

VICTORIES *and* DISAPPOINTMENTS

Local lawmakers look back on the legislative session before they return to Montpelier to address loose ends — in particular, the governor's vetos

By Joyce Marcel
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The job of state legislator has its ups and downs and sideways. Two weeks ago, *The Commons* reported on the most memorable moments that members of our Windham County delegation experienced during

their time in Montpelier. Now it is time to learn about the priorities they accomplished and some of their more interesting frustrations. The first frustration is easy: Republican Gov. Phil Scott's veto of the Legislature's budget on May 27, which evoked scathing comments from Democratic leadership in the House and Senate, and, with a few exceptions, condemnation by Windham County's

mostly Democratic legislative delegation. Democrats in both the House and the Senate outnumber Republicans to such an extent that they can override the governor's veto if they vote along party lines. The Legislature has scheduled a three-day "veto session" beginning June 21 to review the budget and six other vetoed bills. The budget must be resolved since the fiscal year

begins July 1. There appears to be only a 3% difference in the budget proposed by Scott and the one proposed by the Legislature, but those funds include most of the social safety-net programs that are non-negotiable for the Democrats, such as money for childcare. Scott believes that his veto will be overridden. ■ SEE LEGISLATURE, A8

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Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, June 7, 2023 • Vol. XVIII, No. 23 • Issue No. 718

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YOUR AWARD-WINNING, INDEPENDENT, NONPROFIT SOURCE OF NEWS AND VIEWS

Motel program residents return to homelessness

Organizations scramble to address a crush of need as they prepare a proposal for an emergency shelter

By Ellen Pratt
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—On a recent hot morning outside the Quality Inn on Putney Road, Kayla and Travis are loading bags of clothing and small pieces of furniture into the back of a pickup truck.

They are part of the first wave of evictions from Vermont motels, after the end of the federally funded pandemic-era program that sheltered some

3,000 Vermonters (and around 270 people in Brattleboro) experiencing homelessness.

In Brattleboro, an informal group of local service providers, town administrators, and leaders from the faith community have been meeting to coordinate strategies to address the consequences of the program's end.

Though Anil Sachdev, the owner of the Quality Inn and four other motels in the state, has granted an additional 15 days'

■ SEE HOMELESS, A3

BUHS community picks the Bears as next mascot

New 'fiercely protective' mascot and team name would replace controversial 'Colonels' moniker

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—It's out with the Colonels, and in with the Bears at Brattleboro Union High School.

Although the Windham Southeast School District (WSESD) board of directors has not yet voted to approve the new branding, students have chosen the Bears as their mascot going forward.

"We started the process with a school-wide process that lasted a week of having students and staff submit their ideas," said Principal Cassie Damkoehler. "After the week, we had 136 submissions, many of which were the same."

Also in contention at the end were the Bobcats and the Badgers.

When students and staff members were asked for submissions, they were also asked if they would like to be on a screening committee.

The seven students and four staff members who volunteered

met and went through all submissions and "removed any that did not fit the requirements; i.e., no 'Colonels' or gendered names," said Damkoehler.

"Then we all chose the suggestions we preferred and went around the table," she said, discussing names that could be illustrated and discarding submissions that belonged to neighboring schools.

"We narrowed it down to three for a community vote," Damkoehler said. "The stipulation

■ SEE NEW MASCOT, NAME, A2



The EVOLVING PORTRAIT of a SMALL TOWN

Photographer Chuck Fish stands in front of some of the photos that make up the "Faces of Dummerston" exhibit, which opens on June 11 at the Dummerston Historical Society.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

Photographer Chuck Fish calls 'Faces of Dummerston' exhibit a 'work in progress'

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen

The Commons

DUMMERSTON—Photos of close to 150 people — from generations past as well as some of the just shy of 2,000 people who call this iconic town home today — will soon be featured in an exhibit *Faces of Dummerston*.

Society member Chuck Fish has been working to help organize and create this event at the

Dummerston Historical Society for many months.

"It's important to remember that this exhibit represents the town," he said. "It is an attempt to portray a lot of people who make up this wonderful community. The Historical Society is attempting to bring the attention to ourselves, to remind us all what a wonderful community we have."

Fish, who originally came to town in 1968 to teach at Windham College in Putney after leaving

■ SEE FACES OF DUMMERSTON, A2



KEVIN O'CONNOR/VTDIGGER

A U.S. flag at Brattleboro's Morningside Cemetery waves near a memorial — once the state's tallest — for the late Vermont Gov. Levi K. Fuller.

'That's the beauty of it'

A new section of a storied Brattleboro cemetery offers families more inclusive options for a final resting place for loved ones

By Kevin O'Connor
VtDigger.org

BRATTLEBORO—When Morningside Cemetery opened at the turn of the 20th century, it proved so popular, the family of the late Vermont Gov. Levi K. Fuller (1841-1896) moved his grave to the new grounds, adding what was then the state's tallest memorial.

In the 125 years since, the South Main Street cemetery has grown with the passing of generation upon generation of locals, from Antonio Abbiati (1920-2003),

a monument creator who designed poet Robert Frost's crypt cover, to Leslie Zagrubski (1906-1999), a rip saw operator at the neighboring Cersosimo Lumber Co.

But the 2,000-plot resting place is hardly a favored destination — especially for those who've disagreed with its age-old rules and regulations that call for caskets and traditional configurations.

Enter the municipal Cemetery Committee, which is aiming to bring the historic site into the present.

"We've been working on a project for

■ SEE CEMETERY, A8

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A publication of Vermont Independent Media

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June 9



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The Commons is a nonprofit community newspaper published since 2006 by Vermont Independent Media, Inc., a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code.

The newspaper is free, but it is supported by readers like you through tax-deductible donations, through advertising support, and through support of charitable foundations.

The paper is published weekly, with the exceptions of the weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25.

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

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Without our volunteers, this newspaper would exist only in our imaginations.

Special thanks to:

- Simi and Mark Berman,
- Diana Bingham,
- Jim Maxwell, Rob Bertsche,
- Barbara Evans,
- Cameron Cobane, Shannon Ward, and Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery;
- Clay Turnbull and NEC;
- Brendan Emmett Quigley and Joon Pakh

In memoriam:

- Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman,
- Mia Gannon



Included in the "Faces of Dummerston" exhibit is a collection of Chuck Fish's photo equipment, chronicling a century of evolution of photography from film to digital.

Faces of Dummerston

FROM SECTION FRONT

Princeton University, has always had a love for both history and photography.

He remembers how photographs came to the Society, now housed in an old Dummerston schoolhouse in the center of town.

"The Society asked the folks in town if they would like to share family pictures with us, and over the years, we've amassed quite a collection," he said. "The photographs, which span a lot of years of history, came from family albums, special projects, and photos taken of special events. We've also taken many of our own."

Resident Kevin Ryan offered his computer skills to assist in organizing the thousands of photos

now held by the society. "Kevin's help in digitizing the collection and teaching us new computer skills was incredibly helpful," Fish said. "We're very grateful to him for sharing his talents with the society."

How it came to be

Fish remembers how the idea for the exhibit was first proposed.

"We were at a meeting, post-Covid, deciding that it could be time to open our building back up again," he said.

According to Fish, Historical Society President Muriel Taylor suggested that the board "needed to think about the future programs and exhibits we might like to take on when we reopened."

Member Gail Sorenson suggested a photo project that features Dummerston people.

"That got the wheel rolling," he said.

'So many different sources'

This isn't the first exhibit Fish and the society have worked on. One featured a photographic history of Dr. Grace Burnett, born in Dummerston in 1886. Unusual for her time, Dr. Burnett, going from home to home via a carriage pulled by her Morgan horses, became a family doctor in the area, running a general practice, and delivering more than 3,000 babies in homes.

Fish said that Sylvio "Shorty" Forrett bought Dr. Burnett's family albums from her estate sale after she died, and he let the Society copy the photos. A few of the photos in this show will feature Dr. Burnett.

"There were so many wonderful photographs, it was difficult to choose," he said.

There were also far too many to credit most of them individually, though "Catherine Dianich Gruver did a special exhibit of her modern grayscale pictures a long time ago, and there are enough of her photos in this exhibit that we've credited her in the guide," Fish said.

Some of the photos are well over 100 years old, some are recent, and most fall in between these extremes.

Many faces will be familiar to residents.

Some feature Ellsworth Bunker, a diplomat who served seven presidents, shown out in a field on his farm.

"Mr. Bunker's son Sam gave the society several of his father's artifacts, which we sold to create the new addition to our school building, the Bunker Room," Fish said. "There is a picture of Sam in the exhibit, too."

Other residents pictured in the exhibit include Dwight Miller

New mascot, name

FROM SECTION FRONT

was if the top two were within 10%, we would have a second vote. Bears won with 47.5% of all votes."

This summer, rebranding will take place with new uniforms and on scoreboards, badges, signs, and the school website.

The school is now awaiting design mockups from a graphic artist and those will be voted on "as a community," she added. School colors will remain purple and white.

Damkoehler said the hope is to have the new image finalized by the close of the school year — thus by June 13, also the date of the WSESD's next regular meeting.

"There really has been no contention within the school," the principal said. "The students seem really positive about it."

"[I am] very proud of this collaborative process and especially proud of our students," Superintendent Mark Speno wrote to board members.

He had previously told the board that retaining the Colonels name would violate Act 152, which relates to nondiscriminatory school branding.

'The very delicate task'

Student Eva Gould, a member of the mascot screening committee, explained the process and decision to board members in a statement.

"At the heart of this committee's work has been the very delicate task of respecting traditions from the past, while building upon a vision for the future," she said. "The challenge for our community as we go forth is to now model the same ability to respect our past, while we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our current student body in embracing their future."

Noting the "inclusive process," Gould described bears as "fiercely protective animals who have been known to walk upon our very campus, have powerful instincts, high intelligence, highly developed communication skills, and are well known for their self-confidence and strength and therefore symbolize worthy characteristics for our mascot."

"Thank you to everyone who participated in the process and Go, Bears!" she concluded.

Out with the old

The BUHS student council

adopted the Colonels moniker for its sports team in the 1950s, after the school had moved to Fairground Road to a new campus built on a former military mustering site during the Civil War, according to Brattleboro Area Middle School teacher Joe Rivers at a WSESD school board meeting.

The image is said to have been modeled after Col. William Brattle, a Revolutionary War soldier after whom the town was named. Brattle lived in and owned property in eastern Massachusetts but was a proprietor of land chartered by New Hampshire Gov. Benning Wentworth in 1753 — land that the Abenaki people had lived on for 10,000 years. Brattle's father is said to have been a slave owner, and records show that Brattle himself owned at least one slave.

The mascot image morphed over time, and eventually became the image of a Southern colonel, identical to the mascot graphic used by the University of Mississippi, which warned the school district that it was violating trademark laws.

The district banned the image in 2004 — the same year Mississippi dropped the same logo — but sports teams continued to use the Colonels name despite controversy over the image with an overt connection to Southern plantation ownership, slavery, and racist roots.

In February, two nonprofit advocacy groups — the Rutland Area NAACP and Gedakina — filed formal complaints about school mascots across the state, including, in addition to the BUHS Colonels, the Missisquoi Valley Union Middle and High School's Thunderbirds, U-32 and Stowe High School's Raiders, Vermont Commons School's Flying Turtles, and Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School's Rebels.

The complainants object to the Flying Turtles name because "our creation story is about the turtle that gave its life for us," Judy Dow, the executive director of Gedakina and Mia Schultz, president of the Rutland Area NAACP, wrote to the schools.

The Thunderbirds, Colonels, and Rebels mascots were deemed by the groups to be "upholding harmful legacies that continue to harm our children."

and his family, Jody and Paul Normandeau, Don Hazelton, Rick Wilson, Shorty Forrett, Wayne Emery, Tom and Barbara Johnson.

"Clyde Johnson the veterinarian will be there, too," said Fish with a wide smile. "Local writer Joyce Marcel is also there with her flaming red hair."

Curating the life of a town

When Fish and Ryan were sorting through the photos, they made many categories, including people, buildings, landscapes, and events.

"The photos in this exhibit are meant to focus on the people, not what they are doing in the moment," Fish noted.

The photos have "all been looked at, studied, often cropped, and reshaped," Fish said.

"I concentrated on the faces, making them easy to see, visible, and attractive," he said, noting that almost all of these photos were taken in Dummerston

public events or at the subjects' own homes.

The walls of the Society's museum building are almost entirely covered with photos. At the center of the exhibit, on a long table, Fish's camera collection provides "a capsule history of photography over the last 100 years or so."

Fish underscored the subtitle of the exhibit, "A work in progress."

"After the pics come off the wall in a couple of months, they will be saved in albums," he said. "Our hope is to continue to add to these albums. People who aren't yet in the books will be welcome to get in later."

The subtitle is important, he said, because "this isn't the end of the project."

"Faces of Dummerston: A Work in Progress" will open at the Dummerston Historical Society on Sunday, June 11 with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m.. Refreshments will be served.

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Homeless

FROM SECTION FRONT

stay free in these properties to those slated to leave on June 1, it only delays the inevitability for many of returning to their precarious, pre-pandemic existence.

The benefits cliff

For Kayla and Travis, who have lived at the Quality Inn since January, this means camping at nearby Fort Dummer State Park.

“Once these 15 days are over, we have to go into the campground and we work full-time,” Kayla says.

Even though they will pay \$388 for a two-week stay at the campground, she says it’s still cheaper than staying at a local hotel, which would charge \$800 per week.

Kayla works at Hannaford supermarket on Putney Road. Travis does landscaping when he can get work, and when he can’t, he works at the Quality Inn.

“We make too much money for food stamps, so we can’t pay \$800 a week plus buy our food,” Kayla says.

How is it that a young, able-bodied, working couple is living like this?

“We’re on waiting lists for apartments but we’re not anywhere close to the top of the list,” Kayla says. “Every apartment I’ve filled out an application for, they’ve rejected us because we don’t make 2½ times what the rent is.”

Nearby, in an orange T-shirt and sunglasses, smoking a cigarette, stands Lafe.

“I don’t know where I’m going after here,” he says. “Before I got here, I was camping out in the woods, sleeping on people’s couches — a couple of friends of mine.”

Lafe says he lost his rental apartment this winter when he lost his job and now he can’t get another job because he doesn’t have a birth certificate or Social Security card.

“Plus I can’t read or write,” he says. “You put a book in front of me, and I’m no good. But I’m good with my hands.”

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) assisted Lafe in getting into the motel housing program, and is helping him get new ID cards so that he can apply for work.

How does he eat?

“They got food shelves where you can get groceries, but here you only have a tiny fridge and a microwave and that’s it,” he says.

Instead, he takes the MOOver bus downtown, where churches provide hot meals.

Those experiencing

homelessness have a wide range of needs that local service providers, nonprofits, and churches attempt to address. Medical and mental health conditions, substance abuse, domestic violence, and lack of job skills all contribute to the condition of homelessness both locally and nationally.

In an effort to address what advocates are characterizing as the housing emergency created by the end of the motel housing program, the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) is funding the development and implementation of transition plans for people leaving the motel program.

Additionally, AHS is requesting proposals from local leaders for projects to prevent and address “unsheltered homelessness.”

This term refers to situations in which people are not regularly accessing shelters or transitional housing programs and are, instead, sleeping in encampments, in vehicles, or in other locations not meant for human habitation.

Local groups strategize

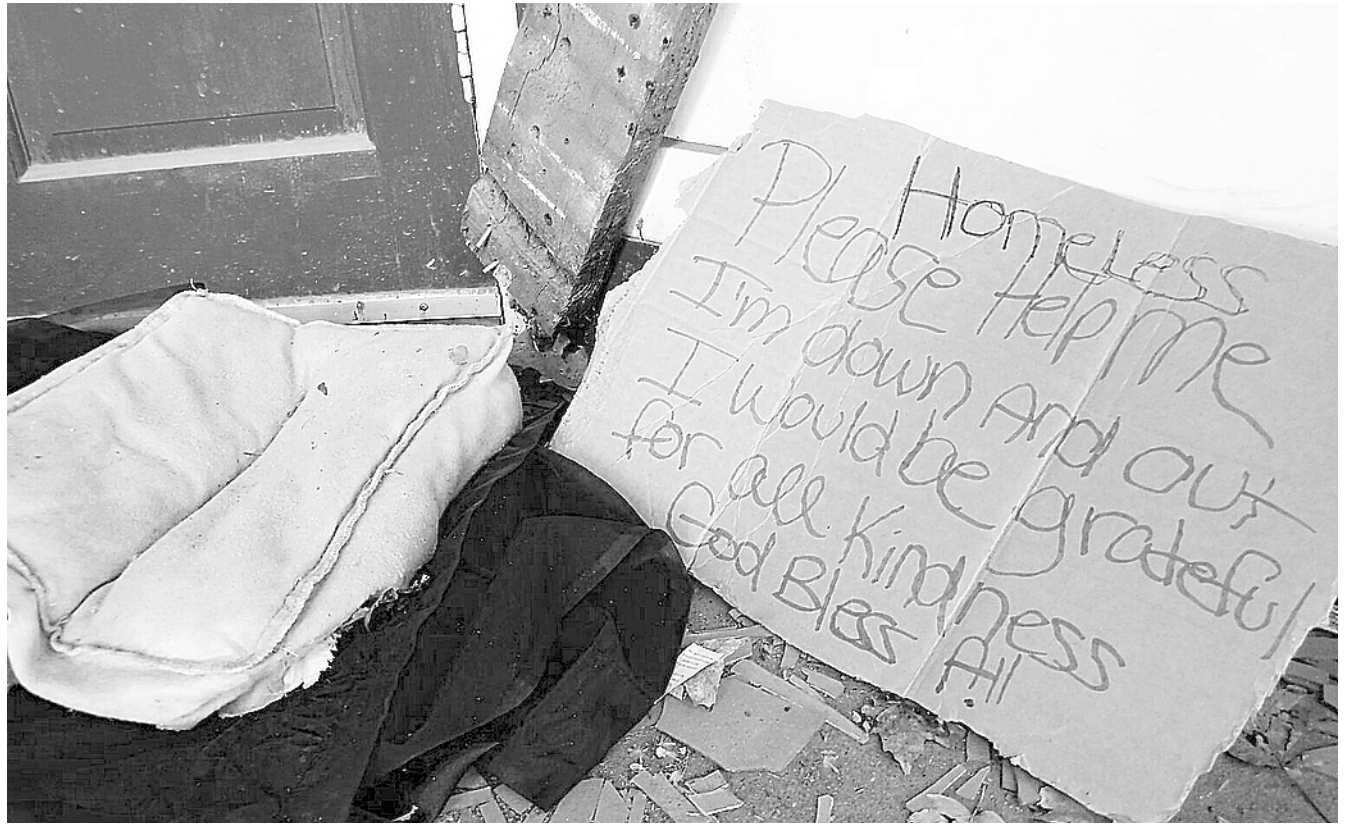
The Community Homelessness Strategy Team has submitted a letter of interest, the first step in the proposal process, for funding and staffing a regional emergency shelter in a vacant office building in the area.

