

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 20, 2023

TRAVELOGUE

The General Pierce Bridge, If Approached By Foot



BROWN-ANSON PHOTO

The bridge's improvements include a refurbished sidewalk and pedestrian lighting. But how well does it work as a pedestrian route between our towns? We tried it.

By SARAH BROWN-ANSON

GREENFIELD – The reopening of the General Pierce Bridge was reported in this paper several months ago, and since then I have crossed the bridge at least once every week in my car. But how is it as a pedestrian – and is it a safer option than walking down Turners Falls Road in Greenfield to the White Bridge and power canal?

I took a walk to try to find out. I wouldn't have necessarily chosen to take this walk if I had not read Bryan Dolan's letter in the January 5, 2023 edition of this paper, and the subsequent responses. "I almost killed someone with my truck last night," he wrote of a drive up Turners Falls Road on a winter night when he narrowly missed hitting a person walking up the hill. It is not a secret that it is

a dangerous road. I wondered how the pedestrian experience on the General Pierce was.

It was a big deal when the bridge reopened after being closed for repairs since 2021; even before that, it was only one lane, and I am not sure whether many pedestrians were using it. Now, though, I had read that it had a new sidewalk and lighting for pedestrians. It's also the closest way for me to get from my home, east of downtown Greenfield, to the town of Montague.

The Walk

I started walking a few years ago and have found that aside from the exercise that it offers, it feels good in other ways. I have met many of my neighbors on my walks. I enjoy seeing some of the same familiar faces, even if I am

see **BRIDGE** page A4

Pickup Woes Prompt Town To Put Trash Contract to Bid

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – "Republic Services was unable to complete the Thursday trash and recycling route on Thursday. It is expected to be completed along with the regularly scheduled route on Friday," read a notice on the Montague town website, soon reposted on the town's Facebook page. The next evening, Friday, April 14, a new posting announced that "Republic Services was unable to complete the Friday Trash route. A truck will be in Town Saturday to complete the route."

If this information was designed to impress local residents through transparency and good communication, it seemed to fail with a subset who monitor the local social media.

"Well that's such a shocker!!" posted Jackie O'Sullivan. "I call them every other week, always miss me. Pathetic. And every time I talk to someone in South Carolina."

"Republic [is] working on increasing the local black bear population," suggested someone going by the name Bi Kline.

"Should be lovely with the sweet smell of garbage in the air!" responded one poster to an unrelated announcement of a variety of

see **TRASH** page A5

Legal Aid Group Hosts Court Record Sealing Clinic

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – Having a criminal record can make it significantly harder to find housing or secure a job. Every time an individual gets arrested, convicted of a crime, or is otherwise involved in the criminal justice system, it is recorded on the state's Criminal Offender Record Information system, known as the CORI.

The system can make it difficult for people with criminal records to rebuild their lives. Next Friday, April 28, Community Legal Aid will host a CORI sealing workshop in Greenfield for those interested in removing past criminal charges from the public record. The workshop is open to "anyone and everyone who has a CORI and wants to know what their options are," according to Community Legal Aid senior supervising attorney Alyssa Golden.

"Any and everything that can create a barrier for a person, we want to reduce wherever possible," Golden told the Reporter. "People are positioning themselves as best as they can so in the future, when they want to make life changes, they don't have to worry that this is going to follow them around."

see **LEGAL AID** page A5

Erving Explores Strategy for International Paper Teardown

By MIKE JACKSON

Franklin County is freckled with abandoned, deteriorating palaces of industry left over from the age of hydromechanical power. In the late 20th century the norm became to hold off on knocking them down: we've been inundated with examples of similar structures rehabbed and given new life, whether as museums, loft condominiums, or the

offices and factories of a new era.

These huge projects take huge infusions of capital, however, and it turns out smart money flinches away from making it happen out in the boonies. For many towns, the latest wave of public investment is an opportunity to get back to basics: knocking the old mills down.

Just over the river and tracks from Millers Falls is the International see **IP MILL** page A7



JACKSON PHOTO

Erving town planner Mariab Kurtz says the complex has become a liability.

Montague City Man Survives Knife Attack

By REPORTER STAFF

An 82-year-old Montague City Road resident was allegedly stabbed in the abdomen and hand this weekend by a 28-year-old Deerfield woman working as a personal care assistant for his wife.

According to police dispatch logs, the victim reported the stabbing at 1:10 p.m. Saturday and was transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center and then Baystate Springfield for treatment; the woman

see **ATTACK** page A2

Competition Misreported In Library Race

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – As it turns out, there are just the perfect number of aspiring library trustees in Montague this year.

Last week, the *Montague Reporter* erroneously reported that two contenders will appear on the May 16 town election ballot for a single one-year seat on the board of library trustees. Turners Falls resident Louisa Khettab, who turned in nomination papers for that seat,

see **LIBRARY** page A4

Barnes & Noble Workers In Hadley Plan to Unionize



CHRISTENSEN PHOTO

Bookstore workers and their supporters rallied at the store on Monday.

By DUSTY CHRISTENSEN

HADLEY – Workers at the Barnes & Noble in Hadley have announced their intent to unionize, making them just the second store to organize in the giant book retailer's nationwide network of some 600 stores.

A group of workers and more than 40 of their allies gathered in front of the Mountain Farms Mall

location on Monday afternoon, chanting "union power!" and calling on the company to recognize their union, which would represent 18 booksellers and baristas. The announcement comes less than two weeks after around 70 employees at the Rutgers University Barnes & Noble announced their intent to become the first of the company's stores to unionize.

see **UNIONIZE** page A8

SOFTBALL LOOKING UP



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

After losing the first two games of the season to Easthampton and Hopkins Academy, the Turners Falls High School Thunder roared back last week with lopsided wins against Smith Academy, Mohawk Trail Regional, and Athol.

Above: Mia Marigliano watches her hit during the third inning as the Thunder rolled to a six-inning, 12-0 home victory over Mohawk last Thursday.

Well, It's Not Helping Your Paranoia

Letter: Botkin Appreciation.....A2	Theater: Stuck in the Middle.....B1
Illustration: Fresh Bagels in Erving!.....A2	Sex Matters.....B2
Local Briefs.....A3	Montague Police Log Highlights.....B3
Our Monthly Spanish Page.....A6	Capturing That Endangered Beauty.....B6
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week.....A7	Dragonflies on Clay.....B6
Grievin' in the Streets.....B1	Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....B7
Valley View: The Brother's House.....B1	Three Comics and a Puzzle.....B7
Dresses Shoots and Eats.....B1	Cloth Charged With Culture.....B8



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 18, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

G-M Hires Superintendent

After a long-considered process, the Gill-Montague school committee voted on Thursday to select Michael Sullivan as the new superintendent. Immediately following the vote, school committee chair Joyce Phillips stepped out to call Sullivan and get his response. After a few moments she came back to report that he had accepted the offer.

Sullivan, a native of western

Massachusetts, worked 16 years as a social studies teacher and was principal at Glenbrook Middle School in Longmeadow from 2006 to 2011.

Dispensary Proposal Heard

The April 10 Wendell selectboard meeting opened with Peter Fisher, Peter Gallant, and Pam Richardson meeting the board as citizens in favor of siting a medical marijuana dispensary, and possibly a production facility in town.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said he was "not sure Wendell is appropriate," being as remote as it is.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on April 17, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Seeds... and Tools

The Montague selectboard approved acting police chief Gary Billings' request to use \$300 from the community policing grant to provide seeds and tools for a com-

munity garden project involving the juvenile probation office and the Brick House in Turners Falls.

Billings also informed the selectmen that he has applied for a \$2,250 alcohol enforcement and equipment grant that he hopes to use for extra patrols on the high school's graduation night, and in areas where underage drinking parties occur.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on April 23, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

The croquet season has opened. They are cutting out L street to Park street.

There is to be a dance at Wood's Hall, Riverside, on Tuesday evening next, April 29.

J.B. Marsh has opened a dining saloon in the store lately occupied by L.R. Dunlap & Co. Things have been neatly fitted up, and a good meal can be had. Mr. Marsh intends to run a bread wagon, com-

mencing on the first of May.

The mud lake on the Greenfield side of the Suspension Bridge is just absolutely awful for either man or beast to wade or swim through. Why don't the authorities put on a boat? It is a little rough to have to swim a mud lake on one side of the bridge and cross the railroad at grade on the other. It wouldn't be genteel to drown in a mud hole.

A Bohemian child was run over by an unmanageable horse, and slightly injured about the mouth, on Third Street on Sunday afternoon. It lost two teeth, and is suffering from too much lip. It will be in the way again, in a few days.



ATTACK from page A1

drove to the police station and turned herself in.

The *Greenfield Recorder* reports that the woman told police she had stabbed the victim after he made unwanted advances, and that she pleaded not guilty in district court Tuesday to three charges related

to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing injury to a person over 60.

The defendant's attorney, according to the *Recorder*, characterized the event as a "flight-or-fight response" stemming from his client's previous trauma.

Bail was set at \$10,000.



Jody Wozniak and her mother, Robyn Polley, are the women behind Bagels N' More, which opened in February at 7 West Main Street in Erving Center. They offer pies, scones, muffins, sandwiches, and coffee in addition to many varieties of bagels, all made on the premises. They come in to start the baking at 3:45 a.m., Wednesdays through Sundays, and are open for eat-in or takeout on those days from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Letter to the Editors

Gratitude for Laughing Dog

It is with great sadness, and a tinge of joy from past memories, that I read Danny Botkin's piece on the loss of his farmhouse at Laughing Dog Farm.

I first visited Danny and Divya soon after I moved to the Pioneer Valley in the early 2000s. I took a workshop there and I remember the warm welcome from Danny and Divya to their farm. A tour of the Edenic garden ensued, with Danny's lecture on the various techniques used, followed up by a huge pot of vegetable soup and freshly-baked bread with Divya.

I would drop by to love on the baby goats or to pick the abundant blush raspberries. I would see Danny around Greenfield at seed swaps and the Farmers

Market, often draped in his festively braided garlic, ready to sell, swap, or passionately discuss growing techniques and seed saving. I thought of him as a benevolent frontman for sustainable farming.

I sincerely hope that he and Divya are able to get the farmhouse rebuilt, and that they continue on as mentors to the community. Thank you, Danny and Divya, you've made an impression on so many who hold you in our hearts.

With love and respect,

**Trouble Mandeson
Greenfield**

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS...

At least two errors appeared in the April 13 edition of the *Reporter*.

First, we erroneously wrote that Miryam Vessel was nominated by the Montague Democratic Caucus for a one-year seat among the town's library trustees. We were given incorrect information; Vessel was nominated for a three-year seat. Furthermore, there are three three-year seats available. (See Page A1, *Competition Misreported in Library Race*, for more details.)

The second error was implied, but we definitely committed it. Our Page B1 *MoRe* header image showed several fire trucks parked in front of Stone Hall, a building on the campus of Thomas Aquinas College in Northfield, formerly the east campus of Northfield Mount Hermon.

"On Easter morning," we wrote in the caption, "the Northfield Fire Department responded to a fire at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel..."

Our photographer sent this caption with two photos – the one we ran and the one above, which shows the



Chapel which caught fire. We didn't look closely enough to notice the second showed a different building.

A sharp-eyed reader who asked to remain anonymous caught it.

"To the right further downhill is Marquand Hall, one of the original buildings on the campus and the dormitory to which I had been attached,"

she wrote. "I was a day student there for four years.... [T]here is no road to the chapel, only sidewalks. That means that the TF fire department had to haul equipment up a fairly steep hill and then carry even further to get to the east end where the fire was in the sacristy... I'm impressed."

Thanks! And Sorry! – Eds.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Oops! The **wrong date** was listed in last week's *Local Briefs* for the community discussion about the potential demolition and redevelopment of Erving's former International Paper Mill!

The correct date is this coming Monday, April 24 – not Thursday, April 27 – at 7 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School at 28 Northfield Road.

The **Millers Falls Community Improvement Association** meets on the third Thursday of the month at Element Brewing. Join them at 7 p.m. to discuss already-completed projects and plan new ones. "Come help make our village great!" say the organizers. Next meeting is this Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

Fiddleheads Gallery will host a talk called "**Origami: Where Art, Math and Science Meet**" this Friday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at their gallery at 105 Main Street in Northfield. The free talk is the first of several programs related to the current "STEAM-y Art & Science" exhibit.

Dr. Thomas Hull, associate professor of mathematics at Western New England University, will describe how mathematics is related to origami and how the art form has influenced robotics, engineering, and even medicine. Contact margedvaa@gmail.com to reserve a seat.

Youth 17 years old and younger who have **art on the theme of Hope and Healing** are invited to show in an exhibit at Greenfield Community College. The work should be no larger than 11 by 14 inches and be ready to hang, but unframed. Entries must be received by April 21; call Lynn Blanchard at (413) 772-9069 to find out how to submit. The work will be shown at GCC and elsewhere in Franklin County.

It's **stuffed animal sleepover** time at the Carnegie Library! Drop off your stuffies this Friday, April 21 between 3 and 5 p.m. Read them a story, if there is time, and then pick them up the next morning between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Check out an online slideshow afterwards to see the stuffies cavorting in the library and getting very little sleep!

Hawley poet **Jody Stewart** will give a **reading** from her latest book of poetry, *This Momentary World*, at the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls at 7 p.m. this Friday, April 21. Stewart will be signing copies of her book, and there will be refreshments.

Those who have had a breast or ovarian cancer diagnosis are welcome to attend **spring art therapy workshops** with Pat Hayes on several dates in April and May, thanks to funding by Rays of Hope. These include painted flower pots, Japanese brush painting, making sun prints, and decorative glass painting. Visit www.cancer-connection.org for specifics.

The National Spiritual Alliance will have a **free movie day** this Saturday, April 22 at 1 p.m. They'll be showing *What Dreams May Come* starring Robin Williams, Cuba Gooding, Jr., and Annabella Sciorra. The movie is about a man trying to unite with his wife in the afterlife. The screening is at the temple at 2 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is this Saturday, April 22. You can drop off unused prescription drugs at the Montague, Erving, or Leverett police stations between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The **intergenerational foster care community** Treehouse, based in Easthampton, will hold a major fundraising 5K race at the Northampton Airport this Sunday morning, April 23. This is their first annual "Run the Runway" event, which they hope will raise \$70,000. There are 270 slots filled with runners and walkers.

According to a press release from Treehouse, "One hundred percent of Treehouse children remain with their adoptive families through to adulthood; they are never returned to the foster care system. Ninety-five percent graduate from high school and 100% go on to college or vocational training. Compared to the national data associated with foster care, Treehouse children and youth are soaring."

