

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

August 11, 2022

plus
Tri-State
Calendar
of Events



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

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PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

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ICE CREAM: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Not Your Every Day Ice Cream Cone, at Le Gamin

Somehow, nothing that happens at Robert Arbor's Le Gamin restaurant in Sharon, Conn., is ever ordinary. The elegant French restaurateur manages to give everything he does a little Gallic flip.

For the new weekly backgammon sessions at the café, for example, there is an opportunity to learn French phrases related to the classic two-player game.

Anyone of any skill level is invited to come play at the restaurant on Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Coffee and croissants are available; so is training in the game, which was invented in around 3000 BC but seems to have had its last peak in popularity in the 1980s, when it became an essential

young urban accessory.

Now ... not everyone wants a croissant or other bread product for breakfast. For those diners, there is a new option: the affogato, which is a latte that has been poured over ice cream.

Yes, it's true — and the reason that the affogato is now available is that Le Gamin has opened an ice cream parlor next door to the main restaurant, in what was a boutique with imported French clothing and accessories, run by Arbor's wife, the photographer, stylist and jewelry designer Tam Tran.

And as noted above, Arbor never

Continued on page 4



Laketide, 44" x 56" oil on canvas.

KAREN LESAGE

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"Art for that big empty wall of yours."

... ice cream

Continued from page 3

just “does” something; he finds a way to make all his efforts extra special (while making it look super simple, *bien sur*).

Everyone of course has a favorite ice cream, whether it’s the twist cones from the gas station or the scoops from other favorites such as Fudgy’s in Amenia, N.Y., Candy-O’s in Millerton, N.Y., the Four Brothers in Millerton —and even Dairy Queen for those adventurous enough to travel to Winsted and Torrington, Conn.

It’s not a rap on those excellent vendors of frozen delights. But Arbor’s ice cream is just a little bit more extra special.

The brand is Mont Blanc, made “by a French guy in Brooklyn,” Arbor says casually.

This tiny company, which doesn’t even have its own website, produces about 50 exotic flavors (including,



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Housatonic Valley Regional High School student Cyrus Kearney, at left in photo, is joined by Le Gamin owner Robert Arbor in scooping up delicious cold treats at the new Le Gamin ice cream shop.

occasionally, cucumber sorbet).

The owner, according to Arbor, was trained at the legendary Berthillon in Paris.

“He is a *maitre glacier*,” a master ice cream maker, Arbor said.

The little shop next door (which was a hair salon many years ago) still has a few items of clothing (including the distinctive bucket hats that Arbor has taken to wearing every day).

But mostly there is ice cream, by the scoop, in an affogato, as a root beer float.

This is expensive ice cream. A single scoop costs \$4.50, a double is \$6.50. The affogato is \$7.50, a root beer float is \$6. But these days, it’s easy to drop \$100 for lunch for two at an outdoor snack shack (assuming you’ve ordered two lobster rolls with a side of truffle fries).

And this is an ice cream experience worth the ride in the car to get to Sharon.

The flavors change depending on availability from Mont Blanc. So far, said scooper Cyrus Kearney, the favorites seem to be salted caramel,

cinnamon, and cookies and cream. Arbor himself is partial to the rum raisin.

Kearney is a recent graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn. Most of the ice cream store staff are also local youth, out of school for the summer.

“We started to talk about doing ice cream last summer,” Arbor said, “but we didn’t have enough time or enough people. Now we have students from Housy to help.”

Find out what flavors are available at the shop ahead of time by calling 860-397-5382 or sending a text to 860-385-4212.

Information is also available on the Legaminstudioagraire Instagram page. Ice cream is available seven days a week from 1 to 9 p.m.

Le Gamin is at 10 Gay St. in Sharon, Conn., in the shopping plaza.

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*Arbor never just “does” something; he finds a way to make all his efforts extra special (while making it look super simple, *bien sur*).*

BOOKS: SADIE LEITE

'Conversations with Friends' Demonstrates Sally Rooney's Grasp on Messy Love

Author Sally Rooney has captured the world of young adults with her painfully accurate depictions of love.

Relationships in books, television shows and movies are dramatic — sensibly so, because audiences gravitate toward the sensational.

Rooney believes, however, that what most individuals experience are “normal relationships.” It’s a seemingly obvious conclusion, yet her acclaimed novel, “Normal People,” threw the publishing world off kilter.

Ingrained in the definition of normal are the counters of mental health issues, manipulation and disagreement. These topics are used as plot points in many narratives. Rooney recounts these issues within relationships as core to the human need for care.

Also, all too often, eating disorders, anxiety or gaslighting techniques are depicted as unusual in the game of love. However, they are quite ordinary, quite normal.

'NORMAL PEOPLE'

The main characters in “Normal People,” Marianne Sheridan and Connell Waldron, grow up in a small Irish town. They fall in love and experience the small steps that can lead to something great. Their love is also terribly sad, ridden with the mentioned complications. It reflects the feelings most teenagers and young adults have danced through with others.

“Normal People” was published in 2018 and became a best seller after just four months.

Hulu adapted the novel in a mini-series released in 2020. It was the BBC's most-streamed television show of that year. The show received many awards and established Daisy Edgar-Jones as a breakout star.

'CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS'

Fans of Sally Rooney will know that her novel “Conversations with Friends” came before her success with “Normal People.” It’s a fantastic story, following the same successful themes of “Normal People.” Recently, Hulu adapted the 2017 novel into a television show that aired May 15. Its 10 episodes are throbbingly beautiful.

As the title indicates, conversations with friends are normal. However, as everyone knows, conversations with friends, simple happenings among all those seeking connection experience, can tumble to dark extremes.

The story features two best friends, Bobbi Connolly and Frances Flynn, two college students in Dublin, both reaching for something as their final year in school approaches, once each other's lovers.

Exes turned best friends, Bobbi and Frances continue with their lives. One night, when they read poetry out loud to an audience, a woman in her late 30s, Melissa, takes an interest in the pair.

She introduces them to the Dublin literary scene and her attractive husband, Nick. The separated couples are now an integrated foursome, a group of friends. The saga ignites. Their conversations establish stakes. Their friendships stretch and grow to more complicated connections.

Nick and Frances begin an affair. Melissa and Bobbi's relationship proceeds down an uneasy, undefinable path. “Conversations with Friends” plays with our conceptions of love, pointing out the good and bad rules of intimacy and then washing them away with lust and fear.

It's the pure messiness of the series

Conversations with friends, simple happenings among all those seeking connection experience, can tumble to dark extremes.

that rings true. We are taught that real relationships avoid mess, but that's not true. Rooney's characters prove love is wholly messy. Even more, just as the book ends, the television series finishes unresolved.

It sounds cliché, but “Conversations with Friends” emphasizes that life goes on, mostly without its problems tied in neat bows. The complexity of the connections between Bobbi, Frances, Nick and Melissa cannot be concluded or compounded in a space such as structured television.

“Conversations with Friends” is

also successful thanks to its cast. Joe Alwyn, who plays Nick, has won awards for his acting and musical contributions to work by his partner, Taylor Swift. Jemima Kirke, who plays Melissa, has earned raves for her role in the immensely popular television show “Sex Education.”

Frances is Alison Oliver's debut role, and she astonishes alongside her seasoned castmates.

Hulu is where to find “Conversations with Friends” for those interested in the animation of Rooney's unique writing.

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COOL CARS: LANS CHRISTENSEN

Choice Rides from Around the World

Now is the season for exotic vintage cars in the Tri-state Region. Lans Christensen will share some special items throughout the summer.

LIVING THE DREAM — OF DRIVING A MCLAREN SPIDER

No list of “cool cars” would be complete without one example of a true “Supercar.” That’s the official term for a small group of elite, exciting, breathtaking, road-bound rockets: Ferrari, Lamborghini, Aston-Martin and others.

A very special example, the McLaren Spider, recently seen in Kent, Conn., might just be the very coolest of them all.

These labors of love have been

literally hand assembled since 2010 by McLaren Automotive in Woking, England.

The line was inspired by Bruce McLaren, a brilliant race car driver, designer and engineer from New Zealand. His cars were dominant in Formula 1 Grand Prix and Can-Am racing, winning world championships for many famous drivers.

So it was a total and unexpected thrill to see one on June 12, in Kent.

Owner Preston Ratliff and his wife were on a visit from Harrison, N.Y., and chose to drive the McLaren for an open-air fun drive.

Ratliff bought the car new in 2020 and said he and his wife enjoy it “on special days.”

“Supercar” is the perfect descrip-



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

The author photographed this Alfa Romeo 1300GT Junior in Bolzano, Italy, in 1972.

tion of this extraordinarily ultra-cool McLaren. It is powered by a twin-turbo V8 developing 720 horsepower, which will get you to 212 miles per hour, and from zero to 60 in 2.9 seconds!

All that power is wrapped up in a space-age, ultra-aerodynamic and completely beautiful body.

Followers of the modern Grand Prix circuit will know that two orange McLarens are always on the grid, and always battling for wins.

To own a McLaren, or just drive one ... which would be more fun? Most of us can only dream.

ALFA ROMEO

As the “Cool Cars” series started to happen, the first choice for inclusion was the wonderful example from Alfa Romeo in the photo above.

They aren’t extremely rare, but despite extensive searching ... none appeared.

Fortunately, and luckily, I still had a photograph that I made in Bolzano, Italy, in the early 1970s. How perfect: The Alfa parked on a quintessentially Italian side street!

This car always was, and always will be, a true favorite. I still hope to put one in my garage.

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Jonathan Fabricant	Mary Kenealy	Gelah Penn
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PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

The Citroën Deux Chevaux is one of the most beloved cars in the world.

The Alfa Romeo GT1300 was introduced in 1966 as a more affordable, simpler version of the Sprint GT models.

It was an instant and huge success as its availability spread to a wider buyer base; it was the perfect “entry level” Alfa. This was a 1969 model with the distinctive “stepnose” feature — a simple, slightly raised front edge of the hood.

It was powered by a 1300cc twin cam, Weber carbureted engine. Not exactly neck-snapping acceleration or top speed, but superb handling and drivability made it a true “touring car.”

But above all: The simple beauty of this car is timeless. It was a design masterpiece from the creativity of Giorgetto Giugiaro of Bertone. The lines and proportions are so right and visually perfect. It could be re-released as a 2022 model with instant popularity and success. They ceased production in 1977. I’m still waiting to find one, in great condition, in a forgotten barn somewhere. Not just a “Cool Car” — a WAY Cool Car.

CITROËN DEUX CHEVAUX

One of the coolest and most iconic French cars is the Citroën Deux Che-

vaux (or 2CV).

It was produced from 1948 through 1990, and more than 5 million examples rolled out of the factories. “Deux Chevaux,” which means two horses, was not the car’s horsepower but rather it’s taxation classification.

It actually boasted an eye-popping 9 horsepower from its two-cylinder engine. It was useful, dependable and economical, and was designed with some specific goals. Aimed at farmers and country folk, the requirements included enough space to carry four large adults — and driving across a plowed field with a basket of eggs without breaking any (a test at which it succeeded easily, thanks to good ground clearance and a very compliant independent suspension).

Many, in varying condition, are still on the roads today and much loved by their owners. The beautiful 1982 in the photo above is a showroom-ready example, owned by Charles Mallory, one of the new owners of the race track at Lime Rock Park in Salisbury, Conn. He found it fully restored, and brought it to Lime Rock for display during this summer’s Weathertech Grand Prix.

Music Mountain Summer Festival

AUGUST 13 7PM

HELEN SUNG QUARTET

Helen Sung and her band have performed at Newport, Monterey, SFJAZZ, Disney Hall, Carnegie Hall, London Jazz Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center Shanghai, Blue Note Beijing, and the Sydney International Women’s Jazz Festival.

AUGUST 14 3PM

CRAMER QUARTET

(Sun Quartets Concert #3/6)

HAYDN String Quartet in C Major, Opus 20 #2

DU BOIS String Quartet #6 (in response to Haydn’s Opus 20 quartets)

HAYDN String Quartet in G Major, Opus 76 #1

AUGUST 20 7PM

RIVERBOAT STOMPERS JAZZ BAND

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AUGUST 21 3PM

DAEDALUS QUARTET

TODD CROW, PIANO

(Sun Quartets Concert #4/6)

HAYDN String Quartet in E Flat Major, Opus 20 #1

BEACH String Quartet, Opus 89

CHAN Ignis Fatuus

DOHNANYI Piano Quintet in E Flat Minor, Opus 26

AUGUST 27 7PM

JIVE BY FIVE

A Connecticut favorite returns! The sizzling dance music of the jazz age: from the Charleston to the Two-Step and the Fox Trot.

AUGUST 28 3PM

JUPITER STRING QUARTET

(Sun Quartets Concert #5/6)

HAYDN String Quartet in D Major, Opus 20 #4

TAYLOR Chaconne/Labyrinth

TCHAIKOVSKY String Quartet in D Major, Opus 11

SEPTEMBER 3 7PM

MERZ TRIO

The group will perform a program titled Ink Spills, which tells a unique and personal story around Ravel’s Piano Trio, completed by the composer in 1914. Ink Spills also includes a number of works from the immediate decades around the Trio’s composition, interweaving pieces that Ravel would have known and heard.

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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From daring feats and strongwomen to knights jousting in the arena, there's a medley of fair spectacles to behold at your typical trip to a Connecticut Renaissance Fair.

TIME TRAVEL: KAITLIN LYLE

Revisiting Medieval Times with A Trip to the Renaissance Fair

Long after they've stopped dreaming of dragons, princesses and knights in shining armor, you'll still find an astonishing number of people willing to revisit medieval times by taking a trip to a Renaissance Fair. Having visited these fairs several times in the last decade, I recommend giving this experience a try at least once in a lifetime.

I was first introduced to Renaissance Fair culture as a college sophomore at my friends' suggestion of taking a day trip to one in Lebanon, Conn.

After receiving a stamp on my hand to mark my admission, I was instantly transported back in time.

My reaction to my first fair was somewhere between Dorothy in Oz

and Alice in Wonderland: Everywhere I looked, things grew "curiouser and curiouser," thus confirming I wasn't in Kansas (or Sharon, Conn.) anymore.

Whether you're walking among wizards, startling at strongmen's feats, cheering on knights in combat or wading your way through vendor booths, you'll find yourself surrounded by a unique crowd.

Though I don't typically dress in costume outside of Halloween, I appreciate the people who hone their creativity to fashion handmade costumes for these occasions.

As a recent example, my dear friend Emma crafted an outstanding pirate fairy outfit (complete with cardboard wings) for the Goblins & Fairies-

themed weekend at Robin Hood's Medieval Faire in Harwinton, Conn.

And while I've yet to have one myself, there's a certain appreciation for the people who truly get into character around lunchtime by tearing into a turkey leg with barbaric abandon.

I admit to having fun with medieval language in my interactions with the fairs' vendors and participants, but by lunchtime, I'm thankful this abridged version of medieval times comes with forks and knives.

Beyond the sideshows and spectacles scattered across the fairgrounds, a Renaissance Fair is a fun place to scout for gifts for loved ones, particularly for those inclined toward the magical and mystical.

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There's usually a variety of tents selling corsets, capes, caps and crowns, in case you want to enliven your wardrobe. It's also a superb place for artisans and crafters seeking a space to display their wares and promote their talents. Should you stumble into one of their tents, I'd recommend striking up a conversation. Case in point: After pausing at a tent for Turnkey Miniatures, I learned the man responsible for casting lead-free metal miniatures works as a librarian at Trinity College.

In case you're wondering how you'd fare in combat, a Renaissance Fair hands you the tools you need to test your skills at the game booths. For \$3 a person, you could get a set of arrows or daggers to test your aim; for \$5, you could face a knight with a sword in hand.

Those seeking to have their fortunes spelled out can always drop by the many tables for palm and tarot

readers; I've even seen ads for couples' tarot readings, though I pity the couples who find themselves doomed once the cards are on the table.

At the risk of sounding trite, it can be cozy to revisit a different time, if only for a day. While the medieval era posed its own plagues on humanity, it almost feels like you're catching a break walking around the fairground, like you're temporarily removed from the troubles of our era. It can be a strange experience, but refreshing nonetheless.

Come this fall, the Connecticut Renaissance Faire ("New England's Olde England") will return to Lebanon for its 24th year, and will be scattered across the grounds at 122 Mack Road in Lebanon every Saturday and Sunday from Saturday, Sept. 3, to Sunday, Oct. 16, including Labor Day and Columbus Day.

For more information, go to www.ctfaire.com.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Photographed during the Goblins & Fairies weekend of Robin Hood's Medieval Faire, fair attendees were delighted by the cast of characters and array of costumes seen parading around the fair grounds in Harwinton, Conn., earlier this summer.

Eric Sloane, NA (1905-1985)



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STREAMING: KAITLIN LYLE

'Only Murders in the Building' Delivers Killer Comedy (on Hulu) Once Again

It's hard to imagine anyone going through life without laughing at Steve Martin or Martin Short — but that's just my opinion.

Whatever role they assume or shtick they deliver, both actors have proven themselves masters of comic timing and delivery across the generations of viewers that have watched them on television, laughed heartily at their movies and cheered whenever they've co-starred onscreen.

I myself had the chance to catch the pair when they stopped at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass., on their tour, "An Evening You Will Forget For the Rest of Your Life." From start to finish, their banter had me cracking up on Tanglewood's lawn.

Longtime fans and novices alike can now laugh as the duo's signature brand of crisp, clean comedy unfolds in the second season of the Hulu channel original program, "Only Murders in the Building."

I was first introduced to this show by a trick-or-treater who came to my grandparents' stoop last fall dressed as Martin Short's character — complete with a handmade carton of "Gut Milk."

You have to watch the show to get the running joke, so watch I did.

As soon as the first episode reached the credits, my reason for watching quickly went from "Why not?" to "Why did I wait this long to watch?"



PHOTO COURTESY IMDB

Tina Fey is among many stars who make cameo appearances in "Only Murders in the Building," along with stars Selena Gomez, Martin Short and Steve Martin. Season Two debuted on June 28.

"Only Murders" starts its first season by introducing the audience to the show's main trio: misanthropic former television star Charles Haden-Savage (Steve Martin), floundering Broadway director Oliver Putnam (Martin Short) and artist/apartment renovator Mabel Mora (played by pop star and actress Selena Gomez).

On the surface, these three couldn't be more different. But they come together through their shared love of a true crime podcast — and then by an actual crime in the fictional Arconia on Manhattan's Upper West Side (which is actually the landmark Ansonia apartment building at 79th Street).

Inspired by their beloved podcast, they decide to investigate the murder of fellow Arconia resident Tim Kono — and to report their findings to the world through their very own podcast, called "Only Murders in the Building."

As is the case with most mystery shows, each member of the trio has skeletons in the closet, some of which surface and complicate their investigation.

I binge-watched the first season alongside my favorite puzzle solver. We were thrilled to stream a show

that struck a flawless balance between comedy and crime and also delivered a mystery carefully crafted enough to knock viewers off the track and leave them hungry for the next episode.

As the show's star trio narrows down the list of suspects, viewers will get a chuckle out of watching the Arconia's other residents come to life, each with their own backstories and personalities. Viewers will also appreciate seeing familiar faces appear on screen in a new capacity, including Jane Lynch, Amy Ryan (Michael Scott's love interest on "The Office") and Nathan Lane (who doesn't love Nathan Lane?). The rock star Sting also makes an appearance — and is briefly a suspect.

Having left its viewers with a cliffhanger at the end of the first season, the show's second season started streaming on June 28 (on Aug. 2, the show was up to Episode Seven).

On top of investigating a new murder at the Arconia, viewers will have a chance to get reacquainted with the trio and all the Arconia residents they met in season one — and meet some new guest stars, including Amy Schumer, Cara Delevingne and Shirley MacLaine.

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Race and the Hope of a Better World at NRM

“Imprinted: Illustrating Race,” this summer’s show of work at the Norman Rockwell Museum (NRM), examines the role of published images in shaping attitudes toward race and culture. More than 300 artworks and objects of widely circulated illustrated imagery that have an impact on public perception about race in the United States, produced from the late 18th century to today, will be on view. The exhibition will explore stereotypical racial repre-

sentations that have been imprinted upon viewers through the mass publication of images. It culminates with the creative accomplishments of contemporary artists and publishers who have shifted the cultural narrative through the creation of positive, inclusive imagery emphasizing full agency and equity for all.

The show was co-curated by NRM Deputy Director/Chief Curator Stephanie Haboush Plunkett; and guest Curator Robyn Phillips Pend-

leton, who has written and spoken widely on the theme of this exhibition.

“Imprinted: Illustrating Race” remains on display through Oct. 30.

Also on display through the end of October is work by Kadir Nelson, whose style evokes the super realist look and warmth and humanity of Norman Rockwell. The collection is called “In Our Lifetime,” and includes reflections on the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In painting and publishing his work, particularly at such an unprecedented time, Nelson gave voice to uncertainty, anger and fear, but also to the joy of human existence and connectivity, which is deeply felt in his work. “We didn’t know what the outcome would be or how to get

through it. It was day by day,” said Nelson, whose art sustained him and became a touchpoint for many.

It’s easy to forget when looking at Rockwell’s works that, when he made many of them, the outcome of World War II was not known yet. His paintings helped create a sense of community and comfort that can now be seen in the work of Nelson.

To see samples of his work, go to www.KadirNelson.com and of course to the Norman Rockwell Museum site at www.nrm.org.

The Norman Rockwell Museum is in Stockbridge, Mass. To purchase tickets and get information on permanent and ongoing exhibitions, go to www.nrm.org. The museum is open six days a week, closed on Wednesdays.

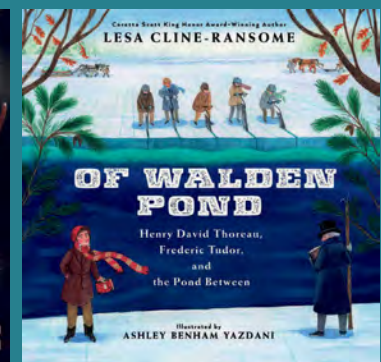
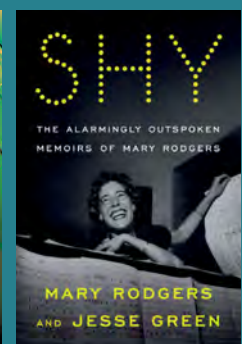
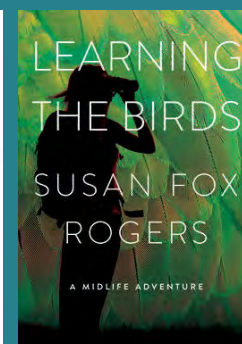


IMAGE COURTESY NRM

Kadir Nelson’s exploration of the world and its challenges during the COVID pandemic accompanies a show on race and identity at the Norman Rockwell Museum until October.

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STREAMING: SADIE LEITE

Peeking at the Underbelly of the Mormon Church in ‘Under the Banner of Heaven’

In 1984, Brenda Lafferty, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in American Fork, Utah, and her 15-month-old daughter, Erica, were brutally murdered with a 10-inch boning knife. Her husband, Allen Lafferty, found their bodies and reported the crime to the police.

Author Jon Krakauer wrote about the murder in his 2003 nonfiction book, “Under the Banner of Heaven.”

Krakauer begins with an examination of the Lafferty family, who are like “the Kennedys of Utah.” The facade of their perfect Mormon family radically unravels as the narrative progresses.

The shift starts with pushback against tax laws and grows to the point where the Lafferty brothers create their own laws, using Mormon fundamental beliefs to buttress their actions.

They carry out and justify the murder of the mother and daughter as blood atonement — the fundamentalist belief calling for the murder of a sinner.

Hulu adapted Krakauer’s novel into a television series of the same name, which was released April 28. The show’s writer, Dustin Lance Black, grew up in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. About three decades ago, he left the faith and came out as gay, a courageous decision to make in a community that is known for homophobia.

Black (who also wrote the Oscar-winning film “Milk”) introduces a fictional character to the story: Jeb Pyre, a devout LDS member and the lead policeman investigating the small-town double murder.

Krakauer uses the deaths of mother and daughter as a portal to an examination of the culture of Mormonism and the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In this new filmed version, Pyre (played by Andrew Garfield) pieces through the mystery and uncovers hidden hypocrisies in the religion and community he grew up in. He struggles to keep his faith, and to find justice for Brenda and Erica at the same time.

At the beginning of the series, Pyre is fully devout, calling other members of his church “brother” and “sister” with a gentle tone and praying with his daughters, wife and mother. The opening scene shows him outside on his carefully tended front lawn, playing with his two daughters outside a suburban house glowing in the early evening light.

The Mormon faith is complex, and controls its members even to the foods they eat. Coffee, alcohol and chocolate are considered unhealthy, and are forbidden. To eat at McDonald’s verges on committing a sin.

Pyre’s morality and devotion seem unbreakable — but with a goofy smile he bashfully accepts a French fry from his atheist police partner, Bill Taba (played by Gil Birmingham, star of the popular show “Yellowstone”).

Pyre and Taba begin their investigation of the murder with Allen Lafferty, who shares details of Mormon history and memories of his apparently picture-perfect family. But the dark edges of the family’s life begin to show as Lafferty reveals the deep sexism that forms the foundation of a religion in which equality between sexes is impossible because of the stringent patriarchal system.

Allen reveals that his wife disapproved of some accepted behavior in their community, ranging from sexism to polygamy and incest. She had been encouraged in these beliefs by her father, James Wright, a Mormon bishop with a more modern belief



PHOTO FROM IMDB

An adaptation of Jon Krakauer’s 2003 book, “Under the Banner of Heaven,” on Hulu, uses the murder of a woman and her daughter as a means to examine the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

system.

In one scene, Wright pushes a bar of chocolate toward his son-in-law. Lafferty initially rejects it, trained by his religion to be disgusted by it ... but then he takes a bite, and agrees it is delicious.

But there are more factors at play with Lafferty’s rigid observance of Mormon rules. And like other characters who struggle with battling extremes in the religion, it’s tremendously trying for him to take a lesson in chocolate as a reason to step back from his brothers’ rambling, traditionalist motives.

“Under the Banner of Heaven” is captivating because of the way it shows how religion can be a dangerous fuel for men seeking power and control.

The murder of Brenda and Erica Lafferty is shown as a form of madness and extremism, in a religion with highly complex and stringent rules. Not all Mormons are murdering fanatics; but Krakauer’s book and this new series on Hulu hint at a culture with a disturbing history.

“Under the Banner of Heaven” is available on Hulu.





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PHOTO BY SONJA ZINKE

Evan Cooper converted an unremarkable white house in the center of Salisbury to a chic get-away, thanks in part to the gray exterior paint job and black window trim he added.

DESIGN: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

For Home Exteriors, Black Is the New White

A growing number of Litchfield County, Conn., residents are turning to the dark side when it comes to house exteriors. From all black, to black accents, to the classic color combination of black and white, these timeless combinations are adding a serious “wow factor” to the Northwest Corner landscape.

Black is where it’s at in 2022.

Salisbury designer Louis Arroyo and his husband, Tom Callahan, an agent with Elyse Harney Real Estate, have bought, built and sold numerous properties in the area.

Too many of the region’s historic properties, he said, were “all painted white. Boring white, not even a bright white.”

The last dozen or so homes the partners have worked on in and around Salisbury, Conn., were all designed to be dark on their exteriors — as is their own home, made up of five buildings (a pool house, garage and three connected residences).

Arroyo said he and Callahan have become known for the distinctive dark interiors, which they introduced to the area more than a decade ago.

“People used to make fun of us. They’d say, ‘That’s a Tom and Louis house,’” Arroyo said.

But the dark-hued homes, he said, stand out in this rural region that is so dominated by white white white.

“I want the houses to disappear, to blend with nature, to blend with the landscape,” Arroyo said. “A dark house with a beautiful wood roof pairs beautifully with a backdrop of mature trees.

And when it comes to the all-black trend, Arroyo admitted to being a purist. “I am not into two-color houses. It’s all one color.”

LEARNING TO LOVE THE DARKNESS

When it comes to interiors, buyers

still overwhelmingly want a clean white paint job, one that allows their imaginations to run wild with the possibilities.

Dark exteriors can be an acquired taste, Arroyo said.

But, he believes, sophisticated buyers (especially those who come from urban areas, where dark colors are more commonplace) are drawn to the darker tones. And, he noted, dark doesn’t always have to be black.

Shades of green and dark gray can have the same impact, especially for exterior walls (while window trim on newly renovated houses in the region seem to be going full black these days).

Adding black windows, or black trim or doors to a pristine, white house can emphasize the natural elegance of a house’s exterior.

Evan Cooper, who is also a real estate agent with Elyse Harney Real Estate, noted that the older houses in the region don’t have to be slaves to their era.

Decoration “is a little different in every decade,” he said.

Maintaining the integrity of homes built in the 1700s and 1800s while making them feel fresh calls for a little creativity, he believes.

For example, a home that he recently renovated and then sold on East Main Street in Salisbury near The White Hart inn called out for a “dark, earthy color to make it stand out from its environment.”

Looking back on some of the homes he’s sold in recent years, including one on Walton Street in the residential center of Lakeville, Cooper said that if he had renovated them today, “I’d probably do a darker, more profound color to show more dimension.”

Cooper said many white homes are getting updated with black-trimmed



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windows and dark metal roofs.

“It maintains the integrity of the older homes,” yet gives them a clean, fresh look, he said.

He acknowledged that Litchfield County is not known for design daring.

But, he said, “It doesn’t hurt to be a little different — as long as you don’t stick out. You can stand out, but not stick out. I live here and I want to respect the overriding aesthetic of my town. Good neighbors are good neighbors.”

50 SHADES OF BLACK AND GRAY

Of course, just as there are a thousand different shades of white paint, it can be hard to select just the right dark shade. Arroyo said he is particularly fond of Benjamin Moore’s “Ebony” (which comes as Ebony Slate and Ebony King).

But colors change depending on

how light shines on them and on what reflects on them from their surroundings.

Cooper said he puts up 1-foot swatches of colors to see how they look in the light and at different times of day. Some grays, he warned, can turn green; others turn blue.

Jusztina Paksai is an agent with Elyse Harney Real Estate and renovates homes with her husband, Andy, under the name EJ Home. She has also become partial to using black trim on houses she works on, although she prefers to use white for the overall exterior color.

She believes the COVID-19 pandemic is partially responsible for the dark house phenomenon. In the past two years, she said, there has been an increase in younger buyers seeking a “bold, stronger vibe” in home exteriors. “People want to see something with much more personality.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Designers Luis Arroyo and Tom Callahan are largely credited with the rise in popularity of dark exteriors in the Salisbury area, which they began using on projects about a decade ago.

“Everyone is looking for something different. People are really open to something new. Nobody really wants another white house.”

She also feels that using darker and more modern colors opens the figurative door to using a wider range of interior accessories.

A black exterior on an older

building, she said, can for example “let you play with more interesting lighting.”

Change comes slowly in New England. But, Paksai said, she thinks more and more people will come around to darker exterior shades.

“I am seeing a lot of openness and positive reactions,” she said.



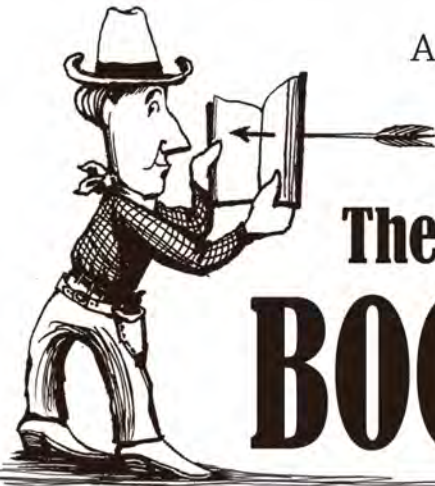
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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

ART

Argazzi Art, 22 Millerton Road, Lakeville, Conn. www.argazziart.com
Richard Segalman's In Memoriam: Paintings, July 2 through Aug. 14.

The Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. www.cornwalllibrary.org
Pentimento Paintings – Greg Goldberg, July 16 to Aug. 28.

Furnace — Art on Paper Archive, 107 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com
Summer Selections, July 30 to Aug. 28.

Kent Art Association, 21 S. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentart.org
Elected Artist and Solo Show, July 31 to Aug. 21.

MASS MoCA, 1320 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, Mass. www.massmoca.org
Summer Open Studios Season, Aug. 11, 5 to 7 p.m.

BOOKS

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main St., Ridgefield, Conn. www.thealdrich.org
All of the Sky: Five Poets, Five Saturdays, Saturdays July 23 through Aug. 27, 4 to 5 p.m.

Spencertown Academy Arts, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y. www.spencertownacademy.org
Spencertown Academy Arts Center 17th Annual Festival of Books, Sept. 2 to 5.

DANCE

Berkshire Botanical Garden, 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. www.berkshirebotanical.org
Thursday Afternoon Yoga in the Garden, July 7 to Sept. 15, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket, Mass. www.jacobspillow.org
In Studio Observation, Tuesdays to Fridays June 14 to Aug. 19, 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 to 4 p.m.

In Studio Pause-in process Showings, July 30, and Aug. 13, 1 to 1:45 p.m. (in person and online).

KIDS

Barrington Stage Company, 122 North St., Pittsfield, Mass. www.barringtonstageco.org
The Supadupa Kid, July 29 to Aug. 12.

Berkshire Museum, 39 South St. (Route 7), Pittsfield, Mass. www.berkshirerosemuseum.org
StarLab Planetarium Experience, Mondays June 27 to Aug. 29 (except July 4), 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. and 11 to 11:25 a.m.

The Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. www.cornwalllibrary.org
Afterschool Art Program, Thursdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Children's Summer Camp, Aug. 15 to 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MISCELLANY

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County, 61 State St., www.ccerensselaer.org
Late Summer Is For Lawns, Aug. 11, 7 to 8 p.m.

From Garden to Table: a Cook's Garden, Aug. 25, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton N.Y. www.nemillertonlibrary.org
Freeze it. Dry it. Can it. Pickle it.: Pickles and Tomatos, Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m.

MOVIES

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, Pittsfield, Mass. www.berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org
BJFF 2022, July 11 to Aug. 15.

Boondocks Film Society, www.boondocksfilmsociety.org
"Paper Moon" at South Farms, Morris, CT, Aug. 12, Happy hour at 7:15 p.m., film at 8:30 p.m.

Gilson Cafe & Cinema, 354 Main St., Winsted, Conn. www.gilsoncafeandcinema.com
Check website for currently showtimes.

Kent Memorial Library, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentmemoriallibrary.org
Outdoor Movie Night: Stand By Me, Aug. 25, 8:30 p.m.

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.themoviehouse.net
Check website for currently showtimes. 3000 Years of Longing, opens Aug. 31. The Good Boss, opens Sept. 2.

MUSIC

Berkshire Botanical Garden, 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. www.berkshirebotanical.org
Music Mondays: Union Jack (featuring the sounds of the 1960s British invasion), Aug. 15, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Church of St. John in the Wilderness, 344 Route 261, Copake Falls, NY. www.stjohnw.org
Winds in the Wilderness Concert, Aug. 28, 3 p.m.

Millbrook Arts Group, Millbrook, N.Y. www.millbrookartsgroup.org
Saints of Swing, Aug. 13, 6 p.m.

NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton N.Y. www.nemillertonlibrary.org
The Mia Brazilian Jazz Ensemble, Aug. 13, 6 p.m.

THEATER

Ancram Opera House, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y. www.ancramoperahouse.org
INVASION!, Aug. 5 to 21.

Berkshire Opera Festival, www.berkshireoperafestival.org
Mozart's Don Giovanni, Aug. 20, 1 p.m., Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m., Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Great Barrington Public Theater, Great Barrington, Mass. www.greatbarringtonpublictheater.org
Things I Know to Be True, Aug. 4 to 14.

The Mount, 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. www.edithwharton.org
Wharton on Wednesdays: Mary Anne Grammar will read "Roman Fever," Aug. 31, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.rhinebeckwriters.org
Dear Mr. C, Aug. 7 to 14.

Sharon Playhouse, 49 Amenia Road, Sharon, Conn. www.sharonplayhouse.org
Guys and Dolls, July 29 to Aug. 14.

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DINING: JANET MANKO

Continuing a Culinary Legacy At Lakeville's The Woodland

Woodland restaurant owner Brandon Scimeca has a long history with the place, associating transitions in his life with eras of operation at this longtime destination in Lakeville, Conn., for diners who are also committed food lovers. "I was a Tuesday night bar regular when Carol Peters owned it, back around 2002," he said in a recent interview at The Woodland. "From then on, I understood the importance of this place to the community."

Scimeca became work colleagues and good friends with Carol's brother, the late Robert Peters, after she fired Robert from the kitchen in the early 2000s and he went out to work at competitors in Lakeville, first The Boathouse and then The Interlaken Inn, where Scimeca was the head chef.

In 2004, Robert bought The Woodland, and Scimeca shared with him

the fun parts of the renovation that followed. They found lights, paintings and a tin ceiling for the new wrap-around bar, even discussing the menu. Little did he know he was helping to plan his own future.

After leaving The Interlaken, Scimeca was Director of Education of Plantin' Seeds in North Canaan, Conn., for a couple of years, then started his own successful catering business, Hunt & Harvest, out of Millbrook, N.Y., catering weddings and other events, especially at Lion Rock Farm in Sharon, Conn.

Six years in, COVID-19 took over society, devastating the catering industry. So he filled in for short staffing at The Woodland two nights a week, then four nights, then became manager, helping Robert with the take-out food and outdoor dining that helped them survive.

He continued to help Robert,

through a battle with cancer that led to his death in March 2021.

Then, Scimeca said, "The family came to me and said I was perfect to continue the lineage at The Woodland."

"It's every chef's dream to have their own restaurant. It was a comet going by, and I knew I had to jump on or forever regret it."

"It never went on the market."

He stayed on, keeping the place going, until January 2022, when the sale went through and he became sole owner.

Continued on page 18



PHOTOS BY JANET MANKO

Brandon Scimeca enjoyed the view from behind the bar at his restaurant, The Woodland, in Lakeville, Conn.

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... *The Woodland*

Continued from page 17

The menu of The Woodland is extensive, Scimeca said, giving him a large sandbox to play in and refine, without taking away what the restaurant is. The Woodland Classics are one side of the menu, including the top offerings of pistachio salmon, wiener schnitzel, steak au poivre and sole meuniere, and another sheet printed out every evening with the daily specials.

“I am into the sense of place and emotion of food,” Scimeca said. “There are things people expect and I want them to have them, while leaving room for growth and innovation. You can eat five different ways here, from sushi to a heavy multi-layered meal. I also believe strongly in freshness and seasonality in cooking.”

Scimeca has lived in East Canaan, Conn., for 15 years, raising his fam-

ily on Green Quince Farm, where he grows produce that finds its way to the restaurant’s tables.

He is asked regularly about serving lunch, and while he says he will do it eventually, for now he wants to “work out the kinks.” The difficulty with finding additional staffing is also an obstacle.

Taking on the ownership of an iconic restaurant like The Woodland, Scimeca said at first there was just relief from patrons that it wouldn’t close. Then, relief that things wouldn’t change drastically from what they were used to. Then, excitement about fun new items coming out.

“It’s not all about me, but about The Woodland and what it means to the community. I know the soul and potential of this place, and I’m very excited to keep that going.”



PHOTO BY BRANDON SCIMECA

Seasonal dishes with local produce continue to enhance the specials menu at The Woodland.



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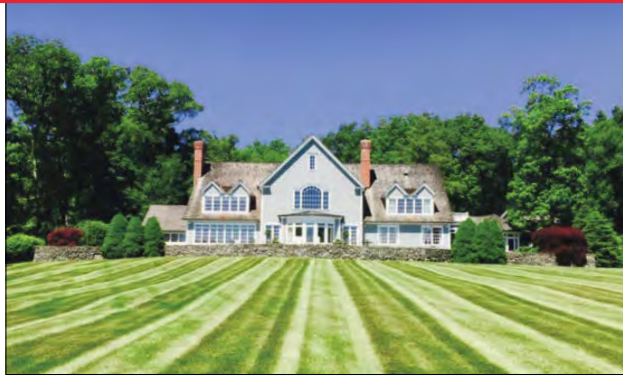


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