

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County and its Environs

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COMPASS
Norfolk concert, Baron book talk, and more **B1-4**



Holiday Gift Guide Inside

Town Supervisor-elect Leo Blackman reflects on recent win in Amenia

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Although vote tallies remain unofficial for the time being as final mail-in ballots are being counted, Democratic candidate Leo Blackman is the presumptive winner of the election as Amenia's next town supervisor, having defeated longtime Republican incumbent Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti by a margin of 29 votes (475-446).

"A lot of Amenia homes have spectacular views, but hardly any have functioning doorbells," Blackman observed during an interview a few days after Election Day as he reflected on his presumptive win, his campaign strategy, and what he



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Newly elected Town Supervisor Leo Blackman

has learned about the town.

Campaign strategy was straightforward, Blackman said. "Many doors were knocked upon and campaign events attended [in

each neighborhood]. At each stop, I informed voters of my long history of volunteering, town progress made during my two years on the Town Board, and my vision for Amenia's future."

"Being positive and genuine seems to have won votes," Blackman said.

Commenting on his platform's major planks that resonated with voters, Blackman said, "A primary issue was a desire to move ahead capital projects eligible for infrastructure funding [wastewater, water, highway garage & housing]. Then, keeping growth concentrated in the hamlet center to bring back its vitality and preserve

See **BLACKMAN**, PAGE A6



PHOTO COURTESY ROCK STEADY FARM

Clockwise from top left: Farmers Ris Lansing, Luca Dimambro, SG, co-founder D Rooney, Kyle Ellis, Rica Bryan, and Ainhwa Woodley at Rock Steady Farm in Millerton.

The farm growing tomorrow's farmers

By **NATALIA ZUKERMAN**
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Rock Steady Farm, a cooperative farm in Millerton, is exemplary within the agricultural landscape for many reasons, and its fundraising ability is one of them: In 2023, it raised \$650,000, largely from grants.

The reason that it's able to do this, said Maggie Cheney, Rock Steady farmer and co-founder, is that they approach farming not just as a business, but as an intersectional space — meaning that it tries to consider the full wide range of ways in which a farming business engages with the lives of local community members.

"We're a nonprofit and a farm," said Cheney. That means that "instead of just surviving, we've been able to shift to advocacy and systemic change," which the cooperative accomplishes through educational and outreach programs.

When Cheney, D Rooney and Angela Defelice co-founded Rock Steady in December 2015, they adhered to a much more traditional model, Cheney said. "In the beginning years, we were really trying to kind of make it work," they said. "We used to be basically 90%

just farmers and producing food wholesale, going to markets, that kind of thing."

But in the last four years, that has changed.

At Rock Steady, "community" extends beyond about locals and patrons: It's also about the farmers.

Conducting surveys of Rock Steady alumni, said Cheney, "shifted us more in the direction of education work. Because we heard from our community that there is a gap" in the accessibility to learning how to farm.

It was a survey of the community of Rock Steady alumni, said Cheney, that shifted us more in the direction of education work. Because we heard from our community that there is a gap" in the accessibility to learning how to farm.

"For queer and trans farmers, and specifically queer and trans BIPOC farmers, there aren't that many training programs on large-scale farms," they said. "Rural spaces have not felt super welcoming" for those marginalized groups. "People have had abusive relationships with farm owners, myself included."

At Rock Steady, would-be farm-

See **ROCK STEADY**, PAGE A6

Immigrants met with network of support in Berkshire County

By **HEATHER BELLOW**
The Berkshire Eagle

GREAT BARRINGTON — Amid the state's inability to provide shelter to all who seek it, 84 migrants have arrived at hotels in Great Barrington and Pittsfield to stay until they are able to settle, either here in the Berkshires or

elsewhere.

Along with the state — through its Right to Shelter emergency family program — a slew of nonprofits, agencies and community leaders are working to support the newcomers with necessities that include navigating medical care and legal assistance as well as providing translators.

For instance, the state has contracted with restaurants and food providers to make sure the new families have three meals delivered every day, said Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer, who has convened a "Community Care Team" composed of city and state officials

See **IMMIGRANTS**, PAGE A6

A gifting tradition changes hands

By **CAROL KNEELAND**
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — After three decades of running Adopt-a-Family, which supplies holiday gifts to families in need, Stacey Moore is passing the program to the village's North East Community Center (NECC), to be run by Family Program Director Jessica Raymond.

Adopt-a-family has become a

See **GIFTS**, PAGE A2



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO JAMESON

Michelle Smith helped prepare for a Free Toy Give-Away in November 2022 at The NorthEast-Millerton Library. Dozens of "shoppers" lined up for the event an hour before opening to get their pick from the hundreds of items.



CONTACT

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OPINION

Thankful for FOI;
Columns, Letters **A5**



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OUR TOWNS

GIFTS *Continued from Page A1*

Millerton tradition, began as so many small town organizations do: Individuals saw a problem and decided to do something about it.

When the late Marilyn Najdek, former mayor of Millerton and mother of Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek, was director of the Astor Head Start, she saw children in need, and she and her best friend Stacy Moore expanded the Presbyterian Food Basket program to include toys and clothing at Christmas time.

The donations, most of which were new and contributed by local businesses, would be set the space up like a store, so primary caretakers could "shop" for their children's Christmas.

The program became an annual Millerton community tradition, operating with a handful of volunteers: Moore, Vicki Moore and Deb Phillips registered families and accepted donations at Moore and More while Carol Dean, Monica Barlow and Pam Malarchuk managed the "shopping" at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex, supplying toys, games, clothing and funds to some 250 children each year.

Of Moore, Najdek said: "She's the Silent Santa, really, for everybody. She doesn't like a lot of accolades and to be acknowledged for all the good things she's done. There aren't very many people left in this world that want to do really good things but want zero acknowledgement for it."

Najdek recalls seeing her mother and Moore "some

nights, 7 or 8 o'clock, poring over lists; on the weekend, making sure that the family that couldn't get to shop had their bags.

"You'd get a last-minute call the day before Christmas: Somebody's house burned down, or somebody lost their job, and they'd missed the sign-up. Word would spread," and Moore would reach out to them.

"She she would have bags of clothes and toys and even food baskets. She would call me or my mother and there would be a last-minute, 'Hey do you have a basket or can you put one together?'"

Relishing the memories, Najdek said: "To me, those are the things that feel really good. Somebody comes and they're like, 'Oh my God. I had no idea.' And they want to hug you and they start crying and you start crying and everybody's crying."

As a realist, Najdek said: "You can't change everything, but if you can effect change little by little... I think that's kind of what Adopt-a-Family is for: this little kind of bright sunshine of hope that you aren't in it alone and there are people that care. I hope that that's still the feeling that they will try to have when the Community Center takes over."

She concluded: "I can't say enough about Stacey and all the good she'd been over the years. She's helped make Mil-

lerton a better place, but she'd not want anyone to say that about her."

Whenever Moore has spoken about the program, she acknowledges the others, including community donors and stalwarts Michele Haab, Karen McGinness, Andrea MacArthur, Brenda Irish, Bill Anstett, Bob Jenks, Larry Eckler, Mike and Toni Reynolds, Lenny Morrison, Ed Watson, Penny Warren and Louise Meryman.

Before COVID-19 shut down the "North Pole" shopping experience in the Annex, Rob Cooper and Billy Nichols would fill a pickup truck full of balls and other athletic equipment.

Oblong Books' Dick Hermans was similarly motivated, saying: "Stacey's work on this is really remarkable because here is an individual person who made something happen that affected a whole lot of people, generations of people. If we all had that motivation, what a world it would be."

Now, NECC's Raymond will be working to fill those huge Santa boots, saying: "We are very honored to 'adopt' Adopt-a-Family from Stacey, to whom we have referred families over the years. And we look forward to keeping this community tradition alive."

She is anxious to work with any in the community who wish to contribute or suggest names of children whose holidays could be brightened by a little help.

To learn more, call Raymond at 518-789-4259, ext. 105. New toys and games may be brought to NECC at 51 South Center St.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Dancing for Diwali in Millbrook

On Saturday, Nov. 18, two performers from Ajna Dance Company in New York City performed at Millbrook Public Library in honor of Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and many Buddhists throughout South Asia and elsewhere. Held after the end of the harvest, it celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Dancers Alisha Derai, above, and Shreya Rawat explained how their steps, gestures and other moves tell stories and speak to the audience, beckoning them to join in the festivities.

—Judith O'Hara Balfe

Bleachers for Beekman Park

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — The Amenia Recreation Commission moved to spend about \$20,000 of unused funds in their 2023 town budget allocation at its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 14, before the end of the budget year.

Recreation director Katie Sterk-Grassi recommended the purchase two sets of metal bleachers, each with a capacity of 50 people, at \$5,700 each, to replace deteriorating wooden ones adjacent to the Beekman Part baseball fields.

Noting that 30 children are registered for the Tiny Tots soccer program, the commis-

sion also approved a request for the purchase of child-sized stationary soccer goals for up to \$150 each.

