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# The Lakeville Journal

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Covering The News In Connecticut's Northwest Corner And Its Environs Since 1897



Amy Lake, left photo, in front of the Lakeville post office, and Susan McQuillan and Chany Wells, right, in front of the Salisbury post office, held up signs in protest, urging funding for the U.S. Postal Service on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

## Protesters stand up for the postal service

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Amy Lake arrived at the post office in Lakeville at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18.

She set up a small table, taking care not to be on post office

property, and set a couple of signs next to the curb.

Lake in Lakeville (and Chany Wells, Susan McQuillan and Toli Fliakos at the Salisbury post office), were protesting President Donald Trump's opposition to additional funding for the U.S.

Postal Service and ongoing reform measures by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

At both locations the organizers provided prepaid blank postcards and address labels for the White House.

What the senders chose to

write was up to them.

Passing motorists honked and waved at both locations.

Also on Tuesday, DeJoy announced the reform measures will be suspended until after the general election in November.

## Region One schools 'in a good place' to reopen

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Region One schools are set to reopen Tuesday, Sept. 8, as planned, interim Superintendent Lisa Carter said on Monday, Aug. 24.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School will use a hybrid schedule, with half the students attending school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays, the other half on Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays no students will be in the building.

On days students are home they are expected to do school work.

The six K-8 schools in the Region One towns of Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon will open with as close to full

attendance as possible. Carter said depending on the town, between 75% and 90% of K-8 students will attend in person. Those families that opt out will use distance learning.

Many schools expect an increase in enrollment, as families move up here full-time from out of town. Carter did not have precise figures on Monday but said she will have them later in the week. (Look for a story in the Sept. 3 edition of The Lakeville Journal.)

Asked what happens if there is a flareup of COVID-19 cases in one school, Carter said it depends on what the state Department of Public Health (DPH) finds.

If a sudden increase of cases

See SCHOOLS, Page A8



From the 2019 first day of school at Kent Center School, a father and daughter regarded the mosaic mural.

## For campuses to open, students need to play it safe

By Debra A. Aleksinas

A team of researchers from Baruch College in New York City, Grinnell College in Iowa, Bard College in nearby Red Hook, N.Y., and Cornell University in upstate New York released a study this week suggesting that diligent student behavior may be just as important as strong policy when it comes to safely reopening colleges this fall.

Their findings come after a tumultuous week of large universities pivoting from on-campus to remote instruction, due to early COVID-19 infection spikes.

Matthew Junge, a math professor at Baruch College and formerly at Bard, is the primary investigator on the study. He said safe reopening hinges not only on strong policies by college administrators, but also responsible compliance from students.

"We saw that outbreaks were controlled when administrators thinned the campus population by at least 50% and screened everyone weekly for infection,

while, alongside this, students socialized a lot less and wore face masks when socializing," said Junge. The professor added that the model further suggests that a "combined effort that is any less serious and unified makes it difficult to contain the spread of COVID-19."

The team, which built a model that simulates student and faculty movements on a campus of about 2,000 students, found that without interventions, most people on campus would be infected within a few months.

"The widespread use of face masks alone reduces the number

of cases dramatically and so does frequent testing," said Felicia Keesing, a biology professor at Bard College.

Nicole Eikmeier, a computer scientist from Grinnell College, said that working with students from Cornell, Bard and Baruch was one of the best parts of the project. "They were involved at every step and offered critical insights into both the model and student behavior."

The team, which was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, re-

See CAMPUS, Page A8

## No bus routes in paper

The first day of classes for students in the Region One School District will be Tuesday, Sept. 8. Normally, the bus routes for students in the six Region One elementary schools, Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Oliver Wolcott Technical School in Torrington are printed in The Lakeville Journal before school begins. This year, because of the complexities caused by the COVID-19 quarantine, it was not possible for us to get the schedules ahead of time. For bus schedule information this year, parents and students will need to contact their school.

## Hearing begins over Eversource rate hike

By Patrick L. Sullivan

The state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) held an online hearing about power company Eversource's proposed rate hike on Monday, Aug. 24.

The hearing began at 10 a.m., with PURA Chair Melissa Gillett attempting to connect with Gov. Ned Lamont (D). Lamont and Attorney General William Tong have said the electric company should not be allowed to increase prices. Eversource provides electricity to 149 of the state's 169 municipalities.

When the connection couldn't be made with Lamont, the online audience of 400-plus people heard from U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.). Blumenthal said "the time for tinkering is over."

"We need to think big about being smaller and more respon-

sive." He advocated immediate measures: freezing rates at pre-July levels, and offering refunds and reimbursement to those who were affected by Tropical Storm Isaias earlier this month.

He also floated the idea of breaking up Eversource and creating instead a publicly owned, Connecticut-based electric utility, similar to municipal utilities.

And he urged regulators to link profits and rates to performance.

"The system is an abject failure," he said. "This could be an inflection point."

Connecticut electric rates are among the highest in the nation, second only to Hawaii, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

See EVERSOURCE, Page A8



Becton Dickinson has committed to producing 50 million syringes and needles by the end of this year to support the U.S. COVID-19 vaccination campaign, Operation Warp Speed.

## North Canaan's BD on the front lines for COVID-19 vaccine

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — This quiet, rural community is making a "heroic" contribution to the U.S. government's COVID-19 vaccination campaign, known as Operation Warp Speed.

As the scientific race heats up for the development of a new

vaccine, so too does the urgency to have on hand hundreds of millions of syringes to introduce the serum into the arms of Americans once it becomes available. One company here in the far reaches of the state's Northwest Corner is contribut-

See VACCINE, Page A8



# INTERSECTIONS

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## Silo Ridge and horse farms bring in illegal helicopters

By Kaitlin Lyle

AMENIA — Having received several notices about helicopters flying illegally over the town of Amenia, members of the Town Board considered what could be done to handle the ongoing issue, at a meeting held Thursday, Aug. 6. The meeting can be seen on the town's YouTube channel.

Councilwoman Vicki Doyle informed the board that they had received another notification about "helicopters flying over, to and from Amenia, which is being done illegally."

She asked Building Inspector Michael Segelken to clarify how enforcement works in handling this issue and if there is something the board can do.

Councilman James Morris asked where the helicopters have been landing. Doyle said the last one sounded like it landed at the new equestrian center, Keane Stud, on Depot Hill Road.

The helicopters have mainly been landing at the Silo Ridge housing development and golf course on Route 22.

Segelken said he looked into the issue last year when it started happening. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) no longer has restrictions, he said,

so the helicopters are allowed to land and take off five times a year. He said the FAA considers each landing and takeoff as one landing.

"I tried all last year; I even took pictures of them landing," Segelken said. "The federal agency does not seem to be concerned."

The town code stipulates that helicopters must have an airstrip or landing pad in order to land. Segelken said the helicopters have been ignoring that rule and landing without a lit strip or pad that would indicate where they're supposed to come down.

"But the town has its own laws," Doyle pointed out. Segelken affirmed that the town code requires a landing strip or a landing pad.

Reading aloud a related section of the town code, Councilman Damian Gutierrez confirmed that airfields aren't a permitted use in any of the zoning districts in the town of Amenia, though he was uncertain as to whether the term "airfield" was defined elsewhere in the code as a pad or strip.

The town cannot provide an airstrip. Therefore, Doyle said, "What they're doing is illegal from the FAA's point of view and

from our point of view, because they don't have a proper landing strip — even if they were going to limit themselves to five trips per year."

When asked by Doyle what the Town Board needs to do to get the helicopters to obey the law, Segelken replied, "Take them to court."

Amenia Supervisor Victoria Perotti added that there isn't a designated fine, which makes enforcement by the town difficult. As far as how the town can get the legal process started, Segelken said he can issue an appearance ticket, as courts are starting up again. He added that only judges can issue fines.

When asked this week why the helicopters have been land-

ing in Amenia, Segelken said he was still trying to figure it out himself. However, he said one of the workmen at Keane Stud told him there's an option on the Uber ride-sharing app, called Uber Copter, that includes rides to or from the downtown Manhattan and JFK heliports that allows people to order helicopter transportation.

Segelken speculated that some part-time Amenia residents may have been ordering the helicopters on Uber to fly back and forth between Amenia and New York City.

The website www.uber.com has a notice now saying that, due to COVID-19, the Uber Copter service has temporarily been suspended.

### In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNS ..... A3-4    OPINION..... A7  
 OBITUARIES ..... A5    COMPASS..... A9  
 VIEWPOINT ..... A6    CLASSIFIEDS..... A9-10  
 SPECIAL COMPASS SECTION.....INSIDE

#### Three-day forecast

Friday ..... Thunderstorms, high 82°/low 64°  
 Saturday ..... Thunderstorms, 75°/57°  
 Sunday ..... Sun, 75°/51°

### POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

#### Collision at intersection

On Aug. 15 at approximately 5:15 p.m. on Main Street in North Canaan a 2014 Ford Fusion driven by William Diaz, 51, of North Canaan turned left, leaving a residential parking lot, and struck a 2015 Ford F350 Super Duty driven by Eric Nelson, 62, of Sharon. Diaz was issued a written citation for failure to grant the right of way at an intersection.

#### Stolen wallet

Troop B responded to a report of a stolen wallet on Main Street in Sharon. The wallet was reported to be stolen from a vehicle parked at the victim's residence on the night of Aug. 14. The case remains under investigation.

#### Death investigation

On Aug. 15 at approximately 8:45 a.m. Troop B investigated a

death at a residence on Calkinstown Road in Sharon. During the investigation, the death was determined to not be suspicious in nature.

#### Slashed tire

On Aug. 17 at approximately 6:30 p.m. Troop B responded to a complaint of a slashed tire on Lone Oak Campground in North Canaan. Following an investigation with the use of trail cams, Chiara Pecora, 50, of Falls Village was charged with criminal mischief in the third degree. She was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Sept. 30.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com)

### Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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Letters to the Editor will be accepted until 10 a.m. Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

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# The Appalachian Trail and COVID-19

By Lans Christensen

KENT — Like everything else in our world, the Appalachian Trail (AT) and its hikers are facing significant challenges.

Those who feel it most are the thru-hikers who are trying to complete the 2,190-mile hike between the trail terminuses in Georgia and Maine — a monumental undertaking under the best of circumstances, and a source of huge satisfaction and (often) pleasure for those who make the journey.

One 2020 thru-hiker, Dennis Byer, took a break from the AT and paused at the Kent welcome center on Wednesday, July 21.

A resident of Germantown, Tenn., Byer did the entire trail in 2018. He started this year's hike in Damascus, Va., and will continue on to Maine and then drive back to Damascus and hike the remaining 460 miles back to the trail's starting point in Georgia.

Thru-hikers are christened with a "trail name" and Byer is officially "Doctor Who?" — very fitting as he is a paramedic by profession.

Asked about his trip and what differences stood out, he said, "It may sound strange, but there are almost no airplanes; it's so much quieter."

As the AT has been officially closed since March, with hikers discouraged or asked to leave the trail, maintenance has also been curtailed, and Byer said downed trees and thicker underbrush have been very evident along the way.

Regarding sentiments and support, he said it "has been friendly and fantastic at every stop." Merchants in towns along the trail have missed the traffic of hikers and are welcoming and generous. Hostels along the way have also seen a decline in numbers, and in the support that they receive.

The AT (Appalachian Trail Conservancy) has always been the administrator of the trail and has always provided important



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Dennis Byer of Germantown, Tenn., stopped in Kent on Wednesday, July 21, while making his way up to Maine.

support to the hikers. Hikers register when they begin their journey and their progress, in normal years, can be recorded along the way.

Along with telling hikers to stay off the trail, the ATC has not been registering hikers this year — and this has caused considerable friction between the organization and the hikers.

Sandra Marra, president and CEO of the ATC, wrote in a July 17 column for "A.T. Journeys" that "the ATC will shift in perspectives to create an AT community that is safer, more accessible and more inclusive."

Friction aside, "Doctor Who?" was happily loading his backpack and looking forward to every step on his way to Maine.

# Snail makes good time on the trail

By Mary John

SALISBURY — Keagan Mullan, a 20-year-old from Bristol, Conn., made his way into Salisbury on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 30, ending his four-day journey from Hoyt Road off Route 55 in Dover at the New York-Connecticut state line.

Mullan, who was given the trail name Snail for being a slow hiker, was alone for this final segment of his journey. He had started the hike accompanied by a small group of friends.

He stopped in Salisbury to rest and get some food, and then planned to meet his friends up the road at a nearby parking lot.

He met these friends years ago at a week-long program in Cape Charles, Va., called Camp Trident. The camp is for boys from the ages of 13 to 18, with the goal of helping them develop into young men through military-style hard work and discipline. The camp was founded by Neil Guinan, a former Marine and Navy Seal.

"It gives you good exposure to challenges and how to combat them," Mullan said.



PHOTO BY MARY JOHN

Keagan Mullan, whose trail name is Snail, made his way (slowly) into Salisbury after completing almost the entire 52-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.

Although the camp was only one week long, Mullan made friends very quickly and stays in close contact with them today.

Compared to other parts of the Appalachian Trail that he has hiked in the past, Mullan said that the section that runs through the Northwest Corner was particularly difficult. He was not expecting the intensity of the rocky, hilly terrain of this area.

While Mullan did not think the trail was easy, he did enjoy it. A highlight for him was viewing the region's mountains and hills.

He also said that he found people in this area to be very friendly. It gave him a new perspective on the state.

"I don't know, out here it's really nice," Mullan said. "It's really a part of Connecticut that, where I come from, I don't really see too much of. It's nice."

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## Storm damage discussed at BOS

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Although Tropical Storm Isaias came and went fairly quickly, the power outage that followed it remains a subject of discussion.

The Cornwall selectmen held a special meeting on Thursday, Aug. 13, to hear reports from officials on how the town dealt with blocked roads, downed wires, and communication challenges. The meeting was conducted remotely by Zoom.

