



Updated
listing of
local food
pantries **A7**



Towns
consider
develop-
ment **A3**

StepCrew stomps; Savoring the Schlock; And More **B1-2**



By MAUD DOYLE
maudd@millertonnews.com

RED HOOK — Dutchess County Executive Susan Serino delivered her first State of the County address — and slide show — in the darkened auditorium of Red Hook's High School last Thursday, March 14.

Before Serino herself took the stage, Red Hook High School student Nora Callaghan-Jurgens sang

Attendees were asked to stand to hear Desiree King sing the national anthem and to pledge allegiance to the flag and the republic for which it stands.

Attendees were asked to remain standing for the prayer, delivered by Apostolic Bishop Debra E. Gause of Holy Light Pentecostal Church, Poughkeepsie. After inviting the Heavenly Father to be the "esteemed honored guest" at

"Father caused this county of Dutchess to be the leading county of this region," she said. "Help each of us to do our fair share and find ways to embrace our differences."

Serino's address consisted of some 7,000 words spoken over

See THE COUNTY, PAGE A2



PHOTO BY ILLA HAWKER

From left, Chris Klingner, first lieutenant of the Rescue Squad, Dawn Marie Klingner, Rescue Squad captain, and Zachary Klingner, second lieutenant, and Chris and Marie's son. The 100%-volunteer EMT squad operates within the Amenia Fire Company.

By JANNA SILLER
Special to The Millerton News

DUTCHESS COUNTY, N.Y., and LITCHFIELD COUNTY, Conn. — "Installations are increasing every day," said Charlie Lillis, who co-owns L&L Mechanical in Goshen, Connecticut, with his wife, Lisa. Two years ago, the Lillises added heat pumps to the propane- and heating oil-based systems they install and service. Today, heat pumps comprise about 80% of the installations they do.

Many homeowners and businesses in the region are switching their heating and cooling systems to electric air-source heat pump

"They're definitely saving money. People call saying, 'I'm not paying for oil anymore and my electric bill didn't go up too much.'"

—Charlie Lillis, co-owner of L&L Mechanical

technology.

They are distinct from ground-source heat pumps, which are more expensive, and from the more historically common HVAC systems used in the region like boilers, furnaces and air conditioners.

Local contractor Jason Lemon is having a similar experience: "I use them all the time. I just put two in the newly renovated Terni's building in Millerton, and used them in what used to be the Falls Village

Gift Shop.”

Heat pumps are single electric appliances that can heat, cool and dehumidify. They absorb heat energy from the air and transfer it from one place to another, pulling heat out of a building in summer and into it in the winter, even when outdoor temperatures are at their coldest.

Heat pumps can rely on ducts to

See ELECTRIC, PAGE A8

By **NATALIA ZUKERMAN**
nataliaz@millertonnews.com

ANCRAM — "I love fishing, but this is the first year I said, 'I guess it's time to stop hunting,'" said town resident Mary Leitch, which wouldn't necessarily be a noteworthy statement in and of itself, but Leitch is 101 years old.

Leitch was born Mary Mechare on Oct. 8, 1922. Her father was a mason and contractor who worked at the Borden's milk factory in Wallkill, and her mother "took care



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Mary Leitch



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Our Towns.....	A2
Legal Notices.....	A3
Obituaries.....	A2, A4
Opinion.....	A5

Our Towns	A6-7
Compass	B1-4
Classifieds	B5
Specialist Directory	B6

About the Editorial;
Columns; Letter **A5**



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OUR TOWNS

THE COUNTY *Continued from Page A1*

40 minutes — “Probably longer than I’ve ever spoken,” noted the executive as she closed in on the final sections.

With a paean to cross-aisle cooperation and community outreach, Serino directed her words at what she described as the county’s “affordability crisis,” which she noted has only gotten worse since the pandemic:

“I have to tell you, I talked to so many seniors who are living on this income, a less than \$20,000 a year. Just wrap your head around that. It’s those seniors and so many other individuals who are struggling to make ends meet. It’s them I’m thinking about every time I’m faced with a decision in the county,” she said.

“You know, when I think about our children and our grandchildren, my goal is to make Dutchess County a place where they want and can afford to live, not one that they want to leave.”

While the affordability crisis cropped up throughout the speech, it was only directly addressed by one initiative: the launching of the Dutchess County Food Security Council in partnership with Dutchess Outreach and the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. Serino said, of developing children’s opportunities:

“We need to focus on issues outside of the classroom, and at the most basic level. Our children need to be free from hunger to be successful.” Dutchess County pantries have reported a record number of “individuals seeking resources,” she said.

The Council will work by “bringing the right people to the table to provide guidance to policymakers on how best



Dutchess County Executive Susan Serino delivered a 7,000-word State of the County address at Red Hook High School Thursday, March 14.

to address hunger,” she said.

Her administration will also be focusing on getting young people to work, through training programs in the trades and by partnering with Wappingers Central School District on a “Career in the Skilled Trades” job fair.

Serino recalled talking with county youth “about careers like plumbing and welding — and wow, just seeing their eyes light up about the possibilities and opportunities that come with a career like that,” she said.

She also asked, “How do we empower our workforce to help parents?”

Mental and behavioral health

In her various roles, Serino, who lost her brother to suicide, has consistently concerned herself with mental health.

In Poughkeepsie, her administration is dividing the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health into two: a com-

munity health department to be run by current DBCH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado, and a separate Mental Health department to be led by Jean-Marie Niebuhr.

Serino announced the county’s support for two treatment centers — the Dutchess County Stabilization Center in Poughkeepsie, a partnership with People USA, which just became the first licensed Supportive Stabilization Center in New York State, and the Empowerment Center, also in Poughkeepsie — and for the Oxford House group, a line of sober houses.

Serino also emphasized her administration’s reliance on law enforcement to deal with mental health and drug-related homelessness as well as the county’s addiction crisis.

The slide illustrating law enforcement pictured a couple small bags of pale powder, a couple guns, and a Drug Task Force Police patch that featured a hooded Grim Reaper.

EMS crisis

Another heavily emphasized topic of the address was the county’s EMS crisis.

“Our team has made it a top priority to create a plan to help solve this crisis, and we’ve developed a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue and are getting started on the first step now,” she said. “We’re currently looking for interested agencies who can help fill the points of service by offering supplemental coverage.”

She also emphasized recruitment: “We also need to empower a shrinking workforce and think creatively to recruit and retain talent,” she said.

Seniors and conclusion

Fittingly, her discussion of senior living was one of the final segments.

Serino remarked at one point that “by being mindful of the obstacles our neighbors are facing and addressing them head on with practical and common-sense solu-

tions.”

One of her preferred practical solutions is job fairs and job training pipelines — to address EMS shortages, opportunities for young people, mental health issues and increasing accessibility for people with disabilities.

Another preferred solution is volunteer peer-to-peer support programs — for trauma responders, for veterans (Vet2Vet) and, for seniors, the Friendly Calls from within the Office for the Aging (OFA).

She also announced a new grant that will expand ride services offered in partnership with OFA.

“I’ve heard from countless seniors about how difficult it can be when they no longer drive, specifically when it comes to finding rides to medical appointments.”

She went on to announce that her administration “will

be working with partners to find additional ways for seniors to enter the workforce again. I want to do with seniors a trade event,” she said. “Isn’t that great?”

She concluded her address, “Our community truly is a great place to live and work, and by working together, I know we can do so much more.”

The full text and video of the speech can be found on the county website: www.dutchessny.gov

Corrections

An article on Page A2 of the March 14 edition of The Millerton News incorrectly identified John Haynes.

An article on Page A6 of the March 14 edition of The Millerton News incorrectly identified Craig Wickwire.

OBITUARY

Arline D. Ward

LAKEVILLE — Arline D. Ward, 88, of Lakeville, died at home early in Dec. of 2023. She was the daughter of Walter and Jenny Ward of Fairfield. She is survived by a nephew, Timothy Ward of Fairfield. She is predeceased by a brother, Walter Ward Jr., who died in 2022.

She attended nursing school in New York and was

director of several nursing homes in New York City. Before moving to Lakeville she lived in Stamford, Connecticut.

She will be sadly missed by her friends at the Lakeville Senior Center. Special thanks to the Salisbury Family Services for their care and concern for Arline.

Funeral services will be private.



For more obituaries, see page A4

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Town of North East

Developers interested in Boulevard District possibilities

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special To The Millerton News

NORTH EAST — One of the major changes sought by the North East Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) is allowing the possibility of mixed-use development in the Boulevard District on Route 44, east of the Village of Millerton.

In recent months, that conversation has included developers like Charlie Bendit, the co-chief executive officer of Taconic Partners of New York City, who has attended several ZRC meetings.

“We’ve let every developer around here know that they can attend these meetings and bring their thoughts,” said North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan.

“We use them as a resource, because they’re very knowledgeable,” said ZRC Chair Edie Greenwood.

Bendit, who owns a house in Salisbury, was introduced to the development possibilities in North East by Peter Braus, a commercial real estate broker; Braus’s firm is the retail leasing agent represent-

ing Bendit. The pair were the developers interested in the site of the former Millerton supermarket before discussions were broken off with the owner, Skip Trotta.

During the public comment section of ZRC meetings, Braus and Bendit have described a proposal to build three low-rise buildings on Route 44 with retail close to the road and multifamily structures in the back. Any actual site acquisition would be contingent on having access to a sewer system, they said.

Included in their preliminary plan are 60 rental units in all, with six or more affordable units. The inclusion of affordable housing will depend on the subsidies and tax relief programs that become available, and the development group is potentially willing to include 10% or more affordable units for renters with 60% of AMI (adjusted median income). Plans remain in the conceptual stage.

During public comment periods they attended, they have made suggestions to the ZRC from the perspective of real estate developers.

They have urged selectivity in mandated requirements and explained that the apartments, which would be financially feasible to build, would have two bedrooms, not three bedrooms, which are not economic, or studio apartments, which have limited demand. They also inquired about whether or not indoor recreation facilities might be permissible in the district under the new zoning codes.

Asked to comment on whether the ZRC is listening to their suggestions, Bendit replied: “The ZRC has been very supportive of the types of mixed-use development plans that we have proposed. They have been very focused on seeing development on Boulevard East.”

The general public is welcome to attend the meetings in person at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall every second and fourth Monday of the month.

Those interested in learning what the ZRC does at their bi-weekly meetings may consult the minutes posted on the Town of North East website at townofnortheastny.gov/meeting-minutes-agendas

Washington’s hospitality redistricting to consider natural resources

By JUDITH O’HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Councilmember Leslie Heaney introduced the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) map and recommended its use in revising the hospitality overlay district at the Washington Town Board meeting Thursday, March 14.

The overlay district will regulate where inns — a legal category that includes motels and small hotels — can be operated.

Hospitality rezoning progress to date

The review of hospitality zoning codes began in spring of 2021, with the appearance of Will Guidara’s application to transform Migdale Castle into a hotel and spa. The proposal caused an uproar among local residents horrified by the potential disturbance of the pastoral acreage of Mabbettsville — at times, town Zoom meetings hosted nearly 2,300 people.

The incident also led to the review of the town’s Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2015; the town hired Nan Stolzen-

berg and her consulting firm, Community Planning & Environmental Associates of Berne, which conducted forums, surveys and meetings in an effort to determine what would or would not be acceptable to the residents as far as hospitality was concerned.