Enhancing the skateboard options on the town outdoor basketball courts, the board also considered the purchase of half-pipes of a size that would transition beginning skateboarders from flat-surface skateboarding to the more challenging verticals.

Commission Chairman Paul Winters favored the acquisition of a short half-pipe, offering an elevation of 3 feet for part of the 15-foot width, and 2 feet toward one end, ideal for beginners. The commission decided to apply for grant funding first

and then, when that option is exhausted, to add the item to the Amenia Green project if necessary.

Plans for Wassaic Park continue to take shape. Winters reported that Jane Didona of Didona Associates continues her work on the inclusion of a disc golf area and trails to serve the park's fishing area. Those two elements are to be included in the first phase of the now-combined Amenia Green and Wassaic Park project.

Didona's plans are expected to be ready for presentation to the commission at one of its January meetings. A public hearing is anticipated in early to mid-February.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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Realtor® at Large

Hunting season is in full swing on both public and private lands for deer and shortly for turkeys. It is good to be aware of the regulations before going into the woods to hike, horseback ride or mountain bike. A great source of information is found in the CTDEEP Hunting and Trapping Guide at: portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/hunting_trapping/pdf_files/2023-CT-Hunting-Guide.pdf. It is recommended to wear orange clothing or a vest to be more visible and to be aware that the prime hunting times are either early in the morning or late in the afternoon. For more information on staying safe, please read the States recommendations for Outdoor Safety found at: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Hunting/Outdoor-Safety-Tips#:~:text=Wear%20bright%20clothing%20(400%20square,when%20hiking%20in%20hunted%20areas.



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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

A meeting of the plot owners of the Amenia Island Cemetery Association will be held on Tuesday, November 28th at 5:30 p.m. at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22 Amenia, NY for the purpose of electing trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The annual meeting of the trustees will immediately follow the meeting of the plot owners.

Nicole Miller
Secretary
11-09-23
11-16-23
11-23-23

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: LQPCONSULTING, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: November 1, 2023. The County in which

the Office is to be located: DUTCHESS. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 20 LINDEN COURT, MILLBROOK, NY 12545. Purpose: Anylawful activity.

11-23-23
11-30-23
12-07-23
12-14-23
12-21-23
12-28-23

Legal Notice

The Board of Trustees of the Evergreen Cemetery Inc. have scheduled a lot owners and general business meeting on December 2, 2023 at 10:00am. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Post #426 located at 9 North Main Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567.

11-16-23
11-23-23

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109⁹⁹

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Stissing Mountain High School wins state title in cross-country

By R. A. Hermans
The New Pine Plains Herald

PINE PLAINS — On Friday, Nov. 11, the Stissing Mountain High School boys' varsity cross-country team won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association cross-country championship for schools of comparable size.

The Pine Plains team placed three runners in the top 20 in a 5-kilometer (3.1 mile) race packed with 115 contestants.

Winning the state title was "like a weight being lifted off my shoulders," said senior Jared Heggenstaller. "We had set a goal of winning the states last winter and then... 'Wait! We really did this!'"

The championship meet is scored by comparing the performance of each team's top five runners. The team with the lowest overall total is the winner. For Pine Plains, junior Maxwell Decker placed eighth; sophomore Daniel McPherson, 11th; Jared Heggenstaller, 20th; senior Nicholas McPherson, 25th; and senior Maxwell Heggenstaller, 28th. This resulted in a team score of 38 points. The second-place team, from South Lewis Central School, southwest of Adirondack Park, finished with a 58-point total.

The boys' team was not the only Pine Plains entry to do well at the meet, held at the Vernon Verona Sherrill High School in the village of Verona. Sophomore Violet Bliss, competing as an individual runner, placed 11th in a field of 111 runners.

A cross-country race begins with all runners massing at the start line. "The start of a race



PHOTO BY MAUREEN CARNEY COURTESY OF THE NEW PINE PLAINS HERALD

Nicholas McPherson and Jared Heggenstaller firing on all cylinders on the course in Verona.

like this is a stampede as one huge group gets funneled onto the course," said Heggenstaller.

The Pine Plains team had run the course the day before, scouting out the terrain and planning a race strategy. "The course was really brutal with hills, twists, branches and some areas of poor footing," he said. His twin brother, Maxwell, added: "It's the kind of course where, if you went out too fast, you'd burn out; and there were definitely some runners who did that."

Owing to the stampede at the race's start, the Pine Plains team was unable to stay together as a group. Their plan was to lay back at the beginning of the race. "At the two-minute mark, we were all pretty far back in the pack," Jared said. By the mid-point

of the race, eight minutes in, the Bombers' top runners — Decker, Daniel McPherson and Jared Heggenstaller — had begun their move to the front and held their relative positions through the end of the race.

Coach Ryan Carney said, "This is a huge accomplishment for this group and for our school district." Carney is very proud of his team. As he told the Herald earlier this month: "These kids are incredible. They're great students, they are so good to each other."

Team captain and senior Gabriel Hieter, and junior Nicolas Montoya finished further back, but each has contributed to the spirit evident among this team. Hieter said his role "is to let the fast run-

ners run, work to make sure we stick with our training program, and recruit students to join the (cross-country) program." Two days after the winning race, the squad gathered after school for a 50-minute run to keep their legs loose.

The victory at Verona as well as Bliss' strong showing capped a thoroughly satisfying season for the Bombers. In only its second year, the cross-country program, led by Carney, has enjoyed startling success. They will try to extend their good year on Saturday, Nov. 25, when the boys team will compete again against runners from throughout New York in the Nike Cross Regionals Northeast meet at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls.

The event will feature two separate competitions, one for New York teams and another for teams from New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. "New York is traditionally a cross-country powerhouse," said Carney, and thus fields as many teams in regional competitions as the whole group of other northeastern states. The top two teams from both the New York group and the other states running on Nov. 25 will participate in the Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

This article is courtesy of The New Pine Plains Herald.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Nov. 9-15.

Nov. 11 — Deputies responded to the area of 4531 Route 199 in the Town of North East for a personal injury automobile accident involving a rollover into a tree with minor injuries. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Rony Joel Xol Pop, 23, for driving while intoxicated. Xol Pop is to appear in the Town of North East Court at a later date.

Nov. 11 — Deputies assisted by the Millerton Police Department responded to 78 Charlie Hill Road in North East to investigate a reported domestic dispute. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

Nov. 14 — Deputies responded to a report of a larceny of cooking oil from the Round III restaurant on Route 22 in the Town of North East. While checking the area, patrol located the suspect behind McEnroe Farm. The suspect was in the act of attempting to steal cooking oil from that business. Neurl M. DeLaCruz, 33, was taken into custody without incident. DeLaCruz was charged with

two counts of petit larceny, criminal mischief intent to damage property and possession of burglar tools, and is to appear in the Town of North East Court at a later date.

Nov. 15 — Deputies responded to Route 22 and Dunn Road in the Town of Amenia for a disabled 2-foot box truck. Operator requested EMS for cold exposure. Investigation at the scene revealed that the vehicle was reported as a stolen vehicle from Rockland County. Deputies subsequently arrested Jaleel A. Wilson, 29, for criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree and possession of a forged instrument in the third degree. Wilson is to appear in the Town of Amenia Court at a later date.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned cases or any other suspected criminal activity, please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

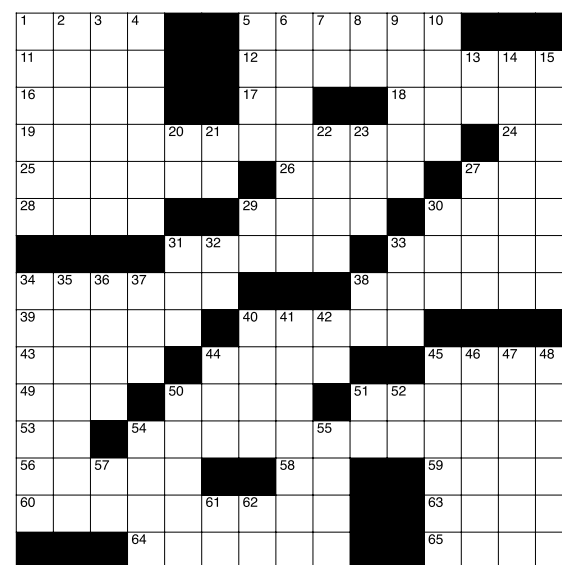
All persons arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Brain Teasers

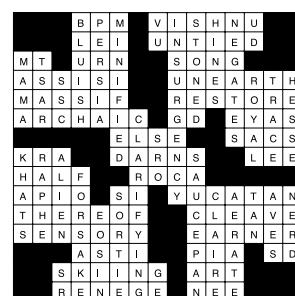
CLUES ACROSS

- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Requesting
- Give temporarily
- Happiness
- Military branch
- , denotes past
- Middle Eastern city
- Air hostesses
- Partner to Pa
- Percussion instrument
- Popular computers
- Decrease light
- Valley in the Osh Region
- "To _ his own"
- Absence of difficulty
- Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church
- Trims by cutting
- Impact
- Military member
- A French river
- Member of prehistoric people in Mexico
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Musician Clapton
- Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Narrow valley
- A way to disentangle
- Indicates not an issue (abbr.)
- Recommending
- Genus of legumes
- Friend to Larry and Curly
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer
- Denoting passerine birds
- Separate by category



- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Type of cat
- Cools your home
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Pouches
- Trigraph
- Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
- _ route
- Body part
- Bridge building degree
- Indicates position
- Political action committee
- Tasty snack
- Part of a quadruped
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- Of I
- City in Utah
- Football players in the trenches
- Hammer is one
- A "nightmarish" street
- Performers
- Slang for cut or scrape
- More breathable
- Most slick
- Provokes
- Home to college's Flyers
- Sodium
- Large fish of mackerel family
- Zero
- _ and behold
- The Palmetto State
- Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

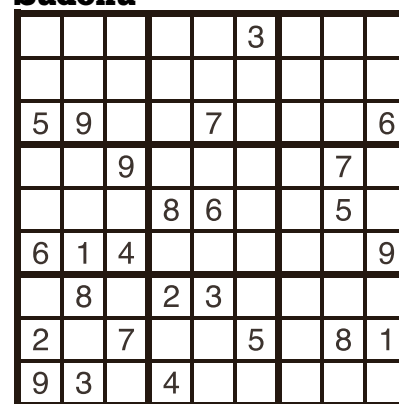
Nov. 16 Solution



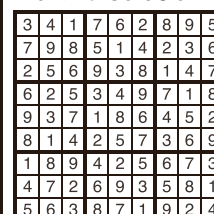
CLUES DOWN

- Colorless fluid part of blood
- Of a main artery
- Photographic equipment
- Confirms a point
- Developed over time
- Not the leader
- _ Lang (country singer)
- Adults need one
- Nests of pheasants
- Antelopes
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

Sudoku



Nov. 16 Solution



Level: Intermediate

The Lakeville Journal FOUNDATION

Dear Friends and Readers,

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

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

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

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

To donate, please visit www.tricornernews.com/contribute or fill out the form below and mail a check. For information on donating shares of stock, please email donation@lakevillejournal.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

Noreen Doyle

Noreen Doyle, Chair
The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

Susan Hassler

Susan Hassler, CEO, publisher

Enclose your check or money order and mail to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039
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The Lakeville Journal

The MILLERTON NEWS

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OBITUARIES

June Elizabeth Shippa

CANAAN — June Elizabeth (Anderson) Shippa, 92, of 99 South Canaan Road, formerly of Falls Village, died Saturday night Nov. 11, 2023, at Sharon Hospital.

June and her late husband Lewis Shippa were residents of the Town of Falls Village for well over 50 years.

June and Lewis were married on Feb. 14, 1954. June was born June 27, 1931 in Ashford, Massachusetts, daughter of the late Hilmer Oxel and Eleanor May (Galbrath) Anderson.

June loved gardening and baking. She was proud of her home and made sure all felt warm and safe there. She also was a caring and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her family was everything to her. She was known as the "community mom," and all the children from the neighborhood were welcome and loved at her home.

June is survived by her three children: Diane Shippa-Paden and her husband Steven of Sheffield, Massachusetts; Brian L. Shippa and his wife Nikki of Canaan; and Jennifer Shippa-Trudeau and

her husband Herman of Canaan. Her beloved grandchildren: Lucas Wells of Canaan, Michael Wells of Waterbury, Mitchell Blass of Westwood, Massachusetts, Noah Shippa, Myles Shippa, and Savannah Shippa all of Canaan; Kaitlynn Shippa of Bethlehem, and Megan Shippa of Canaan; and her four dear great-grandchildren. June was predeceased by her loving granddaughter Christine Wells.

Funeral services were held Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at noon in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St., North Canaan, CT 06018. Burial followed the service in Mountain View Cemetery, Sand Road, North Canaan, CT 06018. Family and friends were invited to meet the family at the funeral home from 11 a.m. until the time of the service.

Memorial donations may be sent to either the North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 178, Canaan, CT 06018 or to the Falls Village Ambulance Service, 188 US-7S, Falls Village, CT 06031.



E. Bloxom Baker

SALISBURY — E. Bloxom (Bloxy) Baker, IV passed away on Nov. 12, 2023, at his home in Salisbury. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 18, 1945, he was the son of Marjorie and Elias B. Baker III.

Bloxy grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, where he attended Princeton Day School. He later graduated from St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island. He was a member of the Class of 1968 at Princeton University where he was a member of the Cap and Gown Club.

Upon graduation from Princeton University, Bloxy served in the Army's 3rd Cavalry Infantry Division as a cobra helicopter pilot in the Blue Max Squadron stationed in Bien Hoa, Vietnam. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his service and the Broken Wing Award for safely landing his helicopter when his tail rotor blade was blown off. After his tour of duty, he was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas and trained in advanced flying techniques. He later was stationed in England and served as an instructor for British pilots.

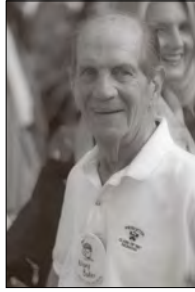
After his discharge, Bloxy worked as a commodities broker in New York before moving back to Princeton to fulfill a dream held since college. He bought the Grover Lumber Company and was president

of the company for 20 years until it was sold to Princeton University. During this time, Bloxy was also an avid "hockey dad" and served as a coach for many of his three sons' youth hockey teams.

In 2000, Bloxy married Nancy Luria of Lakeville and moved to the Northwest Corner. He loved sailing on the lake, playing cards and backgammon, and listening to favorites like Tina Turner, Etta James, and Otis Redding. He was also a lifelong hockey player and continued playing in the Old Men's League well into his 60s.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and his three sons with his former wife Nancy H. Rogers; Charles of Sarasota, Florida, Henry and his wife Tiffany of Wilton, Connecticut, Peter and his wife Wendy of Montvale, New Jersey. He is also survived by his two stepdaughters Cary Ullman and her husband Edmund of Lakeville, Samantha Harlow and her husband David of Middlebury, Vermont, three grandchildren and five step grandchildren. He leaves three siblings; Gertrude Millar of Marshfield, Massachusetts, Leanne Baker of Nantucket, Massachusetts and Warren Baker of Chicago, Illinois.

A memorial service will be planned for the spring.



Sharon Lynn Tompkins Roy

FALLS VILLAGE — Sharon Lynn Tompkins Roy, 82, wife of the late Robert "Bob" Lee Roy, passed away Nov. 14, 2023.

A native of Falls Village, Connecticut, daughter of the late Nicholas "Nick" and Decima "Dee" Anastasia Merriman Tompkins, she was a retired administrative assistant and of the Christian faith.

Surviving are one daughter, Robin L. Roy of Zephyrhills, Florida; two sons,

Todd M. Roy of Phoenix, Arizona and Darren M. Roy (Cindy) of Greer, South Carolina; three grandchildren, Conor, Sierra, and Kelley; and four great-grandchildren, Bentley, Brinley, Hensley, and Haizley.

Mrs. Roy was predeceased by one son, R. Nevin Roy.

The family will be at their respective homes. Online condolences may be made to www.thewoodmortuary.com



Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

The MILLERTON NEWS
www.facebook.com/themillertonnews

Worship Services
Week of November 26, 2023

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

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Rev. Paul Christopherson
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
In-Person and on YouTube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH
is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
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The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thesmithfieldchurch.org
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Canaan United Methodist Church
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT
11 a.m. Worship Service
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
Rev. Lee Gangaware
860-824-5534
canaanctumc@gmail.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com
for an invitation to the Zoom service
If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.

Congregation Beth David
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ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

The Sharon Congregational
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org
for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

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Sunday Worship - 11am
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM
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All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
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William Lee

SHARON — Bill (William) Lee, 86, of Sharon and New

York, New York, died in Manhattan on Nov. 15, 2023. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1938 to Clara and Arthur Levy. He drew the best banana in his Brooklyn kindergarten class, and since then, he kept going on to bigger and better things, including one of his first freelance positions: illustrator of the assembly directions for the very first Barbie Dreamhouse (1962).

He attended the School of Visual Arts (1960-1964), which prepared him for his career as a cartoonist and cartoon editor for General Media. The satirist and self-described "Investigative Cartoonist" won many awards throughout his life, including the International Humor Award, and his work has been featured in such publications as Compute, Cosmopolitan,

Esquire, Evergreen, National Lampoon, Omni, Penthouse, Playboy, and Spin.

He travelled the world and was among the first to enter many countries that had been closed to travel by U.S. citizens, including China (1979), Russia (1983), and Cuba (1999). He often described his hobbies as relaxing with a drink and listening to music that ranged somewhere between Hank Williams and Mozart. He was widowed by his wife, Dona Johnson-Lee, and is survived by his daughter Jennifer.

While he would probably have loved well-wishers to raise a glass of Jack Daniels in his memory, they can also donate to the cancer charity of their choosing, as the loss of his wife of many years to cancer in 1997 made it his nemesis.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Charles Olbricht

ANCRAMDAL — Charles G. Olbricht (known as Chuck) passed away Oct. 31, 2023, after year-long health problems. His life partner of 54 years was with him when he died.