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen, held by Zoom on Tuesday, Aug. 18, continued discussion of the storm and included other topics as well.

"Extraordinary people doing extraordinary things," was how First Selectman Gordon Ridgway described the efforts of residents and town crews and officials who responded fully to storm-related challenges.

Residents who spoke at the meeting praised the town crew for their work in road clean-up. Many roads were blocked by trees and people were cutting through the blockages themselves — even though the power company had not yet indicated that there was no longer power running through the wires that trees were leaning on.

One plus, Ridgway said, was that cell phones were working, and the town and the fire department were able to contact state officials. The fire department circulated around the town and the town highway crew opened up many roads.

By Wednesday morning, Aug. 5, it became clear that the town was on its own, Ridgway reported. There was no response from Eversource. Ridgway and other officials and EMS workers set up operations in the fire department, which had intermittent internet. He said that the town established a water supply and the library could offer a cooling station and a phone charging station. By Sunday, Aug. 9, things had improved, Ridgway said, describing the restoration of power to West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) was in contact with Eversource in addition to circulating among area towns gathering information and also offering to help wherever she could.

"Lots of things were not done right by the power company," Ridgway said. There were problems not just with weather, but with coordination.

"There will be an epilogue," Ridgway concluded. State officials were expected to question Eversource about its response to the storm at a hearing on Monday, Aug. 24.

### Facade grant

Other meeting items on Aug. 13 included a recognition of roof and facade improvements at the West Cornwall Electric Bike Shop, thanks to a grant from the state facade program, which provides for 80% coverage of project costs.

**Fiber optic in town's future**  
Optimum is now considering a business plan to replace its cable system with fiber op-

tic wires. They are acting in response to customer need; many residents are now working from home and need to upgrade their capacity. They are also working to upgrade their service in other parts of the state, because of the demands of remote learning. Ridgway noted that the time is right for this improvement.

The next step toward service improvement is to survey the town to find the weak spots in service and determine the level of need, Ridgway reported.

The Aug. 11 presidential primaries were discussed at the Aug. 18 meeting, with general agreement that it had all gone smoothly, but that social distancing was difficult to maintain at the Town Hall voting site and some voters needed to wait outside. Voting for the November election, with higher turnout and chillier temperatures expected, will be in the school gym.

### Ethan Allen gravesite

The historic Allen family cemetery will benefit from some needed clean-up and upkeep following the selectmen's unanimous agreement.

Ridgway reported that the Allens were among the first settlers in pre-Revolutionary Cornwall. Ethan and Ira Allen were born and raised in Cornwall before they went north to what was to become Vermont and their formation of the Green Mountain Boys.

"It's a nice little historical note," Ridgway said, adding that the needed cemetery restoration work would not involve much expense.

## Life as a college student during a pandemic

By Hunter O. Lyle

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Library hosted a panel on Saturday, Aug. 15, in which four undergraduates discussed what it is like to chase a degree during a pandemic.

During the COVID-19 quarantine, students have had to cope with colleges and universities that don't yet have clear strategies; the necessity of taking classes remotely, with systems that are often faulty or untried; and, of course, the danger of becoming infected.

The "Cornwall Talks College and COVID" panel, which was hosted over a Zoom call, was moderated by Susan Klaw, a member of the Board of Trustees for the library.

Panelists were Dean Saccardi, a rising sophomore at Western Connecticut State University; Isabel Algrant, a rising senior at Wesleyan University in Connecticut; Lucie Jadov, a rising senior at Chapman University in Southern California; and Roxy Hurlburt, a rising junior at the University of New England in Maine.

In front of a 23-person online audience, the four students broke down how their schools have reacted so far to the pandemic. Mostly, they said, the schools were vague about their plans, first extending their spring breaks before eventually transferring to remote learning.

Then came the struggles of online learning. Algrant and her class had to find a way to orchestrate a theater class while

not being able to perform. Saccardi's art history classes (he was enrolled at Manhattan College at the time), could no longer include tours of New York City museums. Hurlburt's classes — which should have taken place in a lab — were instead conducted with Excel spreadsheets.

"I would say I'm a pretty good procrastinator, so working from home definitely made that worse," Hurlburt said of the difficulties of switching to remote learning. "I just felt like I didn't have a focus. There are so many distractions in my house alone."

As the summer comes to an end, and the fall semester approaches, the students admitted to having some anxieties about the upcoming school year.

"[The University of New England] plans to go back, all in

person," said Hurlburt, who has enrolled in two online courses and two in-person courses. "For me, I'm glad I'm going back because nursing is so hands-on that I want to be there — but I do get nervous."

Before concluding with a brief question-and-answer segment, Klaw asked the group what they had learned throughout this experience. Among the responses were: patience, community and creativity.

"When I came home, I heard they were looking for people to volunteer [at places like the food pantry], and I had volunteered for a bunch of those things," Saccardi said. "What I found was that I was rarely getting called to do any of those things, because there were so many people who had also done the same."



## Worship Services

Week of August 30, 2020

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

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www.stthomasamenia.com to log on.  
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www.stthomasamenia.com  
845-373-9161

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
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Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page  
Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study  
Rev. Heidi Truax  
trinity@trinitylimerock.org  
(860) 435-2627  
www.trinitylimerock.org

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
The format for our Unitarian Fellowship has changed to Zoom.  
Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m.  
Contact Jo Loi for the Zoom link at 860-435-2319  
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9 AM - St. Bernard (indoors)  
Wednesday  
SATURDAY VIGIL  
4 PM - St. Bridget (outdoors)  
SUNDAY MASSES  
8 AM - St. Bernard (indoors)  
10 AM - St. Bridget (outdoors)  
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**Millerton United Methodist Church**  
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518-789-5138

## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF  
**DENNIS J. TOGNINALLI**  
Late of Sharon (20-00293)  
The Hon. Diane S. Blick,  
Judge of the Court of Probate,  
District of Litchfield Hills  
Probate Court, by decree dated,  
August 6, 2020, ordered that all  
claims must be presented to the  
fiduciary at the address below.

Failure to promptly present  
any such claim may result in  
the loss of rights to recover on  
such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Kimberly S. Togninalli  
c/o Mark J. Capecelatro  
Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC  
117 Main St. - Box 1045

Canaan, CT 06018  
Beth L. McGuire  
Clerk  
08-27-20

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF  
**PETER A. BARRETT**  
Late of West Cornwall  
(20-00314)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick,  
Judge of the Court of Probate,  
District of Litchfield Hills  
Probate Court, by decree dated,  
August 13, 2020, ordered that all  
claims must be presented to the  
fiduciary at the address below.

Failure to promptly present  
any such claim may result in  
the loss of rights to recover on  
such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Barbara Barrett  
c/o Anthony J. Salzarulo  
Anthony J. Salzarulo  
558 Main Street  
Cromwell, CT 06416

Megan Williams  
Assistant Clerk  
08-27-20

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF  
**MARGOT H. FEELY**  
Late of New York  
(20-00232)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick,  
Judge of the Court of Probate,  
District of Litchfield Hills  
Probate Court, by decree dated,  
August 13, 2020, ordered that all

claims must be presented to the  
fiduciary at the address below.

Failure to promptly present  
any such claim may result in  
the loss of rights to recover on  
such claim.

The fiduciaries are:  
Douglas George Biow  
2611 Pegrum Avenue  
Austin, TX 78757  
Erin Robinson Feely  
595 Main Street, Apt 602  
New York, NY 10044  
Thomas Biow  
53 Franklin Avenue  
Rye, NY 10580

Megan Williams  
Assistant Clerk  
08-27-20

## Grace Wilde Moore & Simon Henry Penning

On July 27, 2019, in a mowed field adjacent to the Moore family residence on Low Road in Sharon, Connecticut, Simon and Grace shared their vows in the presence of family and friends, their dog Jane Doe, a flock of turkeys, and a few nobby Holsteins. Cumulus clouds floated overhead, marking the perfect day.

After a cocktail reception, family and friends gathered in the pasture.

The groomsmen were Simon's friends from middle school, high school, and college. Logan Roberts, Max Hamaker (best man), Milo McCausland, Pat Sissman and Mark Abramowicz, arrived in the bed of Dave Moore's 1998 Dodge Ram driven by Grace's brother, George Moore.

Simon, wearing a green linen suit from Enzo Custom, arrived in a 1972 BMW Model 2002 driven by Logan Roberts, along with officiant Cameron (Camy) Todd, friend of the bride and groom and wife of Logan.

The bride and groom's mothers, Deborah Moore and Janice Henderson, along with flower girls, nieces Penelope Moore (daughter of George and Samantha Moore) and Lucy Horbal (daughter of Marion Penning and Andy Horbal) and ring bearer, cousin Max Traub (son of Annie and Matt Traub) arrived in Grace's grandmother's 1956 Mercedes 219.

Grace, wearing a long, white, lace gown by Grace Loves Lace and carrying flowers by Hudson Botanica (Garrison, NY), arrived with her bridesmaids, Kate MacMullan (maid of honor), Abi Tidwell, Claire Alsop, Carrie Marks, Juliana Argentino, Caroline Keeshan, Sarabeth Kelly (all Tulane friends) and Jane Doe accompanied the bride in a 1924 Reo Speedwagon (firetruck) driven by Dave Moore (Grace's dad). The firetruck had once belonged to the town of Sharon.

The Deming String Quartet played an arrangement from Beasts of the Southern Wild as the bride walked down the aisle with her parents.

Camy introduced the couple with anecdotes gleaned from conversations with the bride and groom. Alison Penning (sister of the groom) read the poem From Blossoms by Li-Young Lee. Simon and Grace shared personal, heart-felt vows.

After the ceremony, a reception was held under a tent behind the Moore residence. Music was provided by Silver Arrow Band. Simon and Grace's first dance was to Rivers and Roads by The Head and the Heart. The wedding cake was created by Gardner Moore (Grace's cousin) and decorated by Alison Penning with edible flowers pressed by the groom's mother. The sun set over the mountains to the West and the party continued under the stars.

Grace was raised in Woodbridge and Sharon, CT and graduated from the Foote School in New Haven, The Westminster School in Simsbury, Tulane University in New Orleans and received her Master's in Education from Johns Hopkins University. Simon, born in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, moved with his family to Iowa when he was four. He graduated from Durham Academy in Durham, NC, Friend's School in Baltimore, Tufts University in Medford and University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

The bride's Sharon roots run deep. Her paternal grandparents, Dr. S.W. "Bill" Moore and Mary Jameson Posey Moore, and great grandparents Edwin C. and Mary Gardner Jameson had homes in the area dating back to 1903.

The couple honeymooned in the Bahamas and are now living in Baltimore. Simon works as a lawyer for the City of Baltimore and Grace a teacher at the Henderson-Hopkins School.



Cake made by Gardner Moore and Alison Penning.



# OBITUARIES

## Linda Susan Pezze

PINE PLAINS — Linda Susan Pezze, 69, a Pine Plains resident since 1992 and formerly of Ancramdale, died peacefully at her home in Pine Plains on Aug. 23, 2020, with her loving family at her bedside. Mrs. Pezze retired from the Anderson Center for Autism in Staatsburg, N.Y., and had previously worked as a home health aide for Heritage Home Care in Sharon for more than 10 years.



wife, Kelly, Lonnie Thorn and his wife, Jessica, Samuel Pezze and his girlfriend, Heather Karch, and Jessica Pezze and her boyfriend, Brian Lowe; six grandchildren, Brandon and Dylan Thorn, Scott and Austin Baker and Lacey and Jayden Pezze; three brothers, Ed, Harry and Reginald Hough; and several nieces and nephews and many friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Carol Mallet.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. A funeral service will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the funeral home, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating.

Burial will follow at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pine Plains Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 100, Pine Plains, NY 12567; or Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter, 2649 South Road #101, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

To send an online condolence, go to [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

LAKEVILLE — William Michael Manko, 68, of Lime Rock Road, died Aug. 24, 2020, at home with his family following a years-long battle with cancer. He was the husband of Janet Manko, publisher and editor in chief of The Lakeville Journal Co.



Bill was born in Orange, N.J., on Feb. 15, 1952, and grew up in Florham Park, N.J. He was the son of Teresa Manko of Lakeville and the late William H. Manko.

He attended the public schools in Florham Park, then went to the University of Texas at Austin and earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree.

He worked for the firms of Nadaskay & Kopelson, now NK Architects, in Morristown, N.J., then moved to Lime Rock upon his marriage to Janet in 1983 and worked at Schneider+Knapp Architects in Kent, Conn. He worked independently following his time with Sherm Schneider and Bob Knapp, with an office in his home.

Bill enjoyed his family and friends, and his garden, which was large and gave him good inspiration for cooking, which he did every weeknight. He also enjoyed the vibrant cultural life in the Tri-state area and in Boston and New York. Picnics on the lawn at Tanglewood were a

highlight of the summers, as well as visits to the Clark Museum and the Whitney, the Met, MFA and MoMA, seeing friends at every trip. He was a proponent of mid-century architecture, especially the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and Eero Saarinen. He read voraciously, especially on history, flight and architecture, and followed the news faithfully until the end of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Janet; his daughter, Amber Manko; his mother, Teresa Manko; his sister, Joyce Manko and her partner, Kurt Freehauf; and beloved in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services will be private due to COVID-19. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Squad at [www.salisburyambulance.org](http://www.salisburyambulance.org) or Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association at [www.salisburyvna.org](http://www.salisburyvna.org).

The Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon has care of the arrangements.

## Richard H. Fife

FALLS VILLAGE — Richard H. Fife, of Falls Village in typical Dick Fife fashion passed away Aug. 17, 2020, age 82, on his terms doing what he was best known for, working hard.



Dick was born June 27, 1938, in Great Barrington to the late Arlene and Jesse Fife and was a lifelong resident of Falls Village.

He owned and operated Four Seasons Landscaping and worked as a property manager for several local estates.

Dick had a love for collecting, restoring and selling just about anything, with a particular fondness for antique gas pumps, which he really had a talent for.