The team includes representatives from local and state government, Groundworks, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services, the Windham Regional Commission, the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance, and area faith leaders, according to recent reporting from VTDigger.

The proposal also requests that the state designate state-owned and -managed land in the Brattleboro area as “emergency dispersed camping areas.”

This would allow for Fort Dummer and other state parks to accommodate more campers.

According to Town Manager John Potter, a member of the



A sign and sleeping gear lies in a doorway in downtown Brattleboro.

KEVIN O’CONNOR/VTDIGGER FILE PHOTO

housing strategy team, the group is proposing that the state provide one year of funding for the emergency shelter for 100 people.

Groundworks Collaborative’s overnight shelter provides beds for approximately 30 people nightly. Its Morningside House transitional shelter accommodated 30 people but remains closed in the aftermath of the death of its manager, Leah Rosin-Pritchard, at the hands of a guest on April 3.

“Most of the people coming out of the motels don’t have solid transition plans, so a longer-term emergency shelter would be needed,” says Groundworks Executive Director Josh Davis.

But, according to Davis, in a recent phone call with Groundworks’ staff, AHS Secretary Jenney Samuelson expressed that the state is not looking to “prop up” a Brattleboro

shelter for the long term.

In a press conference last month, Samuelson said she expected some of the 2,500 people losing their emergency housing to “self-resolve” their lack of housing by the end of the program.

“Self-resolving,” says Davis, “means that more people will be camping in areas where they’re not supposed to camp, will stay in unsafe, unsustainable housing situations, may stay with others as guests, thus putting others’ housing at risk, and may put themselves in vulnerable situations where they are at risk of being exploited.”



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Chamber honors three area businesspeople

Giamartino, Garza, Yates get kudos for their service to the community at annual awards gathering

By Randolph T. Holhut
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Service to the community was the unifying theme in the stories of the three people honored by the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce at its annual awards gathering on June 1 on the porch of the recently opened Bar 580 on Canal Street.

Being named Member of the Year was a bittersweet honor for Mary Giamartino, who operated the last locally owned pharmacy in town until its closing in February, a victim of changing economics.

For Tito Garza, getting the Entrepreneur of the Year award was the culmination of a long journey that took him from selling tacos out of a cooler by the Creamery Bridge to running two — soon to be three — restaurants and a catering business based in town.

And for the recently retired Dan Yates, receiving the Person of the Year award was a thank-you for the many years of service as president and CEO of Brattleboro Savings & Loan, the last community-owned bank in town.

All three were lauded for how much they have given to Brattleboro through their respective businesses.

Honoring the person behind the counter

Chamber Executive Director Greg Lesch described Mary Giamartino as someone who “was always about community and helping others.” She and her late husband Frank operated Hotel Pharmacy on Elliot Street for four decades, which Lesch said served the public in a way that no chain

pharmacy could.

And while the award is usually given to a business or organization and not an individual, Lesch said that “as we all know, people are what make a business special and, in this case, it is impossible to separate the business from the entity we’re celebrating.”

“The Chamber would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the many contributions and the untimely closure of this downtown Brattleboro institution,” he said.

Lesch said “personal consultations, after-hours access during personal or family crises, and friendly support through challenging health care treatments and medications” were all hallmarks of Hotel Pharmacy’s way of doing business.

Giamartino said that she was most proud of “giving my patients the best care that I could.”

“It was my pleasure to be welcomed into this community and raise our sons here,” she said. “And my co-workers were the best.”

Following his taco dreams

A native Texan, Tito Garza came to Brattleboro struggling with addiction and finding help here to recover. In 2015, as he was working at Supreme Fitness, where he met his future wife, he dreamed of operating a food truck.

Starting with a cooler full of tacos at Creamery Bridge, Garza slowly built up his business. Tito’s Taqueria graduated to a hot dog cart, then to a food truck, and then to a pair of restaurants — one on Putney Road and the other in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

When a third restaurant opens in Keene, New Hampshire, Tito’s will have 90 part- and full-time

employees on the payroll.

In her introduction, Chamber board member Connie Burton said Garza exemplifies “the qualities of a true entrepreneur,” investing in the community “against great odds and personal sacrifice.”

According to Burton, Garza said that “I never would have had the success had I not embraced the discomfort and been vulnerable and just taken the chance.”

In accepting the honor, Garza said it took a lot of support from his family, as well as a community willing to embrace “weird, cool, and unique things.”

“Today, I have the life of my dreams,” Garza said. “I’ve got a beautiful family. I get appreciation when I walk into the restaurant and people value me. I get to be a part of people’s growth and they get to be part of my growth. I’m super grateful.”

Not about the money

Dan Yates started out in the banking business in Connecticut, but he and his wife were looking for a change when a job opening came up in Brattleboro with Merchants Bank (now Community Bank). Yates grabbed the job and headed to Vermont.

After a stint in the Northeast

Kingdom helping turn around the fortunes of a troubled local bank, he returned to town in 2005 to take a position at Brattleboro Savings & Loan. Two years later, Yates became its president and CEO.

Among his proudest accomplishments was getting Certified B Corporation status for BS&L, codifying the bank’s mission of putting people and the planet ahead of profit.

When the Brooks House was gutted by fire in 2011, BS&L stepped up to help get funding to rebuild the downtown landmark.

Accepting awards at the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual awards gathering (clockwise from top): Mary Giamartino, who owned Hotel Pharmacy; Tito Garza, owner of Tito’s Taqueria; and Dan Yates, the recently retired longtime president of Brattleboro Savings & Loan.

LONDONDERRY

Plans take shape for new town park

LONDONDERRY—On May 15, the Londonderry Selectboard endorsed a plan to enhance the vacant lot on the north-east corner of the intersection of state Routes 11 and 100. However, there is still necessary work to be done before it is fully approved.

Proposed by a subcommittee of the One Londonderry Village Main Street Group, the simple but dynamic plan would allow people to come, sit and relax. Trees, shrubs, and perennials with benches and pea stone walkways will be installed once financing is obtained. A great deal of attention was paid to the required zoning setbacks and right-of-ways, in addition to the deed restrictions for this site.

The focal point of this green space is a 30-foot diameter circular design, the center of which is a grouping of three vertical native stone monoliths. The next circular ring is a pea stone path, surrounded by eight native stone benches in a circular format. The outside border is a band of perennial ground cover, with allium bulbs popping up throughout.

A low hedge of evergreen yew was selected to be planted along the wall bordering the mill pond, which the Vermont Agency of Transportation has to approve. A grouping of three evergreen trees will be planted for “seasonal holiday decoration” in one corner and a crabapple in the south east corner, with three-season appeal.

Along Routes 100 and 11, on the setback lines, there will be a 4-foot Hydrangea hedge, giving the site a bit of privacy and protection. Three elm trees, couched in a row behind the hedge, mimic those planted previously on the other side of the street to provide continuity throughout town. Care was taken in the design to not obscure views of oncoming traffic at the intersection. The “environmentally compatible Vermont bird- and pollinator-friendly plants” were selected for their sequential bloom times and “minimal upkeep” according to the written proposal.

One goal of the initiative is to offer residents and visitors a landmark gateway “coming into

Londonderry from the east along Route 11 and from the north on Route 100.” As an articulated objective in the town’s Master Plan, this destination at the south end of Main Street is a spark that begins the designated process of walkability and connectivity in the village. The green space would also complement the Coffee Bar(n) being built on the corner across Route 100 and be a place Farmers’ Market customers could eat and enjoy the view of the Mill Pond and the village.

The total cost is estimated to be \$30,000, including \$5,000 for five years of maintenance. Donations will be welcomed by One Londonderry once they have the matching grants program set up. More information on this project and its funding opportunities will be forthcoming.

One Londonderry is a citizen-led organization whose stated mission is “to serve Londonderry and the surrounding communities by maximizing our strengths as a regional hub, a four-season recreation destination, and a beautiful place to live.”

Wholly independent of town government, One Londonderry volunteers work in concert with the town and other organizations and agencies on projects they say are “geared toward community betterment with the aim to create and sustain a thriving, healthy, and vibrant community for our residents, neighbors, and visitors.”

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

bc tv LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
June 5-11
CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

Here We Are - Jamie Mohr, Epsilon Spires, E.D. Mon 8p, Tues 10a, Wed 11a, Fri 12:30p, Sat 8p, Sun 5:30p	Leland and Gray Graduation - 2023. Sat 10a (LIVE)
The World Fusion Show - Ep # 153 - The World Fusion Show Sampler #3. Mon 5:30p, Wed 11:30a, Thurs 12:30p, Sat 12:30p, 5p & 6:30p, Sun 9:30a	Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 6/6/23: Tues 6:15p (LIVE), Thurs 1p, Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2p
Around Town with Maria - Artful Streets at Gallery Walk. Wed 9p, Fri 1p, Sat 9a, Sun 6:15p	Brattleboro Selectboard Retreat 6/3/23: Wed 12p, Sat 6p, Sun 6a
1st Wednesdays Presents - We Are All Fast Food Workers Now: Annelise Orleck. Mon 6:30a, Tues 12:30p, Wed 12:30p, Thurs 4:30p, Sun 7:15p	Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 6/5/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 12p
Brooks Memorial Library - Field to Fork Tool Cottage. Mon 9:15p, Wed 11:25a & 6:45p, Thurs 7:45a, Fri 2:45p, Sat 6:25p & 8:35p, Sun 2:55p & 6:05p	Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 6/5/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 2:30p
Keeping Up with Senior Solutions - Ep 28 - The Gathering Place w/ Maggie Lewis. Mon 8:35p, Wed 6:05p, Thurs 6:15a, Fri 2:05p, Sun 2:15p	River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 6/5/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8:30a, Sat 1p
Write Action - Poems Around Town Poetry Reading 4/28/23. Tues 8p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 6:15a, Sat 8:45p, Sun 12:30p	Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 6/6/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 6a, Sun 3:30p
Around Town with Maria - Swords to Plowshares. Mon 2:45p, Tues 3:15p, Thurs 1:30p, Fri 4:30a, Sun 8:45p	Windham Town Meeting - 2023. Mon 6p, Tues 8a, Thurs 11a, Sun 12p
Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell. Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 5/22/23: Mon 8p, Tues 6a, Wed 10a
Vermontitude - Weekly Episode. Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 5/22/23: Mon 4:14p, Tues 10a, Fri 6:45p
WTSA News. Mon-Fri 12p & 6p	Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 5/23/23: Mon 6a, Tues 11:45a, Wed 7a, Sun 6p
St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service. Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	Landmark College Graduation - Spring 2023 Commencement. Mon 9a, Tues 4p
Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service. Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a	Windham Elementary School Board Mtg. 5/16/23: Mon 3p, Tues 2:45p, Fri 5:30p
Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service. Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p	Dummerston Town Meeting - Informational Mtg. 5/17/23: Mon 1:45p, Thurs 4:45p, Sun 9p
Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service. Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a	Town Matters - Weekly Episode. Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p
St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass. Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p	The David Pakman Show. 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**

BCTV's Program Highlights are sponsored by **The Commons**. BCTV's municipal meeting coverage helps **Commons** reporters stay in touch. Read about it in the Town & Village section at www.commonnews.org.

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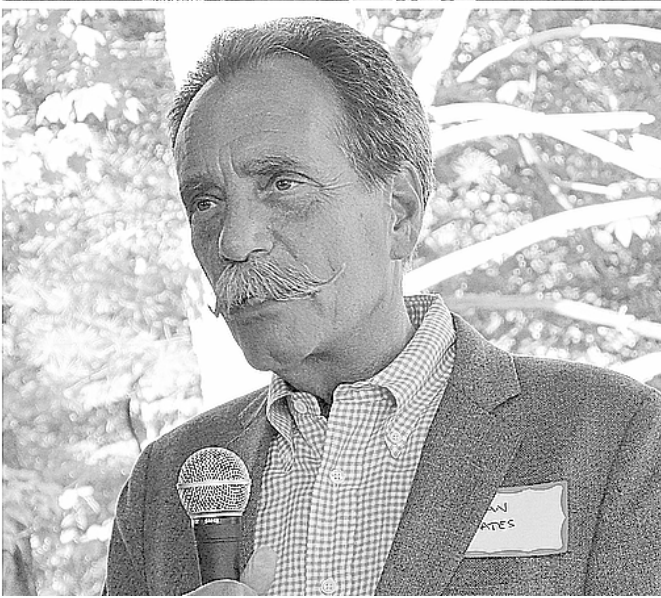
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During the COVID-19 pandemic, the bank’s staff worked long hours in March 2020 to help local businesses secure more than \$40 million in loans from the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

These, and other initiatives and projects, were all part of what Lesch said was Yates’ primary philosophy of “being able to help people” and “always asking ‘How do we better our communities?’”

“I’m incredibly humbled by this award,” Yates said, adding that he loves Brattleboro and local communities. “It’s got its warts,

but it’s a magical place. Other than marrying my wife, the best decision I made was to move to Brattleboro and then come back to Brattleboro because there’s no place else on earth like it.”

The Chamber also recognized several local businesses that celebrated milestone anniversaries this year.

They included Vermont Hempicurean (five years), Fire Arts Vermont (10 years), Acrecona (35 years), ServPro of Windham and Windsor Counties (45 years), and Hilltop Montessori School (50 years).

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As a nonprofit, independent newspaper, The Commons is able to focus on all things local.

Through our in-depth reporting, profiles of area residents, sports and arts coverage and our popular “Voices” section, we go beyond the 24-hour news cycle to provide our readers with a better understanding of the people and places that make up our community.

And we couldn't do it without the community's support.

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CONGRATULATIONS to our New England Newspaper and Press Association award winners!

1st Place – Mindy Haskins Rogers, Virginia Ray
Investigative/Enterprise Reporting,
“Legacy of abuse in Brattleboro area schools”

1st Place - Randolph Holhut, Fran Lynggaard Hansen, Jeff Potter
Spot News Story, Package:
“Brattleboro breaks ties with Rescue”

2nd Place – Jeff Potter
Editorial/Commentary Page, “Roe v. Wade”

2nd Place – Fran Lynggaard Hansen
General News Story,
“The people are the place, and the place is the people”

3rd Place – Jeff Potter
Racial, Ethnic or Gender Issue Coverage,
“A mural with meaning”



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MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• **Angelo Domina** of Brattleboro was awarded a B.A. in political science from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island.

• The following local students recently earned their degrees at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts: **Liam Kennedy** of Brattleboro, magna cum laude with a B.A. in geography; **Julianne Liebow** of Townshend, summa cum laude with a B.A. in biology; **Abbe Kathryn Cravinho** of Bellows Falls, magna cum laude with a B.A. in mathematics; **Kai S. Hammond** of Putney, B.A. in physics; and **Jack T. Langeloh** of Putney, cum laude with a B.A. in history.

• Two local students at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts presented original research, creative works, and academic presentations at the annual Connected Learning Symposium in April 2023. **Kaie Quigley** of West Wardsboro presented work done by the staff of the *1851 Chronicle*, Lasell's student-run newspaper, for which Quigley was co-editor-in-chief, and **Sophia Mark** of Brattleboro participated in a ceramics presentation, "Perseverance Pays Off."

• **Hope Soucy** of Landgrove, a member of the class of 2023 majoring in biomedical engineering at Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute, recently completed a senior thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience. The project, Improved Actuation System for an Artificial Tongue Prosthesis, was Soucy's Major Qualifying Project (MQP), one that is usually team-based and

often focuses on very specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the student's work.

• **Liliana Buettner** of Dummerston was recognized as an Andrew B. Saxton Undergraduate Fellow in Theatre Arts during Hartwick College's annual Honors Convocation celebrated on May 3 in Oneonta, New York. A fellow is selected by the faculty to recognize outstanding achievement. Fellows serve as student assistants in their major department and receive a tuition credit.

• **Marielle Meyer**, a health science/pre-PA major from Brattleboro, was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Springfield (Mass.) College.

• **Bradie Harris** of Bellows Falls was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York.

• **Elizabeth Day** of Brattleboro and **Wyatt Keith** of Vernon were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Obituaries



• **Wanita (Johnson) Martin, 74**, formerly of Newfane. Died on Dec. 9, 2022, surrounded by her family.