Chuck was born on Jan. 7, 1940, the second son of Evelyn P. Olbricht and Henry G. Olbricht. His childhood was in Great Neck, New York. In 1948 the family moved to a farm in Ancramdale. Chuck graduated from Pine Plains High School, matriculated at Georgetown School of Foreign Service and graduated in 1961.

In 1962 Chuck was drafted, he joined the Army Intelligence Unit preparing to be stationed in Verona, Italy. He spent the next three years teaching Vietnamese history to U.S. Army draftees at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Discharged as a Sergeant First Class, he began his business career working for

ABC television.

In 1969 he met his life partner Charles Hewett Jr. on Feb. 7. Later that year, Chuck joined Ford Motor Company Northeast Public Affairs office in New York. After retiring as manager after 26 years, he then worked for the Business Council for International Understanding for seven years.

Later he volunteered for various organizations including the Asia Society.

He and his life partner Chuck ("The Two Chucks") traveled extensively, agreeing that India was the most fascinating place they had visited. He did not want a party or service. His ashes will be buried in Ancramdale and in the family plot in New Paltz Cemetery.

Gifts in his memory should be made to the Columbia-Greene Community College.



Festival of Trees in Town Park

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — 'Tis already the season, and to celebrate, the Town of Washington invites all to its annual Festival of Trees Saturday, Dec. 2, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Recreation Depart-



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
Sharon Mahar, Michelle DeValle and Ashley Lempka affixed the lights to one of the trees in front of the Millbrook Library.

ment has set aside 10 trees, each 7'5" tall, to be bedecked by 10 local businesses in friendly competition.

The Festival will be held at the Town of Washington Park, 3744 Route 44 in Millbrook, and will include music, Crafts

for Kids, and refreshments. The community will for the winning tree.

The festival will also include a collection for our troops: Items being collected include toiletries, snacks and sundries (single-serve,

no aerosols or glass), underwear, batteries, playing cards, Band-Aids, and hair products including brushes and combs. For more information, or to reserve a tree, email Danielle Szalewicz at redirector@washingtonny.org

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EDITORIAL

Grateful for FOI

This week, it's traditional to consider the things in life for which we're most grateful. Along with all the more personal items, we should also count the strong Freedom of Information laws in Connecticut and New York as one of them. Connecticut, in fact, is unique among the states in its long-term commitment to open information and transparent government, its Legislature having unanimously adopted the Freedom of Information Act in 1975.

Mitchell W. Pearlman was the executive director of Connecticut's Freedom of Information Commission—the world's first Freedom of Information enforcement agency—from 1975 to 2005, and has been very active not only in the state, but nationwide and worldwide in recommending formal approaches to keeping government accountable to its constituents. Pearlman was key in founding the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government (CFOG), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the open and accountable government so essential in a democratic society, and the education arm of the state's open government organizations.

Also key to CFOG's vision was the late Robert Estabrook, editor and publisher emeritus of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, who worked with Pearlman and others to form CFOG and ensure its continuation. Estabrook created the culture for The Lakeville Journal's involvement with and commitment to freedom of information and open government over all the years since 1975.

CFOG sponsored an awards ceremony last Thursday, Nov. 16, to honor three people: a state public official, a member of the public, and a journalist, whose use of the state's freedom of information laws have greatly benefitted their fellow citizens.

New York state's Freedom of Information Law is commonly known as "FOIL." It is the state's principal statute providing public access to government records. The Millerton News has relied on New York's FOIL on numerous occasions. A Committee on Open Government oversees and advises the government, public, and news media on Freedom of Information, Open Meetings, and Personal Privacy Protection laws. Its website states: The Committee offers guidance in response to phone inquiries, prepares written legal advisory opinions, and provides training to government and other interested groups.

The state's FOIL website posts this credo: "The people's right to know the process of governmental decision-making and to review the documents and statistics leading to determinations is basic to our society. Access to such information should not be thwarted by shrouding it with the cloak of secrecy or confidentiality."

—Janet Manko
 Publisher emeritus, CFOG board member

We are grateful, too, to our many readers, advertisers, supporters and donors. Without you, we would not be able to continue our mission of helping members of our communities make more informed and inspired decisions through comprehensive news and arts coverage. Enclosed in this week's edition is a preaddressed envelope and appeal letter. With your continued support, we will be able to serve our communities for years to come.

Sorting out Medicare Open Enrollment

Every year, Oct. 15 marks the beginning of Medicare's annual Open Enrollment season. That means everyone enrolled in Medicare has from that date until Dec. 7 to make changes to their Medicare Advantage health and Part D prescription drug plans for 2024.

Chances are you've been seeing plenty of ads about open enrollment already—in your mailbox, on TV, in your email. It's no fun trying to separate the junk mail from the important communications from Medicare, Social Security, and any other insurer you may have this year. The Office for the Aging can help you sort things out.

What you can do during Open Enrollment
 During the Open Enrollment period, you can make changes to various aspects of your coverage.

These are the most significant opportunities:
 • You can switch from Original Medicare to Medi-

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

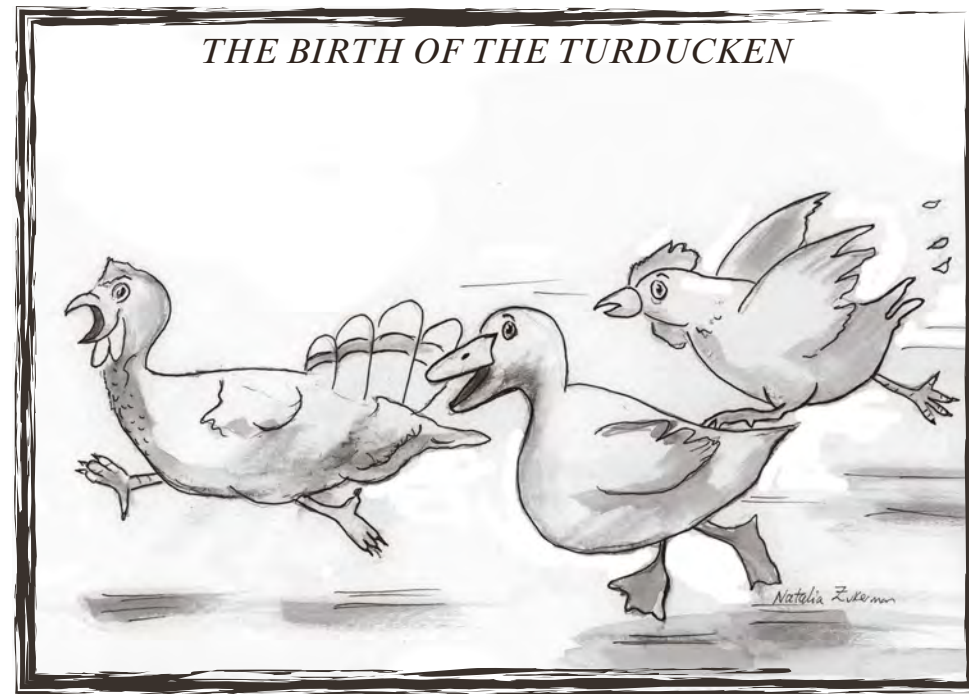
care Advantage, or vice versa.

• You can switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another, or from one Medicare Part D (prescription drug) plan to another.

• If you didn't enroll in a Medicare Advantage or Part D plan when you were first eligible, you can do so during the Open Enrollment period. Find out more by contacting OFA.

Check your mailbox
 If your current health insurance or prescription plan has made changes to your co-pays, premiums, and/or drug formularies, you should receive a "notice of change" letter from the company this month.

The plan is required to notify you of these changes. Read the entire notice of change and contact your plan administrator with any ques-



"You want us to get inside *where?*"

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Millerton News and the News does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanking Sharon Hospital staff

As we enter the holiday season and round out the calendar year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to Sharon Hospital's caregivers and staff members. Their unwavering compassion and dedication to serving our community and supporting one another does not go unnoticed, and helps our rural hospital deliver high quality care to our community.

As we reflect on the past year, there are many accomplishments to celebrate. Sharon Hospital once again received a 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. We also made investments to optimize our patients' experi-

ences and outcomes — including upgrading our helipad to create a smoother and safer experience, installing new state-of-the-art technology in our imaging department, and expanding the Virtual Health Office at Sharon Hospital to include in-demand specialties such as neurology and endocrinology. We also continued to partner with community organizations across our region to combat the behavioral health crisis and address the social determinants that have a crucial impact on our patients' wellbeing. All of these accomplishments were made possible by our dedicated members of the Sharon Hospital family.

I am joined by Sharon Hos-

pital and NuVance Health's leadership teams, our board of directors, and our patients in recognizing and applauding Sharon Hospital's staff for their dedication in service to our hospital and community. Our combined team, no matter the role or job title, plays a vital role in our region's health, and it is a true honor to lead this passionate, skilled team. I would also like to close by expressing gratitude for our Sharon community and their continued support for our hospital and caring staff.

