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April 2024  
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**Special, Inside**

## Are they banning books at Millbrook Library?

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
 judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — A volunteer read from Billie Jean King's "A Kids Book About Equality" during Alden Place Elementary's fifth grade field trip to their local library on Friday, Feb. 2.

A teacher accompanying the students felt that the book, which included discussions of gender identity and the word "non-binary," was inappropriate for children. (Teachers and staff have said that they were not made aware of the content before the reading.)

The teacher also noticed other

books that they felt might be questionable for children of that age.

That afternoon, School Superintendent Caroline Hernandez Pidala alerted parents of the teacher's concerns in a letter, letting them know that King's "Book About Equality" had been read at the library. She then advised that parents talk to the teachers or the Alden Place Principal Thomas Libka if they had questions or concerns.

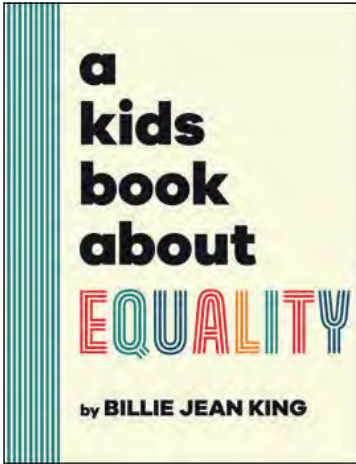
On Feb. 3, a petition to remove the books was put up on Change.org. It read:

"As a concerned parent and resident of Millbrook, NY, I am deeply troubled by the presence of gender ideology books and symbols in the children's section of our local library." It continued:

"We believe that discussions on gender ideology should be had with family and left for when they're older and more capable of understanding these concepts fully."

"Gender ideology" is a term used in far right circles to describe and discredit the acknowledgement of trans, non-binary and other gender non-conforming people.

The petition asked that the Millbrook Library management



COURTESY MILLBROOK LIBRARY

See **BOOK BAN, PAGE A6**



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF NEW YORK STATE SENATOR MICHELLE HINCHEY

Senator Michelle Hinchey leads rally on Friday, March 22 opposing cuts to education funding in the Governor Hochul's proposed FY 2025 Executive Budget for New York State.

## How Hochul's budget could affect our school districts

Legislators debate cuts proposed by Hochul's 2025 Executive Budget

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE and MAUD DOYLE  
 editor@millertonnews.com

KINGSTON — In the final weeks of budget negotiations, State Senator Michelle Hinchey led the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), parents and school superintendents from schools across the 41st Senate District to call for changes to Governor Kathy Ho-

chul's Proposed Executive Budget for 2025, which cuts last year's state record \$34.5 billion in public education funding by \$419 million.

The cuts would impact all of the state's nearly 700 school districts, say opponents of the budget; they note that the cuts to education would most heavily impact high-needs districts and small, rural areas.

The cuts are due to a change Hochul has proposed to the state Foundation Aid Formula, which, at over a decade old, is still used to determine school district funding.

Schools in the Mid-Hudson region would be hit hardest by the change, with a 4.2% decrease in total funding, a cut of over \$31 million dollars.

In Hinchey's district alone (parts of Greene, Columbia and Ulster counties as well as northern Dutchess), the cuts would total \$25.7 million if the proposed budget is enacted in its current form.

State Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha of Assembly district 103, which includes Red Hook, Rhinebeck, and parts of Ulster County, partnered with Hinchey in organizing the March 22 rally.

**In our schools**

Robert Farrier, business administrator at the Webutuck Central School District, said that if enacted, the cuts would impact Webutuck CSD's academic programs, though which ones and how much has not

yet been determined.

Elliot Garcia, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Personnel of the Millbrook Central School District, said that the proposed state budget "has certainly influenced our budget planning for the 2024-25 school year."

He said that Millbrook CSD had also overestimated the state funding that Millbrook CSD could expect this year (school year 2023-2024).

"Given that fact, we must plan for the coming school year as if our state aid package will be unchanged, and could potentially be reduced," he said. He said that the problem "is further compounded by the reality that over 60% of our budget contains expense increases which are either fixed or contractually obligated."

"With that being said, we are being very conservative with our budget projections for next school year," he said. "We continue to fine tune the proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year to identify any and all opportunities to responsibly reduce our proposed expense budget in kind in order to maintain our existing programs."

Dr. Brian Timm, Superintendent of the Pine Plains Central School District, said, "The proposed cuts to Foundation Aid by Governor Hochul are extremely impactful to a number of school

See **BUDGET, PAGE A6**

## Acknowledging Mohicans: Indigenous Land Back movement touches Copake

By ROBIN RORABACK  
 Special to The Millerton News

COPAKE — Bradley Pitts, Chair of the Town of Copake's newly established Mohican Allyship Committee, opened the lecture "Mohican Heritage: Past, Present, and Future" at the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society in Copake Falls on Sunday, March 17 with the question, "What is land acknowledgement?"

Patty Krawec, author of "Becoming Kin" and a member of the Anishnaabe people, has written:

"Land acknowledgements are a moment to pause and reflect on

See **LAND BACK, PAGE A6**



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Bradley Pitts, Chair of the Mohican Allyship Committee of the Copake Town Board, shows a slide demarcating the Mohican ancestral homelands during his lecture, "Mohican Heritage: Past, Present, and Future," at the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society in Copake Falls on March 17.



**CONTACT**  
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OUR TOWNS

# Copake girds for new Shepherd's Run solar filing

By JOHN COSTON  
johnc@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — Town of Copake Supervisor Richard Wolfe reported that Hecate Energy LLC plans to seek a siting permit for a 42 megawatt (MW) solar project following the state's rejection of the company's plan for a larger installation last month.

The project, called Shepherd's Run, was originally

designed as a 60MW facility that would be situated near the intersection of Routes 23 and 7.

The state Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) on Feb. 6 dismissed the company's application due to its loss of control of a parcel of land that had been integral to the project. The decision to dismiss was made "without prejudice," meaning that the company could resubmit.

In a January filing with ORES, Diane Sullivan, a senior vice president at Hecate, said that the company planned to submit a revised plan within 60 days, which would be any time now.

Emails and phone calls to Hecate were not returned.

Wolf, in his March report to residents about the project's status, wrote, "I warned that the saga of Shepherd's Run was not over. Because the

dismissal was 'without prejudice,' Hecate could try again. Well, they're back!"

The original project covered 267 acres; according to Wolf, the company plans to work with 217 acres to build a 42MW array.

"Shepherd's Run would still be the size of more than 150 NFL-sized football fields," Wolf wrote.

Wolf could not be reached for comment, but in his report he said that he hoped that the company "will work with Copake to address our well-documented concerns about its proposal."

Wolf said that should include incorporating proposals from an ad hoc Working Group that include a 300-acre public greenspace, creating nature walks and bicycle paths that would turn Shepherd's Run "from an eyesore into a tourist attraction."

The supervisor also called for Hecate to compensate homeowners who will be impacted by "tens of thousands of solar panels directly across the road."

Wolf was critical of Hecate's approach regarding a new application filing as an "amendment" to the old ap-

plication.

Wolf also notes in his report that Hecate, despite its claims, has not held any "open house style" meetings to present a new proposal to the Town of Copake, and further that in its Public Information Project Plan (PIP) the company makes several mistakes regarding identity of town officials.

"[PIP] has incorrect titles for some appointed board chairs, fails to list another appointed board member, and even lists a deceased Copakean as a current deputy chair," Wolf wrote.

## SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Jan. 4-10, 2024.

March 14 — Deputies responded to Stewart's Shop at 7710 South Main Street in the Town of Pine Plains for harassment complaint where the caller reported he was being threatened by another male on scene. Situation mediated by patrol.

March 14 — Deputies responded to 41 Simmons Street in the Village of Millerton to investigate a domestic dispute where one party had already left residence. Investigation later resulted in the arrest of Henry Whitlow (age 20) who was charged with Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree. Whitlow to appear in the Town of North East court at a later date.

March 17 — Deputies report the arrest of Anthony Bonadies (age 76) for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the 3rd degree as well as operating a vehicle with a Suspended Registration subsequent to a traffic stop in the Town of Amenia. Subject to appear in the Town of Amenia Court at a later date.

All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later. If you have any information relative to the afore-

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

# OHS denies Sharon Hospital's latest appeal to close L&D

By MAUD DOYLE  
maudd@millertonnews.com

SHARON, Conn. — Connecticut's Office of Health Services (OHS) has denied Sharon Hospital's appeal of its final decision mandating that the hospital maintain its Labor and Delivery Unit.

OHS released a Final Decision on the question of Sha-


ron Hospital's application for a Certificate of Need (CON) to terminate labor and delivery services at the hospital.

In response, Sharon Hospital filed a petition requesting to appeal the final decision Feb. 20. The petition reiterated arguments that the Hospital, owned by NuVance Health, had made in its appeal of OHS's Proposed Final Deci-

sion Oct. 18, 2023.

In response to the hospital's petition, OHS released a two-sentence letter signed by Deirdre Gifford, OHS's executive director, Monday, March 11.


The second sentence reads, "Having reviewed and given due consideration to the Applicant's submission, the Petition for Reconsideration is hereby DENIED."



### THE SALISBURY FORUM

Where Ideas Matter

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**Richard Haass**  
Richard Haass, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, and senior foreign policy advisor to both Bush presidents, will discuss how political divisions within the US pose a significant threat to our democracy. Haass argues that the very idea of citizenship must be revised and expanded. Brian Ross, former Chief Investigative Correspondent for ABC News will interview the speaker.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 • 7:30 P.M.**  
The Hotchkiss School, Walker Auditorium  
Lakeville, CT

Go to [www.salisburyforum.org](http://www.salisburyforum.org) to register for this free event.

The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens, will be available for purchase in the lobby.

