

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Living

July 11, 2024



ART Norfolk Artists & Friends **9**

The Art Barn Gallery on the Battell Stoeckel Estate in Norfolk, the site of the 17th Annual Norfolk Artists & Friends Art Exhibit.

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COVER PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Sunny state of mind

The Northwest Corner comes alive in the summertime. Bright days give way to endless outdoor adventures. Whether buzzing through the back roads on an e-bike, casting a line into the stream, or dancing to live jazz, the great outdoors lives up to its name. Frozen treats can help beat the heat, or air-conditioned indoor galleries featuring work from local artists. And when the rain rolls in, a classic author can be the perfect companion. Sample slices of summer in this special edition of Compass.

COMPASS

July 11, 2024

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PHOTO BY COPEY ROLLINS

Shepherd Myers retrofits bicycles to add battery power in his Salisbury garage.

LIFESTYLE: COPEY ROLLINS

The buzz about e-bikes

The rolling hills of the Northwest Corner have long drawn bikers looking for quiet roads and scenic views. Whether peddling by foot or riding on a motorcycle, it's common to see people traveling on two wheels.

Recently a new two-wheeler has emerged on the scene: Electric bikes, or bicycles with a battery-powered motor. E-bikes offer ease of use for recreational riders and can even serve as a car replacement for the more dedicated cyclist.

The primary types of e-bikes are pedal assisted, where pedaling engages the motor, and throttle powered, which allows riders to access battery power without pedaling. Combined sensor systems have developed as a way to provide a more customized

riding experience. Retrofitting standard bicycles into motorized e-bikes is another option for riders.

Several e-bike shops have popped up in Litchfield County and the state has joined in with rebate programs to fund select e-bikes.

One of the things that makes e-bikes so popular is the versatility: "Everybody wants something different," said Bob Ensign, owner of Covered Bridge Electric Bikes, which has locations in West Cornwall, North Canaan, and Kent.

Ensign went on to explain that while some may want an e-bike to help them travel long distances, others need one in order to make biking an activity that they can actually participate in. Ensign talked about how many young people, especially

<p>THE HOT SARDINES JUL 17</p>	<p>JUSTIN HAYWARD JUL 19</p>	<p>100 YEARS OF MOVIES ON THE WATERFRONT (1954) JUL 26</p>
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PHOTO BY COPEY ROLLINS

A wide range of e-bikes can be seen, and rented, at Covered Bridge Electric Bikes.

teenagers, are jumping on the trend because it's fun and their friends are doing it. He noted that for some, e-bikes have become an essential form of travel.

To support the growing trend, the Connecticut Department of Energy and the Environment (DEEP) has implemented a grant program to help some people using e-bikes for transportation as a way to save both money and the environment. These rebates are available only for bikes that will be used as a primary source of transportation and have restrictions based on income level or the demographics of where the owner lives.

"It's 10 miles to work," said Shepherd Myers of Lakeville, when asked about his experience using e-bikes to commute. "But as long as you can plug the thing in on the other end and you have a safe place to put it, it's totally doable."

Myers first got into e-bikes during the pandemic when he experimented with retrofitting his road bike to become motorized.

"Most people drive a few miles to just do a few small things," he noted. "If you just need to go to the hardware store for something small, do you really need to drive a several-ton car for a mile when you can be outside enjoying the elements?"

Shepard is not only a fan of new e-bikes, but he also believes that retrofitting an old bike with a motor is a great way to extend its life and make it more fun and accessible.

Both Ensign and Myers believe that e-bikes have very few real shortcomings. The only difficulty, Ensign said, is picking the right one, since there are a lot of options that are new to most people. For most it is best to go to a store and work with a professional to select the right bike; however, for some it may be best to look into retrofitting a standard bike they're already comfortable with.

E-bikes are quickly making their way into the garages and paths of Northwest Connecticut. As the technology continues to improve, it's safe to predict that these bikes will increase even more in popularity.

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STUDENT NOTEBOOK: IRA BUCH

Revisiting James Joyce's legacy from Yale's rare book library

‘History, Stephen said, ‘is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake,’” wrote James Joyce in one of his famed novels, “Ulysses.”

My experience with the Hotchkiss MacLeish Program at Yale Beinecke Library transformed this nightmare into a beautiful adventure – another theme Joyce holds dear to his heart. Through his manuscripts, letters, and notes, I researched the history behind the novelty of Joyce’s writings.

James Joyce, a 20th century Irish modernist author, dedicated his life to battling the constraints of writing. The recurring themes in Joyce’s compositions include Irish nationalism, cri-

tique of religious institutions, personal beliefs, and familial expectations, and, perhaps most notably, paralysis – corruption of thoughts and body.

When choosing an author to study for my MacLeish project, I initially looked at the writers who were exiled due to their explicit attacks on governmental institutions and whose work centered around the notion of propaganda. Joyce, however, doesn’t directly investigate the power of language in social, familial, and political contexts through his compositions’ storylines. Instead he incorporates ambiguous diction, unconventional punctuations, and seemingly mundane storylines to hint at these topics, making him a

perfect pick for my research.

