chlorination unit. Pipes had to be procured during a nationwide pandemic and supply chain breakdowns.

How does a village pay for projects that cost multiples of its yearly operating budget? By Spring of 2022, the village had borrowed \$165,000 to pay for a project which, today, has reached a cost of over \$250,000, and counting. The village board, seeking a way to cover these enormous costs, began to examine how the water was paid for.

He wasn't surprised when thirteen residents showed-up for the March 2022 village board meeting. Scheduled to take office a week later, then citizen, Darren Smith, listened as "water rents" dominated the discussion. To pay for

'Mayor Smith has an eye towards systemic changes that can help the village long-term.'

the new well, the village had water meters installed in every business and house to measure actual water usage. Instead of the flat rate payment system the village had used for years, the residents would now be charged based on their usage.

The new system of charging water rents was calibrated to cover the debt. Each metered unit would pay a flat rate twice a year of \$120 for the first 10,000 gallons of use. From there, a graduated charge would be added for each additional 1,000 gallons of use maxing out at \$17 per 1,000 gallons.

Along with borrowing money and the change in water rents, the village put all of its ARPA funding, almost \$30,000, towards this debt.

The high cost of infrastructure maintenance and improvements have often led officials of small, rural towns and villages to "kick the can down the road." But with a plan in place for tackling the current water emergency, Mayor Smith has an eye towards systemic changes that can help the



Darren Smith

village long-term.

Smith and the board are partnering with a new local initiative, the Argyle Improvement Association (AIA). The mayor assigned a village trustee to each of AIA's three committees – Water and Sewer, Streetscapes, and Community Outreach. The Sewer and Water Committee has already secured a grant to pay for an engineering study to plan for a future waste treatment system.

Smith has also strengthened

through it. Saved all those fees. For the bond also...managing the bond will be done with NYCOM attorneys."

NYCOM helped the village recover payments when some landlords didn't pay their water bills. Smith explains, "we had quite a few outstanding balances from apartment complexes that the landlord is not paying. So we can't go in and shut the water off because [of the] tenants...We have no leverage in getting the payments back from the landlord. So [NYCOM] helped us to come up with the language to inform landlords and tenants about what was happening and give them deadlines."

NYCOM also told the board about a special program to help low-income residents pay their water rents in the future. The village is now a vendor for this federal program, the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

The future is a little brighter for the village of Argyle. The pipes needed to complete well #7 are finally available. The mayor plans to reevaluate water rents, which are now among the highest in the state, to see if reductions can be made. Smith and a trustee will attend NYCOM's legislative conference in a couple of weeks to learn about changes impacting villages and to lobby state officials for more support.

Mayor Smith remains optimistic and energized, "There's so many small rural villages facing the same issues. So I'm excited to work [with NYCOM]. I want to be in touch with those mayors. So I'm excited to be a part of this legislative meeting...I want to start connecting and working with these other mayors that are facing the same issues. Can we make a voice together?"

Honoring a living legend

Carey Lynn Braidt
Special to Journal & Press

The 1786 Rupert Meeting House was the setting for the celebration of Gene Higgins Day on Sunday January 22nd. More than 100 people filled the pews to rejoice a well-respected member of the community. Mr. Eugene Higgins is a living treasure known for his love of history, kind heart, humorous storytelling and community service. He will be celebrating his 86th birthday this month, and was honored at this special occasion by his friends and neighbors.

The combined effort of two churches, friends, family and former students of Mr. Higgins made this a truly memorable day. The event began as a combined church service with Rupert Methodist joining the Congregational Church. The Rev. Dr. Steven Berry provided the sermon inspired by the Arab Tale, "Acres of Diamonds." Andris Berry provided pastoral support and opening prayers, and Reverend Tom Atkins read from the New Testament and sang with the Methodist Choir, complimented by talented organist Kevin Bishop playing the 1929 Etsy Organ. Soloist Gary Roberts provided a soulful rendition of "Colin Lan," sung in Welsh. An attendee at the event was overheard stating, "Boy, those Methodists can sing."

The celebration for Mr. Higgins then immediately followed the service. Opening statements included a traditional proclamation. "Hear ye, hear ye! Be it known to all present that January 22, 2023 shall be known as Gene Higgins Day." To follow were a lengthy list of Mr. Higgins' meaningful contributions to his community, and a finishing request that, "All people who reside within the town of Rupert, Vermont and beyond celebrate Gene Higgins Day by sharing stories, songs, and laughter all the day through."

Contributing speakers at the event brought the crowd to both laughter and tears, and made it clear how deserving Mr. Higgins was of this occasion. Heartfelt statements and family memories were offered from Mary Williams (relative), comedic contributions were provided by Kevin Bishop (friend/organist), Linda Caruso (former student) shared her moving story of how this teacher shaped her life, Anne Lourie (Rupert Historical Society) reiterated how valuable Gene has been to the preservation of Rupert's history, Rev. Tom Atkins spoke on behalf of Terry Tyler (author/story teller) in his absence, & Carey Braidt (poet) provided a limerick inspired piece entitled, "Rupert's Gene--of the History Scene."

The guest of honor Gene Higgins, introduced by Rev. Berry, approached the podium with a standing ovation and spoke to a packed house of adoring fans, sharing his predictable wit and charm. Touching on some of his more popular

stories, and pieces of Rupert history, and sharing tales of his trips to Europe including his favorite area, The Isles of Scilly. Gene also shared an honest reflection from some of the Native Americans he had taught and his later experiences traveling to mid-west tribal lands including the Hopi Tribe. Ending his statements with a heartfelt crackling in his voice and tear in his eye, Gene was cordially escorted back to his seat as the standing crowd applauded for him once again.

Celtic themed and American folk music complimented the occasion with traditional tunes like "Mary Don't you Weep," and "The Parting Glass," as well as a classic contemporary piece by Bob Dylan. The fabulous line-up of musicians was organized by Andris Berry who performed as lead vocalist and on guitar. Joana Genova delighted the audience on the fiddle (violin), Thomas Logan provided his effortless rhythm on bass guitar, while Tommy "Bones" Logan played the bones with style, and Michael Rudiakov provided an added pulse on drums. The energetic Jeff Linebeck accompanied the band on Piano. The crowd joined in on popular verses of music which added to the unity and joy of the day.

The festivities continued in the downstairs of the meeting house with generous portions of food provided by friends, neighbors, and delicious sandwiches provided by Carol at Shermom's Store in West Rupert, as well as a creative

'Guests lingered over cups of apple cider sharing stories and revisiting the special moments.'

and memorable cake presented by Sara Porter of Flour Girl Bakeshop, and the crowd singing "Happy Birthday." Guests lingered over cups of apple cider sharing stories and revisiting the special moments of the ceremony, in the warm, welcoming and truly special small-town way that Rupert is known for.

Mr. Higgins taught both social studies and English at Woodstock Union High School for over 25 years, prior to that he taught two years in Margrettsville, NY. Numerous students still keep in contact with him year after year, speaking to his meaningful impact as an educator so many years later. Gene was a founding member of the Rupert Historical Society, which he has humorously and affectionately nicknamed "The Hysterical Society," where he has served contin-



uously as the organization's president since the 1990's. He also served as both Justice of The Peace and Auditor in Rupert for 32 years. He has contributed countless hours to the Rupert Board of Civil Authority, handling grievance hearings, conducting elections, and contributing to the town report. He has also had the pleasure of officiating the many local weddings. Gene serves as deacon and treasurer of the Congregational Church of Rupert and provides sermons as a substitute preacher in 3 area churches as needed. Gene is known for his beautiful photographs including a locally famous capture of The Rupert Valley complimented by fields of dandelions. He has presented numerous historical talks in the area as a commitment to his local roots. Mr. Higgins also joined forces with former teacher/co-worker Mary Martin on an extensive research project of Welsh Immigration on the region of southern Vermont and neighboring Washington County, NY, in relation to the slate industry, which won them a fellowship at Wellesley College. Gene also worked at bank locations in both Woodstock, VT and Granville, NY and has touched countless lives with his kindness, humor and big heart.

Please watch for an upcoming production of this joyous occasion on GNAT TV with the support of Steven Schluessel of Danger Men Productions. Thank you to all who contributed to make Gene Higgins Day so memorable.

Women's health

The committee of the Salem Area Woman's Club responsible for planning the 26th annual Women's Health Day met recently. Last held in 2019, this popular event returns to Salem Central School on Saturday, April 29th. It is co-sponsored by the Woman's Club and Glens Falls Hospital, with support from multiple local sponsors and contributors. Pictured here with committee chairperson Lois Sheaff are the following committee members: Anna Dickson, Judy Kempf, Jane Keys, Mary Talmadge, Andi Mungas, Julia Sweeney, Ronnie DeLorenzo, Kathy Rapp, Pat



Phillips, Vivian Ackerman, Linda Randles, Jane Hayden, Irene Baldwin, Nancy Ross.

Missing from the photo are Kathy Idleman, Kay Tomasi, and Pat Gilchrist.

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Greenwich clay artist on exhibit in Saratoga

Saratoga Clay Arts Center's Schacht Gallery presents Abstract/Organic, a duo exhibition showcasing two contrasting sensibilities in clay - exquisite abstract vessels by Chip McKenney (FL) and expressive organic sculptures by Cheryl Horning (Greenwich, NY). Abstract/Organic will run February 11 - March 18, 2023, with an opening reception on Saturday, February 11, 5-7pm. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

While their work is very different, McKenney and Horning were paired together for this duo exhibition because of their unique interpretations of abstraction in clay. Additionally, they were both educated at Skidmore College and were former students of Regis Brodie. Horning's more subtle palette combined with her abstraction of the natural form, whether figurative or plant-based, real or imagined, evokes feelings of movement and memory.

About her sculptural works for this exhibition, Horning states "My sculptures are about the human body and how it relates to others, to the environment, to mystery, and to God. But they are not limited to the human form.

There are elements of plant structure, reptilian references, separation and struggle. The ideas for my sculptures, whether from my dreams or my drawings, often originate from unconscious memory, from an unknown space. My abstracted figurative works are about bodies who are conjoined in a perpetual dance or struggle to separate or merge. As these ideas are realized in three dimensions, they become lyrical, sensual, and visceral. I am fascinated by identity, where we come from and who we think we are. I draw inspiration from other people's stories, contemporary and ancient, and create characters with interior lives of struggle and hope. For me creating these sculptures is like filling a void. As I build up the clay little by little, as the form takes shape, filling up the space in front of me between my hands, I am sometimes surprised or delighted by this new being. The relationship between me and the clay is somewhat like a dance. My hands shape the clay and as the clay takes shape, it informs my next move. My sculpture is about movement, memory, and storytelling and, because my work is often intuitive, it makes visible an

inner world of feelings, emotions and memory that I had not been fully aware of before."



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Bancroft elects new board

Lori Stokem

Bancroft Public Library

The Board of Trustees for the Bancroft Public Library in Salem met on Monday, January 16, 2023, for their annual meeting, and their regular monthly meeting for January. At this meeting, officers were elected for the coming year. Ed Donoghue was elected Board President, Kim Erbe was elected to the Vice President position, and Rebecca Brown was voted in as Secretary and Financial Officer. Library Board Liaisons with the Salem Town Board are Kim Erbe and Rebecca Brown.

It's been a busy year for the library. At the beginning of the year our building project was completed and we began using our new handicapped accessible bathrooms and outdoor ramps. The brick hallway in Proudfit Hall now showcases the work of our local artists. One of our patrons, Chris Smith, was the first artist to put their artwork on display. With the ADA project complete, Proudfit Hall was once again available for rent. Through a grant, the library was able to replace the windows in the back of the library.

Last year brought many new and exciting things to the library. Several new public computers were installed in the library. Many thanks to the Friends of the Bancroft Public Library for purchasing the computers. The Friends also made it possible for patrons to visit area museums by purchasing discount passes that patrons could take out with their library cards. Another addition to the library last year was adding books in Spanish to our adult and children collections. We also replaced the bags housing the Story Time Bags. The bags all have books and activities in them that center around a theme. Thank you to Beverly Kratzert for making the bags for us.