[www.salisburyforum.org](http://www.salisburyforum.org)

## LEGAL NOTICES

### TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to NYS Town Law § 277 and Chapter 105 of the Town of Amenia Code, the Planning Board of the Town of Amenia will hold a public hearing on the application by Doug Broughton and Maria Quintero Herrera (the "Applicants") for a lot line adjustment (the "Application") between lands located at 300 Old Route 22 and 390 Old Route 22 in the Town of Amenia that are designated Parcel Grid Identification ## 7166-00-192244 and 7166-00-194282 (the "Project Site"). The Project Site is located in the Suburban Residential zoning district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hold the public hearing on the Application on April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Amenia Town Clerk's Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at [www.ameniany.gov](http://www.ameniany.gov).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the

Application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may appear at the hearing in person or by agent and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board at or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Judy Westfall at [jwestfall@ameniany.gov](mailto:jwestfall@ameniany.gov)

Dated: March 15, 2024  
Robert Boyles, Jr.,  
Chairman  
Town of Amenia  
Planning Board  
03-28-24

### TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Planning Board on the 10th day of April 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the site plan application submitted by The American Legion for a parking lot at the property located at 9 North Main Street), Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #134200-6872-18-383225-0000.

Any resident of the Town of Pine Plains shall be entitled to be heard regarding said application. The application is available for review during regular business hours at the Pine Plains Town Hall.

By order of:

Town of Pine Plains  
Planning Board  
03-28-24

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Town of Amenia is now accepting bids for Lawn Mowing in the Amenia/Wassaic Area. Season is April 4, 2024 to November 2, 2024. All bids must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 4, 2024.

Specifications may be requested by emailing the Town Clerk at [dmkingner@ameniany.gov](mailto:dmkingner@ameniany.gov) or calling 845-373-8860 x125

Dawn Marie Klingner  
Town Clerk  
03-28-24

### 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



## Small Business SPOTLIGHT



### ALZ In Your Community

Join us for a discussion on Alzheimer's disease, dementia and opportunities for involvement.

**Tuesday, April 2 | 5:30 p.m.**  
Salisbury Senior Center @ Town Grove  
42 Ethan Allen St | Lakeville

Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of NBT Bank.  
To RSVP, visit [alz.org/CRF](http://alz.org/CRF). For questions/comments, please contact Tina Hogan: 860.412.8029 | [thogan@alz.org](mailto:thogan@alz.org)

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



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EASTER

# Amenia Town Board continues cannabis "opt-in" discussion

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Preliminary discussion over whether or not the town will "opt in" to state regulations that guide the opening and operation of a local cannabis dispensary continued at the regular meeting of the Town Board on Thursday, March 21.

Town Supervisor Leo Blackman introduced the discussion, noting that to move ahead on zoning questions related to location of a dispensary, the board might need the services of a town planner.

The potential cost for those services was estimated at about \$30,000, but following exploratory discussion, it was clear that any planner

would need more project detail, particularly state and local restrictions to be imposed.

Following brief discussion, the board agreed that potential locations would be identified in advance of the next Town Board meeting on Thursday, April 4.

Board member Brad Re-

billard mentioned required setbacks from roadways.

"It should not be in the town center," said board member Rosanna Hamm, leading to general agreement that a possible site might be within a shopping plaza. Adequate parking will also be a consideration.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

## Palm Sunday celebrated with palm fronds, miniature donkey

Parishioners from St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church, Grace Episcopal Church and Lyall Community Church met at the Thorne Community Center on Palm Sunday, March 23 to pray together. Palm Sunday celebrates the tradition which holds that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on an ass, and a crowd of people waved palm fronds at him as he passed. At 28 years old, Bella Bella, a miniature donkey from the Two By Two Animal Haven Inc., Pleasant Valley, has been a part of this event for the last ten years. From left: Father Hartley Bancroft, Pastor of St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church, Makena Freeslick, 15, who attends Millbrook High School, Bella Bella, Father Matthew Calkins and the Reverend Thomas Fiet, Pastor of Lyall Church.

### MORE FROM AMENIA

— Nicole Ahearn, appointed to fill the seat vacated by Leo Blackman, began her interim term on the Town Board on March 21.

— The Town Board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the Housatonic Valley Association

Ten-Mile River Watershed Management Plan. The plan formalizes a collaboration among 15 towns in two states to preserve and protect waterways within their region.

For more Amenia updates, see [www.millertonnews.com](http://www.millertonnews.com)

# Easter Worship & Celebrating

### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
4 North Street, Norfolk

ST. JOSEPH  
4 Main Street, Canaan

ST. MARY  
76 Sharon Road, Lakeville  
860-824-7078

### EASTER TRIDUUM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
Holy Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
Good Friday March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Stations of the Cross, Noon  
Passion of Christ, 3 pm

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH  
Easter Vigil March 30<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm

### EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>  
St. Mary's Church 9 am  
Immaculate Conception 11 am

## CELEBRATE EASTER!

10 am Service  
Special Musical Performances

### SMITHFIELD CHURCH

656 Smithfield Valley Rd., Rte. 83  
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[thesmithfieldchurch.org](http://thesmithfieldchurch.org)

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Garden Parties  
Weddings

## Charlotte's

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### Easter

Family friendly, à la carte  
Lunch and Dinner  
4258 Rt. 44, Millbrook, NY 12545  
[charlottesny.com](http://charlottesny.com)

### Falls Village Congregational Church

**Maundy Thursday Service:** 7:00pm  
**Easter Sunrise Service:** 5:45am  
At the Church on Beebe Hill Rd.  
Followed by Breakfast

**Easter Service:** 10:00am  
All are welcome.

16 Beebe Hill Rd., Falls Village, CT | (860) 824-0194 | [thefvcc@gmail.com](mailto:thefvcc@gmail.com)

### Lakeville United Methodist Church

We invite you to join us for worship on

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 28 at 5:00pm

**Easter Sunday**  
March 31 at 9:15am

319 Main Street,  
Lakeville, CT

### THE WHITE HART and WHITE HART PROVISIONS

## EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 31ST, 11AM | BRING YOUR OWN BASKET  
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[WHITEHARTINN.COM](http://WHITEHARTINN.COM) 860.435.0030

### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12 Main St. Salisbury, CT

**GOOD FRIDAY | MARCH 29**  
Noon Liturgy

**EASTER CELEBRATION | MARCH 31**  
10:00 a.m. Rite II, Eucharist with music

Rev. Paul Christopherson presiding

Also live on YouTube: St. John's Church, Salisbury, CT  
[sjepiscopal@gmail.com](mailto:sjepiscopal@gmail.com)

### NORTH CANAAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Come join us in person!

Our Annual Maundy Thursday Service, 7 PM

**Easter Sunrise Service,**  
6:30 AM on Easter Morning in Hillside Cemetery

**Wrestling with the Bible,** 9 AM

**Worship,** 10 AM

**Fellowship Coffee,** 11:15 AM

We will continue to broadcast services live on Facebook: @northcanaancongregational

172 Lower Road/Rt. 44 East Canaan, CT

### TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

New schedule this year!

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 28  
5:00 - 7:00 PM Lamb Dinner  
Come anytime during the two hours, takeout available.

**Good Friday**  
March 29  
12 Noon Way of the Cross  
7:00 PM Words of the Life of Jesus  
Reflections & music: Choir, Organ and Recorder

**Pascua de Resurrección**  
Sábado, 30 de marzo  
12:00 Noon Misa en español con la música de "Sin Fronteras" y una búsqueda de huevos de Pascua

**Easter Day!**  
March 31  
8:00 AM Eucharist with hymns  
10:30 AM Joyful Eucharist  
Festive Music with Trinity Choir & Crescendo guests  
Easter egg hunt follows the service

484 LIME ROCK RD. LAKEVILLE, CT  
[TRINITYLIMEROCK.ORG](http://TRINITYLIMEROCK.ORG) 860-435-2627

# Holy Week

The Congregational Church of Salisbury  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Maundy Thursday, 28 March**  
Communion & Tenebrae  
7pm Worship

**Good Friday, 29 March**  
Ecumenical Worship  
7pm Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock

**Sunday, 31 March**  
Resurrection Day!  
6:30am Sunrise Service at Town Grove, Lakeville  
9:45am Hand Bell Choir Prelude  
10:00am Easter Worship

[SalisburyUCC.org](http://SalisburyUCC.org)  
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### CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

March 29<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 PM Good Friday

March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Easter Sunday  
Celebration of the Resurrection  
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
Celebrant, Rev. Roger White  
Easter Egg hunt following the service

Organist, Jon Lafleur Christ Church Episcopal  
Soloist, Donna Marie Castaner 9 South Main Street Sharon

## OBITUARIES

### Deborah Eynon Reyelt

SALISBURY — Deborah Eynon Reyelt, 89, of Salisbury passed away March 19, 2024, at Sharon Hospital. Born on July 25, 1934, in Milton, Massachusetts, she was the eldest of Natalie and Bill Eynon's four daughters. After graduating from Glen Ridge High School in New Jersey, she attended the Katharine Gibbs School, which prepared her for her first full-time job at McGraw Hill Publishing. In 1957 she met Peter Reyelt, and the two were married in Greenwich, Connecticut, the following year.



After stints in Richmond, Virginia, where Deb worked at Reynolds Aluminum while Peter finished medical school, in Denver, Colorado, for Peter's internship, and Hartford, Connecticut, for his residency, the young couple moved to Sharon, with their three small children.

First landing on Upper Main Street, Deb happily made the Northwest Corner her home for the next 58 years, most of them spent at Deb and Peter's beloved "Hooperfields," an old farmhouse they renovated on West Woods Road. Deb dedicated herself to raising her young family which over the years included several dogs and cats, a goat, and even a flock of baby wood ducks. Once her children were settled in school, Deb began working at the Sharon Assessor's office,

a job she loved and held for many years. Affectionately known as "Big Deb" by her family on account of her desire to take charge, soon friends and colleagues adopted the nickname as well.

Having lived on the Cape for a portion of her childhood, Deb had a life-long love of the beach. In 1993, she and Peter bought a small cottage on Nantucket, a place she loved to spend time with family and friends. Other passions included her volunteer work, serving on the boards of the Housatonic Child Care Center and the Sharon Playhouse, her political activism, her bridge and needlepoint groups, her many outings with friends, and especially, her time with grandchildren who brought her the ultimate joy.