Although the event has reached its capacity, donations can still be made at www.PledgeReg.com/Runway-5K.

This Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m. there is a **rally at the Northfield Mountain** river intake to protest the FERC relicensing of the pumped storage station, which sucks river water up into a reservoir to release it for electricity generation during peak demand times.

Environmentalist Jill Stein will speak. Attendees can find the site where Ferry Road intersects with Pine Meadow Road just off Route 63 near the Riverview Picnic Area. Find out more about the protest at ctriverdefenders.org.

LifePath has started a new "**Wellness Unplugged**" series, the last Monday morning of the month, to cover health topics their other workshops only touch on. April's group, "Dueling with Depression," will take place on April 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., with LifePath's Kate Moriarty.

Other upcoming topics include "Managing Clutter," "Mind/Body Medicine," "Introduction to Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction," "Heart-Centered Communication," and more.

A Memory Training workshop will be offered in June for four weeks, with two hours each week of memory-training exercises and discussion, aimed for those who have mild memory impairments, not Alzheimer's. For more information or to register, contact Andi Waisman at (413) 773-5555 x. 2297 or awaisman@LifePathMA.org.

Montague / Turners Falls residents: **Want to know what's going on in your community?** Come to the Carnegie Library next Tuesday evening, April 25, from 6 to 7 p.m. for an informal reception with this year's slate of local candidates for the May 16 election, and chat about local interests and issues. Light refreshments will be available.

Amy Donovan, program director at Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, will give a presentation titled "**Where is Away? (Composting is Local!)**" on Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Donovan will answer questions about where our waste goes, how recycling really works, and how households can reduce their trash and save money through composting and recycling. Everyone is invited, but registration is preferred. Call (978) 544-3559.

The New Salem Public Library presents "**A Walk Through the Garden with Eleanor Roosevelt**" next Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. Author and historian Carol Cohen will provide a first-person narrative to present Eleanor Roosevelt and her Victory Garden, plus her other humanitarian efforts during World War II. The interactive program is suitable for adults and teens. For more information on Cohen, visit www.carolcohen.com. Contact the library for information on the event by calling (978) 544-6334.

Baystate Health will host a virtual event called "Faces of Faith: A Community Conversation about **Cancer Prevention and Survivorship**" on Wednesday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m.

According to the press release, the event "recognizes cancer survivors, celebrates the gift of life, and provides a platform for everyone to engage, inform and learn through community conversation about cancer prevention and survivorship. Breaking the silence promotes awareness that life with and beyond cancer can be glorious, triumphant, and God-filled." Join the Zoom livestream at www.tinyurl.com/baycan.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield will hold a **talk with farmworker leader and organizer** Claudia Rosales next Thursday, April 27 at 6 p.m. Rosales helped increase membership in the Pioneer Valley Workers Center from 300 to 500. She will share her field experience meeting one-on-one with more than 200 workers to discuss labor conditions and teach them their rights. There is a suggested donation of \$5 to attend. Find out more at www.thelavacenter.org.

Next Friday, April 28 at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., there will be an **Arbor Day Scavenger Hunt**. Drop in and explore the library's grounds to find various tree-related items such as smooth and rough bark, seedlings, and tree roots.

Diemand Farm in Wendell is having a **Spring Fest** next Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They promise a fun-filled day of crafts, live music, and hot food from their kitchen. Vendors include woodcrafters, upcycled fashionistas, glass artists, jewelry makers, and more. The bands in-

The Gill-Montague Education Fund
2023 Annual Gala
"Faithfully"

An Eagles & Journey Experience
Saturday, April 29th
7:00 pm
Turners Falls High School Theater
Advance Tickets: \$30 At the Door: \$35
Ticket Locations: Hillside Pizza, Bernardston; Weatherheads, Erving; Bobby's Hair & Nail Salon, Northfield; World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield; Greenfield Savings Bank and Scotty's Convenience Store, Turners Falls; and the GMEF website, www.thegmef.org.
Corporate Underwriters: Greenfield Savings Bank, The Management Solutions, Inc.
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clude 2 Car Garage and The Passenger Side. More information at thediemandfarm.com.

Get ready for the **annual Stash Bash** at Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Scoop up some craft and art supplies or unload your own materials at this event. Lunch will be served from 10:30 to 12:30. Contact Chris at (413) 387-5387 for information about renting a table to de-stash your stuff, or to donate it for sale by the church.

The League of Women Voters of Franklin County (LWVFC) is hosting its annual **Civics Trivia Night** on Saturday, April 29 at the Greenfield Elks Lodge, 3-5 Church Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the trivia game starting at 7. Questions will feature a variety of civics-related topics, from political movies to current affairs, and more.

Emily Brewster, Rendezvous pub co-owner and editor and lexicographer at Merriam-Webster, will serve as this year's Quizmaster.

"Our trivia night fundraisers are fun exercises in community-building, with a competitive edge," says LWVFC president Marie Gauthier. "They also help fund League educational events as well as our voter registration and outreach efforts. We haven't held this in-person since the pandemic began, so we're hoping for a great turnout!"

There will be cash prizes, complimentary snacks, a cash bar, and a gift basket raffle. Admission is \$10 per person, with teams of up to eight allowed. For more information visit lwvma-franklincounty.org.

A **neighbors-helping-neighbors network** is trying to get off the ground in Montague! A working group is tasked with trying to figure out ways to start one of these support organizations to help match services and volunteers with seniors who want to stay in their homes, like the Village Neighbors organization that serves seniors in Wendell, Leverett, Shutesbury and New Salem.

The working group meets for the second time on Monday, May 1 at 1 p.m. at the Montague Center fire station. If you are interested in joining it, contact Lee Wicks at wickswords@yahoo.com.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE!
 148/154 Montague City Road, Turners Falls. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Items in every category from furniture to toys to soft goods to tools and more. High quality as well as lots of free goods.
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LIBRARY from page A1

will in fact run for it unopposed.

Myriam Vesset, meanwhile, was nominated by the town Democratic Caucus to stand for a three-year seat, not to challenge Khetttab, as was communicated in error by the town clerk's office last week.

Compounding the incorrectness, we also wrote that incumbent Lydia Ievins and tree committee member David Detmold were competing for a three-year seat on the board, but in fact three such seats become available each year, so Vesset's party nomination simply gives the town a full complement of candidates.

Competition in the spring election will therefore be limited to the Montague Housing Authority, where two vie for a five-year seat, and the board of assessors, with a four-way field.

"The article is correct that long-term planning for our town's library buildings will be a large part of the trustees' work this year," trustee Will Quale, who notified this newspaper of the errors, added, "and our town and libraries will be well-served if all of these nominees are elected."

Last month the trustees' building subcommittee agreed to submit a letter of intent to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, as "Carnegie Library is not adequately meeting the needs of the public." If a grant is approved, the next step would be a fresh assessment of the town's options.

Despite looking forward to an orderly succession of its governing body, the Montague public libraries will host a candidates' event next Tuesday, April 25 at 6 p.m. Library director Caitlin Kelley promises the event will feature name tags, refreshments, and an opportunity for constituents to "chat casually" with their aspiring representatives.

"I'm not entirely sure what to expect," Kelley told the *Reporter* on Tuesday. "I currently have six people who plan to attend, four who can't make it, and six that I need to chase down over the phone this week."



BRIDGE from page A1

too shy to stop and have a long conversation.

Around a year into my daily walking habit, I read an essay by Vivian Gornick about her frequent walks around New York City and the feeling they give her of being alive, surrounded by the life of the city. Greenfield does that for me, even on its quietest mornings. I mean it when I call Greenfield the center of the universe.

For most people walking between Greenfield and Montague, it's not for exercise and it's not romantic. It's just what has to be done to get from one place you have to be to the next place you have to be. Walking safely from Point A to Point B should be a right. And, as Bryan Dolan so articulately expressed in his letter, drivers are impacted by the lack of pedestrian access on roads. A collision can scar the driver as well.

I set out from my home on a sweaty spring day last week. I live on Spring Terrace, a small street created in the first decade of the 1900s, along with many other neighborhoods in Greenfield and Montague. Our house is a two-bedroom place built by Fredrick E. Wells for his workers to rent from him.

When I was looking for a place to live long-term, I had looked for somewhere I could see myself living without a car. We live a reasonable walk away from amenities and a six-minute walk from the closest bus stop. My maps app told me it would take 68 minutes to walk from my house to the *Montague Reporter* office on Avenue A - or 55 minutes, if I wanted to walk up High Street to Turners Falls Road and across the White Bridge.

My street has a nice new sidewalk on it, but the sidewalk ends where the road meets Mountain Road, and though people recreate on foot on the trails at Poet's Seat (Rocky Mountain Park) and Temple Woods, it seems like most arrive there by car. The sidewalk on Mountain Road being nonexistent, I thought I would be uncomfortable



Left: The Mountain Road memorial to Bonnie Wall, tragically killed by a falling branch.

Right: Once Greenfielders actually access the redone bridge, it's smooth sailing to downtown Turners.



walking on the road, but in daylight and in good conditions - the snow had recently melted away - the shoulder felt adequate, and cars were able to give me space.

I passed a memorial to Bonnie Wall on Mountain Road in the form of a large white cross with her name in blue letters, with a bench and flowers behind it, further off the road. I later learned that Bonnie Wall died on this road in 2004 when a large tree limb fell on her car.

The Crossing

Getting to the end of Mountain Road, I found myself in an uncomfortable position. There was no crosswalk, and if I wanted to make it to the bright new sidewalk I could see on the bridge, I was going to have to cross the road. It was up to me to figure out how.

Coming from my left, and going past me at full speed of around 30 miles per hour, was a long line of vehicles. The line of sight was short: I couldn't see the cars until they were only a second or two away.

Coming from my right was traffic from Montague City Road feeding onto the bridge. Hesitant to engage with drivers who may or may not see me, I turned my face and engaged with my phone until I thought there might be a break. It took what felt like a couple of min-

utes before I neither saw nor heard cars approaching, so I dashed across the road to the sidewalk.

I guess I didn't mind endangering myself, but I wouldn't do that with a kid.

That is the crux of the matter, really, about being a pedestrian in Franklin County. You can do it, if you are willing to trust the drivers surrounding you in their large metallic boxes. I do not trust the drivers, and I really think we ought to have roads suitable for walking and riding bikes. Surely that is not an unpopular opinion, but do my local officials in Greenfield share it?

Once I got to the bridge, things were fine. Walking between there and Avenue A was smooth and easygoing. It was flat and partially shaded, with marked crosswalks.

I treated myself to a cold drink at my favorite brunchette on Avenue A and took the FRTA Route 24 bus home. The bus is free right now, and you don't need a ticket; I just got on at the stop in front of the entrance to the alley next to the Shea Theater, and I requested and got off at the stop closest to my house, near the Weldon on High Street.

The bus is its own whole story, not for this article but maybe another one. If you are as curious about bus travel as I am, I encourage you to read Jeff Singleton's story about

taking buses to Boston from Montague. It's in the *Montague Reporter* archives in the May 22, 2014 edition.

Room for Improvement

I would like to follow up more with officials in Greenfield about my observations of the walk. Would they consider adding a crosswalk to make the bridge more accessible? What improvements have they already thought about making to the intersection? Or perhaps the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has some say in the matter?

At a meeting I attended in February about the redesign of Main Street in Greenfield, I learned that the Department of Transportation (MassDOT) would withhold funding for a project that did not include multimodal transportation infrastructure, at least in that particular case. This means that bike lanes, bus stops, and pedestrian access via sidewalks would be included by default.

With the city of Greenfield, MassDOT, and the regional planning body known as the Franklin Regional Council of Governments all involved in infrastructure here, it begins to feel like I need to ask someone to help me find out where the buck really stops.

That said, there are always at least hints of answers on the internet. I wanted to know if any changes or improvements to the Mountain Road path between Greenfield and Montague were in the works. Franklin Regional Council of Governments published a *Pedestrian Plan for Franklin County* in 2021, and it is accessible on the "Publications" section of its website (frcog.org).

Both the Cheapside area of Greenfield and Turners Falls Road are mentioned in the pedestrian plan as being areas in need of improvement. They are both in the "planning and/or design phase," according to the FRCOG document.

I do not doubt that the Cheapside area of Greenfield is in need of improved pedestrian infrastructure, but it would be a shame if Mountain Road were ignored, because it is how many people get from Montague to downtown Greenfield. Or from Greenfield to downtown Turners Falls, as was the case for me.



The crux of the matter: How multimodal is our transportation, when a single busy road without a crosswalk interrupts a route?

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TRASH from page A1

town events sponsored by RiverCulture.

“Are they gonna race around all the garbage that Republic Services never picked up?” came the response to an announcement of a downtown Turners cycling race on Sunday.

Barry Scott then reposted a variety of similar announcements and apologies from Republic Services over the winter months, and other commenters pointed out that there was little freezing snow to blame during the latest failed pick-up attempt.

Amid this discussion, someone posting from the official town Facebook account noted that the town will soon be reconsidering its contract with Republic Services, a national corporation which has been serving Montague for over 15 years.

“The Town is scheduled to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for curbside trash and recycling this spring,” they wrote. Evaluation of submitted RFP proposals will consider credentials, past experience, and references; it won’t just accept the lowest bid. The awarded bid will start contracted work in July 2024.”

This announcement was met with some relief by Facebook users, one of whom claimed that “it’s clear that residents do not want [R]epublic again! You should be able to tell from the current smell of some of these lovely streets.”

“That’s funny,” Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD), told the *Reporter* when we called to ask her about this topic. FCSWMD assists towns in the region to develop and monitor their trash and recycling hauling contracts. “I just finished the bidding docs and sent a notice out to four potential bidders.”

Both Ameen and Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told us that the the bidding process will not require the town to choose the lowest bidder, in part since the state procurement law Chapter 30B does not strictly apply to trash and recycling. The RFP will focus on recent experience and an “operational plan,” including employee training and communication with the town.

The “due date” for the bids is May 9 – a “quick turnaround,” according to Ameen – and the town hopes to award a new contract by July 1 for implementation in 2024. This will give the winning bidder time to purchase at least one new garbage truck, which have current delivery times of up to a year.

Curbside trash and recycling pickup are handled on the same route, and under the same contract, but this was not always the case. Republic and its predecessor, Allied Waste, have handled the routes for decades. Ameen was an important advocate for privatizing Montague’s recycling program, which by 2005 was handled by the highway department, when it appeared

it might be the victim of budget cuts.