Dick was predeceased by his daughter, Gloria Warren; his son, Paul Fife; and his grandson, Christopher Hewins.

He is survived by his wife,

Norma; four children, Laurene Hewins of Ashley Falls, Lisa Jamieson of Sheffield, Bob Fife of North Canaan and James Fife of Sheffield; a sister, Marie Hewins of North Canaan; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; six stepchildren, Laurie, Alice, Lorraine, Keisha, Frank and Clifford; two nieces; one nephew; and his beloved dog, Wrinkles.

Dick was loved and his side-of-the-road conversations will be missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shea Cohn Memorial Fund, 25 Deer Road, Falls Village, CT 06031.

A Celebration of Life was held at the VFW Couch Pipa Post on Aug. 22. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

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

## Online Historical Society auction

SHARON — The Sharon Historical Society & Museum's 25th Anniversary Sharon Treasure Sale will be held online as an auction from Friday, Sept. 4, at noon until Monday, Sept. 7, at noon. Items can be previewed online from Monday, Aug. 31, through Friday, Sept. 4, at noon at [www.accelevents.com/e/treasure2020](http://www.accelevents.com/e/treasure2020). Items can be picked up Tuesday, Sept. 8, through Friday, Sept. 11, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Historical Society.

## Cornwall Library book sale will be from Sept. 5 to 13

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Library will hold a used book sale outdoors with safe social distancing and masks required, beginning on Saturday, Sept. 5, and continuing through

Sept. 7, and again the following weekend, on Sept. 12 and 13.

The sale hours will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cash and check only. The library is now accepting book donations.

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## Electric utilities are crucial as scapegoats for politicians

Having itself failed to perform for most of this year, abdicating amid the virus epidemic, the General Assembly is gearing up to punish Connecticut's two leading electric companies, Eversource Energy and United Illuminating, for supposedly failing to restore power fast enough after the recent tropical storm. Without waiting for any formal investigation and findings, the top Democrats and Republicans on the Legislature's Energy and Technology Committee have introduced a bill to make the companies do a bunch of things, most of which the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority already seems to have the power to make them do.

Maybe Eversource is lying, but a week ago the company said the storm did far more damage to the electric system than Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and that power was almost completely restored in only eight days, compared to 11 for Sandy and 12 for Irene.

This might indicate *improvement* by Eversource, but everybody is in a lousy mood because of the epidemic and the hateful tone of politics, so nobody wants to hear it, much less find out if it's true.

The proposed legislation would forbid electricity rate increases for two years, as if the utilities ever increase rates on their own, as if rates aren't controlled by the utility authority, as if the governor and Legislature don't appoint the authority's members, and as if two years ago the governor and Legislature didn't enact a law requiring Eversource to purchase increasing amounts of more expensive "renewable" energy, hoping that people would forget by the time the rate increase took effect.

The legislation suggests that the utilities, particularly Eversource, are making too much money — and maybe they are. Certainly some executives are extravagantly paid. This has prompted talk of having state

### THE CHRIS POWELL COLUMN

government take over the electric system, since it is a natural monopoly and is properly left in private ownership only if it operates better that way under regulation.

But such talk is occurring almost entirely in forums other than state government itself, and it's only theoretical. As a practical matter, it's ridiculous.

That's because no governors or legislators would ever want people calling *them* when the lights go out, or would ever want responsibility for another huge and complicated infrastructure system. Already Connecticut cannot properly maintain its highways, bridges and railroads, which are notoriously neglected. That's why until the epidemic, Governor Lamont spent most of his time trying to persuade the Legislature to authorize tolls.

What would happen if state government operated the electric system? Would it function even as well as the Motor Vehicles Department or the Connecticut Port Authority? Or, as with the rest of state and municipal government, would the electric system steadily be cannibalized to increase the compensation of its employees?

This week Governor Lamont hinted at the answer, instructing department heads to prepare their next budgets with 10% reductions, just a few weeks after approving \$350 million in raises for state employees while private-sector unemployment soared amid the epidemic.

State takeover of the electric system would delight the state employee unions, providing them big increases in membership and political influence.

Of course the first step in state government's takeover of the electric utilities would be to settle on a fair price for their assets.

Then state government would have to raise taxes by maybe billions of dollars or borrow that much even as Connecticut already has close to the highest per-capita state government debt load in the country.

For political purposes, elected officials badly need electric companies to remain under private ownership, since that provides cover for the social and political costs state government stuffs into utility bills, for which the utilities, not elected officials, get blamed.

If ratepayers ever realized that much of their electric bill is actually taxation, they'd complain to their elected officials even when the lights were still on.

Chris Powell is a columnist for the *Journal Inquirer* in Manchester.



## Connecticut needs two vibrant political parties

Twenty years ago, on Oct. 1, 2000, I wrote a column in this newspaper "congratulating" four of Connecticut's six members of the U.S. House of Representatives on their "splendid victories" a month before they were actually reelected.

The column's purpose was to bemoan the fact that the four recipients of my insincere congratulations occupied safe congressional seats. Gerrymandering had conveniently provided two safe districts for each party — the 1st and 3rd for the Democrats and the 4th and 6th for the Republicans, with the 2nd and 5th tossups. Safe seat occupants never lost.

But compared to today, those were the good old days for the two-party system in Connecticut. Population lost in the 2000 Census would cost the state a congressional seat and the merger of the Republican 6th with the tossup 5th would create a Democratic 5th. The Republican 4th would then turn into the Democratic 4th after the 2008 defeat of Chris Shays, the last state Republican in Congress.

This time around, I could have congratulated the five Democratic incumbents on

### IF YOU ASK ME DICK AHLES

their splendid victories right after their splendid victories in 2018, knowing that one Donald J. Trump would be heading the ticket in 2020.

The Cook Political Report and four of the nation's other leading election handicappers agree, pronouncing all five Connecticut congressional elections "Safe Democrat" with two slight exceptions. Politico and Sabato's Crystal Ball called the 2nd District race a tad less certain, "Likely Democratic."

But they made those calls on the race between incumbent Joe Courtney and the Republican Party-endorsed candidate Thomas Gilmer before Gilmer was charged with assaulting and strangling a girl friend in 2017, making him easily the best known of the five Republican challengers for all the wrong reasons.

The next best known has to be Gilmer's challenger, John Anderson, the retired prison guard who circulated a video of his opponent's assault and won the nomination in a recount. All of this has obviously not enhanced the GOP's chances.

The best known Republican candidate not involved in the scandalous doings in the 2nd District is Rep. Jahana Hayes' challenger in the 5th, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel X. Sullivan. He also happens to be the best qualified of the five Republicans and one of the better financed. But his \$234,000 will not go far against Hayes' \$1,312,000. (All of the campaign finance figures cited here come from the watchdog Center for Responsive Politics.)

Surprisingly, the Republican with the most money is Margaret Streicker, a successful real estate developer, who has the unenviable task of beating Rosa DeLauro. Streicker has \$648,000 to DeLauro's \$1,054,000. DeLauro has represented the New Haven area since 1991.

The bankrolls of the other Republicans

range from laughable to pathetic. West Hartford Councilwoman Mary Fey, challenging 10-term Rep. John Larson, has raised \$6,195 to Larson's, \$999,000, much of it, as usual, coming from the state's leading corporations.

The 2nd District's surviving Republican, Justin Anderson, has \$57,000 to Democrat Courtney's \$681,000. In the 4th, Republican Jonathan Riddle, a financial analyst, has only \$14,900 to contest Jim Himes on the Gold Coast. Himes has raised \$1,300,000.

The Gilmer scandal and the party's failure to respond to the accusations before the primary have led to calls for the resignation of Chairman J.R. Romano, who has led the party since 2015. In those five years, he has seen the Democrats sweep the congressional districts twice.

He also chaired the party's 2018 gubernatorial election in which the Democrats were able to stay in power after the two terms of Dannel Malloy, whose main achievement was an approval rating that made him the most unpopular governor in the nation.

But Ned Lamont managed to win a close contest with another previously unknown millionaire candidate named Bob Stefanowski, who couldn't make enough voters believe he could really eliminate the state's corporate and income taxes.

The party under Romano and his predecessors are partial to unknowns who can finance their own losing elections like Tom Foley, who was given two chances against Malloy. Then there was Linda McMahon, the wrestling magnate who spent \$50 million of her own money losing a Senate seat to Dick Blumenthal by 11 points and the same amount losing to Chris Murphy by 12 points two years later.

Things just haven't been the same for the Republican Party since the days when it ran talented, experienced candidates known as Eisenhower or moderate Republicans. Maybe some talented, experienced Republicans should take notice before it's too late.

Simsbury resident Dick Ahles is a retired journalist. Email him at rahles1@outlook.com.

## Chekhov's 'Wood Demon' and the world on fire

Anton Chekhov's "The Wood Demon," completed in October 1889 and performed in Moscow two months later, was a flop. Eight years later, having revised the play, Chekhov submitted "Uncle Vanya" to the Moscow Art Theater. It was a hit.

In the early work, the protagonist — Mikhael Lyovich Khrushchov, "a landowner with a degree in medicine" — serves as the voice of the author (himself a doctor) in his passionate defense of the forests of Russia: "The Russian forest shudders before the almighty ax. Billions of trees are lost, animals and birds are driven from their homes, rivers dry up and magnificent scenery is lost, never to be seen again..." In "Uncle Vanya," the advocate of Russia's woodlands is Mihael Lyovitch Astrov, a doctor who devotes his spare time to making maps that show "a picture of gradual and unmistakable degeneration..."

Now Russian forests are burning at a rate never seen before. "A heat wave thawed Siberia's tundra. Now, it's on fire," read the headline of a July 6 National Geographic article by Madeleine Stone. The subhead spelled out the reason: "A relentless, climate change-driven heat wave has caused a rash of fires on land normally too frozen to burn." In Sweden, wildfires burned from the Arctic Circle to the Baltic Sea, and a report filed by the Aid & International Development Forum summed up "Wildfires are causing catastrophic damage across Europe."

In the western hemisphere, on Aug. 8 CNN reported, "Firefighters across three Western states are battling wildfires that have destroyed more than 90,000 acres," while three days later the headline of a Guardian report by Dom Phillips stated: "Brazil experiences worst start to Amazon fire season for 10 years," with more than 10,000 blazes seen

### GUEST COMMENTARY JON SWAN

in the first two weeks of August, a 17% rise on last year."

So it went in the blazing summer of 2020. The relevance of inhaling the smoke of wildfires to human health, including children's immune systems, had been made clear in reporting last year. This year the story moved on to the connection between the exposure to air pollution and coronavirus death rates. Thus, it was surprising that, this past March, the EPA decided to relax environmental rules, using the coronavirus pandemic as an excuse, "allowing power plants, factories, and other facilities to determine for themselves if they are able to meet legal requirements on reporting air and water pollution," as New York Times reporter Lisa Friedman noted in an April 7 article headed "New Research Links Air Pollution to Higher Coronavirus Death Rates." Friedman quotes Gina McCarthy, former head of the EPA, now president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, as calling the move "an open license to pollute."

On Aug. 13, a Guardian headline summed up the findings of a study by Britain's Office for National Statistics: "Exposure to air pollution may increase risk of COVID death." Four days later, the Trump administration announced that it had finalized a plan to open up part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil and gas development, a decision that, as the Times' headline explained, "overturns six decades of protections for the largest remaining stretch of wilderness in the United States." Surely this plan can be construed as Trump's bid to qualify for membership in the exclusive Club

of Environmental Killers headed by Bolsonaro of Brazil and Modi of India, where, as an Aug. 8 Guardian headline stated, "40 new coalfields in some of India's most ecologically sensitive forests are to be opened up for commercial mining."

And so, unless they can be stopped, poof! goes our species.

Jon Swan is a poet, journalist and former senior editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*. His poems and articles on environmental issues can be found at [www.jonswanpoems.com](http://www.jonswanpoems.com).



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

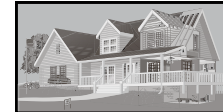
### Stumpy mushrooms

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For the first time I have encountered high radon in the well water in a home inspection. The issue is that the radon becomes dissolved in the water and then reverts to a gas as it comes out of the faucet or shower, creating potentially high levels of radon that are unsafe as it is cancer causing. Here is a primer from the CT DPH for review: [portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental\\_health/radon/pdf/RadoninYourWaterpdf\(1\).pdf](http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental_health/radon/pdf/RadoninYourWaterpdf(1).pdf). The key as a homebuyer is to request that the levels of radon be checked in the water sample at the home inspection, it is an extra expense, but worth it. If the levels are high, there are several methods of remediation, either carbon filters or aeration, with costs ranging from 2,000 to 5,000. Several contractors that remediate radon in the water are American Home at 203-775-1887 and Grecco and Haines at 203 735 9308.



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## EDITORIAL

# Eversource needs to be held accountable

After a week without electricity (and with the threat of a hard winter coming) the strength and reliability of electricity distribution is on everyone's minds — especially state government officials, most of whom also went without power for many days and all of whom received phone calls day and night from constituents and town leaders who wanted to know exactly what was going on and when it was going to be fixed.

Gov. Ned Lamont and Connecticut's very active attorney general, William Tong, have demanded investigations into the actions of Eversource (which supplies power to 149 of the state's 169 towns) and United Illuminating (UI, which supplies power to 17 towns, including Bridgeport and New Haven) following Tropical Storm Isaias.

Lamont and Tong had already demanded investigations into Eversource's rate increase, announced days before the tropical storm (and ensuing power outage).

Their questions are reasonable and deserve answers. For the power outage, which is perhaps freshest in the minds of Connecticut residents, town officials have been universal in saying that Eversource is supposed to have liaison officers available to answer questions about the extent and expected duration of power outages.

They did not.

All the Northwest Corner selectmen and state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) have said that there was a complete failure of communication, that questions weren't answered, that customers were not able to report outages and that the Eversource outage map was at times wildly inaccurate.