Deb is survived by her husband, Peter, her three children, Amy (Scott), Becky, and Bill (Olivia); five grandchildren, Nick (Katie), Abby and Will, Eleanor and Grace, and two great grandsons, George and Walter, as well as her two sisters, Susie and Connie. She was predeceased by her sister Betsy.

In gratitude for her dedicated caregivers, contributions may be made to Noble Horizons in Salisbury. The family is planning a Celebration of Life at a later date. The Kenny Funeral home has care of arrangements.

### Mary Elizabeth Monnier

NORTH CANAAN — Mary Elizabeth (Mather) Monnier, 85, of 57 Bragg St. passed on March 18, 2024, at her home. She was the wife of the late Howard F. Monnier, Sr., who passed on June 1, 2008. Mary was born at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on Dec. 28, 1938. She was the daughter of the late James A. and Mildred (Tracy) Mather.

Mary graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1956 and went on to Bay Path Junior College where she majored in commercial arts, graduating in 1958. Mary went on to become a well-known artist here in the Northwest Corner and was a past member of several art guilds.

Mary loved Canaan dearly and in the early 1970s she and her family left their beloved home in Bakerville, Connecticut, and returned home to Canaan to live in the house that her great-grandfather built. She was on the board of the Canaan History Center and a member of the Cranford Club, the Beautification Committee and the Events Committee in town. She was extremely active in the revitalization of the Canaan Railroad Depot and supportive of all efforts to re-energize the town. As a part of

this effort, Mary designed the "Canaan Back on Track" train that was widely seen.

Mary is survived by her son, Howard F. Monnier, Jr. of Canaan, her brother Tracy G. Mather and his wife Patricia of Huntington, Connecticut; her sister Jane M. Farrell and her husband Paul of Franklin, Massachusetts; brother-in-law Wayne Monnier of Alachua, Florida; two grandsons, Brandon J. Monnier and his wife Geri of Vermont, and Ryan S. Monnier of New York. Mary is also survived by her six great-grandchildren; Kayden, Kennah, Karmen, Jennifer, Elliot and Maverick. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews as well as countless dear lifelong and new friends. Mary is predeceased by her two daughters, Jennifer and Amy Monnier.

A Celebration of Life will be held graveside at Mountain View Cemetery 80 Sand Rd Canaan, CT on March 25, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations may be sent to either the North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps PO Box 178 Canaan, CT 06018 or to the Canaan Fire Company PO Box 642 Canaan, CT 06018. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

### Joan Valerie Hayden

SOUTHFIELD, Mass. — Joan Valerie Hayden was born in East Rutherford, New Jersey to Etta Bunce and John Schoonmaker. She moved to Southfield, Massachusetts, at a young age. She graduated from New Marlborough School as valedictorian of her class.

Joan was part of the Little Theater now known as Berkshire Theater Festival/Playhouse in Stockbridge and Sharon Playhouse in Sharon. Joan also produced some plays in the 80's at Mt. Everrett High School. She loved to sing and perform. She had a beautiful voice and eventually had her own concert with Steve Ross at the Consolati Performing Arts

Center in Sheffield. Joan was part of the choir at the Southfield Church in Southfield.

Joan leaves behind her son, Layne Labshere of Southfield, Massachusetts, and daughter Kimberly Foster of Zephyrhills, Florida. Brothers, Fred Schoonmaker of Southfield Massachusetts, and Peter Ives of Canaan and sister Pamela Cannan of Port Orange, Florida, and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Southfield Church or the New Marlborough First Responders.

SALISBURY — Eugene F. Green, a longtime resident of Salisbury, passed away peacefully at his home on March 17, 2024. Eugene was preceded in death by his loving wife of seventy-one years, Marge.

Eugene was born in Brooklyn, New York, on July 31, 1927, the only son and youngest child of Frank and Margaret Green. Gene, as he liked to be called, grew up in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn with his parents and two older sisters, Dorothy and Virginia. Upon graduating from Fort Hamilton High School in Bay Ridge, Gene joined the Navy. After he completed his service as a corpsman with the Marine Corp, Gene returned home and continued his education

at New York University, while he also studied and trained to join the New York City Police Department.

Gene became a New York City police officer at 24 years of age. With a full time job, he was able to provide for a family, so without delay, he married his high school sweetheart, Marge, on Dec. 1, 1951. They soon became parents to three daughters and one son. In order to accommodate their growing family, Gene and Marge left their Brooklyn apartment and bought a house in Douglaston, Queens, New York, where



they lived until Gene retired from the NYPD.

Gene had a successful career as a New York City law enforcement officer. He started out as a traffic cop directing traffic in Manhattan. Through studying and hard work he rose through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. As a Lieutenant he was responsible for the Organized Crime Unit at One Police Plaza and retired as Captain of the 5th Precinct in Chinatown, Manhattan South.

After retiring from the NYPD, Gene and Marge moved from their home in Douglaston in 1982 to their country home in Salisbury. Gene began a second career as a real estate broker. He cherished the town of Salisbury and the surrounding areas and soon purchased an office building on Main Street in Lakeville, where he opened his real estate business, E. F.

Green Realty.

In addition to selling real estate, Gene became active in many local organizations. He was the president of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Rotary Club. Gene was one of the founding members of the Salisbury Beautification Committee. For many years he was an active member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Lakeville.

Gene was preceded in death by his wife Margaret Green and his sister Virginia Begley. He is survived by his sister Dorothy Hundley of Northville, Michigan; his children Kathy Hogan and husband Phil Hogan of Monrovia, California; Patti Barry and husband Charlie Barry of Johns Creek, Georgia; Brian Green of Torrington, Connecticut; Eileen Green of Old Orchard Beach, Maine; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

A Mass celebrating the life of Eugene F. Green will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lakeville, CT, on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

### Judith Chatfield Schwerin

SHARON — Judith Chatfield Schwerin, 81, died on March 22, 2024, at her home in Sharon. The wife of Frederick W. Schwerin, Jr., also of Sharon, she was a beloved friend to many.



The daughter of Helen (Spencer) Chatfield and Sherwood Clark Chatfield, she was born in New York City, grew up in Chappaqua, New York, and spent summers in Sharon. Besides her husband, she is survived by her brother, William Chatfield, of Jacksonville, Florida.

A garden historian, author, and lecturer, she wrote four books about Italian gardens: "Boboli Gardens," "A Tour of Italian Gardens," "The Classic Italian Garden," and "Gardens of the Italian Lakes." She gave many illustrated lectures to many garden clubs and other organizations, including Sotheby's, The Cooper-Hewitt Museum, the Italian Cultural Institute, and the Edith Wharton Restoration at the Mount.

She attended Horace Greeley High School and went on to

receive her B.A. and M.A. degrees in art history from Syracuse University in 1964 and 1968 and a Master of Philosophy degree from the Courtauld Institute of the University of London in 1972. In 1967 she won a Fulbright scholarship to study the restoration of art in Florence, Italy after

flooding in the city. She was also a visiting scholar at the American Academy of Rome for three years.

Judith was a member of the Century Association in New York City, the Sharon Women's Club, and the Sharon Garden Club. She was also a worldwide traveler who explored countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and South America.

The Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon is in charge of arrangements. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 25 at Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon.

Instead of flowers, please send donations to the Little Guild of St. Francis in Cornwall, CT.

### In Appreciation

#### Anne Kremer

Anne Kremer was a remarkable woman with many accomplishments. While living in Florida, she was a social worker who designed programs to help families at risk for child abuse. She owned an independent bookstore which hosted author talks and created a literary community. She was a leader in gun violence prevention. Locally, she became involved in affordable housing issues and led the Salisbury Housing Committee for 10 years. Anne was one of my best friends. I was deeply saddened when she recently passed away. Not surprisingly, she had many other friends who mourned

her loss. When I spoke with many people, they always described her as "so nice." I smile when I think about it because I say to myself, "Yes, Anne was really nice but that wouldn't be the first adjective I'd use to describe her." I remember Anne as courageous, loyal, undaunted, principled, loving, stubborn, and forgiving. But I think what I will remember – and miss – most is her humility. The world was a better place with her in it not because she told you all that she had done but because she – well – was so nice.

Sarah Zarbock

Lakeville

Send obituaries to [johnc@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:johnc@lakevillejournal.com)

## Realtor® at Large

We made it in time to see the cherry blossoms in DC this weekend which were just beautiful and noticed that the crowds seeing the blossoms were all happy, so our thought is that we need to plant more cherry trees! Also had a lunch at Jose Andres's restaurant Zaytinya, which was excellent, and while there, I was informed that Jose was the chef who started World Central Kitchen. This is a very effective nonprofit which bring food into areas suffering disasters. For example, they were the first ship last week to arrive in Gaza bringing 200 tons of food, with more to come. So if you would like to learn more about World Central Kitchen and support their efforts, please visit: [wck.org](http://wck.org)



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 <b>Worship Services</b> Week of March 31, 2023	
<b>Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.</b>	
<b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 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 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a>	<b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
<b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a> 860-435-9290	<b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a> Misa en español al mediodía (12 pm) el último sábado de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627
<b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> <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 <a href="http://www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a> 860-824-7252 <b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm <a href="http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org">www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</a>	<b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at <a href="mailto:jokiuloi@gmail.com">jokiuloi@gmail.com</a> All are Welcome
<b>Congregation Beth David</b> A Reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia <b>SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM</b> Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at <a href="http://congbethdavid.org">congbethdavid.org</a> ) <b>ALL ARE WELCOME</b> Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 <a href="mailto:info@congbethdavid.org">info@congbethdavid.org</a>	<b>Chabad of Northwest CT</b> On the Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 <a href="http://chabadNW.org">chabadNW.org</a> 860.567.3377   office@chabadNW.org Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount. We are here for you, welcome to the family! <b>WINTER SCHEDULE</b> 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
<b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 <a href="mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net">Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</a>	<b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville <b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church <b>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</b> 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
<b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a>	<b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 <a href="http://www.uccincornwall.org">www.uccincornwall.org</a> Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
<b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	<b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall
<b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thesmithfieldchurch.org">www.thesmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	<b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a>
<b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanumc-umc.com">canaanumc-umc.com</a> <a href="mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com">canaanctumc@gmail.com</a> We hope you will join us!	<b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 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   <a href="http://allsaintsofamerica.us">allsaintsofamerica.us</a>
<b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 <b>VISITORS WELCOME!</b> <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a>	

# THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

## A day in the life of a newspaper truck driver

Around 9 a.m. every Wednesday morning a 26-foot box truck from the printer backs up to a storage garage behind The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News office in Falls Village to unload copies of the week's newspapers.