My arrival at Yale was followed by bookmaking and creative writing sessions – the two components of the MacLeish program in addition to archival research. Our discussions, which often centered around the correlation between the writing’s form and content, as well as the author’s unique approach to conveying their ideas, whether through unexpected diction, line breaks, and symbols, or the literal book form, inspired me to investigate how Joyce utilizes these aspects in

enhancing his work’s novelty.

With this question, I entered the library of rare books and manuscripts, planning to focus on Joyce’s earlier prose writings: “Dubliners” and “A Portrait of an Artist as A Young Man.”

I found that in the drafts of these works, Joyce experimented with changing words and sentences, inviting the reader to engage with a multi-layered puzzle he constructed. For instance, in the last story of “Dubliners,” “The Dead,” Joyce changes Michael Furey’s last name from Fury, disguising

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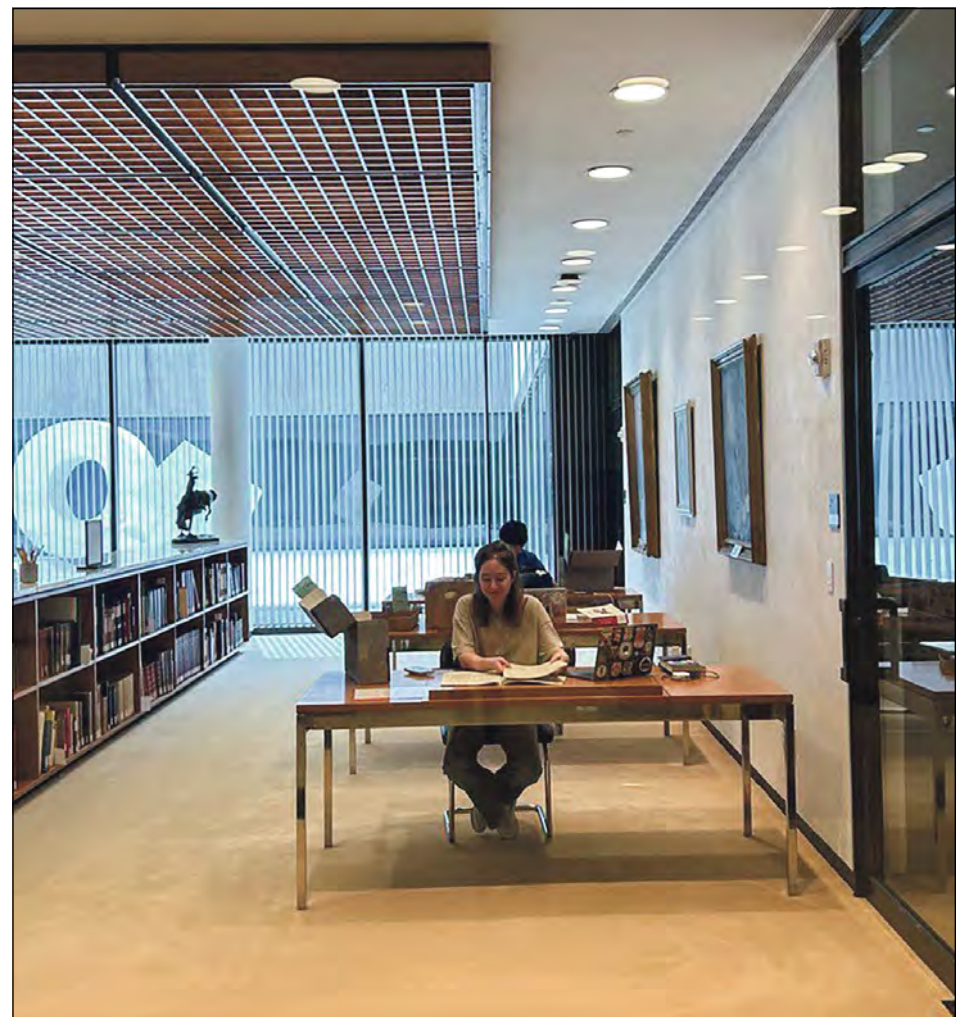


PHOTO BY JEANNIE YANG

Ira Buch studying in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

the implications of potential rage and anger.

