

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

December 7, 2023



MUSIC

The Sounds of
Nature Photos **4**

CRAFT

The Art of
Beekeeping **8**

BOOKS

The Lying Life of
George Santos **10**

FASHION

A Shoemaker in
Connecticut **14**

FROM OUR FAMILIES TO YOURS...
WISHING YOU A JOYOUS
holiday season
AND A WONDERFUL
new year

RAYNARD & PEIRCE
— REALTY, LLC —

93 Church Street, Unit 1 | PO Box 1152 | Canaan, CT 06018
Wendy Eichman, Broker | 860-453-4148 | info@raynardpeircere.com

WWW.RAYNARDPEIRCERE.COM



WENDY EICHMAN
BROKER
Licensed in CT & MA
860-671-0627
wendy@raynardpeircere.com



NIKKI BLASS
REALTOR
Licensed in CT & MA
860-480-6064



JENNIFER GOOD
REALTOR
Licensed in CT & MA
860-671-1065



BILL STAJOS
REALTOR
Licensed in CT & MA
860-307-0786



MICHELLE CASTELLANO
REALTOR
Licensed in CT & MA
914-224-3496



DAN SMITH
REALTOR
Licensed in CT
914-837-0744



JENNIFER LUNING
REALTOR
Licensed in CT
860-387-3234

LIME
ROCK
PARK

2024
TICKETS &
SEASON
PASSES
ON SALE
NOW!

GET YOURS AT LIMEROCK.COM/TICKETS



Memorial Day Classic
May 24-27



GRIDLIFE Circuit Legends
Summer '24



SCCA NER
June 14-15



Historic Festival 42
Aug 30 - Sept. 2



SpeedTour
July 19-20



MiataCon
Oct. 25-26

FOLLOW US! @LIMEROCKPARK



COVER: NUTMEG CONSERVATORY BALLET BY REM DINIO

COMPASS

December 7, 2023

Published by **The Lakeville Journal Company**
 PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039
 800-339-9873 • www.tricornernews.com

John Coston, *Editor-in-Chief* • Alexander Wilburn, *Special Sections Editor*
 Caitlin Hanlon, *Composing* • Mary Wilbur, Roxanne Lee, *Advertising Sales*
 Susan Hassler, *Publisher and CEO* • James Clark, *Chief Operating Officer*

©2023 The Lakeville Journal Company,
 publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

Holiday reading

In this bonus issue of Compass, discover local faces — new and familiar — who are working hard to perfect their craft and share what they know with others. In New York State, Alysia Mazzella is a young beekeeper creating candles from wax, while in her studio in Cornwall, Lauren Brinkers is a shoemaker painting leather with colorful results. Landon Speers combines nature photography with music and Sylvia Crippen is continuing her career baking the perfect Christmas dessert. On the cover, Artistic Director Victoria Mazzarelli is getting her ballet students in Torrington ready for an annual performance of “The Nutcracker,” and later in the issue, North Canaan’s newly renovated Colonial Theatre will welcome a journalist with a sizzling new political biography of the infamous U.S. representative for New York’s 3rd congressional district, George Santos.

WE HAVE THE GIFTS!

GIFT CARDS
 GIFT MEMBERSHIPS
 MOVIE & EVENT TICKETS

Moviehouse

48 Main Street, Millerton, NY **THEMOVIEHOUSE.NET**

PK

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BUILDING | REMODELING | PAINTING | RESTORATION
 860-485-4696 | Serving the Tri-State Area
www.pkcontractingct.com

PHOTOGRAPHY/MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Landon Speers is a Master of Two Mediums

Landon Speers is an Alberta-born photographer and musician living in Wingdale, N.Y. His profound curiosity about the world and its inhabitants has led him to create images and soundscapes that celebrate moments of stillness through the infinite details of beauty in states of growth and decay.

His journey began in a small Canadian town where he grew up in a Mormon family. This conservative and repressive environment fueled his desire to explore beyond familiar territories, leading him to the dynamic spaces of punk and

hardcore shows. As the youngest of four children, Speers said, “I was told I did a pretty good job of watching my siblings’ follies and missteps. Not that I didn’t make plenty of my own.” He laughed, “It took a lot of pleading and begging, but my mom just said that she trusted me more than a lot of my other siblings, and I knew that if I messed up, then it would be gone.” An older brother would chaperone Speers, who was “aggressively taking photos,” to these shows. He shares, “The idea of getting paid to do that didn’t even register for the first few years, but it was an easy way to get

into shows.”

