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## HANGING UP the TONGS



HOWARD PRUSSACK SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS

In this 2013 photo of Top of the Hill Grill, Ellie Sabater takes an order at the window. Sabater was the “face of the Grill for years,” says owner Jon Julian, who put the property and business on the market in April after a quarter century of roadside food service in Brattleboro.

*With Top of the Hill Grill, a beloved and award-winning barbecue joint, closed for good and up for sale, owner Jon Julian reflects on running a business and building a local institution*



COURTESY PHOTO COMMONS FILE

Jon Julian in Orange, Texas, volunteering in the off-season to cook for the Red Cross during the cleanup of Hurricane Ike in 2008.

By Annie Landenberger  
*The Commons*

**B**RATTLEBORO—You won’t be getting your pulled pork sandwich or tempeh burger at Top-of-the-Hill Grill this summer. Nor ever again — at least not the way Jon Julian made them. After 25 summers at 632-634 Putney Rd. and numerous awards and accolades, the 73-year-old restaurateur put the property, with the business, on the market in April. “I’m moving on at this point,” said Julian. “During our season, the work was seven days a week, double shift every day. It’s a physical job. I was blessed with good legs, but I physically don’t have it in me anymore. I’ve just run out of steam.” Julian said he first came to

Vermont to attend the now-defunct Windham College in Putney, on what now is the Landmark College campus. “It didn’t take long to fall in love with Vermont,” he said. “I’d been in Haight-Ashbury [in San Francisco] for a summer and was quickly enamored with the back-to-the-land movement.” Settling in Williamsville in 1970, he first strung together a variety of jobs from village garbage collector and house painter to “handyman for all the little old ladies of Williamsville. They were wonderful,” he said wistfully. “One was convinced I was her husband coming back from the war — World War I.” Julian dabbled in music, taking up percussion, learning that he “actually could carry a tune.” He formed the band Night Train

■ SEE TOP OF THE HILL, A4

## N.H. artists take a field trip to Brattleboro

A group of 30 visitors hear a range of artists and arts entrepreneurs describe the successes and challenges of making a living in the creative economy — and building a creative community

By Joyce Marcel  
*The Commons*

**B**RATTLEBORO—Making art can be a lonely business. So what do most artists want? As it turns out, it’s a sense of community. That was the driving consensus of the 30 artists from Windham County in Vermont and southwestern New Hampshire who came together at Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts at 183 Main St. on a wet Saturday morning to sample delicacies, learn about new opportunities to show

their work, and to schmooze. Definitely, to schmooze. The Artist-to-Artist Field Trip was organized by Arts Alive, a nonprofit organization based in Keene, New Hampshire whose mission is to “support, grow, and connect a sustainable arts landscape in the Monadnock region.” The gathering included an afternoon printmaking workshop with Daniel Chiaccio of First Proof Press, who has an artist’s printmaking shop on the basement level of the building, which has become its own nexus

■ SEE ARTS FIELD TRIP, A2

## Rescue Inc. takes over Keene firm

Brattleboro nonprofit ambulance service to ‘provide continuity’ for R.J. DiLuzio Ambulance

By Kevin O’Connor  
*VtDigger.org*

**B**RATTLEBORO—Windham County’s largest and longest-serving emergency medical services provider is set to take over for a cash-strapped peer in neighboring New Hampshire. Rescue Inc., a Brattleboro-based nonprofit, will assume the obligations of the family-owned R.J. DiLuzio Ambulance, which has wrestled with a \$648,965 federal tax bill in the Granite State city of Keene and surrounding Cheshire County towns. “They have been struggling financially, and we are going to step in to provide continuity,” said Drew Hazelton, Rescue’s chief of operations.

Rescue won’t be purchasing DiLuzio’s equipment or property but instead will add the 30 New Hampshire employees to its current Vermont payroll of 80. “We’ll be there in the short term and, after the dust settles, we’ll be meeting with all of those communities to find out what they want in the future,” Hazelton said. The move comes a year after Brattleboro municipal government dropped its nearly 60-year contract with Rescue with little public notice or debate in favor of a proposed town fire department takeover. Brattleboro leaders still haven’t shared any of the facts or figures that caused them to approve

■ SEE RESCUE, A8

## ‘My grandchildren did not ask for this in their lives’

A local author hopes her memoir will help others, while also helping her own family heal from a journey through the opioid epidemic — not only for her adult children who are struggling with addiction, but for the grandchildren she is now raising amid the trauma

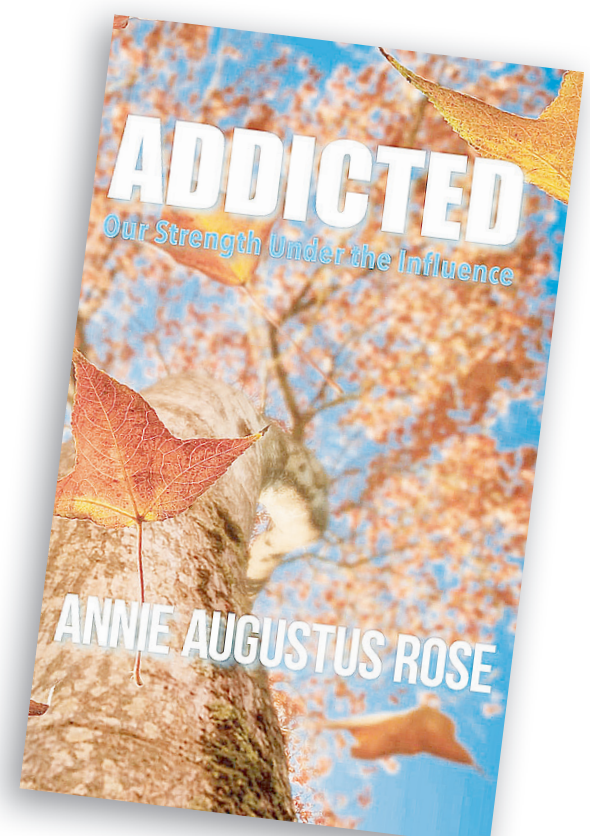
By Fran Lynggaard Hansen  
*The Commons*

**B**RATTLEBORO—Global statistics tell us that one in three people know someone who has substance use disorder, but we hear little about what happens to the families involved in the opioid crisis. In 1998, Annie Augustus Rose’s daughter revealed her struggles with heroin and that she was ready to ask for help. That same day, as Rose drove her to this

first attempt at rehabilitation, little did they both realize how life for this family would be altered as her family unexpectedly crashed headfirst into the world of addiction. Her daughter has been struggling ever since, in

■ SEE MEMOIR, A5

The cover of *Addicted: Our Strength Under the Influence*.



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We especially invite responses to material that appears in the paper.

We do not publish unsigned or anonymous letters, and we only very rarely withhold names for other pieces. When space is an issue, our priority is to run contributions that have not yet appeared in other publications.

Please check with the editor before writing essays or other original submissions of substance. Email: [voices@commonsnews.org](mailto:voices@commonsnews.org)

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**Arts field trip** FROM SECTION FRONT

for the arts. Among the 19 New Hampshire artists were several painters, a water colorist, a filmmaker, an illustrator, a musician and bandleader, a photographer, an “arts appreciator,” a sculptor, a poet, a ceramicist, a few arts administrators, and an art therapist.

They were seeking fellowship, but also new markets for their art. “As an artist, I’m always looking for places to show my sophisticated yet whimsical work,” said painter Soosen Dunholter of Peterborough, New Hampshire. “I’ve maxed out my own community. Everyone there already has a piece of my art.”

**Creating a scene**

The artists first filled their cups with coffee or tea, piled plates with quiche, croissants, and other delicacies, sat in a large circle, and introduced themselves to the executive directors of several successful Brattleboro arts organizations.

These included Petria Mitchell and Jim Giddings of the host gallery, Teta Hilsdon of Wheelhouse Clay Center, Jamie Mohr of Epsilon Spires, Kay Curtis of the Harmony Collective, Emily Wagner of In-Sight Photography Project, and Joshua Farr of the Vermont Center for Photography.

Each was keen to point out that collectively, they represent a center of successful arts economic activity in downtown Brattleboro, which also includes HatchSpace for woodworking, the Brattleboro School of Dance, the print shop, and several other galleries.

“We’re all in this triangle, this creative triangle, which has its own traction,” Mitchell said. “I think we’re all just becoming really aware of it and understanding that we need to utilize it, whether it’s co-advertising or something else.”

She began by pointing out that she and her husband, Giddings, both still have careers as painters. And that both of them had had long careers with the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center.

“So I said to Jim, ‘OK, let’s see if opening a gallery would work after retiring from the museum after 32 years,’” Mitchell said. “And he said, ‘Absolutely not!’ And I said, ‘OK.’”

But, Mitchell continued, “We did it!” In 2014, Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts was born. “It started as a collective, but that ended in about three weeks,” Mitchell said. “So we’re what’s referred to as



Approximately 30 artists and representatives of art organizations gathered on April 29 at Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts in Brattleboro to share ideas about the local art scene.

a commercial gallery. And it’s going OK. We have about 30 to 32 artists who we’re working with. And we have a rotating schedule of our exhibitions. The last couple of months, we’ve decided to do a bunch of group shows, so everybody can have some airtime.”

The joy for both Mitchell and Giddings comes from working with other artists. “We understand how to bridge both worlds,” she said. “We worked with a lot of commercial galleries before we decided to open one. We know what the drawbacks and beauties are of trying to be professional artists and wearing all these different hats. Yes, it’s nuts. But we love what we’re doing.”

Mitchell acknowledged that Brattleboro was currently having a hard time. “With the people who have businesses, everybody’s trying to do succession planning,” she said. “And that’s something I think about a lot and talk to people about. And yes, Brattleboro is taking a really big hit from the economy.”

But, she said, “there are so many artists in this town who are also collectors, it is a real honor to know that we’re all kind of swimming the same water.”

**One-woman show**

Mohr introduced Epsilon Spires, the former First Baptist Church, at 190 Main St., as a gallery space with studio spaces and a performance space. It screens films, hosts music events, and holds gallery shows. Seventeen artists, whose mediums range from “jewelry design to watercolors to writing,” are currently working in the building.

The nonprofit’s only employee, Mohr said that the organization’s website ([epsilonspires.org](http://epsilonspires.org)) is incredibly important.

“We’re primarily an event-based venue,” she said. “I designed our website and I manage our website, which is a job in itself. But I find that having a website as an event-based venue has been incredibly important because we get people from as far away as Philadelphia coming to some of our events.”

She described some of those events as “kind of unusual and niche, but people who are into it are really into it.”

“They are willing to travel and want to check it out in a small town and see what that’s like,” Mohr said. “So having that web presence is really important for outreach.”

Being online gives Epsilon Spires an international component.

“International artists approach me about showing work here,” Mohr said. “Just having that online presence, keeping it up to date, keeping it dynamic, keeping an eye on Google stats, on who’s visiting from where, how much time they’re spending, which events they’re paying attention to, which pages they’re spending more time on, has been really important for us.”

But one complication is that Epsilon Spires “also opened in 2019, right before the pandemic,” she added. “So we’re still establishing our identity as a venue.”

The venue, of course, had to close for the pandemic. But ingenuity took over.

“We had a virtual platform where we were able to orchestrate virtual screenings,” Mohr said. “Before people were exhausted from Zoom, we did some Zoom meetups, where people could discuss the films that they’d seen with the director, or with someone knowledgeable about the subject.”

At Epsilon Spires, “we were trying to create a space where there wasn’t one, where people could come together and discuss art or have cultural experiences,” she said. “In a way, the pandemic forced me to pay more attention to the potential for virtual platforms. So it’s another tool in the toolbox.”

Mohr told the visiting artists to walk up High Street and see the mural that Epsilon Spires helped facilitate.

“That was a collaboration between Epsilon Spires and the [First Proof Press] printmakers downstairs, and also some new Afghan artists who have moved to the area, muralists who were part of the ArtLords movement,” she said. “And it was a really exciting way to change and rethink our public spaces.”

She described that “very long-form project” — one that

required the artists “to execute a mural that’s basically the size of a football field” — as “not easy to get the permits, or to raise the money.”

But, Mohr said, “it was something that really inspired so many people in this town about how we can re-envision our spaces and work with others to create something beautiful.”

**Something old, something new**

Farr, speaking about the nonprofit Vermont Center for Photography, said it was now celebrating its 25th year. Once in a small space on Flat Street, VCP has expanded and now is downtown off High Street. He and an operations manager work full-time, alongside a half-time development director and a number of board members and volunteers.

“Covid was an interesting opportunity for us to really sort of slow down and think about where we wanted to be and what we wanted to be and how we wanted to do it,” Farr said.

The pandemic “gave us an opportunity to raise some money and build out this new space,” he said. “So we have two exhibition spaces, we have a gallery that’s a mixture of solo exhibitions and group exhibitions and various things.”

VCP also offers the Print Gallery, which he described as “actually just a sheet metal wall with unframed prints that we made with magnets,” which Farr described as “a quick, easy, accessible, affordable way of showing a cohesive body of work by one artist for a month.”

The nonprofit also offers a publicly accessible digital lab, as well as a traditional darkroom, “spaces that folks can come use,” he said. “You don’t have to be a member. Anyone can use this lab.”

■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

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Discussion participants, from left: Nina Taylor Dunn of Arts Alive, Teta Hilsdon of Wheelhouse Clay Center; Josh Farr, executive director of the Vermont Center for Photography; Jim Giddings and Petria Mitchell of Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts; Jamie Mohr, executive director of Epsilon Spire; and Kay Curtis of the Harmony Collective.

And VCP is well-known for PhotoThrift, a thrift store of donated photography equipment of varying vintage.

“We can take anything and everything even remotely related to photography,” Farr said. “There’s a lot of stuff out there that has been sitting in people’s garages and attics for several decades. Our goal is to try to get some of that put back into use.”

VCP does artists talks, including “photo slams,” where 12 to 15 artists sign up to show 20 images to an audience for 20 seconds each.

“We also have portfolio reviews and different kinds of membership options,” he added. “We’re woefully understaffed, but it’s kind of full steam ahead.”

Next, Walker spoke about In-Sight Photography, which teaches photography to young people between the ages of 11 and 18. Walker said the organization, now in its 30th year, has been re-inventing itself.

“Thirty years ago it was a radical idea to put a camera in the hands of a kid,” she said. “Now every kid has a camera in their hands.”

In-Sight’s mission is to remain accessible.

“So we have a sliding scale fee structure for our classes, we provide all of the equipment, we go out to local elementary schools and provide actual classes free of charge,” Walker said.

“We also try to hold as many free arts events and opportunities to show your work in the gallery as we possibly can,” she added, acknowledging that she is not a photographer but an artist and educator.

“And so for me, advocating for the arts and opportunities is super important,” she said. “That’s how I got into this work.”

Next was Hilsdon, who said that “Brattleboro just has a tsunami of clay interest.”

Forty years ago, she helped found Brattleboro Clayworks, which is a collective of 10 members. She remained a member for five years and left for other work. Then, three years ago she helped found Wheelhouse Clay Center with her business partner, Shari Zabriskie.

Wheelhouse is a privately

owned, for-profit business. Its main business is providing studio rentals to people who already know how to do clay.

The space at 48 Harmony Place has three kilns and studios, where people can come and work with clay or take classes.

“I have been a potter for a long time, although it’s usually not how I made my living,” Hilsdon said. “But you need a studio if you’re going to be a potter.”

She observed that “plenty of people can make pots at home on their kitchen tables, but they don’t have a kiln,” and that the messy task of mixing glazes is “not the typical homeowner thing to do.”

“So that’s why people who love clay need a studio,” she said. “And that’s our main business: providing rentals to people who already know how to work with clay. But we also teach.”

She added that “knowing that the town has a lot of pottery interests here, it was a business opportunity as well as a sense of mission to bring clay to the people.”

Hilsdon and Zabriskie, both professional potters, found a space off the Harmony Lot that they could afford.

“It’s a basement-level space, 3,800 square feet, pipes covering the ceilings, and all of those pipes have leaked,” she said. “That’s why we can afford it.”

Hilsdon said that she and Zabriskie “created a business that had accessible class prices and studio rentals. So we come to the business with trying to give people different ways of entering into the clay arts.”

**Pulling together**

The last speaker was Curtis, who said she has been an artist her whole life. But when she came to Brattleboro from California, she found that she “couldn’t make the kind of money I needed to support my three kids here in Brattleboro.”

So she started the Harmony Collective and found the perfect formula to make it succeed.

“There is an initial \$200 fee you pay to come in, and then you pay \$60 a month,” Curtis said. “And then the gallery takes 15% of sales.”

In addition, members are also expected to work at least eight hours per month in the gallery, “taking care of the space and of customers,” according to the collective’s website ([harmonyartsbrattleboro.com](http://harmonyartsbrattleboro.com)).

That formula, she said, covers the rent, the electricity, and “anything that comes up.”

“It amazingly worked,” Curtis said. “We were able to pay our rent each month. It’s actually such a perfect formula that I never think about money. It always works.”

The collective gallery has 33 members who have formed not only a business relationship but “an experiment in community.”

“Everybody is in that gallery so that they can have a group of other artists to hang out with,” Curtis said. “People have met best friends. They plan things. They’ve taken trips to foreign countries together. All kinds of crazy things have happened because people met each other in that group of 33 people.”

If one artist leaves, another one “organically” takes their place,

she said. “Our 33 artists are generally people who would not be in a fancy gallery,” Curtis said. “We have a woman with cerebral palsy who paints with a stick attached to her forehead. And she sells some stuff every day. She’s very popular.”

Among the members are artists with disabilities who are unable to fulfill the work requirement, “so other people cover for them on the desk,” she added.

“We’re watching people come in and learn how to be artists,” Curtis said. “So when somebody comes in and the work is not framed well, we can gently push them along, like, ‘Here’s where you can find inexpensive frames if that’s all you can afford.’ It’s not just me, it’s everybody in the group advising everybody else in the group on how they can cause themselves to have better sales.”

At the end of the morning, satisfied and knowing much more about Brattleboro, the New Hampshire artists moved downstairs to make prints while the Brattleboro participants

rushed to open their galleries and workspaces.

**‘Getting back together with other people’**

The field trips are the project of Arts Alive’s Nina Taylor Dunn. She began them in January with a trip to Dublin and Peterborough in New Hampshire, then continued the next month with a trip to the Keene Public Library, which has a makerspace. That event drew 20 artists.

The March field trip, to Jaffrey, New Hampshire, drew only about two or three people, but that was on a workday, Taylor Dunn explained. This was the artists’ first foray across the river.

Jessica Gelter, the executive director of Arts Alive, said the trips came out of a survey Arts Alive had done after the pandemic.

“Before the pandemic, we were doing artists-to-artists workshops, where we gather artists at a venue and have a presenter teach some arts-business skills,” said Gelter, a Brattleboro resident. “It was pretty formal. Then

the pandemic happened, and we started doing them virtually.”

This fall, Arts Alive “decided to survey our arts community and see what they wanted or needed for their practice to evolve up or improve or get back to what they wanted it to be,” she continued. “And one of the things we heard loud and clear was that people just really wanted to get back together with other people.”

That’s when Taylor Dunn had the vision of doing arts field trips, Gelter said.

“It was her idea to make them casual and create an atmosphere that would feed people,” she said. “We stripped away some of the formality and the classroom persona.”

The workshops always include a tech activity like the First Proof Press visit, “so folks can get their hands dirty and enjoy their creative selves with other people,” Gelter continued.

“Our hope, really, is that folks get to connect with new folks and new resources, all at the same time,” she said.

*Three Guilford scholarship applications due in May*

GUILFORD—There are three different scholarships annually available to Guilford graduating seniors from BUHS.

The Bullock Scholarship, a Guilford town award, had a May 1 deadline. \$3,000 is awarded either to a single recipient, or divided between two or more applicants. Students planning on attending two- or four-year higher learning institutions, including tech school and post-grad work, are eligible. First-year and continuing students may also apply.

Contact Town Clerk Danielle Latulippe at [townclerk@guilfordvt.gov](mailto:townclerk@guilfordvt.gov), or the Bullock Scholarship Committee in care of Kathryn Mason at [kathamason@gmail.com](mailto:kathamason@gmail.com).

The Guilford Recreation Club Scholarship, also had a May 1 deadline: Applicants must be BUHS seniors, Guilford residents planning to attend a two- or four-year college or trade school for the fall semester after BUHS graduation. Contact Carol Schnabel at Guilford Recreation Club, P.O. Box 2679, West Brattleboro, VT 05303.

The Broad Brook Grange Scholarship has a May 25 application deadline: There is one \$1,000 award. The applicants must be BUHS graduating seniors, accepted to a two- or four-year college or trade school, and have lived in Guilford for at least two of the past four years. Contact Grange Scholarship chair Mike Szostak at 802-451-3434 or [mszostak@wsesdvt.org](mailto:mszostak@wsesdvt.org). BUHS students can obtain applications for the scholarships at the Counseling Office.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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**TOWN OF JAMAICA, VERMONT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
ROADSIDE MOWING 2023**

The Town of Jamaica is seeking bids for Approx. 35 miles of Roadside mowing. Bid for roadside mowing should be lump sum. The contractor is responsible for furnishing all equipment, fuel, materials and labor necessary to perform the requested services. Mowing should be completed in July or August of 2023. Road Foreman will determine which roads are a priority.

The Jamaica Selectboard reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The contractor hired will be required to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance listing the Town of Jamaica as Loss Payee.

For questions please contact the Jamaica Town Garage at 802-874-4265 or [roads@jamaicavermont.org](mailto:roads@jamaicavermont.org).

Sealed Bids marked “Roadside Mowing” are due by Monday May 8th, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**STATE OF VERMONT**

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION  
Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-00372  
IN RE ESTATE OF: Fergus Smith  
LATE OF South Londonderry, Vermont

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: Fergus Smith late of South Londonderry, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: April 25, 2023

Fergus D. Smith, Administrator 275 Williams St., Brattleboro, VT 05301  
802-683-9353, [fergusdrake@gmail.com](mailto:fergusdrake@gmail.com)

Trevor S. Smith, Administrator 1 Clearwater Ln., E. Hampton, CT 06424  
860-682-7726, [smithts@comcast.net](mailto:smithts@comcast.net)

Dana Smith, Administrator 500 West Trade St., Apt. 544, Charlotte, NC 28202  
917-232-9572, [dana-smith@gmail.com](mailto:dana-smith@gmail.com)

Name of Publication: The Commons Publication Date: May 3, 2023

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Unit, Probate Division  
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

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## Top of the Hill

FROM SECTION FRONT

that saw some regional success for a couple of years until, he said, “it got old.”

He found dance, too, while working as a welder at L. W. Gay Stoveworks, which operated in Guilford, South Newfane, and Brattleboro, with owner Larry Gay and Dan Darrow, the company's president.

“It was pretty brutal metal-work...lots of heavy lifting. I loved it, but I was getting stiff, and it was suggested to me that the stretch and movement of a dance class might be a good counterpoint to all the heavy lifting and hunched-over positions of the job,” Julian recalled. “Brattleboro School of Dance had just opened, so I thought, ‘Why the hell not?’”

Eventually, after a 12-year-stint heading his custom comforter business, Carriage House Comforters, and teaching on and off — part-time and adjunct — for 10 years at the School for International Training, where he'd earned his master's degree in teaching, Julian found himself with a family, thus needing more stability — and fulfillment.

“For years in Williamsville I'd host Sunday afternoon cookouts. I'd always enjoyed doing barbecue for myself, family, and friends in the backyard. Folks would often joke that I ought to open a restaurant.”

“I grew up around grilling — not exactly barbecue — but in a smoky haze on Sunday afternoons [in Indianapolis where he grew up] our families would grill dogs and burgers and chicken — always chicken for my grandpa from Alabama,” said Julian.

And so, Top of the Hill Grill sprouted in 1997.

### Building from scratch

On the current Top of the Hill site on Putney Road, Julian recalled, was an “overgrown, dirty parking lot” with a food trailer that had been used for two successive businesses: Mexican takeout, and a hot dog stand — Swanky Franky's — operated by Betty Frye of Guilford.

In 1997, with the property owner's permission to set up shop there, he acquired a permit to do a Friday night roadside barbecue. With a barrel stove and the help of his sons — then ages 10 and 12 — he would offer just two items: corn bread and grilled chicken.

Within a month or so, it caught on.

Julian had to keep the trailer because, without it, pre-existing use wouldn't apply, and an operation couldn't be permitted so close to the building next door — then the home of Howard Printing.

“I got permission from the town — grudgingly — for my incremental plan,” and he built a structure around the trailer, evoking a sugar-shack kind of look.

He bought a cookshack smoker and added pulled pork and brisket to the menu.

“We limped through that first season, then made arrangements to come back the next summer,” Julian recalled.

Top of the Hill was, indeed, back the next year. With no permit for seating, “we put a couple picnic tables out anyway and, to dodge the legality, we had a sign that said ‘Lunch Special \$400. Price includes picnic table,’” he said.

### Some help and mentoring

Depending on which figures you believe, 30% to 60% of new restaurants fail within their first year. It's a tough business even if you know what you're doing. And Julian admitted that he “knew nothing about the restaurant business then.”

Statistics for the long-term success of a restaurant “were not in my favor,” he said, but, with characteristic grit, he added that “failure was not an option.”

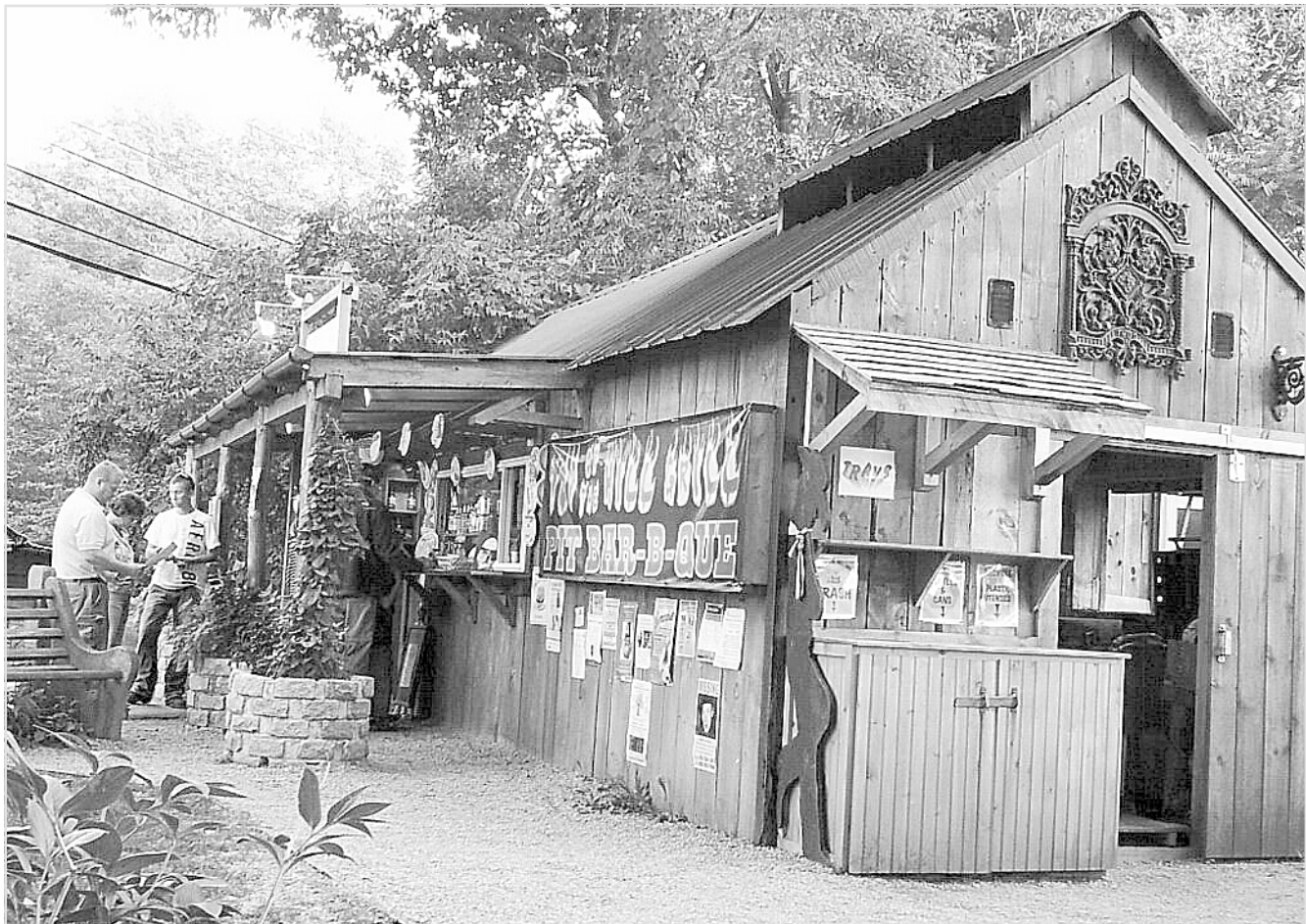
As he steadily grew a clientele, he had some allies, if not co-conspirators.

Byron Stookey “helped me navigate an ornery zoning administrator,” he said. “Bill Jewell came up with a site design, and so we were official.”

“I had great support from Scott Sparks,” then the sales representative for Burlington Food Service and now the proprietor of Vermont Hempicurean and Vermont Grow Barn in Brattleboro.

Sparks taught him some fundamental economics of the restaurant business, gave him tips for managing food cost, and waived the wholesale vendor's normal policy on minimum orders, helping him keep quantities manageable and reduce food waste for a fledgling business.

“We had a limited menu then,” noted Julian, who observed that at the end of the Top of the Hill Grill's run, “the menu boasted 95 items.”



Top of the Hill Grill, open for business in this 2010 photo.

Soon Howard Printing moved and Julian negotiated a year-long rental of the main property, followed by an outright purchase from Howard Printing, which had moved farther up Putney Road.

Eventually, he had permits for the deck, landscaping, and picnic tables — navigating the ins and outs of the zoning thicket — as he was complying with Board of Health requirements.

Still, though, the trailer dominated the space.

After three years, he went in with Arthur Pettee and “cut the trailer loose with a Sawzall.”

“I left the wheels,” he said. That way, Julian explained, he could tell town zoning personnel that “The trailer's still there — it's just modified.”

The hindrance gone, Julian could set up a proper kitchen. The former Howard Printing building was soon loaded with smokers, a Hobart oven, and proper fixtures to produce corn bread, pulled pork, chicken, and the rest of his barbecue fare.

“From day one, I prepared food I would only want to eat myself and I used quality ingredients, coupled with time-honored methods to produce the best food I could,” Julian told *The Commons*.

A no-frills operation, customers picked up their food on paper plates from the counter.

Before long, he recalls, the menu expanded fairly dramatically.

“We added ribs — premium meaty ribs cooked by tried-and-true smoking with the right wood and dry rubs; then with items like pulled pork, we soon expanded that one staple into pulled pork sandwiches, burritos, tacos, enchiladas, salads. One main ingredient becomes five items without a lot of pressure or labor.”

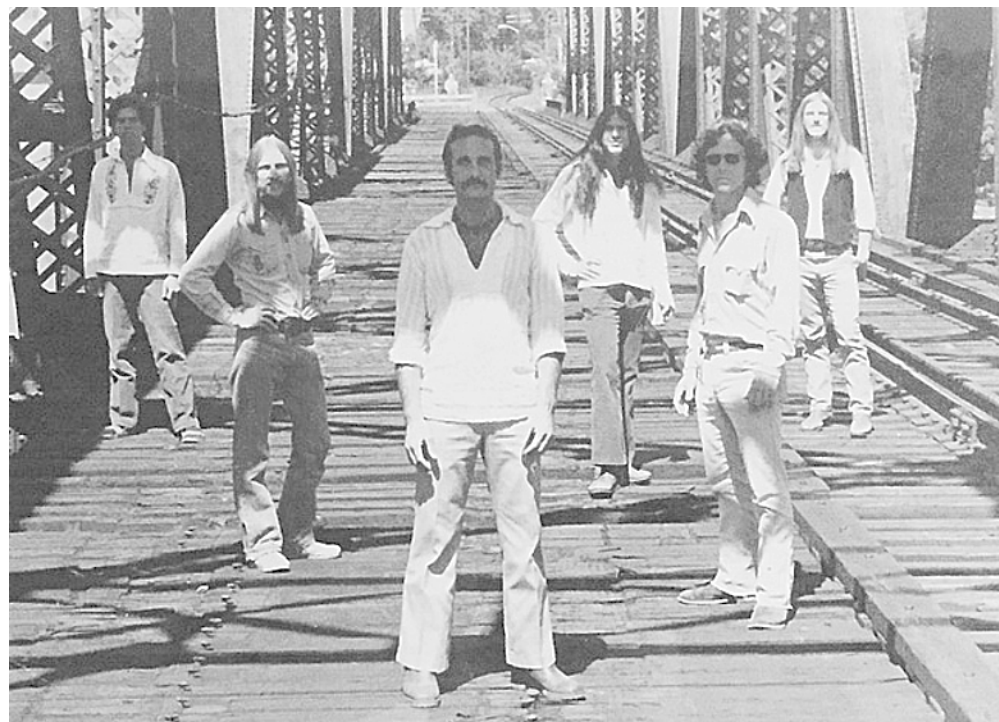
### Loved far and wide

Over the years, Top of the Hill garnered notable recognition: a trophy from Vermont State BBQ Championship, several best-of awards from organizations in both Brattleboro and Keene, a Fodor's Choice designation in the travel publisher's books and websites, and awards for sauce and pulled pork, among others.

“It all took an amazing amount of work,” said Julian.

Starting a few years into the operation, Top of the Hill opened for the season every March and remained open through October, seven days a week. To a great extent, Julian attributes success to the help he attracted.

“We started getting really good help — mainly, high school kids who wanted to learn something solid, to be part of a team,” he



Jon Julian, center, in a 1975 photo for the regional band Night Train.

said. And those kids would return year after year.

“‘One team, one dream.’ That was the motto. It became a really good place to work, for whatever reason: I think I was a good, fair boss; I paid a decent wage; kids got to eat. And I used to tell them, ‘This will be the only job you have where someone will pay you to do homework. When business is slow, do it.’”

Julian's approach was “there was no job I'd ask them to do that I wouldn't do myself” — trash, toilets, mopping floors, pulling pork.

“I tried to set a pace and a tone and it worked: it was a dream,” he said. “No one ever made a lot of money, but we were good, and bills and wages were paid on time.”

Julian had no formal culinary training, and “I'm glad of that,” he said.

“I had had a couple experiences with [Culinary Institute of America] grads, and it didn't work well. I was gifted, I believe, with a good palate, and I knew well from experience what good down-home cooking was.”

Over time, he said, he developed the ability to put his “finger on the pulse of what tasted good and what Brattleboro might enjoy.”

During winters off, Julian liked to travel and return to Vermont with something he'd learned about food. From Jamaica, it was jerk chicken; then he spent six weeks in Louisiana.

There, “I hooked up with Cajun Chef Pat who made some calls and traveled with me all through Cajun Country to some

real down-home restaurants,” he said. “The real deal. Great cooking — lots of pork. I asked one of the cooks about pig parts, and she answered ‘Son, down here we use everything on a pig but the squeal.’”

Some of the best advice he recalls from Chef Pat was: “You got to cook food the way your customers want to eat it. You could make gumbo with pig lard — traditional method — and okra, but if people don't like it, you're stuck with a pot of it.”

So Julian put his own spin on gumbo and jambalaya. From Mexico, he brought back burritos, tacos, enchiladas, gave them his signature, “and they took off.”

Through the Grill, Julian learned that the Brattleboro area community has a “mild palate” — and thus, he'd temper the heat factor.

Over time, Top of the Hill's clientele grew dramatically in response to reviews from within — and well beyond — the region.

“The *Phantom Gourmet*, a Boston-based TV program, visited, and we never knew they were there,” Julian recalled.

“They liked what they had, and word spread.”

Top of the Hill Grill was written up in a variety of publications and on a variety of websites — *New England Monthly*, TripAdvisor, Yelp, and others.

“We were even reviewed by a motorcycle club, Pig Trip,” he said.

“We were a joint,” Julian added. “We served lawyers, cops, construction workers, people experiencing homelessness. I hired Tim, the homeless man who frequented Putney Road, to cut my grass for 20 years straight.

“I always made a point to be egalitarian,” he continued. “I relished serving folks from all walks of life — from the guy who changes my oil at Stop & Go, to [filmmaker] Ken Burns, [guitarist and music producer] Will Ackerman, and [actor and comedian] Whoopi Goldberg. I treated them all the same.”

### Expanding, then contracting

One offshoot of the Grill's onsite business was its catering operation. Around 2000, Julian bought a portable smoker in response to requests for catering.

“I could pull it behind my truck for show. It gave me the sizzle with the steak. Most of the food was cooked in the kitchen then finished off on this big locomotive-looking smoker. Belching smoke, smelling great — it gave authenticity to the food.”

As a catering operation, as with the Grill itself, Julian ran a no-frills outfit: “no tent rentals, no bar; no servers — a self-serve buffet. They got me and the food,” he said.

Another adjunct was Julian's winter Soup Shack. “Brattleboro loved it for four years, and then Covid shut it down.”

Post-pandemic, in a problem broadly shared nationally, good help was hard to find.

“Back in the day I had a staff of 20, a committed, dedicated, wonderful crew,” he said. Even though the pandemic took its toll, “but we were down, not out,” he says.

Since news of closing has recently leaked, Julian has received many emails from fans who remember the grill as “a serene oasis or a place where one could chow down on a good meal from a rack of ribs to a tempah burger.”

Many remember his offerings for vegetarians, too — not usual barbecue fare.

“I figured out early on that being in Brattleboro, I had to do that,” Julian explains. “I served up umpteen cases of tempah over the years. And we had roasted veggies, collard greens, mesclun salad....”

### ‘A heartbreaker’

The two buildings and the deck house, the 1 acre of property, and the business — from the fixtures to the smokers — are all for sale, for \$550,000. The listing agent is Thom Dahlin of Berkley & Veller Greenwood Country Realtors of Brattleboro.

Folding the business, Julian added, was not his first choice.

“It's a heartbreaker that the grill is closing. I had visions of wandering around as a real old guy with a pair of tongs flipping a chicken” and “serving as answer man for potential new owners,” he said.

The latter scenario is still not off the table entirely. According to the listing, “Owner is willing to share recipes/procedures with qualified buyers if desired.”

What Julian will miss most is “standing at the grill looking out and seeing tables full of happy people eating.”

“It's the Jewish grandmother in me,” said Julian, who has served his own grandmother's matzo ball soup recipe in the Grill's Soup Shack during Hanukkah. “There's nothing like the energy of a restaurant when all is going as it's supposed to,” he said.

Julian's plans for a post-barbecue future are in flux.

“I don't want to be a thumb twiddler,” he said. He's perennially renovating his home, he wants more time to spend with family and friends, he wants to travel more and pick up a recipe or two along the way, and he just wants to take time, he says, “to be grateful for what I have.”

Might there be more cooking to be done down the road? “Sure, I would hope so,” he said.

**Be Sure To Check Our Full Program Schedule @ brattleborotv.org**

**bc tv LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**May 1-7**

**CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079**

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

<b>Here We Are with guest Chard deNord - Poet:</b> Mon 8p, Tues 6a, Wed 12p, Fri 1:30p, Sat 9p, Sun 5:30p	<b>Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/2/23: Tues 6:15p (LIVE), Thurs 1p, Sat 8p, Sun 8:30a
<b>The World Fusion Show - Ep # 151 - Opium Moon:</b> Mon 5:30p, Tues 8p, Thurs 9:15p, Sat 12:30p & 6:30p, Sun 9:30a	<b>Newfane Selectboard 5/1/23:</b> Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:30a
<b>Media Mentoring Project - Social Media Influencer Marketing 4/19/23:</b> Tues 8:30p, Thurs 9:45p, Fri 6:30a, Sat 9a	<b>Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg.</b> 5/1/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2p
<b>19th Annual Collegiate A Cappella Concert:</b> Mon 10a, Tues 12p, Thurs 9a, Fri 2p, Sat 2p	<b>River Valleys Unified School District Mtg.</b> 5/1/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p
<b>Climate Emergency Book Series - Jon Erickson:</b> Mon 12p, Tues 10a, Wed 12:40p, Thurs 2:30p, Sun 7:15p	<b>Vernon Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/2/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p
<b>Community Forum - Snowstorm and Power Company Response 4/1/23:</b> Tues 9p, Thurs 1:30p, Fri 12p, Sat 5:45a, Sun 6p	<b>Putney Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/3/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 12p
<b>Around Town with Maria - Vigil for Leah Rosin-Pritchard 4/16/23:</b> Mon 1:25p, Tues 3:15p, Fri 5p, Sun 8:30p	<b>Dummerston Selectboard Mtg.</b> 5/3/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 2:30p
<b>Landmark College Presents - Hillary Price: How I Became a Cartoonist:</b> Wed 11a, Sat 8p, Sun 4p	<b>Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg.</b> 4/24/23: Mon 11:15a, Tues 5:15p, Wed 4:15p
<b>Energy Week with George Harvey &amp; Tom Finnell:</b> Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	<b>Guilford Selectboard Mtg.</b> 4/24/23: Mon 10a, Tues 9:30p, Wed 5p, Sat 6:45p
<b>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode:</b> Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	<b>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg.</b> 4/24/23: Tues 2:45p, Wed 12p
<b>WTSA News:</b> Mon-Fri 12p & 6p	<b>Townshend Selectboard Mtg.</b> 4/25/23: Tues 11:45a, Wed 9a
<b>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	<b>Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg.</b> 4/25/23: Mon 5p, Wed 6:45a, Sun 6:15a
<b>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service:</b> Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a	<b>Brattleboro Development Review Board Mtg.</b> 4/19/23: Mon 7:15p, Tues 10a, Thurs 4:15p, Sat 5p, Sun 6p
<b>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p	<b>Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg.</b> 4/12/23: Mon 9a, Sat 11a
<b>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service:</b> Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a	<b>West River Education District Board Mtg.</b> 4/12/23: Mon 9p, Tues 6:45a, Thurs 11a, Sun 7:45p
<b>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass:</b> Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p	<b>The David Pakman Show:</b> Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

**Note: Schedule subject to change.**

View full schedule and watch online at **brattleborotv.org**

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## ■ Memoir

and out of treatment for a quarter century. Her son is in a minimum-security prison, serving a sentence for a drug-related crime.

Rose, 76, has published a book that gives a voice to the families. *Addicted: Our Strength Under the Influence* tells the story of how members of one Vermont family continue to experience living with addiction in their midst and, in doing so, creates a guide for other families who have experienced addiction in their midst.

“When I think about this journey, when my two young grandchildren first came to live with me, the furthest thing from my mind was writing a book,” says Rose, an ovarian cancer survivor who believes that “failure was not an option.”

### ‘It’s an epidemic’

Eventually, Rose was assigned as court-appointed guardian of the two oldest grandchildren (with the blessing of their parents), and life settled down, however unpredictably.

Several years passed, her daughter’s third child was born with neonatal abstinence syndrome caused from exposure to drugs while in the womb. Although it was considered a full-term, normal delivery, this child spent the first 30 days of her life in withdrawal in the neonatal unit of a local hospital.

Later, this child also came to live with Rose, who adopted this child as her own, making a family of four.

“Over 20 years ago, one of my grandchild’s teachers noticed the number of gray-haired people who were picking up their children from school,” she says.

During this time, through a collaboration of child care services, a support group emerged for grandparents thrust into the repeat position of parenting when their own children were unable to do so.

This issue has been around for a very long time, and it continues to get worse.

“It’s an epidemic,” says Rose. “Along the way, someone said, ‘You should write a book,’ but I didn’t begin to consider the possibility in a real way until 2018, mostly because who had the time?” she says. “We were too busy coping and figuring out solutions for our family in real time.”

### Family members tell their stories

As a first-time author, Rose — with the help of a high school classmate’s niece, Cathryn Lykes, a professional editor in Brattleboro — began to develop ideas from which a rough draft emerged.

“Cathryn worked tirelessly with me, offering her expertise as she read through the many pages of correspondence and notes saved in three-ring binders, years of documentation of my family’s experiences,” Rose says.

Rose’s former husband was hearing impaired, so when their daughter first revealed her heroin addiction more than 25 years ago, her parents communicated through America Online back in the early days of the internet. Rose printed out all the emails and saved what a quarter century later would become a paper trail documenting the family’s journey.

“It was so long ago that the printer paper had those holes down the side of the paper. Remember those?” she says, laughing.

The ability to return to the actual conversations about her daughter’s addiction challenges, and later her son’s, also helped to tell her tale in real time.

Rose wrote the book and found a way to get it published using the same strategy she used to figure out how to raise her children’s children — by trying her

best and asking for help. Family members were invited to tell their own stories in their own words, offering a variety of very personal perspectives.

“My mother, a local woman, was an important figure in my life. She was the first family member who agreed to share her viewpoint of how addiction impacted her life,” Rose remembers.

“She was very proud of me for being willing to get involved in telling our story — letting people know that other people have been faced with addiction and have survived,” she says. “You must know how to stay upright, strong, and to keep moving forward.”

Rose cherishes those lessons. “I was blessed to have my mother in my life until she was 95 years old,” she says with pride.

Rose’s mother wrote her chapter in 2018 and died a year later. “Knowing how important my own mother was to me, I can only imagine losing your mother at a young age, which was my grandchildren’s experience. The trauma will stay with my grandchildren for their entire lives,” says Rose with great sadness in her voice.

And yet, with strength and determination, most of Rose’s family members, including her children and grandchildren, wrote their own respective chapters.

“Everyone was very excited to tell their story — my mother, son, daughter, and most of their kids, participated for a total of nine standalone chapters,” says Rose. “My partner also has her own chapter.”

Rose feels it is very important to protect the privacy of her family members by changing the names and places in the book. *The Commons* has respected that discretion by identifying her in this story under her pen name.

“I believe it is important to not out anyone,” she says. “Privacy

should always be respected, and therefore I have changed any identifying names including places in the writing,” she noted.

Now that the book is in print, how do family members feel?

Rose’s son “didn’t say anything to me about it on the phone the other day but then I didn’t ask, either,” she says. “Likely, I suspect he’ll feel gut-punched by his children, as they held nothing back, if he’s read it at all.”

She hopes for healing to begin. “That’s my logic and, likely, a big ask on my part,” says Rose, who holds a great deal of empathy for her children and their lives as they suffer through the effects of their drug challenges.

“I’ve received so many kind comments from my family, and plenty of congratulations, but this is still tough stuff,” she says. “My grandchildren did not ask for this in their lives.”

“Whatever comes your way, you can figure it out. That’s the example I want to portray in this writing,” Rose remarks.

### A ‘hard, hard road’

Rose is quick to point out that her family’s story is one of many thousands of families in the United States today who have had to figure out how to function in the midst of addiction.

“This book says you can plant your feet on solid ground and survive the bad behavior of family members with commitment, hope, and resiliency of purpose,” she says. “The problem isn’t going away. We’ve lost the war on drugs in the United States. People are too invested in their own power and greed; drugs will always be for sale.”

Mary Ellen Copeland, a resident of Dummerston and well-known mental health recovery author, educator, and advocate, is also a friend of Annie’s and wrote an introduction to the book.

“It is incredible that, given

*When I think about this journey, when my two young grandchildren first came to live with me, the furthest thing from my mind was writing a book.*

—ANNIE AUGUSTUS ROSE

what continues to happen in her life, Annie could document her journey for the benefit of so many others who are traveling the same challenging and difficult path,” Copeland told *The Commons*.

“This book, an incredible documentation of the experience of Annie and her family in coping with addiction issues for so many years, will validate and support the experience of others who are traveling this hard, hard road,” she says.

*Addicted: Our Strength Under the Influence* is available at *Everyone’s Books* in Brattleboro and can also be obtained from **Amazon.com** in multiple print and electronic versions. It is also being distributed by *Hudson Booksellers*, which operates more than 500 bookstores in airports across North America. A profile of Annie Rose and the challenges of raising a family anew [“A multigenerational crisis”] appeared in the Sept. 21, 2022 issue of *The Commons*.

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# MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

## Obituaries



• **Bettymae (Burnham) (Wood) Bond, 88**, of Dummerston. Died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 17, 2023 at The Arbors in Shelburne, Vermont, where she had resided for the past five years. She was married twice; first to Roger Wood with whom she had four children, Michael (deceased at birth), Diane (Alan Saunders of Bristol, Timothy (deceased), and Ernest (Brenda) of East Dummerston; then Harry Bond after Roger's death. She had five grandchildren: Jenna, Patrick, David, Ben, and Keith. Bettymae was involved in many volunteer organizations over the years, as she loved helping people and children. She worked at Dwight Miller Orchards and the Scott Farm in Dummerston as the kids were growing up and spent her last working years at East Dummerston School as library resource clerk. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Bettymae was laid to rest in the family plot at Dummerston Center Cemetery. Considering her love for cats and the upcoming kitten season, anyone wishing to remember her may do so with a contribution to their local humane shelter in her memory to their kitten fund.

• **Elaine Boynton, 80**, of Rockingham. Died peacefully in her home on April 19, 2023. Elaine was born in Rockingham to the late Burdette Pease and Elizabeth (Jones) Pease on Nov. 9, 1942. Elaine attended Charlestown (N.H.) High School, Class of 1960, and worked for Cray Oil Company in North Walpole and M&W Soils Engineering in Charlestown as an administrative assistant. She was always a friendly and helpful co-worker who brought a lively and fun spirit to every room she was in. She was a champion full-time mom and "meme," raising her two children and three grandchildren and sharing her energy, fun spirit, and endless love. She was always cheering for the kids and their friends and frequently volunteered for school events or committees. The arrival of her first great-grandson in 2021 brought her endless moments of joy in her final days. Elaine was a longtime member of the Charlestown Women's Club and active with the Charlestown Area

Christmas Fund. Christmas was her favorite time of year when the Boynton house was known for its beautiful Christmas decorations, including a Christmas tree in every room of the house for the Women's Club Christmas House Tours fundraiser. She was also proud of her involvement with the fundraising campaign to beautify Main Street with the lovely lamp posts that still adorn the town today with flowers in the summer and wreaths in the winter. Elaine is survived by her devoted husband of 56 years, John Boynton of North Charlestown; daughter Deborah (Boynton) Blanc and her husband, Matt Blanc of Charlestown; son Todd Boynton and his wife Lorri (Demond) Boynton of North Charlestown; grandchildren Emily (Boynton) St. Pierre and her husband Gabe St. Pierre of North Charlestown; Austin Boynton and his wife Samantha (Weick) Boynton and their son, Elaine's only great-grandchild and light of her life, Parker Douglas Boynton, Charlestown; Samantha Blanc and her fiancé Christopher Bogossian of Manchester, Vermont. She was predeceased by both her parents and an infant sister. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Elaine's memory to David's House, 461 Mount Support Rd., Lebanon, NH. 03766 (davids-house.org), or the Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Ave., Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601 (alz.org).



• **Patricia Edith "Pat" Butler, 84**, of West Brattleboro. Died April 22, 2023 in the comfort of her home, with her family by her side, following an extended illness. Pat was born in Shoreham, Vermont on Jan. 9, 1939, the daughter of Archie and Mary (Haseltine) Putnam. She moved to Brattleboro at an early age with her family, and attended Academy School and Brattleboro High School. She worked in the binding department at the former Book Press in Brattleboro for 15 years and previously served as a route driver delivering papers for the *Brattleboro Reformer*. During her earlier years, Pat worked as a chambermaid at both the Colonial Motel and at the Quality Inn. With her family, she attended West Brattleboro Baptist Church. Pat enjoyed reading, watching old classic movies, and time shared with her family. On May 13,

1961 in Brattleboro, she was married to Clifford Martelle. She later married Herbert F. Butler, Sr. on April 7, 1984. Herbert predeceased Pat on Dec. 27, 2005. Survivors include daughters Diana Butler, Deborah Martin, and Denise Martelle, all of Brattleboro; six grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. She was predeceased by a son, Dale Martelle, brothers William and Roy Putnam, and sisters Dorothy Foster and Ruth Bell. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside services will be conducted in West Brattleboro Cemetery on Mather Road on Saturday, May 27, at 2 p.m., where Pat will be laid to rest with her husband in the Putnam family lot. Donations to the Brattleboro Senior Center, 207 Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



• **Eric Arthur Cutter, 54**, of Brattleboro. Died April 25, 2023 at his home, with his family at his side. Eric was born on Jan. 2, 1969 in Brattleboro to the late Edward Cutter Sr. and Linda (Seymour) Cutter. Eric was a lifelong resident of the area and a familiar and friendly face to many. He was a talented mechanic who loved riding and fixing motorcycles. He recently finished restoring a 1977 Harley Davidson Shovelhead. Eric leaves behind a longtime good friend, Judy Wingenter of Putney; a sister, Wendy Parent and her husband Butch of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; a brother, Edward Cutter and his wife Paula Pifti of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts; his big sister Yvonne Cutler and her husband Charles Cutler of Seymour, Tennessee; a niece, Crystal Mink and her husband Heath; nephews Joseph and Brandon Parent; and numerous cousins and many good friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be a celebration of life at a later date. The Cremation Society of New Hampshire has been entrusted with arrangements. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information, visit [csnh.com](http://csnh.com).



• **Doris L. Dearborn, 94**, of Brattleboro. Died April 25, 2023 at her home with her beloved family by her side. Doris was born in Franklin, New Hampshire on Jan. 28, 1929, the daughter of Ivan L. and Winnifred M. (Cutler) Brown. Doris graduated from Franklin High School in 1947 and from the Household Nursing School in Boston with a degree in Practical Nursing in 1949. She practiced nursing in Boston and Brockton, Massachusetts, and Mystic, Connecticut. She married Frank H. Dearborn on Aug. 30, 1952 in Franklin, and they moved to Brattleboro in 1957 when Frank became the director of the Recreation & Parks Department. She lived a very active lifestyle and loved to play tennis and ping pong, walk, bike, hike, snowshoe, and cross-country ski. Doris was a Long Trail End-to-End and finished hiking the 270-mile long Vermont trail in 1999. The 251 Club captivated her and her husband's attention and inspired them to travel to the far corners of Vermont to visit all 251 towns with Ellen and Bob Rounds. She traveled to all 50 states, reaching the 50th state (Oregon) on her 50th wedding anniversary on a two-week trip in 2002 with her husband and daughter. For many years in the 1960s and 1970s, a tight-knit group of families comprised the DDAC (Doris Dearborn Athletic Club), and joyfully set out on hiking, biking, or cross-country ski excursions nearly every weekend. She felt grateful for so many adventurous hikes shared with her husband and daughter, including hiking down into the Grand Canyon, around the island of Kauai in Hawaii, to high tufts in the White Mountains, the Milford Track in New Zealand, and Mt. Washington for her 75th birthday. When she wasn't adventuring, Doris worked as a teacher's aide at Brattleboro Union High School, as well as for Dunham Brothers, the Holstein Association, and the *Town Crier*. She volunteered at Red Cross blood drawings, the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital coffee shop, RSVP, Thompson House, and Holton Home. Doris is remembered for her generosity and kindness, her boundless energy and spirit, and straightforward manner. She always made time to visit friends who were homebound or in a nursing home and treasured visits with friends and family even more so in her later years. Knitting was her lifelong hobby. Her fingers were constantly on the move knitting another baby sweater for a newborn or mittens for RSVP. Doris would never turn down the chance to play cards or Triominos. A revered cook, she is especially remembered for her apple pie, whoopee pies, chocolate éclair cake, lemon

crisp cookies, and four-layer chocolate cake. Survivors include a daughter, Donna Dearborn (Wally Kangas) of Chester; a son, David Dearborn of Brattleboro; one sister, Elizabeth Logan of Leavenworth, Kansas; a grandson, Josh Hanson (Irina) of Kew Gardens, New York; a granddaughter, Meka Dearborn of Brattleboro; and a great-granddaughter Mara Kaplan Hanson of Kew Gardens. She was predeceased by her husband, a daughter, Debra Dearborn Hanson; three brothers, Ivan Brown, Bernard Brown, and Robert Brown; and two sisters, Virginia Morehead and Frances Jette. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In accordance with Doris's wishes, there will be no service at this time. A private committal service will be held at Franklin (N.H.) Cemetery, at the convenience of her family. Donations to the Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677. To share a memory or send a message of condolence to the family, send to Donna Dearborn, 3514 Flamstead Rd, Chester, VT 05143 or visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Frank E. Farnsworth, 74**, of Saxtons River. Died peacefully, surrounded by family, on April 26, 2023 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Frank was born in Claremont, New Hampshire on July 15, 1948 to Edna (Dumas) and Ralph "Bronc" Farnsworth. Frank's lifelong love of animals and helping others started early and provided many stories and memories that will live on and be cherished by all that knew him. On Jan. 1, 1966, he married Charlene M. Bain of Bellows Falls, and they built a life of hard work and adventures with their daughters Tresa Williams of Westminster West, Bernadette Barr of Warwick, Rhode Island, and Heather Gregory (Jamie) of Grafton. Frank leaves his wife, daughters, and grandchildren Kristine Williams, Amanda Wilcox, Kayla Joyner, Mario Farnsworth, Fernando Meo, Taylor Gregory, and Lucas Gregory, as well as many great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents and grandson Ryan Williams, as well as two of his favorite people, his Aunt Phyllis and brother John Morse. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Visitation will take place on Friday, May 5, from 5 to 6 p.m., with a service starting at 6 p.m., at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls. Burial will take place at a later time in Saxtons River.



• **Randall Alvin "Randy" King, 71**, of Vernon. Died April 25, 2023 at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, following an extended period of declining health. He was born in Brattleboro on Jan. 28, 1952, the son of Ronald and Martha (Chowanek) King. Raised and educated in Dummerston, he attended local schools, including Brattleboro Union High School. Randy owned and operated King's Auto Body off of Governor Hunt Road in Vernon, which he established in 1982. The business included a full-service Gulf gas station. He previously owned and operated Brattleboro Shell on the corner of Putney Road and Terrace Street. Randy enjoyed restoring classic cars and his pride and joy was his 1957 Chevy. Throughout the years he restored many vehicles; his work was impeccable. He was an excellent mechanic and held membership in the Now & Then Car Club. In conjunction with attending area car shows, he drag-raced for several years winning several competitions. Of his other interests, he enjoyed hunting, snowmobiling, and time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. On July 11, 1970 at the Putney Federated Church, he was married to Dianna Ellis who survives. Besides his faithful wife of 52 years, he leaves three sons, Randall A. King, Jr. of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and John R. King and Joshua A. King, both of Vernon; four sisters, Cheryl Aplin, Dolores Sylvester, Norma Ives, and Frances Brochu; one brother, Alton King; six grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by four sisters, Sheila Lawrence, Clarice Short, Darlene Hutchins, and Joyce Keeler; and four brothers, Raymond, Reginald, Dennis, and Fred King. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Funeral services were held on May 2 at Grace Community Evangelical Free Church in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, with burial in the King family lot in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery in Brattleboro. Donations to the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care, One Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, NH 03756. To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Ira John Knapp Sr., 80**, of South Wardsboro. Died peacefully, surrounded by family, on April 20, 2023. He was born in Wardsboro on January 23, 1943 to Ira A. and Ora Mae Knapp. Ira (known as "Pops" to family) enjoyed the outdoors and tinkering on many little projects. He will be dearly missed by everyone who had the opportunity to meet him on the road, share a story, and leave with a chuckle. He leaves behind his brother, Jim Knapp; his son, Ira John Knapp, Jr. (Michelle); and a granddaughter, Karli Knapp; James R. Knapp (Amy) and grandsons James and Alexander Knapp. He also leaves behind his longtime girlfriend, Terry Parsons and his beloved little dog Louie. He was predeceased by two sisters: Yvonne Lowe and Rose Ann Powers. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life will be held by the family at a later date.

• **Isabelle J. Mann, 85**, of Spofford, New Hampshire. Died Jan. 29, 2023 at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Mrs. Mann was born in Keene, New Hampshire on Dec. 13, 1937, the daughter of Arvid (known as Pat) and Eleanor (Schlichting) Pearson. She was raised in the village of Spofford, where she often enjoyed riding her horses with her mother and swimming as often as possible each summer in Spofford Lake. She attended grade school in Spofford and graduated from Keene High School in 1955. Isabelle worked in Keene as a filling assistant during her high school summers for the Peerless Insurance Company. After graduating, she worked as a secretary for the International Narrow Fabric Company in Keene until she married, when she became a devoted wife and mother. Isabelle met the love of her life while sitting on the beach at Spofford Lake during the summer of 1957. On Oct. 4, 1958, she married Kimball E. Mann of Brattleboro, where they resided for the next 37 years. During this time, Isabelle was a homemaker who she raised three children and volunteered to help with public events and clubs such as the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, the Woman's Evening Club, the PTA, and many bake sales and fundraisers. Throughout the years, she also worked part-time in the family business at J.E. Mann's Department Store on Main Street. In 1995, Kim and Isabelle moved to North Shore Road in Spofford, where they soon retired to enjoy life on the lake. They enjoyed traveling and visiting many locations including the Caribbean, Alaska, the entire Eastern Coast, as well as Germany. During their later years, they enjoyed celebrating many family gatherings and occasions at Spofford Lake, including their 50th wedding anniversary. Isabelle also enjoyed the wildlife around the lake, which was daily entertainment for her; especially the birds at her bird-feeder each day. Isabelle was predeceased by her husband on April 16, 2014. Her only sister, Eleanor "Tecia" Volz of Albuquerque, New Mexico died on March 25, 2023. Survivors include her daughters, Susan Mernick of Shelburne and Patti Shuppy and her husband Bill of South Burlington; her son, Andrew Mann of Claremont Springs; grandchildren Garrett and Brenden Mernick, Jennifer Swanson, and Sarah McLeod; great-grandchildren Cole, Stella, Leo, and Remi; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside service for family and close friends will be conducted Saturday, May 6, at 2 p.m., in Friedsam Cemetery in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, where she will be laid to rest beside her husband. Donations to the Spofford Fire Department (where her father served as Fire Chief for many decades), P.O. Box 136, Spofford, NH 03462; or to The Spofford Lake Association, P.O. Box 177, Spofford, NH 03462. To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



• **Leonarda "Leah" Ostrowski, 92**, of Bellows Falls. Died peacefully in her sleep after a sudden illness on March 27, 2023 at UMass Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. Born in Poland on June 9, 1930, her young life spanned the depths of World War II as she survived the horrors against humanity that surrounded her. In her steely resolve, she married, had children, and immigrated to America in 1965, landing in Bellows Falls. There, she continued her strong work ethic at Green Mountain Paper Mill for many years. In 1995, she took employment at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, New Hampshire where she worked as head seamstress, and provided interpreter services for those patients who spoke Polish, Russian, German, Ukrainian, and other languages. She was a woman of many talents and a proud and valuable employee at the hospital. She remained employed there until she was 85 and boasted the title of oldest employee whenever she saw fit. Her traditional Polish cooking and masterful knitting and sewing talents will not soon be forgotten. Many have heard some of her tales, as she was a great storyteller. Her favorite subject was her unique life and the wisdom she had to offer. Those who knew Leah remember some of her favorite adages, sometimes delivered with a finger wag, such as "Work smart, not hard!" or "It is only up to you!" or "For what you need this?" She will be greatly missed by her family. Leah was predeceased by her beloved husband, Czeslaw Ostrowski, as well as two boys, Mietek and Leszek, lost in Poland to the Scarlet Fever epidemic. She leaves behind her children and their spouses, Anna and Scott Michaud, Janusz and Jodi Ostrowski, Marcus and Shelley Ostrowski, and Marjan and Victoria Ostrowski. She bids goodbye to her grandchildren Jarek, Jordan, Nathan, Justine, Alastair, Victoria, Andrew, and Bethany, as well as great-grandchild Brooks. She also leaves her most beloved sister in Poland, Danuta Kukuc, with whom she Skyped or emailed daily for many years. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass will be

held on Saturday, May 6, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls, followed by burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Westminster ans a celebration of Leah's life at the Moose Lodge in Bellows Falls.

• **Albert Harvey Root, 94**, of Vernon. Died unexpectedly on April 23, 2023, one day shy of his 95th birthday. Mr. Root was born in Colrain, Massachusetts on April 24, 1928, the son of Adolphus and Olivine (Nadeau) Root. He was raised and educated in Halifax, where he attended public schools. He proudly served his country in the Army during the Korean War, stationed in Germany. He entered active service on Nov. 9, 1949 and was honorably discharged from the service at the rank of corporal on Feb. 2, 1953. Mr. Root was employed as a woodworker at Basketville at its location in Brattleboro and later in Putney. Previously, he worked at the former Crosby Milling Company on Vernon Road. He was an accomplished woodworker and built furniture for all his family, the finished pieces included tables, grandfather clocks, entertainment centers, and other beautiful items for the home. He was a collector of antique clocks, amassing a collection of well over 200-time pieces. Albert also enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, and time spent with his family. On Jan. 8, 1950, in Brattleboro, he was married to Sharon Martin. His devoted wife of 45 years predeceased him on Dec. 23, 1995. Survivors include one son, Jeffrey Root and wife Carol and a daughter, Deidre Parker and husband Mark, both of Vernon; a brother, Donald Root of Zephyr Hills, Florida; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter. Additionally, he leaves many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one son, Kevin Root; three brothers, Adolphus, Lawrence, and Alfred Root; and five sisters, Delia Hamblin, Ann Salerno, Ilene Bridges, Erma Crowell, and Sylvia Linnvill. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside committal services with military honors will be conducted on May 1 in the family lot in Tyler Cemetery in Vernon. Donations to Rescue Inc., P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



• **Robin Scudder, 66**, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully following a brief illness on April 23, 2023, with her family by her side. She was born on Sept. 27, 1956 in Keene, New Hampshire and graduated as a National Merit Scholar from Keene High School in 1974. She graduated cum laude from Bryn Mawr College in 1978 with a degree in sociology. Robin returned to the Keene area and became the editor of *Leisure Weekly*, a Keene-based weekly newspaper. Robin met the love of her life, Hervey C. Scudder III, during an interview Robin conducted for *Leisure Weekly*. They married in 1983. On February 26, 2023, Robin and Hervey celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Robin centered her life on caring for children who needed the kind of love and support she had to offer. As foster parents, she and Hervey provided a secure home for more than 120 children in the Brattleboro area. Robin's dedication as a child advocate was recognized statewide. She served as the president of the Vermont Foster and Adoptive Families Association and was honored with the Social and Rehabilitation Services Commissioner's Award from the state of Vermont. Her long-term loving care endeared her to many hearts in her community. There are not enough words to express the level of devotion she gave to her family and the foster children who joined them. Robin enjoyed cooking for her family and the Bradley House, and she was a food vendor at the Brattleboro Farmers' Market. She spent free time scrapbooking, gardening, and was an avid reader. In her later life, Robin picked up the ukulele and enjoyed playing it. Most of all, Robin took pleasure in spending time with her children and extended family. Robin is survived by her husband; her mother, Wilma Horton of Tennessee; her children, Christine (Niki) Pierce of Brattleboro, Amanda Scudder and her wife Heidi Lebron of Brattleboro, Kristen and Bari Barlow of Ocala, Florida, Kim and Mark Rowan of Sale Creek, Tennessee, Teri Fowler of Vermont, Alisha Scudder of Londonderry, Hervey C. Scudder IV and wife Linda Kelc of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, Heather and Robert Burd of Titusville, New Jersey, Jocelyn and Michael Midgette of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, Elizabeth and Michael Van Brunt of Bernardsville, New Jersey, and Sara Scudder of Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Robin also leaves her siblings Jeffery and Ruthie Horton of Palm Coast, Florida, Stephen Horton of Marlborough, New Hampshire, Heidi and Ron Bambach of Kinde, Michigan, and Pearl Foster of Harriman, Tennessee. She is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, and cousins. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be a celebration of life on May 21 at the VFW in Brattleboro from noon to 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate your time or financial support to Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro ([brookslibraryvt.org/donate](http://brookslibraryvt.org/donate)).



• **Nancy Gouger Whelan, 80**, of Guilford. Died on April 26, 2023 in her son's home, surrounded by her loving family, following a courageous battle with cancer. Nancy was born in Brattleboro on Feb. 3, 1943, the daughter of Henry and Marie (Torrey) Gouger. A lifelong resident of the area, she attended St. Michael's Parochial School and high school and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 1960. For many years, she was employed as a meter

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■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE



reader for Central Vermont Public Service. She retired in 2006 following many years of faithful service with CVPS. Previously, Nancy worked at the former American Optical Company as a lens inspector and had also worked as a seasonal clerk at the post office and as a waitress at several Brattleboro area restaurants. A devout Catholic, she was a lifelong communicant of St. Michael's Catholic Church. Active fraternally, she was a member of the BPO Elks, Brattleboro Lodge #1499, and the American Legion Post 5 Auxiliary. She enjoyed wintering in Sarasota, Florida and vacations in York Beach, Maine. One of her most memorable trips was with her siblings traveling to Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and France. She also enjoyed watching and feeding hummingbirds, hunting, her dogs Maddie and Rocky, and time spent with her family, especially her grandchildren, who were her pride and joy. On Jan. 6, 1962, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, she was married to Edward Whelan, who survives. She also leaves her five children: Lisa Flannery (Bill) of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, Lori Brown of South Newfane, Lynda Mili (Jamie) of Worcester, Massachusetts, Edward Whelan II (Cajsa) of Guilford, and Leslie Houssan (Andre) of Millbury, Massachusetts; siblings Carolee Blouin of Brattleboro, Henry "Jack" Gouger of Dummerston, Christopher Gouger of Newfane, Jill Browne of West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, Jeffrey Gouger of Brattleboro, Janis Wellbrock of Oldsmar, Florida, and Mark Gouger of Brattleboro. Additionally, she is survived by grandchildren Lindsey, Jodi, Chelsea, Lauren, Samantha, Trevor, Courtney, Sean-Patrick, Andrew, Brooke, Kayleigh, Chase, and Tyler; great-grandchildren, Austin, Emie, Laney, Ben, and Olivia; and many special nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by one brother, Charles "Chuck" Gouger. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, May 6, at 10 a.m., at St. Michael's Catholic Church, with committal rites and burial will follow in St. Michael's Parish Cemetery. Friends are invited to call at Atamaniuk Funeral Home on Friday, May 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. Donations to Saint Michael's School, 48 Walnut St., Brattleboro, VT 05301.

**Susan Rae Wilkins, 64,** of Saxtons River. Died on April 5, 2023 of natural causes after a lengthy illness. Susan was very well liked by everyone she encountered. Her unique sense of humor had many belly rolling with laughter. She also liked to play cribbage and Uno. Susan cared for people in many ways. She earned her LNA license and worked at McGirr Nursing Home in Bellows Falls. One thing, among many, that Susan was very proud of was her more than 18 years of sobriety. She took great pride in this accomplishment. Susan leaves behind her fiancé, Donald Pike Jr. of Saxtons River, their cat Rex, and her sisters Amy Carleton and Melissa Severino, both of Springfield, Vermont, as well as a handful of nieces and nephews. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A memorial service will be held June 11, at 2 p.m., at Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield. Donations to the Disabled American Veterans. DAV National Service Office, VA Medical Center, 215 N. Main St., White River Junction, VT 05001.

**Services**



The life of **Janette Neubauer** will be celebrated on Saturday, May 6, at 1 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 161 Western Ave., Brattleboro. A reception will follow. Mrs. Neubauer died on Nov. 15, 2022, at her home in Brattleboro.

**You will lose someone you can't live without, and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn't seal back up. And you come through. It's like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly—that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp.**  
—ANNE LAMOTT

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**Brooks Library to host refugee support and integration panel**

**BRATTLEBORO** — The Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC), southern Vermont's refugee resettlement agency, will host an informational panel on refugees coming to the area from Eritrea/Tigray, Central Africa, Yemen, and Latin America/Guatemala. The event, to be held at Brooks Memorial Library on Monday, May 8, from 5 to 7 p.m., aims to raise awareness of the challenges faced by refugees and to encourage community engagement in welcoming and supporting the new arrivals. The presentation will focus on recent conflict histories and human rights abuses that have led to out-migration.

The panel will feature ECDC Vermont Director Joe Wiah, who will provide background and context on the identities of refugees in southern Vermont and on the resettlement process; and will include short presentations on conflict areas. Additionally, refugees themselves will share personal stories and perspectives.

ECDC Vermont, in partnership with the Brooks Memorial Library, invites all community members to attend and engage in this vital discussion. This event seeks to foster understanding, support, and involvement in the lives of refugees who now call Vermont their home. For more information on the event, visit the ECDC Vermont Facebook page at [facebook.com/ECDCMCCVT](https://facebook.com/ECDCMCCVT).

**Guilford Cares to sponsor six Senior Walks**

**GUILFORD** — Neither snow, rain, nor mud has deterred Guilford Cares and Guilford Conservation Commission volunteers from planning a brand-new set of Senior Walks for the 2023 season.

There will be six walks, one per month, from May through October. Walks are on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Each walk will feature a volunteer guide to share knowledge as participants ramble along, asking questions and pointing out observations.

On Tuesday, May 9, walkers can step back in time with an amble through the Green River Village where the past is part of the present. Learn why the Green River covered bridge construction, led by a Guilford resident, was considered state of the art in the 1800s, and why the village had the first and only drive-through post office. Walkers will also get an inside look at why the timber crib dam still stands strong today.

The guide for the walk, Chip Carter, will lead a loop of the Village, focusing on the stories behind the dam, covered bridge, Green River Bridge Inn, and village church. Parking is available on River Road next to the covered bridge, carpooling is encouraged.

Contact Guilford Cares for more information or to request a ride at 802-579-1350 or [guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com](mailto:guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com).

Other walks scheduled include the Abijah Prince Celler Hole (June 13), Tapalou Guilds Farm (July 11), Hayes Road (Aug. 8), Fort Dummer State Park (Sept. 12), and Black Gum Swamp, J. Maynard Miller Municipal Forest (Oct. 10).

**Grace Cottage unveils plans for new clinic**

**TOWNSHEND** — A public forum to unveil plans for a new primary care clinic building at Grace Cottage will be held on Wednesday, May 10, at 5 p.m., at the Townshend Town Hall.

The current clinic operates out of two adjoining houses built in the 1850s. With more than 31,000 patient visits annually (up from 20,000 in 2018), it is essential that Grace Cottage moves forward with this project, in order to meet the access needs of the community, and the recruitment of additional primary care providers that will allow for future growth.

During the past year, Grace Cottage has been working diligently on the steps required to begin what the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation and the Bennington County Regional Commission have named a "Vital Project" for the region's vitality and economy.

Following a public bidding process, Grace Cottage selected the healthcare architecture firm of Lavallee Brensinger and Engelberth Construction to design and oversee the project. Southern Vermont Engineering conducted geotechnical studies to help determine the best location for the building, which will be adjacent to the existing clinic building, connecting to the hospital building.

Grace Cottage has submitted a Certificate of Need application to the Green Mountain Care Board, Vermont's healthcare regulatory body, and is preparing to apply for an Act 250 permit. It is also embarking on a \$20 million capital campaign for the construction of the new clinic building adjacent to the existing Grace Cottage Family Health. This project, fulfilling a long-held dream, has been initiated by generous donors who have pledged \$5 million.

Extensive feedback from employees who work in the clinic has been incorporated into the interior plan. Final exterior and interior designs have been completed for this new 23,000 sq-ft. building, and these will be shared with community members at the May 10 event. For more information about the new clinic and the forum, call 802-365-9109.

**RFPL offers info on housing issues**

**BELLOWS FALLS** — Stop by the Rockingham Free Public Library on Friday, May 12, between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m., to learn more about fair housing and your rights to shape statewide housing policies with your feedback and to connect with a local nonprofit for housing resources and help.

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development will be hosting an information table staffed by friendly, well-informed persons ready to hear what participants have to say and share related state resources. This table will be set up on the library's main floor.

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**Vernal pool exploration on Hogback Mountain**

**MARLBORO** — Join the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association and Kevin Tolan from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies on Saturday, May 13, at 10 a.m. for a morning of exploring the vibrant world of vernal pools in springtime. Hear about the importance of these transient habitats, how to identify the creatures who depend on them, and what to do or not do around them to ensure they continue to function.

This is a rain or shine event, so please dress appropriately. Meet at the trailhead kiosk behind the Vermont Distillers building on Route 9. There is plenty of parking across the road in the large parking lot. There will be some off-trail hiking but nothing too strenuous. Registration is required and limited to 15: register at [vlt.org](http://vlt.org) and scroll through their list of events.

**May Death Café in Bellows Falls**

**BELLOWS FALLS** — On Wednesday, May 17, from 6

to 8 p.m., Brattleboro Area Hospice will host a Death Café at the Rockingham Free Public Library community room, 65 Westminster St.

They invite curious and like-minded folks to join and talk about death while enjoying tea and snacks. Their objective is "to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their finite lives." A Death Café is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. Find out more at [deathcafe.com/what](http://deathcafe.com/what).

Tea and snacks provided. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP via email at [info@brattleborohospice.org](mailto:info@brattleborohospice.org) or call 802-257-0775.

**Hinsdale Farmers' Market seeks vendors**

**HINSDALE, N.H.** — The Hinsdale Area Farmers' Market, which operates on Main Street at the Millstream Park each Saturday from May through October, is seeking applications from vendors for the 2023 season. Farmers, crafters, chefs, flea market, and others who live in

Southern Vermont or Cheshire County in New Hampshire, are welcome to apply.

The Hinsdale Farmers' Market has been operating since 2014 and seeks to promote locally grown food and crafts while making fresh food available to our residents. Applications for full season, half-season, and daily vendors can be obtained by contacting the market manager at [farmersmarketofhinsdalenh@gmail.com](mailto:farmersmarketofhinsdalenh@gmail.com).

The market is also seeking people who would like to set up a one-time educational demonstration at the market. Examples include beekeeping, sheep shearing, pickling, or basket making. Interested persons are requested to contact the market manager as soon as possible to discuss your demonstration idea. Additionally, acoustic musicians who would like to perform at the market may email the market manager with an example of their original or open-source music.



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What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.

—CHRIS MASER

## Energize Vermont announces grant to support WindowDressers programs in Guilford, Rockingham

Energize Vermont, a non-profit energy education and advocacy organization, recently announced two grant awards to the Guilford and Rockingham Energy Committees to support the towns' WindowDressers program.

At WindowDressers workshops, community volunteers collaborate to assemble custom-fit plastic film inserts stretched over wooden frames.

The Energize Vermont grant is intended to support participation in WindowDressers workshops by lower-income households. Over the last several years, Energize Vermont has granted thousands of dollars to WindowDressers communities.

"Working together in the fall of 2022, about 50 volunteers built 262 window inserts to warm 34 homes and help reduce fuel bills as well as carbon emissions," said Nancy Detra of the Guilford Energy Committee in a news

release. "Our success is due to the goodwill and determination of community members. We are eager to continue providing free inserts to folks who need them in 2023."

For WindowDressers projects, town Energy Committee volunteers solicit orders for window inserts and recruit and train volunteer workshop participants.

The inserts work like storm windows but are much less expensive and far easier to install and remove. They fit inside an existing window, adding two insulating spaces and improving the air seal. Window inserts improve the comfort of homes, reduce heating costs, and can reduce carbon footprints.

"I measured a lot of drafty windows in our first two years offering this program, and we heard from many of our customers what a difference the inserts made in their comfort and in lower fuel bills," said Peter Bergstrom of the

Rockingham Energy Committee.

Support for WindowDressers is an element of Energize Vermont's Climate Action Project, which promotes a response to climate change that reduces consumption, limits energy sprawl, and preserves the natural resources that defend Vermont against climate impacts.

Over the history of the project, WindowDressers has conducted hundreds of workshops in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

The Vermont WindowDressers effort has technical and material support from Maine's nonprofit WindowDressers, which developed the community approach to energy savings. The workshops have engaged thousands of community volunteers and produced over 48,000 window inserts, with 25 to 30% of those supplied to low-income households without cost. More information is available at [windowdressers.org](http://windowdressers.org).

Town energy committees or other community groups interested in learning more about Energize Vermont's Grant Program or Vermont Window Project community workshops may contact Becca Dill at [becca@energizevermont.org](mailto:becca@energizevermont.org) or WindowDressers president, Jack Sumberg, at [jack.sumberg@gmail.com](mailto:jack.sumberg@gmail.com).



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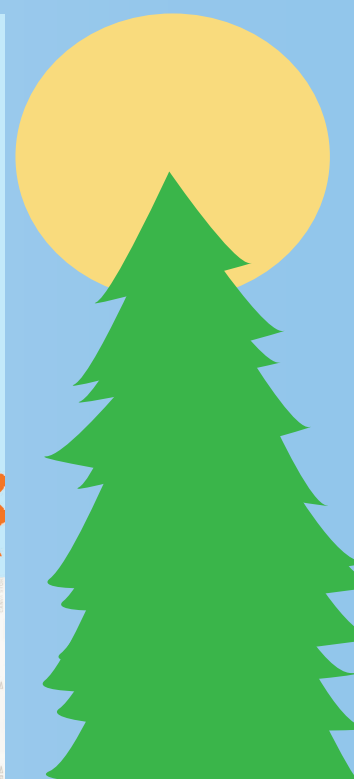
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- Skate Camp (7/31-8/4)
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## Rescue

FROM SECTION FRONT

the change, which they claimed would reap up to \$700,000 in insurance revenue but actually could wind up costing taxpayers almost that much annually, according to a feasibility study commissioned after the switch.

Residents at this year's Annual Representative Town Meeting adopted nonbinding resolutions calling for a public decision-making process for both ambulance coverage and related American Rescue Plan Act spending. In response, local leaders said they would study the issues further this spring and summer before making a final decision this fall.

The New Hampshire situation could prove to be a cautionary tale about toying with an EMS system. DiLuzio began in 1951 and ran successfully for decades, only to see Cheshire County officials announce plans in 2021 for their own regional government program.

The Cheshire County government had hoped to purchase DiLuzio. When the deal fell through, regional leaders signed a transport contract with the area hospital that the family business had used to subsidize its 911-call operations. Without the agreement, the company has suffered, with the Internal Revenue Service recently sparking headlines when it tried to recoup a \$648,965 tax debt.

"DiLuzio provided excellent service, but the changing landscape made it very difficult for them financially," Hazelton said. "EMS is a challenging business model, as Brattleboro is going to find out."

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Among those performing in *Our Town*, at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford will be (top left photo) Archer Holland, Terry Carter, and Bob Tucker; (top right photo) Randy Lichtenwalner; and (bottom photo) Charlie Morse, Julie Holland, and Owen Malouin.

ADA BROWN, COURTESY PHOTO

## Guilford Center Stage marks its return with a classic: Thornton Wilder's 'Our Town'

**GUILFORD**—Guilford Center Stage returns after a 3-year intermission with a production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford. Performances are Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 7 at 2 p.m. Ian Hefele directs a cast from the tri-state region.

A theatrical ground-breaker when it debuted in 1938, *Our Town* was written at the nearby MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire, and the town of Grover's Corners in the play

is based upon that locale. The play broke many theatrical conventions, evident from the opening lines of the script: "No curtain; no scenery; the audience, arriving, sees an empty stage."

Edward Albee called *Our Town* "the great American play," and audiences continue to find resonance in this depiction of ordinary people, living ordinary lives in a small New England town.

Among the innovative features of the play is Wilder's use of a central character, the Stage Manager, who communicates directly to the audience, and

both moves the action along and interrupts it with commentary. Jennifer Gagnon plays this pivotal role.

Others in the cast, in order of appearance, are Randy Lichtenwalner, Oliver Bolz, Lesley Malouin, Tara Sabino, Julie Holland, Archer Holland, Amiliah, Owen Malouin, Magdalena Keppel, Aaron Morse, Charlie Morse, Terry Carter, Beverly Langveld, Bob Tucker, and Gregory.

The (real) stage manager is Kate Weeks. Lighting is by Maria Pugnetti, and Katia Morosan will be running light and sound. Don McLean is the

producer for Guilford Center Stage.

This is the theater group's 10th show since its founding in 2015, and resumes a twice-a-year production schedule, now in the renovated and fully-accessible building, complete with a new elevator from the ground floor up to the theater space.

Broad Brook Community Center is at 3940 Guilford Center Road. General admission is \$12 at the door, by cash or check. Advance tickets, for which a credit card may be used, are available online at [bpt.me/5769579](http://bpt.me/5769579).

## Brooks library hosts three authors from Brattleboro

**BRATTLEBORO**—Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, will showcase three local writers next week in two separate events.

On Sunday, May 7, at 3 p.m., in the Main Reading Room, join author Ann Braden for the launch of her newest novel, *Opinions and Opossums*. She will read a selection from her new book and answer questions.

There will be a photo booth, a writing activity, an opportunity for two lucky people to win a free book, and there may even be a visit from a live opossum.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the release of Ann's new book with our community," said Children's Librarian Lindsay Bellville in a news release. "Knowing how her two previous books have spoken to readers, we look forward to sharing this amazing story with kids and adults alike."

Ann Braden is the author of two previous novels for young people, *The Benefits of Being an Octopus* and *Flight of the Puffin*, which have been embraced by kids and critics alike. She is an activist and the founder of two grassroots organizations; GunSenseVT and Local Love Brigade, and her commitment to making the world a better place

imbues her writing. "I am always eager to open a new book by Ann Braden" said Library Director Starr LaTronica. "I know that I will be keeping company with characters that will resonate with me, surprise me, increase my compassion and empathy and leave me with an abiding love for my fellow humans."

"In *Opinions and Opossums*, Agnes gave me courage and conviction as she found her voice to ask questions and express opinions. And I developed an admiration for opossums and an affection for abandoned shopping carts along the way. This is truly

SEE AUTHORS, B4



Ann Braden



Michael and GennaRose Nethercott

COURTESY PHOTO



MAIA SEGURA, COURTESY PHOTO

Jamaica State Park Assistant Manager Sebastian Ramey and Park Manager Lauren Pellegrino get a preview of the Jamaica State Park Kolsch beer at Jamaica State Park.

## New brews mean good news for Vermont State Parks

Jamaica State Park is the setting for a May 6 launch party for Pints for Parks, which releases limited-edition brews to benefit the state park system

By Victoria Chertok  
The Commons

**JAMAICA**—The West River Spring Whitewater Release on Saturday, May 6 at Jamaica State Park — a tradition that draws hundreds of canoers, kayakers, and whitewater rafters and resumes for the first time since 2020 — will be the setting for the launch party for a local brewery's initiative to benefit the state's park system.

Pints for Parks is a collaboration

between Whetstone Beer Co. and Vermont State Parks ([vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com)), where twice per year the company will focus on one of the 55 state parks to create a unique, limited-edition beer celebrating that location.

In addition, Whetstone will donate proceeds from all Pints for Parks beer to Vermont Parks Forever ([vermontparksforever.org](http://vermontparksforever.org)), a nonprofit that provides charitable and private support to Vermont State Parks.

"It's personal to me to have Jamaica

State Park be the first one we are collaborating with on this worthwhile project," notes David Hiler, one of the three partners of Whetstone Beer Co., which will introduce Jamaica State Park Kolsch at the event with samples, river-themed music, and other fun.

The beer, which business partner Tim Brady described in a news release as "somewhere between a lager and an ale," is "warm fermented — a nod to the tropical island which shares the park's

SEE PINTS FOR PARKS, B4

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# Next Stage hosts Kalos, Fern Maddie

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present an evening of traditional Celtic and folk music by Kalos (Eric McDonald, Ryan McKasson, and Jeremiah McLane) and Fern Maddie on Friday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill.

Three innovative interpreters and composers of Celtic roots music — McDonald (guitar, mandolin, vocals), McKasson, (fiddle, viola, vocals), and McLane (accordion, piano, vocals) — draw on years of experience performing with the likes of Cantrip, Nightingale, The Clayfoot Strutters, and Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas to forge a new

musical path.

“They are masters of traditional [music] who purposefully explore the dark corners floating on its edges, delivering an alluring musical complexity full of spontaneity and joyful exuberance,” say organizers in a news release. “Their individual artistry springs from these strong traditional roots, and as a trio they move beyond this foundation, creating music that is compelling enough to transcend boundaries and appeal to music lovers of all stripes. Kalos’ music asks to be shared live, and performance is the band’s heart and forte.”

Fern Maddie is a baladeer-songwriter and

multi-instrumentalist (clawhammer banjo, guitar, and fiddle) based in Central Vermont. Her songs exploring themes of trauma, grief, and renewal, and modern interpretations of traditional ballads have earned national and international acclaim. Her debut album “Ghost Story” was named No. 2 of *The Guardian’s* Best Folk Albums of 2022, and was listed on NPR’s Best Roots Music of the Year list.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door. Advance tickets are available at [nextstagearts.org](http://nextstagearts.org). For information, call 802-387-0102. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.



Members of Kalos: Eric McDonald, Ryan McKasson, and Jeremiah McLane

## arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY CONT.	SATURDAY CONT.	SUNDAY CONT.	TUESDAY CONT.	
<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">4</p> <p><b>Music</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Jessica Moss and Ka Baird:</b> Presented in collaboration with Nova Arts: A sonic ritual of melodic tension and cathartic release featuring drone-infused soundscapes by Montreal-based violinist Jessica Moss (Thee Silver Mt. Zion, Black Ox Orkestar) and the dynamic interplay of voice, electronics, woodwinds by sound-artist Ka Baird.                  ▶ 8 p.m.                  ▶ \$20 or sliding scale (\$5 and over).                  ▶ Epsilon Spire, 190 Main St. Information: Tickets: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/mv5df26b">tinyurl.com/mv5df26b</a>.  <b>BRATTLEBORO Musical Improvisation for All with Anna Patton Returns to 118 Elliot:</b> “Create music through structured group improvisations, game-pieces, and other interactive sound making. For any and all instrumentalists and vocalists willing to experiment with improvisational play, we’ll come up with musical/sonic material on the fly and use various cues to organize, disrupt, or otherwise mess around with the sounds. No experience needed as long as you have a curious ear and a willingness to make things up.”                  ▶ 7 p.m. first Thursday every month. Program Dir. Patton is a clarinetist/singer/composer offering a full spectrum of styles. She teaches vocal and instrumental ensemble classes, aural skills, improvisation, music theory. In 2006, she started the Soubrette Jazz Choir at the VT Jazz Center which performs her creative arrangements of historical and contemporary American music.                  ▶ \$15 suggested donation.                  ▶ One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliot.com.</p> <p><b>Community building</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Storytelling Roundtable on the Theme of Newcomers and Immigration:</b> In collaboration with Vermont Folklife, multi-media artist Juan Hinojosa leads an evening of storytelling. After the exhibition tour of “Juan Hinojosa: Paradise City,” visitors will be invited to share their family histories and make mini collages on the theme of “home.” Hinojosa, the child of immigrants, makes complex collage-drawings constructed from found objects that intimately challenge greed, obsessive consumption, social stratification of American culture.                  ▶ 7 p.m. In his art and this event, Hinojosa explores what it means to be a Vermonter and to be “from” a place. Through community engagement and storytelling, he aims to reveal the many shared experiences we all have as Americans.                  ▶ Free.                  ▶ Brattleboro Museum &amp; Art Center, 28 Vernon St. Registration optional - walk-ins are welcome 802-257-0124; <a href="http://brattleboromuseum.org">brattleboromuseum.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>Music</b>  <b>PUTNEY Next Stage and Twilight Music present Traditional Celtic and Folk Music by Kalos along with Fern Maddie (In-Person/Livestream):</b> Kalos includes Eric McDonald (guitar, mandolin, vocals), Ryan McKasson (fiddle, viola, vocals), Jeremiah McLane (accordion, piano, vocals). Masters of tradition, they explore the dark corners floating on its edges, delivering an alluring musical complexity of spontaneity and joyful exuberance. Their individual artistry springs from these strong traditional roots. As a trio, they create music compelling enough to transcend boundaries/appeal to music lovers of all stripes.                  ▶ 7 p.m. Fern Maddie: Baladeer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalist (clawhammer banjo, guitar, fiddle) shares songs exploring themes of trauma, grief, renewal. Modern interpretations of her traditional ballads have earned national and international acclaim.                  ▶ \$20 in advance, \$24 at door, \$10 livestream.                  ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; <a href="http://nextstagearts.org">nextstagearts.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Well-being</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Strength Class with Lissa Stark offered by Brattleboro Recreation and Parks Senior Center:</b> This course focuses on strength training exercises that help us to become and stay strong, including techniques to improve balance, strengthen muscle and promote health and wellness. It is designed for all levels and no prior experience is necessary.                  ▶ 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Gibson-Aiken Fitness Room year-round on Fridays and Tuesdays.                  ▶ \$5 per class.                  ▶ Gibson-Aiken Center, 207 Main St. Information: 802-257-7570, <a href="mailto:sclark@brattleboro.org">sclark@brattleboro.org</a>.  <b>BRATTLEBORO Full Moon Forest Immersion:</b> Experience nature unfold as we shift from daylight to twilight to nightfall at this special time of the month when the moon is at its fullest. Tune in to your senses to appreciate nature in new ways. Inspired by the Japanese practice of forest bathing, enjoy a mindful and playful guided experience in the forest and meadow atop Heifer Hill. Sweeping views offer the possibility to see moon rise. De-stress/be inspired by nature.                  ▶ 6:30-9 p.m. Forest immersion or “forest bathing” as translated literally from “shinrin-yoku” is an established public health practice in Japan. It’s a growing global wellness movement backed by over 30 years of scientific research on the physical and mental benefits of immersing yourself in nature. Recommended minimum age is 15.                  ▶ \$35 members/\$45 non-members. You’ll be contacted in advance about weather considerations. Full refund in event of weather cancellation.                  ▶ Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1221 Bonnyvale Rd. Information: 802-257-5785; <a href="http://beec.org">beec.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>Free.</b>                  ▶ Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, 183 Main St. Regular open hours: Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun: 12 noon - 5 p.m. 802-251-8290; <a href="http://mitchelgiddingsfinearts.com">mitchelgiddingsfinearts.com</a>.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">6</p> <p><b>Music</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Hazelnuts plays hits from the ‘60s - ‘90s</b>                  ▶ 6 - 8:30 p.m.                  ▶ No cover charge.                  ▶ River Garden Marketplace, 157 Main St. Information: <a href="http://rivergardenmarketplace.com">rivergardenmarketplace.com</a>.  <b>BRATTLEBORO The Garcia Project:</b> Paying homage to the iconic music of The Jerry Garcia Band, the Garcia Project’s performances are based on actual setlists performed by The Jerry Garcia Band. All of their shows are classic recreations of a Jerry Garcia Band set list from 1976 to 1995. For anyone that never had a chance to experience The Jerry Garcia Band or for fans that want to relive a classic show, The Garcia Project delivers.                  ▶ 8:30 p.m. With precise arrangements/proper instrumentation/feel for various eras, Garcia Project channels and projects feelings, emotions, music that propelled fans through many years of musical bliss. It’s about family, soul searching, rejoicing, contemplating, celebrating, seeking truth and loving one another.                  ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at door.                  ▶ The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: Tickets: <a href="http://stonechurchvt.com">stonechurchvt.com</a>.  <b>WESTMINSTER WEST RIVER SINGERS - Concerts led by Mary Cay Brass and Dr. Kathy Bullock:</b> In addition to songs from England, Georgia, South Africa, Mary Cay leads a set of songs from the Balkans accompanied by a Balkan band with Brass on the accordion, Walter Slowinski, clarinet; Richie Davis, percussion; Sue Kranz, flute. Bullock will share music by/about African Americans’ journey in the U.S., including recently rediscovered songs of protest from the 1800s along with traditional and newly composed songs of freedom and hope.                  ▶ 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. (2 concerts). Please wear a mask while the River Singers sing.                  ▶ Suggested donation of \$15 to \$25 to support Groundworks in Brattleboro.                  ▶ Westminster West Church, 44 Church St. Information: Reservations required. Specify time of concert you will be attending: Mary Cay Brass, <a href="mailto:mcbgrass@vermontel.net">mcbgrass@vermontel.net</a>.</p>	<p><b>by kids and critics alike. She’s an activist and founder of two grassroots organizations - GunSenseVT and Local Love Brigade - and her commitment to making the world a better place imbues her writing.</b>                  ▶ Free.                  ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; <a href="http://brookslibraryvt.org">brookslibraryvt.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Arts and crafts</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO “Welcome Spring” Crafts Fair:</b> Featuring works by gifted crafters of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. Among the items for sale are various sized totes, flowered wreaths, fairy houses, fabric flower brooches, decorative table mats - plus baked goods, jams, and plants for inside and out.                  ▶ 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Materials also available so adults/kids can create a fabric garden flag or floral crown. Reflecting principles of respecting the environment/adopting a green lifestyle, fundraiser organizers chose recycled and upcycled materials to repurpose - fun and whimsical, decorative, or downright useful.                  ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church West Village Meeting House, 29 South St. Information: 802-254-9377; <a href="mailto:ascvt.org">ascvt.org</a>.  <b>BELLOWS FALLS Saxtons River Art Guild Workshop “Painting Urban Landscapes” led by VT watercolorist John Dimick:</b> John will explain/demonstrate steps he generally follows when painting an urban landscape such as the street scenes in Brattleboro or Bellows Falls. He’ll dem progression of steps from a photo to a sketch on the watercolor paper and then the gradual development working toward the finished painting. Expect to start working on your own after brief intro and then gather back at his table to observe steps as they arise.                  ▶ 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring photos of their own to work from. John will have photos for you to include if you prefer. He’ll also show finished paintings/prints of completed street scenes as examples from which he’ll point out unusual techniques that are used. Open to all abilities - some watercolor experience suggested. Coffee/tea served. Bring lunch. Masks/COVID-19 vaccinations required.                  ▶ \$70 for Saxtons River Art Guild members, \$90 for non-members.                  ▶ United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School St. Information: Registration/ more information email Carolyn Berglund at <a href="mailto:poohbear@ne.rr.com">poohbear@ne.rr.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Well-being</b>  <b>W. BRATTLEBORO “Creating a Health Future” - All Souls Church (In Person/Zoom):</b> “The history of reproductive oppression and repression in this country is inseparable from our legacy of colonialism and racism. At this moment when reproductive justice is again under attack, join us in welcoming Planned Parenthood/The Brattleboro Health Center, with whom we will be sharing our Sunday offerings for the month of May.”                  ▶ 10 a.m. In-Person. Visit <a href="http://www.ascvt.org">www.ascvt.org</a> Sunday shortly before 10:00 a.m. for Zoom.                  ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: 802-254-9377; <a href="mailto:ascvt.org">ascvt.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Dance</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO West Coast Swing</b>                  ▶ Thomas Hall: 3 p.m.: Beginner Lesson, 4 p.m.: Intermediate Lesson; 5-7 p.m. Open Dance. Free parking.                  ▶ \$10 Open Dance, \$20 Lesson and Dance.                  ▶ Winston Prouty Campus, 209 Austine Dr. Information: Text Bonnie: 802-249-8646.  <b>GUILDFORD Contra Dance Spring Series - 1st Sundays through June 4 - Sponsored by Brattleboro Contra Dance:</b> Sally Newton calling with Mary Fraser &amp; friends. Broad Brook Community Center is a locally owned, recently renovated Grange Hall with a new floor! - 12 minutes from Brattleboro.                  ▶ 6-9 p.m. Covid Policy: N-95 Mask and proof of vax/bivalent boosters required. Medical exemptions for boosters only.                  ▶ \$15 to \$20.                  ▶ Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Guilford: Erich Kruger, <a href="mailto:ewkruger@gmail.com">ewkruger@gmail.com</a>.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">10</p> <p><b>The written word</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Nethercott Duet, or Dueling Nethercotts?:</b> Michael and GennaRose share their views on storytelling, offer readings, engage in lively literary banter. GennaRose’s recent novel “Thistlefoot” received numerous accolades, i.e. NPR, Wall Street Journal, Book of the Month. Her projects are all rooted in myth/folklore and what our stories reveal about who we are. Michael’s new novel, “The Ballad of Black Powder,” is his first foray into writing westerns. His short stories have appeared in numerous periodicals/antho                  ▶ 7 p.m.                  ▶ Free.                  ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; <a href="http://brookslibraryvt.org">brookslibraryvt.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Community building</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Parenting 4 Justice - Monthly Book Group:</b> Dive deep into the topics of Social Justice, Parenting for Social Justice, Parenting for Racial Justice, Parenting for Economic Justice, Parenting for Disability Justice, Parenting for Gender Justice, and Parenting for Collective Liberation. Facilitated by Abby Mnookin. Snacks provided; we hope to offer childcare.                  ▶ 6-8 p.m. Monthly, 2nd Wednesday. To sign up/have questions, email Abby at <a href="mailto:asmnookin@gmail.com">asmnookin@gmail.com</a>. Some copies of “Parenting 4 Social Justice” by Abby Mnookin are available for loan from the library, can be purchased at Everyone’s Books, or online. Hosted by Brooks Memorial Library and Parenting for Social Justice.                  ▶ Free.                  ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; <a href="http://brookslibraryvt.org">brookslibraryvt.org</a>.</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">5</p> <p><b>Performing arts</b>  <b>GUILDFORD “Our Town”:</b> Ian Hefele directs the cast in Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town.” A theatrical group-breaker when it debuted in 1938, it was written at the nearby MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH, and the town of Grover’s Corners in the play is based upon that locale. The play broke theatrical conventions, evident from the opening lines of the script: “No curtain; no scenery; the audience, arriving, sees an empty stage.”                  ▶ 7:30 p.m. Fri./Sat, 2 p.m. Sun. Edward Albee called “Our Town” “the great American play.” Audiences continue to find resonance in this depiction of ordinary people, living ordinary lives in a small New England town. Innovative features include Wilder’s use of a central character - the Stage Manager - who communicates directly to the audience and both moves action along and interrupts it w/ commentary. Jennifer Gagnon plays this pivotal role. Other cast members: Randy Lichtenwalner, Oliver Bolz, Lesley Malouin, Tara Sabino, Julie Holland, Archer Holland, Amilia, Owen Malouin, Magdalena Keppel, Aaron Morse, Charlie Morse, Terry Carter, Beverly Langveld, Bob Tucker and Gregory. The (real) stage manager is Kate Weeks. Lighting by Maria Pugnetti and Katia Morosan. Guilford Center Stage producer: Don McLean.                  ▶ Through Sunday, May 7.                  ▶ \$12 at door (cash or check). Advance tickets (credit card may be used) are available online: <a href="http://bpt.me/5769579">bpt.me/5769579</a>.</p>	<p><b>Visual arts and shows</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Collection of Art Work by Mitchell Giddings Fine Artists:</b> Collection of work: Oil Paintings by Michael Abrams, Hand-Blown Glass by Josh Bernbaum, Woodblock Prints by Matt Brown, Abstract Monotypes by Willa Cox, Plexiglass Wall Sculptures by Mutsu Crispin, Mixed-Media Monotypes by Lisa Mackie, Monoprints and Monotypes by Emily Mason, Digitally Enhanced Photographs by Gene Parulis, Mixed Media Collage by Lauren Polara, Mixed Media on Canvas by Donald Saaf, Textiles by Deirdre Scherer, Oil Paintings by Cameron Schmitz.                  ▶ 5/5-8 p.m.: Join the celebration of these artists during Gallery Walk.                  ▶ Through Sunday, May 21.</p>	<p><b>Kids and families</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Kids Craft Fair at the Academy School:</b> “Over 60 kid crafters are registered to sell everything from handmade art to painted rocks to jewelry and tie dyed clothing. Offered for the first time by the Parent Teacher Organization, this will be an annual event. What an awesome way to showcase all of our local kiddo crafters!”                  ▶ 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the gym. Registration open to any child in grades K-6th (elementary) who attends school in the WSESD or is homeschooled locally. Plenty of parking.                  ▶ \$1 per family (will be donated to the VT Food Bank).                  ▶ Academy School, 860 Western Ave. Questions: Alex Joyal, co-chair: 830-237-9972 Academy PTO: <a href="mailto:academyschoolpto@gmail.com">academyschoolpto@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Community building</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro in Stitches: Keep Brattleboro in Stitches!</b> Do you sew? Knit? Crochet? Embroider? Want to learn? Come and share your expertise and enthusiasm. Stitch together friendships while working on projects old and new in our fiber arts makerspace. Sewing machines and some supplies available, plus lots of books for inspiration! All ages and experience levels welcome.                  ▶ 12 noon - 2 p.m. every Saturday.                  ▶ Free.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">8</p> <p><b>Dance</b>  <b>WINCHESTER Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club with Live Music by “Champagne Jam” - Western Night:</b> Nonalcoholic beverages available; 50/50 Raffle.                  ▶ 7 - 10:30 p.m.                  ▶ \$10 members, \$12 non-members.                  ▶ Elmm Community Center, 21 Durkee St. Information: Tom: 978-249-6917 / 978-790-9322, Barbara: 802-722-9205.</p> <p><b>Tag sales, auctions, bazaars</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO St. Michael’s Episcopal 50th Anniversary “Terrific Tag Sale”:</b> Great quality clothing for all ages. Useful linens, all types of housewares, multitude of books, jewelry, sporting goods, lots of furniture and many other items for all seasons, plus delicious homemade food to enjoy at the Tag Sale Café! Furniture and jewelry will be priced, but most of the other items will be offered in exchange for donations.                  ▶ 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. indoors in Church basement/outdoors under big tents. Handicap accessible. Shoppers are encouraged, not required, to wear masks indoors and eat food outdoors where seating will be available. Proceeds from this year’s sale will be divided between two critically important local not-for-profits: Groundworks Collaborative: Brattleboro’s local organization which offers a food pantry and other critical services to support people experiencing homelessness, and the Windham County Heat Fund: offering much appreciated fuel assistance to people in need.                  ▶ Free.                  ▶ St. Michaels Episcopal Church, Putney Rd. and Bradley Ave. Information: 802-254-6048.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">8</p> <p><b>Community building</b>  <b>Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (Webcast/ Teleconference via Zoom/Phone):</b> NorthStar and Vermont State Agencies will provide updates of recent Vermont Yankee decommissioning activities. Recent activities of the Panel’s Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee will also be discussed. Open to the public.                  ▶ 6-8:30 p.m. Zoom: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/49x6a9hp">https://tinyurl.com/49x6a9hp</a>. Connectivity info for joining meeting by computer/smart device: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/49x6a9hp">https://tinyurl.com/49x6a9hp</a>. Meeting ID: 849 28928 8210. Webcast Passcode: uRMz5s. Join meeting by phone (for those with poor internet connectivity): (646) 558-8656 or (301) 715-8592. Meeting ID: 849 8928 8210. Audio Passcode: 848854.                  ▶ Free.                  ▶ Zoom. Full agenda: <a href="https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/meeting-agenda-05-08-2023">https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/meeting-agenda-05-08-2023</a> Meeting access help: Tony Leshinski, VT State Nuclear Engineer, <a href="mailto:anthony.leshinski@vermont.gov">anthony.leshinski@vermont.gov</a>, 802-272-1714.  <b>BRATTLEBORO Welcoming New Neighbors: The Ethiopian Community Development Center:</b> This event encourages community engagement in welcoming and supporting new arrivals to southern Vermont by way of introducing participants to respective areas’ recent histories (Yemen, Central Africa, Eritrea and Latin America/ Guatemala). Discussion will focus on human rights abuses that have led to our migration.                  ▶ 5-7 p.m. in Meeting Room A.                  ▶ Free.                  ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Organizer’s email: <a href="mailto:jwiah@cdccus.org">jwiah@cdccus.org</a> 802-254-5290; <a href="http://brookslibraryvt.org">brookslibraryvt.org</a>.</p>	
<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">7</p> <p><b>Kids and families</b>  <b>BRATTLEBORO Ann Braden’s “Opinions and Opossums” debuts at Brooks Memorial Library:</b> Ann will read a selection from her new book/answer questions. There will be a photo booth, writing activity, an opportunity for two lucky people to win a free book - there may even be a visit from a live opossum! Books available for sale and signing.                  ▶ 3 p.m. Main Reading Room. Wheelchair accessible. Ann Braden authored two previous novels for young people, “The Benefits of Being an Octopus” and “Flight of the Puffin,” embraced</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">7</p> <p><b>Local history</b>  <b>GUILDFORD Guilford Cares Senior Walk:</b> Our guide, Chip Carter, will focus on stories behind the dam, covered bridge, the Green River Bridge Inn and village church.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">9</p> <p><b>Local history</b>  <b>GUILDFORD Guilford Cares Senior Walk:</b> Our guide, Chip Carter, will focus on stories behind the dam, covered bridge, the Green River Bridge Inn and village church.</p>			



# BMAC presents photographer Cathy Cone in an online talk

BRATTLEBORO—Vermont-based artist Cathy Cone, whose work is on view in the exhibition “Portals and Portraits” at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) through June 11, will take part in an online conversation with BMAC Director of Exhibitions Sarah Freeman on Thursday, May 11, at 7 p.m.

The conversation will focus on Cone’s photographic practice, including her integration of multiple photographic and drawing media and techniques in her work. The event is free and will take place via Zoom and Facebook Live. Attendees can register online at [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

Organizers say Cone’s artistic practice explores the vulnerability of memory and feelings of nostalgia. To create her painted portraits, Cone photographs or scans tints from her personal collection and modifies the reproduced

images using gouache, watercolor, collage, stamping, and drawing. Her photogravures, also on view in the exhibition, similarly include layers of imagery that “simultaneously reveal and hide their subjects,” a news release reports.

In an essay accompanying the BMAC exhibition, Cone describes her process: “I begin by discovering an image. The image emerges and appears as a rather strange surprise. This surprise is the charge that I take back into my studio as ‘something’ found to translate.”

Reflecting on Cone’s abstracted portraits, Freeman writes, “This push and pull between visibility and obscurity calls into question the very purpose of a portrait and invites us to consider the process of knowing and understanding ourselves and each other.”

In their conversation on May



JOSH STEELE

Cathy Cone

11, Cone and Freeman will delve deeper into Cone’s interest in the human face. Through her focus on the face, Cone explores its psychological importance in human interactions and interconnections.

According to the artist’s website, Cone’s surrealist approach to photography began in the late 1970s with the introduction of the “Diana” camera. This led to her investigation of experimental

techniques and a multidisciplinary approach to her poetic image-making.

Cone received her training at Ohio University and the Vermont Studio Center, and her master of fine arts at Maine Media College.

Her work has been exhibited at various institutions, including the Weisman Art Museum, DeCordova Museum, Griffin Museum of Photography, and Vermont Center for Photography.

Cone is currently creative director of the Workshops and Studio at Cone Editions Press, a collaborative printmaking studio co-founded by Cone and her husband, master printer Jon Cone, in Port Chester, New York, in 1980 and now located in East Topsham.

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MAY 4 - 11

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY V. 3** PG-13  
THURS. & FRIDAY, MAY 4 & 5  
4PM / 5PM / 7PM / 8PM

**SATURDAY, MAY 6**  
2PM / 3PM / 5PM / 7PM / 8PM

**SUNDAY, MAY 7**  
2PM / 3PM / 5PM / 7PM

**MON.-THURS. MAY 8-11**  
4PM / 5PM / 7PM

**SUPER MARIO BROS.** PG

THURSDAY, MAY 4  
4:10PM / 6:40PM

FRIDAY, MAY 5  
4:10PM / 6:40PM / 8:40PM

SATURDAY, MAY 6  
2:10PM / 6:40PM / 8:40PM

SUNDAY, MAY 7  
2:10PM / 6:40PM

MON.-THURS. MAY 8-11  
4:10PM / 6:40PM

**ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET** PG-13

THURSDAY, MAY 4  
4:15PM / 7:10PM

FRIDAY, MAY 5  
4:15PM / 7:10PM / 9:15PM

SATURDAY, MAY 6  
2:15PM / 7:10PM / 9:15PM

SUNDAY, MAY 7  
2:15PM / 7:10PM

MON.-THURS. MAY 8-11  
4:15PM / 7:10PM

**OFF THE BEATEN BATH** R

SAT. & SUN. 4PM

## Gallery Walks kicks off 2023 season on May 5

BRATTLEBORO—On Friday, May 5, Brattleboro’s Gallery Walk, a long-running and beloved arts and community event, returns from its winter hiatus.

Once again, Gallery Walk will be held rain or shine every first Friday, May through December, from 5 to 9 p.m.

For three decades, Gallery Walk has showcased art in the galleries and in the streets of

downtown Brattleboro. Each first Friday, visitors can expect a huge block party with street closure of Elliot Street and Harmony Parking lot featuring an outdoor stage with live music, a food truck food court, and 80 feet of community table featuring white tablecloths and local blooms courtesy of the Brattleboro Garden Club.

Eighteen galleries will host new exhibit openings, many with

the artists present to speak with guests. Interactive art stations pop up all over the downtown area with a diverse array of activities and exhibits.

“A point of considerable pride is that these events are free and are meant to truly have something for everyone,” organizers said in a news release. “Art, in all its forms, brings people together like no other, and that’s what Gallery Walk is all about.”

May’s Gallery Walk will feature Neon Rainbow, a queer-friendly and genderless square dance with music by the Rear Defrosters. BrattRock, the Brattleboro area’s youth rock festival, will be the highlight in June. Other musical acts include Jatoba and The Ditrani Brothers (July), Sweet Lightening and Tilden (August), Thus Love, with special guests Beetsblog (September), and the Gaslight Tinkers (October).

Galleries participating include 118 Elliot, The Collective, Harmony Collective, Martucci, (formerly Hazel), HatchSpace, Vermont Center for Photography, Centre Congregational Church, HCRS Print Shop, Mitchell-Giddings Fine Arts, Penelope Wurr, First Proof Press, Gallery in the Woods, ZPots, Beadniks, Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Gallery 34, and Vermont Artisan Designs.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit [brattleboro.com/downtown/gallery-walk](http://brattleboro.com/downtown/gallery-walk).

## Literary Cocktail Hour hosts author Kathryn Ma on May 12

BRATTLEBORO—On Friday, May 12, at 5 p.m., A Literary Cocktail Hour will present critically acclaimed author Kathryn Ma, with her latest book, *The Chinese Groove*, in an online conversation with local writer Stephanie Greene. Register at [bit.ly/LitCocktail30](http://bit.ly/LitCocktail30).

In *The Chinese Groove*, 18-year-old Shelley, born into a much-despised branch of the Zheng family in Yunnan Province and living in the shadow of his widowed father’s grief, dreams of bigger things.

Buoyed by an exuberant heart and his cousin Deng’s tall tales about the United States, Shelley heads to San Francisco to claim his destiny, confident that any hurdles will be easily overcome by the awesome powers of the “Chinese groove,” a belief in the unspoken bonds between countrymen that transcend time and borders.

Upon arrival, Shelley is dismayed to find that his “rich uncle” is in fact his unemployed second cousin once removed and that the grand guest room he’d envisioned is but a scratchy sofa. The indefinite stay he’d planned for? That has a firm two-week expiration date.

Even worse, the loving family he hoped would embrace him is in shambles, shattered by a senseless tragedy that has cleaved the family in two. They want nothing to do with this youthful bouncer who’s barged into their lives.

Ever the optimist, Shelley concocts a plan to resuscitate his American dream by insinuating himself into the family. And, who knows, maybe he’ll even manage to bring them back together in the process.

Ma is the author of the widely praised novel *The Year She Left Us*, which was named a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice and an

NPR “Great Read” of the year.

Her short story collection, *All That Work and Still No Boys*, won the Iowa Short Fiction Award and was named a *San Francisco Chronicle* Notable Book and a *Los Angeles Times Discoveries* Book. She is also a recipient of the David Nathan Meyerson Prize for Fiction and has twice been named a San Francisco Public Library Laureate.

Greene’s short fiction has been published in *Nostoc* magazine, *Green Mountains Review*, *Sky Island Journal*, *The New Guard*, and *Flash Fiction* magazine. Her work has been long-listed for the Lascaux Prize for Short Fiction, nominated for inclusion in the Best of the Net Anthology and for a Pushcart Prize. A contributor to Vermont Public for nine years, she lives on the family farm with her husband, writer and artist Marshall Brooks.

## Epsilon Spires, the ArtLords present a night of Afghan food and film combined with a discussion of LGBTQ rights

BRATTLEBORO—The Danish-Afghan animated documentary *Flee* will be screened at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at Epsilon Spires.

The event will also include Afghan food cooked by the ArtLords, a grassroots network of Afghan muralists and political activists who were displaced by the Taliban and resettled in Brattleboro, where they have previously collaborated on the new High Street mural that was commissioned by Epsilon Spires and designed by First Proof Press.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion about LGBTQ rights. Thanks to a generous grant from Vermont Humanities, *Flee* will be presented to the public by donation, with all proceeds going to the curator and artists.

“The reason why we selected this movie is to show what life looks like to be a queer in Afghanistan,” Abdullah, a member of the ArtLords who uses only his first name in the press for

reasons of safety, said in a news release. “The documentary fairly and equally depicts the situation of millions of Afghans who left, and are still leaving, their families and homes to seek refuge for the sake of security and peace.”

“*Flee* is a deeply moving animated feature film for adults that tells the story of a gay Afghan refugee who comes to terms with his identity while resettling in Denmark after the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s,” say organizers. The movie made history in 2021 by becoming the first film to score a trifecta of Oscar nominations in the categories of Best Animated Feature, Best Documentary, and Best International Film.

“*Flee* is the story of then that resonates with now,” says Abdullah. “They say history repeats, and the modern history of Afghanistan proves it. The government of Afghanistan is a total disaster, which has led to innocent civilians being killed, abducted, persecuted, tortured to death, and

starved for the basic needs of life. Women, children and the Queer community suffer the most.”

Abdullah was born in Panjshir, Afghanistan, and then migrated to Pakistan, where he studied painting, traditional calligraphy, and Persian miniatures. He moved back to Kabul to complete his bachelor’s degree in computer science, where he also began painting murals with the ArtLords. When the Taliban took over the control of Kabul, he was forced to flee, which established a personal connection to the film that he has chosen to show at Epsilon Spires.

The ArtLords will be cooking Qawbali Palaw, a kind of rice pilaf with raisins, carrots, and meat served with a traditional Afghan salad, which will be offered as a tasting portion to get acquainted with flavors featured in popular Afghan cuisine. Advanced registration for the event at [epsilonspires.org](http://epsilonspires.org) is recommended in order to make sure there is enough food for everyone.

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# Bellows Falls film showcase awarded \$800 from bank

BELLOWS FALLS—Thanks to an \$800 grant awarded to Rockingham Entertainment Development LTD (RED) by Claremont Savings Bank, a regional, one-day film festival will occur at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Saturday, Oct. 21.

The Bellows Falls Vermont (BFVT) Film Showcase will feature filmmakers whose work focuses on Vermont topics and locations, or whose actors, directors, and team members are from Vermont.

RED will partner with Falls Area Community Televisions (FACT TV) in Bellows Falls to produce the festival. Ten years ago, FACT TV offered the No Film Festival at the Opera House, in which participants submitted short spoofs of American film classics. Since then, aspiring filmmakers associated with the

cable public access station have gone on to produce a number of independent films, including a recent documentary, *Called to Duty*, about the 1981 Star Hotel fire in which two firefighters lost their lives.

The BFVT Film Showcase will offer three categories: 7- to 15-minute microfilms, all genres; 30- to 45-minute shorts, all genres; and 60- to 90-minute features, narratives, or documentaries.

Submissions will be accepted beginning Aug. 1, and details will be uploaded to Film Freeway and the Bellows Falls Opera House websites. Entry fees are not required, and anyone is welcome to submit a microfilm or short film, which will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis until available time slots are filled.

Feature films will be juried in

advance, and the selected feature will be screened in the 500-seat Opera House during the one-day festival.

Audience members will be able to come and go throughout the day to enjoy local offerings and remain downtown for shopping and dining. Audience voting will end at 6 p.m. The winning feature filmmaker will also receive a \$200 cash prize.

Musicians are also invited to participate as well, by submitting a two-minute festival theme song that focuses on the importance of village life with the tagline: "The BFVT Film Showcase right in your own backyard." Files can be uploaded beginning Aug. 1.

For all details, watch the Bellows Falls Opera House website, [BellowsFallsOperaHouse.com](http://BellowsFallsOperaHouse.com).

## Pints for Parks

name — and cold conditioned, like the West River, which is fed by the park's Hamilton Falls in springtime.

Jamaica State Park Kolsch sports a peel-off label by Newfane artist and designer Daimian Lix.

"We love the label design," said Sarah Alberghini Winters, executive director of Vermont Parks Forever, who said that the abstracted photoillustration of Hamilton Falls and typography that is a paean to park signage "really captures the feel of the state parks and makes us want to head out to go camping!"

Winters said that Whetstone, Vermont State Parks, and Vermont Parks Forever are eyeing Quechee State Park in Hartford as the next state park to be in the Pints for Parks spotlight.

### 'A little Yosemite'

As a former resident of Jamaica and owner of Three Mountain

Inn, Hiler says that the park was right in his backyard. He calls it "a little Yosemite."

Vermont State Parks are enjoyed by roughly 1.2 million visitors annually — although this number is likely much higher, notes Nate McKeen, director of Vermont State Parks, when reached by phone.

The bulk of the park system's revenue comes from paid attendance fees from visitors May through October. "We don't see a lot of tax support from the general fund. We have to stay focused on the basics of educational programming and offering a beautiful, safe, and welcoming space for people to come recreate."

He continues, "Jamaica State Park is one of my favorite parks. It offers a beautiful campground with a lot of nice campsites off the River, a beautiful hiking trail up to the dam, the West River Trail, a strenuous hike up to Hamilton Falls, great swimming and fishing."

A half mile from the village center, the park was established in 1969 and offers more than 5 miles of maintained hiking, walking, and biking trails, including a 2-mile section of the West River Trail, which stretches from South

FROM SECTION FRONT

Londonderry to Jamaica.

When asked to name VSP's biggest challenge in 2023, McKeen says, "We are very reliant on our seasonal workforce."

The park hires more than 400 seasonal staff, which he called "a strength of the park system."

"They come from all over the U.S. and bring lots of energy, expertise and lived experiences," McKeen said. "It's hard to recruit, hire, and retain enough staff every year."

Alberghini Winters adds that proceeds from the project will support the work of Vermont Parks Forever, "like providing free access to communities underrepresented in the outdoors, paid student internships in the parks, investing in innovative nature education, and working closely with Vermont State Parks on the ongoing needs of the park system."

*The inaugural Pints for Parks launch celebration will take place on Saturday, May 6th from noon to 4 p.m. at Jamaica State Park, 48 Salmon Hole Lane, Jamaica. A local pizza food truck will provide food for the event. For more information, visit [whetstonebeer.com/parks](http://whetstonebeer.com/parks).*

Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.

—DAVE BARRY



COURTESY PHOTO

Dozens of paintings and artwork donated by local creators will be auctioned off at River Gallery School's annual "Off the Wall" event.

# River Gallery School of Art promotes local artists with 'Off the Wall' fundraiser

BRATTLEBORO—River Gallery School (RGS) is preparing for its "Off the Wall" fundraiser — the art lottery where everyone wins. This popular event will take place in person on Saturday, May 20, 5 to 8 p.m., at the 118 Elliot gallery on Elliott Street. You can also take part in the fundraiser remotely.

An art show of available works can be seen at the gallery at 118 Elliot beginning on Friday, May 5.

Participants purchase a lottery ticket from River Gallery School and choose a number. When their number is pulled from the tumbler, the participant gets to pick their favorite piece of art from the available works on the wall.

"Everyone who purchases a ticket goes home with a piece

of art," RGS Director Donna Hawes said in a news release.

"Given the variety, many people get one of their top choices. In recent years, over 50 percent of participants received one of their top three choices, and 90 percent of players won a piece of art that was in their top ten."

"Off the Wall" will feature more than 100 pieces of art donated by area artists, including RGS staff, students, and friends. Artworks feature paintings, pastels, mixed media, original prints, photographs, and more. Donors include Petria Mitchell, Mallory Lake, Doug Trump, Helen Schmidt, Kate Follett, Nathaniel Moody, Cameron Schmitz, Margaret Shipman, Julia Jensen, Brian Cohen and many others.

Images and details of artwork

and artists are available on the RGS website.

"I look forward to this event every year," said Brattleboro resident Bobbi Angell "It's an opportunity for local artists to have their work seen by a wide audience, and it's a fun way to celebrate art in our community."

For more information, visit [rivergalleryschool.org/otw](http://rivergalleryschool.org/otw). Tickets are available through the website, at the school on 32 Main Street, by phone (802-257-1577), or via [office@rivergalleryschool.org](mailto:office@rivergalleryschool.org). Proceeds from the event help support River Gallery School's mission of creating a fully inclusive art making community in Brattleboro.

## Authors

a tale that has something for everyone and will stay with readers long after they have finished the last page."

On Wednesday, May 10, at 7 p.m., local writers Michael Nethercott and GennaRose Nethercott will appear in a joint presentation at the library. They will share their views on storytelling, offer readings, and engage in

lively literary banter.

GennaRose Nethercott's recent novel *Thistlefoot* has received numerous accolades from such sources as NPR, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Book of the Month*. Her first book, *The Lumberjack's Dove*, a story in verse, won the National Poetry Series.

Whether authoring novels, poems, ballads, or even fold-up paper cootie catchers, her projects are all rooted in myth and folklore—and what our stories reveal about who we are. She tours nationally and internationally, performing strange tales (sometimes with puppets in tow), and writes and researches for the supernatural podcast *Lore*.

Michael Nethercott's new novel, *The Ballad of Black Powder*, is his first foray into writing Westerns. He's the author of two mystery novels, *The*

*Séance Society* and *The Haunting Ballad*, and has won several literary awards.

His short stories have appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies, including *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, and *Best Crime and Mystery Stories of the Year*.

As a playwright and director, he has helmed numerous local productions and was the originator of the Forest of Mystery theatrical tour, which has become an annual tradition at Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center.

Books will be available for sale and signing at both events, which are free and open to the public and are accessible to people in wheelchairs. For more information, visit [brookslibraryvt.org](http://brookslibraryvt.org) or call 802-254-5290.

FROM SECTION FRONT

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## Crowell Gallery presents group exhibition by Saxtons River Art Guild

NEWFANE—For the month of May 2023, the current exhibition in the Crowell Gallery at Moore Free Library, 23 West Street, features 22 members of the Saxtons River Art Guild (SRAG) working in various media, including watercolor, oils, acrylics, and colored pencil. This is the third exhibition at the Crowell Gallery for the guild.

Highlighting a few of their members:

- Barbara Greenough is the SRAG secretary and paints portraits and local scenes in oil. She has just published a booklet, *A Girl in Westminster in the 1940s and '50s*.
- Nancy DiMauro says "Coming Soon" is one of the six paintings I did during the Covid isolation. I am glad I had a stockpile of photos of potential painting subjects on hand. Painting, walking, and reading were my sustenance."

Kathy Greve paints a variety of subjects, some plein air, and others from photographs she has taken in and around Vermont, and during her travels to France, Italy, Germany, and the Bahamas.

Founded in 1976, the SRAG is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote and encourage the advancement of the fine arts with about 80 members throughout the Monadnock region in New Hampshire and the Southern Connecticut River Valley area of Vermont.

Their activities include: exhibits and sales events, classes and workshops, open studio time September through May at the United Church of Bellows Falls, plein air gatherings June through August, luncheons with guest speakers and demonstrations, and trips to museums and galleries.

An art scholarship is awarded yearly to a local qualified high school senior who plans to pursue a four-year major in the arts.

A reception for the artists will be held on Saturday May 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. Artists from SRAG will be present to talk about their artworks and refreshments will be available.

For more information about the Saxtons River Art Guild's programs and membership, contact SRAG President Liz Winchester-Larson at [lizart39@yahoo.com](mailto:lizart39@yahoo.com) ([mce\\_host/site/editsystem05a/https:lizart39@yahoo.com](mailto:mce_host/site/editsystem05a/https:lizart39@yahoo.com)) or 603-876-5083. Find them on Facebook.





MEMOIR

# There was no STOPPING US

In the 1970s, we came from everywhere to this place, this time, this piece of history

**T**HAT SUMMER. *Brattleboro*  
We were in our glory then, spilling out into the streets, cropping up like dandelions, disheveled like young puppies, hairy and floppy. There was a war going on across the world, and we had arrived at a little Vermont town with a cumbersome name. It was 1973.

The town was a mix of old and new, the Dutch Bake Shop at the corner of Elliot and Main, which was not at all Dutch and had been there for who knows how many decades, its bloated pastries and wooden plaques on the walls, its regular-clientele coffee with two sugars each morning.

**LIZA KING** has lived (mostly) in this area since 1969, when she came to attend Marlboro College (under a different name). She retired from being a stained glass artist 10 years ago, and managed Experienced Goods for over a decade prior to that. She lives with her partner, Rick Neumann, and her cat, Zsazsa, in a converted Swedish church. Next month, she will be part of a group show at 118 Elliot in Brattleboro, where she will both show her paintings and read some work.

The Public Market at the corner of Flat and Main, its gleaming white enamel, black enamel, all sorts of cheeses and produce, a combination of gourmet and old-school food. And Mann's, the department store where you could buy fabric and thread — the basics — in the basement.

But there was also the

Common Ground Restaurant, all wood and soup, a papier-mâché ark on the ceiling, the clink of bowls and serve-yourself. From the porch on the second floor there, I saw Stacy and Joan turn the corner to Main Street, arm in arm, looking like two hound dogs playing, all big-eyed and floppy, entangled in the joy of friendship. And next came Frank B., an almost-pirate with a real parrot on his shoulder, a crazy-good saxophonist as it turned out, emphasis on crazy. A real parrot.

And there was the Good Life food store around the corner, where you could get tofu in bulk, that new thing that Ellen would eat raw and unadorned. It tasted like nothing, but she apparently didn't care.

And after Paul and the Davids finished cooking at the Common Ground, we would go to their place on Clark Street, a sort-of garage, and eat tapas and drink mezcal and listen to Neil Young's whiny, beautiful voice in the background.

WE THOUGHT the angels were on our side, and perhaps they were.

Some energy allowed for creativity seeping out of every pore, every door, in town, spilling out like some warm flood. We were sexy and defiant. We were in our power.

We came from everywhere to this place, this time, this piece of history.

We started a free clinic with Ellen and Danny. We studied to be paramedics, found benevolent doctors who trained



The author in 1973.

COURTESY PHOTO

us, worked for free at the free clinic. Danny, it turned out, was in the Weather Underground, but who knew then?

We fundraised: a square dance and booths on a farm, quilts on the ground, pony rides. We did this. We young ones. We opened the clinic, and our first clients were the from a local commune, a sizable bunch of folks all with scabies, a relatively easy fix. We learned to draw blood and to do pelvic exams, thanks to the generous doctors and *The Well Body Book* and *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. We took it on.

THERE WAS OUR famous solstice party on Sunset Lake Road, 45 years ago now, where we combed the fields for wild strawberries and added them to our vanilla ice cream made with that crank machine because, no, we did not have electricity. But we had a battery-powered tape player, and Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On* floated through the blue air.

On Flat Street, there was Overseas Auto, where people bought parts for their Saabs and Volvos, most always vintage cars pieced together, a collage from this car and that.

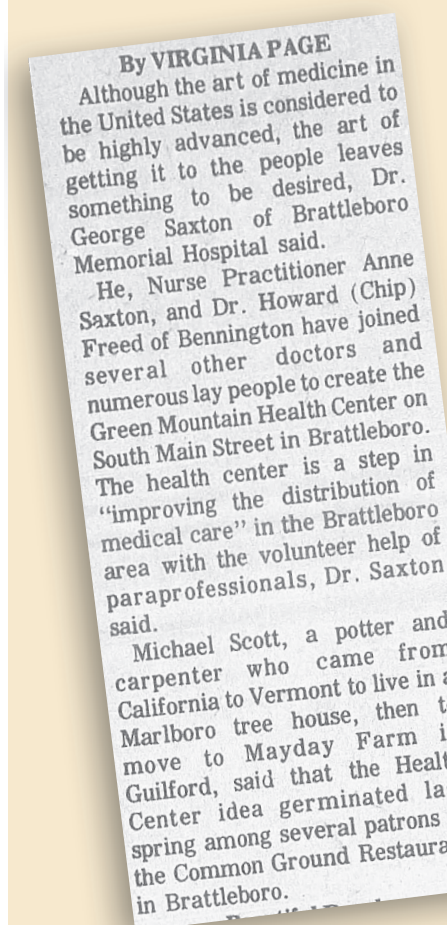
And there was the vintage

tea shop down the block from Overseas. A young woman — her name was Amy — created this magical space of sweet lins and herb tea. She died of brain cancer a few years later.

There was the Flat Street nightclub where first Stéphane Grappelli played and then Roomful of Blues. A gathering of the tribes, meandering and sweating in the building on many levels, in many nooks, the dance floor a few steps below.

Eventually, there was Spring Tree Cafe. We waitressed, making coffee to "The Girl from Ipanema" before the morning

■ SEE 1970S, C3



A 1973 clipping from the first *Reformer* feature article describing the Green Mountain Health Center and its uniquely Windham County origins.

COLUMN



The author on her bicycle in Armenia.

## People are people all over the world

Whatever our language, whatever our story, we're all just trying to find our way

**I** TRY TO RIDE my bicycle at least once a day, and today is a national holiday in Armenia — May Day — so when I would usually be teaching English online, I slipped out onto the roadways hoping for only a little traffic and a splendid ride on this gorgeous spring day. I wasn't disappointed.

I have some rules for myself, since this is not only about



**FRAN LYNGGAARD HANSEN**, a Brattleboro native with deep connections to local history and to people everywhere, is a Commons reporter and columnist. For years, she taught English in a series of countries around the world.

fresh air, it's about exercising, and they include making myself spend the first half hour of the ride doing only slow uphill.

It's certainly not hard to

find uphill riding in beautiful Yerevan, Armenia, most of which is tucked into a couple of mountainsides. When I ride

■ SEE PEOPLE, C3



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“We all used to call him Surfer Frank,” wrote photographer Roger Katz. “Parrot on his shoulder as he took care of chores in town or played music with a few different bands. After his white wolf died, he let his hair and beard grow.”



ROGER KATZ ARCHIVE

## 1970s

crowd meandered in, later serving Toas Tites and bagels and *The New York Times* to the beat of Fleetwood Mac.

AND THEN there were the performances from Packer Corners and friends. *The Stuff of Dreams. The Tempest* on the pond, a real raft. *Alice in Wonderland*, with the set outdoors, magnificent settings made by the young ones, the giant mushroom for the caterpillar, Alice’s arms coming out of the house. Oh, for a film of that last one.

But there were no iPhones then. For good or bad, there was little documentation. *The Stuff of Dreams* was documented. Alice, the most magical of moments, was not. As far as I know, it lives in our minds only.

WE EXUDED ENERGY. There was no stopping us. And us it was. Perhaps that was the source of it all, this sense of us as a large wild mass of energy and creativity, unstoppable, changing the world, tomato by tomato, tofu by tofu, play by play.

The music was us also. We were Bob Dylan and Neil Young and Aretha. We were The Band. We each had our own struggles, our own backgrounds, our own pain and joy and love and lovers, but there was a large *we* in it all. The invisible web.

There was the map of the USA at the Common Ground where we could pin up rides wanted, rides offered, where eventually this one chose to ride with those two young women going to San Francisco leaving from Frost Street in two days. There were the lost dog ads, the bookcase for sale, the apple picking job all tacked downstairs as you walked up to the restaurant.

I do believe we were all amazed at this. We each came here for a reason, we thought, but there was clearly some larger reason — some pull — that encompassed us all. We did not really have free will. We were swept here by that wind.

WHO WAS I in this? It didn’t matter much but, for the record, years ago I had gone to

a tiny college near this little town, had most recently lived in Brooks, Maine, built a house with Rico, left him.

I was the one living in the cabin with Ellen on Sunset Lake Road, the one dancing and sketching and pruning trees for Halsey Hicks, the temporary paramedic at the Free Clinic previously working at the Retreat as a psych aide in a gray uniform purchased at Montgomery Wards. (This was when there were real stores in town, stores where you could buy uniforms or an umbrella.)

There were real bars, too, one being the Village Barn, where you could dance to Widespread Depression playing Duke Ellington and where you would make out with Greg on the dance floor, and who cared? There was good music, our music. I wasn’t a musician, but was it part of me and I, it.

What was this it? This it was fueled in part by psychedelics and marijuana, partly by the insane government and the war in Vietnam, partly by the energy of youth, perhaps partly by those large planets guiding us — the angels I say, the spirits, who really knows?

This was a time when we felt our power and we did not hold back. Where we had hope despite it all. Where we knew there were many realities and we still hauled our manure and grew our tomatoes, our golden summer squash, where we canned our corn into succotash. Where we read the *Foxfire* books to see how things had been done but where we did them our way despite. We tai chi-ed around the government. We didn’t know quite how privileged we were.

There was Captain Bullfrog’s, where there were endless records, started by a young entrepreneur. And there was the Book Cellar with its countless stacks of books to browse. But most of us didn’t have much money, so we went to the library for our books. We shared our records. We bought our clothes at the rummage sales at the Baptist Church — 25 cents each.

Yogurt was new then, to us at least, not being Bulgarian.

Todd taught yoga at the library, nights. Classes were free. Flexible us, we became more so in mind and body as we left his class. I fell in love with his steady energy and warm, wide smile.

The world was wide open like his smile. This world we were creating. The world by the hills in the valleys. The carrots. Digging into the earth to ground us from this crazy world. Reaching the sky also, always blue beyond the clouds.

FROM SECTION FRONT



ROGER KATZ ARCHIVE

The Common Ground Restaurant on Elliot Street in the late ’70s was “a place for really tasty healthy food and great conversation,” wrote photographer Roger Katz. “The pace of life in town was a bit slower then, sometimes allowing for ‘extended’ lunches at the larger common tables with provocative co-diners.”



ROGER KATZ ARCHIVE

The band Widespread Depression performs at Flat Street, 1979.

## POEM

### Our Town is hurting

Brattleboro

Our Town is hurting  
Our Town, full of playful spirit, friendly faces  
good hearts, is hurting.  
Young people taken from us  
suddenly, seeming without reason,  
a woman who chose to help the less fortunate  
taken from us brutally.  
The very trees seem to have lost their ability,  
their desire to stand upright, strong  
undermined by the soil they root in  
their trunks ravaged, branches  
littering the muddy ground.

But we are undeterred:  
there is too much Life here,  
young, creative force  
that can’t be brought down.  
What will be our part?  
But first we must weep  
and from the tears our hearts open  
from grief to compassion.  
Our tears will clear vision.  
We’ll find our way to belief and love.  
—A. Distler



ROGER KATZ ARCHIVE

1970 Anti-War protest, Brattleboro Federal Building (the post office).

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Hi, my name is **Hope!** I am a sweet older gal looking for my retirement home. I would do best in a home as the only pet and without any small kids. I would benefit from losing some weight to make me feel much healthier. While I may get around a little slower I still have some slow burst of energy. Please make my day and meet with me.

Hi, my name is **Amore!** I am a happy boy who loves to play with tennis balls. I have lived with dogs and cats and I may be able to with a proper intro. I am not a fan of kids and shouldn’t live with any. I can be a bit shy of new people but with a little TLC I will love you forever. If I sound like the guy for you please stop by the Windham County Humane Society and meet me.

Hi new friends, I’m **Nelly!** I’m a sweet guy who came all the way from NJ to find a new home in Vermont. Not much is known about my history but so far I like gentle pets and face scratches. It might take me a little while to settle in with you but give me some time and we’ll be best of friends! I may be able to live with another cat or a cat-savvy dog with a proper introduction. And I’d even be willing to give kiddos a try as long as they can respect a fine man like me. Make it more than just a dream for me and come adopt me today!

Hi new friends, I’m **Igor!** Kind of a spooky name, I know! I was originally found as a stray in NJ before arriving to WCHS on transport. The staff in NJ describes me as curious and outgoing. Since I was a stray not too much of my history is known so introductions to other cats and dogs in my new home should be gradual to start. I can be friendly with people on my terms but I prefer to lead the interaction and will get sassy if bothered. I would do best with an experienced cat owner who can read my body language and know when I leave me to myself. I don’t want to wait for my new home any longer, come meet me soon!

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The 1970s seemed particularly playful. People were trying to make work that couldn’t be sold.  
—RACHEL KUSHNER

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People

during a different time of day, I see different people.

We're all on a schedule in this world. And because I'm doing uphill, I ride slowly enough to take in the sights of the different shops, parks, and the people along the way.

Today's humans included a tall, young man with two big dogs. He saluted me, a sign of appreciation since the dogs saw the bicycle and were pulling him every which way, hoping he would allow them to chase me. He had a nice smile.

As a courtesy, I moved farther away from him, and he shouted in Armenian, "Thank you!" I smiled and waved.

Farther up the hill, I met a group of aging women who had just left a tiny market. I'm guessing they were younger than me (I'm 62) but they were wearing the uniform of the older European woman which I've seen in many countries: black stockings, black shoes, black dresses, black coats, black hair piled high on their heads and weighed down with old cloth bags.

I smiled and waved at them, even though we've never met. They raised their collective eyebrows in unison, not sure if they should wave back or try to get me help. I imagined them thinking, "What in the world is that old woman doing on a bicycle? She must be out of her mind!"

I left them in a confused state as they put their heads together, talked, and pointed at me. It was adorable.

YOU MUST bear in mind that this is what I look like when I'm riding: I'm wearing a bright green helmet, a yellow-and-orange safety vest, a huge safety flag flying above my head, black latex gloves.

I have a basket full of rocks to throw at the homeless dogs who chase me. (Don't worry — I try to miss them, it's just a warning shot.) My neon green backpack is strapped tightly to my back in case I see something I feel I need to buy.

That's a whole lot of color moving on the road. And I'm an aging woman, overweight, with red hair flying out from beneath the helmet.

I'm a sight to take in.

ON MY DAILY afternoon rides, I see a small group of men in their forties who are almost always meeting on the same street corner as I go by. They're usually enjoying a cigarette and occasionally a bottle of beer, and they are simply standing around, talking with one another in the sunshine.

They are not sure what to make of me, and they always stop talking and stare. I throw up a friendly wave of the hand every time I pass them.

And then some of them smile — but the look on their faces is always one of serious confusion.

As soon as I pass them as I ride up this steep hill, while huffing and puffing and trying not to change the gears to make it easier, they burst a gut laughing at me. Every. Single. Day.

They just can't help themselves. I'm too strange for them. I'm a cultural misfit, a mind-bending riddle of "Why?"

You know what? I really don't care.

I just continue smiling and waving because I'm about 25 years older than they are, and the cigarettes and alcohol are probably going to kill them before they get to be my age. So I just smile knowing I'll have the last laugh.

I like messing with their minds.

A HALF HOUR later, I hit the top of another hill in a new-to-me neighborhood, and I see a grocery store.

Anything you could possibly want is here in Yerevan, but some things have taken me two years to find and other things I'm still looking for.

I'm happy that there are no big-box stores in Armenia — it's all mom-and-pop shops. I support family businesses, and there is something about the thrill of the hunt, so I always check out new-to-me, interesting places when I'm out and about.

After I explore this new shop, I emerge to find a kind, tiny woman who works as a cleaner standing by my bicycle. I locked it to a metal post along the parking spaces close to the sidewalk, and she clearly has been trying to wipe down the metal railing.

As she was patiently waiting for me to move the bicycle, she is calmly enjoying the sunshine. I apologize in English and put my hand to my heart to show her that I am truly sorry to have kept her waiting.

She waves me off, and says in a beautiful, heartfelt, broken

English, "You Russian girls very strong. Good. Very, very good." And then she pats me on the shoulder.

I chuckle at the thought of being an American and being confused for a Russian woman on this May Day holiday, important for workers worldwide.

We both smile and just stand and enjoy the moment silently. Then she watches as I unlock my bicycle. She stands before me, pats me on the shoulder again, and I take off up the hill.

She watches as I ride and waves goodbye. I turn and wave back.

I HAVE ONLY one more big hill to go before I begin going downhill for the rest of the ride. About a quarter mile later, I am nearing the top.

There, with great pleasure, I see a very different group of men in another unknown-to-me part of town. They are all my age or older. No cigarettes or beer — just a bunch of guys who apparently meet on this corner every day near the Metro station.

I quickly picture them as teenagers, and imagine they have been hanging out here for the last 50 years. I imagine them retired, their wives at home slaving away to make them coffee and breakfast while they slip out to greet their buddies.

I am unprepared for their greetings. I am still doing the uphill, huffing and puffing, sweat pouring off my face, in the throes of my highest pulse rate, trying to make it to the top of the hill. I'll be damned if I'm going to downshift if I can avoid it.

"Hey!" one of the older men yells with both his arms up in the air, waving as though I might not otherwise notice him.

As I pass them very slowly, he yells, "How are you?!"

And I throw them all a wave and yell, "Good morning," my voice halting as I pull in my belly for some fresh air.

They begin to applaud as I pass them, and I burst out laughing, slowing until the bicycle almost stops.

"No! No! Keep going!" one yells.

"You ride for us all," yells another.

"You will live forever!" yells the third as I push on.

They are all laughing, but in a kind and caring way. I am, too. "Thank you," I yell back with a big smile in a burst of speed as I hit the crest of the hill. "I love Armenia!" I shout as the applause gets stronger.

The waving continues, and I slip over the hill, out of sight.

IF THERE WERE a non-governmental organization out there that wanted to pay me to ride my bicycle all over the world and stop and interview people to write their personal stories, it would be my dream job.

A bicycle allows for slow, haphazard connection that few other sports offer. My increasing age makes me more available to passersby — much more than a younger, fitter, faster cyclist could.

People are people all over the world. And in my experience, having now lived in eight countries and visited another 40 or so, 99.5% of them are the salt of the Earth.

I got to thinking on the downhill home how much I love talking to and meeting these new and different people.

MANY YEARS AGO, while at a conference in Dallas, I got lost while exploring the city. I asked a huge, young, burly, tattooed, gold-chain-wearing drug dealer for directions to the correct bus stop.

It was so clear to me that this guy needed people to be afraid of him, and I was killing that image. He was kind enough to walk me to the bus stop, but he told me along the way that my wholesome face and age wasn't good for business, so I wasn't to thank him or linger when we got there — I was just to get on the bus and leave.

Most importantly, I wasn't supposed to smile — and would I please stop doing so now?

Then he asked me a surprising question.

"Why did you ask me, of all people, for directions? Why aren't you afraid of me?" It was a stunning inquiry, one I had to think about carefully before I answered, noticing the big knife in his back pocket and imagining that he might not take too kindly to the wrong answer.

I thought about it for a moment and then I said, "Because everybody gets lost now and again, and we're all just trying to find our way, right?"

It was a cryptic answer, one that he was still thinking about as he took my hand and helped me up the stairs to the bus.

But I also had a question for him before I put my money for the ride in the coin holder. I turned back and asked him, "Why did you help me?"

He never answered. He just shook his head and turned it downward.

I thought I saw a tiny smile escape his lips as he turned and left me. As the bus pulled out, I saw him walking back to where he'd been, hands stuffed in his pockets, head down, shoulders hunched over, looking tough, alone and — yes — quite frightening.

ONCE A MAN in Haiti spat at me as I was walking past him near the hospital where I was working. My interpreter stopped and angrily told him not to do that.

He wanted to walk away after he said his piece, but I wanted to stay and have him explain his feelings to me. Through the interpreter, he said that Americans had money and that he felt like a monkey in the zoo being watched by rich tourists

and he was poor and sick of being poor.

He said that if I was visiting Haiti, I wasn't poor, so I could never know how he feels.

The interpreter told him, without asking me, that actually, I wasn't a tourist, that I was there to give free medical care to anyone who needed it in the weeks after the massive earthquake in 2010.

I watched the man's face melt to a kinder place. He shook my hand and apologized. Then we chatted a few minutes about lots of different things.

IN NORTHERN, rural China, I met a young woman with her toddler as I was riding back to my apartment after a day at school. She was struggling with some packages, while trying to hold her wiggling child.

I remembered seeing her in my building and realized she was a neighbor. So I stopped, and with only hand signals and limited Mandarin, showed her that I'd take her bags, put them

Then he asked me a surprising question. "Why did you ask me, of all people, for directions? Why aren't you afraid of me?"

in my bike basket, and leave them by the door to our home.

Reluctantly, she put the parcels in the basket, and was still eyeing me carefully, weighing out her desire for help against the potential for my stealing her things.

Sensing this, I stopped to play with the baby for a minute, which helped her to relax. Then I rode around the corner, put her bags by the entrance, parked my bike, and waited for her to walk that way far enough to see where her bags had been left.

She smiled and waved, and I went inside the building.

PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE all over the world. Take a chance. Talk with a new-to-you human today.

In these changing times, it's the most important weapon we have to deal with the divisiveness that wants to take over everything, from our health to our politics.

You can do it with a mask and gloves on, and you can do it at a distance, too.

But please — do it.

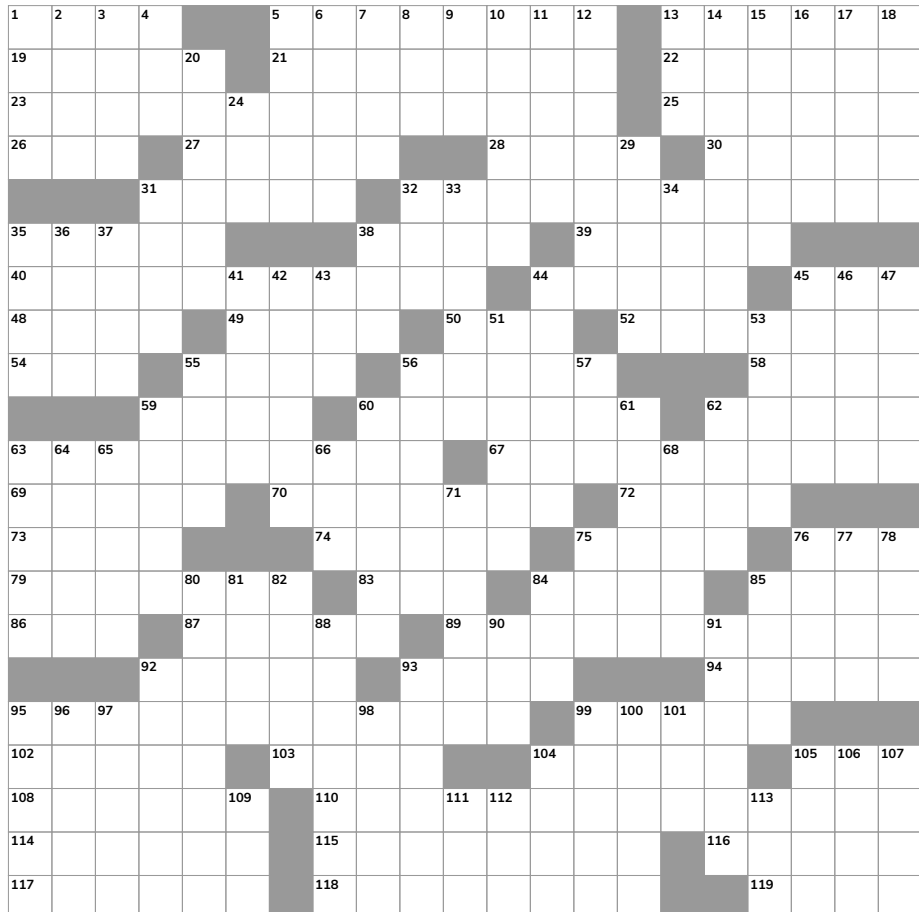
BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"[Alas]"

Across

- 1. A good couple
- 5. Like the age before the wireless
- 13. Seoul-based carrier
- 19. Officer under Kirk
- 21. Enjoyed oneself
- 22. Tough he-men
- 23. [Confirm this, please]
- 25. Quit, as a wrestling match
- 26. Sweltering
- 27. Toy truck brand
- 28. Go like the dickens
- 30. Up the ante
- 31. Bêtes noires
- 32. 1977 Talking Heads single
- 35. Joust company
- 38. Organized crime head
- 39. Sheeplike
- 40. Reality TV judge who was a runner on the set of "The Shining"
- 44. "Nope" director
- 45. Moms and pops
- 48. Oz from Israel
- 49. Alexa's box
- 50. Nest egg type
- 52. Portuguese soccer superstar
- 54. Apiece
- 55. Laine of jazz
- 56. Butterfingers
- 58. Sand collector
- 59. When to go leaf peeping
- 60. Inconsolable
- 62. Financial backer
- 63. They lure sailors to their deaths
- 67. Bill Nye, self-referentially
- 69. Put to paper
- 70. Youngest winner of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor
- 72. Nothing
- 73. Be a good judge of characters
- 74. Computer coder Torvalds
- 75. Letters at Camp Lejeune
- 76. To and \_
- 79. Island near Barbuda
- 83. Abbr. before "#"
- 84. Doing nothing
- 85. Moving leisurely
- 86. Pro assent
- 87. Pained cry?
- 89. Lethal tablet in spy novels
- 92. Mississippi mud?
- 93. Location
- 94. Flat lines
- 95. Marinade ingredient made with apples
- 99. Ancient Scots
- 102. Squirrel's tidbit
- 103. Not playing
- 104. Have a funny feeling about
- 105. Blonde hue
- 108. Shade of red
- 110. Only part of Egypt not in Africa
- 114. Sports swaps
- 115. Coloring or sweetener, e.g.
- 116. Dummies
- 117. "It's Your Thing" performers
- 118. Dues provider
- 119. [Alas], and phonetically, what each theme answer starts with



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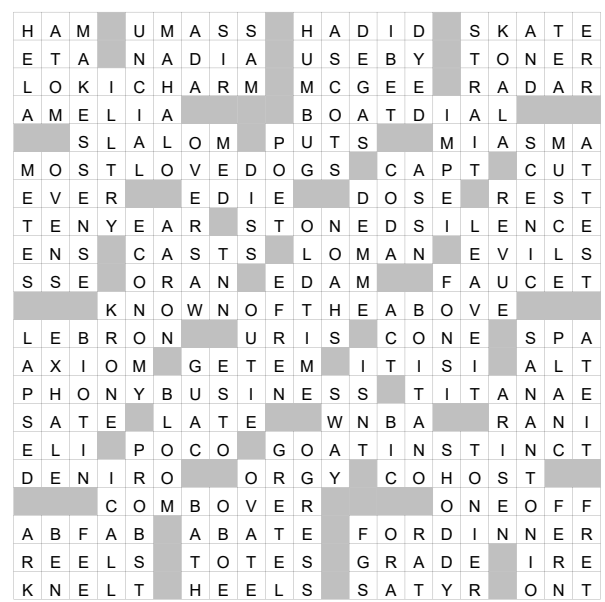
Down

- 1. Of that kind
- 2. Bengals are from here
- 3. Mangy dog
- 4. Big stretch
- 5. Android app
- 6. Lines on a chessboard
- 7. "Hairspray" mom
- 8. TikTok star Addison
- 9. Bart's grandpa
- 10. Hepcat's "man"
- 11. Related to the small intestine
- 12. Familiar footwear
- 13. Wall covering
- 14. Architect Eero
- 15. Put on a stick
- 16. Excitedly
- 17. "It's \_!" ("Forget it!")
- 18. Frost flower
- 20. Accomplish
- 24. Accelerator particle
- 29. Float around
- 31. 2022 Billy Eichner flop
- 32. Close chum
- 33. Broken-bone holder
- 34. Dealer's unit
- 35. "Like, NOW!"
- 36. "A flat circle," per Nietzsche
- 37. God of love
- 38. Daniel Ek's title at Spotify
- 41. Sudoku squares
- 42. Leopardlike cat
- 43. It's a personal question
- 44. Francis' office
- 45. "Million Dollar Listing" star Josh
- 46. Bye line
- 47. Ecstasy
- 51. Peanut Butter Cup maker
- 53. Uneasy sleep cause
- 55. Defeatist's word
- 56. "\_\_\_ in the Brain" (Cypress Hill song)
- 57. Bi-plus one
- 59. Luxury handbag brand
- 60. Light things up

- 61. Dojo master
- 62. Plug letters
- 63. Floral display
- 64. Late singer Cara
- 65. Cowboy's rope
- 66. Term associated with a clean sheet
- 68. Identified as
- 71. Pivotal points?
- 75. Big coffee holder
- 76. Movies, slangily
- 77. Performing gig
- 78. Mice-catching birds
- 80. Dairy cow
- 81. Sch. in a desert
- 82. Section after intermission
- 84. 13-Across regulators
- 85. Seaweed wrap spots
- 88. Arrives, by plane
- 90. "\_\_\_ So Bad" (Tom Petty)
- 91. Make longer
- 92. Mock
- 93. Order of business
- 95. Peyote sources
- 96. Cake finishers
- 97. Miami-Dade County city
- 98. Say "gimme," say
- 99. Annoying thing
- 100. Of the spirit or mind
- 101. Longtime CBS procedural
- 104. Rotisserie rod
- 105. Q3, Q4, and Q5 maker
- 106. Long, tough job
- 107. Potent pot
- 109. First sign of spring?
- 111. Intention
- 112. Tag catchers
- 113. "Help, NOW!"

Last issue's solution

"Uh-Oh"



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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

# Colonels rally to defeat St. Johnsbury Toppers, 6-5

In baseball, the best way to flush away a bad game in the field is to have a good game at the plate.

Brattleboro third baseman Jackson Emery made three errors, but the defensive miscues were wiped away when he cracked a two-out, two-run double in the fifth inning to give the Colonels a 6-5 win over the St. Johnsbury Hilltoppers on a gray and windy afternoon at Tenney Field.

The April 28 win, coupled with a 15-2 drubbing of Windsor on April 27, improved the Colonels record to 3-2 as they headed into this week with road games scheduled against Burr & Burton and Champlain Valley.

Jolie Glidden was the winning pitcher against the Hilltoppers. He struck out six and walked three while giving up six hits over five innings. Unfortunately, sloppy defense led to extra outs which led to extra pitches. He threw 101 pitches in all, and had to expend more effort than he should have.

Brattleboro looked like it was in control when they scored three runs in the first inning on a double by Jolie Glidden, an infield hit by Jayke Glidden, and a sacrifice fly by Emery. The Toppers got two of them back in the second inning on an RBI double by Patrick Hallett and a misplayed fly ball hit to deep left field by Will Eaton.

Derek Sage walked and later scored on a fielder's choice on the bottom of the second to give the Colonels a 4-2 lead, but an RBI double to left by St. Johnsbury's Jason Mitchell Jr. cut that lead to 4-3 in the fourth inning.

The Toppers took a 5-4 lead in the fifth inning when Cage Thompson reached on an infield single and ultimately scored the tying run on a throwing error. Nathan Cushing later drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly. But the Colonels came back in the bottom of the fifth. The Glidden boys got on base as Jolie was hit by a pitch and Jayke reached on a fielder's choice to bring Emery to the plate. His drive to the left field fence got the Gliddens home and gave Brattleboro a 6-5 lead.



**RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT**, deputy editor of this newspaper, has written this column since 2010 and has covered sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send him sports information at [news@commonsnews.org](mailto:news@commonsnews.org).

It was then up to reliever Evan Wright to preserve the lead for the Colonels. He retired the side in order in the sixth on two ground balls and a weak pop-up, then got two strikeouts in the seventh to earn the save.

In the Windsor game, the Colonels showed patience at the plate as they drew 11 walks over five innings against the winless Yellowjackets. Emery was the winning pitcher, allowing two runs on three hits with seven strikeouts. Jayke Glidden went 3 for 4 with two RBIs and John Satterfield had a pair of hits.

The wins over Windsor and St. Johnsbury eased the sting of a 10-0 loss to Mount Anthony in five innings on April 25. Tanner Bushee threw a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts to shut down the Colonels.

## Softball

• The undefeated (5-0) Bellows Falls Terriers have the look of a team that will be going deep into the playoffs this season. They used a 15-run first inning to pound the Springfield Cosmos, 20-5, in a five-inning mercy rule-shortened game on April 27 in Westminster.

Springfield took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but it was all BF after that. The Terriers sent 20 batters to the plate in the bottom of the first as the Cosmos went through three pitchers who, combined, issued nine walks, hit two batters, and gave up four hits.

Winning pitcher Izzy Stoodley shook off the rough first inning and held the Cosmos to just one run the rest of the way, a home run in the third inning by Maddie Clark. Stoodley finished with nine strikeouts. Aliya Farmer pitched the fifth inning and gave up two runs.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

In her interpretation of the phrase "game face," Bellows Falls pitcher Izzy Stoodley paid tribute to Batman for the Terriers' April 27 softball game against Springfield.

## Baseball

• Winning pitcher Jamison Nystrom held Springfield to two hits as Bellows Falls cruised to a 10-0 victory in five innings at Hadley Field on April 27. Nystrom struck out eight and walked no one, and helped his cause out with a 2-for-3 day at the plate. Walker James drove in two runs with a pair of hits.

Two days earlier in Windsor, the Terriers eked out a 6-5 win over the Yellowjackets. BF took a 3-0 lead on a two-run double by Trenton Fletcher and an RBI single by Eli Allbee. Jake Moore drove in another run in the third, and the Terriers picked up another two runs in the fourth thanks to walks and errors by the winless Jacks.

The back of the BF pitching rotation worked in this game as Jaxson Clark started and allowed one run while giving up no hits. Fletcher relieved Clark in the third and ran into trouble, giving up three runs. Allbee took over in the fourth and gave up a run and allowed one hit to earn the win, he walked three batters and hit two more. Nystrom got the save by pitching two shutout innings, striking out four. BF finished the week at 5-3.

• Green Mountain kept its unbeaten season going with a 7-6 win over Leland & Gray in Townshend on April 29. GM's Tanner Swisher threw a complete game one-hitter to get the win as he struck out 13 batters and walked five. Cody Hescok took the loss for the Rebels, who got a pair of RBIs from Chip Winkler and another RBI from Parker Richardson.

## Track & Field

• As the calendar turns over to May, it looks like the Brattleboro boys and the Bellows Falls girls are pointed toward strong showings in their respective state meets in June.

On April 26, the BF girls won the Springfield Invitational, finishing ahead of Brattleboro, Springfield, and Windsor, while the Brattleboro boys defeated Springfield by just four points.

Laura Kamel won the discus (32.66 meters) and javelin (29.34 meters) and came in second in the high jump (1.3 meters) to lead the BF girls. Tela Harty was first in the shot put (21.2 meters), 100 meter dash (13.82 seconds), and 100 meter hurdles (18.73 seconds), and finished third in discus. Nola Sciacca was second in discus and fourth in javelin, and Eryn Ross was third in the javelin and high jump.

On the track, BF's Hadley Gleim was first in the long jump (4.11 meters), second in the triple jump (8.72 meters), and second in the 100 (13.82 seconds). The 4x100 relay team of Gleim, Maxfield, Ava LaRoss, and Harty were winners in 55.64 seconds.

The Brattleboro girls were led by Genevieve Redmond, who was first in the high jump (1.35 meters) and triple jump (9.6 meters); Ava Whitney, who won the 400 and 800 meter runs; and Katherine Normandeau, who won the 1,500 and 3,000 meter runs. The 4x400 relay team of Ava Whitney, Redmond, Elliana Galdamez, and Normandeau took first, while the 4x100 relay foursome of Galdamez, Priya Kitzmiller, Teagan Thurber, and Carly Lonardo was second.

In the boys' meet, Brattleboro fared well as the 4x100 relay team of David Berkson-Harvey, Jack Cady, Jacob Girard, and Sean von Ranson were winners, while Wayland Walsh, von Ranson, Trevor Gray, and Cady teamed up to take the 4x400. Willow Sharma was first in the triple jump, while Girard was second in the discus and javelin.

The BF boys were led by Gavin Joy, who won the 800 (2:22.52), while Brandon Keller won the 110-meter hurdles (17.44) and Ben Perry won the discus (32.91 meters). Riley Tuttle was second in the shot put (10.94 meters), Christopher Leary took third in the 300-meter hurdles (51.23), and Colby Dearborn was third in the long jump (5.68 meters).

## Boys' lacrosse

• Brattleboro picked up its second win of the season with a 12-1 victory over winless Otter Valley in Brandon on April 29.

A day earlier, the Colonels lost a 5-4 decision against Stratton Mountain School. With the score tied 4-4 heading into the final quarter, Quinn Torre scored with 4:01 left in the game to give SMS the win.

Brattleboro had the edge in shots and possession for much of the game, but SMS goalie Oliver Kosinski kept the Colonels' offense scoreless in the second. Brattleboro got all its goals in the first half as Will Mishovich scored in the first quarter, Alex Baker scored twice in the second quarter, and James Fegley added another goal.

## Girls' lacrosse

• Brattleboro fell to Mount Anthony, 18-3, on April 26 in

Bennington. Sophie Albright got the Colonels' lone goal in the first half as the Patriots took an 8-1 lead into halftime. She also scored a goal in the second half.

## Tennis

• The Brattleboro boys lost to Burr & Burton, 6-1, in Manchester on April 25. The lone win for the Colonels came in No. 3 singles when Thomas Hyde rallied from a first set loss to take the second set 7-5, and win the tiebreaker, 10-4. No. 1 singles player Nate Kim lost his match on a 10-7 super breaker, while the No. 1 doubles team of Javi Hernandez and Dorian Paquette lost their match on a 10-8 super breaker.

• The Brattleboro girls lost their season opener to Burr & Burton, 7-0, on April 25 on the BUHS courts.

• The BF girls were also skunked by Rutland, 6-0, on April 27

## Senior bowling roundup

• The winter/spring season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl concluded with The Markers (48-27) having a 5-0 week to overtake Slo Movers (45.5-29.5) and Fab Four (45-30) to win the season title. Split Happens (36.5-38.5) finished fourth, followed by The A-1's (33-42), 10 Pins and The Strikers (both 32-40), and Trash-O-Matic (28-47).

Carol Gloski had the women's high handicap game (236), while Debbie Kolpa had the high handicap series (639). Duane Schillemat had the men's high handicap game (261), while Ronald Cargill had the high handicap series (684). Slo Movers had the high team handicap game (863) and The Markers had the high handicap series (2,460).

Chuck Adams again led the men's scratch scoring with a 640 series with games of 222, 213, and 205. Robert Rigby had a 596 series that featured games of 226 and 202, while Schillemat had a 554 series with a 232 game. John Walker had a 514 series with a 224 game and Marty Adams had a 513 series with a 188 game. Gary Montgomery had a 195 game, while Skip Shine rolled a 192 and Jerry Dunham had a 198 game.

Gloski had the women's high scratch series (486) that featured a 199 game. Pam Greenblatt had a 160 game.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

St. Johnsbury catcher Nathan Cushing watches as Brattleboro's Jackson Emery connects with a pitch for a game-winning two-run double in the fifth inning of their game against the Hilltoppers on April 28 at Tenney Field. The Colonels rallied for a 6-5 victory.

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