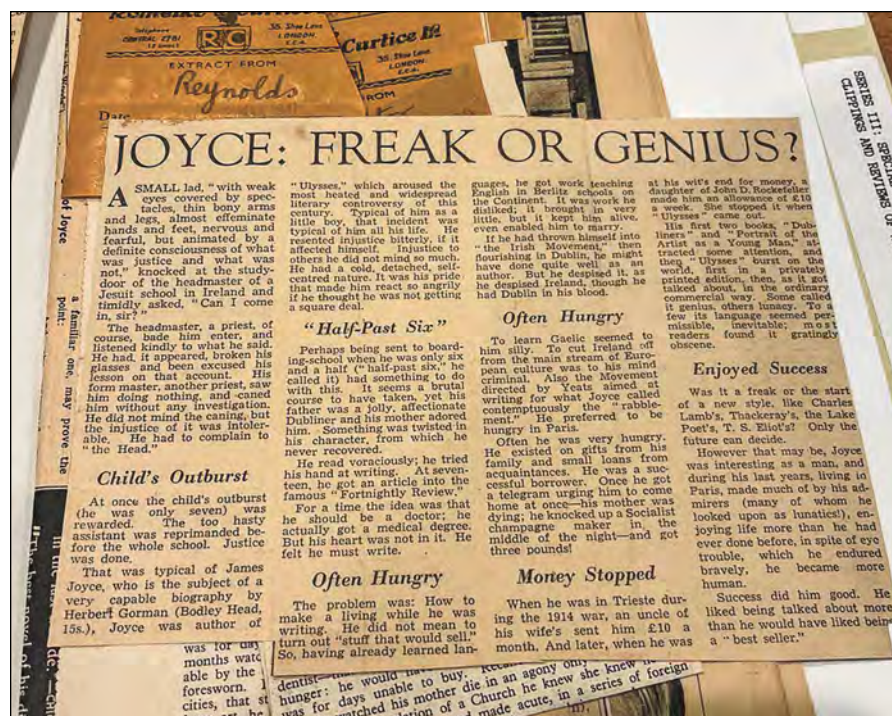
Despite my initial intentions to focus only on these two works, "Finnegans Wake" holdings emerged as the collection's gem. This work was the culmination of Joyce's experimental vision. In his notes, a fusion of words, multiple foreign languages, and numerous symbols, such as lines, hashtags, and geometrical shapes, have become Joyce's allies in creating a novel method of shattering language barriers.

As a result of his provocative style, none of Joyce's works had an easy trip to publication. "A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man" was termed as "too progressive" in one of the first readers' reviews. Entire passages from "Dubliners" were altered or deleted due to political connotations, and over a thousand copies of "Ulysses" were burned due to the themes explored within the novel. After Joyce's death,

the novel was termed a "leg pull" by Oliver Gogarty, an Irish poet and Joyce's friend.

Despite publishers' predictions of Joyce's inability to resonate with the public, his work flourished long after his death. As I reflected on my findings, the long-standing relevance of the themes explored by Joyce became obvious. Knowing from personal experience how language can be used as a powerful tool in disguising political terror, I recognized the attention Joyce's writings draw to shattering the imposed linguistic constraints, the power of ambiguous diction in hiding the actual connotations, and censorship.

Ira Buch is a rising senior at The Hotchkiss School who attended the MacLeish Program at Yale University in June. She has returned home to Ukraine for summer but continues to write for The Lakeville Journal as an intern.



The press took a toll on Joyce.