New Englanders are pretty tough and can handle a lot but in any crisis, it's harder to cope when you don't know when it's going to be over.

Eversource customers are all able to understand that this was a particularly challenging storm. But Tong and Lamont say that the job of the large electric suppliers is to be a "reliable" distributor of power (as compared to the "green" power sources such as hydro, wind and solar).

They are asking why Eversource didn't make upgrades that were promised after the state's other recent "biggest storms ever," in 2011 and 2012 — including the hiring of liaison officers to keep in contact with town officials.

The short list of questions Tong has aimed at Eversource can be found at the attorney general's website (search for "AG Tong Escalates Legal Actions to Hold Eversource and UI Accountable for Failed Storm Response"). They are not vindictive questions, they are functional and should be answered. Perhaps the happy outcome of the investigation will be that some of these upgrades will finally be made. They are certainly due.

Many area residents chatted with the out-of-state work crews who finally arrived in the region several days after the storm. Those crews said in some conversations that they were surprised by how antiquated Eversource's system is.

For the rates it charges, Eversource should have plenty of money to make upgrades. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov/state/rankings/?sid=US#/series/31](http://www.eia.gov/state/rankings/?sid=US#/series/31)), Connecticut's electric rates are significantly higher than nearly every other state in the nation, second only to Hawaii — and Eversource is planning to ask for yet another rate hike next summer.

One Eversource worker in conversation with a Lakeville Journal staffer last week said that resources for workers have been cut, while company executives have received substantial pay increases. Tong and Lamont plan to look into compensation, to see if top brass is indeed being overpaid, at the expense of service to consumers.

On the day after Eversource announced its rate hike, both Tong and Lamont demanded that the state utilities authority suspend the increase so they could investigate what that money is going to be spent on. Again, their questions aren't vindictive; they seek clarity. You can find these questions by searching online for "AG Tong Demands Answers From Eversource Following Rate Hikes."

Tong and Lamont are after answers from Eversource. So are legislators in the General Assembly, where the Energy & Technology Committee has proposed The Take Back our Grid Act, which seeks to protect the rights of electric customers in the state; demands reimbursement for significant losses caused by the power outage (some of our area grocery stores reported losses of about a quarter of a million dollars in food; pharmacies and customers lost thousands of dollars in medications that had to be refrigerated); and more.

The state regulatory agency began its hearings about Eversource on Monday, Aug. 24, with questions from town leaders as well as our top state officials that can help ensure that the downward trend in services and response after Tropical Storm Isaias doesn't become the new normal.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Looking forward to Nov. 3 election

He golf's and tweets and nothing more

Time to show him the door  
He isn't working at his job  
Just behaves like a slob  
I never thought that I would see

A president as an arrestee  
Now I just can't wait  
To see him at the prison's gate  
That will be a glorious day  
Coming soon I do pray!

Michael Kahler

Salisbury

### Let there be light (and power)

After storm Isaias, when the power went out, we kept hearing about how neighboring towns were getting their electricity back. So we thought we would get ours back in a few days. We were wrong. It took more than a week for the electricity company to clear all the wires in Yelping Hill. Because of the loss of electricity we could not keep our food fresh so our "pod" decided to have big dinners at The Barn (a communal space) where we cooked and ate by candlelight.

On Wednesday, eight days after the storm, our first select-



PHOTO BY MARY BRESSETTE

### Salisbury frog

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Action on climate change needed now

I've been waiting for a big storm all summer. Storms are fun, and a good reminder of just how tenuously our day-to-day lives depend on the cooperation of nature. At their worst, storms in northwest Connecticut are disruptive, perhaps inconvenient. They prevent us from doing the things we normally do: going to work, using Wi-Fi. The storms in our part of the world are not overwhelmingly dangerous. Property damage is moderate, power outages are annoying but bearable, and deaths and injuries almost nonexistent.

The relative mildness of our "extreme" weather is not a given. Tropical Storm Isaias marks the ninth named storm so far this year. This has never (in recorded history!) happened so early into hurricane season. I'm not a scientist, but I keep up to date with developments in climate news — enough to understand that global climate change heats up oceans and causes more extreme storms. Hurricanes that were considered once-in-a-lifetime events are now occurring every 25 years; 2020 is projected to be one of the busiest hurricane seasons of all time.

There is no way to know for sure if the weather we experienced earlier this month was caused or exacerbated by climate change. This being said, attribution science — the branch of climate science that studies correlations between climate and weather — tells us that this is a warranted assumption. It is the assumption that I am making.

I understand why many people prefer not to think about climate change. Climate change is

upsetting, and also difficult to focus on. Like this pandemic, it is a largely invisible, long-lasting, existential threat that can easily fade in the company of flashier news.

Personally, I have found that the horrors of climate change can feel comfortably far from me, living as I do in a pristine, rural town in Connecticut.

I wrote this letter because I suspect many who live here may feel sheltered in a similar way.

In the face of an issue that can feel overwhelmingly big and comfortably distant, last week's storm may be a harbinger of things to come in our part of the world. Storms will become more numerous and more destructive. Litchfield County will grow hotter every summer. A lot of damage has already been done, but the next decade will be especially dooming if dramatic action is not taken. I urge readers to take a moment to think about the magnitude and scope of this problem.

There are so many ways to take individual action, the most urgent of which may be to support the presidential candidate who is in favor of the Paris Agreement. This being said, the Paris Agreement is not enough. If you care about your way of life and don't want to see it destroyed by extreme weather in the near future, please contact your policy makers and ask them to do more. Small as this action may seem, the future of our planet truly depends on constituents voicing their will.

Carrie Babigian

Salisbury

### Embracing truth in Falls Village

Colter Rule, in his letter to The Lakeville Journal of Aug. 20, asserts that, "A bona fide conservation offer was put on the table. Habitat didn't want to hear it."

This accusation is totally without merit, and particularly is without evidence. Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut (HFHNWCT) is not in possession of a "conservation offer." Nothing has been transmitted to HFHNWCT that would constitute a bona fide offer. Most often, if there is an "offer" for a parcel of real estate, it is communicated in writing. The basis of contract is "offer" and "acceptance."

Synonyms for bona fide are "genuine" or "real." As executive director of HFHNWCT, I can and would attest that there is no "genuine" or "real" offer in

the records.

There have been conversations initiated by Mr. Rule proposing that there be "conversations" with a local prominent conservation group, but in reality, once the management of that conservation group was made aware that a written option was in place for the parcel in question, the conservation group thought it best to invest their efforts elsewhere.

Integrity does matter. With the realization that a "bona fide" written agreement was already in place, the conservation group knew that Habitat would honor that agreement first, particularly as cooperation with the Falls Village Housing Trust was a basic element of Habitat's general mission and purpose and embraced the proliferation of affordable housing in our region.

It is apparent that Mr. Rule seems to feel that the more he makes an assertion, false as it is, the truer it will become. That seems like a page out of what is quickly becoming an antiquated playbook.

Truth is not negotiable or subject to interpretation — something either is true, or it is not. Facts, character and integrity matter. Statements made without evidence are the last resort for those who play loosely with the truth.

Bob Whelan

Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity of  
Northwest Connecticut

Sharon

## The promised land?

In 1965 my husband, Robert P. Levine, went off to Mississippi to work as an attorney for President Kennedy's Commission for Civil Rights Under Law. Among the incidents he recorded was a run-in with Sheriff Rainey and Deputy Price, later accused in the murders of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney.

Thirty-one years later he wrote an article looking back on 1965 to see what had been accomplished and asked, "Were our efforts as lawyers successful? Did the deaths of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney mean anything?"

In that 1989 article, he came to two different conclusions. In the public sphere — buses, water fountains, waiting rooms — there was progress. On the other hand, "The promised land we dreamed of in 1965 is not around the corner, or even in sight.... Mississippi may not be burning in 1989, but America, with all its prosperity and economic success, seems to be well on its way to establishing a permanent underclass made up of blacks and other minorities. Maybe that's what James Cheney's mother meant when she wondered if her son's death made any difference at all."

Unfortunately, his 1989 summary is even truer in 2020 than

it was when he wrote it. The pandemic has revealed this to the nation, pulling back a curtain on the disparity in rates of infection and death. Our nation's neglect of health care, housing, food security and a living wage has indeed created that "permanent underclass of blacks and other minorities." Many of these are the very people who continued to drive our buses, collect our garbage and work in our hospitals throughout the coronavirus emergency.

Perhaps Robert, who died in 2013, would be most shocked by the efforts of people, 55 years later, to stifle voting. The right to vote was a battle he thought we'd won. It turns out in 2020 that we can't take anything for granted when it comes to voting. From the Supreme Court to local districts, safeguards have been rolled back.

What can we do? Be sure you are registered to vote, then make sure you get yourself and others out to vote on Nov. 3, or send in your absentee ballot as soon as you receive it, following all the directions carefully. If you have time, work to facilitate voting elsewhere. We can do this. We can gather momentum to move forward, not backward.

Betty Krasne

Kent

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

### 100 years ago — August 1920

Charles Blake Carpenter Jr. who has been working in the General Electric Plant in Schenectady, N.Y., has returned to Salisbury.

LIME ROCK — Mrs. S. Brusie is at Canaan Camp Ground for a week.

LAKEVILLE — Dr. H.E. Bartle was home from Torrington over the week end.

SALISBURY — A large number of people from this and surrounding towns visited the lake last Sunday and enjoyed the bathing.

### 50 years ago — August 1970

State Transportation Commissioner George J. Conkling announced Aug. 21 that the historic Route 128 Covered Bridge across the Housatonic River between Sharon and Cornwall will be strengthened and the study of alternate traffic routes has been abandoned. According to Commissioner Conkling, a review by department engineers shows that the four ton limit on the bridge can be increased to at least 10 tons and possibly more.

Mrs. Colin G. Girvan of Belgo Road, Salisbury, has a new mystery novel for girls being published in October, according to the fall catalogue of her publisher, The Westminster Press. The setting for "Shadow in the Greenhouse" is Connecticut where a counterfeiter of rare stamps provides a girl visiting her aunt and uncle for the summer with an opportunity to do some sleuthing while working in the family-owned greenhouse and parrying with her charming cousin Perry.

An electrical storm last Friday morning burned out a refrigerator

motor and caused other damage in the amount of approximately \$1,000 at the home of Mrs. Lila Nash on Bostwick Hill, Lakeville. A neighbor, Reed T. Manning, a member of the Lakeville Fire Company, responded immediately to Mrs. Nash's call for help and extinguished a flame in the wall behind the refrigerator as the kitchen was filling with smoke. A powdered chemical used to put out the fire avoided damage by water.

### 25 years ago — August 1995

CANAAN — State Department of Transportation planners took a walk last week on what some hope is the site of a future bikeway and what others strongly oppose. While they offered suggestions and looked at alternatives, they said it is a town road and a town decision and recommended the matter be brought to a public hearing.

CORNWALL — Deer can take out a hedge of day lilies overnight. They can deblossom hostas and decimate rows of romaine, patches of pachysandra, stands of hemlock. But they can't do it around Deer No No, Cornwall artist Ira Barkoff said. Those who invest, he said, in a \$24 box of eight squares of his personally formulated deer repellent can be certain those grazing bandits will eat somebody else's garden for at least a year. "I guarantee it," said Mr. Barkoff during an interview this week.

*These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.*

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CAMPUS

Continued from Page A1

leased the study this week as a pre-print, which has not been peer-reviewed, because of the time-sensitive nature of the findings. “We wanted to make sure that the people who most need this information — college administrators and students — have it as quickly as possible,” said Junge.

The Baruch professor noted that the semester will be over by the time the researchers’ paper is peer-reviewed. “Rarely in academia is disseminating research this rapidly so essential. That is why we are circulating our findings early.”

The team’s model incorporated realistic student schedules and movements across campus. “We found that closing buildings can cause unanticipated consequences. If students spend their time socializing when the library or the dining hall is closed, we actually see a big increase in infections,” said Eikmeier.

Junge agreed that closing buildings such as gyms, libraries and dining halls might make things worse.

“When students socialize with that extra unstructured time, we saw big infection spikes in our model. It may be better to keep these spaces open, because administrators can control how they are used.”

Junge noted that one part of his team’s study that sets it apart from others about COVID-19 on colleges is that they focused on student behavior.

“One perhaps less surprising finding is that how students act matters a lot. A more surprising example of this is that socializing in small groups is one of the riskier settings, and we saw that when students wear masks there, it pulls infection rates down all over campus.”

Another key to safe reopening of campuses, according to the researchers’ findings, is that everyone needs to be tested weekly. Junge said that short of students passing most of their time in their rooms, and being in general very responsible, “We advise that a small college thin out their campus population and test them weekly. Anything short of this, and a COVID-19 outbreak appears difficult to contain.”

The lead researcher said he believes that students, like everyone, would appreciate clear, evidence-based guidelines for what is safe to do during these times. “We hope that colleges utilize our work to offer concrete guidelines: wear a mask with friends, socialize less and safely, and show up for tests.”

“Students returning to these unusual campuses with extreme measures in place need to realize that their behavior is one of these measures. How they conduct themselves will determine if they get to enjoy, albeit a bit differently, the benefits of college life, or pass another year learning from a screen in their bedroom.”

Models always have limitations, noted Keesing. “But this model should provide colleges and students with some useful insights that could make a big difference this fall.”

**Editor’s note:** In May, The Lakeville Journal reported that the National Science Foundation had awarded professors at Bard College in Red Hook, N.Y., and Grinnell College in Iowa a \$60,000 grant through its Rapid Response Research program to develop network models that, by more accurately incorporating social distancing measures, better capture the geographic and social complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic. This article focuses on the result of the researchers’ modeling study for the safe reopening of small colleges.

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VACCINE

Continued from Page A1

ing the vaccination effort in a big way.

Becton Dickinson and Company (BD), the world’s largest manufacturer of needles and syringes, with a sprawling plant in North Canaan, is working around the clock to fulfill a U.S. order for 190 million injection devices. BD is also fulfilling an additional pandemic order of 140 million devices for Canada and the United Kingdom, bringing the total commitment to 330 million.