Photography became Speers’ medium of exploration and expression, a tool that helped him step out of his shell and connect with diverse communities. “It gave me a reason to go out and be a little more bold,” said Speers. “It opened the door for me. It’s essentially what I’m still chasing.” There is indeed a shyness to Speers’ portraiture; subjects are often slightly obscured by objects, light, or both and often appear to be simultaneously hiding and emerging. “In a very simple way,” he explains, “that’s what I come back to as far as like, why do I do this? Why do I enjoy doing this? Why do I want to do it more? It’s just curiosity and oftentimes affirmation to embolden someone that was shy growing up.”

Speers received his two-year technical diploma in Edmonton, then moved to Toronto, where he worked for several years as a freelance photographer. When he moved to Brooklyn, he got an opening spot for a friend’s band called Purity Ring, an atmospheric pop group. Speers also worked their lights for several tours. On a tour in Germany, Speers was sightseeing with the band and ended up spending a lot of extra time there. He explained, “Berlin happens to be on almost the exact latitude as Edmonton, so I was fascinated by the German countryside. Lots of trees were familiar, a quality of light.”

Of his many endeavors, he said, “I just rode a wave of opportunities that were coming to me, but then felt like neither music nor photography were getting the attention they needed.” He began concentrating more on photography and

“The ambient tracks of layered sound are accompanied by images of landscapes in states of growth and decay.”

has worked for a venerable list of publications, including The New York Times, Vogue, The Wall Street Journal, and many others. On his travels for these publications, along with the extra time spent in the various landscapes (“My friends know that road trips take me twice as long because I’m going to pull over a lot,” he says), Speers also began to collect field recordings. This collection turned into an immersive album and book called “Wild Rose,” which he released in 2018. The ambient tracks of layered sound are accompanied by images of landscapes in states of growth and decay. He designed the project to allow viewers to engage with it in a personal, exploratory manner, without explicit narratives or geographical constraints. “I was genuinely trying to make a choose-your-own-adventure,” Speers offered.

“I had like a loose framework of how a pacing went, but kind of offering up for someone else to digest. That was more what I was interested in versus dictating how you consume what I made. I’ve always liked the idea of drawing a visual experience or a sense of place from sound.”

Speers’ sense of place is shifting again now that he is finding and

OBLONG BOOKS

FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST



Scholastic Press



Scholastic Press



Scholastic Press



Scholastic Press



Scholastic Press



Scholastic Press



Scholastic Press



Scholastic Press

PLUS TOYS, GAMES, CARDS & GIFTS

Free Gift Wrapping!

Millerton & Rhinebeck
OBLONGBOOKS.COM







PHOTO BY MATTHEW KANBERGS

Landon Speers

building community in the Hudson Valley. He references Dutch Landscape Architect Piet Oudolf (architect of The High Line in Manhattan) as an influence. “He uses native, indigenous plants, and part of his planning is for how it will look in the off season,” Speers explained. “And up here in particular, like blue thistle in the wintertime still looks so beautiful to me. Or the way a dead tree can

look as pretty as when it was really thriving. So, the idea of a cycle, the idea that there is presence, the way to express that I am alive. The wind on my face, feeling cold on my skin, going to a great concert — those things make me feel more connected to a presence of my life here on earth than something that just seems to come with so much nonsense and baggage. Often, decay is part of that.”

Shops at 31 N. Main St. Kent, CT

TAROT IN THYME

Metaphysical Shop + Clothing & Jewelry
 Tarot & Astrology Readings
 Easy online booking: www.tarotinthyme.com

CHESTNUT
 WOODWORKING
 & ANTIQUE ★
 FLOORING CO.
 SHOWROOM

Come Shop our earth friendly goods & unique finds
www.chestnutwoodworking.com

HOUSING BUSINESSES
 GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
 NONPROFITS THE ARTS SPORTS
 RECREATION LAND
 RIVERS & LAKES HISTORY
 THE NORTHWEST CORNER
 THE HARLEM VALLEY

THE NEWS THAT MATTERS to you

Subscribe Today

You'll never miss vital reporting with a subscription to your community news source. Subscribe to either The Lakeville Journal or The Millerton News and gain free access to all the news from both newspapers at www.tricornernews.com.