Looking forward to the year ahead!

Christina McCulloch,
 MBA, BSN, RN
 President, Sharon Hospital

Merry band still going strong

I cannot tell you how happy I was to see the photo of the Millerton Music Muses in The Millerton News, playing in front of the Millerton Farmer's Market. Charlie Keil and his merry band played at the Farmers Market on its very first day in 2007 on the front lawn of what was then called Simmons' Way, not long after Karen Kisslinger came to NECC to suggest we start a market.

One of the vendors on that first day was Adamah Farm, [in Falls Village] which was run then and now by Shamu Sadeh, who was also playing in the Muses last week along with his son Yonah, who was a toddler in 2007.

Our goal in starting the market was to build community—bring people together to buy and support our local food economy, to encounter friends and neighbors, to deepen their connection to and love for Millerton. Music, food, a beautiful day in a beautiful village—it's everything we hoped for and more, going strong after 17 years.

Jenny Hansell
 Haydenville, Mass.

Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

a gift to the fossil fuel industry and stealing New Yorkers' future.

Didi Barrett has no knowledge or experience that can justify her attempt to erase the work leading of climate scientists like Dr. Robert Howarth of Cornell University. Knowledgeable constituents who've questioned Didi about her bill have concluded that she doesn't understand what its language means.

Assemblymember Barrett came to Millerton looking for your support and your vote. Please tell her that she'll have neither if she continues to sell out to big oil and gas rather than support New Yorkers' right to a safe and healthy environment.

Bill Kish
 Town of North East

Didi Barrett's fossil fuel bill 'sellout'

Last Friday our NYS Assembly Representative Didi Barrett visited Millerton and set up shop at a table in our local coffee shop.

New York State adopted the groundbreaking Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in 2019 to address climate change and reach net zero. The Act sets the goals to reduce emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and then to 85% below 1990 levels by 2050. The New York Times called the CLCPA "One of the World's Most Ambitious Climate Plans."

But in March of 2023, Assemblymember Barrett,

whose district covers a wide swath of Dutchess and Columbia Counties, sponsored A6039, a bill specifically crafted to encourage gas infrastructure and neuter the CLCPA.

Didi's gas bill would strip climate science from the CLCPA by "accounting" for the global warming effects of methane gas over a period of 100 years rather than the 20 years specified by the CLCPA. Didi claims that this is necessary to access federal funds and to bring New York's methodology into alignment with other frameworks, but these claims have been proven false. In reality, Didi is giving

oriented. HIICAP provides unbiased information.

You can make an appointment by contacting us during business hours at 845-486-2555, or by emailing ofa@dutchessny.gov. Counseling appointments fill up quickly. If we are unable to book an appointment for you, we can put you in touch with other local Medicare counseling alternatives who may have space.

You can prepare for your appointment and learn more about Medicare by looking over OFA's new Medicare Spotlight for the 2023-24 season, available at www.dutchessny.gov/THRIVE60 and at libraries throughout Dutchess County.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, Todd N. Tancredi, director. Email him at ofa@dutchessny.gov.

Email news & photos to editor@millertonnews.com

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Mission Statement

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

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COMPOSING DEPARTMENT: Caitlin Hanlon, graphic designer; Olivia Montoya, graphic designer.

DRIVERS: Brian Murphy; Geoffrey Olans; Adam Williams.

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ROCK STEADY *Continued from Page A1*

ers who have been unwelcome or unsafe elsewhere can learn greenhouse skills, production skills — even basics like tractor driving — across a farming sectors.

Rock Steady's emphasis on educational farming brought in 16 grants — not including outside of donors and family foundations — in 2023 alone. Its goal for 2024 is to match the \$650,000 it was able to raise for the first time this year, a third again as much as it had raised in 2022.

Its most recent recognition was a \$40,000 grant from Capital Impact Partners' Co-op Innovation Awards. It will use the grant to further develop its Pollinate program, an immersive paid apprenticeship for queer, trans and farmers of color, which focuses on training new farmers in cooperative farming models.

It will also fund Rock Steady's alumni support program "HIVE" and the first year of an incubator program in partnership with Wildseed, also based in Millerton, just up the road from Rock Steady.

It has also received grants from the North Star Fund, a social justice fund, and \$125,000 from The Fund



PHOTO COURTESY ROCK STEADY FARM

"There's a mainstream narrative that focuses on farming in a particular lens, for example, farming with restaurants and local scenes, or farming with food banks and pantries, and farming and climate," said Rock Steady Farm co-founder and farmer Maggie Cheney. "But it's so much more than that—there are a million different lenses through which one can understand the impact of a farm.

for Frontline Power, which describes itself as a "100% grassroots-governed fund supporting grassroots-led climate solutions." Grants from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation supports food access work in Ancramdale in partnership with Ancramdale Neighbors

Helping Neighbors Association, and a set of documentary shorts that amplify the voices of queer, trans farmers.

Cheney said that things really changed for Rock Steady when it "came out" as a farm. "We were like, 'Whoa,'" said Cheney, "why are all these farmers talking to us from

across the country? Why are there, like, farmers from the Balkans, South Africa, Nigeria, India reaching out to us? Because there weren't that many out farms."

For its first round of public-facing training programs, Rock Steady received 350 applications for eight spots. "And then we were like, 'How can we not do this?'" said Cheney.

"The current food system is not working," they said, pointing to what happened at farms across the country during COVID-19, when whole fields of food were getting composted because of labor shortages and transportation breakdowns. "I think we need as many creative approaches to growing food as possible, especially given climate change."

And for that, they said, "there's something to be said about the LGBTQ community and people of color, there's like a sense of reciprocity and collaboration and because we're marginalized people. When you're marginalized, you often have to have a lot more creative solutions to problems because you're the one who's usually experienc-

ing the worst of it, if that makes sense.

"A lot of us at Rock Steady have faced, like, housing insecurity, have faced food insecurity. We know what it feels like to stand in line at a food bank," they said. That makes the farm incredibly well-equipped to actually serve those food banks. "We want that experience to be dignified, to have the highest quality food possible and to build relationships with those who are in that community.

"Not everyone can get it in the same way. And I think the more farmers that we have who are from marginalized backgrounds, the healthier and more grounded our food

system will be."

As Rock Steady Farm continues to grow, its focus remains on fostering understanding and creating bridges. Its success in securing varied and significant grants not only highlights the effectiveness of its work but also paves the way for a more inclusive and just approach to agriculture and community building.

Cheney commented: "Rock Steady wants to communicate beyond those of our own identity. It's important to engage with a diverse audience. Some identity politics can be harmful, and we see the change that can happen in communities when you build bridges."

BLACKMAN *Continued from Page A1*

open space."

Residents also sought improved communication with the town, Blackman said. "Residents are frustrated that they don't have much idea what's going on in town, and there are 21st-century solutions for that," he added.

"We also need to do a better job of having more transparent discussion among the Town Board members, encouraging public participation at public hearings, and replying to all constituent calls or emails received," Blackman said.

Asked to reflect on what he has learned about the town, Blackman preferred to expand the view to include the past two years.

"There is a vast range of income, from real poverty to great wealth," he said. "Many longtime residents are concerned about the rising cost of living here, and the potential financial impact of proposed infrastructure projects. A large number expressed deep unhappiness over past and future proposed large-scale residential developments," Blackman observed.

Anticipating the next several weeks of transition into the responsibilities of town

supervisor, Blackman said: "Having served on the Town Board for two years does help,

as I've observed the process up close, but there is still a huge amount to learn. I'm hoping that the fifth board member will have some institutional memory. I will be talking to our staff and consultants, reviewing potential new hires, making plans to implement and pay for improvements with grants. I'll also be thinking about ways to maximize the use of space at Town Hall."

"We are too small to have polling, so the winners are always a surprise," Blackman said of the election process.

"Having answers on election night would be less stressful, although I was certainly hopeful about my chances after talking to residents, as they seemed both supportive and ready for change."

Blackman and his husband Kenneth Monteiro retired four years ago to their now full-time home of 20 years in Wassauc. For 35 years Blackman had headed a small preservation architecture firm in New York City. His early years were in Rhode Island where he took his early schooling before moving to the city to earn his degree in architecture.

IMMIGRANTS *Continued from Page A1*

and nonprofit leaders.

"There's this entire ecosystem of care that's happening primarily by local partners, which, honestly, I am so in awe of and inspired by the way that we have come together," Tyer said in a phone interview.

Most of the newcomers are from Haiti. Around 33 people arrived late October in Great Barrington, then the rest arrived in Pittsfield earlier this month.

"They need absolutely everything," said Gwendolyn VanSant, founder and CEO of Multicultural BRIDGE, whose staff and volunteers are helping them in a variety of ways.

One organizer said that this influx isn't really so unusual. While it may appear dramatic because it was through the state's shelter program, it isn't out of the ordinary to have people, including migrants — either individually or in groups — arrive in the Berkshires.