According to former selectboard member Clarkson Edwards, the recycling program dates to the 1980s and was heavily promoted by a selectman named Walter Garbiel. Edwards recalls it beginning with a “blue truck” owned by a resident of Millers Falls. At some point in the 1990s, it became a town service run by the public works department.

While recycling has been free for households, the town passes on part of the cost of trash pickup to those who generate it. A 2009 article in the *Montague Reporter* stated that the user fee component, where a trash sticker must be purchased prior to leaving trash next to free recycling at the curb, began in 1992.

Recycling, meanwhile, was entirely covered by the town as a whole. But a major fiscal crisis that dominated Montague politics between 2007 and 2009, with large gaps between revenues and expenditures and failed Proposition 2½ overrides, resulted in public meetings on the theme of “can we afford recycling,” as one *Reporter* headline put it.

In the end, following a suggestion made by Ameen at one such meeting in February 2009, the costs of equipment repair and workers’ compensation were handed off to the company that was already doing trash hauling for the town. The company was Allied Waste, which was in the midst of a national merger and would be renamed Republic Services.

The economics of the program have not been as controversial since the town budget crisis 15 years ago. The costs of recycling and trash hauling are covered by two main lines in the “solid waste” section of the public works budget. These totaled \$334,344 in 2022, but an additional “tipping fee” reflecting the amount of waste received at the trucks’ destination totaled \$122,880.

Revenue from trash stickers, which flows into the town’s general accounts, came in at \$255,466 last year.

The recycling program attracted very little attention in the pages of the *Reporter*, or at selectboard meetings, until the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020. Since then, challenges finding and training employees and replacing vehicles have led to frequent missed routes – and lengthy meetings between Republic officials and the town selectboard. Ellis told this newspaper that Republic has also experienced significant turnover in its regional management.

“I don’t know any hauler that is perfect,” Ameen told us. “They need a stable group of drivers that are familiar with the routes. I think there are around 2,500 houses in Montague, and some of them are tucked away in odd places.”

“This contract is not necessarily going to go to the lowest bidder,” she added.

The bidding process will not require the town to choose the lowest bidder.

The RFP will focus on recent experience and an “operational plan,” including employee training and communication with the town.

LEGAL AID from page A1

Community Legal Aid (CLA) is a nonprofit that provides free civil legal services to low-income and elderly residents of the five western counties of Massachusetts. Staff with the organization’s CORI and Re-Entry department have been hosting similar clinics across western Massachusetts to connect with residents who might not know that CLA exists, or what kind of work they do.

“Offering walk-in clinics might be a way to reach people who would not have sought us out in another way,” Golden said. “As we’ve grown as a unit, as legal aid, we’ve come to understand that in order to make sure people have access to their criminal records, it’s important we are out in the communities.”

The CORI-sealing workshop will take place in the Hayburne Building in downtown Greenfield at 55 Federal Street, Suite 250 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, April 28.

Workshop attendees will receive a copy of their CORI, and have the opportunity to look through it with a CLA lawyer, for free. No appointment is necessary, but workshop attendees are encouraged to bring a state-issued identification card, Social Security card, or birth

certificate in order for the attorneys to retrieve their CORI.

Generally, a misdemeanor can be sealed from a person’s CORI three years after a conviction. For a felony there is a seven-year waiting period.

A background check is part of the process to apply for a Section 8 housing voucher, and having a criminal record can, in some cases, disqualify an applicant from receiving financial aid. CLA lawyers frequently work on housing and discrimination cases, and can help a person appeal their denial of a subsidized voucher based on their criminal record.

“People absolutely should be appealing these denials, and are welcome to reach out to us if they are looking for assistance with these denials,” Golden said. “One of the reasons sealing clinics are important is we want people to get out in front of these barriers before they come up.”

It is against the law for a landlord or employer to request a person provide their own CORI. Instead, a specific form exists for them to request access to a CORI with much more limited information available.

“That party only has access to

the system at the level they’ve been granted, based on why they’re running it,” Golden said. “Your own CORI could include any time you’ve been arrested, and really any time you’ve touched the court system.”

Convictions that can never be sealed include intimidating a witness, defrauding the court, perjury, bribery, and certain charges related to firearms sales. If these charges are dismissed prior to conviction, though, they can still be sealed.

“Sometimes there are mistakes that shouldn’t be there, and we can help fix that,” Golden said. “This is a time for someone to sit and go through their CORI with an attorney and address it.”

Certain employers – particularly those whose work involves children and other sensitive groups – can see non-convictions, or other records that have been sealed on a CORI. Members of the general public can also request CORI on anyone, but the information they will see is limited to the most recent convictions and pending cases.

Even if a charge is not yet able to be sealed, CLA lawyers will be able to help educate anyone about what their legal options might be. In these cases, the attorneys can help people understand what

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Application deadline is May 12, 2023.

These positions are seasonal employment opportunities. Full position descriptions are available and applications can be completed online by visiting www.erving-ma.gov/employment. Printed applications can be mailed to Town of Erving, Attn: Recreation Commission, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.

A CORI check will be performed on successful candidates. The Town of Erving is a drug free workplace. The Town of Erving is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Questions can be sent to careers@erving-ma.gov.

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del *Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a spanish@montaguereporter.org.



Una curiosa tradición: Lunes de Aguas en Salamanca

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
de AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – A la hora de escribir estas líneas los habitantes de mi ciudad se preparan para celebrar una de las tradiciones más curiosas de España. El Lunes de Aguas es un día festivo en Salamanca que se lleva celebrando desde hace más de 400 años, exactamente desde 1543.

Como muchos de ustedes saben, España conserva todavía muchas tradiciones de la Iglesia Católica. No todos los habitantes de España son católicos según los datos de la encuesta del Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS) en 2021 que determinó que el 59,8% de la población española se define a sí misma como católica, aunque eso no quiere decir que practique dicha religión.

Eso sí, la mayoría disfruta de sus tradiciones festivas.

Una de las tradiciones católicas más conocidas en los Estados Unidos es la Semana Santa (Holy Week) en la que se conmemora la pasión de Jesucristo. Muchos son los estadounidenses que van a Sevilla, Valladolid, Salamanca u otras ciudades durante la Semana Santa y se quedan horrorizados al ver las procesiones. La ropa que visten los cofrades les recuerda a la usada por los miembros del KKK. Algunos creen que la Semana Santa la ha copiado cuando, en realidad, es al revés, los miembros de este repugnante grupo tomaron los símbolos de la Semana Santa española.

Los penitentes y cofrades de las procesiones, que son las personas que portan las cruces, las velas y los pasos con las figuras religiosas, llevan una especie de sombreros en forma de cono que les tapan la cara y solamente dejan visibles los ojos.

Este sombrero, llamado *capirote*, tiene su origen en la Inquisición. Durante el siglo XV los condenados por dicha institución debían llevar el capirote como símbolo de los pecados cometidos y para ser sometidos a escarnio público. Además del capirote, los reos condenados vestían también una especie de saco llamado *sambenito* y con estas dos prendas se exhibían a los reos por las principales calles de la ciudad antes de ser ajusticiados. Francisco de Goya pintó este atuendo en muchas de sus obras, la más conocida es la titulada *Auto de fe de la Inquisición*.

A partir del siglo XVII las cofradías de Semana Santa en Sevilla empezaron a utilizarlo en las procesiones. El capirote servía para esconder la cara del penitente para conservar la privacidad ya que le permitía llevar la cara tapada con la tela que puede ser de varios colores dependiendo de la Hermandad. Hay capirotes rojos, verdes, blancos, negros y morados.

El racista KKK nació muchos



Mesa de Lunes de Agua con hornazo típico.

años más tarde, después de que los confederados perdieran la Guerra Civil estadounidense. Nadie sabe exactamente el porqué de la elección de la vestimenta por este grupo, aunque la teoría más extendida es que está basado en las ilustraciones del libro *The Clansman*.

Algunos otros historiadores de origen hispánico tienen una teoría más rocambolesca: el uniforme del KKK está inspirada en la Hermandad de los Negritos de Sevilla.

Esta hermandad fue fundada en 1393 por el cardenal Gonzalo de Mena. Sevilla fue la ciudad más importante de España en lo que se refiere al tráfico de personas durante la época esclavista de España. Pocos lo saben, pero durante el siglo XV, el 15% de la población de la ciudad de Sevilla era de raza negra.

Al igual que en otros países con un pasado esclavista, estas personas eran tratadas como meras pertenencias y en el caso de venir mal dadas los esclavistas se deshacían de ellas y las abandonaban a su suerte en las calles de Sevilla o si tenían la fortuna de alcanzar la libertad, solamente podían acceder a los trabajos más bajos.

La Hermandad de los Negritos nació para dar cobijo a las personas de raza negra que vagaban por las calles de Sevilla. Pese a que la asociación fue creada por un alto cargo de la Iglesia Católica de aquellos años, esta debió enfrentarse a muchos problemas ya que otros altos cargos de Sevilla la veían solamente como una fuente

de problemas.

En el siglo XVIII se cambió el nombre al de la "Hermandad de los Negritos," nombre que algunos tachan de paternalista y otros simplemente como cariñoso. Cada Jueves Santo salen en procesión desde la iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles, siendo la hermandad más antigua que procesiona en Sevilla. Los cofrades llevan un hábito de sarga blanca acompañado de un capirote también de color blanco.

La tradición salmantina del Lunes de Aguas está estrechamente ligada a la Semana Santa. Allá por el siglo XVI, Salamanca era uno de los centros del saber de Europa. A su universidad acudían estudiantes de diferentes partes del mundo y sus profesores eran los científicos, literatos y filósofos más famosos de la época.

Y por supuesto, una alta concentración de estudiantes atraía también otros oficios populares en aquellos años, como mozos de cuadras, lavanderas, feriantes, criados, taberneros, y prostitutas. Este último oficio estaba de alguna forma regulado por la corona que cobraba impuestos por su trabajo y también ejercía una especie de control higiénico y de salud para tratar de controlar las enfermedades de transmisión sexual, aunque no siempre con mucho éxito.

En noviembre de 1543 llega a la ciudad, el entonces príncipe Felipe, que sería rey con el nombre de Felipe II. En Salamanca iba a celebrar su matrimonio con María Manuela de Portugal. El rey Felipe II, ya de joven era una persona de carácter sobrio, muy religioso y bastante estricto en pensamiento y costumbres. El príncipe conoce de primera mano que Salamanca en aquellos años no solamente era un centro de sabiduría, sino también uno de los burdeles más grandes de Europa.

Queda tan asombrado de la disoluta vida de Salamanca que promulga dos edictos: uno la prohibición de comer carne durante la Cuaresma y el otro que, durante

este mismo periodo religioso, todas las prostitutas deberán salir de los límites de la ciudad para favorecer que los fieles pudiesen practicar la abstinencia. Así pues, las prostitutas eran obligadas a abandonar la ciudad y se refugiaban durante la Cuaresma en pequeños pueblos fuera de las murallas, al otro lado del río Tormes.

Solamente podían regresar a la urbe universitaria transcurrida la Semana Santa, el lunes siguiente al Lunes de Pascua, que es el lunes después del Domingo de Resurrección. Por supuesto esto era un gran motivo de regocijo para los estudiantes que organizaban cada año una fiesta para ir a buscarlas al otro lado del río. Engalanaban las barcas con flores y cintas, llevaban músicos, y por supuesto una buena merienda y mucho vino para pasar la tarde a la orilla del río.

El jefe de la expedición era un personaje conocido como el Padre Putas o por el eufemismo de Padre Lucas, que se encargaba de guiar a las prostitutas cuando salían de la ciudad el mismo miércoles de ceniza y a su regreso después de la semana Santa, el Lunes de Aguas.

La tradición se ha conservado hasta nuestros días, aunque la situación socioeconómica y religiosa haya cambiado con los siglos.

El Lunes de Aguas desde 2020 se reconoce como Fiesta de Interés Turístico en Castilla y León. Las calles y cafeterías de Salamanca se quedan desiertas y las familias o grupos de amigos cargan las bolsas llenas de comida y en coche, autobús, bicicleta o a pie se dirigen a los parques o casas privadas en el campo para celebrar este día una gran merienda.

El plato típico que no puede faltar en la merienda de ese día es el *hornazo*. El hornazo es una especie de empanada de pan relleno de jamón, chorizo, lomo y huevo. La masa se hace con manteca de cerdo, huevo, y harina de fuerza. Es una comida fuerte que no falta en cualquier reunión de ese día acompañado por la popular tortilla de patatas, ensaladilla rusa, embutidos de la zona y de postre, flan y pasteles.

• Immigrant Voices: A celebration of Arts.

Center for New Americans celebra como cada año su evento para celebrar las diversas culturas y lenguas, con participantes de diferentes países que nos acercarán con música y baile a sus lugares de origen. El evento tendrá lugar el próximo domingo, 21 de mayo a las 7 de la tarde en el teatro Shea de Turners Falls. Las entradas están a la venta en la página web de Center for New Americans: www.cnam.org.

• **Great Falls Books Through Bars.** Si ustedes están haciendo limpieza y quieren donar algunos libros con cubierta blanda, esta organización acepta donaciones. Bien sean para enviar a personas encarceladas o bien



para la venta para financiar proyectos. Consulte su página web para conocer los lugares donde pueden llevar sus libros: www.greatfall-booksthroughbars.org.

• **Mariachi Shoe Repair.** Felipe González, el zapatero de Turners Falls, vuelve a Massachusetts el 25 de abril desde su retiro de invierno en México. Si ustedes necesitan repara-

rar sus zapatos, por favor, contacten con su Facebook, "Mariachi Shoe Repair."

• **Pioneer Valley Worker Center.** Vuelve "Despensa del pueblo" en Turners Falls, el tercer viernes de cada mes de 4 a 6 de la tarde, reparto gratuito de alimentos y otros enseres en el espacio comunitario 104 4th Street en Turners Falls.

• **The LAVA Center.** Cada tercer jueves de mes The LAVA Center en Greenfield celebra la noche de la palabra hablada y la poesía. Poetas y escritores locales comparten su trabajo de 7 a 10 de la noche en 324 Main Street en Greenfield. Si necesita más información sobre este u otros eventos, visite su página web: www.thelavacenter.org.

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IP MILL from page A1

Paper (IP) Mill, built starting in 1902, vacant since 2000, and owned by the town of Erving since 2013. At 211,000 square feet of building space, it's comparable in size to the Strathmore complex in Turners Falls, which is 224,000.

And, like the Strathmore, the new idea is to take it almost all down.