The Bancroft Library strives to meet the needs of our community. One way is through the Farm-2-Library program. Each week the Comfort Food Community delivers fresh, healthy food to the library. The food is free and can be picked up any time the library is open.

Free tech help is offered every Tuesday to help patrons that need technology assistance. This past year we began a weekly program for senior citizens. Each week a snack and a program was offered.

During the year the library offered many regular and special programs. Our regular programs included our weekly Scrabble and Mahjong groups and our monthly Book Club, Bird Watchers, and Kickin' Knitters.

During May students from Salem Central School came to the library for their Day of Service. The library is in the process of making the outdoor area behind the library into a courtyard to be used by our patrons. The students came for the day and helped spread soil so we could put sod down later in the summer. A cement sidewalk was put in place along with a flat cement area where a handicapped accessible table will be placed. The courtyard will have tables and gardens and will be a great space for our patrons to use during good weather. We are thankful for the donations that are making this possible and we look forward to completing the courtyard this spring.

Last year brought the Department of Motor Vehicles back to the library. They came to the library once a month and will continue to be at the library from 9:30 to 2:30 the third Tuesday of the month. The Office of the Aging also came back and provided several pop-up lunches and programs for our senior citizens.

Spring brought visits from the classes at Salem Central School. Fourteen classes came to the library and participated in a scavenger hunt during which they got to learn about the parts of the library and all the great things the library has to offer. Their visits ended with a free book and an application for a library card.

Throughout the summer Bancroft Public Library coordinated their summer program with the Lunch, Learn, and Play program at the Salem Historic Courthouse. Twice a week groups from LL&P came to the library for reading and activities. Each visit included the reading of a book along with a craft or activity

related to the book. Guest readers included Alice in Wonderland, Belle, Snow White, the characters from "Up." We had many volunteer readers throughout the program. The kids also planted seeds and had a Rock, Paper, Scissor Tournament. Over 160 kids participated along with many youth counselors. The summer also brought extra evening programs for kids like Lego Club, Minecraft Club, D & D and a reading bingo challenge.

Last fall the library once again participated in The Great Give Back where libraries across New York State have programs that benefit their communities. We participated in a community Trunk-or-Treat at the Salem Historic Courthouse. Working with other local groups (The Salem Food Pantry, Books In Kids' Hands, and the Courthouse), together we handed out free gently used books, to-go crafts, and granola bars to kids attending the event.

Throughout the year the library continued to provide books, DVDs, audiobooks, games, and book bags for loan along with other services such as copying, printing, faxing, use of public computers, notary services and for kids our play area, makerspace and craft cart.

The past year was a year of bringing back many programs and services after COVID and adding new and exciting books and programs too. We have a lot to look forward to at the library in 2023. In the spring work will continue on the courtyard behind the library, TriCounty Literacy will be having tutors come to the library to begin an adult literacy program, we just started a new Story Time (Bancroft Book Buddies) for preschoolers on Wednesdays, and we have started planning for a great summer program for kids.

The library board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Peg Culver Reading Room. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Check the website before any meetings to see if there are any changes.



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Greg Schwem
Special to Journal & Press

"Happy New Year, mon, and welcome to your tropical island vacation to start 2023. We are sure you are very tired because you have spent the entire day traveling by water taxi, cruise ship or any airline other than Southwest. But you're here, mon, and we have such a treat in store for you. Because you have just landed on the island that has the most BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN THE WORLD! So, relax, mon!

"By the way, in the islands we are told to insert 'mon' into as many sentences as possible, because it makes us sound like we have lived here our entire lives. And, from the looks on your faces, I can see it's working because, even though I am a middle-aged Caucasian man from Indiana, you are currently on your fourth Planters Punch and can't tell the difference. Keep drinkin', mon, while I tell you about the most BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN THE WORLD that you are about to experience.

"It's called Turtle Bay Pelican Cove, and it's 5 miles of unspoiled white sand, turquoise waters and coral reefs that house some of the world's most beautiful species. Well, it's not TOTALLY unspoiled, mon. You see, a few years ago, some travel show host came to our island and called it the most BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN THE WORLD. Next thing you know, travel magazines and every single cruise ship director was calling it the same thing.

"Influencers flocked to the beach, took selfies and confirmed to their millions of Instagram and TikTok followers that, yes, Turtle Bay Pelican Cove was the most BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN THE WORLD. As a result, every Caribbean traveler wants to spend a day there. So, if you want to visit, it might be challenging, but trust me, mon, it's worth the

effort.

"First, you will have to negotiate transportation. This is easy; just find a taxi driver and tell him you want to visit the beach. It doesn't matter if you can't remember the name; just say you know this island has the most BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN THE WORLD, because that's what you read on Twitter, and ask if will he take you there. Once he stops laughing at the beach reference, he will ask how many in your party. Taxi fare should be cheap because, chances are, the honeymooning couple in line behind you, the family of four with two toddlers and two inflatable life preservers behind them, and the Spring Break sorority girls behind them want to visit the beach too. So, you can split the fare 15 ways.

"Now, mon, because our infrastructure is not as sophisticated as yours in the States, the road leading

'Even though this beach is 5 miles long, there's only one access road that takes you in.'

to Turtle Bay Pelican Cove will be slow and full of tour buses, scooters and more taxis. Plus, even though this beach is 5 miles long, there's only one access road that takes you in. So, you will be dropped off in the same location as every other land tourist and cruise ship passenger visiting our island today. Incidentally, today we have three cruise ships in port, so that's about 10,000 people. All of them saw a picture on their ship featuring, thanks to Photoshop, an empty beach, and the caption: Turtle Bay Pelican Cove. Named THE MOST BEAUTIFUL



BEACH IN THE WORLD.

"Did I mention, mon, that the most BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN THE WORLD is also the FRIENDLIEST? Once you elbow your way through the crowds and reach the beach itself, you will be 'greeted' by dozens of very nice people who want to braid your hair, make you a silver bracelet, sell you weed and offer to take you parasailing in case weed sales are slow. You will experience this beautiful beach from the air; ultimately, you will look down and see that your tour bus has just left.

"As we say in the islands, and in Muncie, Indiana, 'No problem, mon.' You can SLEEP on the most BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN THE WORLD! Hundreds of people do it every night. Well, first they bathe in our turquoise waters. Then they pass out on the unspoiled white sand.

"If you are starting to feel like

Turtle Bay Pelican Cove might not actually live up to its reputation, no worries, mon. We on the island also know where the SECOND MOST BEAUTIFUL BEACH is located.

"But we will never tell you because that's where we spend our free time. Unlike you, we are not that gullible. Now, would you care for another Planter's Punch?"

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.



The Wilmarths

Willard's Mountain Chapter National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is presenting a program by Cliff Oliver Mealy about the "Wilmarths" of Greenwich on Saturday, Feb. 11th. 11:00 AM at the Greenwich Free Library. A luncheon reception will follow celebrating Feb. 1st as the Cliff Oliver Mealy Day. Everyone welcome.

Super Bowl BBQ

The Salem Vol. Fire Dept. will be holding their annual Pre-Sale Superbowl Sunday BBQ on Sunday February 12, 2023 with pick-up from noon till 1pm. Your choice will be a 1/2 BBQ Chicken or 1/2 rack of BBQ Ribs, baked potato, roll, dessert, baked beans all for \$15.00. Buy your pre-sale ticket only at A & J Agway, Salem Hardware, a Salem Firefighter, by calling 518-461-3317 or 518-321-9430. This a drive through and take out only event.

Legion breakfast

The Old Saratoga American Legion Post 278 will be serving breakfast on Sunday, February 5, from 9 to 11 a.m. They will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, milk, orange juice, coffee and tea. Adults are \$10; children 6 and under \$5. Takeout or eat in. The address is 6 Clancy Street, Schuylerville. Any questions please call (518) 695-3011 Tuesday through Sunday after 12 noon.

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Robert D. Chagnon, 90

Robert D. Chagnon, a former local resident and teacher, has passed away at his retirement residence in West Virginia on Sunday, January 22, 2023. He was born in Staten Island, New York on May 16, 1932. He was the youngest and last surviving of four children born to Paul Rene Chagnon, Senior and Dorothea Weise Chagnon. His siblings were Annette Matthews, Beatrice Gardiner and Paul Rene Chagnon, Junior. Their father died in 1947 and their mother in 1954. Robert

Chagnon received his education in New York, first at Staten Island, then in Shushan, New York, where he attended sixth grade in a two room school, then in Salem, New York, where he graduated from high school in 1950. After service with the U.S. Army NATO Forces in Europe, Robert attended the State University of New York at New Paltz. He graduated in 1961 and taught three years at Van Antwerp School in Niskayuna, New York. He then joined the Federal Government in Washing-

ton, D.C. He retired from the Federal Service in 1990 and a few years later moved to West Virginia. Mr. Chagnon married Linda Jane Shrope of Slingerlands in 1961. In the 43rd year of their marriage, Linda passed away and she now rests in the Shrope family plot in Flemington, New Jersey where Robert will be interred. Their survivors include their daughter Jacqueline, their grandchildren, James, Douglas and Amanda and their great-grandchildren.

Beverly B. Morehouse, 89

Beverly B. Morehouse, 89, passed away on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the Fort Hudson Nursing Home following a brief illness.

She was born December 25, 1933, in Schenectady, NY and was the daughter of the late Frank and Marie (Springer) Bryant.

Beverly married her high school sweetheart, Donald O. Morehouse, on June 18, 1955. Together they shared 67 years of marriage until his passing this past summer. Bev was a member of the Centenary United Methodist Church. She completed her RN degree at ACC while raising four young children. She worked for the Washington County Public Health Nurses for several years. She then nursed at the Mary McClellan Hospital in Cambridge, NY for many years as an RN. She took great pride in her profession especially the old days, of white uniforms and nursing caps. She wasn't afraid to question the MDs or refuse to give up her chair for them, which was expected during that time. It was always comforting having her around when you or your child were sick. She got things done for sure. She served on the Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad in its early days. Her first call was to pick up her son, who'd gone through the raceway at the mill in Middle Falls. She was a member of the Greenwich Community Scholarship Committee for several years.

She enjoyed all the gatherings with their group of friends, "the gang". They didn't need much of a reason to get together, a holiday, sporting events, snow activities, birthdays, summer weather, or playing cards. Pitch was

their game of choice. The gang and families spent time in the summers at Glen Lake together or at friends' camps on Hedges Lake. Alongside her husband she spent several weeks in Florida during the winter, spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed getting together with her family and keeping up with her grandchildren. In the last several years she was happy getting to know her great-grandchildren. She recently found out that there's another little boy on the way this summer.

Bev wasn't happy when a fall led her to a move to the Fort Hudson Nursing Home. She eventually came around and made the best of it. Dad being there as well helped. She handled Dad's passing with grace and managed to forge ahead. At times she may not have been the easiest resident, but the family is beyond grateful to the staff and administration at Fort Hudson for their patience, care, and kindness they showed her throughout her stay.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her beloved husband, Donald O. Morehouse, Sr.

Survivors include her sons, Robert (Andrea) Morehouse of Clifton Park, Donald O. (Shawn) Morehouse of Lake Mary, FL; her daughters, Dawn Kirk of Milton and Suzanne (Robert) Scheidegger of Queensbury; 8 grandchildren, Kathryn (Keenan) Morehouse of CO, Elizabeth (Doug) Pearce of MA, Laura (Shane) O'Malley of CO, Donald (Erica) Morehouse and Christie (Tucker) Smoot all of FL, Brittany (Pete) McNulty of Saratoga Springs, Jared Kirk of CO, Robert Scheidegger of

Queensbury; 6 great-grandchildren, Tucker Beau and Calvin Smoot, Madison and Madox McNulty, Donny "IV" Morehouse, and River Pearce.

A celebration of life will be announced and held in late spring, which is under the care of Flynn Bros, Inc. Funeral Home in Greenwich.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bev's name may be made to the Fort Hudson Foundation, 319 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828; the Easton Greenwich Rescue Squad, PO Box 84, Greenwich, NY; Double H Ranch, Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1378, Williston, VT 05495, or to a charity of one's choice.