The process, which began in fall of 2021 continued through February 2023, when the new plan, with its revised hospitality proposals, was adopted.

In February of this year, the town adopted the NRI, which is intended to protect environmentally sensitive areas from development.

The NRI will be incorporated into the zoning code as part of the overlay district special permit revision, said McCullough, Goldberger & Staudt LLP, the law firm representing the town.

The Village of Millbrook was kept in the loop throughout the entire process and was invited to be part of the discussion, as traffic, water usage and foot traffic in the village would be impacted by the number of hospitality rooms permitted under the revised overlay district.

According to surveys and

the new Comprehensive Plan, only two properties in the overlay district that are commercially zoned, and could become inns, could accommodate more than 20 rooms, and the maximum count is currently estimated at 100 rooms.

The overlay district will only permit accessory dwelling uses that are incidental and secondary to the main use.

Next Steps

What remains of this hospitality overlay saga is a Public Hearing at next month’s regular Town Board meeting on Thursday, April 11, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

On the town website, the committee working on the Hospitality Overlay District has posted on answers to public comments and questions, the map of the overlay district, and other available information for public perusal.

Town meetings can be followed on YouTube, via the Town website, www.washingtonny.org



PHOTO BY JUDITH O’HARA BALFE

Town of Washington recreation director Danielle Szalewicz, left, presented Maureen Porrell Annual Basketball Awards to Leif Spafford, second from left, and Claire Zmudsky, right. Jason Zmudsky, second from right, is president of the Recreation Department board.

News From The Town Of Washington

— New town historian:

The new Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook historian, Peter Barry Devers, was officially sworn in by Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs. Devers, a longtime resident of Millbrook, is taking over the duties of newly retired town and village historian David Greenwood, who served for over 20 years.

Devers read a poem, “Dash” by Linda Ellis, which meditates on the dash connecting birth and death dates on gravestones as the piece that counts: the life between the dates.

— Rec. Department’s basketball awards:

Recreation director Danielle Szalewicz presented the annual Maureen Porell Basketball Awards to Clair Zmudsky and Leif Spafford, 11-year-old members of the Town of Washington’s recreational basketball team, for always giving 100% to their games as well as for showing the utmost respect for coaches, referees and other players.

— Veteran’s tribute:

At the Town Board meeting Thursday, March 14, Commander Alec Pandleon of American Legion

Post 739 in Pleasant Valley paid tribute Marine veteran Louis C. Spagnola Jr. He spoke of Spagnola’s years of service, but also the fact that he had had more than 60 years of continuous service in the American Legion. Granted permission to pin a 60-year acknowledgement pin on Spagnola’s widow, Carol Spagnola, Pandleon did so.

Send news tips to editor@millertonnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Jennings Cabin LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/26/2023. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to John Bolus, 112 E. Chestnut Hill Road, Litchfield, CT 06759. Registered Agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served: Anthony C. Palumbo, 365 Dover Furnace Rd., Dover Plains, NY 12522. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

02-22-24
02-29-24
03-07-24
03-14-24
03-21-24
03-28-24

Amenia seeks volunteers

AMENIA — The Town of Amenia is seeking volunteers for a number of positions within town government.

The positions are: Recreation Commission member, a term that expires Dec. 31, 2024; one seat on the Water District Committee; one seat on the Wastewater Committee; and one seat on the Conservation Advisory Council.

All volunteers must be Amenia residents. Anyone interested in applying for a position may send a resume and letter of interest via email to dmklingner@ameniany.gov or via mail to Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501. Applications are due by noon Wednesday, April 3.

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With an early spring, our black bears will begin to emerge from their dens and become active. As their population numbers climb, so does the risk of human interaction with them increase. While their normal habitat is in the woods, they are opportunistic, so if bird feeders and food are left out, they will be attracted to your home. And if they have found it to be worthwhile, they will return and you will have made some very large new friends, as I can attest! So the best practice for living with bears is simply not to have any food that is tempting, like bird seed, be available outside. The CT DEEP has put out a very educational publication on understanding their behavior and how to best coexist with black bears. Please visit this site for more information: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Black-Bear

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OBITUARIES

Raymond F. McEnroe III

MILLERTON — Raymond F. McEnroe III, 73, a lifelong resident of Millerton, passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, alongside his immediate family members. Mr. McEnroe was a fourth generation dairy farmer who owned and operated McEnroe Organic Farm in Millerton.

Born on Jan. 18, 1951, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Raymond F. McEnroe, Jr. and Barbara (Pitcher) McEnroe. Mr. McEnroe was a graduate of Webutuck Central Schools and later received an Associate’s Degree from SUNY Cobleskill. On June 2, 1973, in Oxford, New York, he married Sharon Noetzel who survives at home.

Ray’s lifelong farming passion started in the late 1950’s with a purchase of a registered 4-H Holstein calf, the first on his home farm. This first purchase catapulted him to being one of the top domestic and international cattle marketers in the 1970’s and 80’s which brought him from coast to coast making deals and meeting people along the way. His love of storytelling would bring his five boys around the kitchen table for hours listening word for word of his travels and thought process.

In the late 1980’s, when dairy farming was at its peak, his innovative mind, large risk-taking ability and desire to grow one of the best-tasting tomatoes lead him to move away from dairy farming and begin the lesser-known commodity of organic farming. Ray had a keen sense of farming practices and is considered a pioneer of organic farming. With support of his family, he grew the farm from a single card table selling sweet corn on the side of the road to one of the largest and most diverse organic farms in the state.

Norman David Schnall

SALISBURY — Norman David Schnall of New York, New York, and Salisbury passed away on Feb. 22, 2024, at the age of 86. Son of the late Max and Rose (Rothberg) Schnall, Norman was deeply loved by his wife of 58 years, Carol (Singer) Schnall, who predeceased him in April 2023. Norman is survived by his children, Marianne (Tom Kay), and Eric (Shax Riegler); his grandchildren, Jazmin and Lotus Kay; his sister Sylvia; his niece Amy and nephew Barry; and many relatives and close friends.

A lifelong New Yorker, Norman was born in the Bronx on July 9, 1937, and was raised in Brooklyn. He was a graduate of Stuyvesant High School and New York University. He served as an advertising executive at J. Walter Thompson, Wells Rich Greene, and Dancer Fitzgerald Sample, where he was deeply involved in the creation of several iconic advertising campaigns. Lat-



For 35 years Ray and his wife, Sharon, have enjoyed traveling to the island of St. Maarten, which have led to many new friends and extended family from across the globe. In his final years he became a resident of the island and enjoyed his recently renovated garden.

Mr. McEnroe was a well-respected leader and served on numerous boards and committees throughout his life. He was a founding member of Hudson Valley Fresh and former member of the Town of North East Town Board. He was a member of the NY Holstein Club, the Dutchess County Fair Board, Millerton Agway Co-Op Board and St. Maarten Yacht Club.

In addition to his loving wife, Mr. McEnroe is survived by five sons, Sean R. McEnroe and his wife, Milena, of Denver, Colorado, Erich McEnroe and his wife, Halina, of Amenias, Ryan T. McEnroe and his wife, Jennilyn of Oden-ton, Maryland, Kyle McEnroe and his wife, Karissa, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Wade McEnroe and his fiancée, Rebecca, of Millerton. He is also survived by a brother, Timothy McEnroe of Millbrook; two sisters, Lee McEnroe of Millbrook, and Patricia Letterio and her husband, James, of Beacon, New York, and ten grandchildren; Martina, Donovan, Maxium, Daniel, Jason, Adeline, Cora, Greta, Bennett and Pepper.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at the Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY with the Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a maple tree be planted in memory of Ray. To send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com



er in his career, he worked alongside his wife, Carol, as Vice President of Specialty Products Company, which supplied oils and lubricants to the glass container industry. Among his many talents, he was a painter, a composer, and a talented pianist who studied at Tanglewood.

Norman loved animals, volunteering at the Audubon Center in Sharon, and at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He was an active and informed citizen, always up to date on recent news and politics, and was passionate about progressive causes. He was a voracious reader who loved traveling and the arts from the theater to the opera, to museums. Norman was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather who was known for his quick wit, love of desserts, and singular intellect. He will be greatly missed. Donations may be made to WNYC and WQXR at wnyc.org/schnall

For more obituaries, see page A2

Send obituaries to johnnc@lakevillejournal.com

Anne Clifford Kremer

LAKEVILLE — Anne Clifford (Connery) Kremer, a retired social worker and independent bookstore owner, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend to many, died unexpectedly and quickly from an intracranial hemorrhage on Feb. 18, 2024, in Belmont, California. She was 82 years old and had recently moved to Northern California to be near her daughter, Sarah, and son-in-law, Jeff Haber. She was preceded in death by her husband, William “Bill” Kremer and son Joseph Kremer. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, daughter-in-law Julie Kremer; grandchildren Nathaniel and Olivia, and step-granddaughter Hana. She leaves behind sisters-in-laws, Frieda Brody and Natalie Kremer, nieces Ilise Kremer, Jill Feinstein, Ellen Brody Olson, and nephews Steve and Keith Brody.

Anne was born on May 17, 1941, to George and Marie Connery in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her family relocated to the Washington, D.C. area when she was 2, where her father worked as a journalist and editor of The Washington Post. Her mother, also a journalist, was a homemaker after Anne was born. Anne attended Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York, where she studied chemistry and literature, graduating in 1962. After college, she worked at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C., as a lab technician. While there, she met Bill, a clinical associate researching cancer, who later became an oncologist and hospice medical director. They married on May 7, 1965, in Durham, North Carolina. Anne and Bill actively protested the Vietnam War and advocated for civil rights, causes that they continued to support throughout their lives. She completed her master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Joe and Sarah were born in 1968 and 1969.



The Kremer family moved to Lakeland, Florida, in 1975, where Anne designed and worked in programs that provided support for families at risk for child abuse. These prevention and early intervention programs supported hundreds of families in Central Florida through her work in foster care and adoption, parent support groups, crisis nurseries, parent home visits by volunteers, and child abuse prevention services. In 1984, she was one of 12 people honored by Florida Gov. Bob Graham for efforts to identify and address child abuse issues. She was a longtime member of the National Association of Social Workers. In 1994, Anne opened an independent bookstore, Mosswood Bookshop, in Lakeland, with a partner, where they successfully hosted author talks and built a literary community for six years. In addition to many accomplishments with child abuse prevention, Anne also served in leadership roles with the Polk County Democratic Party and gun violence prevention efforts in Florida. She also continued to be an anti-war and peace activist. After retiring in 2006, Anne and Bill moved to Lakeville, Connecticut, to be closer to Joe and his family. There, she became involved in affordable housing issues, eventually serving as president of the Salisbury Housing Committee for 10 years where she raised significant amounts of money through donations to match state funding for new affordable housing units. In 2022, Anne was given a lifetime achievement award from the Litchfield Center for Housing Opportunity.

A former co-worker described Anne as having “an unquenchable spirit and belief in the inherent value of people. She helps people help themselves and doesn’t give up on them.” She was also called a “mover and doer at the grassroots level. Not many people can do what she does.” When asked how she benefited from her volunteer work, she said, “The people. I’ve made so many supportive friends that I am forever grateful for.”