We caught up this week with Erving town planner Mariah Kurtz, who is holding a public meeting at 7 p.m. this coming Monday at Erving Elementary School about how to demolish the IP Mill – and how to pay for it. (The transcript has been edited for clarity.)

MR: For the people who can't make Monday, what are the big ideas you're trying to get out there?

MK: As we were discussing capital requests throughout the [FY'24] budget season, the IP Mill conversation kind of unfolded to be a very large project, which needs to be talked about outside of the typical capital planning process.

In the late summer or early fall we had our first community discussion, since I've come on board, to just talk about the IP Mill. That led to the decision to pursue a demolition study. Now we've got some numbers, and we're at the point where we need the public's input.

The selectboard has asked for scenarios of different ways to fund it. We have a \$600,000 MassDevelopment grant, and we're basically estimating demolition after that grant at \$3.7 million. That's based on demolishing everything except for Building 8.

MR: What's the \$600,000 grant for?

MK: We've been holding on to this grant for a year and a half or two years now. It's for demolition, but MassDevelopment is geared towards commercial and industrial redevelopment, so if we use that money we wouldn't, for example, be able to put out an RFP for only housing.

The demolition study, which is posted on our website, has opinions of probable cost for different scenarios. The one we're looking at – demolishing everything except for 8 – isn't specifically listed, because we didn't really have that idea when we originally procured the study, but we came to our number by backing out the Building 8 costs from the total.

MR: Which building is 8?

MK: It's the small pumphouse on the river. It's very small [ed. note: 1,380 square feet], and it's a standalone building.

MR: One of the scenarios would leave both 2 and 8 up, for \$2.3 million. I guess 2 is a pretty substantial building?

MK: Building 2 is the big one that you can see from the road, and the one that probably has the most potential, but it's surrounded by other buildings. By the time we demolish everything around it we would be doing a significant amount of shoring up of that building.

I think it's a beautiful building – and I would love to see it transformed – but my fear is that if we're going to do this demolition and pay all this money, I don't want to be stuck with a building that still needs to be boarded and secured, still needs to be insured, and still is very large.

If no one wants that, we would still have to go back and demolish it.

Building 8's small enough, and secure enough, that I don't think it poses the same risk.

MR: So it's \$2.3 mil to leave 2 and 8 up, but if you're actually going to fix up Building 2, it's almost another million...

MK: Yeah, so \$3.2 million total...

MR: And then taking everything down is a little over \$4.3 million, and leaving the pumphouse shaved off of that. Can you talk a little more about why you'd leave the pumphouse?

MK: It's not a hill I would die on, by any means. Everyone I've talked to wishes they could see some part of this mill be transformed, stay there and be used again. And a lot of it is in true disrepair and can't be reused.

I think Building 8 is small enough that it's manageable, so we can take care of it in the meantime, and if a developer came in and it was attractive to them, that would be great; if it wasn't attractive, it's small enough that it wouldn't be a huge deterrent to demolish it.

I always joke that I would love to have a paddle-up coffee bar there. Or my office! It's a really cool building that I think has character that a lot of the other buildings don't, and it does have a river view and river access.

MR: Is there any talk about not having any buildings – is anyone looking at this as a park, or a golf course?



A map of the IP complex from a March 2023 Tighe & Bond memorandum estimating the cost of different demolition scenarios.

MK: Some people I've heard from, residents and otherwise, have expressed a desire to have a town forest there. It's not a popular opinion. Most really want to get this back on the tax roll, and recognize there is significant need for housing, for businesses, for Erving to diversify our tax base, and to have things going on there again.

When we eventually put out an RFP again, whether it's as is or after demolition, we're planning on carving off six acres that are currently developed plus another four acres, to make sure it meets density requirements. So about 10 acres would be carved off of the 43 total acres, and we would hold onto that as open space.

One of the things that was "advantageous" in our last RFP was including public access along the river. Erving's definitely interested in maintaining public access to that site, and keeping the area along the river natural and open for use, but that would have to be a partnership with whoever develops it.

MR: Is it on the table that the town might not use the MassDevelopment grant?

MK: Mixed use, like housing plus commercial, would still be eligible, so there could still be the possibility of housing going there, it just wouldn't be the only thing.

But due to the previous lack of support for housing there, I don't know that there would be support for turning down demolition money to only put in housing.

MR: Our town is facing similar conversations with the Strathmore – how much do we want to take down? Have location and transportation been limiting factors with the IP site?

MK: A lot less than with the Strathmore. Our mill is situated along the river, but it doesn't also have the canal right there.

The road itself is an issue, though. I don't know if the road has prevented redevelopment. It's certainly not ideal for our highway department – a lot of trucks don't follow the truck route, and will come over that small bridge and try to make the turn at the top of that hill... They've taken out trees, they've taken out road signs. We've put up Jersey barriers – those always end up crushed and moved. It's dangerous for cars coming down there.

In the coming years we need to work with an engineer to change that road layout. A lot of what looks like parking lot for the mill is actually the road layout – at some point decades ago, the mill and the town

opposition to the zoning changes we proposed, which didn't allow or disallow anything in particular with housing. They did not submit a proposal, after showing interest.

Since then I've been doing many tours with people – I basically offer a tour to anyone who displays interest. What often happens is a group will take a tour, I'll talk through the history with them, and it fizzles out. Sometimes they just don't get back to you.

We've talked to a lot of very established developers in the area and it just hasn't worked out for various reasons; we put out an RFP last year that we didn't get any responses to. One of the questions that might come up Monday is whether to release the RFP again. At this point I kind of feel like it doesn't hurt, but also, is it the best use of our time? I don't know that we're going to get anything different than we did the last time.

MR: Monday is billed as an informational event. Are you seeking input, or just trying to spread an understanding of the town's options?

MK: It's both. I've requested that the capital planning committee, selectboard, and finance committee come up with a suggestion of what direction they're thinking of going. My understanding is that they're going to meet from 6 to 6:30, and then recess until 7, when we'll start the big meeting. They'll recommend one or two different options as the direction they're thinking of going. That includes a capital exclusion or a debt exclusion, which are over either three or five years, in different amounts; we could also draw part of it from stabilization and only borrow for part of it. So there's a few different options they're looking at. My hope is that they will recommend one or two for public input.

MR: And \$3.7 mil is what capital improvement is looking at, as a back-of-envelope figure?

MK: They're looking at \$3.7 million, and the other scenario they're looking at is \$1.85 million, which would be if we drew half from stabilization.

MR: But, demolition-wise, they're looking at one scenario.

MK: Right.

MR: What would be bad about just leaving it be?

TOWN OF ERVING Animal Control Officer

The Town of Erving is accepting applications for the position of Animal Control Officer. This position is per diem and non-benefited.

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) is responsible for enforcement of state and local laws and regulations related to animal control for the Town of Erving. The ACO oversees the care and control of domestic animals, and in some instances wildlife. The ACO is a civilian position within the Police Department, reporting to the Chief of Police, and does not possess police powers. For the complete job description and to download an employment application, visit www.erving-ma.gov/employment.

Applicants should possess a high school diploma or equivalent, and at least one to three (1-3) years of work experience, preferably in animal care and control; an equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job may be considered. Must have valid Massachusetts Driver's License. Must have or be willing to obtain a certification as an Animal Control Officer by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts and a Firearms Identification Card within the first year of employment.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with a preference for applications received by Monday, April 24, 2023. To apply please send cover letter and resume to careers@erving-ma.gov or by mail to: Town of Erving, Attn: Bryan Smith, Town Administrator, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.

A CORI check will be performed on the successful candidate. The Town of Erving is a drug free workplace. The Town of Erving is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

MK: It's a liability. Erving had our own mill fire a few years back, and other towns around us have had them. That's a very real concern for us, as is continued vandalism. And we could have commercial activity there, so we're also losing out on potential benefits.

MR: It feels like we're really turning some kind of big corner here, where a lot of buildings that haven't yet been put into reuse we are now taking down. Do you have a sense of why that's happening now?

MK: I don't know that I have the history to know why now, versus not previously. I will say there has been a lack of demolition funding. I fought tooth and nail for the funding that we did get, and I've been told by many people that we're extremely lucky to have it. We have this money that we've been sitting on, and I don't know how much longer they're going to let us sit on it. So I think any town lucky enough to get their hands on demolition money is using it as quickly as possible.

But I don't know, historically, if it just takes a while for people to understand the market, and the lack of interest – if there was more hope before, or if it has to do with how the housing market has been. I would be very interested, if there is someone who could speak to that.

MR: How late will Monday's meeting go?

MK: My hope is 7 to 8:30. I'm going to do a short presentation getting people up to speed, I imagine the selectboard, capital, and finance might talk a little bit about how they've gotten to where they are, and then we'll open it up to the public...

I've heard from some people that they absolutely do not want to be in a situation where the mill has some kind of catastrophe and we're stuck cleaning it up. I've heard from other people that they think the town has better priorities than taking down an abandoned building.

It's really hard to gauge the public interest when, like so many towns, not a lot of people show up to meetings, so you kind of get information through offhand comments. It's hard to gauge what kind of support there would be for a debt exclusion or a capital exclusion, or borrowing generally, if we don't have that input.

MR: Will there be treats?

MK: [Laughs] I can't promise any treats, but I will have lots of very nice pictures to show, and wonderful conversation.

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UNIONIZE from page A1

“My heart rate is through the roof,” bookseller and receiver Thalia Ward said after the crowd staged an energetic rally in front of the building. She said she is still working part time for minimum wage three years after starting at the location. “Hopefully we can set an example for Barnes & Nobles across the country.”

Workers said that they are organizing with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1459 around a handful of key issues, from low pay and inadequate hours to a lack of accessibility inside the store.

A Barnes & Noble spokesperson did not respond to email and voicemail messages left Monday afternoon.

The union drive is one of several groundbreaking drives locally. Just down the road in Hadley, workers at Trader Joe’s won the first-ever union victory in the company’s history last summer. And Mount Holyoke College student-workers recently joined a wave of undergraduates organizing at their residential-life jobs nationwide.

“We are often told that booksellers and baristas are Barnes & Noble’s most valuable assets,” the workers said in a statement they read at Monday’s rally, calling on the company to recognize their union and begin bargaining a first contract. “We agree, and have decided to come together to stand up for our rights as workers in order to foster the working conditions we deserve.”

The union’s statement said that the past year has been “one of the most profitable times” for Barnes & Noble, with new stores opening and renovations happening at existing stores.

“Meanwhile, the majority of our staff are still underpaid and without benefits, even while many of us are working nearly or actually at full time hours,” the statement read. “Our schedules are inconsistent and often fall outside of our (unreasonably low) rostered number of hours. Our hours are constantly subject to unexpected and unexplained cuts, despite our store being consistently understaffed.”

Communication with corporate and management has also suffered, the workers said.

“Bosses have brushed off concerns around issues like a lack of accessibility in stores,” they said. “We are reminded that we must set up the store in a way that purposefully makes it difficult for customers to navigate. While this may make sense for able-bodied customers who will stop to look at displays, it is a nightmare to navigate under any other circumstance for customers and workers alike.”

The employees said that the best way to address their issues is to unionize so that they, as book enthusiasts and community members, can best serve their customers.

“It’s so exciting,” bookseller Cristi Jacques told The Shoestring. “I really hope the company recognizes the union quickly.”

Barnes & Noble bills itself as the top book retailer in the entire country with stores in all 50 states.

Dusty Christensen is an independent investigative reporter based in western Massachusetts. He can be reached at dusty.christensen@protonmail.com. Follow him on Twitter: @dustyc123.

This article first appeared on The Shoestring: www.theshoestring.org.



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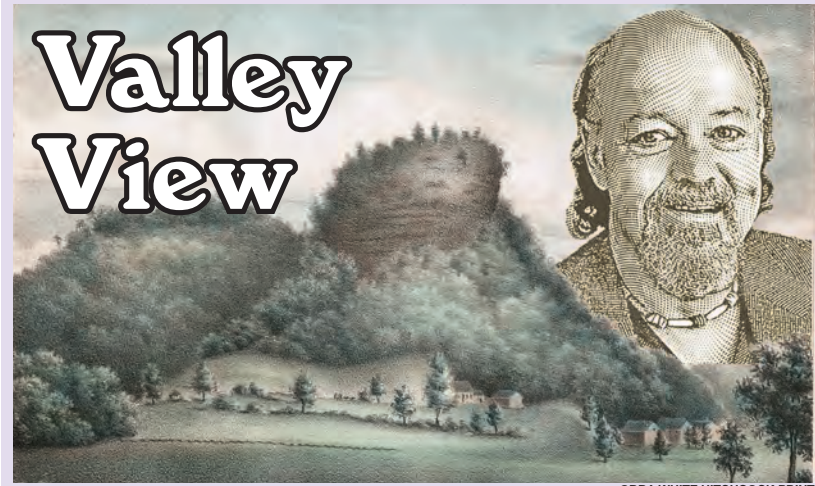
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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER APRIL 20, 2023

Above: Mount Wantastiquet watches over a memorial gathering for Brattleboro artist and musician Jonas Fricke. Hundreds of celebrants, buoyed by a brass band, paraded through the city's streets on Sunday.



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Seeking brief respite from a tangled maze of early South Deerfield deeds, I scheduled a short trip to the Granite State last week. There, on a summerlike spring morning, we found warm, welcoming guide Sharron Holmes Smith awaiting our visit at the historic Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale House in Hinsdale, New Hampshire.

Friend and neighbor Richard Shortell wanted to join me, and drove. We share interests in local history and what he calls “old stuff.” Translated, that means Americana, some of which can break the budget of even conservative collectors with sophisticated tastes.

We were anxious to tour the noble, dual-center-chimney, Georgian Colonial dwelling, built in 1759 along the eastern bank of the Connecticut River by the founder of the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border town across from old Fort Dummer on the Vermont side. Col. Hinsdale, a Deerfield man who graduated from Harvard in 1727, was Fort Dummer’s chaplain – or “Indian missionary,” whatever that meant.

I learned of the house museum, purchased in 2009 by the Hinsdale Historical Society, while investigating a new discovery about the colonel’s younger brother, Samuel Hinsdale, the first occupant of the historic upper Greenfield Meadows tavern I call home.

Ebenezer and Samuel were born a year apart in 1706 and 1707, the sons of Deerfield’s firstborn white child, Lieutenant Mehuman Hinsdale (1673-1736). All three were prominent colonial Deerfield citizens, not to mention prolific landowners. Only Samuel lived to witness the Revolution. A Greenfield founding father and ardent patriot – a word I hesitate to use these days – Samuel died in 1786, outliving his “intemperate” brother Ebenezer by 23 years.