Wanita graduated from Leland & Gray Seminary with the Class of 1968. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A public graveside service will take place on Saturday, June 10 at Oakwood Cemetery in Townshend, at 1 p.m. She will be

laid to rest next to her son, Robert H. Martin who preceded her in death in 1986. Immediately following will be a potluck picnic at the Townshend Dam at the Davis Shelter. All are welcome and encouraged to bring your fondest memories to share with friends and family as they remember the life she led here on earth and celebrate her eternal life in heaven. Donations to the Grace Cottage Foundation, P.O. Box 1, Townshend, VT 05353.



• **Joyce Ann Ranney, 77**, of Westminister West and a resident at Thompson House in Brattleboro.

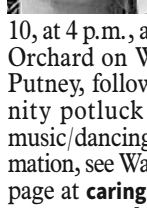
Died unexpectedly May 24, 2023 at the facility. Joyce was born in Burlington on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1946, the daughter of Chauncey and Luella (Webster) Mudgett. She was raised and educated in Cambridge, Vermont and was a graduate of Cambridge High School, Class of 1964. She went on to attend Johnson State College. On Nov. 12, 1977 in Cambridge, Joyce married to Harold Ranney of Dummerston, who predeceased her on May

24, 2013. She and her husband ran their family's dairy farm in Westminister West from 1982 until 2009. She was a devoted homemaker who enjoyed time shared with her family, especially her grandchildren. Of her leisure time activities, she enjoyed taking nature walks, and photography. Joyce was a member of the Westminister West Congregational Church and Women's Fellowship Group. Survivors include one son, Philip Ranney and his wife Trisha Kneeland of Woodstock; grandsons Garrett Ranney of Saxtons River and Sawyer Ranney of Rutland; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by one son, Gary Ranney, and her brother, Wendell Mudgett. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside committal services will be conducted on Saturday, June 10, at 2 p.m., in Westminister West Cemetery where she will be laid to rest next to her beloved husband and son. Donations to Thompson House, 80 Maple St., Brattleboro, VT 05301; or to Westminister Cares Inc., P.O. Box 312, Westminister, VT 05158. To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

Services



• A celebration of life for **Seward Jackson "Ward" Ogden III** will be held on Saturday, June 10, at 4 p.m., at Green Mountain Orchard on West Hill Road in Putney, followed by a community potluck supper and live music/dancing. For more information, see Ward's Caring Bridge page at caringbridge.org/public/wardogden. Mr. Ogden, 62, of Putney, died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest on Dec. 28, 2022 in Point Reyes, California while hiking with Maria, his wife of 41 years.



• Family, friends, colleagues and musical acquaintances are invited to a celebration of life for **Ray Massucco** on Sunday, June 11, at noon at the Rockingham Meeting House. Ray died suddenly on Sept. 27, 2022, leaving the community in

shock from losing someone who was so close and so connected to many people. The Rockingham Meeting House was one of Ray's favorite venues for acoustic music, which he shared with many people over many years on the second Sunday in June as another Roots on the River Festival was winding down. It's a perfect place to recall a memory, share a story, and pay tribute to Ray for all that he gave us during his time on this earth. The Meeting House does have a maximum seating capacity so limited seating inside the building for the general public will be available on a first come, serve basis while gathering on the grounds is open to all who attend. Some of Ray's favorite snacks will be served outside (food and drink are prohibited inside the Meeting House).



• The family of **Frederick "Fritz" Engstrom** will hold a celebration of his life on Saturday, June 24, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Road, Guilford. Bring along your Fritz memories, jokes, and stories.

AROUND THE TOWNS

Student pilgrimage to Spain highlighted at dinner

WILMINGTON — On Thursday, June 8, St. Mary's in the Mountains Episcopal Church, 13 East Main St., will host a dinner and presentation by Twin Valley High School students who walked the legendary pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago.

Every other year since 2009, Twin Valley Athletic Director Buddy Hayford and a Spanish teacher have led a group of students along the most famous of the great medieval pilgrimage routes of Europe. For more than a thousand years, the Camino has drawn pilgrims who walk distances of 100 (the minimum required to earn the official certificate, the Credential) to 1,000 or more kilometers on foot to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

The total number of pilgrims in recent years has reached 350,000 annually. In April, this year's student pilgrims accompanied by Hayford and Emily Beeman, their Spanish teacher, spent six days with Spanish host families and then five days traveling without complaint the 100 kilometers on foot to Santiago.

St. Mary's is one of the sponsoring churches of the Deerfield Valley Pilgrimage Walk on September 16, 17, a local annual 25-mile pilgrimage which was inspired in part by the Camino.

The dinner on June 8 will run 6 to 7 p.m., and the presentation will start at 7 p.m. It is open to the public, free of charge. As a bonus, a group of high school students from the Spanish host families will also be in attendance. For more information, contact Dick Ward at 802-464-8480 or Lincoln Rathnam 781-715-5968 or vtpilgrim@gmail.com.

Manitou healing walk set for June 9

WILLIAMSVILLE — The Manitou Project will hold its Healing Walk on Friday, June 9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The walk will be led by Fred Taylor and will include poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience. Healing walks will be held, rain or shine, every second and fourth Friday of each month until October.

The Manitou Project seeks to foster community with Nature on its 235-acre land preserve in Williamsville, located at 300 Sunset Lake Rd. For more information, contact Taylor at 802-254-2675.

Chicken pie dinner served in Dummerston

DUMMERSTON — Evening Star Grange presents its old-fashioned Chicken Pie Supper on Saturday, June 10, at the Grange Hall, 1008 East West Rd., Dummerston Center, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

On the menu is old-fashioned chicken pie; mashed potatoes and gravy, corn casserole, and buttered cauliflower/broccoli, with carrot cake for dessert. Admission is \$13 for adults, \$7 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. Eat in or take-out. Reservations are requested, reserve meals by calling 802-254-1138.

Hilltop Montessori celebrates 50 years

BRATTLEBORO — Hilltop Montessori School will host a 50th anniversary community celebration on Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their campus on 99 Stafford Farm Hill. This event is open to all, with food available for purchase from Tito's Tacos, Jamaican Jewelz, and Frisky Cow Gelato.

There will be a variety of

performances in the Arts Barn Theater. Sandglass Theater will provide a mini version of *Punchi* at 10 and 11 a.m., and at noon. Magicians Without Borders will perform their magic show at 1 p.m., Hilltop alum Eben Viens will bring his band to play music at 2 p.m., and Boogie Down Kids will close out the day from 3 to 4 p.m.

NECCA will be on the Elementary Field from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., while the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum will present their Live Birds of Prey from 10 to 11 a.m. on the Middle School Lawn. The River Gallery School of Art will host a plein air workshop from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Middle School Lawn by the pond.

There will be a 2 p.m. photo opportunity for all past and present Hilltop community members as well. The event will be held rain or shine and the school asks people to carpool, as parking will be limited. For more information, visit hilltopmontessori.org/50th/june10.

Abijah Prince Walk in Guilford on June 13

GUILFORD — On Tuesday, June 13, at 10:30 a.m., Guilford Cares sponsors a walk for seniors down Abijah Prince Road with guides Shaun and Karen Murphy, to admire giant old maple trees and to identify plants along the path and bird calls above. Just off the road, walkers will find the Abijah and Lucy Prince cellar hole dating back to 1874 and learn the amazing history behind that early settlement.

The Class 4 road we will walk is about a mile round trip. It is not arduous, but there is a steady uphill on the return trip. Walking sticks are always helpful and walkers should come prepared against ticks.

Parking is very limited at the start of the walk. carpooling is suggested. Meeting by 10:10 a.m. at Broad Brook Community Center, which is about 3.5 miles from Abijah Prince Road. Contact Guilford Cares for more information or to request a ride at 802-579-1350 or guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com.

Senior meal served in Dummerston

DUMMERSTON — Senior Solutions and Evening Star Grange will serve their first June meal on Wednesday, June 14, at the Grange Hall in Dummerston Center with pick-up of takeouts

between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., and an in-house meal served at noon.

The menu consists of meat or vegetarian stuffed shells, tossed green salad, and garlic bread with a mixed fruit upside down cake for dessert. Reservations are strongly suggested to make sure they make enough food. Call 802-254-1138 with name, phone number, number of meals desired, and whether eating in or taking out. A donation of \$3 for those 60 and older and \$4 for the younger folks is suggested.

Kitchen Table Conversation looks at green burial and home funerals

BRATTLEBORO — On Wednesday, June 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Experienced Goods, 80 Flat St., Brattleboro Area Hospice will host a Kitchen Table Conversation on green burial and home funerals. This event is free and the public is encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be available. Staff and volunteers with knowledge and experience on these subjects will be attending this event.

Kitchen Table Conversations are facilitated group discussions on specific topics. Smaller and more focused than a Death Cafe, less formal than a presentation, the intention is sit together around a table, building and deepening a sense of community while exploring information and opinions on a particular topic in a supportive and congenial atmosphere. Space is limited, RSVP by emailing info@brattleborohospice.org or call 802-257-0775.

Book donations sought for Moore Free Library summer sale

NEWFANE — The Friends of the Moore Free Library are accepting donations of books and media for their summer sale to take place on Saturday, July 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items will be welcome at the library at 23 West St., on Tuesday, June 13, from 4 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Materials will be reviewed as donors wait, so that they can find another home for the ones they cannot take. Donations should not be left on the porch of the library. A sheet of "Guidelines for Donating" is available at the library, at moorefreelibrary.org, or by request to julielavorgna@gmail.com.

Books must be read as deliberately and reservedly as they were written.

—HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Milestones are published as community news at no cost to families, thanks to financial support of our members and advertisers. Send them to news@commonsnews.org. Though we ask that content for this column be sent by Friday at 5 p.m., we will do our best to include late obituaries. Please alert the newsroom at 802-246-6397 for post-deadline urgent submissions. We will always do our best to accommodate contributors in their time of grief.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF DUMMERSTON WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING JUNE 28, 2023

THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE Town of Dummerston are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Evening Star Grange at 1008 East West Road in said Town on Wednesday June 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM to transact the following business of the Town.

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters approve up to \$100,000.00 (in addition to the \$500,000.00 approved by Australian ballot on March 7th) to complete the purchase and financing of a new fire truck.

Dated at Dummerston, this 24th day of May, 2023.

Ezekiel Goodband, Chair
Maria Glabach, Clerk
Alex Wilson
Lewis White

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STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windham Unit Docket No.: 22-PR-01733
IN RE ESTATE of: Marva Colty-Heyward

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Marva Colty-Heyward late of Jersey City, New Jersey.

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: June 1, 2023 Address: PO Box 556
Brattleboro, VT 05302
Administrator: Lawrin P. Crispe
Name of Publication: The Commons 802-254-4441
Publication Date: June 7, 2023 lcrispe@crispe.com
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

TOWN OF PUTNEY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Putney Zoning Regulations, Section 110.4, notice is hereby given that the Putney Development Review Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 20 for the purpose of considering one application. No site visit is scheduled.

Application #23-06-12 Site Plan Review: Change of Use from a single-family dwelling to four apartments with office space. Susan Nepveu (Applicant/Owner). Property location is 101 Main Street, Tax Map 30-50-41. Application will be reviewed under Section 240 Site Plan Review; Section 320.5 Village District; Section 502 Home Occupation; Section 509 Landscaping, Screening and Site Lighting; Section 510 Off-Street Parking Space Requirements; and Section 830 Adverse Effect.

A copy of the application and additional information can be obtained at the Putney Town Office upon request or on the town website. The meeting is open to the public in a hybrid Zoom platform. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464 (a)(1)(C) and 4471 (a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Dated at Putney, Vermont, this 5th day of June, 2023.

Karen M. Astley
Zoning Administrator

PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

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Hi there! I'm **Aurora**, I am shy at first but I am super sweet. I have lived with cats before and should do ok although a slow introduction would be best. I can play with dog friends but I would be best in the home as the only dog. I am crate trained and I know the commands sit, down, stay, come, and fetch. I would be best if I am crated when no one is home as I will chew things. I love to be brushed but I don't like my feet to be touched. I should not be in a home with children under the age of 12 due to my stress.



Hi, my name is **Lionel**! I am about 50 pounds with plenty of love to give. I am very sweet and outgoing. I seem to like other dogs and may be able to live with one in my new home. Cats would be new and should be gradual. I have a ton of energy and need someone that can give me the exercise that I need. I would do best in a home without any small kids. I really am looking for someone to give me all the love and affection that I deserve.



Hi there, I'm **Ike**! I'm a super friendly dude who came to WCHS as a stray. Not much is known about my history but so far I've been outgoing and silly! I might be able to live with other cats or dogs with a proper introduction and some time to adjust. Children who have cat experience should be fine as long as they can give me time to settle in. Come visit me soon and take me home!



Howdy, I'm **Tater Tot**! I traveled all the way from South Carolina to find a new home. I made the trip with my friend, Twilight, and while we make a great pair we don't have to go home together. Not too much is known about our history but we are friendly and ready to start a new chapter in our lives! I may be able to live with another cat or a cat-savvy dog with a proper introduction and some time to adjust. Older children who can respect a kitty like me should be fine as well.

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Farms slammed with loss from mid-May frost

Hard-hit Windham County farms hope for federal relief for an overnight devastating loss of fruit, berry, and vegetable crops

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

Local growers and buyers are assessing the damage from a late-spring frost across Vermont that severely damaged thousands of acres of crops.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Burlington, many below-freezing temperatures were recorded overnight May 17 into the early morning hours of May 18.

“We’re still grappling, but it was evident that there was significant damage right away,” said Simon Renault, general manager of Scott Farm in Dummerston. “We have a weather station in the orchard and saw the temperatures had gone down to 25.7 degrees.”

Renault said the frost hit when the trees in the orchard were in late bloom, the stage where trees begin the development of apples — the worst possible time.

He called the event “unheard of at that date and level of damage.” He added that a period of heat in April had hastened the apple tree bloom, thus creating more damage than would have been incurred had the trees not been blossoming.

“Had we had 25-degree temperatures consistently throughout April, we would not have been at that stage,” he said, noting 90% damage to all the farm’s fruit, especially apples, and a total loss of the farm’s cherry crop.

Scott Farm Orchardist Erin Robinson said in a Facebook post that what she found after the frost was “far worse than we could have imagined.”

“It is the most brutal feeling to love something so deeply and be so powerless to protect it. Our orchard took a massive hit,” she wrote. “Even the highest elevations were showing solid brown and black. Everything.”

She cited the “devastating impact on so many levels” and the people who will be affected.

“The workers who rely on us to come here and work to support their families back home, the farm itself surviving, our beloved customers and community who love what we grow and get nourishment from our trees gifts, and the cider makers who use our fruit to make their magic,” Robinson wrote. “The ripples go far.”

Scott Farm is certainly not alone in coping with the frost.

At Dutton Berry Farm in Newfane, it was a second blow for them. A brief stretch of below-zero temperatures in late February caused the farm’s peach crop to fail.

In a Facebook post, the farm said that faced with a partial apple crop and loss to strawberry and blueberry crops, while not a total loss, the effect was “devastating to see.”

At High Meadows Farm in Westminster, owner Howard Prussack said his fields hit 23 degrees Fahrenheit but temperatures quickly rose with the sun.

“I covered the only tender transplants with row cover yesterday and that saved them from death,” Prussack posted on Facebook.

Renault said he’s concerned now about Scott Farm’s blueberries, which saw some damage with the frost but look “mostly fine.”

The farm was already dealing with the February cold snap that brought the loss of most of its peaches and plums.

“That happens,” Renault said. “Honestly, growing peaches and plums in Vermont in general is

a little bit of a gamble anyway.”

He said the Vermont Agency of Agriculture has been surveying farmers and now are waiting for “June drop” — when fruit-lets the size of a big marble tend to fall from the trees — “to make a final assessment as to what falls and how much is hanging on.”

“For most of us, the fruit is already dropping and we know the loss is very significant,” said Renault, adding that he’s currently looking for partners outside New England “who grow interesting apples” to supplement the orchard’s crop to meet consumer demand.

“We might make cider,” he said. “We will find ways to keep the farm and farmstead really interesting and have some fruit.”

Tallying losses and looking for federal aid

Scott Waterman, the Agency of Agriculture’s policy and communications director, said Agency officials are “still waiting for an assessment of the big picture and individual farms, and we’re working on whether there is a federal response or not.”

“Everything is on the table, depending on the situation,” he said. “I don’t know if the state would have a particular response other than to support and advocate for a federal response.”

He noted that the state’s budget for the next fiscal year has been voted on. With a veto from Gov. Phil Scott, a financial response from the state is in limbo.

“We’re trying to learn what the situation is and advocate for any and all options to support our farmers, but what all that means at this point is not clear,” said Waterman, urging affected farmers to reach out to the Agency.

He added that farmers would have needed to purchase U.S. Department of Agriculture crop insurance by November 2022 for it to apply to the May event. He said that the insurance is only for crop loss and not lost revenues from a product that could be derived from a crop.

Dr. Vern Grubinger, vegetable and berry specialist at University of Vermont Extension, said that surveys have gone out to farmers statewide through the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association. He has received 70 responses from farmers around the state who documented temperatures that May night from 17 to 29 degrees Fahrenheit.

“At 17 degrees, basically everything’s in trouble,” Grubinger said.

Survey results show 298 acres of outdoor crops lost or damaged, 84,000 of greenhouse or “high tunnel” crops lost or damaged, and an estimated loss/damage dollar value of \$1.3 million from just these 70 farms, many of which are quite small.

Grubinger said orchard damage will be even greater as tree fruits took the biggest hit.