Or, you can opt to only subscribe digitally. Your news, your way.

Simply go to www.tricornernews.com/subscriptions and select your preferred subscription.

Or, call 860-435-9873 x303 or email circulation@lakevillejournal.com

The Lakeville Journal ^{The}MILLERTON NEWS TriCornerNews.com
 860-435-9873 • 64 Route 7 N, Falls Village, CT 06031



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

*Sylvia Crippen***FOOD: CHRISTINE BATES****Mrs. Crippen is Connecticut's Mrs. Claus**

Sylvia Crippen is an elegant 89-year-old with a tinkling laugh and a Scarlett O'Hara accent. She bakes about 300 Mrs. Crippen Bourbon & Molasses Fruit Cakes in her kitchen in Salisbury, Conn., from a family recipe handed down by her mother-in-law, which are sold only at Christmas time in Guido's in Great Barrington, Mass., the Salisbury General Store, and online at www.christophepornay.com. These are

not the fruitcakes that Johnny Carson described as: "The worst gift is a fruitcake. There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep sending it to each other." A Mrs. Crippen fruitcake is not covered with sugared maraschino cherries and chunks of citron surrounded by soggy, stale cake. It resembles a dark, moist, fruity British Christmas dessert with a trace of Jim Beam bourbon.

Mrs. Crippen has been making these cakes for family, friends, hostess gifts, business associates, and her children's teachers since she left her job as a stewardess for American Airlines to marry Rex Crippen – whose family is the source of the secret recipe. It wasn't until 2013 that she started a seasonal baking business in Wilmington, N.C., with her husband. She gets up at 4:30 or 5 a.m. to bake a batch of 10 cakes. She likes them to age at least three weeks, but longer is even better. She prefers two months — they never go bad. "I do

this because I like to do it. You have to have something in your life, and I don't have to do it every day," she said. "My three children are interested in the business but not the baking part. We added a gluten-free version of the cake at my son's Peter's suggestion. When my grandson was 10 he designed the label for me on his computer."

Mrs. Crippen keeps her ingredients in special drawers built into her kitchen, using the empty space under the stairs. The cake-making process begins with marinating the diced fruit in bourbon and molasses for a minimum of 24 hours, or it

could be months. The night before baking, she takes the butter and eggs out of the refrigerator to bring them to room temperature and then mixes them all up with the flour and spices. The final step is to put the fruit on the bottom, then the batter, and last the nuts, and then she blends it. "Arthritis in my hands slows me down a little." She measures 14.5 ounces for each cake and puts it in her oven at 260 degrees for around an hour and a half. After the cakes have cooled, they are slipped out of their pans, receive another bath of bourbon, and are wrapped up.

Mrs. Crippen's fruitcakes are genuine luxury products. Made in limited quantities with high-quality ingredients for anyone who loves fruitcakes, the holidays, and the idea that a local, vivacious 89-year-old has been making them for decades.

"I do this because I like to do it. You have to have something in your life."



Custom Bending Up to 3 Inches

**Tires • Brakes • Mufflers
New York State Inspections**

Open Mon - Fri 8 to 5; Sat 8 to 1

**Route 22, Millerton, NY
(518) 789-3669**

John Heck • Cindy Heck



DANCE: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The Next Generation of Nutcracker Dancers

Starting on Saturday, Dec. 9, The Nutmeg Conservatory, a professional-training ballet school for young dancers in Torrington, Conn., will begin its holiday season run of “The Nutcracker.” The ballet school has performed Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s masterpiece of Christmas Eve magic since 1970, originally as a one-act production, but for decades now as a fully costumed, set-decorated rendition of the classic ballet first composed in Russia in 1892. Adapted from E. T. A. Hoffmann’s 1816 short story “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King,” Nutmeg’s production features original choreography from Artistic Director and Executive Officer Victoria Mazzarelli and the rest of the ballet faculty.