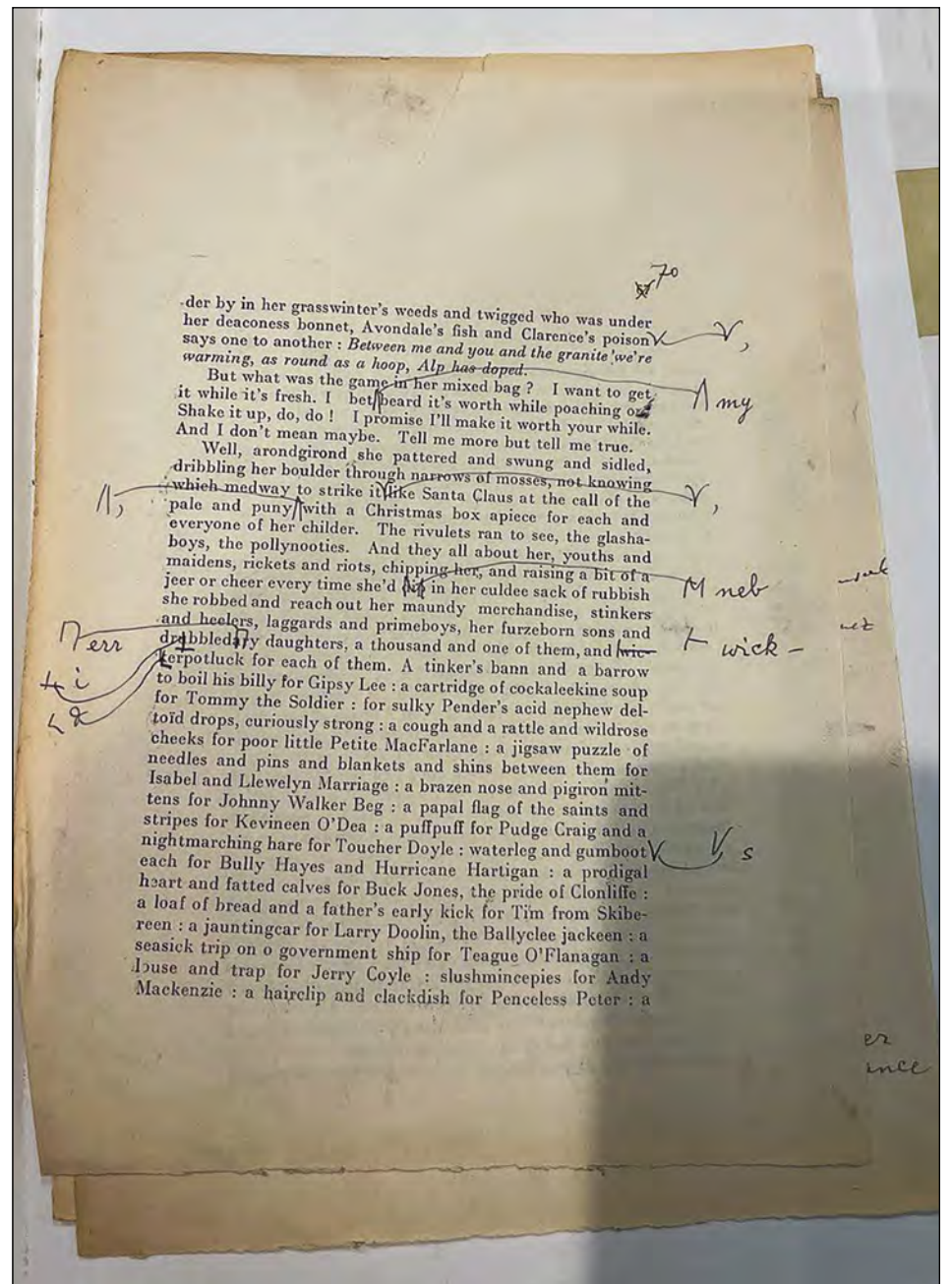


PHOTO BY IRA BUCH

A writing sample from Joyce on file in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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MUSIC: MIKE COBB

The Litchfield Jazz Festival returns for year 29

Now celebrating its 29th year, The Litchfield Jazz Festival will take place July 26-28 at the Tisch Auditorium and the Bourne Courtyard at the Frederick Gunn School in Washington, Connecticut.

Presented by Litchfield Performing Arts, the festival began as a classical series supplemented with dance and theater and jazz. Executive Director Vita West Muir spent time consulting with jazz gurus like DJ Ken Woods from WPBX Long Island, going to concerts, visiting other festivals in New York and New Orleans, and gathering advice from friends.

As a popular summer destination, Litchfield County sees many visitors eager for entertainment. The summer crowd helped seed the festival's audience. Early performances featured

Marian McPartland and Tony Bennett and were a hit.

One of this year's more exciting acts includes The Matsiko World Orphan Choir, whose mission is "to transform the lives of our world's most vulnerable children through a complete education." The choir is composed of sponsored children from Liberia, Peru, India, and Nepal.

"They came to us through the Amina Figarova Sextet. Amina's husband and bandmate Bart Platteau sold me the idea. I have served disadvantaged kids since I started Litchfield Performing Arts 43 years ago. Like Matsiko, we raise the funds to help kids. Bart and I connected immediately around shared goals. I have been writing promo stuff for them and this concert in the hope of

One of this year's more exciting acts includes The Matsiko World Orphan Choir, whose mission is "to transform the lives of our world's most vulnerable children through a complete education."

a large and generous audience who will find it in their hearts to support Matsiko," Muir explained.

Generally, Muir books all types of jazz with the exception of free jazz. "I love straight ahead, excellent vocals, and all types of Latin," Muir stated.

The camp is an equally important component of the festivals with students from age 13 and up

"This year we have among our handful of older students an 83-year-old classical clarinet player, a retired doctor I met on a jazz cruise who longs to learn to play jazz. The fest attracts mostly 40 - 60+ plus students of course who are younger," Muir noted.

Like many festivals, Covid affected programming, which Muir adapted to by doing live streaming of shows throughout the year. This morphed into a partnership with Mike Gow of the New England Arts and Entertainment at the Poli Club in Waterbury.

"He's been doing a show about every three weeks for 11 years now and we joined him for 8 additional shows last year including Sunday Jazz Brushes. The show features the first of our competition for young people: The Litchfield Jazz Camp Talent Search, a 16-year-old violinist who is incredibly musical," Muir explained.

Challenges of producing the festival include coming up with a lineup of excellent musicians who will sell tickets, paying them competitive fees, and attracting audiences to fill the house in a way that is profitable for all involved.

"We don't count on tickets to cover costs; no one ever does. We fundraise to cover any shortfalls and offer sponsorships for shows. Two of this year's shows have individuals underwriting them," Muir stated.

For more information, visit www.litchfieldperformingarts.org

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ART: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Norfolk Artists & Friends annual exhibit returns

For the past 17 years, a community of artists have shown a visual feast of their paintings, sculpture, jewelry, photography, and decorative arts in an annual exhibition in Norfolk.