"People come in every day who are vulnerable and we take care of them," said Deborah Phillips, director of Southern Berkshire Rural Health Network, which helps coordinate any direct help a person or group may

need. The network is also a part of BASIC — or Berkshire Alliance to Support the Immigrant Community — an organization that provides resources for everything from English classes to banking and transportation help.

Phillips said this particular group of new arrivals is complicated "by a lot of moving parts and the state's involvement," but otherwise are no different than all the other people — immigrant or not — who move to the county and need help.

A lot of resources are already baked into what nonprofits, schools and various agencies are doing, said state Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier, D-Pittsfield. Schools are regularly welcoming new students who may have just arrived from another country, so they have a system in place.

Farley-Bouvier said that the state has had to spread out its sheltering system.

"When it comes to the emergency shelter system, it became very clear that it was important to distribute sheltering throughout the state as opposed to having it just be, for example, in Boston," Farley-Bouvier said. "It was just our turn to do it."

As for the coming winter, Phillips and Tyer said warm clothing for the families in both Great Barrington and Pittsfield is being provided.

At BRIDGE, staff and volunteers are working to find culture-specific food and other resources similar to what BASIC provides. VanSant said United Way is also involved, and other organizations include Volunteers in Medicine, Community Health Programs, Southern Berkshire Rural Health Network and the Family Resource Center.

Tyer told The Eagle that she had started pulling the care team together when Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey said the government would need help from communities statewide, so that "on a moment's notice we could be ready."

And ready the city was, Tyer said, with the other nonprofits and agencies pitching in to provide "wraparound services" to the newcomers. This includes transportation for the families, since the state is not paying for that. The state is, however, providing "the safety and security of hotel accommodations" as well as the food service. At some point, the schools will step in and help families enroll children.

While Tyer would not say how long the state plans to pay for the shelter, she said it is long enough to help the migrants settle in.

"They don't have to stay in the system," she said. "If they have family or connections either in the state or in other places. They are free to leave the emergency assistance shelter system and go out on their own and find their way to a stable community life."

Tyer said her experience with the new families is that they are "resilient and hopeful" despite the hardship of their journey.

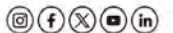
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

MUSIC: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Home is where the heart is

Every seat in the Great Hall of the Norfolk Library was full. The audience ranged from toddlers held in their parents' arms to gray-haired couples eagerly waiting to experience the music of the Dinuk Wijeratne Trio. Percussionist Nick Halley, bassist Jon Suters and Dinuk Wijeratne on piano, spent the next hour dazzling the grateful crowd with original compositions, superb musicianship and stories that wove a theme of "home" throughout the evening.

To award-winning composer, conductor and pianist Wijeratne — who was born in Sri Lanka, raised in Dubai, educated in the UK and at Juilliard, and now lives in Ottawa — home is many places: "Dubai was a melting pot of South Asian and Middle Eastern culture. Simultaneously I was being trained as a Western musician. I heard Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 randomly when I was 12, and then I was hooked. It was my first spiritual experience."

Wijeratne began the performance by saying: "Home is an ephemeral window in time, and perhaps the bittersweet quality of home is when we suspect that window in time has passed. I wrote this piece, "Homecoming," in 2015 as a commission for piano and oud for the opening of the Museum of Immigration in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was also the year I gained my Canadian citizenship."

Recalling the origins of his composition "Damascene," which was

performed by the trio in the library Nov. 13, Wijeratne smiled: "I had traveled with the great Syrian clarinetist, Kinan Azme. We spent a few magical days in his home city of Damascus. It was a very precious time; it seemed like time had stopped. We have all had that feeling when you are perfectly at home in a new, strange place. Is home a state of mind? Is it the people we love? Or is it purely geography?"

A world-renowned musician, Wijeratne made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2004 playing with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. He has been described by The New York Times as "exuberantly creative"; the Toronto Star called him "an artist who reflects a positive vision of our cultural future"; and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra referred to him as "a modern polymath."

Wijeratne has conducted the Calgary Philharmonic and the Qatar Philharmonic in Doha. His work "Two Pop Songs on Antique Poems" won both the 2016 Canadian Juno award for Classical Composition of the Year and the 2016 East Coast Music Award for Classical Composition of the Year.

For percussionist Halley, the performance was a return home. When Norfolk Library director Ann Havemeyer introduced the threesome, she noted that the first time she heard Halley perform in the library, he was 10, singing Beatles songs with Chorus Angelicus, a children's choir started in 1991 by his Grammy-award winning



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Jon Suters, Dinuk Wijeratne, and Nick Halley.

"It is meaningful to be back in Norfolk, and to feel the warm embrace of this special community."

father, Paul Halley.

Halley smiled and said: "It is meaningful to be back in Norfolk, and to feel the warm embrace of this special community. It is heartening to see so many familiar, gorgeous faces, everyone aging so gracefully. And the fact that they took the time to come and hear us, to support the amazing work that Eileen [Fitzgibbons] and Ann [Havemeyer] and the others at the library are doing makes this sort of homecoming that much more encouraging."

Fitzgibbons is the events coordinator and children's librarian for the Norfolk Library, all of whose music and arts programs are funded by The Norfolk Library Associates, which started in 1974.

Halley and his young family now live in Halifax, Nova Scotia: "By the time I got to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2008, Dinuk was already 'Halifamous' and well on his way nationwide. So



The trio performed a "home" themed show at Norfolk Library.

I heard a lot about him long before he showed up to a gig of mine. Of course, I was terrified of him at first, but soon discovered what a gentle, magnificent soul he is. Playing-wise, it was love at first sight: of course, being so rhythmically compelling along with everything else, his music is any drummer's dream, but I think he even liked me right off the bat, too."

In 2010 the young Halley founded Capella Regalis, a Canadian charity dedicated to training singers, which includes a boys choir, a girls choir, and a professional men's

choir, offering a free music education and performance program for children and young adults in Nova Scotia. In 2012, Halley was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contribution to Canada and Nova Scotia through the arts. For the 2013-14 season, Halley was the host of CBC's national radio program, "Choral Concert."

When asked about his dreams, Halley mused: "In one sense, I'm living my dream with Capella Regalis. I just want to keep building it. We've started an endowment,

for instance. I would like to take them to England. Bring some coals to Newcastle and such. There is so much music I love within that genre; we will never get through it in my lifetime. I want future generations of kids to continue encountering that world of beauty."

Suters is as tall as his standing bass. He lives in New Marlborough, Massachusetts, with wife Samantha Halley (Nick Halley's sister) and their children: "Each of my five children has been encouraged to play music and all of them have some facility with at least a couple of different instruments as well as vocalizing. We have homeschooled them all and music is a big part of our approach."

Suters plays piano, guitar, string bass, cello, didgeridoo, banjo, mandolin, lute, violin, trombone, saxophone, drum set and percussion, and steel drums.

Suters has taught at Berkshire Country Day School, Indian Mountain School, Salisbury School, and Simon's Rock of Bard College: "Teaching has enabled me to constantly go back to the fundamentals of music making



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mahaiwe.org or cewm.org


Continued on next page

COMPASS



PHOTO BY MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

FOOD: MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

Adding flavor to pork tenderloin

Pork tenderloin is very lean and can be quite bland. The sauce with this dish explodes with flavor and makes it a memorable dish.

Pork Tenderloin with Hot, Sweet, Sour Peanut Sauce

Pork Tenderloin
Recipe for a package of 2 tenderloins, about 2 lbs.
Serves 4-6
Trim bits of fat and

tendon from pork. Marinate for at least 1 hour in soy sauce or teriyaki sauce, lemon juice, lots of minced garlic and ginger, and peanut oil. Proportions are flexible. Grill over charcoal or in your broiler until cooked through, but don't overcook. Pork should be slightly pink in the center or it gets too dry. Tent with foil and let rest for 5-10 minutes. It will continue to cook a bit, so remove from heat

when it's a touch underdone.
Hot, Sweet, Sour Peanut Sauce
4 tablespoons (1/4 cup) natural peanut butter, salt-free and unsweetened
4 tablespoons soy sauce
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon firmly packed brown sugar
Up to 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper. This will be quite spicy, so start with 1/2 teaspoon and taste for

heat as you go.
3 to 4 tablespoons dried cilantro
Whisk all ingredients together and let stand for at least 1 hour. It should be a thickish sauce, so if it's too thin, add more cilantro.
If you like the sauce quite spicy, you can divide it into 2 parts and add cayenne to only 1 when serving company.
This is a bit skimpy for 2 tenderloins, so you might want to make a larger batch (1 1/2 times)

...where the heart is

Continued from previous page



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Wijeratne played the keys at Norfolk Library.

and demonstrate and talk about them with students. I teach bass guitar, drums/percussion, keyboards, fiddle, brass instruments, and this has helped me to understand the relationships between the different instruments in an ensemble." When asked about his musical influences, Suters replied: "I am also a classical guitarist and grew up listening to my virtuoso piano prodigy brother play all the greats, so basically everyone from Bach to Scott Joplin, plus the usual rock influences: Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, classic jazz greats like Miles and Coltrane and more modern ones like Pat Metheny and Herbie Hancock. Brazilian composers and musicians like Villa Lobos, Garoto, Paulo Bellinati, African artists such as Youssou N'dour, Ali Farka Toure, and Indian musicians such as L Shankar, Talvin Singh, and Shakti."

Suters has appeared on stage with James Taylor, Taj Mahal, Doctor John, Rickie Lee Jones, Martin Sexton, Madeleine Peyroux, Eugene Friesen, Paul Halley, Ed Mann (Frank Zappa) and Charles Neville of the Neville Brothers.

One evocative composition, "Chloe" by Wijeratne, is based on Italo Calvino's book "Invisible Cities." The composer illuminated the ideas behind the music: "Chloe reads like some bustling street scene, full of shady characters. There are twins wearing coral jewelry, a blind man with a cheetah on a leash — all very odd scenes. They don't speak. When I read that the city of Chloe 'has a voluptuous vibration to it,' I knew I had to write this piece. Calvino wrote, 'If everyone acted on their impulses, the carousel that is Chloe would come to a stop.'"

In each piece, the music flowed into the room like ocean waves,

rhythmic and soothing. Wijeratne played piano with crystalline precision and emotion, the bass of Suters poured through the notes like honey. Halley's wild percussions, played mostly with his fingers on drum kit, frame drums bendhir and riq specifically — "and the odd bells and whistles, doctoring up the kit with old shirts and weird stuff like that," laughed Halley — provided the structure beneath the music. Playing together, the three musicians created an instinctual harmony in a language unspoken.

Composer and philosopher Wijeratne explained the spiritual origin of each of his compositions. "Lebanese/American Poet Kahlil Gibran, in a poem called 'Upon Houses' from his book 'The Prophet' describes the home not as an anchor, but as the mast of a ship. At first the home is a place for consolation, safety and comfort. Thereafter, home becomes the beginning of a journey of curious exploration. I find that to be a beautiful sentiment, so I wrote this piece I call, 'Whose Windows are Songs and Silences.'"

The trio's final piece ended with an immediate standing ovation. Half-asleep children and their parents and grandparents were clapping; the players held hands and bowed deeply. Fitzgibbons, who organized the event, felt the concert "was an exciting evening full of complex chords and improvisations... wrapped around with old friends and new."

The combination of global musical traditions, jazz improvisation, poetry and literary influences, musicians at the top of their game, and the warm "welcome home" from the Norfolk community created an evening no one will easily forget.

Cornwall Reads Cornwall

The Cornwall Library will hold its annual "Cornwall Reads Cornwall" event Saturday, Nov. 25, at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall, 24 Pine St. This event features Cornwall residents reading Cornwall writers.

In the past this has included local denizens, such as Blair Brown and Kurt Andersen, reading the work of local writers, such as James Thurber and Laurie Colwin. This year the library is looking across the pond:

the readers will be from Cornwall, Connecticut, but the writers will be from Cornwall, UK. The four featured writers will be the droll and witty poet John Betjeman, the spellbinding novelist Daphne du Maurier, best known for her 1938 bestseller "Rebecca"; the famous spy novelist John le Carré, known for his fictional Cold War character, George Smiley; and the groundbreaking modernist Virginia Woolf, known for her luminous novel, "To the Lighthouse." All these writers have written from or about

the beautiful, wild and remote county of Cornwall, England. Is there is a cultural connection between the two Cornwalls? You decide. The readers of this splendid literary array will be local Cornwallians: teacher and illustrator Jonathan Arnold; writers Jane Garmey and Roxana Robinson; and Canadian interloper Duncan Webb, who has mended his ways and become an engaged local resident. The distinguished radio producer Kerry Donahue will be master of ceremonies. This event is in-person only, and advance registration is required. Register at cornwalllibrary.org

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THEATER: EMILY EDELMAN

Sharon Playhouse brings home Berkie

The world is in such a tumultuous place right now, and I feel that it is so paramount for us to continue to tell the stories that both reflect on the world and also represent a bit of respite," said Allyn Burrows, artistic director of Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., as he accepted the award for Outstanding Production of a Play on behalf of his Company at the seventh Berkshire Theatre Awards Monday, Nov. 13, at Zion Lutheran Church in Pittsfield, Mass.

The Berkies, as the awards are affectionately known in the local theater community, are accolades for "outstand-

ing" achievements rather than the traditional "best" seen in many awards lists. "I don't think there is anything called 'best' in the theater," said Berkshire Theatre Critics Association (BTCA) president J. Peter Bergman. "But what is 'outstanding' is what you can't forget. And that's what we award for: things that are so special that you just can't forget about them."

This year's ceremony was hosted by Bergman along with board member Macey Levin, whose long career in theater includes a 14-year stint as artistic director of the former Salisbury-based Aglet Theatre Company.

There were ties in several categories this year, including Outstanding Production of a Musical, which was shared by Barrington Stage Company of Pittsfield for "Cabaret" and Sharon Playhouse in Connecticut for "Something Rotten." Carl Andress, Sharon Playhouse's artistic director, accepted the award, saying, "'Something Rotten' at our theater was truly something spectacular, as with all the work that is being honored here tonight, and we just couldn't be happier to receive this."

BTCA held its first awards ceremony in 2016, the idea of the organization's late founder,



PHOTO BY EMILY EDELMAN

Representing Sharon Playhouse at the Berkshire Theatre Critics Awards Monday, Nov. 13, at Zion Lutheran Church in Pittsfield, Mass., were, from left, Carl Andress, artistic director; Rod Christensen, managing director; Emily Soell, board president; and Michael Kevin Baldwin, associate artistic director and director of education.

Larry Murray, who was also the inspiration for the Larry Murray Award for Community Outreach

and Support Through Theater, which was given this year to Jean-Remy Monnay, founder of the

Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate New York.

"When I started the company," Monnay said, "I was one of probably four or five Black actors in the area. I said, 'The local theater companies have to do better, have to be more diverse.'"

In 2012, Monnay launched his first big production and said he "didn't know if I was going to find seven Black men to do it... Today, to go around, to see three or four theater companies doing all Black plays, all Black actors, it's a great thing to see."

Emily Edelman is on the board of the Berkshire Theatre Critics Association

ART: JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Art in the Loft at the Millbrook Winery

Whether you're there for the art, the wine, the ambiance, or for all three, Art in the Loft at the Millbrook Winery is always a good place to be, and this year, the 23rd since it began, was no exception.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, the air was too chilly to spend time in the vineyard or on the patio, but inside, it was warm and friendly — the food by Simply Gourmet was grand and music by The Swing Vipers was swinging!

A collaboration between Millbrook Winery and Arts Mid-Hudson, a number of art pieces are chosen each spring and judged by a juried panel to hang on the walls of the gallery at the winery. Visitors not only enjoy seeing the artworks, but they vote on them, as well.

With a point system of three points for first, two points for second and one point for third, the votes are tallied in November and the winners are announced at the Art in the Loft reception held at the winery. On that day, 20% of all wine sales purchased by reception guests is donated to Arts Mid-Hudson, a nonprofit group that has been active since 1964.

David Bova, general manager and vice president of the winery, recalled the history of the Chateau Mouton Rothschild, the celebrated French vineyard, and its tradition of having leading artists design its labels, starting with Jean Carlu in 1924. In 1945 it resurrected the idea and had young, unknown artist Phillippe Jullian design a label celebrating the Allied victory and

the return of peace. Miro, Chagall, Braque, Picasso, Dali, Francis Bacon, Jeff Koons and King Charles of England among others are some of the artists who have since designed labels for the French winery.

Bova said that it was this Rothschild tradition that inspired him, along with marketing director Stacy Hudson, to form the partnership with Art in the Loft. Art in many forms can be submitted, although the majority are paintings in different mediums as well as photographs.

There were 16 artworks hanging in the exhibit. Bova said that over 20,000 people had visited the winery this year and a total of 2,400 votes made. Hudson added that seven out of the 16 paintings were sold prior to the judging, to be picked up after the winners were announced.

The winner not only gets the recognition, but the winning artwork is made into a label for a special wine, and for each bottle of wine bearing that label, the artist will receive 10% and Arts Mid-Hudson will get 10% of the sale.

This year's winner was Linda Lavin of Rhine-



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Art in the Loft first-place winner Linda Lavin with her painting "Starry Night."

beck for "Starry Night," a print on giclee canvas. She is an occupational therapist who has been painting for about 10 years, and is inspired by color. Not always certain about what her subject will be, she is inspired by color and shape, and said her work is an appropriation — it has been a real process. Her work received 759 votes.

Second place went to Arquimedes Mejia for "Winery Lake," an oil on canvas, with 615 votes.

Third place, with 470, went to Maureen Lohan-Bremer for an archival pigment print titled

"The Mighty Hudson."

The Millbrook Vineyards and Winery is located at 26 Wing Road.

For more information about Arts Mid-Hudson go to www.artsmidhudson.org

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COMPASS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER 24

Benefit Concert for Prime Time House

Battell Chapel, Battell Road, Norfolk, Conn.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, Nov. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Battell Chapel in Norfolk for a concert featuring Michael Cobb performing family-friendly rock & roll with his band Sasquatch Inc. Also performing will be singer-songwriter-guitarist Julia Autumn Ford. There is a suggested donation of \$10 to benefit the mental health programs at Prime Time House.