Between then and about 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, it's up to the Journal's own drivers — Adam Williams, Brian Murphy and me — to deliver these new papers to six realtors, 18 post offices, and 46 retail outlets within a 30-mile radius of the office.

**We travel about 260 miles through 28 towns and villages in three states in our white 2016 four-cylinder Ford Transit Connect van.**

To accomplish this feat, we travel about 260 miles through 28 towns and villages in three states in our white 2016 four-cylinder Ford Transit Connect van. Our itinerary takes us as far north as Great Barrington, Massachusetts; as far south as South Kent, Connecticut, as far east as New Hartford, Connecticut; and as far west as Millbrook, New York.

Over two days, we schedule our deliveries into three "runs." Each run is a circuit, beginning and ending at the office. There are two runs on Wednesday and one on Thursday. Each day we work in teams of two. Adam and I work together on Wednesday. Brian and I work together on Thursday.

Wednesday is the more arduous of the days. There's more to unload and load, more to organize and arrange. Along with an additional run, there are almost twice as many stops to make, six times more papers to deliver, and more than three times as many plastic containers to drop off.

While the van's drivers support each other in many ways, once we're en route, each has their primary role. It's the job of the person behind the wheel (usually Adam or Brian) to get the van safely to the next designated delivery stop; it's up to his companion (usually me) to manage the paperwork and function as the company's representative.

At post offices we drop off the plastic containers (or "tubs" as post offices refer to them), usually leaving them on a loading dock. The size and shape of file folder boxes, they contain newspapers destined for our newspaper subscribers, some of whom live as far away as New York City, Albany and Hartford. Typically, we'll drop off two to four containers at a single post office location; however, in the case of the Lakeville Post Office, the Falls Village Post Office and the Millerton Post Office, we drop off between six and nine! At the beginning of our Wednesday runs we cram 18 or more of these containers in the van, giving us very little rearview visibility until our first post office stop.

We deliver to many more retail accounts than we do to post offices. For every one of our stops at post offices we stop at 2.5 retail accounts. At these establishments (e.g.,

### TALES FROM THE ROAD

Geoffrey Olans

convenience stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, small grocery stores, delis, cafés and restaurants) we bring in bundles of new papers and carry out old unsold papers, using the difference in number to calculate how much money the client owes us that week. We present an invoice for this amount, initialed by the preparer, to the account's cashier or manager for their signature and payment. Our work is concluded when we've entered the number of newspaper "returns" for that client that week into a log-book (which gets passed on to the Accounting Department).

Most accounts receive either The Lakeville Journal or The Millerton News. However, almost a quarter receive both papers. Dual-paper accounts tend to be in areas in or near Millerton and Lakeville. The quantity of papers we deliver to any account varies considerably.

A small family store in an outlying area might receive only five copies. On the other hand, a high-traffic account in a nearby area, like the LaBonne's supermarket in Salisbury, might get over 125 copies.

On Wednesday our first port of call is Sharon. There we stop at Sharon Post Office, Sharon Pharmacy, J.P. Gifford, Sharon Package Store and XtraMart. At the pharmacy the challenge is to get in and out of the tight vestibule where the newspaper rack is located before a customer tries to. At the wine and liquor store the trick is to get in and out before Kirsten melts us with her sweet charm and Dylan completes his thoroughgoing analysis of the New York Jets' prospects for the next NFL football season.

**For me, the highlight is the warm, tasty, cream cheese-slathered bagel I get at On the Run.**

After Sharon we proceed to Lakeville. For me, the highlight there — and of the Wednesday morning run in general — is the warm, tasty, cream cheese-slathered bagel I get at On the Run coffee shop. I've had many bagels but this one hits the spot like no other.

After I've inserted the new Lakeville Journals into the wall rack near the door and given Suzanne, the cashier, the count of returns, I order "the usual." There's no need to say another word. In about ten or 15 minutes, after Adam and I have delivered papers at the Patco service station/convenience store across the street, I'm back to pick it up. This pattern has become so ingrained that the other day Rita, one of the food preparers at the café, was waiting for me on the On the Run doorstep with a grin on her face and my bagel and a napkin in her hand.

A quarter of the way into our second run on Wednesday, when we've completed all our deliveries in Millerton, Adam and I switch roles and I take the wheel. The first thing I do is pull the seat forward,

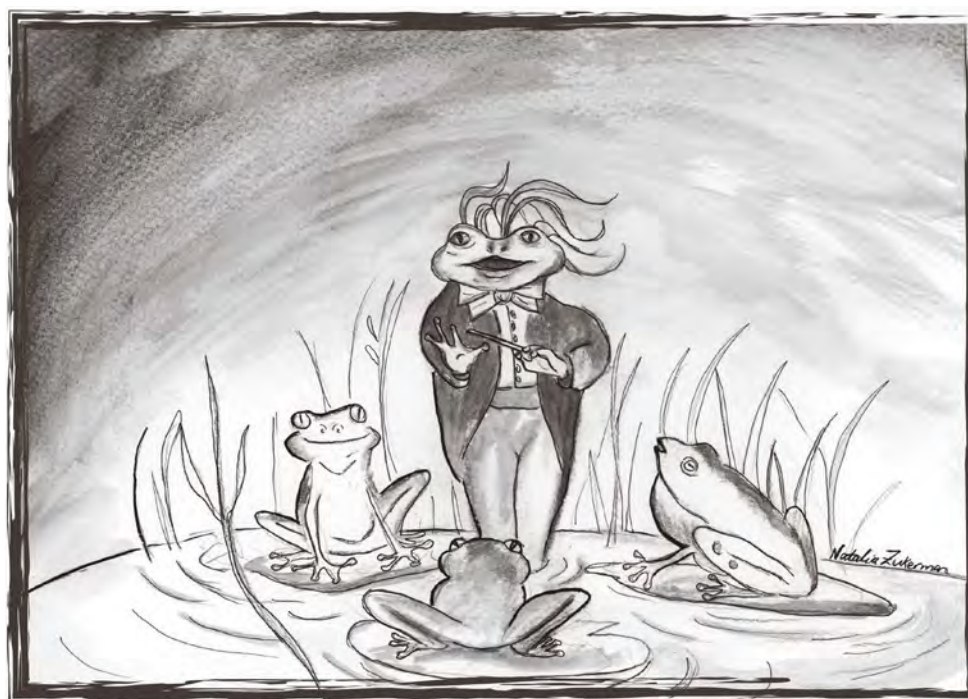
adjust the mirrors and put on a podcast. I'll usually give Adam a couple of options and let him choose.

**We'll pause the podcast to discuss a key point.**

If the podcast is a bust we'll discard it and try something else. A lot of times we'll pause the podcast to discuss a key point. It's amazing how quickly the afternoon whizzes by when we are engrossed in a good podcast! Two of our favorites are "The Ezra Klein Show" and "The Gray Area" with Sean Illing.

We recently reorganized the Wednesday runs so that we get to high-volume accounts like LaBonne's in Salisbury, Stop & Shop in North Canaan, and Fresh-town in Amenia earlier in the day. With the harder work out of the way, by the time we finish with the Salt Point Market in Millbrook we can pretty much coast. By the time we are finished with the Pine Plains Pharmacy I can pretty much close my eyes.

Next: Thursday's run



"Hang on. Is that someone's cell phone?"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where can I go! To get excellent medical care, it was a question that many of us thought about. About 4 years ago I moved to Sharon, Connecticut. It's a beautiful small town with lovely scenery and great people. And an outstanding hospital, I had the pleasure of being there a week from a tick bite. However about 3 months ago I had a terrible pain in my left hip and went to see my doctor in Amenia Dr. Dweck and he sent me to Sharon Hospital to get an x-ray. And to my shock the X-ray was not what I expected. I needed a new hip! I did not

know where I could turn, so I called my family and they told me to go to a New York city hospital to have the replacement. They felt that I can get the best care there. However I know that you can get excellent surgeons but I am not too sure about the care. So I decided to call Sharon hospital and I was told to see doctor John Mullens in Sharon. He is an Orthopedic Specialist. I was skeptical so I made an appointment. When I met Doctor Mullens I was very impressed with his bedside manner I said to him what hospital will you perform the

surgery and he said Sharon hospital. I was delighted because I love Sharon Hospital and I know I will get the best care there. The surgery was in February and they were very careful with me because of my heart condition and Doctor Mullens was especially careful to keep me infection free. I will always be grateful to Doctor Mullens and the staff at Sharon Hospital for the great care I received and one last thing: the food at Sharon hospital was fantastic.

Angelo Prunella  
Sharon, CT

## 1973: Two Roads Diverged

In 1973, Donald and Fred Trump were engaged for two years in a battle with the DOJ: "...specifically a case that charges Donald Trump, Fred Trump and their company of race bias in housing rentals. [...] It was one of the largest cases of the time."

Michael Kranish  
Washington Post

At 26, in 1973, Donald J. Trump commenced his lifelong legal battles — federal and state suits and countersuits numbering 4095 before he assumed the office of President in 2016 and 90 since assuming then losing the office in 2020. Of these 90 post-presidency suits (12 pending) Trump has won but one against his niece, Mary.

Trump legal suits over five decades range from Casino to contracts, employment, personal injury, campaigns, taxes, defamation, obstruction of justice.