Bill and Anne’s focus on helping others made a deep impression on both children. Joe supported young people as a college basketball coach and high school advisor; Sarah has worked as an art therapist with adolescents and currently works on a project to provide free and accessible mental health services to youth.

Anne is well known for her other passions: spending time with her family

and grandchildren, cooking gourmet food from cultures around the world, traveling with Bill and friends, doting on her dogs and cats, and her love of reading. Reading allowed her to have empathy for others, as she once said, “Literature helps you see other people’s points of view.” Anne was a true people person and remained a social worker at heart, listening with an open heart to her many friends, colleagues and home health aides alike.

She was an intellectually curious, loving, opinionated, caring soul who brought so much to so many. She will be greatly missed as an elitist community activist, force of nature, tireless advocate for children and families, and great friend.

A celebration of life will be held for Anne in Half Moon Bay, California, on March 24, and in Lakeville, Connecticut, on May 4. Donations in her honor can be made to the Salisbury Housing Committee. www.salisburycthousing.org/about-salisbury-housing-committee



Worship Services Week of March 24, 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. <i>Transitioning through prayer</i> All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God’s shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
St. John’s Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) <i>In-Person and on You-Tube</i> www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290	Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville <i>Offering companionship along the Way</i> Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español al mediodía (12 pm) el último sábado de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God’s people</i> 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	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT <i>Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons</i> The next meeting will be Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com All are Welcome
Congregation Beth David <i>A reform Jewish Synagogue</i> 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-573-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	Chabad of Northwest CT <i>On the Green</i> 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach <i>A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount.</i> <i>We are here for you, welcome to the family!</i> WINTER SCHEDULE Sunday 10:30 AM - Hebrew School Wednesday 8:00 PM - Parsha In My Life How The Weekly Portion Relates to ME! Thursday 11:30 AM - Women’s Tea & Torah Saturday 9:30 AM - Shabbat Services Followed by a Congregational Kiddush Children’s Camp Jewish Newspaper Smiles on Seniors Cteen YJP
The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School <i>“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”</i> The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH <i>Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk</i> St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green <i>Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits</i> 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	UCC in CORNWALL <i>Cornwall Village Meeting House</i> Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister <i>Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</i>
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour <i>A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!</i> 860-824-0194	The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. <i>Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</i>
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	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
Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service <i>“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”</i> Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com <i>We hope you will join us!</i>	All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us
Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT <i>Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!</i> Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org	
Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138	

An Appreciation

Anne Kremer

Anyone who spent time with Anne Kremer knew that they were in the company of a force of nature, and a force for good. She was generous, amusing, and deeply committed to the causes of her life: civil rights, social justice, and, to the lasting benefit of our town, affordable housing.

Anne and Bill Kremer moved to Lakeville in 2006 to be near their son Joe, who worked at Hotchkiss. Joe moved away, but Anne and Bill stayed on. Anne, who had a career as a social worker and then had a bookstore in Lakeland, Florida, soon joined the Salisbury Housing Committee. She led that

organization for 10 years, and transformed it. SHC will soon have 49 affordable rental homes.

Anne lost her husband and then her son in recent years, and her body was failing her. She moved to California in January to live near her daughter Sarah, and passed away suddenly last month.

Anne Kremer inspired all who worked with her. She was excellent company, whether it was the book club or a housing meeting. We will miss her wry humor and deep friendship.

Peter Halle
Salisbury

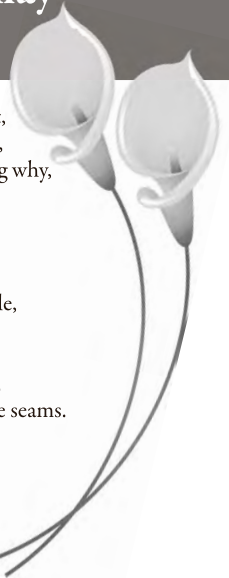


The MILLERTON NEWS
www.facebook.com/themillertonnews

36 Year Memory of Lynn and Gregg Lamay March 26, 1988

Thirty-six years, that just doesn’t seem right, Thirty-six years since we had our first night, Knowing you were gone, not understanding why, Why did two innocent people have to die? Life just sometimes doesn’t seem fair, Why would this world take away a pair, Of such young bodies, such pure souls, Thirty-six years since your absence left a hole, A hole in our hearts, a loss we can’t explain, Thirty-six years, but your memory remains, Forever in our hearts, always in our dreams, Our love for you indefinitely bursting at the seams.

We Love you Lynn,
We Love you Gregg,
Your sister and aunt Ruth,
Your nieces and cousins
Bobbie-Jo and Ruthanne



EDITORIAL

About the Editorial

Today, The Millerton News continues the tradition of The Editorial. In our recent history, before becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2021, we engaged in political endorsement — no longer, because of our new status. We were saved from the struggle to survive in a declining newspaper climate by our readers, who wanted their independent community newspaper. The industry as a whole has been sending The Editorial down the gangplank for a number of reasons. Gannett Co., the largest U.S. newspaper publisher by circulation, learned from its own editors a couple of years ago that readers don’t want to be told what to think. Gannett also heard that The Editorial is one of the least-read features, and worse, that readers have cited it as a reason to cancel their subscriptions.

In the 2016 presidential race, 57 of the biggest newspapers in the land endorsed Hilary Clinton while two picked Donald Trump, according to the American Presidency Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Gone are the days when an endorsement from a prominent newspaper would mean something, or when voters would clip The Editorial out of the paper and carry it along with them on the way to the poll. According to the American Presidency Project, in 2008, more than nine out of 10 of the country’s 100 biggest newspapers endorsed a presidential candidate. By 2020, only 54 issued an endorsement.

The Arizona Republic, a Gannett paper, decided to refocus its Editorial offering by publishing an opinion section in its print edition only three days a week. The disappearance of opinion content across many newspapers also has meant that the editorial cartoonist, a mainstay of newspapers for decades, has been marginalized. Last summer, in a single day, three Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonists were laid off, victims of the readers’ rejection of opinion.

As an independent community newspaper supported by readers, advertisers and our generous community, we are not guided by the kind of metrics that drive decisions at national media organizations. However, like many news organizations these days, we have fewer people doing the work compared to years past. Since 2005, the journalist corps at American newspapers has experienced massive — 60% — job losses.

Our goal is to remain relevant and interesting to our readers — and we work hard at it with our own modest stable of reporters and editors. Your letters and our viewpoint columns provide a rich lode of thoughtful content for our readers week in and week out, expressing opinions and putting a spotlight on the big issues of the day. Our Editorials will aim to be relevant and interesting, and to keep them that way, we will deliver them to you on a more periodic basis.

So, if you scan our Opinion page one day and don’t see The Editorial, it means only that we are busily occupied in other ways, reporting and editing the news, a tradition that is almost a century in the making and not going anywhere.

The Weight of Water

Decades ago, a lateral thinker explained the true cost of carrying a burden. Imagine you have a glass of water in your hand held out in front of you — it is important to hold it out for all to see. Is the glass heavy? Not really. You can hold that glass out without shaking. But imagine doing that for 20 minutes... can you feel the muscles asking you to move, change position? Now how heavy is that glass of water? An hour later, same position, your muscles are aching. Later on, the burden of holding out that glass of water becomes too much, your muscles are in spasm, numb, your brain is struggling to keep focus on holding that darn glass of water. You want to escape, have nothing to do with it.

A simple glass of water. Worries and stresses in life are like that. The actual problems we face are surmountable. Some will be quickly resolved, some will take a little longer, some never seem to go away. If quickly resolved, that glass of water is set down, forgotten. If the worries take a little longer, your muscles ache, dying to put the glass down, be rid of the burden of carrying it. For those worries that never seem to go away? Your stress is overwhelming, your muscles, mind, patience are in tatters, struggling to cope. Life becomes harder.

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

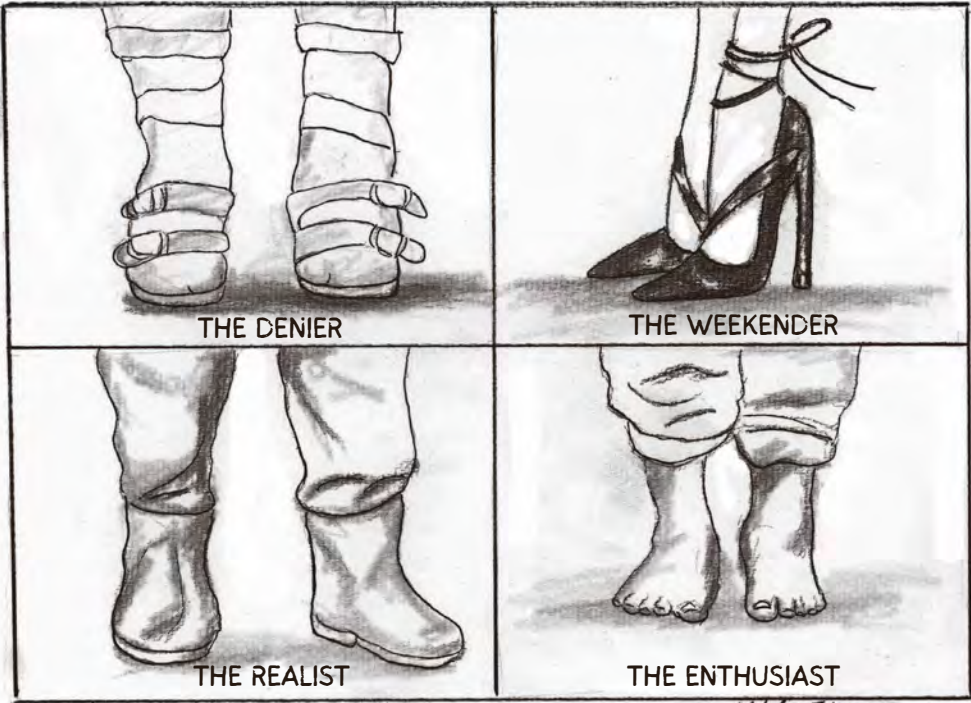
Every time you have any worry, or life seems overwhelming, the truth is that you are carrying that darn glass. Put it down. Even for a moment, put it down, relax, think about something else. When you need to pick it up again — especially if it is something you can resolve — it’ll be there but your muscles will have had time to recuperate, your stress will have abated. Reality is always better than worry, better than stressing. That political candidate that seems to want to take us all over a cliff away



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Enduring

HUDSON VALLEY MUD SEASON LOOKS



A Town Hall in reno, a Hall of Mirth in limbo

The following excerpts from The Millerton News were compiled by Kathleen Spahn, Vivian Sukenik, Nancy Vialpando and Rhiannon Leo-Jameson of the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

91 years ago: March 23, 1933
‘Worst Sleet Storm in Years Tears Down Power Lines’: The Harlem Valley has just experienced one of the worst ice storms in years and power lines are down in all sections of the valley [...] During the storm, cables were pulled off the insulators on the 33,000-volt line running from Smithfield to Pulvers Corners.

‘Millerton Dogs Win Prizes at Providence’: Three white collies from Millerton journeyed to Providence, R.I., last Friday [...] The collies were owned by Miss Ursula Densen and Miss Constance Bard [...] the three Millerton collies were quite fortunate in securing three first prizes to add to their laurels.