Maybe it’s not fair to mention Ebenezer’s intemperance. Wasn’t virtually everyone intemperate back then, when “hardened” cider, weak and strong, was a staple served even with breakfast? Because sweet cider quickly turns to vinegar in storage, colonial cider mills and distilleries produced cider wine and brandy, even potent

applejack for special occasions, all of which stored well. Sweet cider was a treat served fresh.

My interest in the Hinsdale House began last fall when I stumbled across a couple of 18th-century deeds recording the sale of Samuel Hinsdale’s Greenfield farm, which stood at “the nook of the falls” on both sides of the “road from the fishing falls to Northfield.” My first impulse, based on a reference to Grass Hill, placed the property north of the High Street Cemetery, somewhere in the area of today’s Stop & Shop. It sounded like an apt name for the vegetation that the first colonial eyes would have found around the so-called Mackin sandbanks.

I was wrong about that, and about my assumed location of the so-called “nook,” which I assumed referred to the Connecticut River’s right-angle elbow at the Factory Hollow outflow.

As I delved into Deerfield’s 1736 “pitch lots” drawn by proprietors in a land division “east of the Green River and north of Cheapside,” I discovered that the “nook of the falls” actually referred to a three-mile stretch on the river in what is now Gill. According to Gill historian Ralph M. Stoughton, who lived there, the nook began at the sharp elbow across from the mouth of the Millers River and extended west, through Great Falls, to the mouth of the Fall River.

The 200-acre Hinsdale Farm sat on both sides of the road at what is now Gill Center, bordered north by Barnard Hill, which is not far south of Mount Hermon. In 1769, Samuel sold 117 acres, a house, and outbuildings to Benjamin Hosley for more than £213.

Eight years later, Hinsdale unloaded the rest of his acreage, selling 80 acres to George Loveland, who ponied up £24 for “land which lyeth on the Bald Hill, so called, in the nook of the falls and is the land on which the aforesaid Loveland now dwells.”

Interesting. It was a small world back then – one with a solemn honor system intact. Apparently, Hinsdale knew Loveland and trusted that he’d settle his debt years after building a farm for his family.

My next question was why Hinsdale, whose father was the No. 1 landowner in Deerfield by a wide see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

RECIPES

Spring Shoots – We All Score

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Who eats shoots and leaves? Right now it’s anyone who loves local crops, because the first spring arrivals are waving their little green hands from fields and gardens, just begging to be taken into the kitchen.

Chives were up by late March. A few days later rhubarb was shouldering its way out of the chill earth. By April’s end we will have lovely asparagus, and foragers will be finding fiddleheads on the riverbanks.

Fiddleheads are the shoots of the oyster fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), and unlike the inedible ferns that grow in woods or gardens, they like the moist riverbanks of northeastern North America, where they are a traditional specialty. Locally they are served with the shad that swim up the Connecticut in spring.

Canadians also eat them with fish and seafood. They taste a bit like spinach, a bit like green beans, and a bit like asparagus. To enjoy them, trim off the brown stem bottom, then cook like asparagus in boiling salted water for three to five minutes until crisp-tender. Serve them instead of or alongside asparagus

see **SPRING** page B4



Though technically a stalk like asparagus, rhubarb is often treated like a fruit in recipes for baked goods.

THEATER PREVIEW

A Romp in Liminal Space

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Amanda Bowman of the Human Agenda Theater ensemble talked with me recently about the collaborative process behind *Mira and the Liminal Dimension*, the original play coming to the Perch at Hawks &

Reed in Greenfield on April 28, 29, and 30. The group came together last spring, and gave a preview performance of this play for a small audience at the LAVA Center in August. They have been refining it since then, and are excited for their upcoming premiere in the Perch.

Three of the collaborators –

Bowman, Steph Reyes, and Kelly Tierney – met by responding to a post by director Kevin Van Develde on Facebook about wanting collaborators for a piece about liminal spaces. An additional three who joined them, Kaia Jackson, Zee Shephard, and Allison Reding, were friends of his.

In the play, the main character Mira (played by Tierney) works for a nonprofit but doesn’t know if the work she does there actually makes any difference, and she has just gone through a breakup.

“She falls through an air vent and into the liminal dimension, which is a magical and weird in-between kind of dimension that doesn’t quite follow the rules, but has its own rules,” said Bowman. “She goes through a hero’s journey in the liminal dimension, with the help of various characters, to try to work through the things that she is dealing with in her life in the real world, and also trying to understand how to accept liminality in her life.

“The trials and challenges that Mira goes through, and the different people she helps in that dimension, are all forcing her to evaluate see **LIMINAL** page B5



Steph Reyes (left) plays a mysterious Attendant in the *Liminal Dimension*, who is out to steal the soul of Mira (right, played by Kelly Tierney).

AMANDA BOWMAN PHOTO

Pet of the Week



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Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

SOUTH HADLEY – I'd like to share a bit of Gina Ogden's work in the field of sexual health. Ogden, a Massachusetts treasure, passed away in 2018 at the age of 83. She was a sexologist, sexual well-being pioneer, and scholar who wrote 13 books.

I had the pleasure of seeing her give a small workshop out here in Western Massachusetts in 2016, and thoroughly enjoyed her warmth, enthusiasm, and expertise as she shared some of her “Four-Dimensional Wheel” sexual health concepts. Some of this work is also a good lens through which sexual trauma and erotophobia can be perceived, and is useful to consider in April, which is Sexual Trauma Awareness Month.

Ogden's wonderfully comprehensive and holistic Four-Dimensional Wheel of sexual health consists of four quadrants: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. Much of this material is drawn from her well-written and informative 2016 book *Expanding the Practice of Sex Therapy: The Neuro Update Edition*, as well as previous works. And since I just finished rewatching and thoroughly enjoying all six seasons of the original *Sex and the City* (SATC), we can potentially understand the four quadrants via the main characters of SATC.

The **physical** quadrant involves a person's range of sensory experience: smell, touch, taste, sight, hearing; movement and stillness; comfort and safety; arousal, orgasm, and other physical pleasures and sensations. This quadrant can be characterized by heightened senses.

The “shadow side” of the **physical** can contain pain, disgust, numbness, and dysfunction. Trauma and erotophobic environments can contribute to someone experiencing more of the shadow side of the physical quadrant, such as numbness due to disconnecting from one's body. Common sexual complaints such as pain disorders and lack of orgasm fall in this shadow side.

When SATC's Samantha Jones, public-relations expert of unabashed sexual pleasure, is having her juiciest solo or partnered sex, we can correlate this to the best expression of this quadrant – heightened pleasure, orgasm, etc.

The **emotional** quadrant contains the person's range of feelings: love, passion, yearning, anger, hatred, and fear; empathy; self-compassion, which as defined by Kristin Neff's work includes self-kindness, mindfulness, and common humanity; trust, which enables the ability to let go of control; open-heartedness; and heightened feelings.

The shadow side of the **emotional** can include disappointment,

anxiety, depression, restriction, anger, boredom, shame, and guardedness. Some of these may stem from trauma, but it also may relate to interpersonal or relational problems, untreated depression, and anger related to societal repression and oppression.

When Carrie Bradshaw, SATC's self-reflective writer, is connecting with herself, no matter what is going on with Big or Aidan, it exemplifies the best version of this quadrant.

The **mental** quadrant includes discernment in the form of beliefs and messages about sexuality and spirituality, including religious messages. Ogden also includes imagination, intuition, memory, dreams, waking dreams, and fantasies, along with wishes, intentions, anticipations, and expectations. This quadrant can involve a curious open mind, problem solving, increased understanding, and expanded beliefs.

The **mental** shadow side may contain judgment, such as negative messages and rigid attitudes about what sex should be like. Again, our erotophobic society and many erotophobic family structures can promote a shadowed experience of sexuality. Folks who are impacted by the shadow side may report a lack of interest in sex.

Miranda Hobbes, the lawyer in SATC, is the obvious correlation to the mental quadrant, with her ability to analyze situations.

The **spiritual** quadrant involves a deep sense of connection with one's self, partner(s), and/or “higher power.” It can include inner visions, communication with divine forces, and experiencing oneself as part of all that is sacred. This quadrant can be characterized by ecstasy, increased energy, lasting *satisfaction*, connection, and transcendence.

The shadow side of the **spiritual**, on the other hand, can include a profound sense of isolation, depression, and paralysis. Folks who grow up in oppressive religious structures may find the shadow side familiar.

I ascribe SATC's Charlotte York, the art gallery director, to this quadrant. Spirituality was rarely mentioned in the show until Charlotte fell in love with Harry Goldenblatt, prompting her to convert to his Judaism. Even when they briefly broke up, she remained Jewish, as she had embraced this new spirituality.

At the **center**, these four quadrants ideally converge positively and uniquely for individuals to experience integration and transformation. Ogden writes that some folks say that this *center* feels like “a high-definition Oz, a place of mystery and paradox where opposites emerge in an uncanny way.”

They may even experience “oneness, integration, shape-shifting, timelessness, light, and/or lightness of being” and be able to communicate profoundly with self and/or a partner in this place of “clarity, vision, vastness, and unconditional love.” We can imagine the best SATC version of this is when the main characters are laughing and bonding over brunch.

As with the four quadrants, the *center* has a shadow side: hopelessness and despair. That is, if someone is experiencing the shadow side of the four quadrants, then they will likely experience the shadow side of the *center*, as well.

Using the 4-D Wheel

You can explore and address a sexual question or issue using the four dimensions of the Wheel. Create a sense of uninterrupted safety in your space. Perhaps draw out the Wheel on your floor, placing written words in its four quadrants and leaving room for the center. Or construct the Wheel using objects, as if you were constructing a mandala. Concretize abstract concepts with tangible objects such as feathers, rocks, shields, or pillows.

You can also try movement to address the issue in a particular quadrant. For example, if you are feeling frozen or stuck, go to the physical quadrant and try stomping your feet.

Reflect on your question, perhaps journaling stream-of-consciousness responses to each quadrant. Sense, ponder, and contemplate any noticeable physical and emotional changes after experiencing the Wheel. Consider talking about your experiences with partners and others who encourage the unfolding of nuanced material, rather than those who might close it down. Develop a sex-positive ritual from your musings and learnings, incorporating some of the objects and movements that help open curiosity, self-love, and self-acceptance. You can also create an altar or special place for objects inspired by your experience using the Wheel.

Learn more about using the Wheel from Ogden's books *The Heart & Soul of Sex* (2006) and *The Return of Desire* (2008). And if all else fails, ask what Samantha Jones, my favorite sex-positive SATC character, might do.

Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL facilitator, EMDR consultant and psychotherapist, certified in *Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES)*, and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

Senior Center Activities APRIL 24 THROUGH 28

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson (978) 544-3758.

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. From March to April there are appointments available with AARP Volunteer Tax Aid tax preparers. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 4/24

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
Tuesday 4/25
9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 4/26

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 4/27
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 4/28

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pizza Party

ERVING

Open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Fitness room open daily.

Ask the Nurse and Blood Pressure Clinic is the first Tuesday of each month. Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans' Services are the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 4/24

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion
Tuesday 4/25

9 a.m. Good For U
10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 4/26

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/27

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

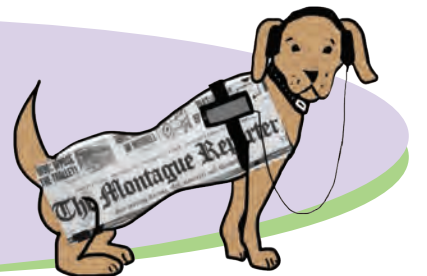
Friday 4/28

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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The Montague Reporter Podcast



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VALLEY VIEW from page B1 margin, would have chosen to settle in the town's isolated northeast corner. Though it's uncertain precisely when he broke ground at "the nook of the falls," it seems likely it would have been after 1748, when he was licensed to run a tavern at his late father's Old Deerfield homestead following younger brother John Hinsdale's unexpected 1746 death.

So, Samuel Hinsdale probably moved his family to their fertile "nook of the falls" Deerfield farm around 1750, three years before the establishment of Greenfield and 43 years before Gill would split off. Although the location seems a bit isolated to suit the desires of a man of means, it's possible he chose it to be close to his enterprising older brother.

Ebenezer Hinsdale, who never gave up his Deerfield residency, accepted his Fort Dummer post in 1740 and in proceeding years helped build Fort Hinsdale across the river. Samuel would have been "in the neighborhood," so to speak, less than 20 miles south.

Living in what is now Gill when brother Ebenezer broke ground for his Hinsdale estate in 1759, it is not a stretch to surmise that Samuel took part in the construction. Isn't that what brothers did back then? Though difficult to pinpoint exactly what role he may have played, Hinsdale House tradition states that some of the building materials came from Deerfield. Although that seems far-fetched if referring to Old Deerfield village, not so if some materials were coming from what became Gill. Even more likely is the potential that the structure was built by top Deerfield/Northfield joiners. The proud building wears all the marks, inside and out, of master colonial woodworkers.

The house is a refined statement to the best of mid-18th-century, upper-Connecticut Valley architecture, crafted by human hands em-

ploying simple tools. It's all there, from the decorative interior panels and molding to the fireplaces and brick oven to the wide, worn pine floors, fitted-stone foundation, and attic ridgepole.

Sparsely but tastefully furnished with early furniture, much of it donated by late Greenfield High School science teacher George Dyer of Ashfield, the house has the warm feel of a worn 1950s farmhouse. It's the type of place I recall from cleaning out houses for auctioneer Bill Hubbard, or partying at friends' old homes in the western hills.

The big tub sink set in a wooden kitchen counter stirred a phantom memory I didn't know existed, all the way back to my grandmother's Nova Scotia farmhouse I visited as a 5-year-old. Huh? Where did that come from? It's surreal how the mind, when stimulated, can pull images from the deepest chambers of memory.

Six years after Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale died in 1763, brother Samuel set the wheels in motion for his move across town to the Meadows. Although that contradicts family tradition and the National Register of Historic Places narrative, deeds don't lie. So, it must be changed if I get a chance to compose an addendum. Then again, maybe the next owner will take the ball and run with it.

The fact is that Samuel Hinsdale didn't break ground in the Meadows until about 1770, when he was 63, his oldest namesake son 29 and younger son Ariel 20. The Hinsdale residence and a distillery were built across the road from my house, which in its earliest form was a smaller building run as a tavern on the road to East Colrain. The building evolved over three generations into a much larger structure sold in 1836 to Charlemont taverner Ebenezer Thayer.