Also in 1973, the New York Times (NYT), in a published profile of the younger Trump, birthed a myth of Donald Trump as first in his Wharton graduating class (BA in Real Estate, 1968) — a myth fully debunked in a 1988 NYT investigative article that found few members of his relatively small class knew or knew of Trump, the class commencement program did not list him with any distinction, the self-declared "super genius" was found on no Wharton dean's list. Trump has restricted any educational institute from making public his grades or test scores. Donald J. Trump has never received an honorary degree from any academic institution or acknowledgement of generous gifting (including Wharton).

In contrast, in 1973, Joe Biden, at age 30, was elect to the U.S. Senate sticking his arm out to all he encountered: "Hi, I'm Joe Biden — the new senator from Delaware."

One month after his election, Biden's wife and one year old daughter were killed in an automobile crash that spared his two toddler sons. Biden took his Senate oath

### GUEST COLUMN

By Kathy Herald-Marlowe

of office in the Wilmington hospital chapel. He served in the Senate for six terms.

Biden's first year in the Senate, the 93rd Congress, was replete with major events and governmental action: the passage of Roe vs. Wade, Kissinger appointed Secretary of State, LBJ's death, Nixon to China, Paris Accords/Church Amendment ending the Vietnam War, VP Agnew resigned, replaced with Ford, Endangered Species Act passed as was the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Saturday Night Massacre led to first steps toward a Nixon impeachment (Nixon sidestepped impeachment with his resignation in 1974). Oddly the Roe vs. Wade SCOTUS decision of 1973 was also scandalously leaked however back in 1973, the culprit, a SCOTUS clerk, was identified.

1973 was a significant turning point in the lives of two prominent Americans for their choices, their character and their occupation of the Oval Office. Trump's 2024 rhetoric is of a third-world U.S. status, demise and resentment are the tone, projections, and unrealities — his vita is replete with court cases, TV ratings, bankruptcy, screaming false headlines, brand surges and plunges, declarations of personal exceptionalism. Biden, in stark contrast, has 2024 rhetoric, acts and deeds that bespeak pride, promise, progress by the nation, peoples of talent and will. Biden's vita — outcomes of his life choices — has a plethora of domestic and international honors, steadfastness and accomplishments. He isn't perfect — yet Biden, in raw contrast to Trump, doesn't promote bullying, urge foul play, threaten intentional harm of others.

Time to turn the lights

back on a nation with many shortcomings but scores of decades of betterment — of talent and achievement. In the turmoil of an election year, 2024, can we still hear succinct wisdom: twelve score and six years ago, "our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal [...]. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure.

Abraham Lincoln  
The Gettysburgh Address

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

### Anticipation

The 'billionaire' is so broke

Now we see through the smoke

The con man was exposed today

I'll wait before I say hooray

The day will come for me to cheer

And toast the jailer with a beer

Then follow with a bourbon shot

What will he do? What has he got?

Michael Kahler  
Lakeville

**The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. every Monday.**

**Please email typed letters to editor@millertonnews.com with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line**

### THE MILLERTON NEWS

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#### Mission Statement

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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**BUDGET** *Continued from Page A1*

districts across the state," including Pine Plains CSD.

He added, "I wouldn't say at this point that anything in the proposed budget would negatively impact student lives," but continued, "we are making adjustments to the Pine Plains CSD budget for 2024-2025."

Timm said that Pine Plains CSD will look at adjusting some services with BOCES and faculty and staff health insurance, but would mostly offset differences by reallocating appropriations funds — "a one time cost to the district that would present a problem moving forward," said Timm. "It's not sustainable."

**Legislators' alternative**

On March 14, the Senate and Assembly passed a one-house budget resolution which proposes amendments to Hochul's proposed Executive Budget including the restoration of the "hold harmless" provision, which ensures that school districts are allocated at least as much aid as they received the pre-

vious year, regardless of declines in enrollment.

The budget resolution proposes \$747 million in aid to school districts throughout the state (as opposed to the \$507 million increase proposed by Hinchey's budget).

Legislators are also requesting a review of the Foundation Aid formula.

Earlier in March, Hochul's budget director, Blake Washington, said that a revenue consensus meeting with the State Legislature determined there is \$1.3 billion in tax collections coming to the state which had not been previously allocated, which could be used to negate the changes to the Foundation Aid.

"We are hopeful that some if not all of the Foundation Aid is returned for the 2024-2025 school year and that the Foundation Aid Formula is revised," said Timm.

The final enacted budget will evolve from negotiations between Governor Hochul and the legislative branch.

The budget deadline for New York State is April 1.

**BOOK BAN** *Continued from Page A1*

consider this plea:

"Please remove all gender ideology books and symbols from the children's section in our library."

At a board meeting held on February 20, Millbrook library agreed that some of the material was not where it should have been, and yes, some of it shouldn't have been in the children's section.

The offending literature was removed from the children's section of the library.

A total of 4,240 book titles were marked for restriction or removal in 2023, in schools and libraries across America. School libraries saw an increase of 11% in challenges, while public libraries reported a 92% increase of challenges to specific books.

According to the American Library Association (ALA), from 2022 to 2023, the banned books with unique titles list grew by 65%. About 47% of these books were about the LGBTQ community or people of color, or both.

The petition to move books in the Millbrook Library had been written by Kay Vanderlyn of Millbrook, who has five children, none of whom attend Alden Elementary.

Her petition stated that "while it's crucial to teach our children about diversity and acceptance, introducing such complex topics at an early age may lead to confusion or distress.

"Our request isn't about censorship or denying access to information. It's about ensuring age-appropriate materials for our children."

The letter also explained that "our community is home to many young minds that are still developing their understanding of the world. It is our responsibility as parents and guardians to guide them through this process."

The Millbrook Library Board, and Library Board President Jodi Fernandes, responded to the petition with a letter that was made public via the library web site.

They acknowledged the incident, and noted that a library staff member had also raised concerns that a new book on display about reproduction, 'It's So Amazing' by Robie H. Harris, was inappropriate.

They said that one of the books cited had been miscatalogued and had already been moved to the Young Adult section, prior to the petition's release.

The letter went on to note that the petition had asked that all material and symbols related to "gender ideology" cited books and images of rainbow-colored items on display in the Children's and Young Adult section of the library.

The Board noted that they had been serving the Millbrook public for 125 years through its mission to empower the community to be resilient, informed and equitable through leadership and collaboration.

They also noted that by providing free information, educational programs and services, they hope to encourage each community member to feel seen, heard and valued.

They agreed that some materials should be left to the parent or guardian to discuss with the child; therefore, they say, they have put a new procedure into place meant to ensure that all field trips, when parents or guardians are not present, will have the content pre-selected by the

visiting school in advance "to align with specific needs of classes and studies."

"In terms of content selection and removal, we have an established Collection Development Policy that exists to help guide the staff in the selection of materials to support the community," it continues.

"Should anyone in the community wish to have books within the library re-considered for circulation, we have a policy in place to do so," they stated, and noted that there is a link on the library website for that purpose.

The letter also made clear that families in the community had recently requested age-appropriate books on themes of gender identity and inclusivity.

"All these materials have been vetted through the Collection Development Policy. We appreciate that there are many different perspectives in a healthy and thriving community, and that is what makes a community great — the ability to share varying points of view and information through passionate discourse."

The letter from the Library Board finishes by thanking everyone who has reached out to them, in person, over the phone, through email and in writing to share their perspectives on the library's collections, and encouraged the public to continue to share ideas, concerns and wishes with the library staff.

**LAND BACK** *Continued from Page A1*

the relationship that exists between the current residents and those who were displaced." She asks, "What does it mean to live on stolen land? You may not be guilty of the act of dispossession, but it is a relationship you have inherited."

The recent history of the Mohicans (The People of the Waters that Are Never Still) is one of repeated displacement and dispossession by European settlers.

In 1609, when Henry Hudson sailed up the Hudson, the Mohican lands stretched "across six states from Southwest Vermont, the entire Hudson River Valley of New York, from Lake Champlain to Manhattan, western Massachusetts up to the Connecticut River Valley, northwest Connecticut, and portions of Pennsylvania and New Jersey," writes Dorothy Davids her "Brief History of the Mohican Nation."

Pitts stressed that for Indigenous people, land ownership is a European settler concept and is far different from how Indigenous people regard the land. When 17th- or 18th-century Mohicans they signed a deed or sold land, they did not expect to never be allowed to return to it. They expected it to be shared as land had always been shared, that they could still hunt, fish, and travel through it. Instead, they were pushed into smaller and smaller territories while the European settlers built houses, farms, and towns on the lands they had once cared for.

In the 1660s, as the colonies grew, the Mohicans were being "squeezed from east and west."

By 1734, many Mohicans were located near the Housatonic River in Stockbridge,

Massachusetts. They allowed missionaries to build a church and school, but after the Revolutionary War, which Mohicans fought alongside the colonists, they returned to find that their lands near the Housatonic had been taken through "debt and mortgage and often fraudulent means" and also that "plans had already been made to remove them from Stockbridge."

In the 1780s, many moved to New Stockbridge, New York, at the invitation of the Oneidas. They again settled and built homes and planted crops, and after several years, European immigrants again moved north, claimed the land, and forced further displacement.

This scenario played out again and again with the Mohicans. By the 1820s, much of the tribe had moved to Kaukauna, Wisconsin; by the 1840s, to land near Lake Winnebago.

In 1856, they signed a treaty with the Menominee Nation for access to the land where they remain today, which is located in Shawano County, Wisconsin. Today, now as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, there are "approximately 1500 en-

rolled Tribal members, about a third of whom live on the Wisconsin Reservation."

Another concept that sometimes means different things to settlers' inheritors and Indigenous people is the concept of "land back."

An example of Land Back took place in 2023 on Monument Mountain, where 351 acres of land were returned to the Mohican people. This was made possible by the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP), which, explained Pitts, "provides local communities with funding and technical assistance to implement climate resilience projects."

Shannon Holsey, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans President, has explained that the Land Back movement is not "trying to reclaim land from ownership in a Western colonial way of thinking about it."