Following tradition, more than thirty members of Norfolk Artists & Friends (NAF), a membership organization of professional artists, will be showing their artwork this summer in a group exhibit at the Art Barn Gallery on the Battell Stoeckel Estate in Norfolk from Aug. 1 to 4. The show is sponsored by the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival – Yale School of Music, to which 15% of the sales is donated.

The NAF exhibit will run concurrently with the ninth annual Weekend

in Norfolk, the town's three-day summer festival from Aug. 2 to 4.

Ruthann Olsson, Norfolk-based interior designer and artist who founded NAF (inspired by her friend Patricia Miller) in October of 2007, expressed gratitude for the generosity of the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival for its sponsorship of NAF. "We are truly blessed to have the Art Barn Gallery to show our work. This year we have 33 artists showing, among them four new members. The show will cover the disciplines of sculpture, drawing and painting, printmaking, photography, and fine jewelry." Cyd and John Emmons will professionally

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Norfolk Artists & Friends founder Ruthann Olsson.

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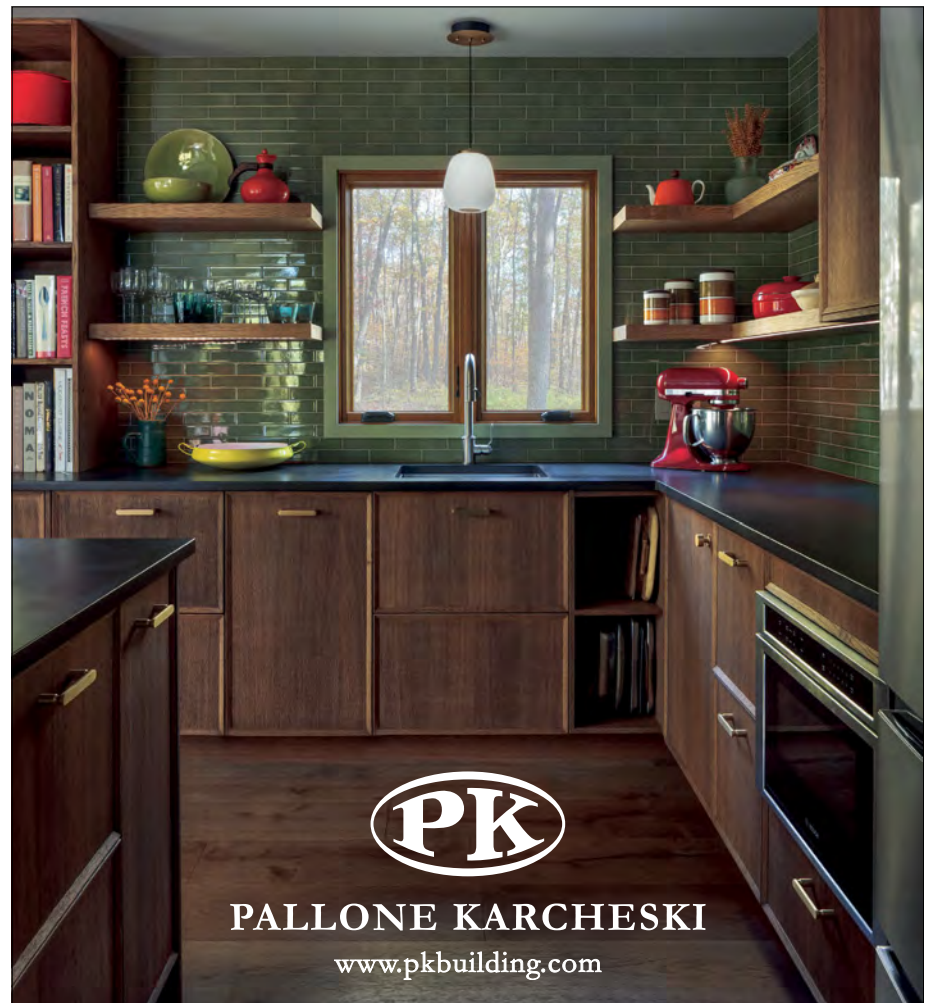
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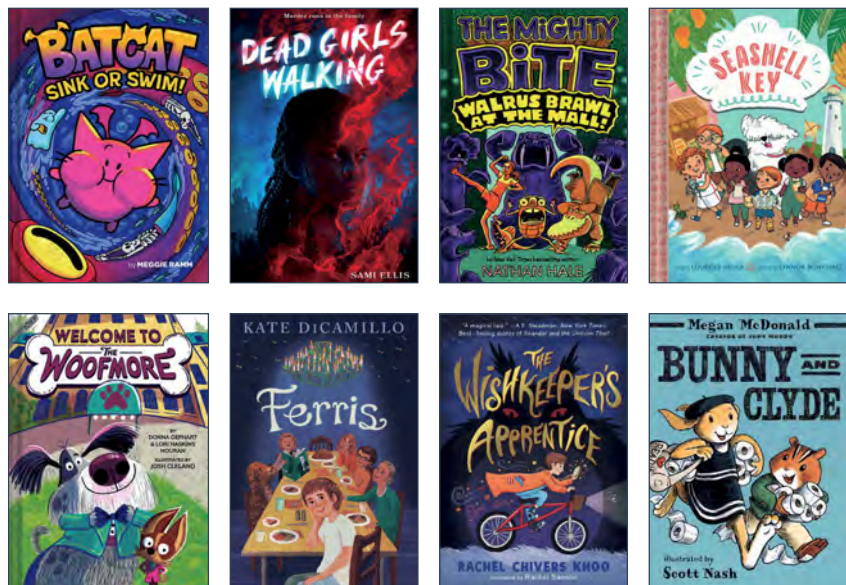


PHOTO PROVIDED

Artwork by Norfolk artist Tom Hlas.

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... exhibit

Continued from page 9

install the work.

Norfolk has a long, illustrious history of attracting fine artists, and generous patrons of the arts that supported them. One such early patron, Robbins Battell (1810-1895) shared his collection of works by Hudson River painters, such as Frederic Church, Thomas Cole, and George Inness with the people of Norfolk. The paintings were hung in the music room and library of Whitehouse, a landmark historic building. In 1898, Norfolk luminaries Carl Stoeckel and Ellen Battell Stoeckel hosted the president of the National Academy of Design, Frederick Dielman, at their Norfolk home. In 1928, a family friend Louis Comfort Tiffany oversaw the installation of five Tiffany stained glass windows in the Battell Chapel in Norfolk, commissioned by Ellen Battell Stoeckel.

Norfolk contemporary artist Tom Hlas said recently, "I've exhibited with the Norfolk Artists & Friends ever since we moved to Norfolk in 2012. It's a great group of artists that covers a wide range of mediums and styles. The annual art exhibit is always one of my art highlights of the year. Plus, it's great to see and talk with collectors and buyers who attend the show every year. I definitely look forward to this year's show. Each year the exhibit looks better and better!"

The stated mission of NAF is to "bring together a community of Norfolk-area artists to network, gain a reputation in the community and beyond, provide opportunities to market their work, and enhance conditions for making a sustainable income."

Babs Perkins, a photographer who lives in Norfolk, will be showing her work in the August show. "I always look forward to participating in the Norfolk Artists & Friends show each year. Ruthann [Olsson] had a vision and here we are years later still going

strong. Thanks to the range of artists and mediums, it's always an interesting and diverse exhibition. A few years ago, we decided to have the show professionally hung, and wow, is it ever worth it. I think we (as artists) are fortunate to have such a fantastic opportunity right here in Norfolk. And getting to use the beautiful gallery space in The Eldridge Barn (aka The Art Barn) on The Battell Stoeckel Estate is a big plus. It's also an incredible way for folks both in town and from the wider area to see the art being created here."

NAF founder Olsson shared her view that "Artists are positive creators, adding strength and beauty to our universe. These creative bursts of the spirit offer an endless tribute to our humanity."

Jim Jasper works as a graphic designer from his home in Norfolk. He is also a fine artist whose past work includes illustrations of each chapter of Melville's Moby Dick. He enjoys his connection with NAF. "It is a great way to forge bonds with other artists, many of whom have been showing with the group for years. The show has become a summer ritual in the town."

Norfolk Artists & Friends 17th Annual Art Exhibition

August 1 - 4, 2024

At the Art Barn Gallery on the Battell Stoeckel Estate.

Special sneak preview, Thursday, Aug. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Gala Reception, Friday, Aug. 2, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Hours of exhibition: Saturday, Aug. 3, 12 p.m. - 5 pm Sunday, August 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Follow signs on the Stoeckel Estate to the Gallery from Routes 44 & 272 in Norfolk, Connecticut.

www.norfolkart.org

FOOD: PAMELA OSBORNE

Cool coffee granitas

As I write, it is about a thousand degrees. And said to be staying there as we slog through this existential climate change, which I believe used to be known as summer. I was going to write about new and exciting developments in the pizza world, but probably no one south of the Nordkapp is going to turn on an oven much before October if this keeps up. So pizza will have to wait for who knows when, and, instead, I'll offer something that's really cold, really easy, and really good. You'll love it, I promise.

Hang on a minute, I have to go open the refrigerator door and lie down on the floor in front of it for a while first. Be right back . . .

Okay that's better.

I first had this, coffee granita, in Sicily a few years ago. Granita is, basically, flavored ice chips, and there are many variations. In Sicily, where the temperatures in summer are so high that they can't be measured by instruments invented by humans, this is often breakfast. Topped with some whipped cream, it can make what lies ahead as the sun ascends seem more bearable. I remember sitting in a plaza having some for the first time and thinking Wow!!! This stuff is Great!!! Or I would have thought that if it hadn't been too hot for so many exclamation points. I wish I were there again now, though. It's probably cooler.



PHOTO BY ELIZA OSBORNE

Second helpings of coffee granitas are usually required.

Coffee Granita

Italy is a place where coffee plays a serious cultural role, so it's possible that they start with freshly brewed espresso. We're not doing that: substituting instant espresso will simplify the workload here and, time in the freezer aside, you can put this together very quickly and easily. The reward far outweighs the effort. Make sure you offer blessings to the ground walked on by whoever invented it.

Serves six or so, keeping in mind that second helpings are usually required and appreciated.

Fill a quart measure with boiling water.

Add eight heaping teaspoons of instant espresso, available in supermarkets - Medaglia d'Oro and Ferrara are two brands. I have both and usually use four teaspoons of each, but no matter. I use a measuring teaspoon and dip it into the jar. Heaping, as I said.

Add slightly more (a tablespoon more) than 3/4 c. of sugar. Stir to dissolve.

Add both the coffee and the sugar to the water. It defies reason, but putting them into your quart measure first results in a smaller amount of liquid than doing it the way I said. If you want to know why, you'll have to call your high school chemistry teacher, I haven't the faintest.

Let the mixture sit on the counter for a while, at least 20 minutes. Or longer. Or put it in the refrigerator for a bit. You can go lie down somewhere while you wait for it to cool down some.

When it has, add:

2 tsp. vanilla

4 tsp. Kahlua

If the mix is too hot the alcohol will evaporate, and I think the alcohol is what keeps the granita in

a large grained, slushy state, even when frozen. I haven't checked this out with my old chemistry teacher either, but that's my theory and I'm sticking to it.

You can put this into the refrigerator for a few hours to cool it further, which will make freezing it quicker, or proceed immediately to freezing.

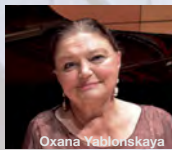
Pour the mixture into a flat stainless steel pan with high sides, a roasting pan, for example. Do not use a non-stick pan, it will be ruined. Clear a flat spot in your freezer and put in the pan. After an hour, and every half hour after that, scrape down the mixture with a large fork, putting the pan back into the freezer after each scrape. It will take a few hours to freeze it all, and it will look like large flakes. It stays in a servable state for a good while, so it can be made a day ahead. It's still good after that, too, if there's any left.

Watch out when you remove the pan for the first few scrapes, it's easy to spill. I knew from the beginning that this would be a permanent part of my life, so I bought NordicWare covered metal pans from Amazon for this. Up to you, but, again, be careful of spills in the beginning.

Serve with sweetened whipped cream. The granita is sweet enough, so I use very little sugar in the cream. It's a good idea to use chilled bowls for serving, it melts fast. Fabulous for dessert on a hot evening. If you decide to have this for breakfast, and why not, tell your mother I said it's okay to have a little whipped cream at the beginning of the day. Life is better that way, sometimes.

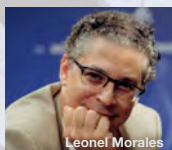
Pamela Osborne lives in Salisbury.

HOTCHKISS SUMMER PORTALS 2024 PIANO CONCERT SERIES



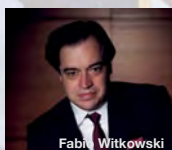
Oxana Yablonskaya

TUESDAY, JULY 16 – 7:30 P.M.
Oxana Yablonskaya, piano
works by Schubert, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky



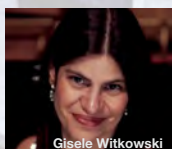
Leonel Morales

THURSDAY, JULY 18 – 7:30 P.M.
Leonel Morales, piano
works by Mozart, Stravinsky, Barber



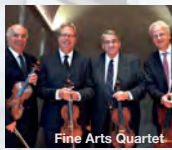
Fabio Witkowski

SATURDAY, JULY 20 – 7:30 P.M.
THE FRANK GALA CONCERT
Fabio Witkowski, piano
Gisele Witkowski, piano
Fine Arts Quartet
Schumann Piano Quintet, Dohnányi Piano Quintet No. 1



Gisele Witkowski

TUESDAY, JULY 23 – 7:30 P.M.
Michel Bourdoncle, piano
works by Séverac, Debussy, Gershwin



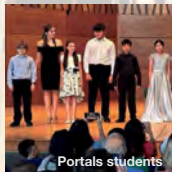
Fine Arts Quartet

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Michel Bourdoncle

Young Artist Recitals:
FRIDAY, JULY 19 – 8 P.M.
at Carnegie Hall, NYC (tickets at carnegiehall.org)



Portals students

SATURDAY, JULY 20 – 4:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 – 7:30 P.M.
THURSDAY, JULY 25 – 7:30 P.M.

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For more information and updated event listings:
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TANGLED LINES: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Summer sizzle puts trout in hot water

The dog days have arrived. This phrase refers to the summer, which brings heat, which makes trout unhappy.

During the dog days, anglers have to watch the skies and the thermometer. A stream thermometer, in particular.

The rule of thumb is: No trout fishing when the water temperature hits 68 degrees. When the water gets to 68 or above, there is less dissolved oxygen, which makes it harder for trout to breathe.

That's why the Housatonic River has several designated thermal refuge areas, where little creeks or springs trickle into the big river, providing some colder water. You'll see trout stacked up in these places, like airplanes waiting to land at a busy airport.

Regrettably, you'll also see unscrupulous anglers chucking stuff at these beleaguered fish.

Many of the signs designating these areas have either fallen off their trees or are obscured by brush. Addressing this would be an excellent summer project for somebody.

If you want to fish for trout your best option is a tailwater, and the closest is the West Branch of the Farming-

ton River.

The interagency confusion that left the Farmington with low flows the last couple of years was, thankfully, resolved by the General Assembly in the recent session.

So the 20 miles or so downstream from the Godwin dam north of River-ton have been good-to-excellent in terms of flow and water temperature. Downstream from that, not so much, but that is par for the course.

This is where your stream thermometer comes in handy. I've got two. A digital version that clips to my pack, and a regular one that I have affixed to a long dowel, for getting a reading without getting my feet wet.

The other tailwater options I'm familiar with are in the Catskills, between one and a half and three hours driving time from Northwest Connecticut. The East and West branches of the Delaware River, below their respective dams, are the most consistent. The Neversink near Bridgeville is okay as of this writing but does warm up, and my home river, the Esopus, is usually a dawn and maybe dusk proposition.

All of these rivers can be found on

Continued on page 14



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This smallmouth bass ignored the tempting green Gurgler and instead took a reverse-hackle wet fly typically used in Tenkara angling. Fish are funny that way. The wet fly was tied to a piece of fluorocarbon tippet which was in turn tied to the hook of the Gurgler.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN



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... trout

Continued from page 12

the United States Geological Survey water data website, where there will be info on flow, water temperature, and sometimes turbidity.

Back to the Housatonic. The river is home to approximately 100 kajillion smallmouth bass, who don't mind the warmer water.

This is the time to dig out a heavier rod (line weight 6-8) and that box of poppers you were convinced to buy in a weak moment at the Orvis store.

You can fool around with a sink-tip line, but 99% of the time a floating line is fine. The smallies will move up and down the water column without much prompting.

A shortish, stout leader is the way to go. I start with a 7.5-foot nylon leader tapered to 0X. This usually gets hacked

up pretty quick, and I add additional sections of tippet, 0X-2X, as needed.

Tactics can be just about anything. Crayfish abound in the Hous; you'll see bits of claw in the shallows. There are as many crayfish imitations as there are crayfish, it seems. But if you don't want to buy a lot of new stuff, a brown Wooly Bugger will do the trick.

When I was new to smallmouth fishing, and didn't know a smallie from a crab, I watched a Housatonic old-timer put on an incredible exhibition. Every second or third cast he hooked up, and not just with the immature bass (aka "dinkers") either.

When he took a break, I asked him how he did it.

The answer: He dead-drifted a brown Wooly, size 6 or so, upstream,

keeping it short, maybe a 20-foot cast.

As the line and fly went past him and started to drag, he executed a series of short jerks, using a combination of rod wiggling and line strips.

The takes usually happened a couple seconds into the dead drift, or on the swing-and-jerk.

Last week I took an early morning shot at the Hous downstream of the Falls Village power station.

This is easy to get to but tricky once you're in, mostly because of the wires that support the kayak gates.

Look at them sometime. They are liberally festooned with lures and flies.

If you don't know how to sidearm, you will.

I caught a couple of dinkers on a brown Wooly. Craving surface action, I

switched to a gurgler, which is a green foam thing that's supposed to look like a...I don't know what it's supposed to look like.

This failed to interest anything, and it was getting hot.

Just for laughs, I tied a dropper to the bend of the hook on the gurgler and attached a reverse-hackle wet fly designed for Tenkara fishing.

I let this combo drift into the shallow riffle and was pleasantly surprised when an adult smallmouth, with vertical stripes and bronze coloring, took the wet fly.

I rassed it into the net, got my exciting photo, released it and immediately left.

It's important to know when you've got a good exit line.

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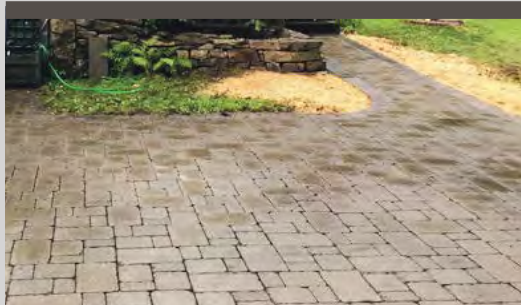
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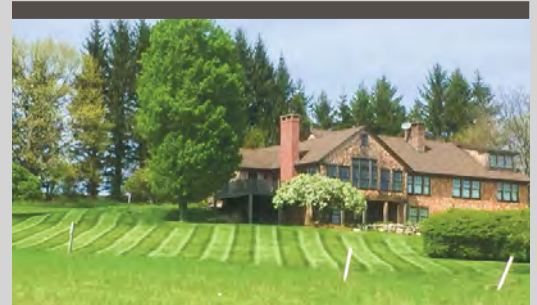
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