A company spokesman said BD expects to deliver about a quarter of its U.S. order by the end of 2020 in anticipation of a vaccine being approved late this year or in early 2021. “Our North Canaan facility is proud to be supporting the effort to manufacture needles and syringes for the U.S. preparations efforts for a COVID-19 vaccine,” said BD spokesman Troy Kirkpatrick.

He credited the North Canaan plant’s employees, many of whom live in the Northwest Corner or commute from the nearby Berkshires, for their “heroic dedication to working during the pandemic to ensure that our country, and the world, have access to these much-needed devices to administer the vaccine when it is ready.”

U.S. officials have estimated that the country would need approximately 850 million syringes, and that two doses of the vaccine might be required.

BD recently finalized an initial pandemic order for 50 million devices, to be delivered by the end of December 2020, which Rick Byrd, president of medication delivery solutions for the company, said will be fulfilled through BD’s current manufacturing capacity (a new plant is being developed in Nebraska that is expected to open in a year).

“The company does not expect that this initial order or future quantities will impact BD’s ability to fulfill existing customer

requirements for needles and syringes — including the annual flu vaccination and childhood immunization campaigns,” Byrd said.

The largest employer in the Northwest Corner, BD produces billions of syringes annually at its North Canaan facility.

“BD is the world’s largest manufacturer of needles and syringes, and we produce multiple billions of these devices each year. Our North Canaan facility is an integral part of our global manufacturing network and one of our largest producers of the needles and syringes that serve the global health-care industry,” Kirkpatrick said.

In addition to ramping up the manufacturing of needles and syringes, BD has been working closely with the White House Coronavirus Task Force, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies to expand access to diagnostic testing and support treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Through June, the company supplied health-care providers globally with an estimated 48 million swabs for flu and COVID-19 testing, more than 2.85 million rapid molecular diagnostic tests and millions of products used in the treatment of COVID-19, including infusion pumps, infusion sets and catheters, according to a press release.

EVERSOURCE

Continued from Page A1

Lamont was next, having solved the technical difficulties.

He said the combination of outrage over the steep increases Eversource customers saw in their July bills and the poor performance of the company in restoring power after the tropical storm adds up to an opportunity to make fundamental changes in how electricity is delivered to Connecticut customers.

Lamont was critical of Eversource management. “The disconnect between [executive] pay and performance is shocking to me. The days of getting a 9.5% return for just showing up are over.”

He said Eversource should face penalties for poor performance, and future regulation should be based on performance.

During the remarks from Blumenthal, Lamont and several state legislators (and one first selectman), the Zoom chat function was active. Here are some samples:

“Fire PURA and start over.”  
“PURA approved the rate hike.”

“I’m surmising that nobody speaking lost power for seven days.”

“Everyone please prepare for the two storms on the way!”

“Let the unholy alliance between PURA and Eversource see the light of day. Then maybe we can get somewhere.”

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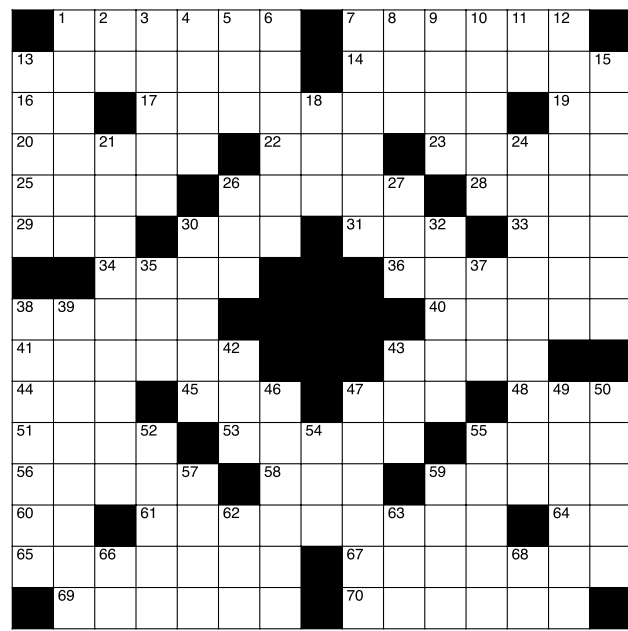
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Slopes
7. Attacks
13. One who has left prison
14. Goes against
16. Atomic #37
17. Home of The Beatles
19. Mac alternative
20. A common boundary with
22. Fluid in a plant
23. Genus that includes scads
25. Longer of the forearm bones
26. Gradually disappears
28. AI risk assessor
29. Type of whale
30. Jaws of a voracious animal
31. Patriotic women (abbr.)
33. Ancient Egyptian God
34. Obsessed with one’s appearance
36. Erase
38. A type of smartie
40. Nostrils
41. Influential French thinker
43. Popular K-pop singer
44. One point south of due east
45. Payroll company
47. Moved quickly on foot
48. Bar bill
51. An idiot
53. Indicates silence
55. Protein-rich liquids
56. Rhythmic patterns
58. Scatter
59. Belongs to bottom layer
60. Impulsive part of the mind
61. Carousel
64. Type of degree
65. Ornamental molding
67. Locks in again
69. Sounds the same
70. Come into view

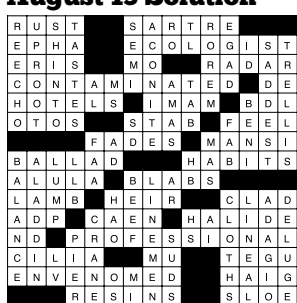
CLUES DOWN

1. Speak rapidly
2. Trauma center
3. River in W. Africa
4. Ancient Greek district
5. Bulgaria’s monetary unit
6. Children’s ride
7. Absorbed liquid
8. Markets term
9. Retail term recording sales
10. Automaton
11. Spanish form of “be”
12. Divide
13. Malaysian sailing boat
15. Writers
18. Cool!
21. Popular tourist attraction studio
24. Sets free

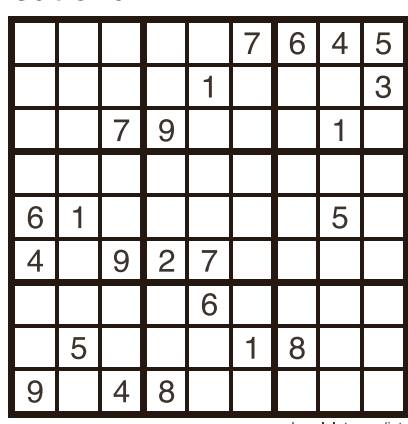


26. An enthusiastic devotee of sports
27. Unhappy
30. Alternate term for Holy Scripture
32. Influential French scholar
35. What thespians do
37. Local area network
38. Free from contamination
39. Coastal region of Canada
42. Sun up in New York
43. High schoolers’ exam
46. Fathers
47. Call it a career
49. Suitable for growing crops
50. Rose-red variety of spinel
52. Orange-brown in color
54. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
55. Late TNT sportscaster
57. A way to wedge
59. Cold, dry Swiss wind
62. Hockey players need it
63. Something highly prized
66. Atomic #45
68. Top lawyer

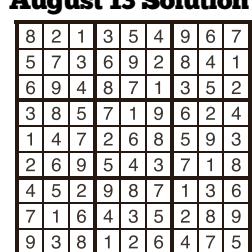
August 13 Solution



Sudoku



August 13 Solution



SCHOOLS

Continued from Page A1

is confined to one town, then the region’s strategy will address that town’s school. If the DPH finds through contact tracing and other statistical measures that the outbreak is broader, then the region will act accordingly.

Carter said the region is prepared “to pivot” quickly to respond to changing circumstances.

Asked what she has to say to jittery parents, Carter said, “We are proceeding according

to data.” She noted that the number of COVID-19 cases is low in Litchfield County and in the Northwest Corner in particular.

She emphasized that the school buildings have been physically reorganized to minimize foot traffic and maximize physical distance.

As long as the number of cases remains low and families follow safety guidelines at home, “then we’re in a good place.”



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**Hydrangea paniculata ‘Pink Diamond’** – Tall, airy panicles of creamy flowers opening in late summer turning pink and then a deep shade of rose. Tree and shrub forms available. Our favorite.

**Hydrangea paniculata ‘Pinky Winky’** – This new selection exhibits outstanding large, strong-stemmed upright white blooms, quickly turning a pleasing shade of pink. Lengthy bloom period and great growth habit make this new selection one of the best.

**Hydrangea paniculata ‘Quick Fire’** and **‘Little Quick Fire’** – An early flowering selection with pure white bloom quickly turning reddish pink and remaining effective for months. Excellent new selection in tree and shrub forms.

**Hydrangea paniculata ‘Strawberry Sundae’** – White blooms with a tinge of strawberry pink. New flowers emerge throughout July and August, keeping a fresh look. Compact habit adds lovely flowers to small spaces.

**Hydrangea paniculata ‘Unique’** – Large flowering selection creates an outstanding floral display from late summer into fall.

**Hydrangea arborescens** – Compact early blooming, durable and adaptable. Selections include ‘Annabelle’, ‘Hayes Starburst’, ‘Incrediball’, ‘Invincibelle Spirit II’, ‘Invincibelle Ruby’ and ‘Invincibelle Wee White’.

**Hydrangea macrophylla** – ‘Lady in Red’ and ‘Twist ‘n’ Shout’ – These are the hardiest and most reliable re-bloomers developed yet, with violet blue to pink blooms, lovely red stems and red fall color.

**Hydrangea petiolaris** – Spectacular shade-tolerant climbing vine with attractive rich green foliage, reddish shredding bark and fragrant white flowers through summer into fall. Our favorite flowering vine.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

August 27-September 2, 2020

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## The Sounds of Winter (in Summer) Benefit AMP

The end of summer is coming, a time when we think of things we should have done while the weather was warm and we maybe had some time on our hands. This year of course the end-of-summer regrets

are more profound as plans were impacted not just by COVID-19 but also by a week of power outages at the peak of vacation season.

Now is the time to do things we've meant to do — like attending a concert by

Paul Winter of the eponymous Paul Winter Consort. For the rest of the world, Winter was a leader of a new age music movement in the late 20th century that combined jazz, classical music as well and nature sounds.

Winter, 81, now lives in Litchfield. When a benefit he was planning in Washington, D.C., got canceled, he took a look at Ellen Griesedieck's epic American Mural Project in a converted factory space in Winsted, Conn. The massive mural is dedicated to American workers — includ-

ing the health-care workers and power company workers whose efforts we have so deeply appreciated this year.

The mural remains a work-in-progress but is very much worth a visit once AMP is able to offer tours safely again. Winter will now do a concert and dinner

there on Saturday, Sept. 5. Also performing will be Theresa Thomason of Woodridge, Conn., who had also volunteered to support AMP so the work can be completed. Thomason is a gospel singer who has performed around the world, often with the Paul Winter Consort.

Benefit event seats are extremely limited and available at [www.americanmuralproject.org/events](http://www.americanmuralproject.org/events) or by emailing [info@americanmuralproject.org](mailto:info@americanmuralproject.org).



PHOTO BY MATTHEW MUISE  
Grammy Winner Paul Winter will perform with gospel singer Theresa Thomason, in photo above, in a benefit for the American Mural Project on Sept. 5 in Winsted, Conn.



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**CLOTHING:** Cash only please. 9am-12pm, Sunday, Sept 6 (rain date 9/7 9am-12pm) at 18 Fairchild Road, Sharon, CT.

### SALISBURY, CT

**TAG SALE:** 171 Canaan Rd. Salisbury (Rt 44). Saturday Sept. 5, 9-3. Please wear a mask. Cash and carry. Look for signs and tent.

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# COMPASS

*Your Guide to Tri-State Events*

*Aug. 27-Sept. 2, 2020*



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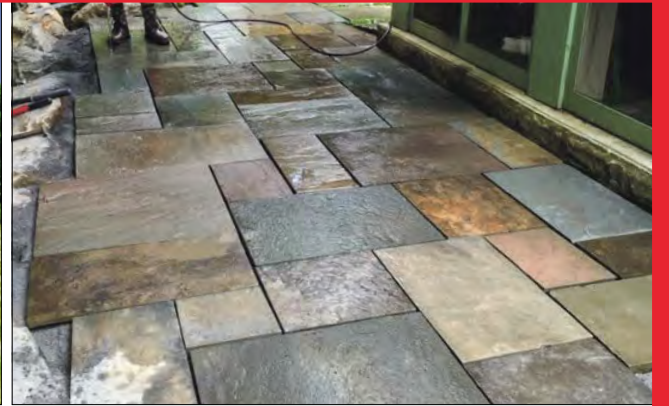
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PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

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PHOTO BY ALISON KIST

Interior designer Alison Kist mixes horizontal and vertical lines with her books, and makes sure to leave some open space.

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# Decorating By the Book

I bought a house last November. I love this house, and I want it to be my sanctuary: peaceful, harmonious, interesting. But I have always felt insecure about my home decorating skills; I sometimes think they haven't evolved much beyond Dorm Room Chic, or Frazzled Parent Modern.

But I'm decades past the dorm room and my frazzled parent days are (mostly) over, so I am determined to make this the most beautiful house I've ever lived in.

I got off to a great start: I bought a pretty rug and painted a room a gorgeous shade of deep blue. My dad offered me the simple maple chair that was in his childhood bedroom and that otherwise would be headed to Goodwill. I put it in my own very bare bedroom, draped a blanket on it and put a big plant next to it and — voila! One room is done.

Now what? I felt a bit paralyzed, and the advent of COVID-19 didn't help. I subscribed to stacks of magazines — House Beautiful and Elle Decor and others — but found them overwhelming. I don't even open them when they come now.

I decided my next focus would be my books. Though I gave away dozens of boxes of books when I moved, I still have plenty, and my swaybacked and crooked Ikea Billy shelves, which I've moved from home to home for over 20 years, just won't cut it anymore. So I hired a local handyman to build a wall of bookshelves.