The Stockbridge Munsee people, she continued, are interested in reclaiming "ways of being, which were never based on money." The meaning of ancestral land, she said, exceeds capitalist concepts of ownership; land back is about "reclamation of our kinship systems, our governance

systems, our ceremony and spirituality, our language, our culture, and our food and medicinal systems," all of which "are based on our relationships to the land."

She emphasized that the movement is also about stewardship, and "making sure that we do whatever we can in a collaborative way to protect it for future generations."

The Indigenous ways of land management and stewardship that will be used on Monument Mountain will benefit the environment, and is believed that such stewardship practices could also help combat global warming.

Patty Krawec wrote about Land Back in "Becoming Kin": "We cannot talk about restoring our relationship to the land without talking about restoring the land to relationship with the people from whom it was taken. [...] Unable to imagine any scenario other than what settler colonialism unleashed on us, people assume that Land Back means evictions, relocations, and elimination. [...] But wholesale eviction was never what we intended. Remember, from the earliest treaties, we offered a way to live together in peace, friendship, and respect."

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



The Webb Family in the workshop from left to right: Phyllis, Dale, Ben, Josh Webb and project manager, Hannah Schiffer.

PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN



PHOTO PROVIDED

Robert Cray

MUSIC: MIKE COBB

## Robert Cray's soulful blues coming to Infinity Hall

Blues legend Robert Cray will be bringing his stinging, funky guitar and soulful singing to Infinity Hall Norfolk on Friday, March 29.

A five-time Grammy winner, Cray has been inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame and earned The Americana Music Awards Lifetime Achievement for Performance. He has played with blues and rock icons including Albert Collins, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, The Rolling Stones, Tina Turner, Eric Clapton, and many more.

Active since 1974, The Robert Cray Band is highly regarded as one of the best groups performing Blues, Soul, R&B, Gospel, and Rock n Roll with a sound that is modern while being rooted in classic styles. The group features Robert Cray on guitar and vocals, Richard Cousins on bass, Dover Weinberg on keyboards, and George Sluppick on drums.

With 20 albums to his name, his most recent record "That's What I Heard" was released in February 2020 and was produced by Steve

Jordan, the current drummer for The Rolling Stones. Jordan took over for legendary drummer Charlie Watts after Watts passed away in August 2021.

A legend in his own right, Jordan has performed with Joe Cocker, The Blues Brothers Band and movie (featuring John Belushi and Dan Akroyd), Stevie Wonder, The Saturday Night Live Band, and Paul Shaffer and The World's Most Dangerous Band, the house band for the David Letterman Show from 1982-1986. He has also been a member of Connecticut resident Keith Richard's group The Xpensive Winos since the mid 1980s.

About Cray's talent, Jordan says, "People gravitate to his guitar playing first, but I think he's one of the best singers I've heard in my life."

When asked to describe his new record, with a laugh Cray says, "funky, cool, and bad."

Faithful to his Fender Stratocaster guitar, Cray plays with a distinctive, clean tone versus the overdriven sound typical of many blues rockers such as his 90s contemporary Stevie Ray Vaughn, who have an almost hard rock aesthetic. Cray's playing is often sparse and lyrical, with an almost vocal tone.

The feel-good track "Anything You Want" from "That's What I Heard" gets frequent airplay on area radio station 98.1 WKZE. With soulful vocals and warbly, tremolo guitar lines reminiscent of Pops Staples, it is an extremely catchy song that swings as much as its rocks. Live, it is sure to get

Continued on next page

LIFESTYLE: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## Tuning up two passions under one roof

Magic Fluke Ukulele Shop and True Wheels Bicycle Shop are not only under the same roof in a beautiful solar powered building on Route 7 in Sheffield, but they are also both run by the Webb family, telling a tale of familial passion, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability.

In the late '90s, Dale Webb was working in engineering and product design at a corporate job. "I took up instrument manufacturing as a fun challenge," said Dale. After an exhibit at The National Association of Music Merchants in Anaheim, California, in 1999, The Magic Fluke company was born. "We were casting finger boards and gluing these things together in our

basement in New Hartford and it just took off," Dale explained. "It was really a wild ride, it kind of had a life of its own."

For the first few years of business, Dale and Phyllis Webb were making and shipping 3,000 to 4,000 instruments a year. They soon moved out of their basement and into an old, abandoned service station in New Hartford where they were also fulfilling orders for books written by Phyllis's brother, Jim Beloff. "He was a guitarist, songwriter and performer," said Dale of his brother-in-law. "He picked up a ukulele at a flea market and he never went back to guitar." Beloff established Flea Market Music which has published the wildly popular Jumpin' Jim's Ukulele Songbook series.

Beloff's songbooks, instructional books, DVDs and the Webb Family's Fluke and Flea ukuleles have contributed greatly to the popularity of the instrument. Developed in the 1880s, the ukulele is based on several small, guitar-like instruments of Portuguese origin that were introduced to the Hawaiian Islands by immigrants from Madeira, the Azores and Cape Verde. In the Hawaiian language the word ukulele roughly translates as "jumping flea."

Since its first shipment of concert Flukes in three distinct color options in June of 1999, the product line has expanded exponentially with a diverse array of offerings. From the traditional Soprano, Concert, Tenor, and Baritone Uke Banjos to the more con-

temporary solid body Electric Uke and Timber Bass, Magic Fluke has carved out a niche in the world of stringed instruments. Said Dale, "Our niche has been the nontraditional look, which, I think has served us well. We have an iconic, unique headstock and then we do a lot of customizing with either laser engraving or printing. We can print anything on a face, and we do that in-house. People send us their pictures or artwork and we can put that right on the instrument." Recent additions, such as the five-string violin introduced in 2021, signify the company's ongoing commitment to innovation. A short-scale electric cello is slated for release later in 2024.

With a keen eye for locally sourced materials and a commitment to

Continued on next page



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# COMPASS

MUSIC: KATHRYN BOUGHTON, KGTD

## Cabaret comes to St. Andrew's in Kent

Music in the Nave will again tap into local talent April 6 at 7 p.m. when its features George Potts in an intimate cabaret concert in the St. Andrew's Church parish house.

Pott is a well-known figure in the community, both through his presence in the perennially popular Fife 'n Drum, the restaurant started by his father-in-law, renowned pianist Dolph Trayman, and through his own career as a folk musician. "When I came to Kent in 1976, Dolph would be at the Fife six nights

a week playing," Potts recalled. "He was looking for someone to play bass. I didn't know his material and I had to learn all those great American Songbook songs. With Dolph, you really had to know what you were doing. He made me step up my musicianship a great deal."

That was one side of the musical coin, but the other was his love affair with folk music. "We are all products of our generation. I'm 73 years old, and I have never lost interest in finding new music, but when I was young, I wanted to be

married to Joni Mitchell and to write like Paul Simon. I tended to be more interested in folk singers."

For more than 30 years he has played with Salisbury's Joint Chiefs, an Americana group that has performed extensively throughout the region. "I've written some songs for the quartet, but others didn't quite fit their style," Potts said. So, when the whole world shut down for Covid, he retreated to what had once been his daughter's bedroom and started writing and recording his first solo CD.



George Potts

PHOTO PROVIDED

"I wrote eight of the songs on the CD, but two other songs are already well-known, 'Your Lying Eyes' by the Eagles and 'I Meant to Go to Memphis,' a song about people who reach an age where they look back at the things they never did."

Potts completed composing and recording and released the CD in 2022, where it climbed to 20th on Folk Music charts. "When I first heard the album, I completely fell in love with it and I thought we need to let people hear

this," said Matt Harris, chairman of St. Andrew's Music Commission and the Concert Series.

"This album is very intimate and has a breadth to it that would never make you think he had done it by himself in a little room," Harris said. "His song 'Lonely Town' speaks to this age of anxiety, while 'Travel Dream Motel' is about chambermaids — something no one writes about. It is completely fresh. I feel the songs together make an artistic statement."

Harris said Music in the Nave, which pre-

viously focused only on classical music, has widened its scope, starting with another cabaret evening with Kent resident Steve Katz, a founder of Blood, Sweat and Tears.

"When we had Steve Katz, we had to turn people away and this is another guy of same generation with years of history of playing rock and folk. When Steve Katz appeared, we decided people sitting in pews was not the right vibe for this kind of performance."

Continued on next page

### ...two passions

and a commitment to eco-friendly practices, Magic Fluke stands as a testament to the power of conscientious craftsmanship. This ethos of environmental responsibility has been proudly passed on to the three Webb boys: Josh, Ben and Sam, who are not only continuing the family ukulele business, but expanding to include their own interests and areas of expertise. Ben Webb is building an inventory of furniture and home objects, "highly functional, very simple forms that are made of local hardwoods," he explained. "The whole idea is to build something of quality and put it in the hands of as many people as possible. I feel like it's often one or the other. It's like, build something of quality and put it in the hands of people that can afford it or put it in as many hands as possible but compromise on quality."

The Webbs do not compromise on quality, while forging deep relationships within all their various networks. "It feels really good to be able to sell something that is made with dignity and has a really thoughtful environmental impact," Ben explained. This careful and

skilled craftsmanship doesn't end with ukuleles or handmade home objects: enter True Wheels Bicycle Shop.

Led by Josh Webb in partnership with his younger brother Sam, the foray into bicycle rental and repairs seamlessly intertwines with Magic Fluke's mission of creativity and sustainability. Said Josh, "The whole family has been into cycling from a young age and then in college I did some competitive riding and found out about this company called Seven Cycles in Watertown." After studying mechanical engineering in college, Josh went to work for Seven Cycles for a time before returning to the family business.

"I guess in the back of my mind since then it has been a goal to have some kind of a bike shop, just because I enjoy repairing bicycles and keeping things rolling for people." Asked how the skills of instrument building and bike maintenance are related, Ben offered, "It's the same, really. It's attention to detail, understanding how things work and having the fine motor skills to do anything." He laughed, "You know, sometimes I think if I

Continued from previous page

wasn't so queasy, I could go into surgery." Josh added, "I'm reminded of a quote that I stumbled on recently that talks about how the Shakers and the Native Americans both shared a love of craft without materialism. They were not materialistic people, but they had a love of craft. And that for me, is something I strive for."