Casting for the grand-scale dance performance demands the discerning expertise of the faculty, as they meticulously align students with roles that accentuate their skill levels, allowing their talents to shine brightly on stage. “Some students really come alive during the performance; that’s

where they shine,” said Mazzarelli. “Others are a little more timid; they might be stronger in the studio and need to develop their performance skills, but some of them are just, you know, once they get on stage, it’s like magic happens and — boom.”

Students performing on stage at The Warner Theatre in Torrington are as young as eight, but that may only be the beginning of their Nutmeg dance careers. “One young lady performing The Sugar Plum Fairy has been with us since she was three. She played an angel. I think she was Little Mary — that’s the littlest party guest. She was a soldier. She was in the Spanish Corps, Marzipan Corps; she’s done every role. She’s played a mouse, and now she will be Sugar Plum. It’s amazing to see. She’s very petite, and her partner is just lovely. He’s been with us for two years, and the two of them look great together.”

“*The Nutcracker*” runs from Dec. 9 to Dec. 17. For tickets, go to www.nutmeg-conservatory.org or www.warnertheatre.org.



PHOTOS OF THE NUTMEG CONSERVATORY BY REM DINIO

CRAFT: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

The New Queen Bee of The Upstate Hive

Alysia Mazzella creates beeswax candles that are not just sources of light but symbols of harmony and remembrance, steeped in regenerative practices and deeply rooted in the ancient wisdom of the sun's cycles.

"It's really about the sun," Mazzella explained. "I look back to Ancient Egypt a lot. They were sun worship people, and they had a great relationship with the honeybee, which is very well documented," she continues. "They believed that the honeybee was born from the tears of the sun god, which I think is just the most amazing poetry."

Mazzella infuses the work she

creates with this poetry by bringing a reverence for tradition, warmth, a life force, and a sense of mystery to the entire process.

"Electricity is so new," she said. "As people, we've been in a relationship with fire for longer than anything. I think that's why a deep remembrance happens when people light a candle." Compared to the disruptive blue light of modern devices, Mazzella explains that beeswax burns on the same spectrum as the sun. She says, "Because of its golden inherent color and vibrancy, it's actually luminous, unlike a blue light. So, it has a different effect."

Mazzella's journey in beekeeping shifted as her consciousness about

"As a person of color, I just noticed that everyone was an older, straight, white man. Like every single one, which makes sense because beekeeping arrived in America through colonizers."

the history of the practice grew. She started out buying her beeswax online and when she switched to buying locally from beekeepers in New York State, she quickly noticed a homogeneity in who was providing the product. She shared, "As a person of color, I just noticed that everyone was an older, straight, white man. Like every single one, which makes sense because beekeeping arrived in America through colonizers."

Until recently, it was commonly believed that the honeybee (genus *Apis*) did not exist on this continent until 1622 when the colonists brought it over on ships from Europe. In 2009, a single fossil was found in west-central Nevada of a female worker of the extinct honeybee *Apis nearctica* and dates back 14 million years.

"So humans have always been beekeeping on every continent, but it wasn't called beekeeping," Mazzella explained. "It was called hunting because they were wild. The mentality of colonizing is that you keep things, you contain things, and then those things are turned into an economy."

Mazzella decided that to be in a relationship with the honeybees, she needed to learn to be a beekeeper

herself and educate other BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color). The land she owns in Onadilla, N.Y., called "Backland," is now entering its third year as an educational apiary whose mission is to establish a new generation of BIPOC beekeepers in New York State. Said Mazzella, "I wanted to be in a relationship with them because I'm taking so much from them. I didn't feel the relationship was going the other way—what was I offering them? What was I giving them? So I started to study, and I studied for a very long time, which I recommend for anyone who wants to be a beekeeper." Because of this deepening understanding, Mazzella approaches the bees with healthy reverence. "I was scared at first. It's intimidating. They're loud. They'll headbutt you. But now I can go into the hive totally unprotected, and I feel confident doing it." Mazzella explained that the bees are more aggressive when they're missing a queen or if they have more honey to protect, but since the hives she keeps are for educational purposes, she doesn't harvest the honey. Instead, she mostly leaves it for the bees, a regenerative approach that has kept her production small-scale. "You get about 1



Come check out all that's new!