The rest is history... now "on the record," I suppose.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Farmworker Leader, Organizer Shares Her Field Experience

GREENFIELD – Next Thursday, April 27 at 6 p.m., the LAVA Center is proud to present a talk by farmworker leader and organizer Claudia Rosales, as part of the indivISIBLE project and the *No Somos Máquinas* exhibit.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 for this event.



Claudia Rosales joined the Pioneer Valley Workers Center (PVWC) team as Farmworker Organizer in March 2020 before becoming Co-Director. Through this position, she was instrumental in growing the membership base from 300 to 500 and expanding the organization's COVID-Relief Solidarity Fund.

Rosales was born in El Salva-

dor to a farming family, where she worked for many years. She is intimately familiar with the problematic realities immigrants face in the United States and believes in organizing to build a better future.

Before joining the PVWC staff, she was a farmworker and a long-standing member of the PVWC's Springfield Workers Committee and was a founding member of the Riquezas del Campo farm cooperative. Despite the many challenges of organizing during a pandemic, she met one-on-one with more than 200 workers to discuss their labor conditions and to teach them their rights.

This presentation is part of the indivISIBLE project (indivisible-greenfield.org) and the ongoing *No Somos Máquinas* exhibit (thelavacenter.org/art/no-somos-maquinas/).

The LAVA Center (thelavacenter.org) is a community arts space whose mission is to create opportunities and build inclusive community in and through the arts and humanities. The organization is focused on making a space where all artists, including marginalized communities and individuals, can have their voices heard.

The Center is located at 324 Main Street in downtown Greenfield.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Out Sick; Snack Bar; The Bright Lights On Broadway; Accused Shoplifter Absolved; Stabbing in Montague City

Monday, 4/10

1:53 p.m. 911 caller states her grandson is being disruptive and destructive; states he has been using drugs and alcohol again; concerned about his well-being. Male was given options; states he just wants to be left alone, as he called out sick from work today. Caller advised. 2:04 p.m. Caller reporting a truck that hit the New England Extrusion building a couple of hours ago; looking to file report. Report taken.

4:24 p.m. Caller from Third Street states she had a package stolen today and last Wednesday and is unsure who is taking them. Wants on record; will be calling Amazon as well.

10:42 p.m. 911 caller from Massasoit Street states his gas oven won't shut off. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

Tuesday, 4/11

1:53 a.m. Officer out at Turners Falls High School with an open door and light on at the snack bar near the track. No sign of anyone in area; no sign of forced entry. Officer will follow up with school resource officer in the morning.

8:23 a.m. Caller reports that his ex-father-in-law is stalking him; has video. Advised of options.

11:47 a.m. 911 hangup call. Caller called back in requesting to speak to an officer. Officer advises caller wanted us aware that a party with active warrants is in the J Street area. Officers aware of warrants.

12:15 p.m. 911 open line. Could hear TV in background and male asking female if she figured it out. Reply was "no," then hung up.

3:29 p.m. Caller states there is a male party trying to fight him in a parking lot in Shelburne Falls. Call given to Control.

4:08 p.m. Party into station to speak to officer re: filling out a missing person report for their son. Officer called rehab facility male is believed to be at. They cannot confirm or deny his attendance. If he is there, they will have him call the department in five minutes. No call received. Officer provided information for Pittsfield police to file report as his last known location.

5:10 p.m. Caller states that she just watched someone put a grey trunk in the woods off West Main Street and would like officers to look into this. Officer advises he does not see a trunk; spoke with three different neighbors. The trunk is trash and it's not new; has been there for

some time. 8:38 p.m. 911 caller states a tree fell on a transformer on Broadway and caught on fire. Multiple 911 calls stating fire is spreading. Officer advises lines engulfed spreading into forest. Eversource contacted, priority one per officer. CSX updated as fire is within range of railroad. Confirmed no trains scheduled. Fire 30 to 40 yards, spreading quickly. Lake Pleasant Road impassable. Blocking off roadway. Truck will need to come in from Millers Falls Road side. Eversource updated. DPW to clear tree; contacted. Comcast contacted as wire has snapped. Other wires are on the ground and will need to be inspected. Officer advises contact CSX for signal down at mile marker 3797.2. Crews made aware. Officer advises signal repaired.

Wednesday, 4/12

9:20 a.m. 911 caller reporting tree on wires on Turners Falls Road, partially in road, transformer on fire as well. Pole is snapped, wires down in road, smoke coming from pole. DPW requested to bring out signs/cones to warn oncoming traffic to slow down. Eversource on scene; roads barricaded; detail officer on scene.

2:21 p.m. 911 callers reporting vehicle accident with possible injuries at Avenue A and Second Street. Traffic blocked on Avenue A at First and Third Streets. Rau's responding to tow both vehicles.

2:40 p.m. TFFD reporting a small brush fire by the baseball fields at TFHS. It has been put out, but looks like it was set intentionally. 4:01 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states the white car is back again; happens all the time at 4 p.m.; requesting officers watch area at that time. Caller states car was already gone prior to her calling.

4:39 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Connecticut River Wine and Liquor. Investigated.

9:18 p.m. 911 caller from Keith Apartments states the female in the apartment above is vacuuming; unsure what happened, but she is now yelling and banging on the walls. Contact made with female; she calmed down and said she would be quiet for the night.

9:23 p.m. Caller from Unity Street reporting that a male is drunk and she doesn't want him in the house. Courtesy transport to Greenfield provided.

Thursday, 4/13

2:45 p.m. Caller from Park Street concerned about an alarm of some kind that has been sounding on and

off for months. Smoke detector sounding inside a Park Street residence. Officer requesting TFFD respond.

3:12 p.m. Party into station stating that there was a breaking and entering behind Prondecki's yesterday and that he was caught on camera; however, he states he is not the one that did it. Officer spoke with male. This is an Erving police issue; he was advised of such.

4:04 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that every day at 4 p.m. the white car comes and is only there for a few seconds but appears to be selling drugs. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 4/14

9:24 a.m. Walk-in from N Street reporting water from an underground pipe is pouring into his basement. DPW foreman notified.

11:22 p.m. Caller states he received a call from a tenant on East Main Street reporting a noise disturbance; loud music and yelling. Officer advises involved apartment was spoken to and advised of complaint.

Saturday, 4/15

1:24 a.m. Officer flagged down on Avenue A for a fire alarm. Shelburne Control states they received a call for the involved location, second floor. TFFD en route. Officer advises camper on the roadway causing a slight traffic hazard. Contact made with camper owner, who will park it in a better location. 11:10 a.m. Family Dollar employee reporting that a male party just left the store with several items and did not pay for them all. Officer located suspect near bike path; advises K9 article search was conducted in the area. Suspected stolen items located in store. Caller has had negative prior professional dealings with the subject. Advised caller of options and civil trespass information.

1:10 p.m. Shelburne Control advises they received a call from someone on Montague City Road who says they were just stabbed. There may be another victim inside, and the assailant may still be inside. Be-on-lookout issued for involved female. Involved female drove to police station to report incident. On-call detective notified. Involved male transported to BFMC. Officers at station speaking with involved female. Involved female requesting to go to hospital for an evaluation. Involved female being transported to BFMC; officer riding with ambulance. Social worker from Baystate Springfield called in as male victim was

transferred from BFMC; requests officers call her if there is need to contact other family members or updates. Officer returning to BFMC for transport. A 28-year-old Deerfield woman was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, victim over 60.

1:40 p.m. Caller from Grand Avenue states that a resident from a neighboring street is burning trash at night and the smell is bothering her. FD notified of complaint.

4:20 p.m. Call transferred from Control. Male party from East Main Street requesting officers as his upstairs neighbors are making lots of noise; states they are intentionally dropping things on the floor and it's detrimental to his health at this point. Contact made with female party, who is intoxicated at this time; advised of complaint. Contact made with male party, also intoxicated. Advised of complaint; instructed not to return to the apartment for the night.

6:16 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states female party is banging on neighbor's door and is highly intoxicated at this time, arguing with her boyfriend, won't stop yelling. Officer spoke with both parties, again advised of complaint. Both parties deny fighting/yelling. Both parties intoxicated.

Sunday, 4/16

12:09 p.m. Report of three teenagers with bags and pillows going in and out of the woods on Old Stage Road. Officer diverted to a medical call while en route.

12:53 p.m. Two fishing rods stolen Friday night from Meadow Road. Referred to an officer.

2:19 p.m. Caller from Griswold Street wanted it on record that her vehicle was "egged."

3:44 p.m. 911 caller from Montague City Road states her kitchen is on fire. Officer advises burnt food, heavy smoke. No fire at this time.

4:22 p.m. Multiple 911 calls for a vehicle accident at the Route 47 and 63 intersection. Rollover, possible entrapment, second vehicle involved. A 23-year-old Hadley man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor or over .08%; marked lanes violation; and failure to stop at a stop sign.

4:59 p.m. 911 caller states her brother is being violent towards her. She is hiding in the bathroom from her brother and his girlfriend. Assistance requested from Control; Gill responding.

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SPRING from page B1

in risottos, pasta dishes, and with dips. And if you don't want to hunt your own, look in local markets, because foragers often dispose of them there.

Chives are the skinniest member of the onion family. They grow in perennial clumps, and by early May they have mauve pom-pom flowers, which also taste oniony. The torn-off petals look pretty when flavoring scrambled eggs, omelets, soft cheeses, and salad dressings. A chive-blossom vinaigrette over room-temperature asparagus is a charming spring dish, especially garnished with blossoms.

The first asparagus generally comes by the very end of April. The best way to enjoy it is to be picky-picky and ignore the supermarkets' dejected asparagus until the Valley crops arrive. Then you can have your own asparagus festival, and eat it whenever possible.

For breakfast dip a few spears into a soft-boiled egg, or fold steamed tips into scrambled eggs or an omelet. For lunch, spread hummus or cream cheese on a bagel and top with asparagus. For supper, wrap in thin-sliced ham and cover with a cheese sauce or roll in a jacket of puff pastry. Or simply let it grace something else. As Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, wrote, "O, 'tis a pretty picking with a tender chicken." He could have added with ham, with eggs, with salmon, with lamb, and on pasta, in a risotto, and tucked into tarts.

Rhubarb is also good in baked goods, where it's treated like a fruit – the first of the year. In fact, like asparagus, it's a stalk so it technically is a vegetable. It reached America from northern Europe with 18th-century immigrants, who'd gotten it from its homeland in Siberia in the late Middle Ages. It came in cargoes of other exotic foods, such as spices and sugar.

But rhubarb isn't spicy and it is seriously not sweet, so no one treated it as a fruit. They were interested in its roots, which they used as a purgative. When Shakespeare wrote of "the rhubarb of repentance," it was this function he had in mind.

Nowadays a dose of rhubarb is a thing of the past. We are firmly on to the fruity use of rhubarb with rhubarb pies and cakes, though it appears with meat in some cuisines. Iran has dishes called *khoshes*, which are casseroles of meat with fruit – often rhubarb.

There's also a rhubarb sauce for fish. You just cut a 2-inch piece into matchsticks, soften them over heat in a little butter, add a half a cup of cream and a little powdered coriander, and let it bubble. The acid rhubarb thickens the cream, and instead of lemon you can serve it with fish.

The acid in rhubarb is oxalic acid. Large amounts are poisonous, which is why we don't eat rhubarb leaves. The smaller amounts in the stalk are fine. If you find them too sour, adding extra sugar has little effect. Add a fat: cream, a milky sauce, or butter. The butter in baked goods explains why rhubarb tastes good in them.

Sorrel also gets its tartness from oxalic acid. It, too, is a spring perennial, and wonderful in soups or omelets. Other spring crops include overwintered kale and parsnips. There's also arugula, spinach, and microgreens grown in plastic greenhouses. All herald another year of super local vegetables.



FIDDLEHEADS AND ASPARAGUS WITH MUSTARD-CHIVE DIP

The mustard-y dip complements both the asparagus from the fields by the Connecticut River and the fiddleheads growing wild on the banks. Using dry mustard powder – not ready-made ballpark or Dijon mustard – is crucial, because it thickens and stabilizes the cream as well as adding its characteristic warm zing.

2 cups fiddleheads, about 12 to 16 thick asparagus stems
1 Tsp. salt, about
1½ to 2 Tsp. Colman's or other dry mustard powder
½ cup heavy cream
2 Tbsp. finely snipped chives

Swish the fiddleheads around in a large bowl of water. Let rest for about five minutes, then scoop them out, leaving any brownish fragments behind. Trim off the browned stem-end.

Have a large bowl of iced water. Boil a pan of water with half a teaspoon of salt and add the fiddleheads. Cook for 4 minutes or until crisp tender. Dump the fiddleheads into the chilled water to stop the cooking.

Meanwhile, snap the woody ends off the asparagus. Have another bowl of iced water. Boil water in a shallow pan with half a teaspoon of salt. Drop in the asparagus, and boil for two minutes or until the stems are slightly tender but not soft when pierced by a knife blade. With tongs drop the asparagus into chilled water to stop the cooking.

When the fiddleheads and asparagus are cold, drain and pat them dry. Set them aside while



HOBLEY PHOTOS

you make the dip.

Put the mustard powder into a small bowl, add a tablespoon of cream, and stir to make a smooth paste. Add a little more cream if it is stiff. (For a spicier dip, use an extra half-teaspoonful of mustard powder.)

Whisk the remaining cream until

it has increased slightly in volume, but is still floppy – not like a cake filling. Stir in the mustard powder; this will thicken the cream. Stir in half the chives and a pinch of salt.

Put it into a dip bowl and scatter the remaining chives on top. Arrange the fiddleheads and asparagus around it.

ASPARAGUS IN PASTRY JACKETS

Store-bought puff pastry makes this an easy though impressive treat. For vegetarians, omit the ham.

16 thick asparagus stalks
1 package frozen puff pastry
2 Tbsp. mayonnaise
16 thin slices of ham
16 thin slices Swiss cheese

Trim the woody base off the asparagus. Drop the stems into a shallow pan of salted boiling water. Cook for two minutes, until slightly tender when prodded with a fork. Drain and pat dry.

Preheat the oven to 400°. Grease a baking sheet or cover it with parchment paper.

Defrost the pastry following the maker's directions. Roll each sheet a little to stretch it, then cut into eight equal pieces.

Brush each asparagus stalk, not the tip, with the mayonnaise. Roll it in a ham slice, then a cheese



slice, then in one of the pastry pieces. Brush the edges of the pastry with water to seal it, and place it seam-side-down on the baking sheet. Cover the exposed tip loosely

with foil. Bake for 20 to 22 minutes, or until golden and crisp. Serve with salad as a main dish, or with drinks for a party.