As the workshop buzzed with creativity and production, Phyllis Webb reflected on the 25 years of the family business as she and Dale prepare to take a step back. "I think we never expected to have our kids in the business. We never wanted anybody to feel obligated, so we wanted everybody to go off and do their own thing and feel like they had wings to spread. The fact that they're here is wonderful."

In an age of mass production and disposable consumerism, Magic Fluke and True Wheels stand as bastions of authenticity. "My brother Jim coined the phrase 'uke can change the world,'" Phyllis mused, "and I feel like we have changed the world in our way."

### ...Robert Cray

audiences dancing. His songwriting touches on relationships, love, and more recently the evergreen topic of peace. His song "What Would You Say" poses the simple but profound question:

*What would you say, if we quit waging war,  
And children fell safe asleep?  
One of these days we may all learn to talk,  
Over a table with something to eat*

Cray's current tour takes him throughout the USA and Europe with

dates booked in Poland, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, and back to the USA.

Long dormant, Infinity Hall Norfolk looks like it will be resuming more bookings, though not as much as in previous years. Well known for its stellar acoustics and beautiful, historical architecture, it is one of the better venues to see live performances in northwestern Connecticut and an important economic driver for downtown

Norfolk. Goodworks Productions took over just before the pandemic. Operational expenses and staffing have been as challenging for Infinity as they are elsewhere in the region.

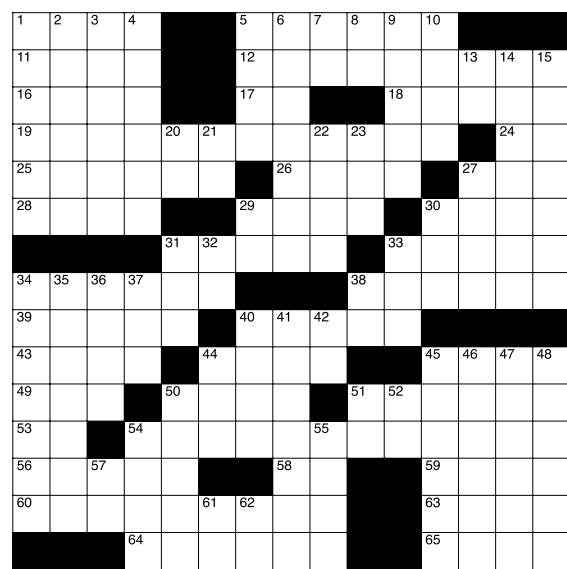
Norfolk and area residents yearn for more concerts at the venue. With less on offer, shows at Infinity are proving popular as the only act in town. Cray's performance is sure to sell out.

For tickets and information go to [www.infinityhall.com](http://www.infinityhall.com).

## Brain Teasers

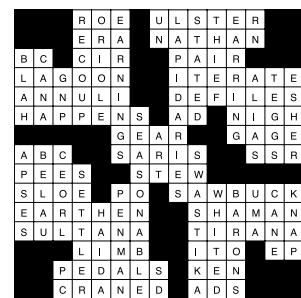
### CLUES ACROSS

1. Database management system
5. Medical procedures
11. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
12. Defender
16. Exert oneself
17. Indicates position
18. Quay
19. Atrocities
24. A way to address an adult man
25. Ends
26. Unable
27. Taxi
28. Gratuities
29. A famous train station
30. Japanese persimmon
31. Sours
33. Beneficiary
34. Baseball official
38. Confused situation
39. Unworldly
40. Yemen capital
43. Type of soil
44. Beloved beverage \_\_\_ Cola
45. Lying down
49. \_\_\_ Angeles
50. Fail to amuse
51. Collapsible shelter
53. Commercial
54. Taste property
56. Lordship's jurisdictions
58. It cools your home
59. Dismounted
60. Charge in a court of law
63. One less than one
64. Spoke
65. Famed garden

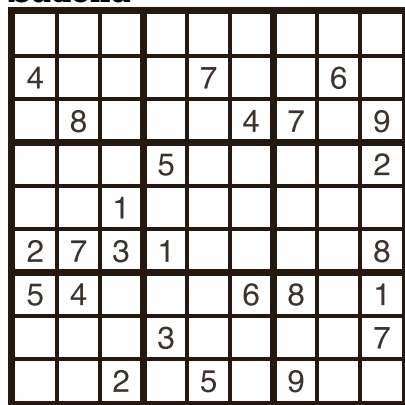


20. Of I
21. Equally
22. Changes color
23. A place to stay
27. Town in Galilee
29. Mathematical figure
30. Klingon character
31. They \_\_\_
32. Atomic #58
33. Showed up extinct
34. Loosen grip
35. Unpleasant smell
36. Innermost membranes enveloping the brain
37. Esteemed college "league"
38. Partner to Pa
40. Small American rail
41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
42. Sodium
44. Military figure (abbr.)
45. Lighted
46. Paid to get out of jail
47. All of something
48. Ohio city
50. More abject
51. A radio band
52. Scientific development (abbr.)
54. Monetary unit
55. Scored perfectly
57. A punch to end a fight
61. The Golden State (abbr.)
62. The Beehive State (abbr.)

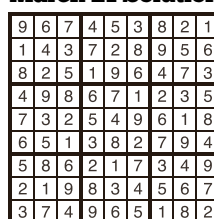
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## FOOD: PAMELA OSBORNE

## Shirin Polo, a little something different on the side

Once had a friend, now cooking in heaven, who served exactly the same meal every time I went to his house. He was pretty offended if anyone remarked or complained about it, which I gathered had happened. He had all the steps down pat though, could put it together in his sleep, and had no plans to make any changes. His wife had no plans to take over, either, dish duty was her niche. I was fine with all this, since I never had that meal anywhere else, but I have to ask: Weren't they bored?

I've been thinking about this as spring and various holidays approach. One thing I'm pretty sure of is that when it comes to what they expect to see on the festive table, most people sitting around it don't exactly have open minds. How else to explain the cries of shock and horror that mark the absence of, at Thanksgiving for example, a casserole of canned sweet potatoes sloshed with orange juice and topped with a blanket of melted marshmallows? Which, okay, has earned its place and its admirers, people like it and I'm not here to say

never.

I have a vintage "Joy of Cooking" that has little poems and quotes at the start of every chapter. "A definition of eternity: Two People and a Ham", says one. Ham, lamb, turkey (again?), and so it goes. People expect them to be on their holiday table no matter what because they always have been, and they probably always will be. Eyes may glaze over, eyes may roll, nothing will change: we know what we want and we're sticking to it. What's on the side, I would suggest, is your only chance to ring in anything different. With that in mind I offer the following, which I first had in a Persian restaurant, Mohsen, when I was visiting a friend in London a few years ago. Mohsen is a very modest restaurant, sort of a luncheonette, but it's full of Persians and the food is terrific. The name of this dish means "sweet rice," but it isn't particularly sweet. It is offered at weddings and other special celebrations, and is Really Good. It will go well with the ham or lamb or whatever other main dish is on your table. You'll like it, I promise, and, best of all,

you can do most of the work ahead of time.

**Shirin Polo**

Oranges Buy several, let's say half a dozen. Organic only, you're going to eat the peel.

1/2 c. sugar

1 c. water

1/3 c. slivered blanched almonds

1/3 c. slivered unsalted pistachios - you'll have to sliver them yourself

1 and 1/2 c. uncooked basmati rice

Optional: saffron, an onion, raisins or sultanas

Using a vegetable peeler, cut just the (washed) orange-colored peel from the oranges. Don't cut into the bitter white pith, just the outer layer is what you want. Flatten the pieces onto a cutting board and cut them into very fine slivers with a very sharp knife. You want a cup of slivers, lightly packed. It will take a while to do this, and it's worth it.

Put the zest into a sauce pan, cover with water and bring to a boil. Cook at a medium boil, uncovered, 5 to 7 minutes; drain. Do this again with fresh water; drain again.

Put the sugar and 1 c. water into the emptied saucepan, bring to a boil while stirring to dissolve the sugar. Add the zest, reduce the heat to low medium, and cook until the liquid is reduced to about three tablespoons, stirring occasionally. Using a slotted spoon, remove the zest — which should look fairly transparent at this point — to a plate. Spread it out and let it cool. This can be done the day before; keep it refrigerated until you need it. Let it come to room temperature before adding it to the dish. If you keep the syrup, you can add it to ice cream, etc.

If you want an onion in your dish, sauté it, thinly sliced or chopped, in a mixture of a few tablespoons of butter and oil, until it is lightly browned and softened. If you want saffron, dissolve a pinch in a few TB. of water, keep aside. If you use raisins or sultanas they should be fresh, not hard and dry.

Mohsen did not use any of these optional ingredients. I called them a few times when I was figuring this out, because online recipes for shirin polo use a host of other ingredients, carrots in



PHOTO BY PAMELA OSBORNE

particular. But no, they said, only the ingredients listed above. I have used some of the optional ingredients listed and they were good, but the dish stands very well on its own without them. I usually don't fiddle.

Cook the rice, mix in the onion (and its butter/oil) and raisins, if you're using them. Put this into a buttered serving dish and, if you're using the dissolved saffron, drizzle it over the rice. At this point, a few hours before serving, you can cover this and keep it on the counter. Later, put a few dots of butter onto the rice — a tablespoon or so, more if you've doubled the recipe, but don't go crazy — and recover. Heat

at 300 to 350 degrees for about half an hour or so. It should be hot. Before serving, spread the orange peel over the surface and sprinkle with the almonds and pistachios. You will want sea salt (Maldon) and pepper at the table.

This recipe will serve five or so, depending on what else is on the menu. The photograph shows a double recipe, more than enough to feed ten. If you double it, use only one and a half times the orange peel and nuts. I think you will be surprised to see how so few ingredients can synthesize into something so very good.