Seasonal items & great gift ideas

Mon-Thurs 10am-8pm • Fri-Sat 10am-9pm • Sun 11am-5pm

Check out our craft beer selection at www.beermenus.com

336 Main Street Lakeville CT 06039 • 860-435-2600

LakevilleWineandSpirits.com

Find us on  

pound of beeswax to 8 pounds of honey,” she explained, “and in one season, if you’re harvesting ethically (which is half for you, half for the bees), you might get 60 pounds of honey.” She estimates that she’d need to keep over 300 hives to harvest the amount of wax she needs for her production. “I am not sure I’ll ever provide my own beeswax,” she continued. “I’d like to scale up and turn [Blackland] into

an educational, live/work situation where local people can be employed. I want to grow the education scale.” This conscious consumption and environmental responsibility are at the forefront of her work.

One can tell the care that goes into her creations. Each candle, whether inspired by Japanese tea ceremonies or Mexican prayer rituals, represents a measure of time and can be used

for mindfulness. She contrasts her beeswax candles, the longest-burning and cleanest type, with soy candles, critiquing the unsustainable agricultural practices associated with soy cultivation. “Soy is an amazing, beautiful plant, but it’s how it’s grown. The thing is, it’s so nutritious that it sucks everything from the soil. So when you grow it as a mono-crop for like acres and acres, it essentially depletes the soil, which takes away the cover crops, causes soil degradation, and releases CO2. The most major source of CO2 that has happened in the shortest amount of time has been from farming.” In contrast, said Mazzella, beeswax is seasonal and limited, clean burning, and long-lasting. “I think people can really tell

the difference.”

“I think it goes back to the sun again,” said Mazzella, “because it’s all about timekeeping, really. Lighting a candle to set a moment.”

Alysia Mazzella’s commitment to sustainability, education, and inclusivity is creating a path for future generations to follow in an ancient, yet ever-relevant craft. She adds this about her relationship with the honeybee:

“I get stung pretty bad in the Spring because at the beginning of the season, I am sloppy and I forget and make mistakes. But when that happens, I think about it as medicine. I just feel like if you put yourself in the ecosystem, you’re going to get the medicine.”



SELF PORTRAIT

Alysia Mazzella

ERIC SLOANE, NA (1905-1985)



“Cornwall Bridge” 24” x 36” oil on Masonite

GREEN RIVER GALLERY

SINCE 1975

SPECIALIZING IN WORKS BY ERIC SLOANE AND
AMERICAN ART OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

1578 Boston Corners Rd., Millerton, NY 12546 • 518-789-3311
Just 5¼ miles north of Millerton

Open Saturday: 10-5, Sunday: 12-5, or by appointment

BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The True Story of A Fabricated Life

Mark Chiusano, a journalist who has written for NPR, The Atlantic, and The Paris Review, will read from his new biography, "The Fabulist: The Lying, Hustling, Grifting, Stealing, and Very American Legend of George Santos," at The Colonial Theatre in North Canaan, Conn., on Sunday, Dec. 10. He discussed his new book during a phone interview from his home in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Alexander Wilburn: I could not have dreamed of a more suitable day to dive into George Santos. To give readers context, it's Thurs-

day, Nov. 16, and just hours ago the House of Ethics Committee unveiled a 56 page report outlining a litany of alleged misconduct involving, of course, accusations of embezzling funds from his campaign, as well as, and I'm going to quote The Washington Post here, "deceiving donors about how contributions would be used, creating fictitious loans, and engaging in fraudulent business dealings." Have you had a chance to look at the report, and did anything surprise you?

Mark Chiusano: Nothing sur-



PHOTO BY LEV RADIN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Congressman George Santos at a pro-Trump supporters rally at New York criminal court on April 4, 2023, during appearance by Former President Donald Trump.



Give the gift of ... News!

A gift subscription to The Lakeville Journal or The Millerton News, your community newspapers, whether in print, digital or web, is the perfect gift for anyone on your gift list ... a friend or relative who is away from the Tri-State area but would like to keep up with the local news ... a student away at school or college... or anyone who wants to know what's going on in the Tri-State area!