RHUBARB AND GINGER CRISS-CROSS COBBLER

Ginger and rhubarb are classic flavor partners. Good also in jam.

For the rhubarb mixture:
about 2 lb. (about 12 stalks) rhubarb

1 Tsp. powdered ginger
1 cup sugar, or more to taste
1 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. candied or crystallized ginger, cut into pea-size bits, or an extra Tsp. powdered ginger
1 Tbsp. cornstarch

For the cobbler:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 Tbsp. baking powder
1 ½ Tsp. powdered ginger
½ Tsp. powdered cinnamon
½ cup sugar, plus 2 Tbsp.
½ cup (1 stick) cold butter
1 egg, beaten
1 cup milk, about

Wash the rhubarb and cut into two-inch lengths, discarding any stringy skin. Put it in a pan with ¼ cup water, the powdered ginger, sugar, and butter. Cook over a low heat, stirring until the rhubarb softens. Add the ginger bits.

Mix the cornstarch to a paste with a tablespoon of water and

pour on some of the rhubarb juice. Stir the cornstarch mixture into the rhubarb mixture and cook until thick. Pour into a 7- by 10-inch baking dish, or a shallow dish of comparable capacity, and chill.

To make the cobbler, preheat the oven to 400°. In a mixing bowl or food processor, mix the flour, baking powder, ginger, cinnamon and ½ cup sugar. Cut the butter into bits and rub them in (or process, adding a few bits at a time, if using a processor).

Combine the egg with half a cup of the milk. Mix it into a well in the center of the dry mixture. Stir to form a dough, adding a little more milk if needed to make a soft dough that nonetheless holds its shape.

Divide the dough into five or six pieces, depending on what works for the shape of your dish. Roll each piece into a thick sausage and criss-cross them on top of the rhubarb. Brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake for 20 to 22 minutes, or until the rhubarb is bubbly and the top is golden.

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EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Life is ___: an Exploration of Being through the Eyes of Young People.* Youth from the Brick House Teen Center artfully explore their experiences of living in modern rural America using a variety of mediums. Created in partnership with the Smithsonian *Crossroads* exhibition. Through April 26.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Montague at Work and Play: Illustrations from the Montague Reporter, 2019-2023,* fifty-two full-color illustrations by Nina Rossi of people at work and play in the villages of Montague. Through April 30.

Montague Center Library: *Sherée Bloomberg,* paintings. (See review, Page A6.) Reception next Monday, April 24, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Over Under and Through the Warp: The Art of Tapestry Weaving,* group show of textile artists. Through April 30.

Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield: *Topographies and Other Surface Tensions.* Dr. Adhi Two Owls explores the surfaces of natural forms. Through June 15.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *What I Took With Me,* work by Nina Nabizadeh, Cima Khademi, Yasamin Zamanieh, and Leila Rahnama. April 28 through May 31. Reception next Friday, April 28 at 6 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Taking Flight,* paintings of birds by Annie Quest and photographs of big birds by Lindy Whiton.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *A Pastel Exhibition.* The Mill Street Artists (Becky Clark's students) exhibit their work. April 14 to 27.

Wendell Free Library: *Stephen*

Dalmass, photography. Through April.

Leverett Library: *Words of Inspiration,* paintings by Jane Gruber. Through April 27.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Apricity,* photographs by Carin Teresa. *The Worlds Below Us,* paintings by Rosa Beryl. Through June 26.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *You Wear That Well,* wearable textile art by Nancy Baker, Arthur de Bow, and Sue Kranz. Through April.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *STEAM-Y Art and Science,* art that incorporates the sciences. Through May 14.

Sunderland Library: *Art with Heart.* Local artists work with grieving children in the Center for Grieving Children and Teens, a Cooley Dickinson Hospital program. Through May 4.

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst: *Portraits in Red: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls,* paintings by Nayana LaFond. Through May 12.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Becoming Form,* abstract paintings by Karen Iglehart. Through April.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Primordial Memory,* new work by Anna Bayles Arthur; *Way Out There: Drawings from the Field,* sketches from biking around New England by Micah Litant; *Finding,* abstract oil paintings by Robert Markey.

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center: *Keith Haring: Subway Drawings,* 18 works from NYC subway stations, through June 11. Four new spring exhibits: Daniel Callahan, *EnMassQ;* Mitsuko Brooks, *Letters Mingle Souls;* Juan Hinojosa, *Paradise City;* and Cathy Cone, *Portals and Portraits.*

LIMINAL from page B1

herself. She talks with the others, communicating with the audience, and there is a pageant in the show where she has to answer questions about herself."

It seems one of the lessons to be learned by Mira is that liminality needs to be enfolded into everyday life, meaning that disruptions to trajectories must be accepted, and schedules and goals adjusted and responded to with flexibility. And for the ensemble, instead of following the agenda of a director, they must fulfill their own stories and bring their own ideas into the mix.

"I think that you have to be comfortable with uncomfortableness in your life," said Bowman. "Three of our ensemble members identify somewhere along the nonbinary gender spectrum, which is very liminal. There aren't a lot of plays that talk about having nonbinary experiences. One of our cast members is Puerto Rican, and she says that devised theater is the only way she can really embody her experience, because it allows you to bring your ideas to the table as a performer."

Created in a pandemic year, which is itself a liminal space, the show "does not directly address it, but the feelings in it were influenced by the pandemic," Bowman explained. "Kevin had the idea before the pandemic started - he'd had the idea for a long time."

Having a director is still necessary, something Bowman realized

after trying to create a non-hierarchical theater group during her years as a student at the Boston Conservatory. The experiment was not successful, and she said she really appreciates how Van Develde can, as she puts it, "take all the improv, all the madness, all the written material, and put it together for us."

When the group began meeting in May 2022, "we just sat around in our living room," said Bowman. "It was a combination of a writers' room and a traditional theater rehearsal space: just us talking and improvising, a once-a-week kind of deal." They would improvise for a bit, then spend time writing down lines. Everyone took on different pieces of production, and collaborated on writing the story and defining character roles.

The character Bowman plays is Janus, a spirit in the liminal dimension whose identity is never fixed. "Whenever she needs to illustrate or make a point, she will just transform into that," Bowman told me. "So, if she needs to be a Southern pageant mom, she is that. Then she will be a dramatic Oscar-winning actress telling a tale. I am literally switching hats throughout the show - Janus doesn't have one form."

Mira is also in a battle to save her soul, or essence, represented by a shiny pendant on a necklace. The Attendant is a trickster character who steals the necklace, and Mira needs to get it back and return home.

One thing people should know is

that while the play may be thought of as experimental, it is also a very accessible dramatic comedy. "We are playing with rules and social constructs. It is funny, it's definitely a story, it's not preachy," said Bowman. "It's like if *Alice in Wonderland* had a quarter-life crisis. It's a goal of ours to get the younger generation, and our generation, into live theater."

The story is topical and unique, and includes references to technology in the form of three witches, "with a nod to MacBeth or the Three Fates": the witches of the Algorithm, Zoom, and Dating Apps. Each one reveals different things about Mira to her, reflecting back to her through the lens of technology.

"This show is really unique, you won't read or see anything like it, but it really is accessible. I have been to some really weird theater, and it isn't that. It is creative, but people will get it," Bowman assured me. "We aren't going to change the world, but we want to get young people to come in and see it."

Mira and the Liminal Dimension will be performed in the *Perch at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield next Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m. Tickets are sliding scale, from \$10 to \$30, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Email humanagendatheater@gmail.com for more information on the ensemble.*



Top: Mira (left) watches as Janus (Amanda Bowman) calculates her best escape route from the liminal dimension. Above: Human Agenda Theater ensemble member Amanda Bowman talks about the upcoming performance of Mira and the Liminal Dimension at Hawks & Reed on April 28, 29, and 30.

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EXHIBIT

Sherée Bloomberg: Art Without Angst

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE CENTER – “I love everything about painting.”

That’s the entire opening paragraph of the artist statement Sherée Bloomberg wrote for her collection of paintings currently on exhibit through May 17 at the Montague Center library.

Here’s the next sentence: “I love the feel of the paint gliding onto a canvas or paper, the colors and picture emerging, the excitement of trying to figure out what comes next and how to do it.”

Art without angst? Whoever heard of such a thing!

The joy brought to viewers by the beautiful paintings Bloomberg has chosen for her exhibit underscores her feelings about the creative process. For purposes of clarity and appreciation, the paintings have been divided into three groups: garden flowers, Montague woods, and a scene from a small town in Scotland. Each group has its own separate wall space in the library, and all the paintings, as the artist’s name suggests, bloom with colors that are often brighter and more intense than either nature or house paint could achieve without Bloomberg’s imaginative help.

The flowers, first: “My biggest inspiration to paint has been my big flower garden,” she writes. “I always create small stories of textures and colors and yearn to paint

them. I have spent countless hours studying the delicate, intricate patterns of each petal.”

Some of Bloomberg’s meticulously drawn, spectacularly colored flora are given larger-than-life representation, with only a flower or two being the single subject of a painting. Other flowers are arranged as loosely constructed bouquets simultaneously exploding across whole canvases. Imagine the finale of a daytime fireworks display composed of flowers, and you have some idea of what it’s like to experience the visual pleasure of these floral outbursts.

Now turn your attention to the darker but still colorful and emotionally intense greens and browns of Bloomberg’s woods. A stream, inviting meditation, runs through one set of trees, while an understated cabin in the clearing of another set welcomes any who might happen to wander by.

“I have lived in Montague for 39 years,” Bloomberg tells us, “and never go for a walk without seeing something beautiful.”

Capturing that endangered beauty and sharing it with others is one measurement of this artist’s genuine concern for improving the human condition.

Another is provided in my favorite painting in the exhibit. At first glance, Bloomberg’s juxtaposition of colorful houses in a small, out-of-the-way Scottish town seems to

indicate the absence of any formal training in art. Closer inspection, however, reveals a visual text that is deeply romantic and confidently hopeful in the message it conveys.

Start with the bright colors of the houses. In Scotland, they are intended to offset the dark winter months and cloudy summer days, but they don’t burst from the canvas as Bloomberg’s flowers do. Rather they give us an understanding and appreciation for something much deeper, something that’s humanly special about this depiction of ordinary, everyday reality.

One house stands out among the others. Its warm mustard color, its location on the street that runs through the village, and the angle at which it is offset from everything else in the painting makes you feel as if you know the place even though you may have never been there. It welcomes you in a way similar to Bloomberg’s cabin in Montague, the only significant difference being that the cabin in the woods is a private home, whereas the building in Scotland is more on the public side. Perhaps there’s a pub where people are downing a pint or opening a bottle of the national beverage.

You’re reminded of a famous saying by W.B. Yeats: “There are no strangers here, only friends you haven’t met yet.” You don’t hesitate. You go right in. You feel immediately at home.

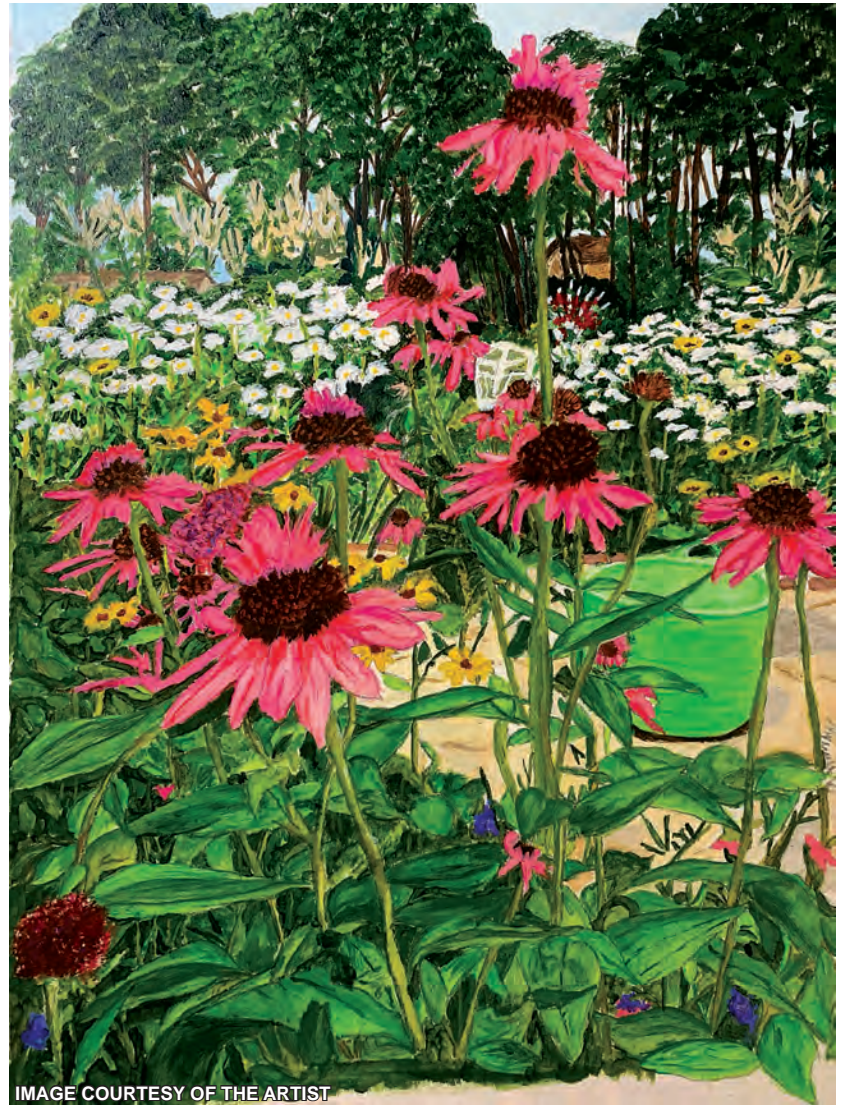


IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Center Street Garden, an acrylic painting in Sherée Bloomberg’s current exhibit at the Montague Center branch library.

Don’t you hesitate, either. This Monday, April 24, Sherée Bloomberg is hosting a public reception for her works at the Montague Center library from 5 to 7 p.m. Come, bring a friend, and celebrate the transformative work of a truly serious and gifted artist.

The Montague Center Library is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Anyone interested in exhibiting their art work should contact librarian Kate Martineau during open hours, or telephone her during the same times at (413) 367-2852.

Montague Community Television News

‘Mother Tongue’ a Gem

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The performance at the Shea Theater of *Mother Tongue* by the First Generation Ensemble was so beautiful and powerful that I was moved to tears many times while filming and editing the piece. MCTV is lucky to have such a gem in our collection, and I hope that you can make time to view it on our Vimeo page – but also keep an eye out for another one of their performances soon.

The Montague board of health met on April 12, and the recording of what transpired can be found on Vimeo as well, along with a select-board meeting from Gill.

All MCTV videos are available on our Vimeo page, and community members are welcome to submit videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on Vimeo. Think of what you would like to make, and come see how we can help! MCTV is available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

Or is there something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Great Month to Donate Kidneys

SPRINGFIELD – The need for donated organs and tissues is great. There are currently over 100,000 men, women, and children on the national transplant waiting list. Every 10 minutes another is added. Despite the fact that 170 million people in the United States have registered as organ donors, 17 people die each day waiting for an organ transplant.

Not everyone who registers is able to donate, and many more people are left waiting for a transplant than there are organs available, according to Dr. Kenneth McPartland, surgical director of Kidney Transplantation at Baystate Medical Center. “That is why more donors, especially living donors, are needed,” he says.

April is National Donate Life Month. Potential donors need only to sign a donor card, indicate their wishes on a driver’s license, or register online at registerme.org. Donation is best discussed with family members so that one’s wishes are known, notes Dr. McPartland.

Baystate Medical offers the only transplant services in western Massachusetts for adults requiring new kidneys. To learn more about becoming a living donor, call (413) 794-2321 or visit www.baystatehealth.org/services/surgery/specialties/transplant. To learn more about organ and tissue donation, contact New England Donor Services at (1800) 466-6362, or visit neds.org.

Artist Profile: Jaye Pope

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Jaye Pope is an artist at the Sawmill Gallery in Montague. She is a founding member of the gallery, which started in 2010. Her pottery has birds, dragonflies, and other nature items on it. I have never written a profile of an artist who makes pottery before this.

Pope told me she started doing pottery back in high school in the ‘70s due to a friend of hers giving her a kiln she wasn’t using. Her first studio was at the age of 16. Her educational background consists of an associate degree from Greenfield Community College and a Bachelor’s in Studio Arts from UMass Amherst, though I should point out she was studying fine arts at the time, not ceramics. However, she states, “wherever I was living, I set up a small space to work in clay.”



Montague potter Jaye Pope works a piece on the wheel.

Pope made use of her pottery skills after college and worked at Berkshire Porcelain Studios in Shelburne Falls, where she created custom-designed murals on tiles for kitchen backsplashes and hot tub surroundings. A studio called Bald Mountain Pottery with Sarah Hettlinger is where she says she got “solid pottery skills on the potter’s wheel.”

After a move to Montague Center with her wife and two kids in 1995, Pope began to focus on her own studio, Good Dirt Pottery. In that studio, she made functional stoneware and porcelain work. She would do craft fairs in quite a few locations around the Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York regions before selling in the gallery in Montague.

I learned exactly how Pope became a member of this gallery. A neighbor of hers named Jill Bromberg approached her, said that she and other artists were trying to start a gallery at the Montague Mill, and asked “Jaye, are you interested in joining?”

Needless to say, she was – she wanted to sell her work locally, and to work with other artists, too.

Besides learning what went into her becoming a part of this gallery, I also learned why some of her pottery is designed the way it is, and particularly why one piece has a feature it has.

A friend of hers liked one of her bowls, but had a problem eating out of it when in front of a TV, so she asked for a handle on the one she had. Pope did what she asked, and decided to keep putting handles on this type of bowl because of the look of the bowl with them.

She puts a Cobalt Blue Dragonfly on some of the pieces because of a drawing of a dragonfly her son did in the sixth-grade when his class was studying them. She said she worked on it for a while, and the Cobalt Blue Dragonfly was the finished product. She mentioned this as being “very popular over the years”

When the Sawmill River Gallery was just getting started, Pope also started to teach a ceramics class at Eaglebrook, a junior boarding school for boys in Deerfield. “My work can also be purchased at the Petersham Country Store in Petersham,” she told me.

The website for Jaye Pope’s pottery is gooddirtpotterystudio.com.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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THURSDAY, APRIL 20

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Joel Paxton, Kevin Smith, Steve Koziol, and Leo Hwang* with special guests *Soporific!*. \$ 5:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Holiday movie double feature: *Fantastic Planet* (1973) and *Kidz Klub* (2022). By donation. 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Sona Jobarteh*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Ken Vandermark's Edition Redux* with *Beth McDonald, Erez Dessel, and Lily Finnegan*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

UU Society, Amherst: *Hopkinson Smith*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Iain Matthews, Pairedown, Allysen Callery*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sundub, The Equalites*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Dei Xhrist, Id M Theftable, Neonach, Hissquiet*. \$ 8 p.m.

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Lez Zeppelin*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

Karen With a K, dance play by *Cat Wagner and Kelly Silliman*. \$ 2 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Tiffany*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Feelies*. \$ 8 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Unknown Liberty, Grawlixes, Red Herrings*. \$ 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sunset Mission, Big Destiny, Among the Stars, Vibe Check*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *George Winston*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Father John Misty, Loren Kramar*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Cirque Us presents: One Man's Trash*. \$ 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *John Gorka*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *PWRUP, Jeopardy, Hans Gruber and the Die Hards, Girth Control*. \$ 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Fatoumata Diawara*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Land-*

owner, Plant Fight, Rockin' Worms, Phroegs. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zane Provost*. Free. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Little House Blues*. Free. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Cajun Country Karaoke & Two-Step Night with Les Taiouts, The Honky-Tonk Angels*. Free. 8 p.m.

The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Play, Mira and the Liminal Dimension* (see preview, Page B1). \$ 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Loudon Wainwright III, David Howley*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Crazy Train, Back In Black, Ozzy Osbourne and AC/DC tributes*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Langhorne Slim, John Craigie*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Holyoke Senior Center, Holyoke: *Flywheel Zine Fest*. Free. 11 a.m.

Turners Falls High School: *Faithfully*, tribute to the Eagles and Journey. Benefit for Gill-Mon-

tagne Education Fund. \$ 7 p.m.

The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mira and the Liminal Dimension*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Adam Ezra Group, Whiskey Treaty Roadshow*. \$ 8 p.m.

Daily Op, Easthampton: *Large Professor, J-Live, Tableek, DJ Rec1ne*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Rough Francis, Voices in Vain, Dead Street Dreamers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Slob Drop, The Flemms, Street Trash*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

The Palladium, Worcester: *Benny the Butcher*. \$ 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mira and the Liminal Dimension*. \$ 2 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm* double feature: *Brother From Another Planet* (1984), *Alligator* (1980). In-person event with **director John Sayles!** Free. 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *PG Six, Stella Kola, Tall Travls*. All ages. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Scorpion Porch, Foxfires, Sink, Compress*. \$ 7 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kalbells*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Josephine Foster, Stella Kola, Gray/Smith & Speer*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

The Drake, Amherst: *Bill Frisell Trio ft. Tony Scherr, Rudy Royston*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Guilford Fairgrounds, Guilford, VT: *Field Day* feat. *Inner Wave, Lady Lamb, Sunflower Bean, Thus Love, Gift, Topsy, Carinae*, more. \$ 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Iris DeMent, Ana Egge*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Yo La Tengo*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

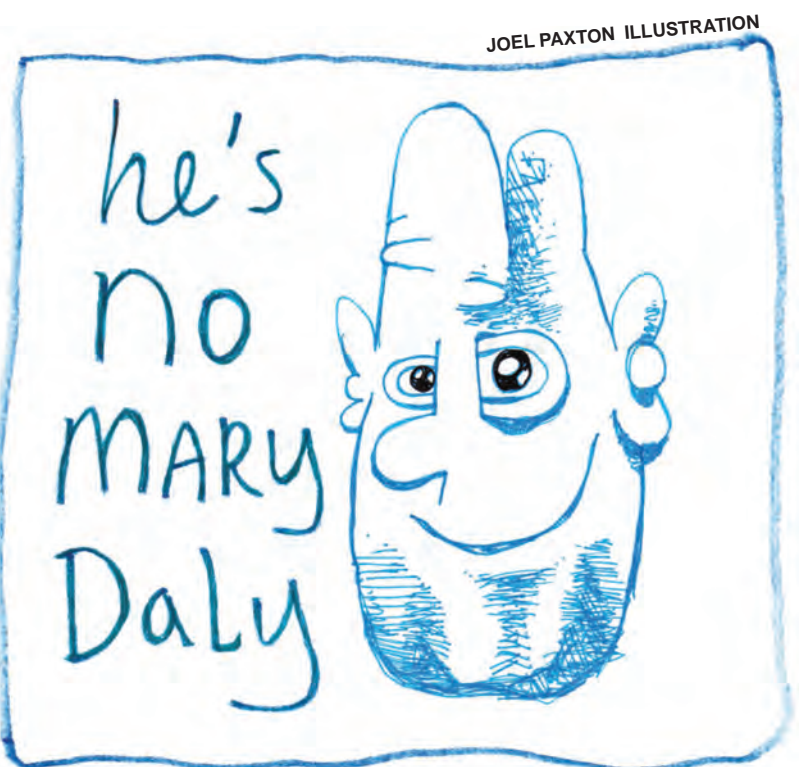
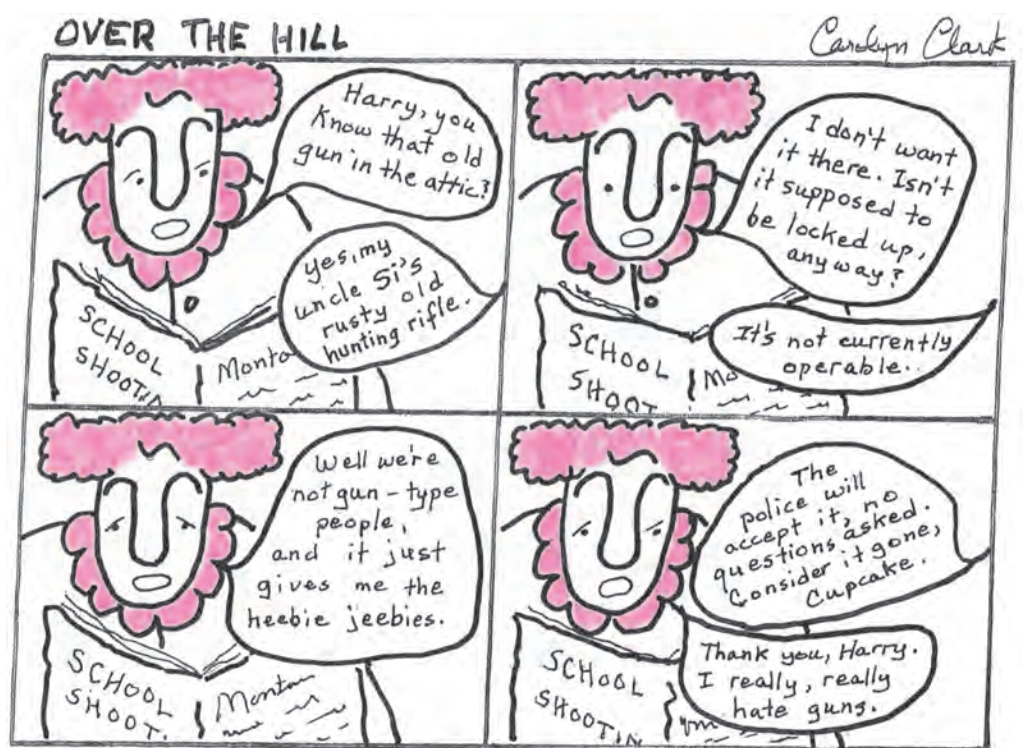
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Souls of Mischief*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 18

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Big Thief, Nick Hakim*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Pixies, Modest Mouse, Cat Power*. \$ 7 p.m.



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LIVING 'The Saree of Remembrance'

By TESSA KUMARI YOUNG



MONTAGUE CENTER – The saree was too big even 19 years ago when I wore it last. Twenty feet of fabric is deceptively not a one-size-fits-all amount of cloth. My father asked me to wear it in the Kandyan style – “like the President’s wife,” he said. This required extra pleats, folds, and bulk around my waist which was already conspicuously overexposed under a crop top. It also meant my auntie would need to be flown in to wrap me on the morning of my wedding.

I had never dreamt of a big white gown, so I welcomed a saree as an obligatory nod to my identity, one that was both concealed and revealed in the mash-up of a Sri Lankan father and an Irish mother. I took the 7 train with my dad to Jackson Heights, where bangled women laid out yards upon yards of fabric, asking us questions about pulaks and petticoats that neither of us knew the answer to, my father overemphasizing that my mother was white.

I was steered away from the deep reds and bright blues that called to me, and encouraged instead to choose something cream with delicate gold embroidery. We picked a cotton-silk blend, I was measured for the *choli* (or saree blouse), and we packed up greasy bags of samosas to bring back to the Bronx.

The morning of my wedding, the *choli* was missing. I heard my mother-in-law-to-be outside the bedroom door blaming my mother for losing it. I already had all of my bridal jewelry on – the head chain and ring bracelets and earrings that defiantly looped up and clipped into my carefully arranged hair – but a saree without a blouse is only a ream of fabric, so I changed into the Western-style party dress I had bought for the reception.

We took family photos in my mixed-up outfit that adequately captured the confusion, rage, and disappointment circling the missing saree blouse. But right before it was time to leave for the ceremony, my mother found the blouse crumpled underneath the passenger seat of her minivan, lost in the chaos of shuffling our overseas guests. I changed, again, and the day progressed without further issue.

When my daughter Eden was eight she became curious about the big pile of fabric in a Trader Joe’s tote on the top shelf of my closet. We flicked through old wedding albums and watched videos on YouTube of how to wrap it. I fumbled through the pleats, simultaneously cutting off her circulation and losing her little frame in heaps of folds.

Sensing my frustration that no one had taught me how to wrap a saree, she coached me from inside the circle of cloth, saying “Mama, it’s OK, you’ll figure it out.” And eventually I did, but not before I spent hours gathering armfuls of cloth, twisting her in circles, arms overhead, like an origami doll.

But while we wrapped, we chatted. I talked about my father, Ceeya, who passed away when she was two, all the people who traveled to be with us on our wedding day, and how although so many of them are gone now, I could still sense their presence and hopes for my life in this twenty feet of fabric. I told her it was the saree of remembrance, and that woven into the textile were memories and aspirations – for my life, and for hers.



Top: Bruce and Tessa Young on their wedding day in 2003.
Above: The Youngs’ daughter Eden in 2022, wearing the same saree as her mom.

EXCITING NEWS

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