“Mostly apples, but peaches, pears [...] it’s not good,” he said, noting the damage came as different perennial crops were



Apple buds in orchards throughout Windham County and Vermont were damaged by freezing temperatures overnight on May 17–18, destroying much of this year’s crop. “We are seeing a small amount of fruit on the trees,” Casey Darrow of Green Mountain Orchards told The Commons on Tuesday. “More than we expected but most of them have some sort of cosmetic damage. The blueberries are looking pretty good. Less than 40% damage.”

developing at different rates and thus were more susceptible to damage.

“Apples were at a very vulnerable stage,” he said. “It really depended on your micro-climate. Some strawberries weren’t further along, so [they] were less vulnerable.”

Unusual as it was, the frost, however, was not “out of the historical norm,” Grubinger said, although it was “the most extreme in a while.”

“It’s an individual event, but this spring has been kind of a roller coaster ride — and that’s the pattern we’re seeing with climate change: more erratic weather,” he said.

Grubinger said that blueberries, grapes, and strawberries were also damaged, as were vegetable and flower seedlings.

At the mercy of the weather

Grubinger sent out guidance for growers prior to the frost to help them save what they could.

More can be done to protect small crops versus trees from cold weather, including using row covers and hoops under them, he said.

Another way to do that, he said, is what mid-sized and larger growers do: make ice form by providing a light misting to keep ice developing throughout the event.

“Doing that incorrectly is worse than not doing it, but strawberry growers understand the principles,” he observed.

On top of the crop and income loss, Grubinger is keenly aware of another way growers were at the mercy of the weather.

“The stress that farmers experienced trying to deal with this and worrying and running around, staying up all night — that’s the part of the story that doesn’t get told,” he said.

He added that smaller, diversified farms aren’t generally insured.

While Scott Farm does have crop insurance, Renault said it gives “a fairly low compensation per bushel,” being designed for “large commodity orchards, orchards on a much larger scale

that primarily grow commodity apples.”

Scott grows more than 130 varieties of heirloom apples so in that farm’s case, and Renault described the crop insurance claim as “nowhere near compensating the loss.”

Just 13% of the farmers who responded to the surveys had crop insurance and most of that was disaster coverage, which only covers a loss above 50%.

“You don’t get made whole with that,” Grubinger said.

Local orchardists and other growers are invited to a meeting on June 14, at 7:30 p.m., at Green Mountain Orchards in Putney for a meeting with Grubinger, state Sen. Wendy Harrison, D-Windham, and state Rep. Mike Mrowicki, D-Putney, to share information about their losses from the freeze, assess the damage, and try and find ways to help.

The meeting is open to the public and any grower who has experienced a loss is encouraged to attend or to contact Harrison at wharrison@leg.state.vt.us or Mrowicki at mmrowicki@leg.state.vt.us.

Scott Farm Orchardist Erin Robinson sits among apple trees at Scott Farm Orchard after surveying damage caused by the frost.



FREDSON BRISSETT, COURTESY PHOTO, VIA VTDIGGER

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Allison Loggins-Hull *Homeland and Shine*

Valerie Coleman *Wish*

Ananda Sukarlan *Menage a trois for Flute, Viola and Piano*

Ulysses Kay *Sonata*

Kosaku Yamada *Karatashi No Hana (Wild Orange Blossoms)*

Ikuma Dan *Higurashi (Evening Cicadas)*

Yoshinao Nakada *Oyasumi (Good Night)*

Ashleigh Gordon, viola, **Robin Matathias**, flute, **Susan Dedell**, piano and **Junko Watanabe**, soprano

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Legislature

“We’ve been working to reach agreement with leadership since last October,” he said in an interview with *Vermont Business Magazine*. “We have the same general goals but have different ideas on how to pay for them.”

Scott said he “thought leadership and I could resolve these funding issues.”

“I played it straight,” he said. “There are economic storm clouds coming. And they have the votes to override in any case.”

Of the Windham County Democrats, most say they will be voting to override the veto; only one, Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun, D-Westminster, is planning to vote no, because of the Legislature’s refusal to budget money to extend the recently expired motel voucher system for homeless Vermonters.

Legislative priorities make it through the process

This year, Windham County sent two new senators — Nader Hashim and Wendy Harrison — to Montpelier.

Hashim believes a large majority of his priorities made it through the legislative process.

“The top two issues I heard from voters had to do with housing and childcare,” he said. “We passed both, which provide significant investments and policy changes in both of these areas.”

Hashim also said that he was very interested in taking steps to reduce the backlog of cases in the judicial system while also addressing issues that lie “at the intersection of mental health and the criminal justice system.”

“We were able to pass bills that create a forensic mental health

facility, reduce the number of hearings for different cases, and create more positions in the judiciary,” he said.

Harrison said she was happy that her personal priorities — housing, child care, and climate change — were also the priorities of others in the Legislature.

“On the last day of the session, I felt an immense sense of gratitude for my colleagues and pride for us as a group to have crafted and passed some really significant legislation,” she said.

Those bills are designed to increase all types of housing, provide childcare subsidies for families, ensure that child caregivers are paid better wages, and help moderate and low income Vermonters to be less dependent on fossil fuels, she said.

Rep. Leslie Goldman, D-Bellows Falls, wanted to support and expand the health care workforce, something badly needed in Vermont. She also wanted to support and improve access to health care service. As a nurse practitioner and a member of the House Committee on Health Care, she feels that she has basically succeeded in these priority areas.

“We created enabling legislation to join the psychology, counseling, physical therapy and the audiology and speech-language pathology compact,” Goldman said. “These interstate agreements allow for a more streamlined process for professionals to acquire licensure and practice in Vermont and improve access for Vermonters to these important services.”

Her committee added \$3 million for the nursing forgivable loan program and \$3.8 million for critical healthcare occupational scholarships to support students

in the healthcare fields.

“Students who receive this support will be required to work in Vermont for each year of the loan received,” Goldman said. “And to support providers practicing in Vermont, we increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary and specialty care. This support allows medical practices to better serve Vermonters.”

Another of her priorities was a close examination of the Vermont Emergency Medical Services system, which she believes is currently underfunded and understaffed.

Rep. Laura Sibilia, I-Dover, said her top priorities included securing help for smaller municipalities so that they had the best chance to use the once-in-a-lifetime federal funds that are available and to keep obstacles out of the way of Communications Union Districts.

“I also became involved in the House efforts to include some Act 250 measures in the housing bill,” she said.

Sibilia said she accomplished most of her goals.

For one thing, she worked with members of Scott’s team as well as House and Senate members to hammer out “details for the \$3 million in rural capacity funding that was included in the budget adjustment.”

She also worked with the tripartisan Rural Caucus “to ensure modest Act 250 exemptions made it into the housing bill.”

Rep. Tristan D. Roberts, D-Halifax, went up to Montpelier with a priority to moderate the cost of Act 250 reviews.

“I advocated for common-sense measures that should make it easier for builders to bring new housing to the places we need it most: our downtowns and village centers.” As of this writing, the bill is on the governor’s desk.

Frustrations

There are always frustrations doing this kind of work, said Rep. Mollie Burke, D-Brattleboro. “The nature of the work is compromise,” she said.

However, many of the legislators mentioned feeling anger as well as frustration over the misinformation — mostly promulgated by those profiting from the fossil fuel industry — pumped out in

an effort to defeat the Affordable Heat Act. (Scott vetoed the bill; the House and Senate overrode the veto and passed the bill into law.) These included statements by the governor as well as flyers displayed at gas station cash registers calling the legislation the state’s “Un-Affordable Heat Act.”

Rep. Mike Mrowicki, D-Putney, accused the governor’s secretary of natural resources, Julie Moore, of announcing that the act would add about 70 cents per gallon to fuel costs in a committee hearing, where she described it as a “back of the envelope” calculation.

“She later admitted it was a guess, but it’s now being quoted as fact by the governor, every Republican legislator, and fuel dealers,” Mrowicki said. “And it’s not true.”

The bill, he said, “would determine if we create some sort of surcharge and, if so, how much would be needed.” He described it as “basically a plan to have the Public Utilities Commission do the work to help set up outcomes, indicators, and policies to meet climate goals and actually lower and stabilize heating costs.”

Mrowicki’s other frustration was that he could not get a CROWN (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair) Bill, which he co-sponsored, across the finish line. A CROWN bill, which is a law in 18 other states, protects discrimination based on hairstyle and texture.

“This discrimination primarily is experienced by people of color, and schools have suspended students for wearing their hair in a way school officials disapprove of, such as braids or afros,” Mrowicki said.

Rep. Sara Coffey, D-Guilford, extended her frustration even further.

“This session I have been deeply disappointed by the lack of collaboration and the misleading information coming out of the governor’s office,” she said.

“The governor has stated that he cares about addressing climate change, addressing the childcare system, and protecting the most vulnerable Vermonters, but his proposed budget and his resistance to climate policies

Jamaica environmental committee seeks volunteers to prep and plant a pollinator habitat

JAMAICA—With nearly a year of groundwork behind them, the Water Street Land Use Committee seeks volunteers of all ages to bring to life a biodiverse, wildflower meadow in Jamaica Village. Work dates for the Jamaica Community Pollinator Project are scheduled for Saturday, June 10 and 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

“Natural pollinator habitats are under threat from climate change, invasive species, pesticides, real estate development, and fragmentation,” Committee Chair Jacki Brown said in a news release. “Reserving space for these essential creatures is paramount to the survival of our ecosystem.”

Folks of all ages are encouraged to show up at the empty lot on Water Street (close to Depot Street) for one or more work dates to establish more than 2,000 wildflower starter plants. Native varieties include daisies, coneflowers, bee balm, milkweed, yarrow, and lupine. Available tools are limited. Participants are asked to bring hand tools, gloves, and water bottles. Refreshments and bug repellent will be supplied.

While registration is not required, volunteers are encouraged to inform the group of intended participation.

The Water Street Land Use Committee, appointed by the Jamaica Selectboard in June of 2022, was charged with making recommendations for the future of the town-owned 2-acre plot of land, the location along the Ball Mountain Brook where four homes were destroyed by 2011’s Tropical Storm Irene.

The Selectboard approved the committee’s recommendation to maintain the plot as a wildlife habitat and improve it by establishing a biodiverse pollinator meadow along the popular pedestrian walkway.

Committee members focused their efforts on creating a pollinator-friendly meadow after research and discussion on the importance of maintaining healthy habitats for insects such as butterflies, bees, and fireflies.

The Jamaica Community Pollinator Project is supported by the town of Jamaica, The Vermont Community Foundation’s Spark Connecting Community Grant, the New England Grassroots Fund’s Seed Grant, and Bee the Change. For more information, or to RSVP for a work date, search for @jamaicapollinators on Facebook, or contact the Pollinator Project at jamaicavtpollinators@gmail.com.

coming out of the Legislature say something different,” Coffey continued. “We have developed policy and a budget that reflects Vermonters’ values and priorities.”

Many legislators, including Coffey, were disheartened that the bill that Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, wrote to provide paid family leave had to be tabled. “While we passed it in the House, I was disappointed that we were unable to get it through the Senate,” Bos-Lun said.

And Burke agreed. “We will try next session,” she said.

Goldman’s biggest disappointment came through Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.

“During the public health emergency, Medicaid paused its usual policy of yearly redeterminations of eligibility to obtain coverage as required by federal law,” she said. “Many individuals had access to coverage regardless of income.”

Now that the public health emergency has been lifted, redeterminations will be restarting.

“This is stressful for Vermonters who may no longer qualify to receive Medicaid,” Goldman said. “The hope is that with the increased support of the Vermont Department of Health Access, individuals will be able to buy insurance on Vermont Health Connect — our version of the Affordable Care Act [health

insurance marketplace] — and, with significant subsidies from the federal government that will make it affordable.

“The re-determination process could take over a year,” she said. “I am worried about the potential that this change of coverage could have for Vermonters and the ripples it may have in reducing their insurance and therefore access to care.”

Summing it up

All in all, the legislators felt humbled and empowered by their time in the Legislature this session.

“Given that we had roughly one-third new membership in the House and nine of the 13 committees have new committee chairs, I am very impressed with the quality of the work in committees and the collaboration across committees to get priority legislation across the finish line this session,” Coffey said.

Being in the Legislature is like being in an intense graduate program, Burke said.

“Every day is a learning experience,” Burke said. “There is deeper learning about the legislative process, about human nature, about power and how to use it widely, about when to speak effectively and when to wait, and about the importance of relationships and keeping your word.”

Cemetery

FROM SECTION FRONT

a number of years to open an area for ‘green’ burials without embalming, coffins or vaults,” Committee Chair Brian Bannon recently told the Selectboard.

The committee was revising its ordinance when area Muslims asked permission to change the geography of their plots.

Morningside has followed the practice of Christians, who point their graves east-west toward the rising sun. The Islamic faith, in contrast, faces them north-south toward its holiest site of Mecca.

That’s when local leaders started thinking.

“Why not combine these,” Bannon recalled, “and allow everybody to have a chance for dignified burials?”

New, inclusive options

On Memorial Day, a new cemetery section opened to offer that opportunity for anyone seeking options.

“It’s intended to be inclusive,” Bannon said, “and meet the needs of folks who haven’t been taken into account.”

Locals were similarly inspired when they founded Morningside a century and a quarter ago.

Back then, Brattleboro was served by the neighboring Prospect Hill Cemetery,

established in 1796 to hold such legendary locals as Royall Tyler (1757–1826), author of the first American comedy play, and William Morris Hunt (1824–1879), an acclaimed portrait and landscape painter.

With space dwindling by 1900, locals purchased adjacent farmland to create Morningside Cemetery.

“It quickly became a favored place to be interred,” resident Lee Ha wrote in a recent Brattleboro Historical Society newsletter. “Many people moved their deceased loved ones from their original gravesites in other cemeteries.”

The new cemetery section is adjacent to one for the Jewish community, whose Orthodox members, like Muslims, believe burials should occur within 24 hours of death. The area will be open to people not only from town but also the surrounding region.

“There’s nothing like it around for 100 miles,” Javed Chaudhri, a member of the local Muslim community, told municipal leaders.

The special section has its own name: “Rawdat Al Salaam.”

“Garden of Peace,” Chaudhri translated. “It’s open to everybody. That’s the beauty of it.”



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Summer Reading Program 2023

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June 19th Summer Reading Sign Up Starts

July 5th Toddler Time 10-11am. Bring your toddler in for some games, activities and books and meet other parents. This is an ongoing program every Wednesday until August 9th.

July 7th Story Time 10.30am. Age 3-5 Come and listen to a couple books read by the Children’s Librarian Bodil and bring a craft home. This is an ongoing program every Friday until August 4th.

July 7th Kick Off Program 3.30-5.30pm. We will Kick Off this year’s summer reading program with Bruce Bowey from BTC Entertainment who will entertain us with an interactive ventriloquism show and balloon twisting. There will be face painting and the first 50 people will get free tacos of Tito’s Taco Truck.

July 10th Indian Cooking Class 5.30-7.30pm. Age 8+ (Max: 8 children) A summer full of adventure! Calling all young chefs! Tie on your aprons and get ready for a fun filled day of cooking, learning laughing and trying your creations.

July 11th Kindness Rock Garden Program 6-7pm. Age 6+ Come and paint rocks with kind words or anything your imagination would like you to paint and display them in our front garden outside the library.

July 18th Making Friendship Bracelets Program 6-7pm. Age 6+ In this program Matilda Morse will teach you how to make friendship bracelet out of different colored string. From beginner to advanced patterns.

July 25th SO VT Natural History Museum 6-7pm

Our Wild Community
We often think of wildlife living in “Wild” places. But your backyard is full of life, no matter where it is. From cities to farms, native animals

Please call or stop by the library if you have any questions or would like to sign up your child/children for any of the programs.



CALENDAR OF SUMMER EVENTS 2023

Monday Movies - Two showings: 3:00pm & 6:00pm

Check Website or Facebook for more information about what is playing.

Summer Kick Off with Tito’s Taco Truck, Free Tacos to the First 50

People Friday July 7, 3:30 to 5:30 pm

32th Annual Reading & Discussion Series: Pilgrimage

Human beings have undertaken pilgrimages of all kinds for thousands of years. Discover a variety of journeys- and whether the seekers find what they are looking for - in these varied writings:

Wednesday, July 5: Hermann Hesse, Siddhartha

Wednesday, July 19: Michael Wolfe, One Thousand Roads to Mecca: Ten Centuries of Travelers Writing About the Muslim Pilgrimage

Wednesday, July 26: Peter Mathieson, The Snow Leopard

Wednesday, August 2: G.W. Sebald, The Rings of Saturn

All Discussions start at 7:00 pm.

Discussion Leader: Richard M. Wizansky

Bonnyvale Environment Educational Center Pattie Smith: Burdock, a

Porcupine, Saturday, July 15, 12:30 pm.

Concert with Jonny & Greg, Dover Town Hall, Friday, July 28, 7:00 pm.

GennaRose NetherCott Live THISTLEFOOT Reading With Live Puppetry Accompaniment! *Recommended for ages 13 and up.

Mushroom Scavenger Hunt With David Wichland, Saturday, July 29,

10 am to Noon. Meet at the Dover Free Library.

32th Annual Dessert Social Special Presentation: From the Parlor to the Polling Place. Singer and historian Linda Radtke, in period garb and “Votes for Women” sash, celebrates the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, specifically highlighting the decades-long persistence of Vermonters, both women and men. Radtke also traces the movement’s alignment with other social justice initiatives such as temperance, labor conditions, wage equity, peace, and children’s welfare. Both the songs and stories in Radtke’s engaging presentation, accompanied by pianist Cameron Steinmetz, highlight Vermonters’ efforts from 1840-1921, as they lobbied in churches, at “parlor meetings” at town halls and at the State House for total enfranchisement.

Thursday, August 3, 2023,

Dover Town Hall, 7:00 PM


Bonnyvale Environment Educational Center Tree Walk with Patti

Smith. Saturday, August 5, 10:00 am to Noon. Dover Free Library.