*Pamela Osborne lives in Salisbury.*

## ...cabaret

Our pastor suggested a cabaret feel with wine and cheese."

Guests will again be seated at tables that can seat eight people. "It's a good size," said Harris. "If you are coming by yourself or with a friend, you don't feel forced to mingle, or you can have a table for a whole party. And we are having it early enough so you can have dinner before or after."

It will be the kind of "listening room" that artists crave, said Potts, who reports that he had to adjust as a young musician to playing in restaurants where the focus was on dining and visiting rather than listening to the musicians.

"You have to get used to that," he said. "Before I moved here, I worked full-time as musician and when I was younger,

it would bother me. But then I realized I would rather be playing than sitting at home.

"One thing about Music in Nave is that it's totally about listening," he continued. "There were clubs like Amazing Grace that were listening rooms, where people went to hear amazing music and everyone was into listening."

Such experiences are harder to find today when music can literally be carried around in your pocket, he said. "Before recordings, people had to sit and listen. Even in the '70s everything was played on a record or tape, or you listened to it live."

Similar changes have taken place in the recording industry. Sometimes artists never

see each other as they collaborate on a recording, sending around soundtracks that each player adds to. Potts said there are advantages both to having a group of artists in one room and being alone.

"Each time I play with different band, it's like different parts of my brain are firing. It creates I don't know what in your brain — you are in the moment and, if you are playing with musicians you enjoy, you are always throwing musical sparks. It's like we finish each other's musical sentences.

"But I don't think of it as apples and oranges," he said. "When recording as an individual, it comes down to making your own spark." Modern software allows a musi-

cian to be "as inventive as you want. Recording at home is like going down a rabbit hole," he said.

On "Ends and Odds," he collaborated with mandolin player Gordon Titcomb, who has performed with artists such as Arlo Guthrie and Paul Simon. Titcomb will perform with him April 6.

"It will be fun," Potts concluded. "We will be doing mostly my own material. I've written things since the CD that I will perform. I don't know any musician who doesn't enjoy that experience."

Tickets for the evening are \$10 and can be purchased online at <https://bitly/georgepotts> or at the door.

*Kent Good Times Dispatch*

*Continued from previous page*

## Music Mountain Announces 95th Summer Festival

FALLS VILLAGE — Highly anticipated chamber music and jazz concerts, family concerts and pre-concert talks will headline the Music Mountain Summer Festival for 16 consecutive weekends, from June 2 through Sept. 15.

Highlighting Music Mountain's chamber season are works by composers who express in music their own journey from struggle to triumph, freedom or acceptance: Beethoven, who forged a musical path through hearing loss to create timeless classics; Schubert, who was neglected most of his life and yet produced some of the most popular chamber works today; Hugo Kauder, who defied the atonal trend of his generation with his uniquely harmonic, contrapuntal style; and others such as Prokofiev, Robert Schumann and Janáček.

Renowned pianist Benjamin Hochman will kick off the series on June 2 along with friends from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. This concert will feature the presentation of Music Mountain's first Lifetime Achievement Award to Ann McKinney, former board chair and board member, and one of Music Mountain's all-time most generous donors.

Concerts at Music Mountain are in air-conditioned Gordon Hall, at 225 Music Mountain Road, in Falls Village, Connecticut. Tickets go on sale on April 3 online at [www.musicmountain.org](http://www.musicmountain.org) or by calling the pre-season Box Office number (860) 836-6296.

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

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# COMPASS

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at [millertonnews.com/events-calendar](http://millertonnews.com/events-calendar). To submit calendar items, email [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com)

### MARCH 28

#### Silent Reading Gathering During Evening Embers

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. [norfolklibrary.org](http://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](http://norfolklibrary.org) is appreciated but not required.

#### Adventures of an Eclipse Chaser

NorthEast-Millerton Library, [nemillertonlibrary.org](http://nemillertonlibrary.org) Online. Zoom.

On Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m., attend an online talk titled Adventures of an Eclipse Chaser, which is the fascinating story of Joe Rao and his adventures chasing solar eclipses. Over the last 50 years, Joe Rao has traveled by land, sea, and air to capture the elusive sight of a total solar eclipse. His story is a blend of humor, anecdotes, and poignant moments that recount some of his most memorable experiences while pursuing the amazing feat. Registration required.

### MARCH 30

#### Málaga Chamber Orchestra with José Manuel Gil de Gálvez

Katherine M. Elfers Hall, The Esther Eastman Music Center, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.

On Saturday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m., don't miss this special performance, An Evening of Spanish Music, by Málaga Chamber Orchestra (Concerto Málaga). This evening will feature works by Falla, Turina, Rodrigo, and Albéniz. The concert is free and open to the public; no ticket reservations are necessary. Seating is first come, first served.

#### 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](http://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](http://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 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](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Whether you're a poet or a poetry lover, whether you'd like to read aloud or just listen, come join us 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. Our emcees are local poets Joanne Hayhurst and Sarah Tames. For more information and to register, please visit [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org).

### APRIL 5

#### Banned Book Club

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

On Friday, April 5 at 4 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Equity Project will host a Banned Book Club. This month we will be discussing the book "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison. Copies of the book are available at the library. This group is open to anyone high school aged and older.

### APRIL 6

#### Artists Books: Design and Creation, a Talk with May Castleberry

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

On April 6, from 4 to 5 p.m., May Castleberry, editor of the Contemporary Editions series published by the Library Council of The Museum of Modern Art, will present artists books that she has edited for MOMA and the Whitney Museum Library. These spectacular works feature collaborations between renowned contemporary artists, writers, photographers, and thinkers, and the talents of printmakers, bookbinders, paper cutters, and engineers. Learn and see how their creativity comes together in books that are works of art. Registration is required. Please visit

[www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org).

#### Old Time Community Dance

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

From 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 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](mailto:Debra@Motherhouse.us) or 860-671-7945.

### APRIL 7

#### Ungardening with Dee Salomon: Clearing Invasives & Propagating Native Plants

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Get ready for planting season with Dee Salomon, consultant on restoring native habitats and writer of the Lakeville Journal column "The Ungardener". Dee will tell the story of how to transform an invasive-filled woodland into a place for native plants, human joy, and animal survival. Learn what to plant and what to pull up, and pick up information about native plant resources on Sunday, April 7, 3 to 4 p.m. Registration is required. Please visit [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org).

#### Art Opening Reception: Deborah Hanson Greene

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. [norfolklibrary.org](http://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.

### APRIL 8

#### The Solar Eclipse is Almost Here!

NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [nemillertonlibrary.org](http://nemillertonlibrary.org)

April 8 is a important day. It will be the last solar eclipse for next forty years! Millerton is very close to having a total eclipse. We will have 97% coverage of the sun that afternoon. Starting on March 19, you can pick up eclipse glasses for free at the front desk of the library. Glasses will be limited to four per household.

### APRIL 11

#### "The Einstein Effect" Book Talk

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

On Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host a virtual program with Benyamin Cohen, author of "The Einstein Effect". A fascinating look into how Einstein's genius and science continues to show up in so many



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

### Millbrook Arts Group

The final installment of Millbrook Arts Group's Winter Concert Series will host Mark "Boot" Calkins, Emily Beck and Marc Berger at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, March 30, at 5 p.m.

All MAG concerts are free and open to the public. As Bob Buttons, MAG board member, said in his opening remarks, "Music builds community, and we have a wonderful community."

Above: Joana Genova, Heather Braun, Nathaniel Parke and Ariel Rudiakov of the Taconic String Quartet performed at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, Feb. 24

facets of our everyday lives including GPS, remote controls, even toothpaste. This event is free and open to the public. Register online.

#### Film Screening: "Freud's Last Session"

The Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass.

At 5 p.m., The Triplex Cinema and Great Barrington Public Theater will present a screening of "Freud's Last Session" based on Mark St. Germain's play. The event includes a talkback with Mark St. Germain led by Great Barrington Public Theater artistic director Jim Frangione. Party food will be prepared by Guidos, wine will be donated by Domaney's and desserts provided by Great Barrington Bagel Company. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased via the Triplex website at [www.thetriplex.org](http://www.thetriplex.org)

### APRIL 13

#### Poetry Reading

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

On Saturday, April 13, at 4 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host A Celebration of Poetry in honor of National Poetry Month.

Participants are invited to read their own poems or pieces by their favorite poets. Each reader will have 5 to 10 minutes to share. All ages are welcome to participate. Drinks and snacks will be served.

#### Documentary Film: "Herd" (2023)

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. [norfolklibrary.org](http://norfolklibrary.org)

A herd of shaggy Belted Galloway cattle is delivered to a neighboring pasture in the Catskills and instantly inspires a new film. The filmmaker's growing fascination with the complex forces that propel the animals through one season to the next leads him to reflect on the modern idea of animal personhood. Director Michel Negroponte will be at the 5 p.m. screening to do a Q&A with the audience after the show. The film is 59 minutes long. Registration for the program is required at [norfolklibrary.org](http://norfolklibrary.org)

### APRIL 14

#### Music to Nourish Your Soul and Your Hungry Neighbors

Lakeville Town Grove, Lakeville, Conn.


On Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m., Hotchkiss

School musicians, many of whom recently performed at Carnegie Hall, invite the community to a concert at the Lakeville Town Grove to benefit The Corner Food Pantry. Following their performance, guests may stay for a reception to enjoy food, beverages, and conversation. Students will be accepting non-perishable food donations for the pantry, which especially needs pasta sauce, cooking oil, coffee, cooking oil, apple sauce, and salt. Reserved seating is available at [bit.ly/3TR5BKbp](http://bit.ly/3TR5BKbp) Questions can be directed to [clburchf@hotchkiss.org](mailto:clburchf@hotchkiss.org).

#### Art Show

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


"Spring Forth," an art show of paintings by Lynn Lena Curtis and works in mixed media by Lisa Keskinen, will open April 14 at the Parish House of the United Church of Christ in Cornwall. The Opening Reception will be on Sunday, April 14, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All are welcome.



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## REAL ESTATE

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