**SAVE
25%**

Give a gift subscription!

IN PRINT (includes website)

| <i>Applicable one year rate</i> | <i>You pay only</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| \$82 (in county) | \$62 |
| \$98 (outside county) | \$74 |

ONLINE

| <i>One year</i> | |
|-----------------|------|
| Website Only | \$82 |
| Digital Edition | \$82 |

Contact Sandra Lang

Phone: 860-435-9873 ext. 301 • Email: circulation@lakevillejournal.com

Or go to www.tricornernews.com/subscriptions

The Lakeville Journal

The MILLERTON NEWS

Your Independent, Non-Profit, Community Newspapers & Regional News Website

“We didn’t pull it all together and didn’t understand the largeness of what he was doing.”

prised me, because this is kind of what my whole book is about: the kind of grifty, schemy behavior he’s been engaged in for a really long time. My book includes some of the mooching and scamming he did off his grandmother and his aunt. He’s been doing these low level things for a long time. What I think is so great about this report, though, is that they had subpoena power, and they were able to get bank records. So they nailed down some things that we only wondered about or assumed or questioned, right? So they were able to see where the money actually went as opposed to where Santos said it went or where it came from.

AW: Speaking of where the money went, The Financial Times discussed his use of campaign dollars for expenses like Botox, shopping at Sephora and Hermes, and then thousands of dollars used on OnlyFans. Obviously, I don’t have to explain what Botox is to Connecticut readers, but for those who don’t know, OnlyFans is an online social-media-slash-commerce platform where users pay a monthly subscription to view media content from freelance sex workers. Is George Santos’ payments to OnlyFans the making of a sex scandal or just another strange detail?

MC: Another strange detail. I would say that he’s been spending money on strange and sort of luxurious things that he that he enjoys for a long time, like he kind of has lived this... I think the report called it “a high roller lifestyle” for a long time. So

this is like one more thing there that he decided to shell out for.

AW: Do you see any difference between his funding here and the spending of another disgraced gay Republican, Aaron Schock, who was notable for spending funds on his private jets and Downton Abbey inspired office?

MC: I think that what sort of sets Santos apart from a lot of these other people is that he... like the sort of brazenness and the kind of laziness and covering his own tracks, you know? There was a lot of stuff in here that raised questions well before he was elected and well before he was know famous for being a liar. I wrote stories about his FEC filings during his first campaign. So did other journalists, but unfortunately we didn’t pull it all together and didn’t understand the largeness of what he was doing.

AW: He took to X today, formerly Twitter, to say that “becoming a public figure was never [his] goal.” Is this his biggest lie?

MC: I mean, let’s put it this way: he’s definitely been interested in politics in a very serious way since the Trump era, since 2016 era. So that’s a pretty long time. I don’t know if it was a childhood dream of his, but he’s been into this for a while. As part of my book, I went through a lot of his social media, including a look at a lot of his deleted tweets from early in life. Back then he was very interested in celebrities, the kind of Paris Hilton figures, and was interested in being famous and being a celebrity. So I think that a little bit of that translated

Continued on next page



PHOTO SIMON & SCHUSTER

Millerton Service Center

SEE US FIRST
For all of your service and repair needs!

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
Remote Car Starters • Snow Tires

We Buy and Sell Quality Used Cars
We employ technicians certified by the National Institute for **AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

Service Hours: 7 am - 5 pm Mon-Fri

ASE CERTIFIED **Factory parts shipped daily!**

Master Technicians
Michael Lyman
Adam Lyman

52 S. Center St., Millerton, NY
(518) 789-3462

... *george santos*

Continued from page 11

over into politics, especially after 2016, when politics was like, the hot thing that everyone was interested in. He quickly kind of made that jump from interest in celebrity to interest in celebrity politics.

AW: You wrote that he had this group text with his family where he stated that his main platform was going to be illegal immigration. Yet that never really transpired into his public platform. Does he have any set politics?

MC: There's a really great line that was in the report that a bunch of his campaign staff did on him a while back where they uncovered this line where he said something to the effect of, "I'm no right winger." And then he was running as a very intense right

winger, like one of the more extreme candidates of that cycle. So he says many things in different settings. He's flip-flopped on abortion, he's flip-flopped on COVID precautions. I think his governing thesis is just say whatever makes sense in the room, "I'm in." And so it makes it kind of hard to trace what does he actually believe politically.