But how to arrange the books? Could I make the shelves look intentional and elegant?

One of my friends arranged all her books by color — ROY G BIV and all. But that didn't suit me, and ostentatious coffee table books didn't seem

# Oblong Books & Music

## Great Summer Reads for Adults and Kids!



**The Lost Family**  
by Libby Copeland  
A deeply reported look at the rise of home genetic testing and the seismic shock it has had on individual lives.



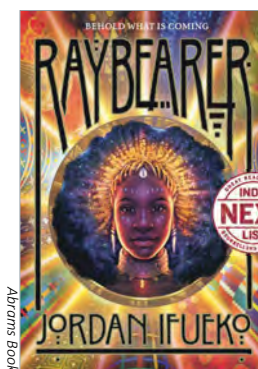
**Becoming Duchess Goldblatt: A Memoir**  
by Duchess Goldblatt  
A tale of real-life writer who created a fictional character with a social media following out of loneliness & thin air.



**Faster**  
by Neal Bascomb  
How a Jewish driver, an American heiress, and a legendary car beat Hitler's best. Perfect for fans of *The Boys in the Boat* and *In the Garden of Beasts*.



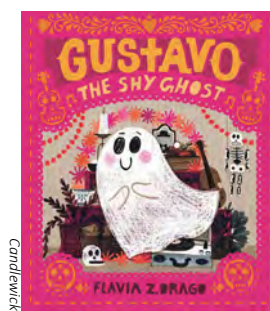
**Like the Moon Loves the Sky**  
by Hena Khan, illustrated by Saffa Khan  
A sweet and lovely bedtime book to help let children know they are loved and precious.  
Ages 3-5



**Raybearer**  
by Jordan Ifueko  
An epic YA fantasy from an incredible new talent — perfect for fans of Tomi Adeyemi and Sabaa Tahir.  
Ages 12+



**The Mermaid, the Witch, and the Sea**  
by Maggie Tokuda-Hall  
A sweeping fantasy, full of stolen memories, double agents, and haunting mythical creatures.  
Ages 14+



**Gustavo, the Shy Ghost**  
by Flavia Z. Drago  
This winning picture book about finding the courage to make friends is perfect for the spooky season — or anytime.  
Ages 3-7.



right either (I need room on my coffee table for bowls of popcorn and, well, my feet), so I reached out to some experts for advice.

**IT'S ALL IN THE MIX**

Dana Kraus, who sells luxury vintage jewelry and has worked at some of the top design magazines, started with what's most important: "Books give a house a soul."

The book collection at her home in Sharon, Conn., is both beautiful and functional: It includes childhood favorites as well as reference books for her various projects, and incorporates books that are pleasing visually, first editions and ones with rich bindings, interspersed with objects that are beautiful and relevant to her work: fossils, sketches, catalogs, ammonites.

"Magically, it all works because it's reflective of our tastes and style," she said.

In other words, mix books that you love but make sure that mix includes tomes that are esthetically gorgeous. They will enhance the plainer books that are (also) important to you.

**BOOKS TELL YOUR OWN STORY**

Still unsure about my own taste or style, I made another call.

Interior designer Alison Kist of New York City and Lakeville, Conn., spent 9 years living in London, where she visited many homes with old English libraries. "I just was drawn to these libraries: The books bring a warmth, texture, a sense of history."

When she's decorating a home, her approach is to "shop the house" of

her clients, starting with what they already have.

"I like incorporating the owners' own things. It makes the space much more personal, as opposed to starting over all new."

She'll go to tag sales to find things that have a story to them. "Whether you learn that story or not, it's lived a life somewhere, so it seems more interesting," she said.

**HOW TO STACK**

She suggests stacking books horizontally, to break up the vertical lines of the room, so the shelves are not just rows and rows of books.

"That stack is also a great place to display a little object on top," Kist added.

I don't collect anything (having disposed of my previous collections of Party Goody Bag Trinkets and Decapitated Cat Toys) but I found some Harney & Sons Tea tins that remind me of my years in Millerton, N.Y., and a pretty vase. I stacked a few books sideways and put the tins on top, the vase next to them. Not bad, at least until my bedside stack of books gets too tall and tips over and I need to add them to the shelf.

**LIKE PROUST'S MADELEINE**

Finally, I spent a mesmerizing hour with designer Matthew Patrick Smyth in his simply decorated retreat in Salisbury, Conn. Each space he showed me was filled with books that have a personal meaning for him — with the author, with the subject, with the day he bought it or received it as a gift from a

*Continued on page 6*



PHOTO BY JOHN GRUEN

**For interior designer Matthew Patrick Smyth, more is more on the bookshelves in his workspace in Salisbury. The vertical lines of the books are broken up by beloved decorative objects, photos, ceramics.**

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PHOTO BY DANA KRAUS

“I try to stick to subjects that interest me,” said Dana Kraus of the books on her shelves. “In addition to garden books and decorative art books, I collect beautiful bindings.”

## ... decorating

*continued from page 5*

now-departed friend. How they looked on the shelf was unimportant; what he cared about was the memories, the feelings each book evoked. Together, his books told a story of a fascinating and well-lived life.

My books do say something about my life. There are feminist favorites, books by friends, nonprofit management tomes, parenting advice, my husband’s huge collection of bird guides, memoirs from people who have lived fascinating and inspiring lives, and lots and lots of fiction — great stories about worlds and experiences far away from my own.

Some I’ve read 10 times, others I’ve meant to read but never got around to. They aren’t bound in leather, and I

probably bought most of them either at library book sales or on the internet; I don’t have a lot of interesting stories about them.

That’s OK, though: as Dana Kraus told me, “Books are to be used and enjoyed every day.”

The other day, having given up on trying to make the shelves look any kind of way, I ran my hand over the titles and stopped on a battered copy of Jane Austen’s “Mansfield Park,” my book club’s pick for next month. I pulled it out and started reading the familiar words about the most fortunate Miss Maria Ward of Huntingdon.

I settled into my dad’s maple chair, pulled the blanket around me, and began to read.

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PASTIMES: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

# How To Stay Sane During a Pandemic

Feeling a little jittery? Have the couch cushions settled irrevocably into the shape of your personal rear end-type area? Has the excitement of binge-watching season 7 of “Home Boyz from Outer Space” faded?

I have two suggestions.

The first is a streaming channel called “The Great Courses.” The offerings are a real grab bag. I concentrated on history, starting with Amanda Podanyi, who in addition to knowing everything there is to know about ancient Mesopotamia, was the bass player in the band that became The Bangles.

Then I moved on to ancient Mesoamerica, a subject I knew very little about other than a vague idea that they played something like basketball, and of course knowledge gleaned from the classic 1964 film “The Wrestling Women vs. the Aztec Mummy.”

A foray into Gnosticism made me understand why the early Christian church wanted to stamp this stuff out, and did you know the Etruscans invented pizza?

The beauty of these programs, which are essentially lectures with two camera angles and maybe some slides, is you can fall asleep during them and rewind if you're feeling ambitious.

But I was tired of staring at screens. So, well ahead of schedule I started my usual summer program of rereading old favorites.

I highly recommend an old Eric Ambler omnibus, “Intrigue.” It contains four novels: “A Coffin for Dimitrios,” “Journey Into Fear,” “Cause for Alarm” and “Background to Danger” — plus, in the edition I own, a forward by Alfred Hitchcock.

You will not be disappointed. As Hitchcock points out, the heroes are very ordinary people who get tangled up in extraordinary circumstances. Not a lot of gadgetry and fight scenes, just slowly mounting tension, economically described.

*Then I moved on to ancient Mesoamerica, a subject I knew very little about other than a vague idea that they played something like basketball.*

I always reread the Bertie Wooster novels by P.G. Wodehouse in the summer. I always find something new, even though I have read them dozens of times.

In “The Code of the Woosters,” Bertie is discussing the personality of his friend Gussie Fink-Nottle with the latter's fiancée, the soupy Madeline Bassett.

Bertie refers to Gussie as “a sensitive plant.”

Madeline replies: “Exactly. You know your Shelley, Bertie.”

“Oh, am I?”

I don't know how I missed that in the first 47 readings of “Code.”

The other writer I revisit every year is Robert B. Parker, best known as the author of the Spenser detective novels.

What's fun here, besides devastating descriptions of university faculty, extremists and poetry readings, is how over the course of 47 Spenser novels Parker moved from fairly lengthy exposition to a style almost completely dependent on dialogue, as with this scene from “Small Vices”:

“You ever wanted kids?” I said to Hawk.

“I like them a little older,” Hawk said.

“No, you animal, I meant have you ever wanted to be a father?”

“Not lately,” Hawk said

So put down the remote (unless you are watching a ferociously academic lecture series) and dig out an old favorite book.

The couch isn't going anywhere, and neither are you.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

**The author demonstrates how to watch serious educational television during a pandemic.**



**The author demonstrates how to reread P.G. Wodehouse during a pandemic.**

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PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Board games like Catan, purchased at Oblong Books and Music at the start of quarantine, helped break up the tension with a little healthy competition.



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*People who I know that are in their 20s and 30s, corporate assistants in Boston, fashion writers in New York, tech managers in San Francisco, had all been playing Catan long before the pandemic struck.*

**GAMES: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## Never Too Bored For Board Game Night

During quarantine I have mostly learned to surrender to the unexpected. The days are long, the news cycle dreary and the future unknowable. In a time of powerlessness, the one thing I have power over is a cardboard island called Catan. Let me explain.

Settlers of Catan, developed by German board game designer Klaus Teuber in the mid 1990s, pits players against each other as they race to build and develop properties, all while sabotaging and stealing from their opponents.

There are elements of Hasbro's classic Monopoly, but Catan trades the robber baron imagery of industrialist Manhattan for the pastoral life of feudal farming. There's no money to obtain. Instead, resources such as wheat, sheep and lumber make up the currency; and the game encourages open dialogue in an ever-moving free market where players can hawk amenities like vendors selling knock-off handbags on Canal Street.

"I've got two sheep for a brick. Any one got a brick? I'll give you two sheep. Or I could do three sheep and a lumber if you've got two bricks?"

While staying indoors, Catan has been a nightly ritual in my household this year, splayed out across the dining room table with a few glasses of wine. Since purchasing the board game in April I have won 45 times. My father has won 14. You can understand the pressure this has put on the relationship. I have briefly considered purposefully losing, gracefully flubbing my strategies in order to create a more egalitarian, albeit fictional, sense of

play.

Except that by its nature, Teuber's game seems to plunge players into a ruthless preoccupation with seizing dominance. Monopoly, whose lengthy runtime puts middle school children into a near coma by the second hour, can largely be played with decorum.

But Catan's combination of chance, bartering and quick maneuvering requires a steady flow of vocal participation. Which is why my family can now be regularly heard saying things like: "How could you do this to me?" "You've ruined everything I've built!" and "If I do nothing else, I'm going to make sure I destroy you."

In short, we have all become Joan Collins on "Dynasty."

The game was first introduced to me by my sister (a banker in New York City) and her fiancé. I thought of it as a novelty item, an odd hobby that they picked up at some retro parlor game party. As it turns out, the more that I mentioned the game to my friends, the more I realized I had been living under a rock. People who I know that are in their 20s and 30s, corporate assistants in Boston, fashion writers in New York, tech managers in San Francisco, had all been playing Catan long before the pandemic struck. They were as likely to be "trading brick for lumber" over Thanksgiving with their parents as they were to be hosting their own weekend game nights with their friends. So what is it about viciously collecting and trading sheep that resonates?

Perhaps the biggest reason old-fashioned board games are still alive and well, even with the younger crowd,





**Originally created as a German language game, Catan has become an international success.**

even with screens of all sizes chirping for our attention, is that they force us to really acknowledge each other. If you're like me, I'm sure you've felt a monotony set in through these last five months. "Did you read in the Times...?" "Yes, I saw that column," my father and I say as we unpack another carton of eggs and put them into the refrigerator. I call my sister and she says, "You know, I'm busy and not busy." "What are you up to?" "I might take the dog for a walk." "Talk to you later."

But for an hour of Catan, even when I lay down my trap card, and my father has to turn over all his sheep to me, and he's waving his hands in the air bemoaning, "You don't know what I

had planned for those sheep!" — well, we're sitting at a table really looking at each other.

Competition is one of the oldest forms of social connection, and as it turns out, Catan's ability to bring out the conniving side of its players is exactly what makes it such an addictive social space. When it's easy to feel like you've lost an entire year to COVID-19, there's comfort to sitting down at a game, picking up your cards and thinking, "OK, how can I win?"

Catan can be purchased at Oblong Books and Music in Millerton, N.Y., at [www.oblongbooks.com](http://www.oblongbooks.com); or at Tom's Toys in Great Barrington, Mass., at [www.tomstoy.com](http://www.tomstoy.com).

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PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Flocks of tree swallows can look like clouds of smoke, swirling over marshes in the evening.

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### PASSAGES: FRED BAUMGARTEN

# Meditations On Migration And Summer's End

For most of us, the Dog Days of summer have just passed. They get their name from the "Dog Star," Sirius, in the constellation Canis Major — the Big Dog — which is in line with our sun in the noonday sky. Apparently the ancients, whoever they may have been, believed the Dog Star added to the sun's heat, resulting in Dog Days.

Speaking of ancient portents, the Great Comet of 2020, Comet NEO-WISE — the worst-named but most spectacular comet since 1997's Hale-Bopp — will be receding from view as it leaves the solar system. I hope you had a chance to see this brilliant celestial visitor in the northwest sky.

Back on solid ground, the ebb and flow of the seasons continues as it always has. For most migratory birds, August heralds the irresistible urge to go south. The young have left the nest, and it's time to think about fueling up for the journey. The first chill nights of late August will stir their wanderlust.

Hummingbirds are among the earlier birds to commence preparations for their departure. At this time of year, a patch of jewelweed flowers or a simple home nectar feeder can attract anywhere from a few to a dozen hungry hummers. Come September, most of our resident species, the ruby-throated hummingbird, will make their way to Mexico and Central America, with some overwintering in Florida.

The farther the journey, the more important the fuel. Tiny blackpoll

warblers, which leave later in September and fly nonstop from the Northeast over the ocean to South America, must double their body weight in fat before their epic flight.

Flocking is another feature of the pre-migration rush. Swallows — especially tree swallows — come together around now in enormous flocks. In the late afternoon and evening, you can see them swirling around marshes like clouds of smoke before disappearing into the reeds to roost. Similarly, "funnel clouds" of chimney swifts descend into chimneys to spend the night.

Most songbirds, such as warblers and thrushes, migrate after dark. Come fall, one of the best ways to enjoy migrating birds is simply to listen at night to the sounds of the voyagers as they pass overhead. You can't see them, but you can hear their tiny calls, "sips" and "seeps," as they follow the stars and the earth's magnetic field. I let my imagination fly with them.

Nighthawks are among my favorite birds — acrobatic migrants that flock up in late afternoon and at dusk over fields and ponds to hawk insects before gradually heading south. Catching sight of one of these silent nighthawk feeding frenzies is a real treat.

Not all migratory or resident birds are looking ahead. For some, summer lives on. Goldfinches are raising their families in August, perfectly timed to the ripening of seeds. Robins and other birds are having their second, third or fourth broods.

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*Come fall, one of the best ways to enjoy migrating birds is simply to listen at night to the sounds of the voyagers as they pass overhead. You can't see them, but you can hear their tiny calls, "sips" and "seeps."*



**You can easily attract pre-migration hummingbirds with jewelweed or nectar.**

PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

And not only birds. Quite a few species of dragonflies and butterflies migrate as well. Among the former, green darners and black saddlebags are probably the largest and most recognizable. Monarch butterflies stage perhaps the best known migration among the lepidoptera, making their way to the forests of Oaxaca in southern Mexico, where they roost among the trees in the millions.

As for me, I relish the first cool, crisp nights of the advancing autumn, the crystalline stars, the Andromeda galaxy rising behind Pegasus, the flying horse, the croaking katydids, and the hint of excitement in the air. Maybe it's some remnant of the schoolboy in me, but fall feels like the season of renewal and rebirth in my bones, full of possibility.

Even now, as we shelter in place weathering the storm of infection and uncertainty, nature continues on, the seasons come and go, and love lingers.

*Fred Baumgarten is a regular contributor to Compass on music, culture and nature.*



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Monarch butterflies have perhaps the most famous southward migration of all the winged creatures.**



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**The interior of Springwood, the former home of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, is being renovated this year, but visitors can still walk the magnificent grounds of the estate.**

## DAYDREAMING AND DAY TRIPS: JEFFREY SEITZ

# The Splendor of the Hudson River Valley

New York's Hudson Valley is thick with historical sites, gorgeous estates and important landmarks, many of them near to or overlooking the glorious Hudson River.

Many are beginning to open again to the public, although often with COVID-19 social distance restrictions. But the grounds of many of the estates remained open even during the pandemic. Even if you can't enter the houses, the sprawling landscapes usually have hiking trails and exquisitely manicured gardens. And admission is generally free.

Here are four estates in the Hudson Valley with grounds that will be well worth a day trip.

### **VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

One of the region's oldest estates, the Vanderbilt Mansion towers visually over the nearby Hudson River. Visitors will be surrounded by nature as they explore outdoor exhibits including the White Bridge and formal gardens with

a European touch.

The estate is on the Albany Post Road in Hyde Park, N.Y. For more information and directions, go to [www.nps.gov/vama/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/vama/index.htm).

### **HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

The 32nd president's home in Hyde Park, Springwood, is closed not only for COVID-19 but also for restoration work, but the magnificent grounds and trails remain open. You can combine your visit here with your trip to the Vanderbilt mansion, which is about 10 minutes away by car.

For more information and directions, go to [www.nps.gov/hofr/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hofr/index.htm).

### **STAATSBURG (MILLS MAN- SION) STATE HISTORIC SITE**

Sometimes referred to as a "hidden gem," the estate of turn-of-the-last-century financier Ogden Mills descends gracefully to the Hudson River.

The Gilded Age mansion has 65

rooms and 16 bathrooms, but the grounds are even grander and serve as a perfect spot for a picnic. Of the estate's original 1,600 acres, the state site still has 192, ample space to spread out and be socially distant.

Outdoor programming has been offered through August and will likely continue into the early fall. The Friends of Mills at Staatsburg also are planning a Gilded Christmas celebration Dec. 4.

For information, go to [www.eventbrite.com/o/staatsburgh-state-historic-site-30613960064](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/staatsburgh-state-historic-site-30613960064).

To learn more about the estate and to get directions, go to [www.mills-friends.org](http://www.mills-friends.org). The estate is near the Old Post Road in Staatsburg, N.Y.

### **LOCUST GROVE ESTATE**

The home of code creator Samuel F. B. Morse, this Italianate mansion on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie offers less grandeur than the other properties on this list but it has 5 miles of former carriage roads that are now walking trails. The 200-acre property has grand trees,

lofty hills and views down onto the Hudson River. For directions and more information, go to [www.lgny.org](http://www.lgny.org).

This is just a small taste of the bounty of beautiful manors and properties in nearby New York State. Better-known nearby properties include painter Frederic Church's magnificent Olana on Route 9G in Hudson ([www.olana.org](http://www.olana.org)); Montgomery Place in Red Hook, with its impressive orchards and which is now part of Bard College ([www.bard.edu/montgomeryplace/visiting](http://www.bard.edu/montgomeryplace/visiting)); and Boscobel in Hudson, which is offering outdoor activities including Ascend Yoga in its West Meadow ([www.boscobel.org](http://www.boscobel.org)).

For a more extensive list of Hudson Valley estates, many of them along Route 9, go to [www.hudsonriver.com/history/great-estates-hudson-valley](http://www.hudsonriver.com/history/great-estates-hudson-valley).

*Jeffrey Seitz recently completed his Master's Degree in English at the State University of New York at New Paltz.*





PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

Like many Hudson Valley estates, the Vanderbilt Mansion is closed for indoor tours this year, but visitors are welcome to walk the grounds, which overlook the Hudson River and include formal gardens and a historic bridge.

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PHOTOS BY HUNTER O. LYLE

**Emeric Harney worked out his shoulders with free weights during a morning circuit at Studio Lakeville in Lakeville, Conn.**

*"I think the heightened activity at the gym makes [the stay-at-home clients] uncomfortable to be there. Whereas they have confidence in how I conduct myself, and they feel confident I won't bring COVID-19 into their homes."*

**FITNESS: HUNTER O. LYLE**

## Spartan Racer Finds Alternative Training During Quarantine

To many, living through the COVID-19 pandemic has seemed like a watered-down version of what reality should be. The virus has brought everyday life practically to a standstill, with many of the usual aspects and activities deemed unsafe.

This is particularly true for people focused on fitness.

For the first four months of the coronavirus, many outlets for exercising saw restrictions or limitations. Basketball courts sat rimless, gyms had closed their doors and, for children, the majority of summer camps were canceled.

With the traditional routes of exercise in question, fitness buffs were looking for ways to stay active. Emeric Harney was one of those people.

Before the pandemic, Harney, 33, was on top of his game, working out Monday through Friday at 6 a.m. weekly. As a personal trainer at Studio Lakeville in Lakeville, Conn., being in shape was part of his job.

But in addition to his occupation, Harney is also a fitness fanatic who has competed in more than 25 Spartan Races, a series of intense obstacle courses that combine speed with physical ability and strength.

Before the lockdown, Harney had planned to compete in a Spartan Race each month from March to November. With gyms closed across Connecticut

and New York, he had to find new ways to effectively train — and new challenges with which to motivate himself.

"One of the pieces of equipment I use is sandbags," he said. "While I do use dumbbells and barbells and free weights and things like that, the sandbag is usually in two to three of my workouts a week."

Without access to a full gym, he said, "I was able to pivot from using both free weights and sandbags and all my tools, to just creating workouts around my sandbags."

Using 65- and 90-pound sandbags for strength training, Harney said he also started running outdoors, in places like Macedonia Brook State Park in Kent, Conn., for cardio workouts instead of running on a treadmill.

In late June, Studio Lakeville reopened in a limited fashion, allowing patrons to access the gym once again (with COVID-19 restrictions and safeguards in place).

Harney wanted to get back to work as a personal trainer and also get back to his own training regimen.

"I had a mild amount of anxiety [about returning to a gym during the pandemic]," Harney said. "But not a lot."

Since the gym reopened, Harney has returned to his role as a personal trainer, taking on eight clients a week for one-one-one sessions at Studio Lakeville, while also visiting clients

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who have opted to stay at home.

“I think the heightened activity at the gym makes [the stay-at-home clients] uncomfortable to be there,” Harney said, “whereas they have confidence in how I conduct myself, and they feel confident I won’t bring COVID-19 into their homes.”

Encouraged by his clients, Harney also ran a training camp in Cannon Park in Lakeville (across the street from Studio Lakeville) for children between the ages of 13 and 17. Over four weeks starting in early July, the camp would meet twice a week and train with plyometrics and sprints, as well as playing safe games like water balloon dodgeball with biodegradable balloons.

“Being able to train clients, especially young children, on proper form and technique is super important,” Harney said. “I want to leave my clients — these kids — with the knowledge of how to live a healthy lifestyle in the long run.”



**Brian Weinstein, one of Emeric Harney’s clients, worked out in a private training session using a 65-pound sandbag.**



**Harney trains for the grueling challenges of the Spartan Races with the help of a weight vest.**

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PHOTO BY PAUL SZETO

The roots of the author's interest in France and the French language began at a young age, while riding a carousel in Paris.

TRAVEL: LENA SZETO

# Language as a Portal To Another Culture

*Bonjour, ceci est votre phrase française du jour.*  
Good morning, this is your French sentence of the day.

Reading these words is how my mornings have started since the COVID-19 lockdown.

I've always wanted to learn French and when I told my boyfriend (who is from Paris), he happily came up with the idea of sending me French sentences everyday — and, after I insisted, audio recordings too.

This is my favorite way to learn, but I admit I am a bit biased. For those who don't have a French *petit ami* to help them, here are other resources that I've found to be helpful. Many of them have equivalent programs in other languages as well.

Pamela Rose Haze's "French Made Simple" is my main study workbook. Each chapter starts out with a dialogue in French, and then asks questions based on the dialogue and teaches grammar points. It also has pictures, guidelines on pronunciation, and a dictionary in the back. I bought it on Amazon for \$14 but a Kindle version is available for \$7.

Rosetta Stone is the first runner-up. It's convenient to use whenever you choose to, and it works on your oral and listening skills. It teaches mainly through realistic photos, and the accents in the app are very good.



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PHOTO BY MICHELLE ALFANDARI

**Carousels are just a memory in Paris for now — but photos of them can evoke powerful memories.**

Rosetta Stone also offers interactive learning and live, group tutoring sessions focusing on particular subject areas. I’ve only tried a few live sessions and haven’t been disappointed yet. It’s a bit more costly, but I’ve found it to be worth the money. The different subscription options are as follows: three months for \$36, 12 months for \$180, 24 months for \$250 or a lifetime package for \$300.

I sometimes use iTalki, a website that allows you to connect to a native speaker via video chat for a very small fee (I paid \$16 for an hour). On the website at [www.italki.com](http://www.italki.com) you’re able to choose your teacher by watching a recorded video of the instructor, which allows you to listen to their accent and check out their lesson plan. This platform is especially great during COVID-19 because you get to have a safe, one-on-one social interaction even if you’re chatting with someone who is halfway around the globe.

Speaking of social interactions, my neighbors in Salisbury, Conn., (who have much more experience in French than I) organized some weekly socially distanced French soirées.

One out of the five of us picked a topic each week for discussion. The subjects could range from an article in *Le Monde* (the French equivalent to the *New York Times*) to a music video. We would translate it and then talk about it in French.

From time to time I also like to watch French television shows or listen to French audiobooks —I mean, who doesn’t like to “Netflix and Chill”? When you’re doing that in a new language, it suddenly feels productive! I’ve been watching “Call My Agent” and “A Very Secret Service” on Netflix with English subtitles.

The next learning tool I would like to try is looking up a recipe in French and actually cooking it. Learning new words while doing an activity is the best way to learn. And, hey, if I don’t remember the words at least I’ll be able to (hopefully) eat whatever dish I make.

*Lena Szeto, 24, from New York City but currently residing in her Salisbury home, is a Bates College graduate. She is excited to be writing for The Lakeville Journal again after interning for two summers at the paper while in high school.*

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# TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

To view all calendar entries, go to [www.TriCornerNews.com](http://www.TriCornerNews.com).

## FAMILY

**Four Brothers Drive-in Theatre**, 4957 Route 22, Amenia, N.Y. [www.playeatdrink.com](http://www.playeatdrink.com)  
 “Minions,” 10:20 a.m., “Jurassic World,” 12:35 p.m. and “The Mummy,” 8:20 p.m., all on Aug. 27; “The New Mutants,” 10 a.m. and “Kung Fu Panda,” 8:15 p.m., both from Aug. 28 to Sept. 2.

**Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck**, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)  
 “Clue, The Movie,” drive-in, Aug. 28, 8 p.m.; “Summer Suite: Music of Latin America,” Aug. 30, 7 p.m.; “Dancing Among the Elements,” Aug. 29 and Aug. 30, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Mahaiwe Drive-in**, Daniel Arts Center parking lot at Bard College at Simon’s Rock, 84 Alford Road, Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org/Mahaiwe Drive-in](http://www.mahaiwe.org/Mahaiwe Drive-in)  
 “Little Shop of Horrors,” Aug. 27, 9 p.m.; “Mary Poppins,” Aug. 28 and 29, 9 p.m.