Tree Lighting

Cornwall Bridge, Conn.

The Cornwall Association will host the annual tree lighting in Cornwall Bridge on Friday, Nov. 24. Guests are invited to take part in the seasonal merriment beginning at 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 25

FFA Holiday Store

246 Warren Tpke, Falls Village, Conn.

The Housatonic FFA's Holiday Store is open for business starting Saturday, Nov. 25. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Dec. 22. Come and get your holiday trees, wreaths, poinsettias, cheese and more before they sell out.

DECEMBER 1

Comedy Night

Colonial Theatre, 27 Railroad St., Canaan, Conn.

Laugh it up and help out a worthy cause when "Friends From Work: 10 Years of Comedy" hosted by veteran hometown comic Ronnie Reed comes to the Canaan Colonial Theatre on Friday, Dec. 1. The fun night of adult humor will also include long-time stand ups Jerrold Benford, Dan McRitchie and an appearance by Vemilo Evergreen. A portion of the profits will be donated to Fishes and Loaves, a Canaan food bank. Tickets (\$27 each) for the two-hour laughfest are available online at canaancolonial.com/public-events. Doors open at 7 p.m., show runs 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2

A Christmas Carol: Marionette Performance by the Puppet People

Roeliff Jansen Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, N.Y. roejanlibrary.org

On Saturday, Dec. 2 from 3 to 4 p.m., The Roeliff Jansen Library in Copake, N.Y. will host a spectacular marionette performance of Charles Dickens's classic tale, A Christmas Carol, presented by the Puppet People. This puppet spectacular features beautifully handcrafted marionettes, shadow puppets, gorgeous masks, lavish costumes, vivid sets, a professional soundtrack that includes

many holiday favorites, a giant 9-foot parade puppet, and guaranteed smiles! Experience this literary masterpiece that reaches far beyond the holiday season. For more information see www.roejanlibrary.org/library-calendar

Books and Bling Sale!

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Friends of Scoville Library (FSL) are hosting their 3rd annual 'Books and Bling' during the Merry & Bright Salisbury Hometown Holidays weekend. Donated jewelry and present-worthy books and puzzles will be for sale upstairs in the Library. Downstairs, the FSL stacks will be open for additional book buying. All proceeds benefit children and adult programs at the Library.

Old Time Dance

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn.

Come jingle your bells to contras, circles and squares on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Cornwall Town Hall. Live music by Kitch n Sync with a caller teaching all of the dances. Beginners and left feet welcome, no partner necessary. Non-electronic donation requested to pay the caller. For more information call Debra at 860-672-0229.

Annual Christmas Fair

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

Shop local crafts and vendors, baked goods, and attic treasures at the UCC Parish House Annual Christmas Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. There will be a basket raffle, apple pie contest, crèche display, and soup/chili take-out. Pre-ordered wreaths will be available for pick-up. To order, call the church office at 860-672-6840.

DECEMBER 3

Holiday Market

4 Brook St, Lakeville, Conn.

The Lakeville Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary Holiday Vendor Market is Sunday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the firehouse, 4 Brook St. in Lakeville. Unusual gifts, food and fun.

BOOKS: JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Baron talks Trump, Bezos and The Washington Post

It's pretty certain that Jeff Bezos, Donald Trump and a host of other world-famous people remember Martin Baron as editor of, first, The Boston Globe, and then The Washington Post.

Some of the most important stories over the past 25 years crossed his desk. He made the decisions concerning what was printed and what wasn't, always with integrity, fairness and the evidence to back it up.

Baron was at Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook on Wednesday, Nov. 15, for a talk and a book signing for his book "Collision of Power. Trump, Bezos, and The Washington Post." He began his talk by introducing the fact that, after only seven months as editor at The Washington Post, it was bought by Jeff Bezos. He also described a dinner at the White House with newly elected president Donald Trump, relaying the fact that Trump would speak disparagingly of the paper and then jab Baron with his elbow.

In spite of the fact that there was a president in power who had campaigned against the media and who, all through his tenure, waged war against the press, The Washington Post wrote groundbreaking news, including covering stories about the NSA surveillance in the U.S., and the scandals that took place at the Secret Service.

The book is written in a straightforward, factual manner, with the journalist's desire to answer all questions and the editor's wisdom in knowing how to handle a barrage of information. The outcome leaves one satisfied, but not overwhelmed with unnecessary information.

Baron talks about people we have only heard about but wish



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, author, journalist and editor Martin Baron with Merritt Bookstore owner of Kira Wizner and lawyer Nicholas Diamand.

we knew, and some others we know about and wish we didn't. He gives us insight into how the media works, and what happens when it doesn't work the right way. He even had tidbits about other newspapers and media that make it really interesting and gives one a feeling of knowing much more when we finish the book than when we started it. In some places it's dark; in others, it's fun.

One of the most interesting parts of the evening was during the questions asked by the audience and mediated by lawyer and Merritt friend Nicholas Diamand. When asked what Baron considers his "best" work, he answered that the assignment he handed over to a team of journalists in 2001 when he was at The Boston Globe will always be the most


important. That was the expose that brought about the investigation into the abuse, by defrocked priest John Geoghan, of more than 80 young boys. This, in turn, brought about the unmasking of the extent of the abuse by many other priests in many other places, and investigations are still going on today. That story ended up being made into the award-winning movie "Spotlight."

Questions were also asked about the future of print newspapers; Baron stated that, 20 years ago, he thought they had about 10 years left. He feels that they are existing now on borrowed time.

He does see a future for news and journalism in the digital age, as media becomes digitalized as the norm. Things are recorded as they happen, in real

time, and can be seen immediately. More and more newspapers have begun to print less and less often, and most no longer deliver. Baron thinks that at some point, most newspapers will only print on Sundays, and the format will be more magazine than newspaper.


With that said, it's a fascinating journey to read his book, to note the changes over the years that he wrote about, and a wonderful bonus is two sections of color photos in the book with people you will recognize. Also a bonus is Baron's personal and up-close observations of people we all know and love or love to hate, and his insights as to why things may have happened as they did. It's current, but it looks back just a bit while giving one a peek into the future.



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OUR TOWNS

CCEDC assesses its 2023 impact in Dutchess County

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
juthith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Over 100 people attended the 110th annual meeting of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) at its Home and Farm Center Thursday, Nov. 16.

A collaboration of Cornell University, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the state of New York since 1913, CCEDC combines research, teaching, and outreach to address local issues including nutrition and health issues, community and financial development, and energy efficiency.

Recent years have brought about forums on protection from ticks, Lyme disease and other modern catastrophes, plus ideas on solar energy and



PHOTO COURTESY NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER

From left: Marcy Latella, CCEDC Executive Director Mary Lou Carolan, Heather Ohlson and Angela Sullivan speak at the annual breakfast and meeting at the CCEDC.

ecological responsibility.

At the meeting on Nov. 16, guests enjoyed a hot breakfast of eggs, French toast, sausage, bacon and other assorted items. Executive Director Mary Lou Carolan spoke about Impact 2024 and her

belief in three key principles of CCEDC programming: connection, collaboration and community. "We're turning a new page," she stated.

She expressed her feelings about how these elements fulfill a number of both life and

work goals, and how they fit into the vision for a transitional role for CCEDC. This included bringing back, refining and restructuring the programs, improving communications, especially regarding agritourism, locally grown produce and Taste of New York at Todd Hill.

CCEDC is also looking to offer internships and to foster lifelong learning.

This was followed by two women who shared how CCEDC had impacted their lives. Tomasine Oliphant, an educated professional, had come to the organization as a volunteer many years ago. She said that at the CCEDC she felt, for the first time, a sense of belonging, of being a part of something greater than herself.

By bringing diversity and new programs to CCEDC,

she said, she can help empower families and individuals by through teaching. She is also an instructor at SUNY Dutchess' human services program.

Samantha Brittain first came to CCEDC's Green Teen program as a teen; today, she is its manager.

President Lacie Reilly presented the Honor of the Year Extension Award to Matthew Shayly for the hoop house he built at the farm center in which to hydroponically grow tomatoes. The hoop house, a round wooden structure with a "skin" over it, allowed him to grow the tomatoes for a food bank in Poughkeepsie, St. Thomas Pantry in Amenia, and a few others.

Shayly, formerly in construction, went to college where he rediscovered a love

of gardening, and through that, could also fulfill another passion. This past year, Shayly became a Master Gardener, the CCEDC's class of elite agricultural educators who advise and teach community members on environmentally appropriate plants and practices.

At CCEDC, he built a hoop house. He had some help from friend Nilson Prislavina, and next year he will build a second hoop house so they can feed even more people and possibly diversify their crops.

Carolan closed the meeting by thanking the outgoing members, volunteers and staff. There were certificates of appreciation, and then the centerpieces created by one of the Master Gardeners plus several gift baskets were won by guests in a series of raffle drawings.

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Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornernews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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