Concert with Hungrytown, Friday, August 11, 7:00 pm.

GOT AN OPINION?

(Of course you do! You’re from Windham County!)



Got something on your mind? Send contributions to our Letters from Readers section (500 words or fewer strongly recommended) to voices@commonsnews.org; the deadline is Friday to be considered for next week’s paper. When space is an issue, we give priority to words that have not yet appeared elsewhere.

Inaugural edition of the Bellows Falls Festival set for June 10

BELLOWS FALLS—The Wild Goose Players, The Rotary Club of Bellows Falls, and local sponsors Mascoma Bank and M&T Bank have teamed up to create the first annual Bellows Falls Festival, The BFF, on Saturday, June 10, from 1 to 10 p.m.

The BFF is a one-day event that promises to be packed full of excitement and entertainment. The festival will take place outdoors at the Waypoint Center, 17 Depot St.

Food vendors Jamaican Jewelz, Bellows Falls Moose Club, Smokin' Bowls, and Tito's Taqueria will be on hand, with adult beverages provided by Donavan's, and lemonade and sweet treats available from Parks Place and the Bellows Falls Women's Club.

The BFF will include music and performances, including Ben Jennings Quartet's funky dance grooves and the Americana stories and dual harmonies of the Milk House

Heaters, with Gaslight Tinkers and Blue Motel rounding out the afternoon.

In the evening, The Mammals will bring their indie-folk ballads and fiddle and banjo-driven foot stompers, then singer-songwriter Sarah Borges takes the stage with a gritty mix of country, blues, and roots rock. Her music is described as "walking that fine line between punk and country."

In addition to the music line-up, there will be plenty of other local artists performing throughout the day, including performances from the Wild Goose Players and Keene Pride.

This is a family friendly event, so participants are invited to bring the kids and a blanket or chairs. Chairs under the big tent will be provided and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Advance tickets are on sale now and are priced affordably at bellowsfallsfestival.org.

Where's the Voices section this week?

Owing to a series of emergency situations in your editor's family life this week, Voices will return next issue. We don't like it, either. Warm thanks for readers' patience.



"CineSLAM: Vermont's LGBTQ Shorts Film Festival" is coming to the Latchis Theatre on June 24.

CineSLAM Film Festival returns to Latchis Theatre on June 24

BRATTLEBORO—Sponsored by the Kopkind Colony, founded in memory of celebrated political journalist Andrew Kopkind, CineSlam returns to the Latchis Theatre in downtown Brattleboro with a Pride Film Festival of Shorts on Saturday, June 24, at 4 p.m.

CineSlam is Vermont's first LGBTQ film festival.

"During these turbulent times for our LGBTQ+ community, when anti-LGBT laws are being passed by right-wing legislatures and LGBT Pride Events are being threatened and even canceled, it is vital for the New England community to come out to show a recommitment for our human rights. To show we are queer, we are here, and we will fight!" said Program Director John Scagliotti in a news release.

"Rainbow humanity is like a beauty bush," said JoAnn Wypijewski, president of The Kopkind Colony. "Many flowers, one name. In politics, the name is solidarity. No one is free, no one flourishes, unless we all do."

CineSlam 2023 will focus on putting the COVID-19 pandemic of the past few years behind us and on the uplifting stories of New England LGBT History, past and present. Leading off the

festival will be a humorous look back at our shared experience of isolation during the past few years of the pandemic.

Director Sibyl O'Malley, a theater artist whose practice includes writing, directing, teaching, and community organizing writes of her film, *Love and Hate in the Time of COVID*, "With theaters closed during the past two years, I began experimenting with stop-motion animation. This video captures one of the many moments of heartbreak and rage that marked the past few years. It was a way to express my fury and also let my heart do what it wants to — love you and this stupid world we've made."

Workwear, from Director Emily Everhard, is about the collapse of our public and private lives during the pandemic. Inspired by lead actor Jebrael Samples's personal experiences, she said she wanted to explore how gender performance influences work and pleasure — and what happens when we can no longer neatly separate these different aspects of our day-to-day lives.

Local history is also included in this festival. *Bar Stories from Queer Maine* offers funny and often poignant accounts of gay bars as important venues for

community, organizing, sex, and safety, revealing the threat to queer culture of our disappearing social spaces in urban and rural Maine.

CineSlam presents more local flavor this year with *Rewritten: The Screendance*, a mediated extension of a multi-disciplinary performance project created by Tom Truss and Matthew Cumbie. It explores the mysterious connection and sudden parting of American authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville, filmed at Herman Melville's

Arrowhead Estate, located in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts.

CineSlam will also be presenting the theatrical premiere of *Here She Comes* from filmmaker Sybil Patten, which offers a unique and personalized perspective on the final years of her grandmother's life in Hartland Four Corners, Vermont.

A ticketholder after-party will feature Pride cake and sparkling cider at The Latchis Pub. For more information and to reserve your ticket, visit cineslam.com.



Robert Pinsky

Literary Cocktail Hour hosts author Robert Pinsky

BRATTLEBORO—On Friday, June 9, at 5 p.m., the Brattleboro Literary Festival's monthly Literary Cocktail Hour series presents former three-term U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky talking about his new book, *Jersey Breaks*. Register for this online event at bit.ly/LitCocktail31.

In late-1940s Long Branch, a historic but run-down Jersey Shore resort town, in a neighborhood of Italian, Black, and Jewish families, Robert Pinsky began his unlikely journey to becoming a poet.

According to Pinsky, he descended from a bootlegger grandfather, an athletic father, and a rebellious tomboy mother. Unruly but articulate, he was a C student in high school, and his obsession with the rhythms and melodies of speech inspired him to write.

Pinsky traces the roots of his poetry, with its "wide and fearless range," back to the voices of his neighborhood, to music and a distinctly American tradition of improvisation, with influences including Mark Twain and Ray Charles, Marianne Moore and Mel Brooks, Emily Dickinson and Sid Caesar, Dante Alighieri and the Orthodox Jewish liturgy.

He reflects on how writing poetry helped him make sense of life's challenges, such as his mother's traumatic brain injury, and on his notable public presence. "Candid, engaging, and wry, *Jersey Breaks* offers an intimate self-portrait and a unique poetic

understanding of American culture," say organizers. Pinsky will be in conversation with former Vermont Poet Laureate Chard deNiord.

Pinsky is the author of numerous books of poetry, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Figured Wheel*, and prose, including *The Sounds of Poetry*. He founded the Favorite Poem Project. He has edited several anthologies, most recently *The Book of Poetry for Hard Times*.

His honors include the PEN/Voelcker Award, the William Carlos Williams Prize, the Lenore Marshall Prize, Italy's Premio Capri, the Korean Manhae Award, and the Harold Washington Award from the City of Chicago and many others, according to his website. He teaches at Boston University and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Chard deNiord is co-founder of the New England College MFA program in poetry. He is the author of the poetry collections *Asleep in the Fire*, *Sharp Golden Thorn*, *Night Mowing*, *The Double Truth*, and *Interstate*. His book *Sad Friends, Drowned Lovers, Stapled Songs* is a collection of interviews with American poets. His second collection of interviews with poets is *I Would Lie to You if I Could: Interviews with Ten American Poets*. He served as Vermont Poet Laureate from 2016 to 2019, and he lives in Westminster West with his wife, Liz.

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Arts Council announces Town Arts Fund grantees for 2023

BRATTLEBORO—The Arts Council of Windham County (ACWC) has announced the grantees for this year's Brattleboro Town Arts Fund (TAF) program. Nine community-focused creative projects were selected from a competitive field of proposals received in this fourth year of the TAF program.

According to a news release, TAF "promotes the development and presentation of creative projects that contribute positively to the greater community and to the vibrancy and diversity of Brattleboro's arts and cultural landscape. TAF projects explore social and quality-of-life issues in the community, are collaborative in nature, expand accessibility and visibility for underrepresented artists and audiences, and highlight Brattleboro's unique assets and qualities."

ACWC said that this year's application cycle continues the shift it made in 2021, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, "by soliciting proposals for relatively low-cost (\$1,000-\$3,000) creative projects that aim to build connections and share joy, solidarity, and solace in the Brattleboro community."

Over the past four years, TAF has received more than 120 grant applications and funded 41 creative initiatives, representing a

wide range of local artists, organizations, projects, and creative potential.

"There was such an incredible range of proposals this year, and we appreciate everyone who shared their projects with us," say ACWC chair and vice-chair Sharon Fantl and Chrissy Lee. "We're thrilled to support this year's grantees and to see new works, conversations, and visions emerge from these initiatives. We hope to grow the Town Arts Fund in the future to support more community-focused initiatives and artists."

The 2023 TAF grantees, with descriptions of the projects, are as follows:

- The Afghan Women of Brattleboro (Jennifer Sutton, Elissa Pine, journalist Ziaqul Azimi, artist Negina Azimi) — "In a series of collaborative audio stories, we follow Afghan women who fled their homes after the Taliban takeover, settled in Brattleboro, and are now staking a claim in their new hometown. These stories, collected and interpreted in collaboration with the Azimism will deepen our understanding not only of their experiences, but also of what it means to live in an evolving, diversifying community."

- The Benevolent Busty Scoot (Jocelyn McElroy, Jonas Fricke, Amy Frost, Saturn Millner) — "A beautiful horse-drawn carriage, hitched to three bikes welded together to create an old-timey futuristic harbinger of positive change of our dreams! A roving apothecary, bike repair service, zine library, and art archive, food distribution, spontaneous puppet show, and More! ... See us at the Art Walk, Saturdays, and when invoked. Collaborators include artists from Buoyant Heart Collective, SuSu Collective, Circle Mountain Farm, and Nik Perry (Sadie's Bikes)."

- Boogie Down Kids! (Jessica Dolan, David Longsmith, Shawn

Jones, Janet Ryu, Jeff Diehl) — "Boogie Down Kids is a monthly three-hour DJ dance party for children and their grown-ups to experience the joy of dance and play together. Created to build community, move our bodies, and celebrate children and families, after three years of isolation during the pandemic. We are a multi-cultural collective of parents who have backgrounds in DJ-ing, hip-hop, dance, and event organizing, who believe music and dance are healing and inclusive ways to learn and play as a community!"

- The Brattleboro Community Mapping Project (Amber Paris) — "Join The Brattleboro Community Mapping Project and map what's important to you! Where do you feel alive? Where do you find belonging? Where are you moved by beauty? You can answer these questions and more with colorful pins on a large-scale, evolving map of Brattleboro. You can find the map in the Harmony Lot on First Fridays, at Brooks Memorial Library each month and at select Brattleboro Farmers' Market Saturdays to engage with a new question each month and watch this community map grow."

- Community Lego Letterpress Event! (Daniel Chiaccio, First Proof Press) — "Join us for a free and open to the public print day located at Piny Park in the heart of downtown Brattleboro. Participants will be welcomed to create mixed and matched Lego letterpress designs, which can then be printed on a traditional letterpress. Multiple printing stations will be set up, welcoming artists of all levels and ages to create a handmade print to take home."

- Counting Pebbles (Taiga Christie and Zoe Batson, Faultline Ensemble) — Based on EMS provider stories gathered across the U.S. from 2016-2018, this live theater performance grapples with the unique challenges faced by emergency medical responders. Created by a team of EMTs, WFRs, healthcare providers, theater artists, writers, musicians and disaster responders in partnership with the Code Green Campaign, this play tells stories of responders struggling with trauma, burnout, and the aftermath of a coworker's death." More information at faultlineensemble.org.

- TRANSCENDENCE: Multidisciplinary Artist Salon (Epsilon Spires and Shanta Lee) — "Epsilon Spires and local

artist Shanta Lee present the second installment of the annual Multidisciplinary Artist Salon, a weekend-long residency that brings pioneering artists of color from around the country to Southern Vermont to exchange ideas across a variety of creative disciplines and share their work with the public. The 2023 Salon will explore topics including: the importance of scent in memory and the creative process; cultural appropriation and repatriation of historical artifacts; racial bias of AI facial recognition programming; and the influence of Rumi's poems within the music of contemporary poetry." More information at epsilonspires.org.

- Queer Clay Play: Monthly Workshops for All Ages (Julien Majonen and Marcie Freeman Becker) — "The world is a scary place for LGBTQIA+ folk right now. We need a place where we can feel safe, connect with each other, and maybe make some weird, super cool art! We're hosting a themed 'clay play' at our pottery studio for LGBTQIA+ folks and their families. We'll explore various handbuilding skills together (for example, self-portrait tiles, animal sculptures, etc), maybe process life a bit, or just play! No experience necessary! Participants will get to create one piece a month to fire and keep."

- Still Life After Winter (Jodie Masterman) — "Still Life After Winter will take testimonies from community members detailing the memories, moments, and objects that help get them through the cold, dark, and isolating months from October to April. These narratives will be translated into mixed media installations. The anonymously written testimonies will be displayed alongside the artwork, allowing members of the community to read and relate to one another's experiences."

The Brattleboro Town Arts Fund is a program of the Arts Council of Windham County and is made possible by support from the town of Brattleboro. The Arts Council plans to open the next application cycle for the TAF program in early 2024. Updates about TAF projects and opportunities can be found at artswindhamcounty.org/taf and @artswindhamcounty on Facebook and Instagram.

To support this program and TAF's capacity to fund future community projects, consider a contribution at artswindhamcounty.org/donate.

In-Sight seeks entries for youth photo contest

BRATTLEBORO—In-Sight Photography Project invites all youth (ages 11 to 18) who live within an hour of Brattleboro to submit images to their first-ever Youth Photo Contest and Fair.

Images can be submitted between July 1 and Aug. 20 in one of five categories: Analog Film, Artistic, People, Places, and The New England Experience. Participants can submit up to three images in each category. Contest images will be on display in In-Sight's Tiny Gallery on Friday, Sept. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m., during Gallery Walk.

A jury of distinguished photographers will then select images to receive top honors, and participants in each category

could win a Canon DSLR camera at the Youth Photo Fair on Saturday, Sept. 30, at The Latchis Theater. The public will also vote on a "People's Choice" Award at the fair.

For questions or help submitting or choosing an image to submit, contact In-Sight at info@insight-photography.org.

Those wishing to support the young artists in the contest should consider becoming a sponsor. Sponsorships for individuals or businesses start at \$25 and include many promotional benefits. Donors may reach out to In-Sight Executive Director Emily Wagner at emily@insight-photography.org.

Putney Library exhibits art of Nina Salvatore

PUTNEY—"Mist," a collection of oil paintings and encaustics by Nina Salvatore, is on exhibit at the Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., through Aug. 26.

Salvatore's paintings reflect her love of the natural world around her, especially her deep love of Vermont. On her walks, she says, she focuses on light and the patterns in the earth and is fascinated by mist and fog, and how these elements obscure one's vision only to reveal later another aspect of the view.

"I have been known to get up before sunrise if I think there will be a blanket of fog across the landscape," Salvatore said in a news release.

This fascination began when she lived in New York City. The allure of smoke and smog, which softened the ugliness and pollution, interested her. She said she painted on a small scale, inviting the viewer to look closely in order to understand her intent. In time, she began to paint larger to underscore her intent.

Salvatore grew up in Washington, D.C., raised by an

artistic family and with access to the many art museums and institutions in the city. She attended University of the Arts in Philadelphia, studying photography and graphics, and then moved to Vermont where she fell in love with the environment.

She received her masters from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and was an adjunct professor at SUNY-Stony Brook, Nassau Community College, and Suffolk Community College. Returning to Vermont, she received a degree in art education through a program offered at the University of Vermont and taught Advanced Placement art in high school for 16 years.

She now lives in Putney, where she has a studio both for painting and hand-built ceramics. She is a member of Wheelhouse Clay Center in Brattleboro, where she displays her ceramics.

This art show, like all library programs, is free and open to the public. Putney Public Library is open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Gregorio Uribe to perform at Cooper Field as part of Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series

PUTNEY—The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents singer-songwriter and accordionist Gregorio Uribe at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Rd., on Saturday, June 10, at 6 p.m.

Uribe, known for "his passionate performances and musical versatility, has captivated audiences around the world," say organizers. From venues such as Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden to the streets of Tierra del Fuego, "his talent knows no bounds," they say. Uribe has collaborated with artists across various genres, including Rubén Blades, Carlos Vives, Paquito D'Rivera, and Martina Camargo.

"Gregorio's career between New York City and Bogota is legendary. He's becoming a shining star in Latin America and beyond," Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts, said in a news release. "Next Stage is excited to present artists at this point in their career, where we will be able to say we had them earlier in their careers. This will be a show that people won't forget — dancing, Latin rhythms, and showmanship."

Uribe's latest album, *Hombre Absurdo*, released earlier this year, is a testament to his artistic vision. Drawing inspiration from Colombian Caribbean minstrels and literary references, the album showcases a fusion of rhythms, percussion, and the signature sounds of the accordion. With influences from existentialist authors, Greek mythology, and post-modernism, Uribe "delivers a truly remarkable musical

creation that demonstrates his expertise as a singer-songwriter and orchestrator," organizers say.

Prior to *Hombre Absurdo*, Uribe released two albums: *Pluma y Vno*, his debut as a singer-songwriter, showcased a vibrant mix of musical styles such as bolero, rumba, waltz, and marimba guapireña. His second album, *Cumbia Universal*, featuring Latin musician Blades, combined the rhythms of the Colombian Caribbean with big band jazz arrangements.