**Sharon Playhouse**, 49 Amenia Road, Sharon, Conn. [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org)  
 “Motown Under the Stars,” Aug. 29, 8 p.m.; “The Perfect Fit,” Sept. 5, 8 p.m.; “Ivy Stand-Up,” Sept. 12, 8 p.m.

## YOUTH

**David M. Hunt Library**, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org)  
 Outdoor Story Time with Rita, Aug. 27, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Fellowship of the Books: Five Libraries**, [www.facebook.com/fellowshipofthebooksny](http://www.facebook.com/fellowshipofthebooksny)  
 Toddler Jam with Jonny G, Thursdays, 11 to 11:45 a.m. (online); Take A Storywalk, every day 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (in person at various venues). Historical program: Quack or Fact?, Aug. 28, 7 to 8 p.m. (online).

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon**, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
 Story Time Outside! - Back to School Stories, Aug. 29, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Story time! Cats!, Sept. 1, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Kent Memorial Library**, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org)  
 STEAM: Leaf Labs!, Sept. 11, 3:30 p.m. (online); Zine Workshop: Pre-Recorded Facebook Video & Challenge, Sept. 14, 3:30 p.m. (online).


**Norfolk Library**, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. [www.norfolklibrary.org](http://www.norfolklibrary.org)  
 Page-turners (grades 4-6), email [efitzgibbons@biblio.org](mailto:efitzgibbons@biblio.org) if your child would like to join the book discussion group online.

**Norman Rockwell Museum**, 9 Glendale Road/Route 183, Stockbridge, Mass., [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org)  
 Around the World with Ted and Betsy Lewin, Sept. 19, 10 to 11:30 a.m. (online).

**Oblong Books & Music**, 6422 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck, N.Y., [www.oblongbooks.com](http://www.oblongbooks.com)  
 Independent Bookstore Day 2020!, Aug. 29, 11 a.m.; Hudson Valley YA Society: Kelly Jensen & Friends — “BODY TALK: 37 Voices Explore Our Radical Anatomy,” Sept. 3, 7 p.m. (online).

**Pine Plains Free Library**, 7775 South Main, Pine Plains, N.Y. [www.pineplainslibrary.org](http://www.pineplainslibrary.org)  
 Online Teen Writing Club, Fridays, 3 to 4:30 p.m. (online).

**Roeliff Jansen Community Library**, 9091 New York Route 22, Hillsdale, N.Y. [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://www.roejanlibrary.org)  
 Story Hour: Eels! A Hudson River Fish & How We Can Save Them, Sept. 11, 10 to 11 a.m. (online).



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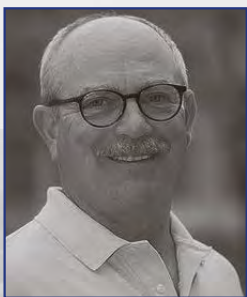
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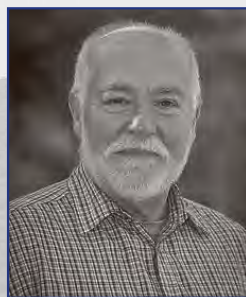
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### FOOD: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# Summer Is the Time To Learn How To Make An Easy Pie Crust

If all goes right, this is the time of year when you should have an abundance of summer fruits that want you to make them into pies.

I'm thinking of peaches, plums, blueberries and even tomatoes (yes, pizza is a pie).

Pie crust is intimidating and very few people claim to make it well. I can make a decent pie crust but I can make a fantastic pate brisée pastry dough that, in my opinion, is tastier, more buttery and much easier to work with than a traditional pie crust.

You can find a good pate brisée recipe almost anywhere, from the internet to print classics such as "The Joy of Cooking" and of course the always

dependable Ina Garten. I often use one from Jacques Pepin that was published in 1994 in Food and Wine magazine; and I often use one from the website Joy of Baking.

One of the nice things with a pate brisée is that it's sturdy enough to handle very wet ingredients, from drippy fruit to a pumpkin custard.

Here are some tips to make pie crust easier (especially if you use a pate brisée crust):

- Use cold butter
- When the recipe calls for ice water, use actual ice in your water; if small bits of ice get into your dough, that's just fine. They'll melt and help create layers. Add half as much water as you



PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A pate brisée crust is sturdy enough that it can be folded into a galette.



think you'll need during the mixing process and then add the rest of the water little by little. With practice you'll start to see that often you don't need as much water as you think (or as much as the recipe calls for).

- Chill your dough in the refrigerator for a half hour before you try to roll it out. This helps keep it from getting sticky when you roll it out.

- Roll your dough out between sheets of plastic wrap; it's less messy, it's easier to work with, and it eliminates the need to add flour (which can make your crust tough).

You can use pate brisée in a traditional pie pan but you can also roll it out into a big circle and drop your fruit in the center, then roll the edges of the dough up and over the outer two or three inches of your fruit circle. This is called a galette.

If you make a galette, first line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Roll out your dough between sheets of plastic wrap, then peel the wrap off the top of the dough and slide your hand under the plastic wrap beneath

the dough and flip your dough onto the parchment paper.

Ideally with a fruit filling, you want to cook the fruit down and add some tapioca that's been dissolved in water for 30 minutes. This keeps the juices from leaking, and breaking your crust.

Add a few pats of butter (always!) and maybe cinnamon and orange zest.

I use pate brisée to make pizza crust, too, and people love it. No one has ever complained to me that it's not a classic yeast-based dough.

For pizza, I pre-bake the dough on parchment paper on a cookie sheet, with pie weights or beans to keep it from bubbling up and getting lumpy. When it's lightly brown, I take it out of the oven and add my pizza toppings, then bake it until the cheese melts.

This recipe is from Jacques Pepin but the technique is from years of practice, with a tip I learned from Carla Lalli Music in a video on the Bon Appetit YouTube channel. She recommends cutting your dough into quarters, stacking them and rolling them out; this gives your crust a nice flakiness.

## JACQUES PEPIN'S PATE BRISEE

*Adapted from Food & Wine, September 1994*

1 ½ cups of all-purpose flour  
1 ½ sticks of cold unsalted butter, cut into ½-inch pieces  
¼ teaspoon salt  
½ cup ice water

You can do this by hand, of course, but it's so much easier in a food processor, which also keeps you from warming up the cold butter with your hot hands.

In the food processor, combine the flour and salt (I usually add a tablespoon of sugar as well), pulse it a few times, and then add the cold butter. You want to run the food processor as briefly as possible; within seconds you will see that the butter and flour are pretty much combined into a nice sandy mix.

Turn on the food processor and slowly add the ice water. Very quickly the dough will separate from the sides of the food processor and clump

together into a ball. As soon as this happens, stop adding water and turn off the food processor.

Dump the dough out onto a nice big sheet of plastic wrap (I usually use two long sheets, one on top of the other, so I have more space to work). Squish your dough into a ball quickly; then cut it into quarters and stack the quarters on top of each other and squash them down again into a disc.

Wrap this all up and put it in the fridge for a half hour while you prepare your fruit and preheat the oven to 400 degrees (or you can leave the dough in your refrigerator for two or three days).

When you're ready, fill your dough (or pre-bake it, for pizza).

Bake it at 400 for as long as it takes to get toasty brown, which should be about 30 minutes, depending on your oven and how thick you made the dough.



A peach galette with a flaky and delicious pate brisée crust can be a little slice of summer heaven.

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PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

**Locked room mysteries are perhaps the most perfect type of tale to read during a quarantine.**



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# For Connoisseurs Of the Mystery Genre: The Locked Room Tale

**F**or the avid detective fiction fan, there is no puzzle more alluring than a locked room mystery. In its simplest form, it is a crime (usually a murder) that has been committed in a room sealed from the inside with no way out (and in theory, no way in).

How did the perpetrator enter and escape? Solving the mystery now becomes not only a whodunnit but a howdunnit.

“Locked room” is a term that is often used not just for crimes committed in a literal locked room but also for any crime done under seemingly impossible circumstances, where it appears the criminal had no way of leaving the scene (or entering it).

For example: A dead body is found outside in the snow. There is no weapon near the body and no footsteps can be seen anywhere around it.

This could be considered a “locked room” murder, even though it does not take place in a room at all, because there appears to be no way for the crime to have been committed without the criminal vanishing into thin air afterward.

Like the armchair sleuth, the murder (or theft)-at-a-manor-party, or the inheritance-hungry family, the locked room mystery is one of the many tropes that furnishes detective fiction. They have a long and resplendent history within the genre — with “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” by Edgar Allan Poe often credited as the first murder mystery novel, as well as a locked room tale.

It’s a plot device that has been used by writers around the world, by Japanese crime writers (“The Tattoo Murder Case” by Akimitsu Takagi and “Murder in the Crooked House” by Soji Shimada), Scandinavian writers (“The Locked Room” by Maj Sjöwall) as well as by Agatha Christie in England (“The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”) and Ellery Queen in America (look for “The King Is Dead”), with the acknowledged master of the sub-genre being John Dickson Carr, who

is famous for his tricky “howdunnits” (look for “The Hollow Man” if you’d like to try one).

Mystery fans love them because it’s always more satisfying to solve a puzzle that looks impossible — but isn’t.

An important aspect of the locked room mystery is that it has to be solvable with a rational solution. Mystery fans will give thumbs down to any tale that ends with the perpetrator having the ability to walk through walls using magic or something like that.

The most ingenious mystery authors have found lots of different ways that these seemingly impossible crimes could be achieved — mechanical traps, hidden entrances, delayed deaths, suicides made to look like murders.

And the greatest of them will provide you with all the clues you need — and then still deliver an ending you never saw coming.

Many of the greatest locked room mysteries were written in the Golden Age of Crime Fiction, which roughly includes the 1920s and 1930s. Picking up a vintage paperback mystery can provide not only the fun of solving a crime in the safety of one’s home; it can also transport you to another era.

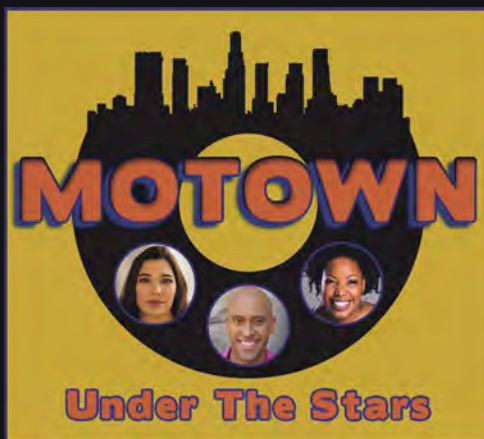
Another way to enjoy good old-fashioned crime fiction in the safety of your favorite armchair: Radio theater from The Two Of Us Productions in Copake, N.Y., which presents thrillers by golden age writers in an old-time radio format. The theater will sometimes dramatize John Dickson Carr tales. So far the schedule for this autumn includes The Shadow in “The Case of The River of Eternal Woe,” and “My Dear Niece,” both on Sept. 5; “Acting Like A Forger,” a Dragnet police story, is on Oct. 3. Additional tales are expected to be added to the schedule.

*For information on the tales, and to find out how to tune in, go to [www.thetwoofusproductions.org](http://www.thetwoofusproductions.org).*



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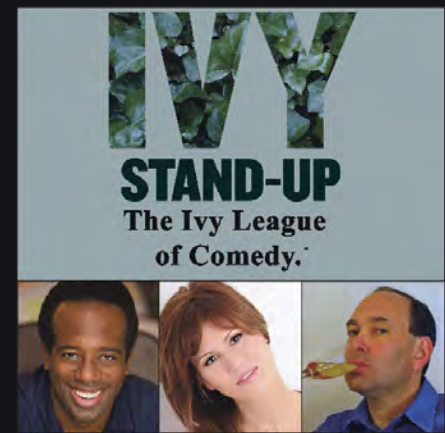
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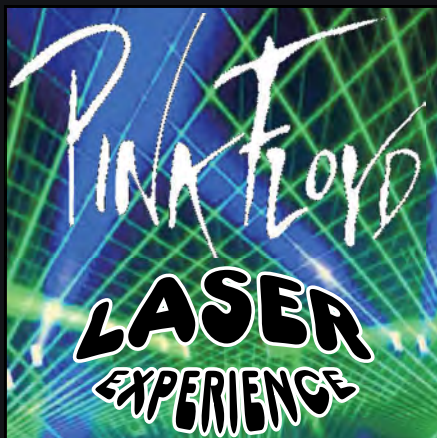
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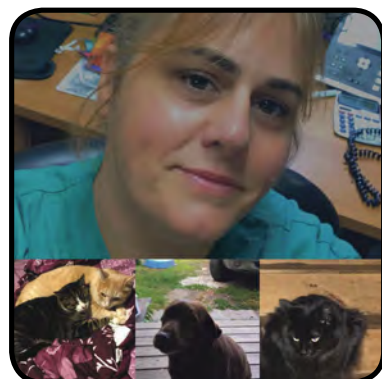
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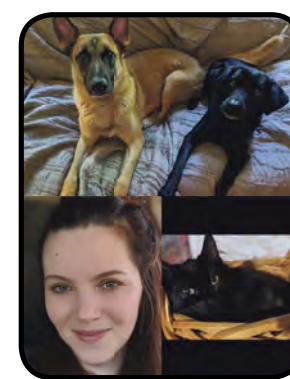
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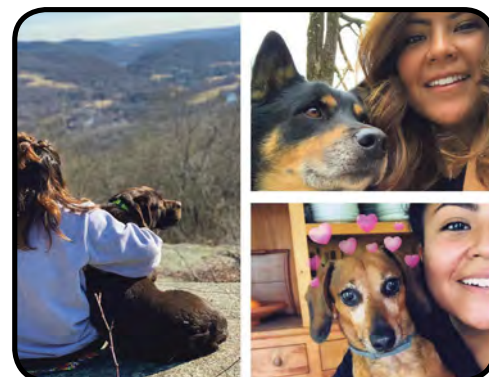
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