AW: He represent of two groups put together. On one hand, as a gay Republican, as a Republican who is a child of immigrants, it's really nothing new. We've seen right-leaning figures who campaign against the self-interest of the groups that they supposedly represent. We've also seen a lot of people who fabricate backgrounds to get

ahead. But he combines these two. Do you think that's essentially what makes him such an interesting figure or is it some third ephemeral thing?

MC: I think it's a little bit of those two things. And I think it's just his absolute gratuitousness. His story is a real version of the somewhat fictional story that the "Catch Me If You Can" guy told about himself, you know. Frank Abagnale pretended to be a pilot and did all these other cons. Santos is living this wild, wild, chameleon-like life, where he pretended to be many, many things over the years. I think, to me, it's a little bit of a sad story that he felt the need to kind of go to these lengths in order to

get ahead. I think it says a lot about where we are in this country, that someone who was ambitious, who wanted to be famous and wealthy, felt that this was the only route available to them. Finally, he's been very threatening to victims of his and has certainly done a lot of nasty things in his life that I report on in the book. But he, as far as we know anyway, he hasn't been violent, he's not a warlord or something. So I think that's another reason that people can feel okay being fascinated in this guy, because he's a liar, but in some ways he's mostly hurting himself.

AW: On the other hand, he has attempted very sloppily to capitalize on these extreme tragedies by

BES

BES IS A LOVE LETTER TO THE ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE OF THE REGION.

Find a unique selection of locally made original art, housewares and gift items, as well as a gallery and maker space.

Curated by local ceramicist Erica Recto whose creations also adorn the shelves.

HOURS: THURS, FRI, SUN 11-4, SATURDAYS 11-5

50 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON NY 12546

WWW.SHOP-BES.COM | HELLO@SHOP-BES.COM



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE ALTER

Mark Chiusano

“Politics has always provided a cover for alienated people, for those who feel a little like they don’t fully belong. That microphone can be a shield before it is a weapon.”

citing that his mother died in 9/11, that his grandparents survived the Holocaust.

MC: He isn’t an immediately sympathetic figure. I write in the book about how there was this veteran, a dog owner, who Santos scammed. People probably heard this story before. I spent a lot of time with that gentleman, Rich. The night after Santos was sort of uncovered, Rich the dog owner called Santos and just kind of like ripped into him. And Santos picks up the call and they have this very bizarre conversation. That just struck me as very sad. Here’s Santos alone, picking up the phone, getting sort of yelled at by one of his victims. It’s almost like The Ghost of Christmas Past.

AW: I wanted to read a quote from the book, on page 111, where you write, “Politics has always provided a cover for alienated people, for those who feel a little like they don’t fully belong. That microphone can be a shield before it is a weapon. And there’s an intoxication that comes from the sound of your voice that commands a total and respectful silence.”

MC: I do think that sometimes we kind of assume that people running for office — well, we either ignore them entirely or we think that they’re so much better than us, so special that we can’t criticize them. I think none of those things are true. They are us. It’s representative democracy and we should be like thinking very critically about these people and

think of them as peers. That’s their point as representatives.

AW; Are we as the public culpable of not being more scrutinizing of George Santos before he got as far as he did?

MC: I would not say this is the voters’ fault. I think that there’s a large nexus of reasons for why Santos was able to slip through. There were lots of people who made small mistakes including reporters like myself who like didn’t bring the whole picture to bear. The voters didn’t have the

chance to sort of see how sleazy he was at the time. That’s a factor of just the lack of strength of local media now. There’s not as many outlets and reporters as there used to be in a lot of places. There has been a change in the way candidates campaign. It used to be that there would be tons of these debates, there would be lots of in-person interviews where it’s often actually very easy to tell if someone’s lying. And so it’s a shame. I think that the voters didn’t really... they didn’t have all the information in front of them.

AW: He announced today that he’s not going to be running in 2024, so not in the political arena, but in the larger culture, is there a path to redemption, even a sort of like ironic “Dancing with the Stars” redemption for George Santos?