‘Westinghouse Display Truck in Millerton’: [...] W.L. Nisbet arrived in Millerton from New York City with a display truck of Westinghouse merchandise [...] the complete assortment of merchandise is

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

being exhibited at the store of J.B. Reed & Sons.

50 years ago: March 28, 1974
‘Town Hall Work Nearing Completion’: The renovation of the North East Town Hall on Maple Avenue is nearing completion, according to town supervisor Frank Perotti. The Town Board will hold its first meeting there in May [...] Supervisor Perotti asks that citizens make tax-deductible gifts to help pay for the decorating and furnishing [sic] the Town Hall. He has made the first gift by donating a vacuum cleaner.

‘Edward Downey Admitted to Practice Law’: Edward Downey of Millerton was sworn into the New York State Bar Association on Wednesday, March 20, in the Second Appellate Division Courthouse in Brooklyn, NY. Downey is admitted to practice before the courts of New York state. He is associated with the law firm of Davis

and Trotta in Millerton, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Downey who reside in North East Center.

25 years ago: March 25, 1999
‘Millerton Says Hello to Dr. Kristie Schmidt’: The Millerton community is on the move, medically speaking, as a new doctor associated with Sharon Hospital plans to open her office in the village next week [...] A fully renovated office [...] awaits its April opening. The entire space was gutted and replaced with a neatly refurbished interior. [...] “By keeping the overhead low, I can give more personalized service and spend more time with patients,” Schmidt said. Her affiliation with Sharon Hospital could translate into benefits for the whole town. Sharon is the best medical option for Millerton residents

due to its proximity and high quality of care, according to Schmidt. The only other hospitals in the area are in either Great Barrington, Massachusetts, or Poughkeepsie, a long drive away. “It’s important to have a Sharon-based doctor in town,” she said. She plans to have evening and weekend hours, catering to working people and weekenders.

‘Hall of Mirth Still in Limbo’: The fate of the former grange building on Route 22 in Millerton is still in legal limbo while a judge’s decision is on appeal. [...] The ZBA stated a clubhouse would be permitted in the disputed zone, but only if a special permit is obtained. The use of the building as the grange pre-dates the town’s 1977 zoning code.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanking community for its support

On Sunday, March 17, the Amenia Fire Company sponsored our monthly Pancake Breakfast. We were pleased to have a nice crowd of 147 people in attendance for our monthly meal. We rely on the breakfasts to raise needed money for general operations and we always appreciate the support of the com-

munity. We thank everyone who attended our meal, and we will return again for our final breakfast of the season on April 21. **Andy Murphy,** on behalf of the Breakfast Committee Amenia Fire Co. and Auxiliary Amenia

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OUR TOWNS

EMS Continued from Page A1

The 2021 Profile of Dutchess County EMS and Options for the Future is also rich with data, like 911 calls enumerated by town, season, month, week, day and hour. The study proposed incentives like tax credits and subsidized training to attract and keep EMS workers. It also advocated a regional approach to EMS in which towns would share costs of equipment and personnel, and the county — after obtaining a state-approved county Certificate of Need— would provide extra ambulances to fill in gaps.

The New York State 2023 Evidence Based EMS Agenda for Future made more than 20 key recommendations, including declaring EMS an essential service to assure dedicated state funding; adding 10,000 certified EMS providers in New York by 2025; and implementing measurable performance metrics that would be transparent to the public and standardized across the state.

“With the results of these studies and advice from the CAC, our plans are being made for the future,” Smith told the legislators. “The county has to come up with stopgap money right now. We’re looking at how to do that.”

Smith believes that the answer to fixing the county’s troubled EMS system lies in regional management. “It will help the taxpayer without putting small ambulance companies out of work and standardize the system so every town is doing the same thing,” Smith said. “It will give us time to figure out long-term funding.”

Two months ago, Smith distributed surveys to ambulance service providers in Dutchess County, seeking input about supplementing existing EMS coverage. “This way we’ll know where to place stopgap ambulances,” he said. Survey responses, due this month, will shape a formal proposal for extra ambulance service units under the direction of DCER.

“We’ve looked at Greene, Columbia and Montgomery counties,” said Smith, who is investigating different EMS models around New York. “We’ve seen Nassau County’s EMS: They spent a lot of money and they have a very fragmented system, I wouldn’t recommend it.”

Lawmakers beginning to act

With EMS stretched to its limits, elected officials, both at the county and state levels, are taking steps to help. The Public Safety Committee, DCER and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino are working together on long-range regional EMS planning that would address each community’s needs.

Drago told the Herald, “In the short term, I’m advocating for county-staffed ambulances to be placed to supplement existing service, with one ideally placed in District 19. This will help alleviate the struggle that exists town by town and ensure we have a way of getting people to care faster.”

The 2024 Dutchess County budget includes a sales tax increase from 3.75% to 4%, in part to subsidize EMS. It has yet to be approved by the state.

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed legislation last year to make it easier for ambulance services to get paid: Reimbursement will go directly from the health insurance company to the EMS provider. Mark Browne, president and chief operating officer of Northern Dutchess Paramedics, said: “It used to be that payment went to the patient, making it more difficult for ambulance companies to get their money. It took a lot longer than it should have. Unfortunately, this change won’t even take effect until January

of 2025.”

Hochul’s 2024-2025 proposed executive budget sets aside \$8 million to revitalize the state’s EMS and \$36 million toward improved Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance transport. It also grants Certificates of Need for county ambulance service, as recommended by the 2021 Dutchess County EMS study.

On Jan. 30, the New York state Legislature, in cooperation with EMS professionals and the New York State Association of Counties, released a package of bills called Rescue EMS, which contains seven proposals to revamp the system. “We are all aware that we need to help the emergency service [workers]” said Didi Barrett, assemblymember for New York’s 106th District, which includes parts of Dutchess and Columbia counties. “They put themselves in harm’s way every day. Finally, there’s enough critical mass in the legislature to get something done.”

Rescue EMS covers a wide variety of needs. The proposals are described by Barrett as “game changers.” One bill, if passed, would recognize EMS as an essential service, securing state and federal funding. It would also allow the creation of special tax districts to subsidize EMS services.

Barrett’s proposed legislation would allow volunteer firefighters and EMS workers to claim both state income and local property tax credits. “It will incentivize volunteer firefighter and EMS recruitment and retention,” Barrett said.

State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, who represents New York’s 41st District (which includes Northern Dutchess and Columbia counties, and portions of Ulster and Greene), is sponsoring a bill that provides Medicaid reimbursement for on-the-scene emergency care and ambulance transportation to non-hospital destinations, like urgent care centers and mental health facilities. It also would provide funding for telemedicine.

“Currently, EMS can only be reimbursed for treating Medicaid enrollees if they transport patients to a hospital ER, even if EMS has already provided the necessary care,” Hinchey told the Herald. “We cannot allow this status quo to continue.”

The remaining bills focus on funding and increasing the emergency workforce. Proposals include removing EMS from the property tax cap so towns can raise taxes more than 2% annually; increasing personal income tax credits for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers from \$200 to \$800 for individuals and \$400 to \$1,600 for joint filers; creating a way to increase the amount of Medicaid ambulance reimbursements paid; and dispensing with tolls for emergency transport on New York thruways.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are pushing for the Rescue EMS package to be included in the state budget, which is due April 1.

DCER supports the legislative package. “The bills address the major roadblocks faced by EMS; it’s a good start,” Smith said. “We still have a lot of asks, so we’ll just keep advocating. EMS needs recognition and support. We need to develop solutions that are patient-centered, consistent, reliable, affordable and sustainable for Dutchess County residents. It’s neighbors helping neighbors.”

This is the second article in The New Pine Plains Herald’s two-part exploration of the challenges facing local EMS systems, reprinted with permission of The New Pine Plains Herald. To see the first part in the series, visit www.newpineplainsherald.org

Amenia holds hearing on timber harvest operation

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

The Planning Board held open a public hearing on a timber harvest operation proposed for property at 4754 Route 44 at its regular meeting Wednesday, March 13.

Town forester Christopher Prentis represented Turkey Hollow Inc. to speak about the plan. Because he is the forester for the harvest-

ing work, Prentis indicated that he recognized that the project would need a certified forester to represent the project before the Planning Board.

The project affects about 10,000 square feet of land to be timber harvested.

“This is a forest management exercise,” Andrews said. “Timber harvest is not clear-cutting.”

Scenic protection was

of interest to the Planning Board, noting that a small portion of the acreage to be harvested would be visible from a distance. Prentis indicated that if the Planning Board determines that the visible area would present a problem, he could avoid cutting in that area.

Prentis indicated that the trees being harvested are suffering from infestation by spongy moths, mostly oaks

in that category, and diseased hemlocks.

Two alternate certified foresters who could serve in his stead were recommended by Prentis to the board, which agreed to continue the public hearing and interview both candidates at its next meeting Wednesday, April 10. Once the board selects a candidate, the Town Board must consider and approve the hire.

Troutbeck proposes next two construction phases

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — With the first phase of the Troutbeck Adaptive Reuse planning at completion, the Planning Board heard a presentation reviewing site plans for the next two phases at its regular meeting Wednesday, March 13.

Phases two and six were described by Peter Sander, representing RENNIA Engineering Design of Dover Plains. He explained that phase two consists of improvements and rerouting of the service driveway off of Leedsville Road, including a gravel lay-down area that will eventually become a gravel parking lot. Under phase two, a hedgerow would be planted along Route 343 to mask fruit trees from view as well as a construction staging area that will be installing a new septic area.

Phase six, which would have included construction of an 86-seat restaurant, has



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Troutbeck is a boutique hotel in Amenia.

been scaled back, Sander said, to eliminate the restaurant and convert an existing structure to accommodate lodging while also solving additional parking needs. Because parking plans are included in both phases, it made sense to combine the two, Sander said.

Planning Board member Nina Peek asked about planning for the phase two road improvements, determin-

ing that the road would be converted to two-way traffic with entrance and egress onto Leedsville Road. Plans for septic installation were also of interest to Peek, who asked about the connections between the main manor house and the planned septic area that would be uphill.

Sander responded that the effluent flowing from the manor house would be separated, the solids being captured in a holding area and the liquids being pumped up to the septic field. He said that the current septic arrangements are augmented by an existing pump. Sander specified that the orchard plantings would not be in the septic field, but rather in the septic reserve area.

Town engineer John Andrews enumerated several points of information that must be provided to the Planning Board, including additions to the original stormwater plan, an

expanded environmental review plan, county approvals for the wastewater plan and better coordinated planning sheets, citing inconsistencies in lighting plans, for example. He asked for plans that would show minimal lighting impact and he wondered about the location of the gravel parking lot.

For phase two, Andrews asked for designation of a vehicle turning area and a better drawing of the trash area’s configuration to the rear of the manor house. He asked for a fencing plan for both the contractor parking area and the construction staging area.

Drainage plans for the Leedsville Road entrance were also of interest to Andrews, who said it was not clear whether paved aprons were planned for the entrance.

Peek asked for a timeline guide for the construction work, recalling residents’ concerns about hours-of-operation protections.



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OUR TOWNS

Area food pantries providing community necessities

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

In view of rising costs for life's necessities, especially for older residents or families with children, local food pantries stand ready to help. Volunteers are friends and neighbors who may benefit from the existence of the pantry or they may be people who simply want to lend a hand by helping their communities.

Groceries and fresh produce can be just out of reach for families on a budget that struggles to stretch far enough. It might not be all the time, but sometimes a bit of local assistance can make a big difference.

Periodically, The Millerton News looks in on the area food bank programs and updates readers on availability, location, hours and other details. While we try to be accurate at the outset, sometimes hours might change, so it is best to call ahead before visiting.

Understand that these locations are staffed by volunteers who want nothing more than to welcome their neighbors with a warm smile and good wishes. Volunteers are always needed to keep the pantries up and running smoothly. Donations of a few hours of time, groceries and funds are always welcome.

Millerton/North East
Location: North East Community Center (NECC), 51 South Center St. Phone: 518-789-4259, ext. 124. Email: foodaccess@neccmillerton.org. Hours: Every Wednesday, 3-6 p.m. and Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The NECC Food and Supply Pantry offers groceries and household supplies to local residents prioritizing nutrition. Member: Regional Food Bank of New York. Partnered with Glynwood Foundation's Food Sovereignty Fund and its partnership with Rock Steady Farm and Chaseholm Farm to offer fresh vegetables, grass-fed yogurt and beef. Volunteers needed: Yes. Donations needed: Yes. More information: www.neccmillerton.org

Location: NorthEast-Millerton Library — two programs. The Little Library Pantry at Veterans Park, at the intersection of Main Street and Dutchess Avenue. Hours 24/7. Take what you need, leave what you can. Also, the Little Free Grocery at the Library, 75 Main St. Phone: 518-789-3340 or submit an order

at www.nemillertonlibrary.org for pickup at the library. Residency requirements: No. Volunteers needed: No. Donations needed: Yes, online or to P.O. Box 786, Millerton, NY 12546.

Amenia
Location: Sun River Health, 3360 Route 343. Phone: 845-476-9343. Dutchess County Outreach Mobile Food Pantry. Hours: Every Wednesday, 2-5 p.m. Supported by a grant from Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and additional support from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Residency requirements: No. Volunteers needed: No. Donations needed: No.
Location: Vine and Branches. Immaculate Conception-St. Anthony's Parish Catholic Church, 11 Lavelle Road. Phone: 845-373-8193. Nonperishable food items. Hours: Third Saturday of each month, 10-10:30 a.m. Residency requirements: No. Volunteers needed: No. Donations needed: Yes.

Amenia Union
Location: The Food of Life/Comida de Vida Food Pantry, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 40 Leedsville Road. Phone: 845-373-9161. Emphasis on fresh produce and nutritious foods, organic, locally sourced. Bilingual support staff/volunteers. Hours: Fridays, 2-5 p.m. Residency requirements: No. Volunteers needed: Yes. Go to www.stthomasamenia.com to sign up to volunteer. Donations: Yes. For information, email: contactus@stthomasamenia.com

Ancramdale
Location: Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association at the Presbyterian Church Hall, at the intersection of routes 8 and 82. Phone: Jack Lindsey, 518-329-7306 or Hila Richardson, 917-414-8270. Hours: Mondays, 5-6 p.m. Call for an appointment. Residency requirements: Ancram Township. Volunteers needed: No. Donations: Yes.

Copake/Hillsdale
Location: Roe Jan Food Pantry, 2684 State Route 23, Hillsdale. Phone: Betty White, 518-441-2789. Hours: Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon. Emergencies: any time. Residency requirements: Taconic Hills School District, ID suggested. Volunteers needed: Yes. Donations: Yes, at IGA Market, 2628 Route 23, Hillsdale, or



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

The refrigeration van at Sun River Health offices in Amenia serves the community as part of the Dutchess County Mobile Food Pantry program.

to P.O. Box 475, Hillsdale, NY 12529.

Pine Plains
Location: United Methodist Church, 3023 Church St., P.O. Box 511, Pine Plains 12567. Phone: 518-398-7692. Hours: Second Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon. Residency requirements: Pine Plains Central School District, with proof of residency. Volunteers needed: No. Donations: Monetary, food and toiletries. For information, go to www.pineplainsepiscopal.org
Location: Willow Roots Food Pantry, 7730 South Main St. Hours: first and third Saturday of each month, 10-11 a.m. Thrift Store, same hours. The Giving Box at the Pine Plains Library has drinks, snacks and food items. Phone:

518-751-0164. Residency requirements: Pine Plains Central School District. Volunteers needed: Yes. Donations: Yes, send to office at 23 North Main St., or go to www.willowroots.org

Millbrook
Location: Food for Folks, Lyall Memorial Federated Church, 30 Maple Ave. Phone: Emergency Pantry, 845-242-6508 for an eligibility appointment. Meals on Wheels, 845-677-4235, leave a message. First Harvest Pantry, May through October, Tuesdays, 8-10 a.m., until supplies run out. Fresh produce from Stonewood Farm.

Dover
Location: Center of Compassion Food Pantry, 52 Mill



Volunteers at the weekly Friday food distribution program at The Food of Life/Comida de Vida Food Pantry at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Amenia Union serve a community of neighbors.

St. Phone: 845-877-9076. Assistance available by appointment, Monday through Friday. Offers food items and household supplies. Volunteers needed: Yes. Donations needed: Yes. Supported by a grant from the Regional Food Bank of the Hudson Valley.

Lakeville, Connecticut
Location: Corner Food Pantry, 80 Sharon Road. Phone: 860-435-9886. Hours:

Distribution is on Friday from 3 to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. Residency requirements: No. Volunteers needed: Yes, from both New York and Connecticut. Go to www.thecornerfoodpantry.org/get-involved to donate or volunteer or call the pantry and leave a name and phone number. Regular drop-off for donations is Friday, 9-10 a.m., but there is a container in the garage.

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PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

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ELECTRIC *Continued from Page A1*

disperse heated and cooled air, or wall-mounted units called mini-splits. They are more efficient than boilers and furnaces, and they do not require propane or heating oil. Some property owners use them as supplemental HVAC units while others replace their fossil fuel-based systems with heat pumps entirely.

“We have an older forced air system in the building,” said Meg Sher, director of the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Connecticut, “but mini-splits do the main job of heating the library’s big main room.”

Carissa Unite, store manager at Oblong Books in Millerton, said that eight wall-hanging mini-splits were installed there last year, some on each of the store’s three floors. The new system is very popular among the booksellers who spend their days in the historic building.

“The middle-grade section used to be an oven in the summer,” said Oblong Junior’s children’s bookseller Therese Stanford. “Now that we have the mini-split down here, the store stays evenly cool throughout the summer, and warm in winter. Customers stay longer.”

Rebates and federal tax incentives make the cost of in-



PHOTO BY JANNA SILLER

Carissa Unite, manager at Oblong Books in Millerton, with one of the store’s electric ductless mini-split units for dispersing warm or cool air, depending on the season, using air-source heat pump technology.

stalling heat pumps competitive with boiler, furnace and air conditioner installations. Lillis found that with last year’s rebates, it was cheaper to install a heat pump system than a traditional air condi-

tioner. This year’s rates are a little lower and Lillis is finding the cost to be about even for both.

“Customers in many cases can be eligible for rebates of up to \$4,000. It depends on

the size and type of system that is installed,” said Ricardo Jordan, energy efficiency manager for Eversource, the electricity delivery company operating in northwest Connecticut.

Jordan recommends that customers interested in exploring heat pumps go to the EnergizeCT website, a collaboration between the state and utility companies to increase electrification statewide:

“Residents can schedule a no-cost consultation with a heat pump specialist through EnergizeCT to learn about rebates and incentives, to ask technical questions and to find qualified contractors. Our Home Energy Solutions Program can provide homeowners with an in-home assessment of energy savings options for their space and can bring in a certified heat pump installer to conduct an assessment. There is additional support for those who are income-eligible.”

As for his sense of whether customers are seeing savings on their energy bills, Lillis said: “They’re definitely saving money. People call saying, ‘I’m not paying for oil anymore and my electric bill didn’t go up too much.’”

When asked about the cons of a heat pump system, Lillis had trouble thinking of any. “With a heat pump, the temperatures coming out of the vent are a lot lower than oil or gas systems, so it will take longer to heat up an already cold house,” Lillis said. “It’s best to leave the system set at a consistent temperature.”

While heat pump systems are known for being quiet, the compressor outside needs to be thoughtfully placed, as it can make noise like a traditional air conditioning compressor.

“Tens of thousands of heat pumps have been installed in Connecticut,” said Jordan. “Customers are telling us that they want this in their homes, they want to go off fossil fuels. Because of that demand, we have developed programs to help people navigate the process. There is a network of trained, qualified contractors listed on our website who know how to work with our programs.”

Pine Plains solar hearing canceled

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The New York State Supreme Court judge in charge of the lawsuit brought by residents opposed to the Tier 3 solar project at Pulvers Corners canceled a Tuesday, March 19, court hearing.

Judge Anthony R. Molé of Putnam Supreme Court issued the cancellation order Tuesday, March 12.

The resident group, known as Preserve Pine Plains, is seeking an injunction against the solar farm project, proposed by Carson Power LLC of New York City. It filed an Article 78 action against the Pine Plains Planning Board and developers of the project, which envisions a 10MW complex consisting of 24,000 solar panels on farmland at 454 Bean River Road.

Article 78 proceedings put the action of an official or agency under review by a court.

This case was recently assigned to Judge Molé after several other justices recused themselves from the case for various reasons. Justice Gina Capone, who previously had been assigned the case, had scheduled the oral arguments.

“The attorneys are advised that the Court will review the fully submitted motion papers and determine if oral argument is necessary for disposition of the motion,” Judge Mole wrote in a court notice. The judge also indicated that conducting an oral argument “is discretionary”

and added, “should it deem oral argument necessary, the Court shall fix an appropriate date and time with advance

notice.” Since the petition was filed by Preserve Pine Plains Dec. 27, 2023, more than 120 documents have been submitted by sets of attorneys representing both sides of the case.

Mindy Zoghlin of the Zoghlin Group LLC in Rochester represents Preserve Pine Plains.

The town is represented by Warren S. Replansky. Alicia R. Legland, an attorney with Hodgson Russ LLP, represents the developers named in the case: Pulvers Corner Solar 1 LLC, Pulvers Corners Solar 2 LLC, Nexamp Inc., SolarEIT 1-A LLC and Carson Power.

Others named are: Carol Giardino, Diane Weck, Lucie M. Giardino and John Does.

The group claims the Town Board failed to take a “hard look” at “significant adverse impacts” with respect to community character and town planning documents. It also claims the Planning Board failed to take a “hard look” at the project’s impacts on plants and animals and on aesthetic resources and “ignored identified areas of environmental concerns.”

The town and the project say in responses filed with the court that the “Planning Board fully considered the potential impacts on forested lands and potential for property value impacts prior to making its State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), Special Use Permit, and Site Plan determinations for the proposed solar energy facility.”

The defendants further say that there is no evidence of negative impacts on property values as claimed by the resident group.

LEITCH *Continued from Page A1*

of us kids.”

Leitch had two brothers, and a twin sister, Florence, and the four of them walked to and from the Irondale Schoolhouse on Route 22 every day. One of 14 single-room schoolhouses in the Town of North East from 1858 to 1930, the Irondale Schoolhouse was restored and relocated in 2013 by the Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse to its new site at the Millerton entrance of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

Up and down Winchell Mountain Road and across Route 22, the Mechare children made the trip back and forth to school — “rain or shine or snow,” said Leitch — often stopping at Mrs. Finkel’s Candy Store on the way home. Their teacher was Mrs. Gladys Cook Woodnut, or substitute teacher Mrs. Boucher when Mrs. Woodnut was sick, and Leitch recalled that at 9 a.m., eighth grader Billy Hoig would ring the school bell. He also got to light the potbelly stove that was located in the middle of the room surrounded by student desks.

Leitch shared, “They closed the schoolhouse, so all classes transferred to Millerton High.” Leitch continued: “I don’t think there’s anybody living that I went to school with, even high school. I didn’t know too many in Millerton. They were different. They didn’t like the idea, I guess, that a small school like that would transfer to their school. They were above us,” she laughed. Leitch was shy and said that older children would bully her but, she said, she learned to fight back: “I’m a country girl!” she cried.

In the summertime, most of the young people “got jobs at the laundromat or cleaning houses,” said Leitch. “We didn’t get too far from home.” She described her one and only trip to New York City, traveling by train from Millerton. “I went to New York for vacation with my twin sister and some friends, but I only stayed overnight,” she shared. “I came home. I didn’t like New York City. I think we were supposed to go for two weeks, but one day was enough for me.”

Leitch met her late husband, William Leitch, through a hunting friend. “I didn’t get married until I was 38. I was

the last in the family to marry. So everybody gave up hope,” she laughed. The couple didn’t have children. William Leitch was “a horseman,” and Mary Leitch became a nurse in the 1950s.

She worked for a few years at Sharon Hospital before moving on to Wassaic State School, where she worked for 19 years. At its peak in the 1950s, Wassaic State School housed 5,000 patients. Established to alleviate overcrowding at other facilities in New York City and Long Island, it opened Jan. 7, 1931, as one of five new statewide facilities established to house and work with individuals with developmental disabilities. It operated on a complex in the Town of Amenia hamlet. Prior to the New York Department of Mental Hygiene’s acquisition of the property in 1926, it consisted of three separate farms.

“In ‘61, I retired and then I stayed home,” said Leitch. “I started taking care of people, private duties and stuff like that, and then I finally gave it up for sure.” After her retirement, Leitch and her husband spent 11 winters in North Carolina, returning to Millerton in the summers. “We used to go to the racetracks,” she recalled. “We kept busy. We had good times.”

Leitch was raised Catholic, but said her parents let their children decide what they wanted to do in terms of church attendance. Leitch’s parents were members of the Methodist church in Millerton but when Leitch’s father passed away, he was visited by Bishop Gerardo Colacicco of St. Joseph’s, a Catholic church in Millbrook.

Leitch then decided she wanted to return to the Catholic church, and after taking some classes from the bishop, began regularly attending Sunday services at St. Joseph’s. The Rev. Hartley Bancroft, who took over for Colacicco in 2020, shared: “When you come to a place, she’s one of the great people that provide a living memory for everyone

else. She is just a really sweet, very, very loving lady. She has a care for the health and goodness of everyone else around her. Her love for those who are around her, and her care for them, is very strong.”

When asked what she prays for, Leitch shared, “I pray for good health and to take care of my friends and all good stuff.” And Leitch certainly has a lot of friends. With incredible speed, she is still able to rattle off the names of her many friends and the folks who regularly visit her, including a nephew who lives in Millerton.

She also remembers stores and establishments with a startling clarity: “I remember going to the A&P with my mother, God rest her. Mr. Whalen was the man who ran the A&P. And I remember the drugstore. Mr. Strong owned the drugstore. He had a daughter, Betty. There were two drugstores in Millerton. Strong was up by the Moviehouse, and down the street next to the diner was the other and then there was the paper store. Mrs. Percy had the paper store. Of course, Dutchess Auto has always been there, and the railroad station. And next to the diner was the other drugstore.

“And where the big restaurant is across main street, that was Dr. Hoag’s house. He was our doctor, too. He made house calls on a horse and wagon. He used to come to the house if we were sick, and I used to go out and sit in the carriage with him and he’d let me hold the horse’s reins. Then they bought a car and he said, ‘What should we name it?’ He always gave us kids candy, so we called the car ‘the candy car’ when he came up.”

Leitch still cooks, sews and even drives her own car. She shared: “My father passed away, God rest him, when he was 78. My mother was 108 when she died.” Asked how she would feel about living that long, Leitch said, “I feel good. I move around. I keep going, God bless.”



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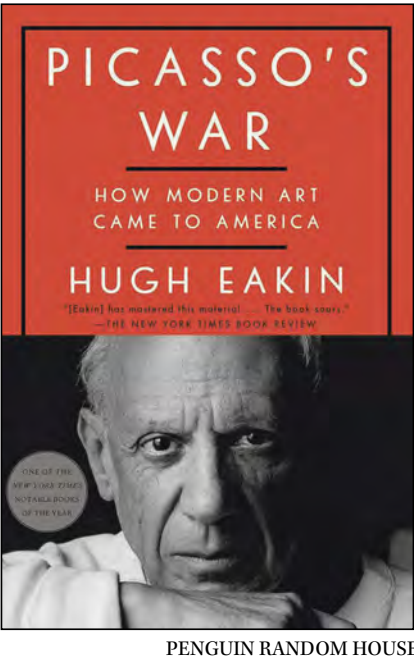
Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Picasso’s American debut was a financial flop

‘Picasso’s War’ by Foreign Affairs senior editor Hugh Eakin, who has written about the art world for publications like The New York Review of Books, Vanity Fair, The New Yorker and The New York Times, is not about Pablo Picasso’s time in Nazi-occupied Paris and being harassed by the Gestapo, nor about his 1937 oil painting “Guernica,” in response to the aerial bombing of civilians in the Basque town during the Spanish Civil War. Instead, the Penguin Random House book’s subtitle makes a clearer statement of intent: “How Modern Art Came To America.” This war was not between military forces but a cultural war combating America’s distaste for the emerging modernism that had

flourished in Europe in the early decades of the 20th century. Eakin was present at The Norfolk Library Saturday, March 16, for a conversation with Robert Dance, author of the 2023 biography “Ferocious Ambition: Joan Crawford’s March to Stardom,” a member of the library’s board of directors and a trustee of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford. The event was a “bonus” part of the Haystack Book Festival, a program presented by the Norfolk Foundation — delayed from the event’s 2023 October panel discussions due to



scheduling. Eakin and Dance’s conversation touched on the 1913 Armory Show in New York City. Also known as the International Exhibition of Modern Art, the Armory Show was a groundbreaking event

and marked the inaugural showcase of modern art in the United States. It served as a pivotal platform, acquainting American audiences — for better or worse, per the conservative attitudes of the day — with prominent European avant-garde figures like Marcel Duchamp and Henri Matisse, catalyzing a profound shift in the landscape of American art. “The one thing to keep in mind is that images circulate easily today, so we’re even familiar with art that we haven’t seen, but the opposite was true 100 years ago,” Eakin said at the Norfolk Library. “Everything had to be seen, you had to confront it, and there was a scarcity, especially of new art. Access to art-



COURTESY OF THE HAGUE
Picasso's 1910 oil painting "Femme et Pot de Moutarde" ("Woman with Mustard Pot") was shown at the 1913 Armory Show in New York, Boston, and Chicago. The Chicago Tribune reported a viewer commenting, "But how did the mustard pot survive after such evident mutilation of the lady's features?"

DANCE: MIKE COBB

StepCrew stomps Norfolk Library for St. Patrick’s Day



PHOTO BY MIKE COBB

StepCrew performed to a sold-out audience at the Norfolk Library Sunday, March 17.

As legend has it, St. Patrick was brought to the Emerald Isle when he was kidnapped by pirates and enslaved. Though he eventually escaped, he returned and advanced Christianity throughout the island, according to his short biography, the “Confessio.” Today, Patrick is regarded as the patron saint of Ireland, and the day is celebrated with religious feasts and services. When it reached the United States via Irish immigrants, St. Patrick’s Day became a secular celebration of Irish culture. On Sunday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m., the Norfolk Library presented a sold-out spectacle celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. The event featured The StepCrew, an Irish dance group that balances

traditional and modern forms of step dance. The dancers were supported by three fiddlers and an amazing five-piece ensemble comprising members of The Chieftains, Cherish the Ladies, and Bowfire Virtuosoic. Led by Cara Butler, who is well known as The Chieftains’ top Irish dancer, and supported by brothers Jon and Nathan Pilatzke, who are highly regarded as Canada’s leading step dancers, The StepCrew presented a stunning array of dances fusing Ottawa Valley step dance, Irish step dance, and Tap, showing the similarities and differences between each style. The event was curated by Norfolk Library events planner Eileen Fitzgibbons, an Irish American who brings her

passion for Irish culture to Norfolk every year by booking top-notch acts from Ireland and around the world. With the luck of the Irish on her side, Fitzgibbons found the group serendipitously. “It’s the Norfolk Library Associates’ 50th anniversary this year,” said Fitzgibbons. “They wanted me to find a special band, though all the bands I have booked are special. I was looking for a group we had not had before. I got a call from Cara Butler, who had just had lunch with Kevin Crawford from the amazing Irish band Lúnasa. We had them about five years ago. Her band StepCrew had just had a cancellation on St. Patrick’s Day, a sad thing for sure, and she asked Kevin if he had any ideas. He said to call Eileen Fitzgibbons at the Nor-

folk Library, and the next thing you know, they are coming. A tip of my hat to Sarah at Wildwood [The old Mountain View Inn] for letting the Crew take over her B&B.” The StepCrew wowed the audience with a mix of traditional Irish and more modern forms of dance such as tap. The group used the performance both to entertain and to educate by showing the dance styles in their pure form as well the fusion of and connection between different styles. For example, at times the group transitioned from Irish dance by letting the music drop out so that the dancers could perform tap, then launched back into Irish step. Finding the revelry irresistible, the musicians broke out into dance at times as well. Toward the end of the show, the audience was invited to learn steps and danced with the group. Attendee Stella Mae Cobb said: “They were perfectly coordinated and were in sync beautifully. It was similar to Riverdance. The performance was engaging and masterful. I loved it.” “Craic” is the Irish word for good time. Judging by the joyous expressions on the faces of the crowd, good craic was had by all. For more information on The StepCrew, follow them at stepcrew.com

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by BARBARA LEBOW

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World War II drama on the stage in Copake

There are three opportunities coming up in March — the 22nd, 23rd and 24th — to be transported through time and memory when The Two of Us Productions presents “A Shayna Maidel” at the Copake Grange.

Director Stephen Sanborn brings to life Barbara Lebow’s award-winning drama, weaving together the poignant reunion of two sisters after World War II through the haunting echoes of their past.

“A Shayna Maidel,” meaning “pretty girl” in Yiddish, tells the story of the reunion of two sisters after World War II, one having survived the Nazi concentration camps. Co-producers Sanborn and his wife, Constance Lopez, have been working with the Copake Grange since 2017 bringing in one-night events such as suspense theater, staged readings, murder mysteries, karaoke and even Sanborn’s own jazz quartet. They are also producing full-scale productions like “A Shayna Maidel” at least twice a year.

“We are supporting the longer-term relationship we have with the Grange where we want to present on a regular basis as a part of working with them,” said Sanborn. Having previously produced Arthur Miller’s

“Broken Glass,” several productions of “Cabaret” and a staged reading of “I Am a Camera,” the book that “Cabaret” is based on, Sanborn shared, “We have a particular affinity for this time period. This is the time period where a lot of things happened in the world that set the course in many ways for where we are today.”

“A Shayna Maidel” delves into the complexities of family, survival and resilience in the aftermath of tragedy. Sanborn explained, “It’s not all happiness and light, but it’s positive in a way that, despite all that happens, you can find a way to go forward.” The play’s exploration of memory, particularly through the lens of one sister’s experiences in Auschwitz, adds layers of emotion and depth to the narrative. Much of the story takes place through these memories and dream sequences.

In order to accomplish the transitions between past and present, dream and reality, Sanborn utilizes lights and colors, creating separate worlds: “The way we handle the dream sequences is that I’m able to do a color wash on the whole stage. I use blue, a deep blue and blush pink to denote the memory sequences.”

Sanborn reflected on the relevance of this

particular story, stating: “We’re trying to be true to the material because it speaks to experiences that people are having right now. You could pick several places in the world where families are being separated or people are being oppressed and worse. There’s certainly a message there that’s relevant, and we’re trying to make sure that we tell it with the appropriate level of strength so that it comes across for what it is.”

Through its exploration of themes such as immigration, family separation, oppression and memory, “A Shayna Maidel” is sure to resonate with audiences on a profound level. “I think it’s a story that needs to be told,” said Sanborn.

Witness this powerful production, as The Two of Us Productions continues its mission to bring thought-provoking theater to the community Friday, March 22, through Sunday, March 24, at the theater at the Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road in Copake, New York. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee is at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$15 for students and older adults. Call for group rates. For reservations, visit www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org or call 518-329-6293.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN SANBORN

Constance Lopez, left, and Karissa Payson in “A Shayna Maidel,” onstage through Sunday, March 24, at the Copake Grange.

...Picasso

Continued from previous page

works was very limited unless you were traveling to Europe. The [American] taste at the time was: You have a country that is an insecure, powerful new country that’s just arrived on the world scene. What [America] wanted more than anything was to be regarded as a great European power. America wanted to have those Old Master paintings, paintings that were owned by princes and kings.”

This was also the shared opinion of such influential shapers of East Coast America’s established art world, like art collector and philanthropist Isabella Stewart Gardner, who went on to found Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1903; financier John Pierpont Morgan, one of the greatest benefactors of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and art collector and industrialist Henry Clay Frick, whose collection of distinguished Old Master paintings can be seen today at The Frick Collection on the Upper East Side of New York City.

“The idea of new art having value was a shocking concept,” Eakin continued. “There was also a larger tradition of insecurity, but also theorizing about deviant art — what would come to be called ‘degenerate art.’ We think of this as a Nazi term, but actually,



COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

“Les Demoiselles d’Avignon” (“The Young Ladies of Avignon”) by Pablo Picasso

the conversation about degeneracy in art starts in the United States, and it starts very much with shows like the Armory Show.”

Picasso had actually shown work in America prior to the 1913 Armory Show. In 1911, Alfred Stieglitz, an American photographer and gallerist who would go on to marry modernist painter Georgia O’Keeffe, showcased the first exhibition of Picasso’s drawings in the United States in his gallery 291, located on Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue. Eakin noted that 83 cubist drawings by Picasso were shown, each priced at \$12 dollars. Only one sold — to American artist and critic Hamilton Easter Field. The two had already met in Paris.

For a pop culture

perspective of Picasso at the time, we can look to James Cameron’s 1997 blockbuster “Titanic,” where Kate Winslet’s American socialite character Rose has brought Picasso’s 1907 pro-cubist oil painting “Les Femmes d’Avignon” aboard the RMS Titanic. This is a bit of historical revisionism, as “Les Femmes d’Avignon” did not sink with the ship but is hanging in The Museum of Modern Art thanks to an acquisition by the museum’s patron, Lillie P. Bliss, who features prominently in the later half of Eakin’s book. Still, the remark by Rose’s fiancé, an American industrialist, rings true for the time and his own social circles: “Something Picasso... He won’t amount to a thing. Trust me, he won’t.”

‘Adventures of an Eclipse Chaser’

The NorthEast-Millerton Library will present the program “Adventures of an Eclipse Chaser” Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Over the last 50 years, Joe Rao has traveled by land, sea and air to catch sight of total solar eclipses. In “Adventures of an Eclipse Chaser,” he will recount his most memorable experiences utilizing a blend of humor, anecdotes and poignant moments.

Rao is an instructor and guest lecturer at the American Museum of Natural History’s Hayden Planetarium in New York City. He has written about astronomy for many publications including Natural History magazine, the Farmer’s Almanac and Space.com. An eight-time Emmy Award nominee, Rao was the chief meteorologist and science editor at News 12 Westchester for 21 years and was voted Best Local Television Personality by the readers of Westchester Magazine in 2015.

The presentation is free and registration is required. For more information or to register, go to nemillertonlibrary.org



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Sun. March 24, 2024 • 4 PM
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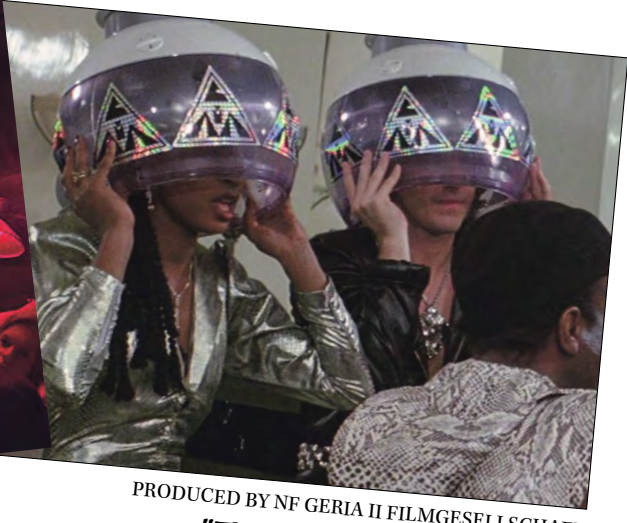




PRODUCED BY P.J.K. GROUP
"Miami Connection"



PRODUCED BY SPECTREVISION
"Mandy"



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"The Apple"

Savoring the schlock, one terrible film at a time

Since Christmas I have watched about 200 of the worst movies I could find. Thanks to the wonders of streaming, the supply of horrible films is, apparently, inexhaustible.

A note on methodology: I relied heavily on Rifftrax, an outfit that does the hard work of digging up these relics and offers them accompanied by what they call “riffing,” meaning they crack jokes.

The danger here is concentrating on the commentary and not the movies. Here at The Lakeville Journal’s Bad Cinema Desk, we write our own jokes.

So when feasible, I found the straight version of a flick Rifftrax covers.

Free-with-ads services such as Tubi, Freevee, and Plex have vast libraries of cruddy stuff, so it’s not that hard to track these things down.

But sometimes it was just simpler to go with Rifftrax and do my best to avoid swiping their gags.

Here are five awful movies that got my attention, for all the wrong reasons.

“Mandy” (2018): Psychedelic pshocker with the always-entertaining Nicolas Cage doing battle against a cult of weirdos whose leader (Linus Roache) seems to think he’s a cross between Jesus and Charlie Manson, with a little Jon Anderson (of Yes) thrown in for seasoning.

The weirdos are in cahoots with a gang of mutant bikers, and everybody’s drinking down this sludgy LSD specially created for them by the Chemist because, A) he doesn’t like them, and B) he’s got a tiger.

Kung fu with chain-saws, medieval weapons and bare fists. Eye-ball-popping. Barbed wire. Hallucinations galore. King Crimson music. Custom vans. About 40 gallons of blood. Dorm room theology. And Cage in his skivvies, for maximum horror.

“Fungicide” (2002): This could be called “outsider cinema.” It could

SCHLOCK AND AWFUL

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

also be called “amateurish dreck.” Both descriptions are correct.

A mad scientist, an ex-military guy with issues, a jort-wearing tough guy from Philly and a real estate dork all show up at a rustic bed and breakfast.

The mad scientist has done something to the mushrooms so the spores are floating around creating killer mushrooms and the world is gonna end. I think that’s the gist of it. It’s hard to tell. The sound is kinda muddy.

What makes this shine are the killer mushrooms. There are three types: Mushrooms with teeth that are about 2 feet tall; man-sized mushrooms (no teeth); and unconvincing computer mushrooms.

Mushroom attack cam. Real estate broker chewed by mushrooms. Excellent stick fights between cast members and the big mushrooms. The slowest martial arts kicks ever captured on someone’s aunt’s camcorder. Mad scientist who would steal the show if there was a show to steal. Fascinating in its way. However, you may lose IQ points by watching this.

“Miami Connection” (1987): Also outsider cinema, in the sense that it really wants to be inside.

This flick centers around the guys in Dragon Sound, a rock band that made me long for the hard-hitting sounds of Journey or a

tape of seals giving birth, whichever is easier to round up.

The Dragon Sound members study tae kwon do with the rhythm guitarist, Mark, and they need it because they get mixed up with a cocaine-dealing bunch of ninja-type bad guys. Also Mark’s not much of a guitarist.

The flick’s got a “Scooby-Doo” or “Archies” feel to it, marred somewhat by the star’s inability to speak English.

The music sequences would be unbelievable... except they are indistinguishable from rock videos of the era. So if the hard work of dozens of professional filmmakers and musicians can be duplicated for about 10 cents on the dollar by a bunch of complete amateurs, that says something. Something profound. And if you give me a minute I’ll remember what it is.

“Radical Jack” (2000): Starring Mr. Achy Breaky his ownself, Billy Ray Cyrus, as Jack, ex-CIA, seeker of justice and proud owner of the most spectacular mullet haircut in world history.

Jack blows into a small Vermont town and gets tangled up in an arms-dealing racket. I know that when I’m in the market for a rocket-propelled grenade launcher or some other handy item, I always think “Vermont.” Here I must bow in tribute to Rifftrax for the vocal stylings during the sponge bath scene.

Elsewhere, you will be as pleased as I was when the son of the bad guy gets it right in the pleated Dockers. In these lax, postmodern times,

crimes against style are so rarely punished in public.

“The Apple” (1980): Saving the absolute worst for last, this is a sci-fi rock musical, written and directed by Menahem Golan.

The story is that something called the BIM is coming, and a whole mob of freaks in shiny underwear have to get ready. Meanwhile this guy Alphie wants to rescue this girl Bibi from the BIM and go live in a field with the hippies.

It’s difficult to describe this adequately, so let’s just go with “bonkers,” which was

how Falls Village’s Garth Kobal summed it up in a recent discussion of the trashy and ephemeral.

The high point is a musical number, “Coming.”

I used to think that Donna Summer’s 1975 disco hit “Love to Love You Baby” was the last word in sex songs. I mean, it’s about 20 minutes of moaning over a relentless beat.

But next to “Coming,” Summer’s effort sounds like a Gregorian chant.

The other high point is the end. Well, near the end.

There is an honest-to-God deus ex machina.

Literally. A guy in a glowing white suit who gets out of a glowing white Rolls Royce in the sky to lead the hippies to Paradise.

And it’s not John Lennon.

Note: Many Rifftrax flicks (and predecessor “Mystery Science Theater 3000”) are available on the above-mentioned streaming services. For the uninitiated, watching a riffed version is a safe way to enter the world of Bad Cinema. Only advanced viewers should attempt the original versions, due to the very real possibility of irreparable brain damage.

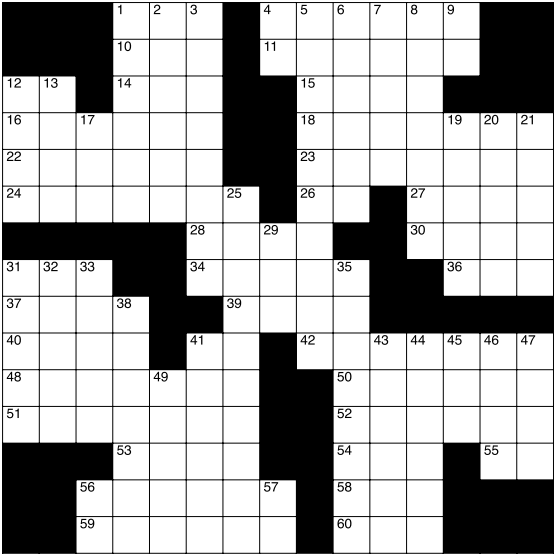
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Small Eurasian deer
- Irish county
- A major division of geological time
- Broadway actor Lane
- Canadian province (abbr.)
- Human gene
- Two
- A famous one is blue
- Utter repeatedly
- Ring-shaped objects
- Spoils
- Occurs
- Commercial
- Near
- Products you may need
- Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- TV network
- Silk or cotton garments
- Soviet Socialist Republics
- Retired American football coach Dean
- Hot dish
- A type of gin
- Atomic #84
- Sawhorse
- About ground
- Medicine man
- Seedless raisin
- Capital of Albania
- Appendage
- OJ trial judge
- By the way (abbr.)
- Bicycle parts
- Barbie’s friend
- Moved one’s neck to see
- Commercials

CLUES DOWN

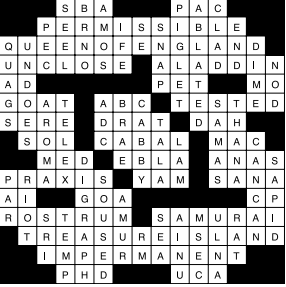
- Make up for
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Salary
- Influential world body
- Engravers
- Declared as fact



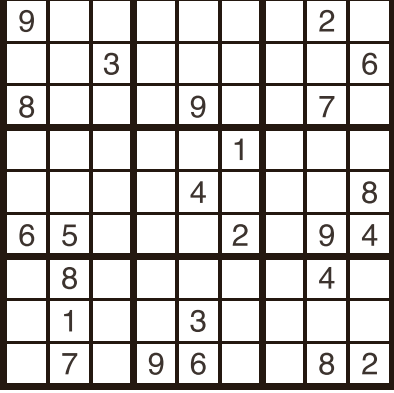
- One who steals
- Jewelry
- Hospital employee (abbr.)
- Nonsense (slang)
- Town in Galilee
- Value
- A fake name
- Sheep in their second year
- Town in Surrey, England
- Appropriate for a particular time of year
- Creative works
- Recesses
- W. Pacific island group
- Tolkien character
- Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- Pioneer

- Scribe
- Painted a bright color
- Lowest members of British nobility
- Actress Thurman
- Type of sugar
- Crest of a hill
- N. American people of British Columbia
- Device
- The Mount Rushmore State

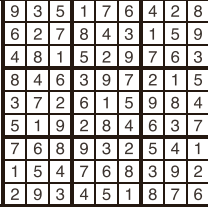
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COMPASS
TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

MARCH 21

Teen Night

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., students in eighth through 12th grades are welcome to hang out in the library while enjoying free pizza and games such as card games, Bananagrams, Phase 10, Ticket to Ride and others. Registration at www.huntlibrary.org is requested to help the pizza order.

MARCH 22

“A Shayna Maidel”

Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

The Two of Us Productions presents the award-winning drama by Barbara Lebow. “A Shayna Maidel,” Yiddish for “pretty girl,” tells the story of the reunion of two sisters after World War II, one of whom survived the Nazi concentration camps.

Tickets are \$15 for seniors and \$20 for adults and are available at the door, or call 518-329-6294 or go online to www.thetwoofusproductions.org

MARCH 23

Puppet Show: My Night in the Planetarium

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org

From 3 to 3:45 p.m., best-selling children’s book author Innosanto Nagara’s true story of art and social protest will come to life as a dynamic pop-up puppet show. Created and performed by fellow artist/activist Tanya Nixon-Silberg, the show transports audiences to Jakarta in the 1970s, where 7-year-old Inno learns firsthand how a play has the power to spark a resistance movement. Featuring designs and puppets by Sarah Nolen, the story is brought to life with a rich soundscape, visual transformations, and kid-centered lessons about social justice. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

Registration at norfolklibrary.org is requested but not required.

Bookbinding Workshop with Lilly Rand Barnett

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

On March 23, from 2 to 4 p.m., join Lilly Rand Barnett, artist and art teacher, to create your own handmade book while learning the basics of traditional

folding and Japanese binding techniques, as well as nontraditional bookbinding methods. Supplies will be provided.

Registration is required. Please visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

MARCH 24

Design In Focus Lecture Series

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibrary.org

The Design in Focus lecture series begins Sunday, March 24, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. with “Obsession: Landscape Design History in France” with Mark Bunnell. In his lecture, Bunnell will illustrate how Italian Renaissance ideas were translated onto the French landscape during the Baroque period. This talk will introduce key personalities involved and the techniques applied to achieve control, surprise and grandeur.

Registration is required for this free program. To register, go to hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

Spring Celebration

Foote Field, Furnace Brook Road, Cornwall, Conn.

Hop on over to play some games with friends, enjoy light snacks, hang out with the Park and Rec Bunny and hunt for Easter eggs. There will be separate areas and times for various age groups. This event will be held rain or shine.

MARCH 27

Michelle Horton, Author of Dear Sister: A Memoir of Secrets, Survival, and Unbreakable Bonds

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

On March 27 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Michelle Horton will present her new book, a deeply personal story about what it takes to be believed and the danger of keeping truths hidden. Horton traces the events and knowledge that unfold after her sister is arrested for killing her abusive partner. In this exquisite memoir, Michelle also explores how so many people, including herself, could have been blind to the abuse. Representatives from Project SAGE and a member of the Nicole Addimando Community Defense Committee will be on hand for the discussion to follow.

Registration is required. Please visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

MARCH 28

Silent Reading Gathering During Evening Embers

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org

Join the library from 5 to 6 p.m. for a silent reading gathering during its Thursday Evening Embers. A silent reading gathering is not a book club, but rather a time to read in sociable silence. Wine and warm beverages will be served, and the evening will begin with light mingling before tuck into books and reading. At the end of the hour, participants will convene with the option to discuss their books with other readers.

Registration at norfolklibrary.org is appreciated but not required.

MARCH 30

Easter Egg Hunt

Cold Spring Early Learning Center, 358 Homan Road, Stanfordville, N.Y.

Begins at 10 a.m. Presented by the Stanford Recreation Commission.

Book Discussion with Peter Kaufman

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

On March 30 from 4 to 5 p.m., join Peter Kaufman to discuss “American Midnight, The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy’s Forgotten Crisis” by Adam Hochschild. This “masterly” (New York Times) account invokes parallels to our own era, recounting turmoil in the U.S. between World War I and the 1920s, when democracy was threatened by war, pandemic, and violent battles over race, immigration, and labor rights. Peter B. Kaufman, a writer, teacher, and documentary producer, works at MIT Open Learning and the Knowledge Futures Group and is the author of The New Enlightenment and the Fight to Free Knowledge.

Registration is required. Please visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

APRIL 2

ALZ in Your Community

Salisbury Senior Center at Town Grove, 42 Ethan Allen St., Lakeville, Conn.

Join the Alzheimer’s Association for a 30-minute presentation at 5:30 p.m. followed by community discussion on the Alzheimer’s Association’s mission, resources and how it can better engage

MUSIC: MATTHEW KRETA

Crescendo takes on Carissimi in concert

On Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24, Crescendo will present works by Giacomo Carissimi, a notable 17th century Italian composer.

The program will take place at St. James Place in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on March 23 and Trinity Church in Lime Rock, Connecticut, on March 24.

Works by Carissimi are not performed often, despite his status as one of the more prominent composers of his time in the genres of oratorio and cantata. His music laid the groundwork for famous composers such as Bach and Handel, and the selections for this concert showcase quick and dynamic tempo changes as well as beautiful phrases with intense emotion.

Although Carissimi did not write opera like many composers of his time, this led to his works having more prominent and pointed use of chorus.

The concert will feature 30 singers, making it one of the larger choruses of Crescendo’s season, as well as seven period instruments.

The Mass, “Missa L’homme Armé,” stands as the main portion of the concert and its second half. It is based on a medieval piece “The Armed Man,” and there are over 30 written masses from this time period that are based on this tune.

This war resounding song is reflected in Carissimi’s Mass with its battle fanfares and aggressive instrumentation. Yet as often as the music insists upon

its visions of war, there are an equal number of heartfelt, somber and uniquely beautiful sections, some of which are sung only by solo voices.

After some investigation and communication with choirs around the country, Crescendo founder and director Christine Gevert says this is likely a United States premiere of this music. “Today I heard back from the director of the Carissimi ensemble in the U.S., who has performed many of his works, and, of course, keeps a close eye on everything related to Carissimi,” said Gevert. “He also does not know of a U.S. performance. So I think it is safe to say that it is.”

To learn more or purchase tickets, go to www.crescendomusic.org

and support the local community in the fight to end the disease. Meet the Connecticut Chapter team that supports efforts throughout the state.

APRIL 3

Poetry Open Mic

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

Whether you’re a poet or a poetry lover, whether you’d like to read aloud or just listen, join the library on April 3 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for an evening of original work. Read your previously published poems, poems you hope to publish, or poems-in-process. You’ll find good company, an appreciative audience, wine, and refreshments. The emcees are local poets Joanne Hayhurst and Sarah Tames. For more information and to register, please visit www.

scovillelibrary.org

APRIL 6

Old Time Community Dance

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

From 7 to 9 p.m. at the Cornwall Town Hall, Square, Circle, and Contra Dances will be taught and called by Paul Rosenberg to the lively music of Relatively Sound Band. Beginners welcome. No partners necessary. Suggested donations to pay the caller and tip the band: \$15/adult, \$5/child, or \$25/family. For more information, contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or 860-671-7945.

APRIL 7

Art Opening Reception: Deborah Hanson Greene

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East,

Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.org

Watercolors by Deborah Hanson Greene will be on display at the library during the month of April, and the April 7 reception will take place from 4 to 6 p.m., hosted by the Library Associates. A resident of the Berkshires, Greene paints primarily still-life studies, and to a lesser extent, landscapes à plein air. Her paintings have been accepted into juried exhibitions at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA, and the Maryland Art League in Annapolis. Since returning to her childhood home in rural western Massachusetts, where she lives and works, she has exhibited at the Berkshire Co-op Market, The Marketplace Café, The Sheffield Collection, and Real Gustavian.

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