Uribe is recognized internationally, with his works hitting the *Billboard* charts and receiving critical acclaim. He has performed sold-out concerts at prestigious venues like Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, Teatro Colón in Bogota, and Villa Victoria Performing Arts Center in Boston. His talent has also led to collaborations with artists like those in the group Monsieur Periné and the band Mariachi Flor de Toloache, Jorge Villamizar, and Jorge Glem.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Uribe has demonstrated his passion for music tourism through his project "Sounds of Colombia." This initiative allows international travelers to experience Colombia's traditional music and connect with local musical experts.

Tickets for Uribe's performance at Cooper Field are priced at \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate, with children under 12 admitted for free. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit nextstagearts.org.

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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Rebels, Terriers reach softball semifinals

The last two local teams standing after the first week of the Vermont high school playoffs are the Bellows Falls and Leland & Gray softball teams. Both advanced into their respective semifinals with dramatic wins.

• No. 5 Leland & Gray and No. 4 Poultney met for the third time in a week on June 2, and the Rebels came away with a 9-5 win in extra innings in a Division IV quarterfinal game.

There was not a lot separating these two teams, which both earned a bye into the quarterfinals. Both of the regular season contests were decided by a single run, so it was not a surprise that this playoff game came down to the wire.

The hometown fans at Poultney's Legion Field thought their Blue Devils had it in the bag with a 5-4 win going into the top of the seventh. Makaila Morse dashed those thoughts with a RBI double that scored Ava LeCours and tied the game to force extra innings.

The Rebels then got hits from Hannah Greenwood, Ainsley Meyer, Ruth Wright, and LeCours in the tip of the eighth to score four runs and give winning pitcher Kristen Lowe enough margin for error to get through the bottom of the eighth and secure the victory.

Meyer and LeCours finished with three hits each, while Morse ended up with two doubles to drive in three runs. With the win, Leland & Gray advanced to the semifinals and trip to West Rutland to face the top-seeded Golden Horde on June 6.

• Fourth-seeded Bellows Falls had an easy time of it their opening game of the Division III playoffs on May 31 in Westminster, wipping out the Williamstown Blue Devils, 23-1, in five innings.

Jenna Dolloph went 4-for-4 with a double and three RBIs while Natalie Noyes went 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles and four RBIs. BF put the game out of reach early, scoring four runs in the first and 14 in the second inning. Winning pitcher Izzy Stoodley struck out seven and walked no one over three scoreless innings. Aliya Farmer finished up the final two innings in relief.

Things immediately got tougher for the Terriers when they hosted fifth-seeded Green Mountain in a quarterfinal game on June 3. Stoodley and GM pitcher Brie Lynch had a good pitchers duel, as Stoodley struck out 14 in limiting GM to three hits and a walk while Lynch struck out 11 and walked three in hold BF to three hits.

In a game like this, where both pitchers were mowing down batters, it would all come down to one very bad inning for Green Mountain.

In the bottom of the seventh, with the game tied 2-2, Riley Haskell reached on an infield single and got to second on a passed ball. With Emma Spaulding at the plate, she laid down a bunt to the third base side of the diamond. Haskell broke for third as soon as the ball left the bat and when she saw the ball was bobbled and hurriedly thrown to first base, she came home on the throwing error to win the game.

"I really haven't asked Emma to bunt all year long, because she's one of our best hitters and she's always knocking the ball around," said Bellows Falls head coach Don Laurendeau. "It was perfect."

The speed of Haskell and the bunt by Spaulding made victory possible, but Laurendeau credited Stoodley's pitching and the positive attitude of the Terriers in completing the comeback.

GM had a 2-0 lead heading into the fourth inning before the Terriers rallied in the bottom half of the inning. Dolloph singled and took second on a passed ball. Stoodley walked and Emma Thompson followed with a two-run single to tie the game.

"We made mistakes, but we didn't get down," Laurendeau said. "And we have confidence in Izzy. You know she's going to keep us in the game all the time."

Next up for the Terriers is the undefeated and top-seeded Oxbow Olympians in the semifinals on June 6.

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.

Baseball

• Bellows Falls coach Bob Lockerby knows a lot about managing a pitching staff in a tournament. With limits on how much and how often a pitcher can be used, a big part of the strategy is whether you use your best pitcher and make sure you win the first game of a tourney, or use your No. 2 or No. 3 pitchers and save your ace for the second game.

In the opening round of the Division III tournament on May 31 at Hadley Field, Lockerby went with Trenton Fletcher as his starting pitcher and he responded with six shutout innings as the sixth-seeded Terriers blanked No. 11 Springfield, 7-0.

BF scored early and often to make it easy for Fletcher. Cole Moore drove in a pair of runs in the first inning with a base hit. Walker James tripled to start the second inning, and he would score on a sacrifice fly by Jamison Nystrom. A passed ball and another sac fly by Eli Albee made it 5-0 Terriers. Jesse Darrell got another run home in the third with a sac fly, and James hit an RBI single in the fourth to complete the scoring for BF.

Thanks to Fletcher's outstanding effort, Nystrom, BF's pitching ace, was preserved for a quarterfinal game against third-seeded Thetford on June 2. While that part of Lockerby's plan worked, it was spoiled by thunderstorms that forced the game to be postponed in the fourth inning and postponed to the next day. Under the pitch limitation rules, Nystrom—who started the game for BF—could not pitch when the game resumed on June 3.

Relievers had to pick up the slack for BF and the result was a nine-inning game that Thetford ultimately won, 5-4. BF was leading 4-3 heading into the bottom of the ninth, but two walks and a base hit loaded the bases for Thetford with one out. Jacob Gilman drew a walk to tie the game and Dempsey McGovern singled to right field on an 0-2 pitch to bring Nolan Pepe home with the winning run.

• Thetford now faces second-seeded Green Mountain in the Division III semifinals. GM advanced to the semis with a 5-3 win of Richford. Eighth-grade phenom Kaiden McCarthy threw five no-hit innings with 12 strikeouts to earn the victory.

• Tenth-seeded Brattleboro lost its Division I first round playoff game to seventh-seeded Rice, 5-2, on May 30. Winning pitcher Evan Haverluk threw three scoreless innings, striking out seven and walked one batter, to get win. Rice took a 5-0 lead after five innings before Brattleboro's Jolie Glidden broke through with a two-run home late in the game.

• Sixth-seeded Arlington defeated No. 3 Leland & Gray, 5-2, in a Division IV quarterfinal on June 3 in Townshend.

• Fourth-seeded Stratton Mountain School blasted No. 13 Twin Valley, 30-1, in a Division IV first round playoff game on May 30.

Track & Field

• The Bellows Falls girls finished third, while the BF boys took sixth place in the Division III state meet on June 1 at Knapp Field in Manchester.

The Terrier girls' 4x100 relay team of Hadley Gleim, Tela Hart, Nola Sciacca, and Ava LaRoss were winners in 52.90 seconds, while Laura Kamel won the javelin with a throw of 112 feet, 4 inches.

Top six finishers for the BF girls included third place performances for Hart in the 100 hurdles (18.16) and 300 hurdles (52.96), and for Gleim in the 100 (13.34), long jump (15-2.75), and triple jump (30-7). Sciacca was third in the shot-put (29-8.75) and javelin (94-5). Aubrey Mayfield was fifth in the 300 hurdles (56.91) and sixth in



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

Bellows Falls baserunner Riley Haskell, right, is greeted by teammate Aliya Farmer after Haskell scored the winning run in a 3-2 victory over Green Mountain in a Division II softball quarterfinal on June 3 in Westminster.

the triple jump (29-9.5)

The 4x400 relay team of LaRoss, Mayfield, Eryn Ross, and Sciacca was sixth in 4:47.48, and the 4x800 relay team of Eryn Ross, Lilly Ware, Maisie Twoig, and Hannah Terry were also sixth in 13:12.23.

The Terrier boys were led by sophomore Brandon Keller, who won the 110 hurdles in 16.40. Keller was also part of the 4x100 relay team with Gavin Joy, Colby Dearborn, and Justin Draper that finished second in 46.12. Ben Perry was second in the discus (118-9). Riley Tuttle was third in the shot-put (39.25), while Joy was fifth (37-1).

• Green Mountain swept the Division IV state championships on June 2 at Knapp Field in Manchester. The GM boys finished with 92 points, beating out Northfield by a single point and Craftsby Academy by two points, while the GM girls won with 112 points with second-place Northfield at 108 points. Leland & Gray was seventh in the boys' meet and 10th in the girls' meet.

Eben Mosher led the GM boys with wins in the 110 hurdles (15.87) and the 300 hurdles (42.13), both state records in Division IV. Hw also won the triple jump (38-11) and javelin at (143-02).

In the girls' meet, GM winners included Autumn Fales (300 hurdles, 53.55), Colie Roby (800, 2:41.37), Kyra Burela (high jump, 4-09.75), shot-put (29-08.25), and the 4x100 relay team of Grace Wright, Ayla Price, Donna Blagrove, and Fales (55.02).

John Parker-Jennings led the Rebel boys with a first place finish in the long jump (18-10.75), a second place finish in the high jump (5-7.75), and a fourth place result in the 200 (24.55). The 4x100 relay team of Trevor Hazelton, Jacob Flood, Trevor Stillwagon, and Parker-Jennings were second in 48.17. Jackson Fillion was third in the 400 (59.56), while Flood was fourth in the 300 hurdles (44.61).

Stillwagon and Hazelton finished fifth and seventh, respectively, in the long jump; sixth and 12th, respectively, in the javelin; and eighth and 15th, respectively, in the 200. Fillion and Flood were 13th and 15th, respectively, in

the discus. Fillion was also ninth in the 100,

In the girls' meet, Mary Sanderson was the only top five finisher for the Rebels as she took fourth place in the 400 in 1:11.05. She was also ninth in the 200. Avery Hiner was 10th in the long jump and 20th in the javelin, while Lily Litchfield was eighth in the 200 and 13th in javelin.

• The Brattleboro boys finished eighth and the girls finished 11th in the Division I state championships on June 3 at Burlington High School.

In the boys' meet, the 4x100 relay team of David Berkson-Harvey, Jack Cady, Dylan Holmes, and Sean von Ranson, which broke a long-standing BUHS record for the event at the Essex Invitational the previous week, finished second in the state meet in 44.63.

Jacob Girard was second in the javelin (148-11), von Ranson was sixth in the 100 (11.70), and Cady was fifth in the 400 (51.92). The 4x400 relay team of Trevor Gray, Waylund Walsh, von Ranson, and Cady was fifth in 3:37.41.

In the girls meet, Addison Devault was third in the pole vault (8-5.5), while the 4x100 relay team placed sixth in 56.04.

Ultimate disc

• Trevor Stillwagon scored five goals and blocked six throws to lead Leland & Gray to a 15-2 win over Brattleboro in the opening game of the boys' ultimate disc championships in Townshend on May 31.

Finch Holmes scored four goals while Logan Plimpton, Avery Hiner, Jackson Fillion, Soon Soobitski, Jack Spengler, Ichbaud Clarke, and Trevor Hazelton each added a goal. Hazelton had four assists, while Clark had three assists.

After Brattleboro scored the first goal of the game, it was all Rebels after that. With the win, Leland & Gray advanced to the quarterfinals to face Montpelier.

Lacrosse

• Tenth-seeded Brattleboro lost to No. 7 Burlington, 13-4, in a Division II first round game on May 31. Cam Cruz, Rowan Lonergan, James Fagley,

and Alex Baker were the goalscorers as Brattleboro finished the season with a 4-13 record.

Tennis

• Ninth-seeded Champlain Valley beat the No. 8 Brattleboro boys, 6-1, in a Division I first round match at the BUHS courts on May 30. The only win came in No. 1 singles as Nathan Kim defeated Oscar Andersson, 6-2, 6-2.

A few days earlier, Kim won the state individual championship, defeating Burr & Burton's Nick O'Donnell 6-2, 4-6 (10-6).

• The 10th-seeded Bellows Falls girls were shut out by No. 7 Rice, 7-0, in their Division II first round match on May 30.

Senior bowling roundup

• Week 5 of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on June 1 saw No Splits and Turkeys (both 19-6) finish tied for first place, followed by Slo Movers (18-7) and The Bowlers (16-9), Five Pins (15-10), Stayin' Alive (14.5-10.5), Skippers (9.5-15.5), and High Rollers and Wrecking Crew (both 6-19).

Doris Lake had the women's high handicap game (239) and series (645). Chuck Adams had the men's high handicap game (265), while Eric Brown had the high handicap series (691). The Bowlers had the high team handicap game (910) and series (2,561).

Chuck Adams led the men's scratch scoring with a 632 series that featured games of 257 and 215, while Robert Rigby had a 602 series with games of 212, 201, and 191. Milt Sherman had a 550 series with games of 224, 194, and 192, while Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 540 series with a 202 game, John Walker had a 537 series with a 221 game, Marty Adams had a 534 series with a 197 game, Jerry Dunham had a 515 series with a 217 game, and Wayne Randall had a 502 series with a 190 game. Fred Ashworth also had a 190 game.

Carol Gloski had the women's high scratch series (447) and game (173). Sally Perry had a 160 game.

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

8

Performing arts

WEST CHESTERFIELD Ten Minute Play Festival: What happens when: Sue tries to break up with former love - Nic(-otine)? Hippie helps youngster re-frame life from ledge of NY building? Basic elements of spy-craft - the exchange - goes awry? Myrna tries to forgive Herman for ultimate sacrifice? Suburban housewife realizes there's more to homeless Mary than meets eye and ear? Try to find love in under 2 minutes? Big government/business conspire to save America in digital age? Mother and daughter navigate road to terminal illness?

► 7:30 p.m. *Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. You can only find the answers at the Annual Ten Minute Play Festival.*

► Through Saturday, June 24.

► \$17.

► *Actors Theatre Playhouse, Corner Brook & Main St. Information: Tickets: tinyurl.com/5c3a9k8p.*

Community meals

NEWFANE Newfane Senior Lunch: Sweet potato pancake appetizer, green salad, meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, rhubarb bread, rhubarb squares with ice cream for dessert.

► \$3.50 suggested donation.

► *Newfane Congregational Church, 11 Church St. Information: Questions: Call Winnie Dolan at 802-365-7870.*

Visual arts and shows

BELLOWS FALLS Andrews Inn Founders Exhibit: Website (www.weareoutintheopen.org/aihp) - part of Andrews Inn Oral History Project - has photos of the six founders - John Moisis, Jeremy Youst, Thom Herman, Fletcher Proctor, Eva Mondon, Michael Gigante - memorialized, and now on exhibit. Gail Golec, producer of podcast "The Secret Life of Death" (www.thesecretlifeofdeath.com), speaks with guests at the opening about her new 6-part series featuring

THURSDAY CONT.

the Andrews Inn which chronicles what it was like to experience this decade.

► 6/8: 4-6 p.m. *Opening. Refreshments available. More info about oral history project: Out in the Open: info@weareoutintheopen.org. Other questions: bellowsfallspride@gmail.com.*

► Through Sunday, June 11.

► *Exner Block Gallery, 5 Canal Street.*

BRATTLEBORO Keith Haring: Subway Drawings / Juan Hinojosa: Paradise City / Daniel Callahan: En-MassO & Cathy Cone: Portals and Portraits: Keith Haring: "Subway Drawings": pop artist's 1980s drawings in NYC subway stations. Juan Hinojosa: "Paradise City": materials from NYC streets recomposed create beings reflecting on immigration. Daniel Callahan: "En-MassO" and Cathy Cone: "Portals and Portraits": identity, history, human relations. Mitsuko Brooks: "Letters Mingle Souls" mail-art objects components offer spiritual passage for communications between suicide victims and their

► *Last few days to view these fascinating exhibits.*

► Through Sunday, June 11.

► *Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 28 Vernon St. Information: tinyurl.com/66hnb3eh.*

FRIDAY

9

Kids and families

GUILFORD Send a Kid to Camp: Concert (Rear Defrosters) and Raffle: The Rear Defrosters return for another concert to support Guilford Free Library's free summer camps. Pack your own picnic, liquid refreshments served.

► 5 p.m.

► *By donation.*

► *Guilford Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow Rd. Information: Information: 802-257-4603.*

SATURDAY

10

Music

PUTNEY NXT Stage Arts Project: Bandwagon Summer Series: Gregorio Uribe - Colombian singer and accordionist: Gregorio Uribe is a singer-songwriter and accordionist who has presented his music with the same passion and tenacity at Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden as he has at the streets of Tierra del Fuego or the patios of Montes de Mar'a of his native Colombia. He's collaborated/shared the stage with acclaimed Ruben Blades and Carlos Vives, jazz icon Paquito D'Rivera, masters of ancestral Colombian music Martina Camargo and Diego Obregon.

► 6 p.m. *Uribe released his 3rd album, "Hombre Absurdo," this year. On a conceptual level, it adds flavor, dance, joy, rhythm to literature/mythological references - elements very present in Gregorio. It's inspired by musical stylings of minstrels from the Colombian Caribbean countryside and the lyrics are a reflection of books by existentialist authors, Greek myths, reflections on post-modernism. Crossroads Tacos food available for purchase.*

► \$20 in advance, \$25 at gate, free for children under 12.

► *Cooper Field, Sand Hill Road. Information: Tickets: tinyurl.com/2nk9bsvr.*

BRATTLEBORO The Convergence Project (In Person / Online): Original compositions influenced by Latin rhythms, rock and the jazz language. Eugene Uman, piano and compositions; George Garzone; Jeff Galindo, trombone; John Lockwood, bass; Francisco Mela, drums.

► 7:30 p.m. *Light refreshments available.*

► *In Person: \$20 to \$50 (sliding scale), Online: By donation.*

► *Vermont Jazz Center, 72 Cotton Mill Hill, #222. Information: Tickets: vtjazz.org, ginger@vtjazz.org, 802-254-9088 x 1. Online: facebook.com/VermontJazz-Center/live.*

RECREATION

GUILFORD Meet Guilford's E-Bikes: Guilford Energy Committee members will tell you how you can borrow a bike to tour our beautiful town. Find out the procedure, see the bikes/safety equipment, test out a bike!

► 1-3 p.m.

► Free.

Well-being

WILLIAMSVILLE Manitou Healing Walk: Walk will be led by Fred Taylor and include poems or other readings and chances to share about the experience.

► 4 p.m. *meet at parking lot. Go 1.4 miles up Sunset Lake Rd. from Williams-ville Village, sign on right. Or approx. 5.6 miles over top of Sunset Lake Rd. from Rt. 9. (2nd option recommended due to Rt. 30 construction). Event runs till 5:30 p.m. rain or shine every 2nd and 4th Friday each month until Oct.*

► Free.

► *Manitou Project, 300 Sunset Lake Rd. Information: Fred: 802-254-2675.*

Visual arts and shows

BRATTLEBORO "Creative Relations": Multi-Media Explorations: Artists Toto Feldman, Liza King, Shanta Lee, John Loggia, Phyllis Odessey, Tina Olsen, Jack Pombriant, Lissa Weimann, Kathryn Wocell, and Hope Zane explore how family history, significant relationships, social/cultural contexts influence the making of art. Some explore how creativity helps heal the legacy of personal and cultural trauma. Other artists' work arises from discovering their voice in relation to the past.

► *Each artist interprets and shares the theme, often including text, through their own lens, inviting viewers into the creative process to create a deeper experience for all.*

► Through Friday, June 30.

► Free.

► *One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliot.com.*

Film and video

WILLIAMSVILLE Friday Night Movies at Williamsville Hall Presents: "Whale Rider" (PG-13): Pai, an 11-year-old girl in a patriarchal New Zealand tribe, believes she is destined to be the new chief. But her grandfather Koro is bound by tradition to pick a male leader. Pai loves Koro more than anyone in the world, but she must fight him and a thousand years of tradition to fulfill her destiny.

► 7:30-9:10 p.m. *Offered by Friends of Williamsville Hall. ADA compliant. Refreshments served.*

► *Admission by donation - raises funds for the Williamsville Hall.*

► *Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd. Information: More information: williamsvillehall@gmail.com, williamsvillehall.org.*

SATURDAY CONT.

► *Guilford Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow Rd. Information: More information: 802-257-4603.*

Local history

BRATTLEBORO Estey Organ Museum: The Engine House of the historic Estey Organ Company factory houses an impressive collection of pipe, electronic, reed organs manufactured by Estey 1850 to 1960. Estey dominated the reed organ market largely due to the company's innovations in design and marketing. The Museum showcases early Estey melodeons, ornately carved organs for the home and chapel, diminutive children's organs, folding travel organs.

► 2-4 p.m. *on Saturdays. Walk through a pipe organ, view a new orientation video featuring historic photos of the buildings and employees, learn about a significant slice of Brattleboro history, play favorite tunes on instruments that retain their heavenly tone years after their creation.*

► Through Saturday, October 28.

► \$5 donation requested for non-members (no charge for children).

► *Estey Organ Museum, 108 Birge St. Information: info@esteyorganmuseum.org.*

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO Hilltop Montessori School 50th Anniversary Community Celebration: Open to everyone: Sandglass Theater offers a mini version of "Punsch!" Magicians Without Borders perform a magic show. Hilltop alum Eben Viens brings his band. NECCA performances. Southern VT Natural History Museum presents "Live Birds of Prey." The River Gallery School hosts a Plain Air Workshop. Boogie Down Kids close out the day.

► *Rain or shine. Limited parking (consider carpooling). Sandglass Theater: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon: "Punsch!" in Arts Barn Theater. 10-11 a.m.: Southern VT Natural History Museum on Middle School lawn. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: River Gallery School on Middle School lawn by pond. 1 p.m.: Magicians Without Borders in Arts Barn Theater. 2 p.m.: Eben Viens band. 2 p.m.: Photo opportunity for all past and present Hilltop community members. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Food for purchase from Tito's Tacos, Jamaica Jewelz, Frisky Cow Gelato. 3-4 p.m. Boogie Down Kids.*

► Free.

► *Hilltop Montessori School, 99 Stafford Farm Hill. Information: 802-257-0500; hilltopmontessori.org.*

GREENFIELD Free Summer Movie Camp Kicks off with TMNT (2007): A different movie every Saturday morning this summer for children of all ages and their parents or guardians. This animated classic is directed by Kevin Monroe based on the Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman characters. When the world is threatened by an ancient evil, four adolescent turtles must reunite and overcome their faults to stand against it. This movie will get you pumped for the August release of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem."

► 10 a.m. *Greenfield Garden Cinema has partnered with Ruggeri Real Estate, Gagne Wealth Management Group, Gruber & Tripp, LLC to offer Free Summer Movie Camp through 8/26. All 10 movies have been selected to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Warner Bros. this year.*

► Free.

► *Greenfield Garden Cinema, 361 Main St. Information: 413-774-4881.*

RECREATION

GUILFORD Meet Guilford's E-Bikes: Guilford Energy Committee members will tell you how you can borrow a bike to tour our beautiful town. Find out the procedure, see the bikes/safety equipment, test out a bike!

► 1-3 p.m.

► Free.

► *In Person: 10-11 a.m. on Saturday. Zoom: 3-4 p.m. on Sunday 6/11.*

► *Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Zoom: tinyurl.com/35nw7y92.*

Dance

DUMMERSTON Village Dance and More: Music by The All-Comers Band led by Amy Cann, piano; Andy Davis, accordion; Louisa Engle, fiddle. Bring an instrument and play in the band - dance, too! Calling by Louisa Engle and Andy Davis. All dances taught and all levels of dance experience welcome. A folk tale told at the break.

► 5:30 p.m. *optional potluck, 6:30-9:30 p.m. dancing.*

► Free.

► *Evening Star Grange, 1008 East-West Rd. Information: 802-254-1138.*

Visual arts and shows

BRATTLEBORO Art Exhibit by Karen Becker: "Bearing Witness": Retrospective of Becker's watercolors, gouache, pastels, prints created over 40 years and inspired by her love of nature. The animals and trees represented are all bearing witness to the devastation that is unfolding due to industrialization and war. Also on display are drawings of animals and birds which combine mono-prints and charcoal, a powerful series of self-portraits, and fantasies including "Sphere Series."

► 6/10, 3-5 p.m.: *Artist Reception. Exhibit on view Sundays: 11 a.m.-12 noon and Tues., Wed., Thur.: 9 a.m.-12 noon, or by appointment (802-257-4710, kb4art@earthlink.net) through 6/30.*

► Through Friday, June 30.

► Free.

► *All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church West Village Meeting House, 29 South St. Information: 802-254-9377; ascvt.org.*

SUNDAY

11

Music

BRATTLEBORO Noontime Windham Philharmonic Concert / Music by Chevalier / Hugh Keelan, Music Director: Program includes works by Chevalier Joseph Bologne, Ruth Crawford Seeger, and Franz Joseph Haydn. Bologne, also known as "Black Mozart," was a free man of Creole ancestry who was an esteemed violinist, fencer, and composer in France at the turn of the 19th century. He's now better known as a result of the 2022 film "Chevalier."

► 12 noon. *Masks recommended but not required.*

► *Admission by donation.*

► *Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. Information: 802-254-1109; latchisarts.org.*

PUTNEY Twilight on the Tavern Lawn and Next Stage Arts Project present: The Stockwell Brothers: Stockwell Brothers' music spans traditional/progressive, but their trademark acoustic sound features new singer/songwriter material recast with banjo, alternative rhythms, 3-part harmonies. Plus straight ahead bluegrass songs, finger picked acoustic guitar ballads, full tilt breakdowns and traditional mandolin tunes mixed in with more unusual fare - Americana melodies riding world beat grooves and Celtic, jazzy, even neo-classical instrumentals.

► 6 p.m. *Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Food available. (If it rains, concert moves to Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney).*

► Free. *Donations welcome.*

► *Putney Tavern Lawn, Main St., downtown Putney. Information: twilightmusic.org, 802-387-5772.*

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Music Center's EOS Project returns with "Reflections": Exploration of compelling stories/wide-musical styles. Narratives of motherhood, meaning of "home," experiences of enslaved people, cultural identity.

► **STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE**

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Submit resume with a minimum of 3 professional references to Kathryn Lynch, Town Administrator, Town of Hinsdale, PO Box 13, 11 Main Street, Hinsdale, NH 03451. Resumes may be dropped off at the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall. mDeadline: Until position is filled. EOE.. klynch@hinsdalenh.org.

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SUNDAY CONT.

Inspiration from poems: U-Meleni Mhlabi-Adebo's "We Shine Bright," Walt Whitman's "A Farm Picture," Fred D'Aguiar's "Wish." Program highlights language/music relationship with 3 songs from Japanese composers merging Western classical music forms w/ tonal richness of the Japanese language.

- 4 p.m. Includes Allison Loggins-Hull's "Homeland and Shine"; Valerie Coleman's "Wish"; Ananda Sukarlan's "Menage a trois for Flute, Viola and Piano"; Ulysses "Kay's Sonata"; Karatachi "No Hana's "Wild Orange Blossoms"; Higurashi's "Cicadas"; Oyasum's "Good Night." Performers: Ashleigh Gordon, viola; Robin Matathias, flute; Susan De-dell, piano; Junko Watanabe, soprano.
- Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door.
- Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysie Way. Information: Tickets: tinyurl.com/5br84sp.

Farmers' markets
PUTNEY Putney Farmers Market with Live Music by Asante
 ► 11-3 p.m. on Sundays. Across from the Putney Food Coop.
 ► Putney Farmers Market, 17 Carol Brown Way. Information: putneyfarmersmarket.org.

The written word
BRATTLEBORO "Creative Relations Poetry Brunch": Writers including Liza King, Arlene Distler, Tina Olsen, Laurie Panther, and Steve Minkin explore this rich theme through spoken word.
 ► 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 ► Free.
 ► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118elliott.com.

Kids and families
DUMMERSTON West Dummerston Fire Department Annual Kids Fishing Derby: For kids under 15 years old. Prizes awarded. Food and beverages available.
 ► 12 noon: Registration. 1 p.m.: Fishing starts.
 ► Free participation.
 ► West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department, East/West Rd. (Center Station). Information: Fire Dept.: 802-579-9494, Town Clerk: 802-257-1496.

Community building
BRATTLEBORO "Sharing Who We Are" with Rev. Telos Whitfield / Annual Flower Ceremony (In-Person/Zoom): Multigenerational service will be interactive and celebrate who we are and what we each offer with ritual, stories, music. We'll also hold our Annual Flower Ceremony so bring a flower or flowers to share!
 ► 10 a.m. We anticipate that this service will be both in-person and on Zoom. Go to our website, www.ascvt.org, Sunday shortly before 10 a.m. to join via Zoom.
 ► All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church West Village Meeting House, 29 South St. Information: 802-254-9377; ascvt.org.

Dance
BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango in Brattleboro: Dancers of all levels are welcome! Stop by to check it out or join in. No partner needed.
 ► Class: 3-4 p.m., Milonga: 4-7 p.m.
 ► First class is Free. Class \$10, Milonga \$15, both \$20.
 ► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: More info: visit Brattleboro Tango Facebook page.

Guilford Brattleboro Bal Folk: Fun Social Dances from France and other European Locales: "No experience or partner is necessary as we (Rachel Bell and my bandmate Becky Tracy) teach everything folks need to know. The dances are super accessible and range from raucous and energetic to beautiful and meditative. We've been thrilled to get a welcoming, joyous crowd every time, as well as a great mix of ages and backgrounds. We also welcome people who simply wish to sit along the sidelines and listen to the music."
 ► 6:30-9 p.m. N95 or similar quality masks required. "We really believe this is a sweet and wonderful way for community members to connect with each other and continue healing from the social isolation we all experienced during the pandemic."
 ► \$10 to \$20.
 ► Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. www.rachelbellmusic.com, theinstrumentplayer@yahoo.com 802-451-0405; broadbrookcommunitycenter.org.

Celebrations and festivals
BRATTLEBORO Klezmer Dance/Music Workshop and Dance Party: Come to this outdoor festival and participate in joyful community building. Dance leader: Steve Wintraub - Klezmer Dance Master. Margot Leverett - foremost Klezmer Clarinetist. This event is for anyone wanting to learn the basic figures of Klezmer Dance.
 ► 10 a.m.-12 noon: 1. Dance Workshop for anyone wanting to learn the basic figures of Klezmer Dance. 2. Klezmer Music Workshop for musicians wanting to learn/play Klezmer Music. 2-5 p.m.: Klezmer Dance Party. All welcome. Event partially supported by a grant from The Grinspoon Foundation and BAJC.
 ► Tickets are \$15 to \$50 sliding scale.
 ► Brattleboro Area Jewish Community Congregation Shir HeHarim, 151 Greenleaf St. Information: More info/register/pay online: bajcvermont.org.

MONDAY

Community building
VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee: 6/12 and 6/19 (Webinars): Both meetings discuss potential recycling/reprocessing options for spent nuclear fuel. Reprocessing nuclear fuel, a practice long essentially prohibited in the US, is being discussed again as the Dept. of Energy oversees research projects in this area, reliance on foreign sources or uranium is reexamined, several existing light water reactors can use reprocessed fuel and some new reactor designs if implemented may require it.

MONDAY CONT.

► 12 noon-1:15 p.m. 6/12: Dr. Sven Bader, Tech Consultant at Orano Federal Services, discusses spent fuel recycling options. 6/19: Dr. Edwin Lyman, Dir. of Nuclear Power Safety - Union of Concerned Scientists, continues discussion.
 ► Through Monday, June 19.
 ► Free.
 ► Webcast: 802-552-8456 or 802-828-7228. Conference ID: 340 082 993#
 Webinar Link: tinyurl.com/yc5f2cy.

TUESDAY

The written word
BELLOWS FALLS "Remarkably Brilliant Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt - Join the Discussion: Pick up a copy at Rockingham Library's front desk. Van Pelt offers readers a charming, witty, compulsively enjoyable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. Author Kevin Wilson says, "this is a beautiful examination of how loneliness can be transformed, cracked open, with the slightest touch from another living thing."
 ► 6 p.m. Main floor.
 ► Free.
 ► Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: More info: programming@rockinghamlibrary.org call the Library: 802-463-4270.

PUTNEY Poetry Reading: Toni Ortner and Terry Hauptman: Terry Hauptman reads from her rhapsodic poems incorporating many cultures both past and present. Her newest work, "FALLEN ANGELS," (North Star Press, 2022), is her 7th poetry volume, adding to her 6 full-length poetry collections. Toni Ortner reads from her newest book, "Shadows and Silhouettes," (Kelsay Books), a collection of her early work. The 30th book, "Focused Light from a Distant Star," out Dec. '23, honors work of women artists during the last two centu
 ► 6:30 p.m. Ortner lives in Putney, has had 29 books published by small presses and wrote the Daybook series published by Ardent Writer Press and Deerbrook Editions based on the ideas of Virginia Woolf as to what a diary should contain to present the light of our lives.
 ► Free.
 ► Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: 802-387-4407; putneylibrary.org/events.

Kids and families
GUILFORD Songs, Fingerplays, Books and Activities for Babies, Toddlers, Older Siblings.: Presented by Cathi Wilken every Tuesday.
 ► 2 p.m.
 ► Free.
 ► Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-257-4603.

Well-being
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic: Primary medical treatment for patients ages 18 to 64 in our community who do not have health insurance or who cannot afford their high deductibles or co-insurance.
 ► 5 - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.
 ► Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic, 191 Clark Ave. Information: 802-251-8484; brattleborowalkinclinic.com.

Community building
GUILFORD Senior Walk with Guilford Cares and Guilford Conservation Commission: "We'll take a shady walk down Abijah Prince Rd. with guides Shaun and Karen Murphy to admire giant old maple trees, identify plants growing along the path and bird calls above. Just off the road we will visit the Abijah and Lucy Prince cellar hole dating back to 1874 and recall the history behind that early settlement. One-mile round trip with steady uphill on return."
 ► 10:10 a.m.: Arrive at the Broad Brook Community Center to carpool. 10:30 a.m.: Walk begins at Abijah Prince Road.
 ► Free.
 ► Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: More details, contact Guilford Cares: 802-579-1350, guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com.

Dance
BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango: Beginners and all levels welcome! Stop by to check it out or join in. No partner needed.
 ► 7-8 p.m.: Class, 8-10 p.m.: Practica. Continues 6/20, 6/27.
 ► Class \$12 (first class is free), Practica \$5, Both \$15.
 ► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: More information, go to Brattleboro Tango Facebook page.

Community meals
LONDONERRY Communal Meals at Neighborhood Connections (and two additional locations): The Vermont Everyone Eats program is over. While helping restaurants, farmers, and eaters through the acute economic challenges of the COVID pandemic, it raised awareness of gaps in existing systems addressing food insecurity in the state. Neighborhood Connections and other community partners have joined forces to fill the void. Join friends and neighbors for in-person communal meals, take-out, or both!
 ► Neighborhood Connections: 12 noon, 2nd Tuesday every month. (Also check out: Second Thursday at 12 noon: Jamaica Community Church, 5 Depot St., Contact Pastor Carlson: 802-874-4181. \$4.50 ages 59 and under, \$4 ages 60 and over. And: Second Congregational Church, Fourth Thursday at 12 noon, 2051 N. Main St., Londonderry. No charge to attend, no registration required. Call 802-824-6453 with any questions.
 ► No charge. Donations encouraged but not required.
 ► Neighborhood Connections, The Meeting Place, Rte. 100, 5700 Marketplace (across from the post office). Information: Call 802-824-4343 to register. Need a ride?: The Mountain Town Connector can pick you up and take you home.

WEDNESDAY

14

Kids and families
DUMMERSTON Scott Farm: Crepe Nights Return: Crepe nights are times to celebrate the harvest, good simple food, and community in a stunning setting - picnic style. Outdoor and indoor tables and chairs are provided as well as a sprawling grassy hillside ripe for picnic blankets, folding lawn chairs and bare feet. All proceeds benefit Scott Farm's community partner: Windham County Humane Society.
 ► 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 ► Tickets: \$20, \$12 child includes savory galette, sweet crepe, and a salad. Drinks available for purchase.
 ► Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. Information: 802-254-6868; scottfarmvermont.com.

Community meals
DUMMERSTON Monthly Crepe Night returns to Scott Farm: This is a time to celebrate the harvest, good simple food, and community in a stunning setting - picnic style. Even better, it's for a good cause! Includes

savory supper crepe (galette), sweet dessert crepe, and side salad. June's event is co-hosted by the Windham County Humane Society, who will benefit from the evening's proceeds.
 ► 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 ► \$20 adults; \$12 children.
 ► Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd. Information: 802-254-6868; scottfarmvermont.com.

Ideas and education
BRATTLEBORO "The Humane Gardener - Nurturing Wildlife Habitat" (via Zoom): Discover practical ways to put humane and ecological gardening philosophies into action by protecting wildlife nesting sites, eliminating unintended hazards, nurturing plants that provide food and shelter, and humanely resolving conflicts with mammals and other commonly misunderstood creatures. Nancy Lawson is author of "The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife and Wildscape."
 ► 7 p.m. Lawson is also a habitat consultant and a national speaker on garden ecology. Her books and garden have been featured in several media outlets. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center is co-sponsoring this presentation with Compassionate Brattleboro.
 ► Free.
 ► Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1221 Bonnyvale Rd. Information: 802-257-5785; beec.org.

WEDNESDAY CONT.

BRATTLEBORO The Humane Gardener: Nurturing Wildlife Habitat (via Zoom): Why do we call some insects "beneficial" others "pests"? Some plants "desirable" others "weeds"? In this myth-busting talk, learn how common growing methods divide the natural world into false dichotomies/perpetuate misconceptions of wild species. Discover practical ways to put humane/ecological gardening into action by protecting wildlife nesting sites, eliminating hazards, nurturing plants providing food/shelter, humanely resolving conflicts.
 ► 7 p.m. Nancy Lawson is author of "The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife and Wildscape," a habitat consultant, and national speaker on garden ecology. She founded Humane Gardener to pioneer creative planting strategies and other animal-friendly landscaping methods. The Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center is cosponsoring this presentation with Compassionate Brattleboro and the Brattleboro Garden Club.
 ► Sliding scale.
 ► Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center. Information: Sign up for Zoom: tinyurl.com/yhsxkema.

Film and video
PUTNEY "A Poem is a Naked Person" (1974) NXT Rockumentary Film Series (co-presented w/ Next Chapter Records and Epsilon

Spires: Les Blank considered this free-form feature documentary about beloved singer-songwriter Leon Russell, filmed between 1972 and 1974, to be one of his greatest accomplishments. Yet it was not publicly released until 2015, after Blank's death. Hired by Russell to film him at his recording studio in northeast Oklahoma, Blank ended up constructing a unique, intimate portrait of a musician and his environment.
 ► 7-8:30 p.m. Mesmerizing scenes of Russell and his band performing in concert/in studio/off-the-cuff moments behind the scenes, plus performances by Willie Nelson and George Jones - this film has attained legendary status over the years. A work of rough beauty that serves as testament to Blank's cinematic daring/Russell's immense musical talents.
 ► this screening includes a specially filmed intro by Harold Blank - son of director Les Blank - who was instrumental in editing the footage and gaining permissions from Leon Russell for the final cut (released after his father died).
 ► \$10 suggested donation.
 ► Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.

JOON PAHK
THE COMMONS CROSSWORD
 "Long and the Short of It"

- Across**
- Gave form to
 - Recede
 - Super Bowl highlights, for some
 - Lender's offerings
 - Common prom rental
 - Many a Massachusetts settler
 - Unconcerned with right and wrong
 - Phone notifications
 - Happy-go-lucky lion tamer's credo?
 - ___ of Mexico
 - The Patriots have represented it in 11 Super Bowls: Abbr.
 - A little chicken?
 - Cut, as class
 - Frozen waffle brand
 - ___ curiae ("friends of the court")
 - Sushi topper
 - Social insect
 - Strength needed to throw out base-stealers?
 - Paul who was People's Sexiest Man Alive in 2021
 - Let up
 - Mistake
 - Slakes
 - Highest
 - What opponents of proposed legislation do in Congress?
 - Black Panther co-founder Newton
 - Somewhat
 - Author John Kennedy ___
 - "The Big Easy"
 - Pay stub abbr.
 - Brightest star in Virgo
 - Ice Bucket Challenge disease: Abbr.
 - Toy for two
 - Serving that's been on your Thanksgiving plate a while?
 - Released
 - "I didn't need to hear that"
 - Actress ___ Aimée
 - TV room
 - Mother of Artemis and Apollo
 - Claudio or Gio of US Soccer
 - Avoid
 - Center of the earth
 - Rolling up one's malice into a sphere?
 - x and y, in equations
 - How goods are sold
 - Over there, to Shakespeare
 - Beginning
 - Mend with a needle
 - Measure by which panda falls between grizzly and polar?
 - Like fresh paint
 - ___ Dems (UK party, informally)
 - Brown of "Iron Chef America"
 - World's longest river
 - x or y, on a graph
 - Really a bit much
 - Time since birth
 - Require lip balm
 - Meal eaten because a webpage isn't loading?
 - Make an alternate account?
 - Browser add-on
 - Gets a gradual start
 - Very
 - Source of oil in Korean cooking
 - Color artificially
 - "Without further ___"

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119										120									121	
122										123										125

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- Middle-aged guy's physique
- Repeated verbatim
- Hotel chain
- "Nope"
- ___ error
- Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
- 9th mo.
- Recipe verb
- Look for water
- Sea eagles
- Chicks' digs
- Display of pride
- Building wing
- Linked together
- And others: Abbr.
- Don Giovanni or Rigoletto
- Greek wrap
- Coward of theater
- Personal
- Baseball club giveaway, in more than one sense
- Kid-lit girl who lives at the Plaza
- Make amends
- Like some Patreons and wedding cakes
- Yellow jackets, e.g.
- "___ in Guyville" (Liz Phair album)
- Roman emperor when Vesuvius erupted
- Sonic's creator
- Linear, for short
- Florence's river
- Miracle on Ice coach Brooks
- "One more thing..."
- Move very slowly
- Turn down
- Agcy. in the Snowden leaks
- Arabic for "feast"
- Actress Green

Down

- Unaccompanied
- Netflix rival
- Skater's jump
- To a tee
- Summer hrs. in Boston
- Medicinal amount
- Absolutely huge
- Flower-to-be
- Frat guy
- Include in an e-mail
- "Aargh!"
- Foul mood
- Diss
- Reddit Q&A
- Lots and lots
- Actress Christensen
- Language of Livy
- Went out for the night?
- "I'm ___ trouble!"
- Do a voice-over, say
- "Yeah, that's not happening"
- Butter for naan
- "I love," in 17-Down
- Annoy
- Actress Falco
- "Ack!" sayer of the funnies
- Close to
- Recorded
- Comfort
- Coleman of "Boardwalk Empire"
- Gateway Arch city, for short
- Madre's brothers
- Singer ___ Mai
- Barbecue side, for short
- Utterly unstimulating
- Type of dressing or sub
- 50th anniversary gift
- Shady flowers
- Long-short-short poetic foot
- Good name for an attorney
- Stink badger's relative
- Cry on seeing a mouse

Last issue's solution

"Can You Repeat That?"

H	U	S	B	A	N	D		M	I	D	E	A	S	T		S	T	U	N	K	
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Eugene Uman reinvents the Convergence Project with members of 'The Fringe' in VJC concert

BRATTLEBORO—On Saturday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the Vermont Jazz Center (VJC), director Eugene Uman will present a newly tooled version of the quintet, the Convergence Project.

This quintet is a vehicle for Uman to change hats, to focus on performance and composing rather than the production and educational mission of VJC.

The formation of this version of the Convergence Project was inspired by an opportunity Uman had to perform with Francisco Mela a few years back at the Arts Block in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The Cuban drummer has what Uman calls “an encyclopedic vocabulary of Latin rhythms,” including an ease of playing 6/8 patterns which are considered essential ingredients in many styles of both Cuban and Colombian folkloric music.

“I am excited and honored to have Mela interpret my compositions,” says Uman, “especially those that were influenced by rhythms I learned while living in Colombia.”

Mela’s approach to music is

based on his expansive knowledge, but is nurtured by his capacity to “let go.” His most recent recording and performance projects blend this ability to groove hard while simultaneously expressing the freedom inherent in each moment, Uman says.

Mela has performed and recorded with a handful of Uman’s favorite jazz pianists, including McCoy Tyner, Chucho Valdéz, Gerri Allen, Nduzuo Makhathini and Kenny Barron. “He also brings a warmth to the bandstand that elevates the spirit of the entire group as well as the audience.”

After Mela agreed to perform, Uman connected with other players in the Boston area where Mela now lives, as he teaches at Berklee School of Music.

Since Mela had replaced the late Bob Gullotti in George Garzone’s free-jazz trio, The Fringe, performing since 1971, Uman reached out to the saxophonist leader and the bassist of that group and found them both available. Because much of the Convergence Project’s repertoire

is enhanced by the presence of two horns, the band’s original trombonist, Jeff Galindo, will round out the quintet.

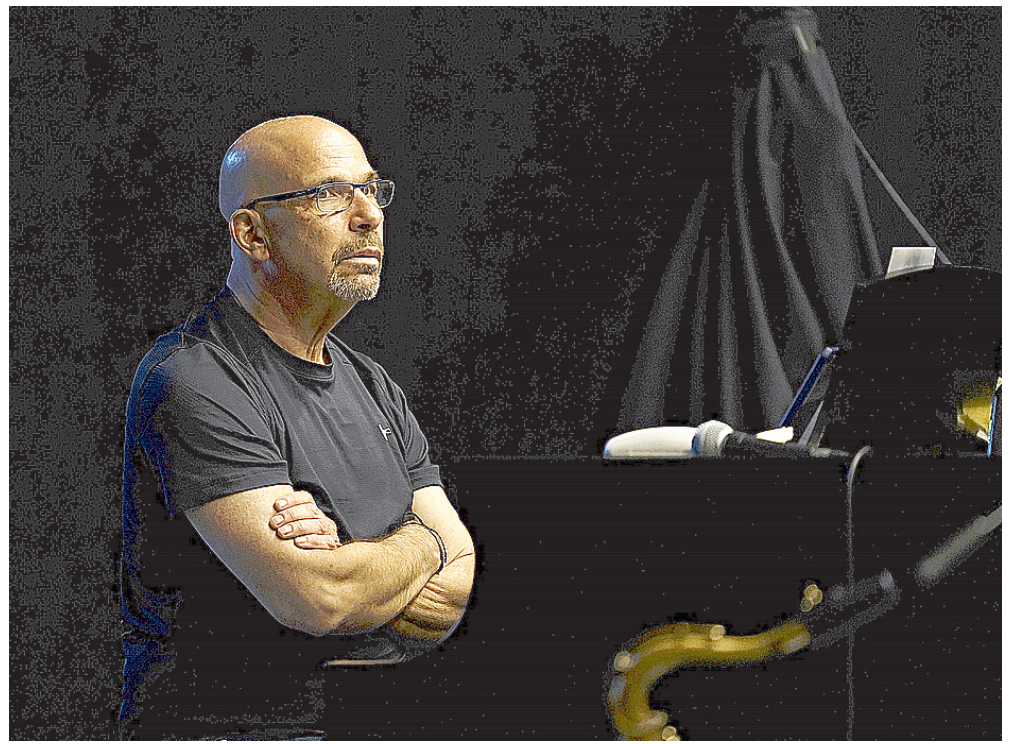
A good portion of this concert will be dedicated to newly composed or rearranged material tailored specifically for this new configuration and will highlight Uman’s compositions.

In a news release, Uman said “composing is my favorite form of creative expression. I am often compelled to work toward the mechanics of running the bandstand that elevates the spirit of the entire group as well as the audience.”

He says composing is a comfort; he enjoys the process of developing an idea over time and, “honing a form so that it evolves into a refined structure.” He likens it to writing a press release, in which he strives to “present the distilled essence of a concept while paying attention to how each word and comma affect rhythm and flow.”

Uman finds the potential to move listeners emotionally thrilling. He writes, “My goal is to compose and arrange music that transmits an energy that positively transforms and uplifts those involved.”

The leader of the Convergence Project, Uman, is a composer, pianist, and educator. He has been the executive artistic director of the Vermont Jazz Center since 1997 and has written over 200 jazz compositions, including



Eugene Uman

COURTESY PHOTO

three that appeared on Latin Jazz star Sammy Figueroa’s 2005 Grammy-nominated CD, ... *And Sammy Walked In*. He says he has worked tirelessly to connect music and the local community.

Uman says everyone in the Convergence Project is encouraged to add their own voice to the big picture, and that the band concept is founded on the synergy of each musician’s personal style in combination with the harmonic and melodic structure of the compositions, but the rhythmic pulse is the glue that holds it all together.

“Each of these musicians brings vast knowledge and wisdom to a performance,” said Uman, “what you hear in a concert is a result of a lifetime of collective experiences.”

In-person tickets for the Convergence Project concert are offered on a sliding fee scale from \$20 to \$50 per person, and all seats are general admission. Mask wearing will be optional and light refreshments will be available. Tickets are available online at vtjazz.org and by emailing Ginger Morawski, ginger@vtjazz.org. She is also the contact for handicapped access (ginger@vtjazz.org)ibility.

Online streaming of this concert will be offered by donation. Access can be found online at vtjazz.org and at [facebook.com/VermontJazzCenter/live](https://www.facebook.com/VermontJazzCenter/live).

BAJC hosts Klezmer Dance party, workshops

WEST BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Area Jewish Community presents Klezmer Music and Dance Party on Sunday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to noon, there will be two concurrent artist-in-residence workshops. The first is “Go Figure: Learning the Basics of Klezmer Dance,” with Steven Weintraub. Everyone is invited, with no experience necessary.

Weintraub received his dance training in Manhattan with Alvin Ailey and Erick Hawkins, among others. According to the artist’s website, he is in international demand as a teacher of traditional Yiddish dance at festivals and workshops including Klezkamp, Klezkanada, and festivals in Krakow, Furth, Paris, and London. He has often been called the “Pied Piper of Yiddish Dance,” the website continues, and his years of experience leading and researching Yiddish dance “allow him to quickly weave dancers and music together in astonishing ways.” Learn more at stevenleweintraub.com.

Margot Leverett will also be presenting “Klezmer Tunes for Everyone,” which is open to all

levels; anyone with an instrument is welcome to participate.

Leverett is one of the foremost clarinetists of the klezmer revival. She was the original clarinetist in the Klezmatiks, and has performed with many other bands including her own, Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys, which blended klezmer and bluegrass. She has recorded on the Traditional Crossroads label, has toured with the New York Ragtime Orchestra, been featured by the Philadelphia Orchestra, and has performed her music live with the Paul Taylor Dance Company. Learn more at bit.ly/718-margot.

After a two-hour lunch break, everyone will reconvene at 2 p.m. for a klezmer dance party, with music and dance instruction provided by Weintraub, Leverett, and Matthew Schreiber.

Register in advance at bit.ly/718-klezmer. Sliding scale admission: \$15–50 based on an individual’s assessment of how much they will participate and what they can afford. Payment can be made through PayPal or by check payable to BAJC, P.O. Box 2353, Brattleboro, VT 05303. Payment can also be made at the door.

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 Sunday, June 11th 2pm & 7pm
 Based on the poem by Farid ud-Din Attar
 Stage version by Peter Brook and Jean-Claude Carriere
 Directed by Eric Bass
 Puppets by Finn Campman and Dave Regan
 Music by Lissa Schneckenburger
 Tickets online at neyt.org
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Poetry reading by Ortnier, Hauptman in Putney

PUTNEY—The Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., hosts two well known Vermont poets on Tuesday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Terry Hauptman will read from her poems that incorporate many cultures both past and present, and Toni Ortnier will read from her most recent book, *Shadows and Silhouettes* (Kelsay Books, 2022), which is a collection of her early work.

Ortnier lives in Putney and has had 29 books published by small presses. The 30th book, *Focused Light from a Distant Star*, will appear in December 2023 and honors the work of women artists during the last two centuries.

She wrote the Daybook series, published by Ardent Writer Press and Deerbrook Editions, based on Virginia Woolf’s ideas of what a diary should contain to present the light of our lives. *Blue Lyrics* was published in 2021 by Adelaide Books.

Her books are sold from small presses, on Amazon, and on her website. Ortnier hosted the Putney Writers Salon on Zoom last winter, featuring writers from Vermont and other states. Her books, reviews, and writing can be seen at toniortner.com.

Hauptman holds a master’s degree in poetry from the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, where she studied with U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo. She earned a doctorate in interdisciplinary arts from Ohio University.

She reads her poetry and exhibits her *Songline Scrolls* nationally. She has taught world art, poetry, and ethnopoetics at several universities and in workshops, most recently at the former Green Mountain College.

Hauptman’s newest work, *Fallen Angels* (New Star Press, 2022), is her seventh volume of poetry, adding to her six full-length poetry collections.