In addition, if one chooses, grab an Old Fashion donut from Dunkin Donuts and enjoy it in her honor (her favorite).

Online condolences and messages to the family may be made at www.flynnbrosinc.com.



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John B. Sobing, 74

John B. Sobing, 74, of Cos-sayuna, passed away Thursday January 5, 2023 at Glens Falls Hospital. Born January 22, 1948 in New York City, he was the son of Louise and Bernard Sobing.

John graduated from Port Richmond HS. He earned an Associate Degree with honors from Staten Island Community College, BA with honors from Richmond College, and an MS in Athletic Training /Sports Medicine from Long Island University also with honors.

After college John worked as a Certified Athletic Trainer/EMT at various colleges and high schools. Eventually John and his brother Mike owned and operated The Fitness and Exercise Center in Greenwich NY from 1990 to 2007 when ill health forced his retirement. He had Multiple Myeloma, a cancer associated with Agent Orange exposure, from his service in Vietnam.

He was a US Army veteran (1968-1971) and served in Pleiku, RVN providing medical care for sentry dogs.

John was an outstanding athlete. He was a wide receiver and played many years in the Staten Island Touch Tackle League. He was also an all-star outfielder and played right field next to his brother Mike who was in center field for many championship softball teams on Staten Island in the 1970's and 80's. He enjoyed watching the NY Jets, Mets and Knicks.

He was fond of a good mocha latte after a motorcycle ride.

John loved his dogs Lady and Midnight in Staten Island, and Ursa, Zeke, Mega Dog, Duncan, Bobby and Killara, and of course Reggie the cat. They were a great comfort to him during his illness.

His other interests included history, especially Greek and Roman, medicine, military history, bodybuilding, martial arts and Bigfoot.

John married in 1993. He and his wife and dogs enjoyed day hikes often to waterfalls which John loved. They traveled to Florida, Cape Cod, New Jersey and Staten Island to visit friends and family. They also enjoyed weeks in the summer at "The Lake" in NH. He also acquired his dream car, a 1998 Red Corvette.

After John's illness in 2007 they both retired from their careers. John fought his way through a couple years of illness until 2009 when he received stem cells from his identical twin brother, Mike, for a Stem Cell Transplant. In 2008 John was also joined by his first Cairn Terrier, Duncan. A second Stem Cell

Transplant in 2014 extended his life again, and added another Cairn terrier. John said he wanted a million of them. While enjoying good health his travel adventures extended to: Two trips to Oregon included Multnomah Falls and 10 falls in Silver Falls State Park, a Caribbean cruise, 2 river cruises through Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland. A trip to the UK was his favorite. He toured London, the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and the Cotswolds.

The last 4 years summer months were spent in NH at "The Lake". John loved the Loons and the Bald Eagles. His biggest thrill was sitting on the porch when mobbing crows caused an immature Eagle to choose to fly through the porch under the roof.

Most importantly John was an outstanding human being who lived his life with courage, integrity, generosity, and compassion for others. He helped many people as an Athletic Trainer/EMT in NYC, Long Island and during his tenure at the gym in Greenwich.

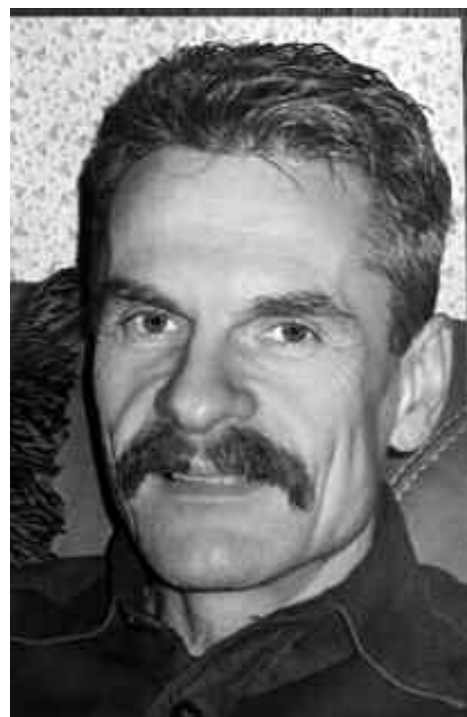
A memorial service was at 10 am on Monday, January 23, 2023 at the West Hebron United Methodist Church, 3178 County Route 30, Salem with Rev. Deb Peacock officiating. Facial masks are required while attending the church service.

Interment with military honors did follow at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville.

Memorial contributions in John's memory may be made to the Disabled American Veterans at <https://secure.dav.org/donate> OR Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation at <http://themmr.org> OR your local food pantry/bank.

To offer condolences to the family, please visit www.gariepy-funeralhomes.com

Arrangements are with the McClellan-Gariepy Funeral Home, Inc. in Salem.



Salem Courthouse leader to retire

Bob Akland began planting trees on his farm in East Greenwich in 1993. Since then he has planted about 10,000 trees, including Norway spruce, black walnut, locust and larch. The trees, he says, are an investment in the future, but somebody else's future! Bob has always found ways to devote his time to investing in the future of others. He spent his 33 year career teaching and as a guidance counselor endowing kids with the knowledge and skills they would need in their lives.

When Bob and his wife, Carolyn, also a former teacher, retired to their Washington County farm in 2001, they began looking for ways to become involved in the community. They attended an informational meeting at the Salem School in 2002 given by the then, "Save the Courthouse" group, who had assembled to discuss what would happen when the jail and County courthouse moved from Salem to their new location in Ft Edward. Bob and Carolyn's over 20 year stint as dedicated members of the Historic Salem Courthouse volunteer community had begun! Bob was intrigued by the beautiful structure and thought helping to preserve it would be a fun challenge (and he's a big history fan) and the potential for using the Courthouse as a community center spoke to his philosophy for providing for the future. He became a Board Member in 2003, moved onto Treasurer and eventually to President.

After 20 years on the Board, and 10 as President, Bob has decided to retire from the Board and pursue some other callings. He says he knows the current Board is strong and, along with the staff, will be able to meet the many challenges of running the Historic Salem Courthouse. Herb Perkins, who has been Vice President for 10 years, is prepped to be the new President. Of Bob's tenure, Herb stated, "In addition to all the many individual accomplishments he made for the Courthouse over his many years of service, he has also provided dedicated and dignified stewardship of the Historic Salem Courthouse, its grounds, its buildings, its reputation for service and its place in the Salem community, which he loves."

Carolyn, who has been an invaluable and dedicated Membership Committee Chair, and all around Courthouse fixture, will continue to participate in many of her Courthouse commitments. Carolyn's warmth and joie de vivre have been key to building enthusiasm for Courthouse activities and membership. Bob says



Bob Akland

she's "the glue that holds everything together".

When looking back at all that has been accomplished by the dedicated Courthouse volunteers during his time on the Board, including raising over \$1 million through grants and private gifts, Bob says the most rewarding thing is seeing people enjoying all the events and activities. So much work goes into fundraising, maintaining and upgrading the building and planning the many events, that it is a huge payoff when the results provide such happy experiences.

The Historic Salem Courthouse has truly become the community center envisioned by its early supporters. It offers history lectures, concerts, art shows, after school activities like knitting and music lessons, a thrift shop, a commercial kitchen, the Lunch, Learn and Play summer program for kids, a community garden, a place for the Hudson Headwaters mobile health van, and more. Bob says it is amazing what a group of ordinary people can do when they are committed and determined.

According to Bob, the hardest thing is running the programs and fundraising for the restoration of the 1869 building, all at the same time. He cited last year's heating cost of \$17,000 as an example of how difficult a balancing act it can be. The pandemic added to the challenges but the Historic Courthouse keeps moving forward. Bob is proud that so much has been accomplished "on a shoestring" and progress is still being made- new programs and new restoration projects all the time.

Now that the Historic Salem Courthouse is established as a vital part of the community, and not just a dream, Bob can focus his attention on his church, some reading, maybe some travel, his grandchildren's sporting events, and of course, tending to those 10,000 trees for the future.

-Submitted by Ann Whalen

GCS students get 'Reality Check'

On a chilly Saturday, Jan. 21, 30 students participated in Greenwich Central School's first-annual financial literacy program Reality Check, organized by the PTSA. They spun a wheel to determine their annual income and then went from table to table to determine their budget for items like groceries and utilities.

The tables were flanked by many area businesses and organizations – even the Marines – who also sent representatives to speak with students. Over \$1500 in prizes donated from the businesses were raffled off.

"Our mission was to provide a fun venue for students to learn about adult finances through gameplay," said the PTSA's Vice President Tara Graves. "Secondly, we wanted to expose students to career opportunities in Washington County."

The event was successful enough that organizers would like

to bring it back next academic year. "We do plan to hold the event next year with some new surprises and twists," Graves added. To be kept apprised, follow the Greenwich PTSA on Facebook.

"While we would have liked to have seen more student participants, we are counting the event as a big success," Graves said. "We tried something new, and the students not only got something out of it, they had fun. It was a great learning experience for all of us. I am so proud of how parents, local businesses and even community members whose children have long since grown, all worked together to create something truly unique and special for our students."

Matthew Herrington of Herrington Financial was the link that tied the whole event together. Students had to finish at the Financial Advisor station where his

team would "sign off" on their monthly budget. If they had money left over, he advised them to "pay themselves first" by putting money in their savings accounts. If they were over budget, they would help students look at some of their larger expenditures; be it housing, transportation or little luxuries and advise they revisit that station to reduce costs.

"Initially one of our biggest concerns with a financial literacy event like this is that students would feel overwhelmed," Graves said. "Working with Herrington Financial provided an opportunity for us to educate the students on making different choices without crushing dreams."

The Fort Miller Group, Inc. was the primary sponsor for the event. They had engineers and carpenters on site to talk with students about their fields of expertise and opportunities available locally.

Erin Elkins, PTSA President,

added: "My main takeaway is the event was a successful, fun activity to experience the challenges and decisionmaking that is a necessary component of life. The PTSA vision is that this event creates a learning experience in a student's life that provides an opportunity for them to gain a better understanding of personal finance. What is most heartwarming is the amount of community professionals who donated their time to support the Greenwich CSD."

Carrie Mueller, a senior high school student who participated, said: "Reality Check exceeded my expectations, offered great prizes, and was a lot of fun. I learned about saving money and that life can be challenging — while you can't plan for everything in life, you can prepare for some of life's surprises. I look forward to seeing the event grow year after year."

-DJ



An art class cares

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

In the first year of the pandemic, Schuylerville art teacher Su Luke and her class had a warm idea – during this time of social distancing and isolation, why not use class time for service learning, directing their creative energies to reach out to the people who needed it most? In December 2020, the class started creating holiday cards for the elderly. Since then, the popular program has grown to include other holidays and other oftentimes forgotten groups. Here is our chat:

DJ: How did you get the idea to do this?

SL: I am always looking for ways for my students to get involved in the community. Early during the pandemic, I saw how isolated my elderly loved ones were because of lockdowns in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Even my own mother who lives independently rarely left her home or accepted visitors. I discussed this with my students and we decided to make cards and mail them to elderly members of our community.

DJ: You do them for Christmas and Valentine's Day — any other occasions?

SL: We send brightly colored "Happy Spring" cards in April too. We have made them for other occasions as well. Last week, we made 90th Birthday cards for a Korean War Veteran.

DJ: How big is your mailing list right now?

SL: There are about 320 senior citizens, developmentally disabled adults and retired Schuylerville teachers on our Christmas address list. Any leftover cards are distributed to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals.

DJ: How do you get the names and addresses for your list?

SL: I have reached out to our school community and the Schuylerville community asking people to send (private message) names and addresses of their elderly friends, family members or neighbors that might enjoy receiving a card.

DJ: What do some of the cards say inside?

SL: All of the cards have the same message included inside, which changes each season. Some students choose to include friendly notes. Last year we had a high school junior who wrote the sentiments in the cards and in the past, I have used the work of well-known poets.

DJ: How many students work on these cards?

SL: I have approximately 100 high school art students. Each student is required to make five Christmas/Hanukkah cards. Valentine's Day and Happy Spring cards are optional. National Honor Society students stay after school to create cards on a volunteer basis and have been incredibly helpful with all of the prep work as they cut the paper and shapes to be used. Students can earn



community service credit hours for lending a hand.

DJ: What are some experiences and feedback you've had because of the cards?

SL: The feedback has been wonderful, and the kids really enjoy receiving it. We have gotten cards, letters, newsletters, artwork and emails showing appreciation. One recipient even sent examples of her photography to share with students. Another makes beautiful handmade cards and sends one to us with a "Thank you."

DJ: Do you accept donations?

SL: We would absolutely accept donations. The supplies we use are pretty specific because it is important that the paper is all cut to the same size and that they fit properly into the envelopes. The supplies we really could use are A-7 envelopes and brightly colored 65lb cardstock.

DJ: Tell me a bit

about yourself and your classes.

SL: This is my 24th year teaching art in Schuylerville School. Our students are great, many taking every art class we offer. There are two art teachers in our high school and the classes I have taught are studio art, studio in painting, studio in drawing, digital photography, mixed media and 3-D studio.

DJ: Any new developments?

SL: We are planning a large-scale project for the 2023-24 school year which we will be announcing in the near future. The project will provide opportunities for community involvement.



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Michael Levy
Journal & Press

One of the things that haunts me on a continual basis is the Winking Chef caricature seen on takeout pizza boxes everywhere. In case you haven't eaten pizza in the last six or seven decades, he is the slightly overweight chef with a mustache, often making a gesture of approval with his hand. When I see him on a pizza box, I never know if he will be facing right or left, if he will have both eyes open or will he be winking with one, and whether or not he will have sideburns. But he always has a toque on his head and is usually holding a pizza. Does the Winking Chef represent a real person? I guess that the folks that make pizza boxes change his image when they create new printing plates or maybe it is just a way to circumvent our copyright laws. And why isn't anyone worried about this image being a stereotypical portrayal of Italian Americans?

Let's switch gears a bit and talk about pizza boxes. They did not really exist before the 1960s. I bet you didn't know that. Before the pizza box, take-out pizzas were delivered in paper bags or in flimsy bakery-type paperboard boxes. These paperboard boxes did not quite cut it when a pizza was left in for too long. The moisture would degrade the box's structure, causing a structural collapse of epic proportions, resulting in a very soggy pizza landing on the floor. If you were having a lucky day, the pizza would land with the toppings facing up. There was an urgent need for innovation to address this major societal problem. Unfortunately, America's top minds were working in the space industry during the 1960s, leaving us with no rocket scientists to solve this important problem.

Many modern pizza historians, a worthy career choice if there ever was one in my humble opinion, believe that the corrugated cardboard pizza box which we know and love, was developed in the early 1960s by the American pizza chain Domino's. Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino's, needed a way to stack and transport pizzas for his new delivery service. He engaged Triad Containers in Detroit and had them develop the corrugated cardboard pizza box. After an arduous and lengthy development process, they achieved a breakthrough, and the industry standard pizza box of today was created. And there was plenty of room for advertising on the box's lid. And somehow our favorite Winking Chef made the cut, his image is on many of them now.

While there have been attempts to improve the pizza box in the decades since, it essentially remains the same. But its inherent problems persist. Hot pizza transported in them gets soggy as moisture is created, despite air vents in the box designed to let the steam escape. Overtime, the flavor of cardboard gets imparted to the pizza inside. Yuk!

There was one alleged improvement in the pizza box that may be of concern to those who are health conscious. To keep the grease of a pizza from soaking through the cardboard, pizza boxes may be coated with PFAS which can get absorbed into the pizza. Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a diverse group of human-made chemicals used in a wide range of consumer and industrial products. PFAS do not easily breakdown and some types have been shown to accumulate in the environment and in our bodies. Yikes!

Does anyone remember the expression, "putting a square peg in a round hole." Why do we put round pizzas in square boxes? Isn't it odd that someone hasn't yet invented a round pizza box to hold round pizzas? How many trees would be saved if we do? That

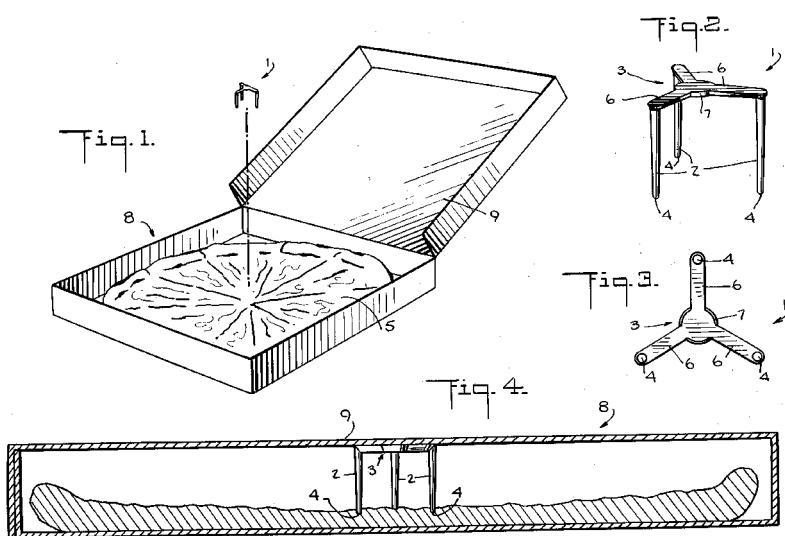


might be something for a high school geometry class to figure out. Can a new generation of inventors do something to save the planet by solving this problem?

There is another invention that is part of the history of the pizza box that is worth mentioning. Inside most pizza boxes, you will find a ubiquitous but inedible topping on the pizza. A white plastic tripod (often shaped like a mid-20th century modern table) stands tall over the mixture of sauce, cheese, grease, pepperoni, and other toppings underneath. It holds up the center of the pizza box to avoid cardboard smashing down on the cheese. Carmela Vitale, a Long Island, NY, homemaker, applied for a patent for her pizza saver "table" in 1983 after she noticed pizzas delivered to her home would often arrive with the toppings stuck to the lid. The issue is that these pizza tripods are single use. Yes, I am ignoring an entire generation of YouTubers who claim to have "invented" an alternate use for these devices. Seriously, how many pizza saver tables can any one person use as a cell phone stand or as a dining table for their Barbie doll collection?

The Winking Chef represents takeout pizza. He is iconic. I wonder why the people on the far left are not upset about what he represents. Where are the protests? Where is the outrage? Then I had a random thought. Perhaps I shouldn't worry about pizza boxes because life is really meant to be fresh, hot, and delicious!

Michael Levy is a government manager residing in Greenwich. He is also a Commercial Pilot and a Ham Radio operator.



U.S. Patent

Feb. 12, 1985

4,498,586

Looking for Lucy, Linus...

Is it your turn in the spotlight? Fort Salem Theater recently announced auditions for their upcoming production of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!" The upbeat musical highlights six actors/singers aged teen through young adult to bring the famous Peanuts characters to life on stage. Auditions are to be held Sunday, February 19th from 2PM-4PM, scheduled in 5-minute audition appointments made at www.FortSalem.com/auditions.

In this fun-for-the-whole family song and dance spectacular, Charlie Brown and the entire Peanuts gang explore life's great questions as they play baseball, struggle with homework, swoon over their crushes, and celebrate the joy of friendship. "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

is based on the comic strip Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz with book, music, and lyrics by Clark Gesner, additional dialogue by Michael Mayer, and additional music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa

The show is directed by Megan Stacey, music directed by Iris Rogers, choreographed by Kyle West, scenic designed by Charles J.I. Krawczyk, and costume designed by Sherry Recinella.

Interested performers are asked to prepare approximately 1 minute of any Broadway or pop up-tempo song that best showcases their voice. An accompanist will be provided, and performers are asked to bring sheet music in the appropriate key. Singing from the show is welcome, but not required. Cold readings from the script and a dance call may be offered. Those unable to attend in-per-

son auditions should submit a video to Kyle@FortSalem.com no later than Thursday, December 1.

Rehearsals will begin March 26, 2023 and will typically be held Sundays from 6PM-10PM, Monday-Thursday from 7PM-10PM and occasional Saturday mornings, pending the availability of the cast and the needs of the show. However, the actual schedule will be determined by the cast and director's availability. A full calendar will be provided by the first rehearsal. Each actor will receive a minimum of two complimentary tickets. Actors who participate in 2023 productions will also receive a free 12-month invitation to opening weekends for all MainStage productions. At this time, housing, travel & performance stipends are not available.

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" performs for Fort Salem Theater's mainstage May 5-14. For more information, visit www.FortSalem.com.

Kickstart your great money reset

Jill Schlesinger
Special to Journal & Press

Amid the scary, early days of the pandemic, I decided to increase the frequency of my Jill on Money podcast from a bi-weekly to a daily show.

The new schedule was a response to the thousands of emails pouring in, as people were anxious, confused and needed help making sense of their financial choices in a highly uncertain time.

Those early inquiries morphed into a different type of question than I had previously never received in the dozen years of hosting a personal finance show: Is this really how I want to live? To answer, I would walk listeners through a series of probing questions to help them understand the options that existed.

These conversations prompted me to write a book, *The Great Money Reset*, a “guide to getting real and building your best life,” which will be available on January 24. Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing snippets of the book to help you kick-start your personal

transition, to break through whatever is holding you back and to help you thrive.

I open the book with a universal fact: To reset to a new place, you have to understand where you are today. In addition to tallying up what you have saved and any obligations that you have accumulated, you also need a detailed understanding of your spending habits.

I continue to be surprised at

‘There’s a powerful secret to achieving your dreams I’ve been applying for some time.’

how many people discount the idea of focusing on consumption and/or are too ashamed about their spending habits to examine what’s really going on behind the behavior. Here’s an excerpt of one of my favorite chapters of *The Great Money Reset*:

“You might think you must blow your life savings to make a big change. Maybe not. People from all

walks of life are rethinking their consumption habits. You can do the same, with an eye toward reducing expenses and directing those resources toward your dreams...

“There’s a powerful secret to achieving your dreams that I’ve been applying for some time, with considerable success. For the price of this book, I’m happy to let you in on it. It’s a behavioral strategy that’s simple, easy to apply, and guaranteed to work. Anyone can use it to feel more empowered financially, irrespective of where they live, how much they earn, or what they do for a living. So, are you ready? The secret to achieving your dreams is . . . spend less.

“Rather than arriving at iron-clad judgments about any particular consumption choice, it’s most helpful simply to become more mindful of how we’re spending our hard-earned money and how it makes us feel.

“Uncovering our spending rules isn’t straightforward – it leads us

into the complex netherworld that is our emotions. Here are some questions I recommend asking to help you understand your consumer behavior and the underlying psychology as completely as possible:

“Question #1: What do I really need in my life, and what do I only think I need?”

“Many of us create rules premised on the idea that we require certain goods or services to be happy and healthy. We all must make purchases corresponding to the lower rungs of the psychologist Abraham Maslow’s famous hierarchy of needs -- food, water, a safe place to live, heat, healthcare, and so on. When it comes to higher-order needs such as our need to feel connected to others or our need to be creative and feel self-actualized, our required purchases become less obvious.”

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst.



Interpersonal Edge

Staying sane in an insane workplace

Daneen Skube
Special to Journal & Press

Q: *Seems to me that people in my workplace act like all decisions are rational but many decisions seem irrational. How do I stay sane in a business where there is a lot of insanity? Why do managers always act like they’re so rational when it is obvious emotions are running many choices?*

A: You can stay sane in an insane workplace if you realize that most of the powerful currents influencing business decisions are irrational, not rational. The problem is these currents are invisible to most people because most people do not understand emotions. What will make you crazy is if you believe that intellectual thought is running the business.

Even in economics experts talk about “rational economies” even though it’s obvious collective emotions have a huge effect on the economy. Fear, greed, anger, grief, and guilt can often be the origin of many business actions and economic trends.

What I teach clients is the source of effectiveness is to improve our interpersonal relationship (the one we have with ourselves). To the extent we recognize when we’re scared, mad, sad, or happy, we will better see the emotional currents influenc-

ing our choices. We need to admit what we’re feeling to gain any control over what we do next.

If we cannot stand or take stock of our emotions then the minute we feel anything, we’ll impulsively act to get away from our uncomfortable feelings. We have to be able to marinate in whatever we’re feeling long enough to consider multiple options.

When my clients cannot stand their feelings, they do and say whatever makes them feel better in that moment. They act in haste and repent on that impulsive choice in leisure. After impulsive choices my clients and I discuss whether they, “Could have had a V-8,” instead of acting rashly. The popular advertisement on choosing a healthy drink is a humorous reminder about how important impulse control is to healthy, effective behavior.

Have you ever looked around you and wondered during insane moments at work, “What are they thinking?” The reality is when people are flooded with emotion the neo-cortex (thinking brain) goes off line. So no matter what people say about their choices during these times, chances are they were not thinking.

The confusing part is when people are irrational they often do what psychologists call “rationalizing.” Rationalizing is when we do some-

thing foolish and then make up a false but distracting reason why we made a poor choice. People find it less painful to make stuff up than truly contemplate the origins of ineffective decisions.

Since we’re just starting off the New Year a great question to ask yourself before you act in 2023 is, “What is the emotional origin of the behavior I am considering?” If you discover you want to be right, scold someone, or get revenge perhaps the wisest action is to do nothing until you can be less impulsive.

Emotions are engines motivating us to take action, but our hearts need to consult with the intellect to make sure our next action will be effective. All feelings are reasonable, but not all actions are helpful. Always validate your feelings internally without judgment and you’ll be able to more quickly consider the best strategy to use next.

Your head will always be a good servant, but a bad master without knowledge of the dark continent of the heart. Next time before you act, pause and make a healthier choice by discovering the emotional content driving your decisions.

The last word(s)

Q: *With Valentine’s Day around the corner I’m wondering how to*

bring a little “love” into my workplace. Can I celebrate the day at work in a practical way?

A: Yes absolutely, good work is love made visible. Valentine’s Day at work is an excellent time to express appreciation to the people you see every day!

Q: *I just took a new management job and I’m feeling overwhelmed by the responsibilities I’ll have this year. Is there any way to think about the future that could help me think of it in bite-sized pieces?*

A: es, here’s some good advice from a man who knew a lot about overwhelming responsibility: Abraham Lincoln, the 16th U.S. President. As he noted, “The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.”

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., is an executive coach and appears on FOX’s “Workplace Guru” each Monday morn-



ing. You can contact Dr. Skube at www.interpersonaledge.com or 1420 NW Gilman Blvd., #2845, Is-

Valentine's concert

Fort Salem Theater recently announced a one-night-only special event to take place on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14th at 7:30PM. A duo onstage and off, Soulstice Sound features husband-and-wife team Alexandra Ncube and Sean Mullaney who provide a soulful offering of popular hits spanning several decades. From standards in Classic Rock to Jazz and Pop, Soulstice Sound is an intimate, acoustic act dazzling audiences through their epic vocal and instrumental prowess on guitar, piano, and percussion.

This one-night-only event takes the Fort Salem Theater Cabaret Room stage on Valentine's Day, February 14th 2023, at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$36 for standard seating, or \$100 for VIP table seating for two, or \$185 for a VIP table of four, which comes with a complimentary bottle of wine or champagne. Limited seating is available now at www.FortSalem.com.

For two years, Alexandra Ncube starred in the hit musical "The Book of Mormon," leading both the Broadway national tour and London West End productions as "Nabalungi." She has also been seen on stage in "Spring Awakening" (Martha), "Avenue Q" (Gary Coleman), "Rent" (Mimi), and "The Who's Tommy" (Acid Queen), among others. Prior to forming Soulstice Sound

with her husband Sean, Alexandra toured and performed with numerous bands including The Instant Classics and Brock Pro Entertainment.

Sean Mullaney is a singer, musician and actor who recently toured and performed as Robert Plant in "Mr. Jimmy: A Led Zeppelin Revival." Additional concert tours include "The Alexander Project: a Tribute to the music of Hamilton," "The Instant Classics," and numerous events with bRockway/Brock Pro Entertainment. Theatrically, Sean has performed leading roles in "Jesus Christ Superstar" (Jesus) in London, "Once" (Guy) at Seacost Repertory Theater, "Spring Awakening" (Otto) at The Phoenix Theatre Company, and "Rent" (Roger) at Scottsdale Desert Stages, opposite his wife, Alexandra.

Additional concerts recently announced for the Fort Salem stage include local bluegrass band Cedar Ridge, who will perform on the mainstage on Saturday, April 1st, and "River Of Dreams: A Billy Joel Tribute Concert" on Friday, May 19th. The theatrical season includes "Spring Awakening" (March 17-26), "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" (May 5-



Soulstice Sound

14), "Footloose" (June 23-July 2), "Corn: The Musical" (July 7-8), "The Pirates of Penzance" (August 11-20), "The Rocky Horror Show" (October 20-31), "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (November 16-19), and "There's Still Definitely No Business Like Snow Business" (December 8-10). Tickets for all events are now on sale at www.FortSalem.com.

Sunday b'fast buffets

Ashlar Masonic Lodge is pleased to announce it is starting a series of Good Sunday Morning Breakfast Buffets on the 1st Sunday of the month at the Greenwich Masonic Temple, 2543 NY-40, Greenwich, NY 12834. The menu includes pancakes, waffles, eggs, bacon, sausages, home fries, and all the fixings. Suggested donations include adults: \$12 and veterans and children (12 and under) \$6. The breakfast buffets are Sunday, February 5, March 5, and April 2, 2023, from 7:30 - 11 am.

"We wanted to offer the community a positive experience," said lodge master Brian Nilsen. "This year, 2023, will be exciting for Ashlar Lodge. We're celebrating our 190 years of masons in Greenwich. The Greenwich Masonic Lodges have

influenced the growth of moral leaders devoted to God, their country, and their neighbor. We are excited to continue that tradition and introduce some new programs to the community."

The breakfast buffet is prepared for friends and families to come together and enjoy camaraderie. Reservations are not required; however, the lodge will try to accommodate the particular request. If you have any questions or requests, don't hesitate to contact Brian Nilsen at (518) 366-3108.

Today, with more than 40 members and more than two centuries of service to the community



and charitable organizations, Ashar Lodge is currently supporting the causes of the national Masonic organization and local groups and organizations.

Comfort Food adds walk-in freezer

A key piece of equipment has been added to Comfort Food Community's (CFC) Food & Farm Hub thanks to the generosity of the Alfred Z. Solomon Foundation. CFC recently completed the installation of 10' x 20' x 8' walk in freezer at their facility at 101 Fiddlers Elbow Road in Greenwich, NY.

The walk-in freezer adds critical storage capacity for the thousands of pounds of frozen food that CFC receives, stores and distributes through its programs, including the Greenwich and Cos-sayuna Food Pantries, its Food Recovery program, and its recently added Farm-to-School program. Each year, CFC handles over 100,000 lbs. of frozen food, with the opportunity to receive and distribute thousands of pounds more. Until the addition of the freezer, CFC would regularly have to pass on this additional, nutritious food.

The benefits of the freezer extend beyond CFC's programs. Freezer capacity was also an issue for local schools and businesses. Schools often need to place large orders that they hold for several months in order reach price breaks and to meet

vendors' minimum order requirements. Schools lacked the freezer capacity in their buildings to store these large quantities of frozen food, which meant that they were ordering more expensive food and missing out on opportunities to source more food produced in New York State. The new freezer has provided the extra capacity needed to store this food.

Similarly, several local farms needed additional freezer space to hold their products until they could reach market or be sent for value-added processing. With the freezer in place, CFC has been able to meet that need by renting a portion of the storage space to five Washington County Farms. In this way, the Food & Farm Hub filling in gaps in the local food economy to support farms and schools, as well as CFC's core programs.

Comfort Food Community would like to thank The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust for their generous award. The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust was established to benefit nonprofit scientific, medical, educational, cultural, religious, and charitable organizations by funding projects

and programs in memory of the Trust's founder, Alfred Z. Solomon.



Josh Stephani, Food/Farm Hub Manager, and Amie Collins, Executive Director

Two leaders who didn't back down

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

Maybe it was just that Americans love a turn of phrase, but to add the modifier “fighting” to a name or a description seems so very appropriate sometimes. After all, college football loves “The Fighting Irish,” and just as surely, New York’s 69th Infantry Regiment was known as “The Fighting 69th.” Just before Gettysburg, the Commander of the Army of the Potomac, General Joseph Hooker was somehow known as “Fighting Joe,” even though there was a litany of other officers who could have better worn the title.

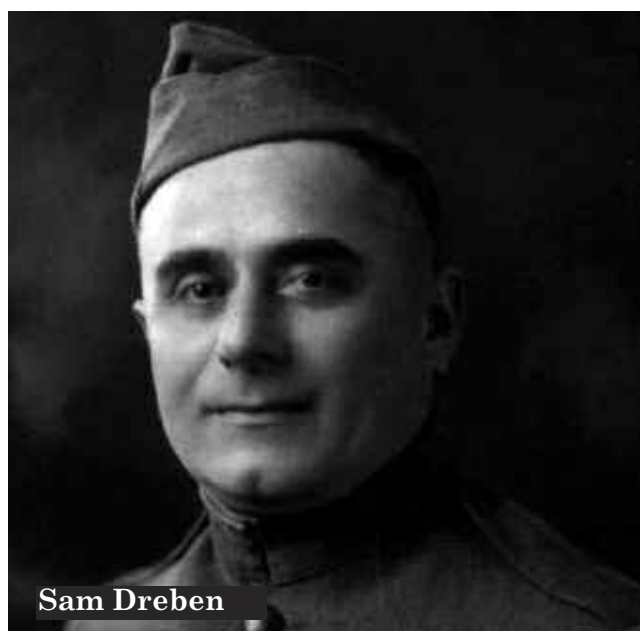
However the two gentlemen I write about today differ in ethnic background, they have two things in common – both of them fought heroically on the battlefield at the order of their country, but both also fought for American democracy within their country after their service.

General Smedley “The Fighting Quaker” Butler (1881-1940), United States Marines Corps, is one of those American legends who’s outsized achievements could cause one to wonder why he is primarily remembered in only two places - by the Marines for his heroism and by activists who remember his cautions against the involvement of business in government’s foreign affairs. However, long before he was a mere symbol, he was the personification of the US Marines’ history during the first quarter of the 20th Century.

“The Fighting Quaker,” also known over the years as “The Fighting Hell-Devil” and “Old Gimlet Eye,” was twice awarded the Medal of Honor during a career which took him from the Spanish-American War, to the Philippine Wars, to the Boxer Rebellion, to World War I, to Haiti and numerous other Caribbean interventions in what were known as the “banana wars.” He would also serve briefly as the Commissioner of Public Safety in Philadelphia while on leave from the Marine Corps, by request of Philadelphia’s Mayor to President Calvin Coolidge, concerned about crime and corruption in the municipal government.

After his service, Butler went into a period of deep reflection, finally determining that all of the fighting he had done in the Caribbean, which cost the lives of fellow Marines, was primarily done at the behest of large American businesses who wanted to make the area safe for commerce and profit. He saw the impact of the Depression on his fellow veterans, in particular the “Bonus March,” where protesting World War I veterans in desperate need of a promised bonus were attacked by Army troops and their tent city destroyed. In 1935, he authored a book called “War is a Racket,” in which he recounts his career differently than many might:

“I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped



Sam Dreben

make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long...”

Is there truth in there? More than a bit. And he is hardly the first to go to war (in Butler’s case repeatedly), lose friends in the process, and then later look about the country he defended and lament what it had become, wondering whether it was all for naught.

Sergeant Sam “The Fighting Jew” Dreben (1878-1925) was another who’s life would wind through myriad wars, yet still retain a strain of idealism that would cause him to fight to reinforce the American values he felt he had defended.

Dreben was a Russian immigrant, one who emigrated to the United States in 1899, at the age of 21. Five months after arriving in New York, he enlisted in the United States Army and was sent to the Philippines, where American forces were fighting rebels after the Spanish were ejected from their former colony. Not long after, his regiment was sent to China, to protect foreign legations during the Boxer Rebellion.

Dreben had distinguished himself as a fighter – and after his service ended in 1907, he would join with two of his former comrades and fight as a mercenary in Central America, including for Mexican bandit-cum-revolutionary Pancho Villa. Dreben, an idealist as well as hired gun, honestly believed he was supporting bringing democracy to Mexico. Later, when Pancho Villa attacked towns on the Texas border, Dreben immediately volunteered as a scout to General John Pershing, who was leading a punitive expedition into Mexico to find Villa. When World War I broke out, he enlisted back into the Army and shipped to Europe and would attain the rank of Sergeant. The Sergeant was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for leading a spontaneous attack which destroyed and overran German machine gun nest. While outnumbered by the Germans, Sergeant Dreben did not lose a single man. Dreben was honored by General Pershing by selecting him to be one of the honorary pallbearers at the official ceremony interring the Unknown Soldier in 1921.

After leaving the Army, Dreben settled down in Texas. Active in veterans’ affairs, he led a campaign against the admission of known Ku Klux Klansmen into the American Legion. Before the El Paso post, he railed:

“These men, oath-bound to secrecy, hide behind their masks and say that because I am a foreign-born Jew I am not good enough to be an American. Every time America has called for volunteers, I have put on the uniform. They did not ask me at the recruiting office if I was a Jew, and they did not ask me on the battlefield what my race or religion was. . . The soldiers didn’t wear masks in France, other than gas masks, and they



Smedley Butler

don’t need them now.”

The El Paso post voted with Dreben, to a man.

Crass commercialism and corruption on the backs of Butler’s fellow Marines caused Butler to speak out – Butler would say, “My interest is, my one hobby is, maintaining a democracy.” Like Butler, Dreben was faced with the sting of a country he fought for making him less proud, making him question the worthiness of the sacrifice he’d seen and participated in. Dreben saw the very freedom unheard of in the days of his youth in Czarist Russia, those very same freedoms he fought for, being placed at risk by the acceptance of hateful ideologies in a veterans’ organization.

This type of disillusionment, when channeled positively, can be a benefit to the country. Certainly, President Ulysses Grant’s experience, and desire to ensure meaning in the sacrifice of his soldiers in the Civil War, led to the most honest attempt to meet Lincoln’s post-war objectives of emancipation and unity. General Colin Powell’s experience in Vietnam led to the development of the “Powell Doctrine” to avoid future strategic missteps.

My entry into politics was driven by my desire to continue service in another way. However, my own anger and disillusionment watching the tragedy of the January 6th putsch briefly made me question whether all of that service had been for nothing. That which I swore to protect and defend was being destroyed by some of those whom I thought I served. Sadly this included a percentage of fellow veterans. Clearly, they too, suffered from a type of disillusionment, and it was being channeled in far less healthy and constructive ways.

Lance Allen Wang is a Councilman in the Town of White Creek who is also an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer. He lives in Eagle Bridge, N.Y., with his wife Hatti.



Navigating the heart of winter

Shirley Renauld
Journal & Press

We're in the midst of the Lunar/Chinese New Year celebrations with the Lantern Festival ending it on Feb 5. Especially now we think about the traditional foods: Spring rolls, dumplings, dishes with noodles; vegetables stir-fried in oil in a bowl-shaped wok stabilized on a rim over a burner, all with their special seasonings. We can order from Joy Wok in Schuylerville, Greenwich Panda or Thai food from Twins Thai Food where we can talk with the native Thai twins, Brian and Brianna, right, Gabrielle? Maybe Pilot Bob is making a business flight to China and would bring some authentic items back again. Wear lots of red, get out the decorations you made last year, make a meal of noodles in your own favorite way, and make new envelopes for the lucky money you hope to be given again this year. Thank you, Rebecca, for the origami/folded paper crane.

Round paper lanterns are traditional for the Festival, but you could also reuse the lanterns you made at the Schuylerville Library. Local people have been known to set lights afloat on their ponds, then collect the bases from the edge of the pond where the wind blew them. The Lion Dance Parade needs many feet under the paper dragon at the end to make it march and twist down the street. Have you made and saved a lion or dragon's head already? If not, do it now, and invite your friends to parade with you—outside, so you can make lots of music with gongs, cymbals, and drums to scare away any bad stuff. The Festival traditionally ends with firecrackers, but for safety's sake, you could end with a fire in your pit, maybe starting it with last Fall's cornstalks and as it dies down, toast some marshmallows for Winter s'mores. Gung hay fat choy!

This is the Year of the Rabbit on the zodiac calendar. If you have a pet rabbit, you know how much quiet joy it can bring, right Kloe? It can take care of your vegetable scraps, too. Have you taken it to the Fair as a 4-H project? If you just like rabbits and are thinking of adopting one, volunteer at a rabbit rescue shelter: taking care of them, helping get donations and at their fund-raisers. Because they don't hibernate, wild rabbits look for food even in your vegetable garden. Look for tracks especially in the early morning's new snow: a set of round front ones with a long one on each side made by its hopping back legs. (When you're doing animal walks for exercise, practice this bunny hopping. Balance carefully on those four legs!). Rabbits are thankful for brush piles to live within, so look where someone (like



Denton Wildlife Preserve

Uncle Mark) has been cutting firewood or where someone (like Neeme) has done logging. They also look for spaces in old stone walls or empty holes where a former occupant no longer lives. Those big ears and bright eyes are constantly alert for hawks or owls that are meat-eaters who are also using their sharp eyes and ears. Should one have a misfortune, would you want to take a rabbit's foot that was left behind? Some people think they bring good luck.

No long back leg footprints and you're under an oak? Must be from a squirrel, looking for acorns. Or if you're under pines, look for clues that it was stripping scales off cones to get to the seeds. With Feb 5 being a full moon, you'll find most activity just as it's showing its light. Best to be with a grown-up: you remember in "Owl Moon" the owls are looking for little animals scurrying around the ground looking for food, too. Would you hear a wolf or coyote howling at the moon?

On the 4th is a free community event, Winterfest at Lake Lauderdale. There are activities for whatever the ground and lake conditions—even visit the playground and climb on a spider that Dan helped move there—but always remember: "Slippery when wet". There are free snacks, but your family has time to make stew to come home to eat: Brown some stew meat and onion, then add chunks of celery, carrots, potatoes, water and bouillon. When vegetables start to get tender, make the liquid into a gravy with cornstarch or flour. Put it all into a slow-cooker for while you're gone. You'll be hungry and chilled when you

come home; there's nothing like warm biscuits with butter or with stew over them. For the quickest biscuits, open a tube of them that you bought, separate and bake.

Then it will probably be indoor time for a while: reading, games – or better decorate for Valentines Day. You've already got red up and you made decorations last year: hearts of all sizes that you cut with craft scissors to put on windows and for mobile hangings. Add red to your paper chains. Maybe your 4-H or Scout group will make decorations for a community center or office or you might get together at the Senior Citizens' Center to work together.

'Look for larger areas of completely-frozen ice, where there are no plants or sticks frozen in to trip on.'

You won't forget to prep for the SuperBowl on the 12th. Kick-off isn't until 6:30, so you've got time to cook. Getting together with friends to watch? Each of you make something different. What's the difference between soup and chowder anyway? For chowder, think corn or seafood with a thickened milk base. Thaw some of that broth and corn you froze, peel and dice some potatoes to cook on the stove first. Add the milk, thicken and transfer the chowder to a crockpot for carrying and keeping it warm.. Add peeled cooked shrimp or scallops if you wish and a couple of bay leaves. Maybe someone called and picked up some ready-made soups from the Easton Church between 12 and 2. Eat and enjoy the game. May your favorite team win.

Valentines' Day is a Tuesday, so prep on the weekend: Make chili; it's red. While the ground meat

and onion are browning, open cans of beans (kidney, pinto, black or white – not green this time) and any kind of canned tomatoes (whole, diced, crushed). Thaw some tomatoes that you froze. Drain extra liquid. Season with salt, pepper, a little garlic and chili powder. Mix it all in your slow-cooker, adding a can of tomato paste if you want it thicker. Then on T, just heat and eat. Wash all the cans, being careful not to cut yourself on the rims, and remove their papers. Make them into ice candles: Put enough stones into the cans to make a candle stand up. Fill the cans with water and leave outside for the water to freeze. If you want a greater challenge: Fill the empty cans with water and freeze. Stabilize* the can on its side so you can make nailholes randomly or in a design. Empty the can of ice and water. Use your can opener again to cut the bottoms off the cans. This way, you can put them over self-standing (such as a tealight, votive or pillar) lighted candles.

*Maybe nail blocks of wood into a stump of wood to hold the can in place. Getting the hole started will be the trick, because the nail slips on the metal can!

Then on T: There's nothing like cornbread with chili, so while it's reheating, make some from scratch or from a box mix and bake it in a pan or as muffins. For your meal, decorate the table with heart-shaped creatures: crawling ones, landed flying ones, people; putting hearts upside down for faces... Put a rebus (I C U R 2) valentine at each place. Light the ice candles, indoors or out. Enjoy the time together!

We look for ice for skating. The safest places are small, shallow patches of non-moving water that

Need something fixed?

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 second Repair Café on Saturday, February 25 from 11am until 1pm.

At Schuylerville Public Library (52 Ferry Street) on Saturday February 25 everything centers on making repairs. Starting at 11am 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."

Interested in volunteering for this event, as a repairer? Simply contact Caitlin Johnson at cjohnson@sals.edu.

HCP's Lend-a-Hand Grant

Hudson Crossing Park in Schuylerville is honored to be the recipient of a Lend-A-Hand Grant from the Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund.

The \$2,476 grant will be used to purchase native perennial plants, which will be installed by Hudson Crossing Park's volunteer gardeners. Funds will also go toward purchasing tools, equipment and supplies necessary to cultivate and maintain garden areas in the park far into the future. Lastly, the Lend-A-Hand funding will help offset the cost of developing educational materials, including signs and website content to identify plants, printed materials to accompany nature talks and children's programs and DIY guides.

"We are thrilled to receive this funding from the Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund," said Hudson Crossing Park Director Kate Morse. "The grant will be a vital part of our efforts to create pollinator gardens along the park's many trails. These gardens will, in turn, grow into ongoing educational opportunities for chil-



dren and others in the community."

Located between the Hudson River and Champlain Canal in Schuylerville, Hudson Crossing Park is a 42-acre natural area that attracts more than 30,000 visitors annually. The park encompasses parts of Saratoga and Washington counties and features scenic gardens and forest areas, handicapped-accessible trails for hiking and biking, a play garden for children, a picnic facility for families, a labyrinth for contemplative walks and waterways for boating.

(cont.)

have frozen solid. With all the rain we've had, water has collected in low parts of wetlands, pastures and farm fields – even on the Saratoga Sod Farm. These places are not very big, but they are safe. With owner's permission, they are great for learning to skate (Oh, are you a poet and didn't know it?) and when you've got balance, to even start moving a hockey puck with a small broom. An open-to-the-public local place is the Denton Nature Preserve along Rt 4 north of Schuylerville. The historic part of it on the east side of the road started as the Denton Wildlife Sanctuary (more about that in the Spring), but with the involvement of the Nature Conservancy, an area of wetlands between Rt 4 and the Hudson R was added. It has such a pond. When you're ready, look for larger areas of completely-frozen ice, especially where there are no plants or sticks frozen in to trip on. But it's handy to have a fallen log to sit on for changing footwear. You're ready for group skating and broom hockey (right, guys?) and finally even a hockey stick. By the way, Dan actually lined their basketball court with plastic, set 2x4s for sides, extended out a hose and flooded it. Once frozen, it was backyard skating and hockey!

If there's no safe outdoor ice skating, we look for indoor arenas

After skating, for a warm drink, you might

have hot mulled cider this time. Put some of Saratoga Apple's or Borden's freshly-squeezed cider in a pot, maybe on your woodstove. Add whole cloves, cinnamon sticks or allspice. Curl up near the stove, read and sip. In "Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates" by Mary Mapes Dodge, Hans can skate in races on the frozen canals in his Holland, a county of The Netherlands. (Wish it would be safe for us to skate on our local canals.) Adults in your family might enjoy reading "People of the Nightlands" by archaeologists, Michael and Kathleen Gear. (This means a stop at the library after skating, too.) This is a story about people living in ice caves along the south edge of the great glacier as it is melting. As the climate warmed, ice melted, rocks that the advancing glacier had picked up fell out and the water filled the gouges they had made. The People are forced to move eastward. The authors factually remind us that this is how our lakes and rivers came to be. Locally we don't need to, but Uncle Lee remembers when farming along southern Lake Ontario, having to pick up some of those large stones from the fields before planting.

Are you enjoying the Winter so far: conditions for outdoor activity? Snow Days from school to allow for it? Hope so 'cause there's more to come. And, we salute you Scouts this month, remembering your motto, we Be Prepared. Also, we look forward to your cookies now and food from your booth at the Fair next Summer.

RC Churches News

Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church are Sunday at 8:15 AM and Tuesday at 9 AM. St. Patrick's celebrates on Sunday at 11:30 AM and on Wednesday at 9 AM. Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls Masses are Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM and Monday at 9 AM. The daily Mass can be cancelled if there is a funeral at that time. On February 2, The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, (Candlemas), will be celebrated at a Vespers Service at 6:30 PM at St. Patrick's. Parishioners may bring candles from home to be blessed.

The Holy Cross coffee hours will resume February 5 with a combination theme of Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras. Visitors are always welcome. Since COVID started, the parishes have been relying on just a few people to keep things going. Now that the health outlook is improving and the pews are filling, those people could really use some help. The need includes greeter, Eucharistic minister, altar server, counter, fundraising and hospitality. If you would consider helping in some way, please call St. Patrick's at 518- 677- 2757.

Fr. Zelker is having a birthday party hosted by Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Middleburgh on February 5. The address to send a card at Our Lady of the Valley, PO Box 311, Middleburgh, NY 12122. To attend, see the bulletin or the parish website for details.

There is volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to help people prepare taxes at no cost. It is aimed at helping low and middle-income workers. Appointments can be made by calling 2-1-1 in New York or 1-888-366-3211. Choose a time on either a Thursday evening or Saturday from February 4 through April 15 at the HACA Center at 26 John Street, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090.

Please consider donating to the Salem and/or Cambridge Food pantries.

-Submitted by Rose Mary Sheffield

Soup-er Bowl!

The Easton Methodist Church, 12053 Route 40, North Easton, will have Soup-To-Go on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12 from Noon to 2:00 pm. Soup will be take out only to be picked up at the Church. A 12 oz. container will cost \$5. The choices will be Clam Chowder, Chicken Noodle, Chili, Vegetable Beef and Tomato Bisque. Pre-ordering is encouraged. To pre-order, email eastonchurch126@gmail.com or call 518-531-4558 (leave message). Someone will call or email you to confirm your order.

A vision for Greenwich Free Library

Sarah Murphy
Greenwich Free Library

Shortly after I began working at the library, I learned that it was time to develop a new strategic plan. If you know anything about strategic plans, you're ahead of where I was when I began this work. I was vaguely aware of the concept, but I thought it was the purview of consultants and more about optics than substance. A year later, I know that almost all of my impressions were wrong, and more importantly, I've discovered that the work necessary to create such a plan is as important as the plan itself.

The library is getting ready to officially release our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Kathy Nichols-Tomkins, former library board member and active library volunteer, led a committee of board and staff participants to develop the document. The process included focus group conversations with patrons and stakeholders, online and paper surveys, consultation of other libraries' plans, and many, many meetings. All of this work—especially the conversations with patrons and would-be patrons—helped to clarify where we've been, who we are, and what we want for our future. We identified five high-level goal areas: public promotion, programming, partnerships, place, and preservation. Is that alliteration a coincidence, you ask? Certainly not; it's my favorite of all the devices and the committee indulged my particular predilection.

Public Promotion

One of our board members often calls the library our town's best kept secret. We love the "best" part of that statement, but not so much the "secret." Of course it's an exaggeration; most people know something about the library: where we are located, or that we loan books, for example. But a variety of factors keep some neighbors from getting to know us better. Survey respondents cited falling out of the habit and a lack of time as reasons not to visit. Our online and social media presence is growing, and we are fortunate to be able to count on local papers like this one to print our listings and press releases. And over the next five years, we will work to build our patron base, see new faces at our events, take our services to the community—as the library did so well before Covid—and give the public more to talk about.

Programming

The best way to get people talking and see more of them is to provide events and programs that our patrons want. We need to serve community needs, inspire creativity, and strike a balance between playing the hits and introducing patrons to new perspectives and opportunities. Survey responses contained great programming ideas, and some had positive feedback on what



A recent event at the Library —clifford oliver mealy photo

we already produce. But there was a limit to those surveys: those who took the time to answer were in many cases those who already use the library, already attend programs, and already know what we offer. In order to reach underrepresented patron groups, we must act with creativity, and we must be bold.

Partnerships

Greenwich is a collaborative community, and the partnerships—both formal and informal—that the library has with Greenwich Central Schools, our homeschooling families, Comfort Food Community, Battenkill Community Services, Greenwich Youth Center, and many other groups are strong and growing. As we move forward, we will continue to develop those relationships, and find new ways to support and collaborate with local nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.

Place

I came to Greenwich a few months after the renovated library reopened to the public. How wonderful to assume custodianship of a new, beautiful, accessible, and carefully designed space! While that remains true, the work to maintain and improve this space—indoors and out—continues. In the past year we have needed to repair the roof, chimney, septic system, and indoor plumbing, and as our buildings and systems age, we must be able to respond quickly and efficiently. We have an opportunity to expand library programming and services to our outdoor space, and we will make sure that our Community Room and downstairs meeting rooms are accessible and appealing places for the public to work, play, and convene. A library is emphatically so

much more than a building. A library is measured in its effect on and connection with the community, and great libraries can operate in a grand Beaux-Arts edifice, a welcoming brick Carnegie structure, or on someone's porch. But our place is where we congregate, and we will endeavor to maintain and enhance it for you.

Preservation

The astonishing I.V.H. Gill Local History Room is the base, literally and figuratively, upon which the library sits. Gill was instrumental in bringing electricity to rural Washington County in the 1920s and 30s, and his legacy now casts light on centuries of regional history. Under the direction of Sandy McReynolds, the Gill Room is open to the public any time the library is open. Over the next five years, we will continue to collect, preserve, and make accessible the documents, photographs, maps, books, and objects that tell our collective story, and we will integrate the Gill Room resources into programming for all ages.

You can read the Strategic Plan in full at the library or on our website. We are always open to feedback and ideas about how we're doing and what you, your family, your business, or your organization need from your library.

Sarah Murphy is Director of the Greenwich Free Library.



Kindness

The Greenwich Equality Club ran a "donation drive" in order to assist the local food pantry, Comfort Foods. Traditionally, a food drive would focus on non-perishable food items exclusively, however, this year there was an extra need for hygiene products and paper items, so the club made a point of incentivizing those particular items.

The class period which collected the most points received a thank you of hot choco-

late and homemade cookies made by the club's treasurer and Comfort Foods volunteer Brian Wells, Jr.

The club collected and tallied donations several times before loading the goods and bringing them to the food pantry right before the holiday



break.

The event could not have been successful without the efforts of its participating members, pictured (L-R): Olive Magowan (vice president), Allie Chuhta (president), Chloe Bentzen, Brian Wells Jr. (treasurer), Kayla Stewart.



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Fun & Games

(solution below)

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word lists, 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 = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = 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 FIVE-LETTER WORDS STARTING AND ENDING WITH "E" in the grid of letters.

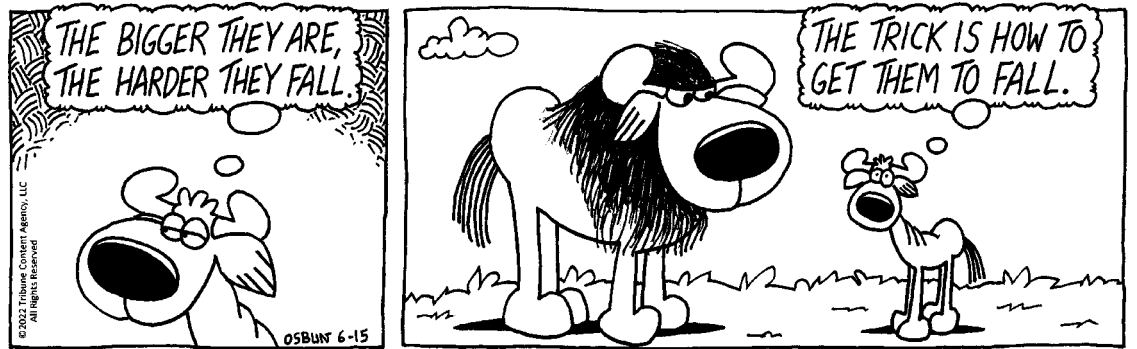
Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters:
LAOS CHINA NEPAL INDIA THAILAND CAMBODIA

Salem Sudoku

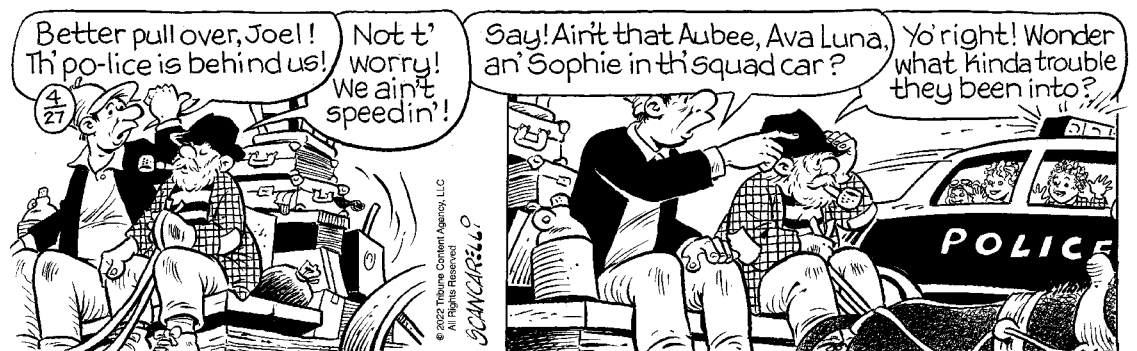
(solution below)

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

Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



Filbert by LA Bonté



Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Answers

Boggle: EAGLE EXILE EVADE ELOPE ERODE
ENSUE EVOKE ELUDE

Jumble: BURLY CRUSH MIDDLE GRAVEL
"SCRAMBLED"

Kid: PUP BODY HUGE POND - "UNHOPPY"

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

SCRABBLE G R A M S

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A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	E ₁	Y ₄	D ₂	D ₂			
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	U ₁	T ₁	M ₃	P ₃			
A ₁	A ₁	I ₁	K ₅	R ₁	P ₃	P ₃			
E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	U ₁	N ₁	S ₁	T ₁			
A ₁	E ₁	Y ₄	R ₁	N ₁	C ₃	N ₁			

Double Word Score

3rd Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 255-265
BEST SCORE 324

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN



A woman with a 'pleasing personality'

Here is where we look at past editions of *The Journal & Press* from early Februarys decades ago...

100 Years Ago
February 7, 1923

The most sensational case tried in Washington County court in many years ended Saturday with the conviction of Mrs. Agnes Blanchard of Ticonderoga of the charge of extortion preferred on complaint of Postmaster Robert D. Steele of Putnam. The jury in the case was out less than two hours before returning the verdict. The passing of sentence on Mrs. Blanchard was deferred until Tuesday morning, when Judge Rogers imposed a sentence of not more than four years nor less than two years in the state prison for women in Auburn.

Information about this case has been public for several weeks, and as a result crowds that overran the seating capacity of the Hudson Falls courthouse were on hand to hear the testimony.

The trial of the case started Thursday morning. Only a short time was consumed for selecting a jury, District Attorney Bascom appearing to be easily satisfied with the jurors drawn. Walter Chambers of the firm Chambers and Finn, attorneys for the defense, objected to several jurymen, who were excused. The jurymen before whom the case was tried were Irwin Campbell, Argyle; Lewis Beadle, Cambridge; Clarence Washburn, Fort Ann; Fred Baker, Granville; Clifford Potter, Granville; David Moore, Greenwich; George H. Durham, Hebron; Charles W. Yalor, Kingsbury; Jerry Crowley, Kingsbury; MR Murray and Harrison Steves, Whitehall. ...

The first witness sworn was Frank Roach, clerk at Hotel Madden in Glens Falls. He produced the hotel register and testified that in the evening of Aug. 24, 1922, a man and a woman registered there as Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Roberts of Albany and were assigned a room. He identified Steele as the man in this case.

Robert D. Steele, the complainant in the case, was next sworn. Steele is a farmer and a general store keeper at Dresden. He testified that he had been postmaster there for twenty-three years and had been married for twenty-eight years. He is sixty-two years of age.

Steele said that the hotel clerk's testimony was true, and that Mrs. Blanchard had accompanied him to the hotel. He said he had known

Mrs. Blanchard for six or eight years, having met her at the home of his brother-in-law, Alex Sleight, in Dresden, where she was employed as a housekeeper.

Steele rehearsed the story of how Clarence Vosburgh came to the hotel the night in question, representing himself to be a U.S. Marshal, and threatened him and Mrs. Blanchard with arrest and exposure. Steele told how he tried to affect a settlement with the bogus detective, and how finally he went to Whitehall with him the next day and gave him the price of \$788 for his silence.

The witness then related how demands for more money were made last December. At that time he told his troubles to Henry W. Buckell of Dresden who advised him to tell the story to the district attorney and assisted in preparing the trap that led to the arrest of Vosburgh after he had accepted a package of marked bills. Later this story was backed up by the testimony of Cashier Roscoe G. Hayes of Whitehall where Steele drew the money to pay Vosburgh and by Mr. Buckell.

Alex Sleight, a Dresden farmer and brother-in-law of Steele, and a bachelor at whose house Mrs. Blanchard was employed as a housekeeper for several years, was put on the stand for the prosecution. Although Sleight's testimony reflected seriously on Mrs. Blanchard's character, he seemed inclined to shield her as much as possible. Sleight admitted that he had furnished money to Mrs. Blanchard for her to go to Florida, and that it was reported that she had had a son of which it is alleged to be the father, but he said he had no proof of that. He was rather an unwilling witness when District Attorney Bascom endeavored to show that Mrs. Blanchard had systematically extricated money from him.

Vosburgh, confessed accomplice of Mrs. Blanchard in the extortion plot, testified for the people. He charged that the woman hatched the plot and induced him to become a party to it. He asserted that she furnished the badge he wore when he represented himself as a detective and laid all the plans for getting money from Steele. He also implicated Walter Ashe, Mrs. Blanchard's twenty year old son in law, by asserting he paid Ashe a portion of the money he extorted from Steele.

Other evidence introduced at the trial show that during October and November Mrs. Blanchard and Vosburgh continued their schemes to get money out of Steele. She represented to Steele that while she was in Glens Falls her jewelry had been stolen, including her daughter's engagement ring. Steele finally gave her \$510 to re-

place the engagement ring.

District Attorney Bascom accompanied by Deputy Sheriff James M. Dunn and Willard Robinson, justice of the peace, immediately after woman's arrest went to Dresden and obtained the consent of Alex Sleight to search his house.

A mass of letters and papers belonging to the woman were found, which furnished the People with valuable clues and convinced the district attorney that he had to deal with a scheming adventuress of long experience, and not with any mere country store flirt.

Several weeks of investigation followed, not only in Dresden and Ticonderoga, where Mrs. Blanchard's daughter and sister live, but in Florida, where the woman spent a good deal of time during her vacations from Dresden.

It was hinted that if District Attorney Bascom had had an opportunity to cross-examine Mrs. Blanchard, which he did not, he might have brought to light many details of her varied career in the South and to Saratoga, where she lived several years with her husband, who was employed in the Delaware and Hudson baggage room there. They were divorced about 1918. At one time Mrs. Blanchard was a waitress in the old hotel Champlain, East Street, Fort Edward. ...

Sensational scenes marked the close of the trial on Saturday. District Attorney Bascom bitterly denounced the defendant and branded her with ugly names, which caused verbal outbreaks on the part of the woman, her daughter and her son-in-law. Mr. Chambers in his argument for the defense denounced Steele and wanted to know why he wasn't on trial for his offenses. He also attacked Vosburgh, who he said would escape with a suspended sentence because he has turned state's evidence and laid all the blame for the affair on the woman. Replying to this, Bascom asserted that he would never give his consent to a suspended sentence to Vosburgh.

After the jury had reported its verdict and a court recess was announced Alex Sleight approached Mrs. Blanchard. She denounced him for being to blame for her plight, and her daughter joined in a verbal attack on Sleight, who seemed rather dazed. Then Mrs. Blanchard advanced to District Attorney Bascom and held out her hand, which the prosecutor ignored. "I'll get you when I get out," the woman threatened as she was conducted away.

Another scene occurred in the lawyers' room in the rear of the courtroom, where Mrs. Blanchard was taken to wait for the crowd to disperse. In this room, she came face to face with R.D. Steele, chief witness against her.

"I have got to go to jail," she said

to Steele. "A young woman like me. You ought to go there."

With that she struck Steele across the face. Steele was hustled out of the room by Henry Buckell before the affair went any further.

100 Years Ago
February 14, 1923

The publication of vicinity papers after Mrs. Blanchard's sentence of articles featuring her "pleasing personality" and her protestations of a determination to return home and live down her disgrace moved District Attorney Bascom to add to his statement some information that did not come out at trial and that is not calculated to increase sympathy for the woman.

"For my part," Mr. Bascom said, "I believe that the great body of honest, sound minded men and women in our community who are at all acquainted with the facts will feel that a Washington County jury has rid us of a disreputable citizen and that a guilty wretch has received some punishment for her crimes, of which this is by no means the first.

"At New Smyrna, Florida, the same net that caught Steele entrapped the superintendent of a telegraph office. He became a defaulter in a large sum, spending the stolen money upon this woman.

"I am advised that at Jacksonville she was arrested for the theft of a diamond ring entrusted to her, but escaped prison by returning the ring; that during her numerous sojourns in Florida she was known as Madame Noke, a sole proprietor of the Japanese Beautifier Bloom of Youth, consisting of Epsom salts, glycerine and rose water, costing seven cents a quart to make, and retailed to negroes as a face bleach at \$1 a bottle; that in Florida she accompanied a Pullman car conductor upon his runs out of Jacksonville, for no good purpose.

"It is within my certain knowledge that she extracted something over \$3000 from one man by fraud and deceit, and I have correspondence in my possession as well as other evidences establishing that the same scheme that beguiled one citizen was about to be sprung on two other married men, and I have evidence of other crimes of this woman.

"If her criminal propensities did not of themselves furnish motives for her operations in Dresden, the financial situation of her newly married daughter and son-in-law did. They were over \$3000 in debt and about to be married. A source of income in the person of Steele was at hand. How to transfer the money from Steele's bank account to herself was within her knowledge. The logical result followed."

—Compiled by Darren Johnson

SCRABBLE G R A M S SOLUTION									
D ₂	E ₁	A ₁	D ₂	E ₁	Y ₄	E ₁	RACK 1 =	62	
A ₁	M ₃	P ₃	U ₁	T ₁	E ₁	E ₁	RACK 2 =	61	
P ₃	A ₁	P ₃	R ₁	I ₁	K ₅	A ₁	RACK 3 =	80	
T ₁	E ₁	N ₁	U ₁	O ₁	U ₁	S ₁	RACK 4 =	57	
C ₃	A ₁	N ₁	N ₁	E ₁	R ₁	Y ₄	RACK 5 =	64	
PAR SCORE 255-265							TOTAL	324	

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Witches are ready for more

Samantha Simmons
Journal & Press

Coach Jason Slater of the Greenwich Witches girls' varsity basketball team is hungry for a sectional title this season with his currently undefeated varsity team.

Currently, the team is 16-0, and with four regular season games left, and they are keeping their eyes on a sectional title. Last season, the girls finished 23-1, with a loss to Duanesburg in the section two final.

The current starting roster is made up of two seniors, one junior, one sophomore, and one freshman. The team returned all but one player from last season. Like Greenwich, Duanesburg retained most of their team, which might lead to an intense game in the post season.

Two starters on the team, Jr. Adrianna Rojas, and Sr. Norah Niesz, are on their way to 1000 career-points. Coach Slater describes Rojas and Niesz as two of the most dynamic players in the league. The girls are co-captains to their team where Slater says they are encouraging and uplifting to their other teammates, on and off the court. Rojas and Niesz are four-year starters with the team. As of press time on Jan. 31, Niesz was just shy of 1000 by 25 points, Rojas, 57-points. Both are expected to achieve their career goals in the next few games.

Slater says he tries not to bring up milestones like these. He believes it serves as a distraction and may take away from the team aspect if a player is too focused on their own success over the group.

Slater lends some of the teams' successes over the years to having a joint practice with the junior varsity team. This allows the members of the JV team to see the team spirit and hard work that goes into making their varsity team so successful. With 18 girls in the gym working on their own game and a team game, the environment can become tense, but Slater said the girls are "all the parts of the greatest team you could ask for," and how rewarding it is "to see how happy they are for each other," and their own successes. During practices, there are five coaches in the gym, allowing for attention to be well-split between players.

The modified girls' team is undefeated as well, which leaves a good impression that the youth coming up through the ranks will lend to more success in the Witches future.

Slater says that while he will be losing five seniors this year, he does not see success ending soon for the team as they have a strong foundation and many more great players ready to make the transition from JV to varsity next season. Though losing a handful of players with experience is tough on any team, he does not see this as an excuse to not work hard for his returning team. He looks forward to the development of the team over the next few seasons.

Off the court, the girls are given scouting handouts weekly to study opponents and have access to online film of past games to review weaknesses and strengths. "We're not just going through x's and o's on the court," Slater added. Some players also participate in district provided physical education strength classes during their regular PE class period which allows the team to maintain their physical strength and get more time on the court during practice.

He added that the winter is tough because it is so long with so many practices, but the girls keep themselves attentive and focused on the



Norah Niesz

process of practice. Slater and the other five coaches on the staff between JV and varsity make it a point to ask the team their opinions on sets and what they think might work during game play. "They're the ones running up and down the court, not me. We might not always agree on what will work best, but it is important to make them feel like they are a part of the process," he continued.

'The girls are all the parts of the greatest team you could ask for.'

During the off-season, the team stays active by participating in other school affiliated and club sports. Many take part in soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, and softball, but there are a few that are strictly playing basketball year-round. If the girls put in the work throughout the year, they can have a "long and fun winter season," Slater said. He emphasized, "at the end of the day, if you're willing to push each other during practice games may sometimes feel easy."

Ultimately, Slater wants the girls to keep team goals in mind throughout the game and keep track of tasks, like holding opponents to various amounts of points, and work together to achieve these goals. "The girls all want to be there. They don't complain about the work they don't want to do," said Slater.

He said his coaching style may vary from season to season, but this year he feels as though he has been able to give the players more freedom because they are a more experienced team. He does not want them to play "robotically," but to put "full court pressure defense" and "run and gun the court."

Over the last two years, the team's record is 39-1. "It doesn't matter who your opponent is or

what they've done," Slater said, but that the team focuses on their own game and stay on task.

Before his 20 years coaching at Greenwich and during his time as an athlete, he fondly remembers his parents' keeping scrapbooks of his achievements, something he now does for his girls. At the end of the season, he gifts a scrapbook of media mentions and more.

The community, too, plays a large part in the teams' success. With the support received from the community, Slater said, it "puts the girls in a position to be successful" knowing their friends and family are behind them. "It's about the kids, not the coaches. We speak to them like they're adults and they know what our expectations are," said Slater.

Within the next month, the girls will play in Wasaren League Championships on Friday, Feb. 10. Following will be sectional championships, which are to be determined.



NaNa Rojas
-dan pemrick photos