MC: I think for sure, that’s what

this country is, you know. There’s always kind of a second act. “Dancing with the Stars” is definitely one I’ve thought of too. I could totally see him doing that. Because again, I mean, barring us finding out new information, he hasn’t been sort of violent in his crimes. I mean, tons of people who have done arguably worse things than he has, have come back into public light. So I think that’s on his mind as well, like “what is my second act?”

To register for this free event go to www.canaancolonial.com



GEARY
34 Main St, Millerton, NY

Reeve Schley
By the River

On view through December 17, 2023

The Johnsons

OLD MILL OF IRONDALE

Antiques • Furniture • Collectibles
Prints • Paintings • Carpets • Glassware

“Lots of History to Choose From”

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 11AM-5PM
CASH AND CHECKS

6082 Route 22 North, Millerton, NY — 518-789-2022
One mile north of Route 22/44 traffic light in Millerton

FASHION: ALEXANDER WILBURN

A London Trained Shoemaker in CT

“I have always loved shoes,” said Lauren Brinkers at her pop-sale and display at Standard Space in Sharon, Conn., this fall. That love could not be more visually evident. In her studio in Cornwall, Conn., Brinkers creates velvet-soft boots from vegetable-tanned leather that she hand-paints with eco-friendly dye. “Before I knew I could learn to make shoes, I was in Indiana in college, studying to become a nurse. Still, I was going to Goodwill and vintage stores and buying cheap leather boots, cutting them and breaking my sewing machine, not knowing what I was doing. But I was obsessed with reimagining shoes.”

Her journey began in the United Kingdom while attending the Cord-

wainers shoemaking school in London. “I got this diverse and rich experience from school while also volunteering at factories in Hackney, filled with these very refined, polite, wonderful people who took tea every morning at 11 and then again at 2:30.”

Whimsically decorated and crafted with care, Brinkers’ shoes take inspiration less from the runway than from art books and oil paintings. “I create my leather dyes. It’s this whole romantic process for me. But the silhouette is like a pre-Raphaelite, old-world boot. It’s like a slipper but resembles a shoe you would see in a painting.”

To shop Lauren Brinkers shoes online go to www.laurenbrinkers.com



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Lauren Brinkers and her painted leather shoes on display at a pop-sale in Sharon, Conn., this fall.

Caring Personal Trainers

LIVING A FULL HEALTHY, VIBRANT LIFE

Aquacise Classes

GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH

Newest Technology
Explore the world as you Run/Walk/Ride

the YMCA

Canaan Family YMCA
77 S. Canaan Rd
Canaan, CT 06018
860-499-3195
nwcty.org

SINCE 1992 *still printing still copying*

MOORE & More Printing

FOR ALL YOUR PRINT NEEDS
Stacey L. Moore

17 Dutchess Avenue
P.O. Box 880
Millerton, NY 12546

Full Color Copies
up to 13x19

Mon.-Fri. 9-5
Phone: (518) 789-4508
Fax: (518) 789-4509

mooreandmore@taconic.net

YOUR AMBASSADORS TO THE TRI-STATE REGION

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

FOR OVER 35 YEARS



ELYSE HARNEY REAL ESTATE

SALISBURY, CT 860.435.2200 • CONNECTICUT • NEW YORK • MASSACHUSETTS • WWW.HARNEYREALESTATE.COM

Elyse Harney Real Estate LLC • Elyse Harney, Principal Broker • Licensed in CT-NY-MA • Main Office: 11 East Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06088

Berkshire Hills Design

Hearth and Home Store

14 Church Street, Canaan, CT 06018

Tue-Fri: 9am-5pm • Sat: 9am-3pm

860.824.0209 • danielle@berkshirehillsdesign.com



one call for all your
WINTER PROJECTS

*We do commercial snowplowing,
snow and ice control, land clearing,
pruning, vista clearing, excavation work*



**SHARON LAWN
& LANDSCAPE**

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ♦ LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR EVERY SEASON

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR OFF SEASON RATES!

**P.O. Box 822, Sharon, CT 06069
860-672-5250 mobile | 860-672-5260 office
Sharonlawnandlandscape@yahoo.com**

ALL CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED