

# MAINstreet

MAGAZINE





Before



After



After



# KINDRED

PROPERTY CARE

THE TRI-STATE AREA'S PREMIERE LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

Walkways, patios, & stonewalls  
Cobblestone, outdoor kitchens,  
& fire-pits  
Heated aprons, walkways,  
& terraces

Weekly lawn maintenance  
Lawn installation  
(seeding, sod, hydro-seeding)  
Turf maintenance  
Mulch delivered & installed

Vista clearing  
Land/brush clearing  
Driveways installed & repaired  
Tree/shrub planting  
Excavating

(860) 397 5267 • [service@kindredpropertycare.com](mailto:service@kindredpropertycare.com) • [www.kindredpropertycare.com](http://www.kindredpropertycare.com)

# Happy holidays, from our family to yours!

We're here to insure your entire world. With three offices in Copake, Valatie, and Chatham we are here to help you with any of your insurance needs. Contact us today for a quote on your home, auto, business, health insurance or life insurance. We are the Kneller Agency and we're here to insure your world.



**Kneller Insurance  
Agency**

179 Cty Rte 7A  
Copake, N.Y. 12516  
P. 518.329.3131

6 Church Street  
Chatham, N.Y. 12037  
P. 518.392.9311

3030 Main Street  
Valatie, NY 12184  
P. 518.610.8164

Auto • Home • Farm • Business Et Commercial • Life, Health Et Long Term Care

# **CROWN**

**ENERGY CORP.**

***Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!  
And a special thank you to all of our customers.***

**SERVICES:**  
Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel Fuel • Gasoline  
Kerosene • Heating Systems • Service  
Installations • 24 Hour Service

**(518) 789 3014 • (845) 635 2400**  
1 John Street, Millerton, NY 12546  
[www.crownenergycorp.com](http://www.crownenergycorp.com)

## HAVE A HEALTHY HOLIDAY

This year we find ourselves not just wishing everyone a happy Holiday, but a healthy one too. This will be the year to remember for all of us who are living through it, a year that is going down in the history books – for sure! And this Holiday season is no exception, it too is getting impacted by Covid!

So what does a Covid Holiday look like for us? It means that most events will be cancelled, or held “differently.” It means that family gatherings are limited. It means... oh it means so many things and we're all so sick and tired of it by now, aren't we? So with those changes being a given, and thinking in terms of the glass being half full, there is so much to be thankful for this holiday season. We can be thankful for family, for our community – we can count our blessings, no matter how large or how small they are. As the saying goes, “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift – that's why it's called the present.”

We had decided in December of 2019 to make this year's December issue specifically a “Holiday” issue. And after all of the challenges that we've endured in the last few months, I felt that it was even more important to make this a really great Holiday issue. To have an issue that is chock-full of the spirit of the season, and to share stories of things that really matter, as well as reminding us of what matters – and to talk about some gifts, too! With that said, I hope that each of our readers finds something to their liking in this issue. I'd also like to proudly note that this is our largest issue of 2020! And we have our dedicated advertising sponsors to thank for that!

Speaking of our amazing advertising sponsors, I would personally like to thank them for their incredible dedication and support. I'd like to remind all of you, our dear readers, that since this is a free publication that our only source of income comes from advertising support, and so it is thanks to our incredible advertisers that we are able to produce this publication for your enjoyment. With that said, I implore you to please thank at least one of our advertisers (preferably more if you can) for their support – let them know you saw their ad in our magazine, or better yet, buy one of their products or use their services and let them know that you learned about them here! They'll appreciate it, and so will I.

As we close the book on 2020 in this month, I am looking back at all of the ups and downs that we've been through. But I am hopeful. I am very much looking forward to 2021, but I want to thank you all for the good company in 2020. Stay safe, stay healthy. Happy Holidays.

– *Thorunn Kristjansdottir*



DECEMBER 2020

Don't forget to leave a glass of milk and a plate of cookies out for jolly old Saint Nick on that one special night! Happy Holidays everyone.

Cover photo by  
Olivia Valentine

## CONTENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 6   A MOMENT OF WHIMSY<br>artist profile                | 41   IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT  |
| 9   FRIENDLY FACES                                      | 45   A HOLIDAY TRADITION LIVES ON:<br>HUDSON'S 2020 WINTER WALK   |
| 11   WHAT A DEAL<br>entrepreneur feature                | 47   THE SPORTS ENTHUSIAST<br>holiday edition   |
| 15   MYER LEMON UPSIDE DOWN CAKE                        | 51   THE GIFT OF PLACE<br>dewey memorial hall, sheffield, ma  |
| 17   NOT A FORE GONE CONCLUSION<br>real estate          | 55   MY TACKY CHRISTMAS TREE<br>OF GRATITUDE  |
| 21   THE SPIRIT OF GIVING<br>persevering to feed others | 59   HOME-GROWN MAGIC   |
| 25   COMMUNITY TRADITIONS CONTINUE                      | 61   BUSINESS SNAPSHOTS<br>keren weiner genealogy<br>seekonk tree farm<br>millerton wine & spirits<br>demitasse |
| 29   SUPPORT AND SHOP LOCAL                             | 62   MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMNS   |
| 31   AN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS                              |   |
| 35   THE TRAIL LESS TRAVELED                            |   |
| 39   CHRISTMAS CHEER & CHARITY                          |   |

### PUBLISHER, EDITOR, ADVERTISING, WRITING, PHOTOGRAPHY, & OTHER DUTIES

**Thorunn Kristjansdottir** publisher, editor-in-chief, and designer.

**Ashley Kristjansson & Griffin Cooper** directors of advertising.

Contributing writers: **Betsy Maury | CB Wismar | Christine Bates | Lindsey Clark |**

**Dominique De Vito | Griffin Cooper | Ian Strever | Jessie Sheehan | John Torsello |**

**Joseph Montebello | Mary B. O'Neill | Regina Molaro**

Assistant proof-reader: **Pom Shillingford**. Photographers: **Lazlo Gyorsok & Olivia Valentine**.

### ADVERTISING

**Ashley Kristjansson & Griffin Cooper** call 518 592 1135 or email [info@mainstreetmag.com](mailto:info@mainstreetmag.com)

### CONTACT

**Office** 52 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546 • **Mailing address** PO Box 165, Ancramdale, NY 12503

**Phone** 518 592 1135 • **Email** [info@mainstreetmag.com](mailto:info@mainstreetmag.com) • **Website** [www.mainstreetmag.com](http://www.mainstreetmag.com)

### PRINT, LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, & INSURANCE

Printed by **Snyder Printer, Inc.** • Legally represented by **Davis & Trotta Law Offices**

Accounting services by **Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Bucci CPAS** • Insured by **Kneller Insurance Agency**

Main Street Magazine is a monthly publication, coming out on or around the 1st of the month. It is published by Main Street Magazine, LLC. Main Street Magazine is not responsible for advertising errors whereas all ads receive final approval by the advertiser. Advertisers are legally responsible for the content and claims that are made in their ads. Main Street Magazine reserves the right to refuse advertising for any reason. The entire contents of Main Street Magazine are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission. All rights reserved. The views expressed in the articles herein reflect the author(s) opinions and are not necessarily the views of the publisher/editor.



## INCOMPARABLE ESTATE

### SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT

The 22,282 sq.ft country estate of legendary producers *Thomas Miller and Robert Boyett* and designed by Acheson Doyle Partners, beautifully landscaped and finished with the finest materials, 9 Bedrooms, 10 Baths, 4 ½ Baths on 474 acres, and unparalleled views of the Berkshires. Caretaker's Cottage, Outdoor Pool, a Spa, Tennis Court, a Barn, a Warehouse, Art Storage Building, and a rustic log cabin with the best views of the *Twin Lakes* in the county.

WEB# 4530    \$17,950,000



## A PRESTIGIOUS ESTATE

### SHARON, CONNECTICUT

Prestigious Estate with multiple residences, Car Collector & Horse Barns, Tennis House, and picturesque grounds with mountain and sunset views on 23+ acres. The 21,453 sq/ft residencies can be enjoyed separately or combined with 9 Bedrooms, 11.5 Baths for expansive living and connected by a gorgeous Solarium Walkway that frames the Pererenail Gardens. A spectacular property providing the ultimate country gathering place.

WEB# 4534    \$6,485,000



## WOODLAND BUNGALOWS

### FALLS VILLAGE, CONNECTICUT

Return to simplicity. Privately set back on 5.3 acres with 2 homes. The main house has been thoughtfully updated and is farmhouse chic. Across the manicured grounds, past the expansive pergola covered in wisteria, is the guest house, in-law, or rental home. 1,442 sq.ft. and 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, & both have their own well and septic. Minutes to Salisbury & Millerton. 2 hrs from NYC and all the cultural activities NWCT has to offer.

WEB# 4521    \$425,000

# ELYSE HARNEY REAL ESTATE

GLOBAL REACH • COMMUNITY CONNECTION • A TRADITION OF TRUST

SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT  
860.435.2200

HARNEYRE.COM

MILLERTON, NEW YORK  
518.789.8800

# A moment of whimsy

## Eric Martin & Alchemy

By CB Wismar  
info@mainstreetmag.com

It's unclear whether Eric Martin was channeling his inner Thoreau when he returned to the United States from an intense year of graduate study at the University of Limerick in Ireland. After long hours of practice on his instrument of choice, the viola, he sought to recapture some of the simplicity and innocence of summers passed in the Adirondacks.

Henry David's words from *Walden* rang true. "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Balance returned, Eric ventured out to several auditions, seeking a position with a classical music group, but found that his ardor for a classical music career had dissipated, at least temporarily. A friend was working as a volunteer at Gould Farm, the residential therapeutic community in Monterey, MA, and invited Eric to spend some time there, "giving back" as Eric puts it. It was going to be a one-year commitment.

The year was 2001. 19 years on, Eric Martin is still at Gould Farm, working on the staff and, much to the delight of music lovers on several continents, has found the place for music back in his life.

Married and the father of three, Eric still finds time to balance family (his double degree in teaching has come in handy now that school has a

very strong "home" component) his work at Gould Farm and his music. Among the many credits he has enjoyed are playing with the Boston Camerata, the Berkshire Bach Society, Berkshire Lyric, Springfield Symphony, and singing with Crescendo, the area's classical music ensemble.

And, then there's Alchemy.

### "What's in a name?"

We can thank the Bard of Avon for summing up our curiosity with why things are called what they are. While our common understanding of alchemy may be a laughable effort to turn lead into gold (the favorite scam of the Middle Ages) the term is much more nuanced. In fact, one of the earliest efforts at alchemy dates back 4000 years to Mesopotamia (present day Iran) and the Gilgamesh Epic. Two of the central characters of that ancient story search for the "elixir of life," the potion that will stop aging. Alchemy. Millennia later, scientists and philosophers continued to search for that elixir, that magical essence that would be timeless.

But, stop for a moment. Isn't music part of the "elixir of life?" A philosophical turn, no doubt, but the mystery of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, timbre, and texture both defies simple definition and seems to be ageless.

### The magic of music

Alchemy is but one of Eric's musical outlets, but it's an important one. Not orchestral pieces, not string quartets, Alchemy plays the fetching music that enlivens contra dancing. The enduring traditions of community dancing that grew out of British Isles country dancing, crossed into France, then traversed the Atlantic to Canada and the



United States has continued to attract devotees around the world.

Martin first encountered contra dancing while a student at Ithaca College and though he was pursuing a dual degree in viola performance and music education, the allure of music that supported the community style of dancing was infectious. It only added to that engagement when he ended up in Limerick, Ireland, a place where contra dancing and the musical figures that support it are very much part of the culture. It is so essential to the cultural life of the region, in fact, that the university has created its graduate music program around the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.

### A trio of equals

"I'm one of three equals," asserts Eric when talking about his Alchemy band mates. Rachel Bell on accordion and Karen Axelrod on piano share the spotlight with Martin whenever Alchemy takes the stage, or lays down tracks for a buoyant CD.

Each of the trio has been successful in cobbling together a career and life as musicians and educators, sometimes working as duos, sometimes

independent, but eager to perform as a trio when the moment and the invitation arises.

**The hunger to perform... live!**

It is understandable that many have grown weary of the seeming endless protestations about the inconveniences and prohibitions that have appeared as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have become weary of masks and hand sanitizer, distancing and decals affixed to the market floor. The crushing impact of isolation and distancing on the performing arts is a fine example. Alchemy has had to revert to virtual concerts to keep their fan base connected with their energizing music. The primal need to perform in front of a live, laughing, clapping, dancing audience is a feeling shared by musicians everywhere.

During the last concert of the Berkshire Theatre Group's outdoor season, Livingston Taylor took the stage and became fully immersed in the opportunity to perform for a live audience, once again. His joy seemed to be therapeutic to himself and to his eager audience, socially scattered, compliantly masked and eager to savor the sacramental rite of

live performance. As if on cue, during Taylor's performance, the sun broke through the afternoon grey to warm the audience and brighten the day.

That heady experience is what every live performance artist misses is the age of COVID-19 distancing. For Eric Martin and Alchemy, the heady sensation of performing for a live audience was actualized at a recent outdoor concert at Dewey Memorial Hall in Sheffield, MA.

Unbeknownst to the group, in the audience that day was none other than book and music aficionado and local radio personality, Dick Hermans of Oblong Books and Music (in Millerton and Rhinebeck, NY). His take on the day's performance refreshes Eric Martin's zest for music and the magic of in person performance.

"I was enrapt by their musical chops, their connection with traditional music and the energy they brought to the pieces they performed. Some might question if a combo consisting of an electric piano, accordion and viola could win over an audience. They did and then some."

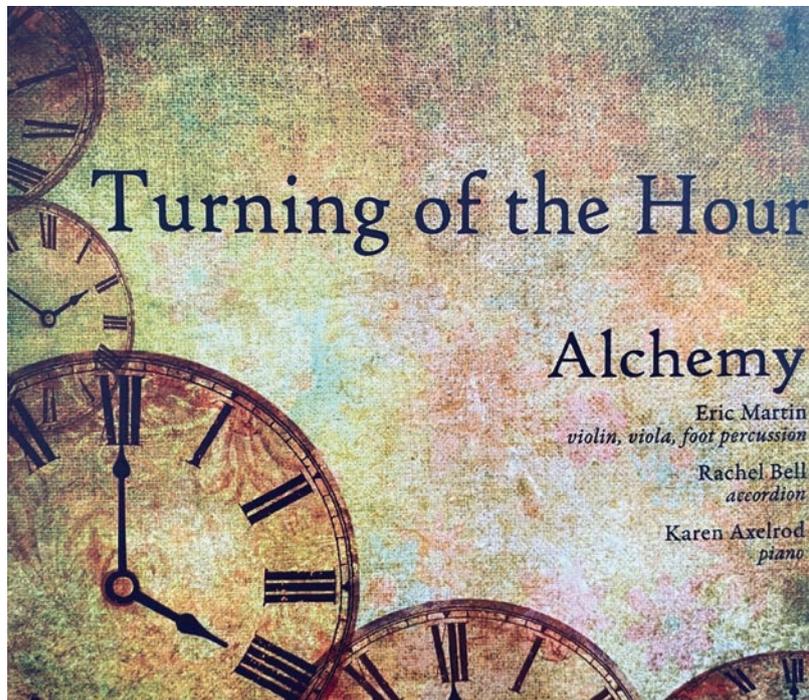
With concert series being cancelled and once thriving venues valiantly attempting to maintain a loyal audience



Above: Alchemy group photo, Karen Axelrod, piano (on left), Rachel Bell, accordion (center), and Eric Martin, violin (right). Below, left: The cover of Alchemy's CD *Turning of the Hour*. Opposite page: Eric Martin. Images courtesy of Eric Martin, taken by Kelly Kochis.

by posting performances online, the future of performance art is a mystery no one can solve. For Eric Martin and Alchemy, the view forward is filled with hope and tempered by reality. "Of course, we'd love to be back in front of our audiences," offers Martin with the touch of sadness so understandable during these times. "Until then, we appear from time to time in webcasts and streamed concerts." Those special streamed events as well as access to the Alchemy CD, *Turning of the Hour*, (which would make a lovely, smile-inducing holiday gift) appear on Rachel Bell's website – [www.rachelbellmusic.com](http://www.rachelbellmusic.com).

Echoing Thoreau's words, we have all learned "to live deliberately" in these times. Having a bit of musical magic ... a touch of Alchemy ... can make that experience a bit more whimsical. ●



*Are you an artist and interested in being featured in Main Street Magazine? Send a brief bio, artist's statement, and a link to your work through the arts form on our "arts" page on our website.*



## THE MILLERTON INN

*Happy and Healthy Holidays!*

11 BEAUTIFUL ROOMS CLOSE BY TO LOCAL SKI RESORTS  
 NEW MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT & COCKTAILS  
 NEED THE PERFECT GIFT? HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE NOW!

CALL US NOW : 518.592.1900

WWW.THEMILLERTONINN.COM



## THE HOLIDAYS START AT AGWAY

We sell trees, wreaths, and roping. While you're at it, check out our new line of wrapping paper, bows, and decorations, too!



### VISIT YOUR LOCAL AGWAY:

Route 22 in Millerton, NY • Route 23 in Great Barrington, MA • Route 9H in Claverack, NY • Route 66 in Chatham, NY

### HOURS:

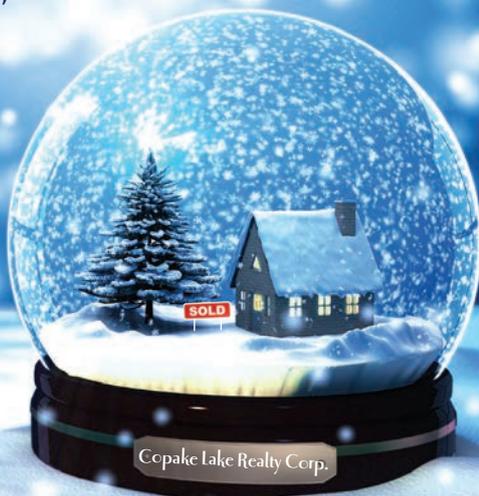
Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM  
 Saturday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

For more savings & information:

(518) 789-4471 or [www.agwayny.com](http://www.agwayny.com)

## Season's Greetings from Copake Lake Realty Corp.

Lindsay, Peggy, Mary Lou,  
 Karen, Randee, Susan,  
 Austin, Blanche and  
 Ramona



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy,  
 & prosperous 2021!

Lindsay LeBrecht, Lic. Real Estate Broker | Copake Lake Realty Corp.  
 290 Birch Hill Road, Craryville, NY | (518) 325-9741  
 2602 Route 23, Hillsdale, NY | (518) 325-3921 | [www.copakelakerealty.com](http://www.copakelakerealty.com)

*Wonderful holiday gifts: Mixed evergreen wreaths, ornaments, holiday napkins, advent calendars, cards, hats, scarves, and more*



Farm raised pork & beef • Fresh bread & baked goods  
 Gourmet grocery, dairy & soup • Hudson Valley Fresh

518-789-6880 • 196 Old Post Road #4, Millerton, NY  
[thefarmstoreatwillowbrook.com](http://thefarmstoreatwillowbrook.com) • FB: [thefarmstoreatwillowbrook](https://www.facebook.com/thefarmstoreatwillowbrook)  
 Hours: Thursday-Sunday 10-5

## friendly faces: meet our neighbors, visitors and friends



**Ava and Bennett Shepley** are pretty excited – to be back in school in person and for the upcoming holiday season. Ava is in second grade and Bennett just started Kindergarten at Millbrook Central School and so far math is Bennett's favorite subject. With the upcoming holiday season, Ava can't wait to spend time with her grandmother while Bennett is excited to see their entire family. And when that white stuff starts flying, Ava and Bennett really love to make snowmen and eat snow. They say with great certainty that they've been very good this year, so they have high hopes for what old St. Nick might leave them under the tree on Christmas morning. Ava says that she has asked Santa for a hover board while Bennett is hoping to get more dragon riders for his dragon collection. Sounds like the Shepley kids have made this super easy for Santa!



Lakeville, CT, native **Carissa Unite** has been working at Oblong Books & Music for nearly 11 years. "I began as the manager of the children's section and have now been the general manager since 2016," she says. "What I love most about my job is the surrounding community of book lovers who are looking to educate themselves and connect with others." Outside of work, Carissa proclaims that she is mostly a homebody. "I love to hang out with my cats and husband, make exciting new meals, read books, and tend to my growing collection of indoor plants," she says. This year, Carissa admits the holidays will be different than ever before. Still, her upbeat attitude remains resolute saying, "I look forward to helping customers in this stressful time and FaceTiming with family and friends."



Both **Olivia** and her sister **Maya Stanley-Cacchione** exemplify the endearing sort of childhood anticipation for the holiday season that we nostalgically pine after as adults. "I like to put up the Christmas tree and hide under it," says Olivia. "I also love playing dreidel and making cupcakes with my Gaga who moved here from Oregon to be with my crazy sissy and me. During Hanukkah, we put decorations up and I eat donuts – I love donuts." Olivia and Maya love celebrating both Hanukkah and Christmas as well as traditions from all cultures. "I love Christmas and Hanukkah," says Maya. "I love the candy, lighting the Hanukkah candles, and getting presents. I also love playing in the snow after it falls as well as looking at Christmas lights and decorating the tree!"



With more than 30 years of trade experience, **Scott Arrick** leads Sharon Hospital's facilities department with avid ambition to create a positive experience for all who visit the hospital. "Day to day operations is what we do, from structural maintenance to equipment repair, and we take pride in being part of a team that helps save lives," he said. The Poughquag, NY, resident appreciates a good challenge and says thinking outside the box and working with your peers in mind is key to building success together. His drive to learn and grow is reflected in the empowerment of his team. "I encourage my team to learn different things, whether it be work-related or just a hobby, because those experiences build character and strength, which, in the long run, support our successes together," he added.



Three-year-old **Elliana Bucci** is loving preschool this year and says enthusiastically, "I like to learn the alphabet!" As temperatures drop and the snow begins to fall in our area, Elliana tells us she is excitedly looking forward to going sleigh riding and building as many snowmen as she can muster. Of course, no childhood memory of the winter season is complete without the annual holiday anticipation. This year, Elliana says she is most excited for the arrival of a certain jolly old elf because, "I want a telescope for Christmas! I love looking at the stars, and learning about the planets and outer space." As far as career ambitions, Elliana's grown up wishes couldn't be more selfless and inspirational saying, "When I grow up I want to be a police officer so I can save everyone." If only more people were to follow Elliana's lead, because then the world would be a much better place!



**Tonya Carter** has been a beloved local hairdresser for 34 years and recently purchased the salon where she cut hair for 33 of them, renaming it Tonya's House of Hair. "What I love most about the job is interacting with the clients, and fulfilling their every need," says Tonya. Originally from Lakeville, CT, Tonya moved to Copake Falls, NY, where she has lived and played in a local pool league for the past 28 years. "I love our little town for the Rail Trail, Bash Bish Falls, and The Taconic Wayside Inn which is right down the street," says Tonya. "I also love the history of the area, donating to our local food pantry and making Christmas cookies for my fiancé of 20 years, Chuck, and my daughter, Corie, who is 13 years old."



We have tables outside for dining  
and for your enjoyment!



518-592-1313 • oakhurst-diner.com  
Like us on Facebook and Instagram  
@oakhurstdiner

SUTTER ANTIQUES



www.sutterantiques.com

## OVER MOUNTAIN BUILDERS, LLC.

30 years and still passionate! Quality  
craftsmanship delivered on time &  
within budget.

John Crawford  
P: 518-789-6173 | C: 860-671-0054  
john@overmountainbuilders.com  
www.overmountainbuilders.com



## SANTORA BROTHERS LLC.



MASONRY | EXCAVATION | CONTRACTING | LANDSCAPE DESIGN  
OVER 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE | INSURED

Paul Santora Jr. | Tel: 203 536 0808 | santorapaul@yahoo.com  
CT Lic. #580718



Accepting custom framing orders  
for the holidays through  
December 16th by appointment!

## GILDED MOON FRAMING

What can we frame for you?

17 John Street • Millerton, NY • 518.789.3428 • www.gmframing.com

Architect. Mentor. Beekeeper.  
A life well planned allows you to

## LIVE YOUR LIFE.



If there's one thing we all share, it's that our lives are all unique. Backed by sophisticated resources, a Raymond James financial advisor can help you plan for what's important to you. That's **LIFE WELL PLANNED.**

Mark Levy & Allison Guzmán  
Financial Advisors  
212-314-0461  
mark.levy@raymondjames.com  
allison.guzman@raymondjames.com  
www.ALJLWealth.com



© 2020 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC. 19-BDMKT-4086 BS 2/20

# What a deal!

*The Bargain Barn, Sharon, CT*

By Christine Bates  
info@mainstreetmag.com

*Main Street Magazine's monthly business column is usually an interview with an entrepreneur or the executive director of a regional not-for-profit. December's subject, just in time for Christmas shopping, is a conversation with the staff, volunteers, and customers of a thriving not-for-profit thrift store that has always operated as a meeting place and service to everyone in our community.*

The Bargain Barn in Sharon, CT, has been around for over 60 years. Behind the grey clapboard "Good Neighbors" building on Low Road, near the bank, liquor store, and Sharon Market, the "Barn" provides an easy, satisfying way to pass along clothing and household goods with a tax deduction, and, at the same time, an ever-changing, low-priced shopper's heaven. You never know what you might find at the Bargain Barn – designer clothing worn once for a wedding, children's toys, coffee table books, or a warm winter coat at a very low price. It has become a community gathering place with regular customers stopping by to check out the latest merchandise and socialize. It is a treasured member of the community for the benefit of everyone.

The Bargain Barn was originally created as a fundraising operation of Sharon Hospital. In 2002, Sharon Hospital became a for-profit entity and the Bargain Barn secured 501(c)3 status with the Health Care Auxiliary.

When the Health Care Auxiliary dissolved its charitable status in 2015, the doors of this beloved institution were set to close permanently when Robin Hood Radio came to the rescue. Marshall Miles and Jill Goodman of Tri-State Public Communications, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)3, stepped in to supply the necessary not-for-profit status and management oversight. Funds raised now go to support Tri-State Public Communications, which operates the only not-for-profit media outlet based in our immediate region. In an interview with *Main Street Magazine* last year, Miles emphasized that Tri-State Public Communications and Robin Hood Radio had assumed responsibility for the store mainly because of its importance to the community.

### Thrift is thriving

Thrift stores are a segment of what's classified as the secondhand market which, overall, is doing much better than traditional retail. Over the next five years thrift store sales are expected to grow 33% at the same time that the broader retail sector will shrink by 15% according to a study done by Thred Up, an online resale site. All generations are embracing buying used or previously owned clothing for both economic and environmental reasons. Buying fast fashion makes Gen Z shoppers actually feel guilty while buying secondhand feels as

good as adopting a puppy, reports Thred Up. Consumers have slowly recognized that fashion is one of the most polluting industries on earth. It is estimated that manufactur-



Above: Bill McGinn, interior designer and real estate agent with Houlihan & Lawrence was shopping for Brooks Brothers shirts at the men's Posh shop. Below, left: The Bargain Barn's "mega savings" dollar table - there IS something for everyone!

ing one pair of jeans contributes 75 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere and that it takes 700 gallons of water to make a new T-shirt. The second life of a donated dress reduces CO<sub>2</sub> impact by 72%! If everyone wore a thrifted outfit to an event next year it would save an estimated 1.2 billion pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>. The Bargain Barn offers a better solution to the billions of garments produced each year that end up in landfill.

### The business side of a thrift store

The BB, short for the Bargain Barn, can pay the rent, salaries, insurance, and utilities because of its zero cost of goods sold supplied by generous

Continued on next page ...



donors. Every donor may request a signed tax receipt and include the estimated tax-deductible value of their donated items for income tax purposes. The Bargain Barn asks not to donate anything you wouldn't buy or wear yourself and to skip those sweaters with holes!

Summer is the Bargain Barn's busiest season when our local population expands, but Christmas time is also active with many families choosing to shop for Christmas presents and decorations. Saturdays will find the store packed with second homeowners looking for a bargain on a hand-knit sweater or a cool thing to do. Weekdays have more local, regular customers some of whom come once or twice every week. There are "pickers" who buy cheap and sell to antique and vintage stores, internet merchants who purchase at thrift store prices, markup and resell online, and artisans looking for inexpensive materials to remake into something marvelous like a quilt made from silk ties, or cashmere pants for a toddler. There are also costume designers looking for the right addition to a character's wardrobe or an idea to copy or inspire.

Like any retailer, the Bargain Barn has sales – blow out sales. Recently everything inside the store was 50% off and outside there was a "mega savings" dollar section under a tent with

new merchandise added every day. And every shopper who came received a raffle ticket to win local gift certificates. Giving is part of the community-based mission of the Bargain Barn, which helps residents in emergency situations on a take-what-you-need basis. They also contribute coats and blankets to the NECC Teen Midnight Run, sheets and towels to the ASPCA, and children's clothes and other items to various programs and organizations in need.

**The BB's dedicated staff**

The hardworking staff of five and a committed volunteer base is led by Heidi Haskell. Working together they receive and sort donations, price and display merchandise, and run the register. Rapid turnover and low prices make the Bargain Barn a very labor-intensive operation. The Barn is able to accept items year round for all seasons and store off-season goods whether it's Christmas decorations in July or sandals in January. Clothing is the most popular item, but there's room for all kinds of housewares from curtains to books and even small appliances, but no big furniture, mattresses, electronics, or anything covered by a warranty.

The "posh" shop, just past the book section, is a separate area reserved for higher priced clothing and antiques. You might find an Armani suit for \$50, Staffordshire china plates or a gold chain necklace in the locked case. Haskell estimates there are about 200 sales every week with an average purchase of \$15 – not bad for a little thrift store.

**The Covid bargain**

Covid has affected the Barn in unexpected ways. Initially it was ordered closed as a non-essential service, although many customers felt the barn was very essential. Once it was permitted to open again, many older, long-time volunteers chose to wait until after the pandemic. Today everyone on the floor wears a mask and only



one person per car is allowed into the store. People socially distance and surfaces are disinfected frequently. The Thred Up study found that people everywhere are spending more time at home, and are cleaning out their closets – 50% more than they were pre-Covid. The Bargain Barn is one of the few outlets still accepting donations. But before planning a drop off, do check the website to make certain the donation door will be open.

New customers are also appearing. Young professionals have discovered that the Bargain Barn can supply missing items for their new home in the country. They appreciate the low prices, sustainability, and connection to their new community. •

*The Sharon Bargain Barn is open for shopping Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 3pm. The donation door at the back is open from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Check the website to confirm at [www.thebargainbarnsharonct.com](http://www.thebargainbarnsharonct.com) or call (860) 364-5205.*



Above, top to bottom: The housewares area has everything from wine glasses to curtains. Julia Huber is busy selecting Christmas decorations. Left: Bargain Barn's manager, Heidi Haskell, welcomes visitors and is very strict about observing COVID protocols.

# HAMMERTOWN

PINE PLAINS • RHINEBECK • GREAT BARRINGTON | LIFESTYLE MARKETPLACE



IN-STOCK  
FURNITURE,  
LIGHTING  
& RUGS!

follow us.....



Instagram

@hammertownbarn

[hammertown.com](http://hammertown.com)

DESIGN BLOG • LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR • RECIPES • SHOPPING

## *The Hair Lounge*

*A color and hair design studio*

*Loren Whiteley • Tarah Kennedy • Amy Carol  
Kelly Kilmer • Joe Musso • Hailey Cookingham*

*Gift cards available!*

*143 Route 44 • Millerton, NY • (518) 592 • 1167*





LANDSCAPING AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC



Schedule your winter land clearing and brush work now!

Salisbury, CT • 860-435-4758 • ryan@tristatelandscaping.com

# MILLERTON WINE & SPIRITS

(518) 789-3899 • 34 MAIN STREET

*Happy Holidays from all of us at*

## BRICK BLOCK Auto Parts

*Auto parts • Accessories Tools • Equipment*

*Paints & lubricants sold to businesses and individuals  
High quality brand name merchandise*

**Open Mon-Fri 7.30-6, Sat 7.30-3, Sun 9-1**

**12 Main Street, Millerton, NY • 518 789 3696 • brickblockautoparts.com**

## Columbia County Real Estate Specialists

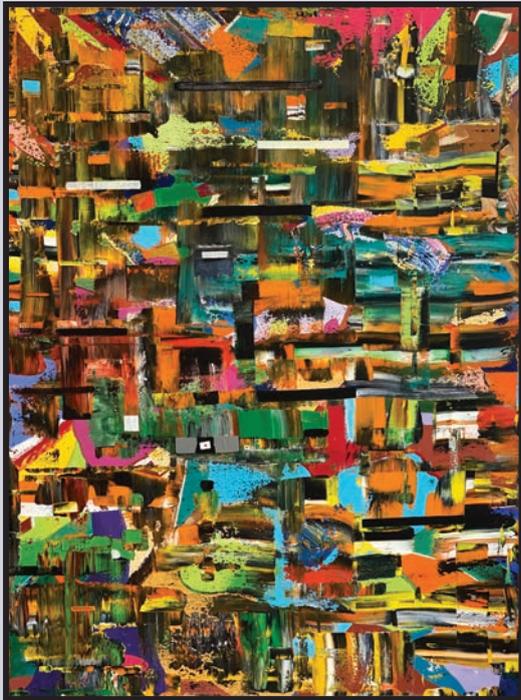
Licensed Real Estate Broker serving buyers and sellers in Columbia County, NY



9315 State Route 22, Hillsdale, NY. Gorgeous historic 19th century home in the hamlet of Hillsdale with old-world style and abundant light. \$850,000.

(518) 697-9865 • margaretaavenia@gmail.com • RealEstateColumbiaCounty.com

## HARPER BLANCHET TWILIGHT STUDIOS



Painting #153 • 30 x 40 • A/C • 1997 • \$48,000

### SKY PAINTINGS

845 750 8853 • HARPERBLANCHET.COM

“When it comes to quality antiquing  
in a warm and welcoming environment  
all roads lead to the Millerton Antiques Center.”

Fodor Travel

## MILLERTON ANTIQUES CENTER

MAIN 25 STREET

More than 35 dealers.  
Open 7 Days a Week.

518-789-6004

MYER LEMON

# Upside-down CAKE

By Jessie Sheehan  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Upside-down cake is one of my all-time favorites to bake due to its stunning good looks, its easy-peasy assembly, and its scrumptious caramelized fruit topping. Perhaps the most famous of the upside-down cakes is that of the pineapple variety (and truth be told, I've actually never taken a stab at one), but I have made them with bananas, peaches, sour cherries, and plums – to name a few. All are delicious and all basically call for the same easy steps: melt butter and sugar in an oven-proof skillet or cake pan, decoratively place the fruit over the melted butter and sugar, overlapping in a pretty pattern if you are so inclined, cover in a simple cake batter, and bake. Once baked, let the cake rest briefly before flipping it over – the bottom becomes the top and that show-stopping top is nothing short of glorious, what with its softened fruit, sticky, glistening and warm from the caramelized butter and sugar. Yum

## Show-stopping yum!

And the cake I am sharing with you here is no different (in its show-stopping gloriousness). Citrus is a perfect fruit for winter baking and in this instance Myer lemons, skin and all, are sliced razor thin and crown our celebration-worthy cake. Myer lemons are slightly sweeter than regular lemons and their skin is thinner, making them perfect in this upside-down application. But if you can only find regular lemons, no worries: you

can use them, just make sure you slice them paper thin (I recommend a mandolin, if you have one).

The cake here is also flavored with lemon (not just topped with it). The recipe calls for the zest and the juice and a little extract if you've got it, or don't mind purchasing it. The combination of the lemon-y cake with the actual slices of caramelized lemon on top is a winner every time. You can use the Myer lemon zest and juice for the cake, but if you'd rather use the juice and zest from a regular lemon, that is okay too. The cake is practically a one-bowl situation – you assemble it in the bowl of a stand mixer or in a large mixing bowl if you are using a hand mixer. And you apply the reverse creaming method when doing so, which means you add the dry ingredients and the butter together first and once the butter is coated in flour, you add the wet ingredients. Making a cake this way results in a tight velvety, crumb and allows you to skip the step of whisking your dry ingredients in a separate bowl – meaning there is less clean up (you're welcome).

Make sure you use a very sharp knife when cutting the cake, so you can easily slice through the lemon skin and serve each slice with a dollop of freshly whipped cream or ice cream, if you know what's good for you.

## For the caramelized Myer lemon slices

1/4 cup unsalted butter  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
2/3 cup dark brown sugar  
2 Myer lemons, sliced paper thin, preferably with a mandolin, 1/8-inch or less, seeds removed, and ends discarded



## For the cake

1 cup granulated sugar  
2 tablespoons lemon zest  
1 1/2 cups cake flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon baking powder  
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened  
1/2 teaspoon lemon extract, optional  
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 large egg, room temperature  
1 yolk, room temperature  
1 cup buttermilk, room temperature

Preheat the oven to 350°F and assemble the caramelized lemon slices. Melt the butter in a 9-inch cake pan in the oven, watching it closely so it does not burn.

Carefully remove the pan from the oven and sprinkle with the brown sugar and salt. Stir to combine with a fork and evenly spread with a small offset spatula.

Decoratively arrange the lemon slices over the butter and sugar, overlapping them slightly, until the bottom of the pan is covered. You may have a few leftover slices.

To make the cake, place the sugar and zest in the bowl of a stand mixer, fitted with the paddle attachment, and using your fingers, rub the zest into the sugar. Sift the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt over the bowl with a medium metal sieve. On low

speed, mix to combine. Add the softened butter and mix until all of the butter is coated in flour and resembles coarse meal.

Add the extracts, lemon juice, and then the egg and yolk, one at a time, mixing until combined. Add the buttermilk and increase the speed to medium. Beat until the batter is smooth and glossy, about 30 seconds.

Transfer the batter to the prepared pan, spreading it with a small offset spatula.

Bake for 33-36 minutes, rotating at the halfway point, until a cake tester comes out with a moist crumb or two and the cake is just starting to come away from the sides of the pan. Let sit for 15 minutes, run a paring knife around the edge, and then carefully invert the cake onto a serving platter.

Let cool to room temperature. Slice with a very sharp serrated knife and serve with vanilla ice cream or lightly sweetened whipped cream.

The cake will keep on the counter wrapped in plastic wrap for up to three days, but it is best the day it is made. ●

*Jessie is a baker and cookbook author; you can learn more about her through her website [www.jessiesheehanbakes.com](http://www.jessiesheehanbakes.com).*

We treat the entire family: small children, teenagers, adults, and older patients. Our goals are simple - to make everyone smile.

# RHINEBECK DENTAL CARE

Offering a full range of dental services including:  
periodic dental exams • cleaning & whitening  
bridges & crowns • dental implants & veneers

244 Route 308 • Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
RhinebeckDentalCare.com • 845.876.2511

## Valentine Monument Works

SINCE 1875

*Happy  
Holidays!*



Cemetery Monuments • On-Site Lettering • Bronze Veterans' Plaques  
Pet Markers • Cleaning & Repairs

Bruce Valentine, owner • Tel: 518-789-9497  
ValentineMonument@hotmail.com • Park Avenue & Main Street, Millerton



Complete site construction • Homes, pole barns & sheds • Specialty work: tiling, flooring, stairs & railings, kitchens & baths • Refinishing • Woodworking • Carpentry • Ice & snow damage • Fully insured

**NAILED IT!**  
Building & Construction

518.929.7482 • WWW.NAILEDITBUILDING.COM

**A HOUSE IS NOT  
A HOME WITHOUT  
SOMETHING FROM  
HUNTER BEE**



518 789 2127  
www.hunterbee.com  
21 Main Street Millerton NY



**CURBSIDE PICKUP  
NOW AVAILABLE**



ELIZABETH'S  
JEWELRY AND FINE GIFTS

**OPEN OR CLOSED, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**

*Visit & shop online at [www.elizabethsjewelry.com](http://www.elizabethsjewelry.com)*

**OR CALL US AT (518) 789-4649**

# Not a fore gone conclusion

## THE GOLF COURSE DREAM

By Christine Bates  
info@mainstreetmag.com

*Are you someone that would like to combine high investment returns and your favorite outdoor hobby? Have you ever considered buying a golf course? Could it possibly be a good idea or just a sand trap? Main Street Magazine's real estate feature explores the trends in golf course real estate, the history of local golf courses, and surprising good news.*

### Still in the rough

Not surprisingly for a game that has complex score keeping, the golf industry publishes precise national annual statistics on all aspects of golf course activity. The results for 2019 may make you change your mind if you are considering buying a golf course. Nationally in 2019 there were only 96 golf course sales in the whole country – the least since 2006 – with a median price of only \$1.4 million – according to Leisure Investment Properties Group. (This number does not include large portfolio sales, large golf resort sales, or courses sold for housing).

Every buyer is looking for something different. Larger institutional investors are looking at private clubs, usually outside of larger metropolitan areas with attractive demographics. While prestigious golf membership clubs are still in demand, most golf courses that go up for sale are margin-

ally profitable, if at all, because of lack of demand from golfers and excess of supply of golf courses.

Private individual golf loving buyers focus on smaller operations that they believe they can improve through better management. Like any acquisition you have to understand the underlying fundamentals of the property, and the local market and what needs to be changed to increase profitability. Robert Waldron, golf advisor to LIPC a division of Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services, explained that transactions involving bank financing are on hold as banks assess political and COVID risk, anticipate December 2020 regulatory audits, and deal with the complexity of PPP loans.

The delayed sale of the 18-hole Egremont County Club at 685 South Egremont Road in Great Barrington, MA, might be an example of the difficulty of selling a golf course in the current market. Offered for sale since 2012 at \$2.5 million and listed by Massachusetts's realtor Lance Vermeulen in April 2016 at \$1.8 million, the course was closed in May of 2020 because of lost revenues due to banquet, wedding, and event cancellations. It is the third Berkshire golf course to close in the last year according to the *Berkshire Eagle*.



Above: Stonybrook Golf Course in Litchfield is now for sale for \$2.75 million. Photo courtesy of William Downes of Gooseboro Realty. Below, left: Under Mountain Golf Course in Ancram is nestled into the natural landscape with stonewalls and beautiful vistas. Photo by Christine Bates.

### Fewer swingers

The decline in the sale price of golf courses is due primarily to shifting demographics, changing recreational trends, oversupply, and even bad weather. The industry has been in decline for over ten years. Rounds played, a key metric, have been going down, the number of open courses have decreased and the average age of golfers has gone up. So-called playable hours, the total number of hours that golfers could potentially play, were down again last year after the fourth wettest year on record. Golfer participation continues to decrease as players age and younger potential players choose biking, kayaking, hiking, or just going to the gym.

There is still an oversupply of golf courses from the mid 1980s to 2005 when an estimated 4,000 courses opened and there were waiting lists for club membership. Today the National Golf Foundation estimates that over 180 golf courses closed last year alone. One area casualty was the 140 acre Dutchess Golf Club in Pough-

keepsie, NY, which was purchased in November 2015 for \$2.5 million, announced its closure in December of 2016 and ultimately became a skilled nursing facility.

### The very long game

Given that most golf courses aren't very profitable, many investors think of converting them to residential or commercial real estate. Because of zoning, change of usage, neighbors, and environmental restrictions, this often takes years and success is not guaranteed. In Great Barrington, one developer had hoped to purchase the Egremont golf course and turn it into a solar installation. That idea was quickly rejected by the town and the deal was scuttled.

New York City developer, the Durst Organization, purchased the Pine Plains, NY, 2,652-acre golf course property belonging to ice cream pioneer Tom Carvel in 2003. The town imposed a moratorium on any development to give it time to develop a zoning plan after Durst



Continued on next page ...

proposed building 951 units, less than half of what Carvel had envisioned 40 years earlier. In 2009, town zoning restrictions were formally adopted and in 2011 Durst filed a second plan to build only 591 units. Preliminary discussions began but ultimately the plan lay dormant for seven years.

Durst has now submitted a sustainable recreation-oriented resort for consideration with 1,397 acres of open space and is preparing a Sketch Development Plan for consideration by the planning board. Durst representatives indicated to *Main Street* in a phone interview that details like the size of any hotel or the golf course are still being evaluated by the Durst team. They currently have no target date for presenting the proposed development plan. Steve Ekovic, head of marketing for LIPG, was quoted as saying, “I’ll have people call me and say, ‘Hey Steve, I want to buy golf courses because I want to convert them.’ I say, ‘Okay you’re like speculator number 7,000 with that in mind so just know, there are only a few such courses out there.’”

**A tale of two courses**

The histories of most golf courses are unique and intertwined with a love of golf, emotion, and the realities of running a golf business. Under Mountain Golf Course in Ancram, NY, was created by Patricia MacArthur’s father as he gradually converted the family farm into a natural nine-hole course set in the Taconics near the border

of Columbia and Dutchess County. He started with three practice holes incorporating the natural landscape of the valley. By 1977 he had expanded to seven using his family to help out and then added two more holes.

Created without a big name golf course architect, the executive course has a small snack bar and a liquor license. Currently it hosts three local leagues, but like all golf courses has seen declining numbers of golfers and rounds of golf played. It’s still family run with seven to ten seasonal employees. Asked if she ever considered selling, MacArthur admitted the course would probably only sell for the price of the land itself – although Covid has made this season the best in a long time.

The colorful history of Silo Ridge began when John Segalla, owner of Amenia Sand and Gravel, was rejected for membership in an exclusive local golf club. His response was to build his own golf course. In 1987 he purchased a 675 acre former dairy farm for \$1.15 million between Route 44 and Route 22 in Amenia, NY. Construction started in 1989 and by 1992, and an estimated eight million dollars later, the public golf course was opened with 18 holes, a 400-person banquet hall, two restaurants, a pro shop, and a clubhouse. The course was immediately busy with 200 to 300 golfers a day.

By 1997, Segalla agreed to sell the property for \$14.25 million to Frank Zarro, who was later convicted of



Above: The Silo Ridge Club offers an 18-hole golf course designed by Tom Fazio and multi-million dollar homes. Photo courtesy of Discovery Land.

grand larceny. After a series of false starts the property eventually sold for \$8 million in 2013 to Discovery Land Corporation of Scottsdale, AZ, a developer of private residential communities and resorts. The exclusive, gated residential community offers its residents, many of them young families, an expansive organic garden, a just opened 11,000-square-foot multipurpose family entertainment and activity center, and a very playable golf course with “comfort” stations featuring free fine food, snacks, and drinks. It’s been hugely successful because it offers so much more than golf – and you don’t have to wear a shirt if you play. Over 80 sales have been closed so far totaling almost \$200 million dollars. Two to four bedroom condominiums start at \$2.7 million and cottages at \$3.8 million.

**The COVID handicap**

Is the pandemic the cure for what ails golf? Early results for golfing trends in July and August 2020 showed gains in rounds played and revenues. COVID took away many other activities that compete for discretionary time and income with golf. The question becomes whether golf can maintain these new levels of activity. MacArthur, the owner of the family run Under Mountain Golf Course in Ancram, wonders whether the increased

number of rounds played by new comers, work-from-homers, second home residents staying in the country, and long-time members playing more golf will continue. She believes that Under Mountain’s business model, which operates with a very limited pro shop, and a modest snack bar with a liquor license is perfectly positioned for socially distanced golf. Golf industry veteran Waldron has observed that operating margins are also improving at large clubs as dining facilities are closed or menus are limited, eliminating lower margin business and focusing just on golf.

**What’s for sale?**

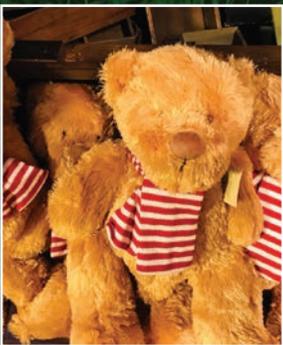
If despite falling golf participation, bad weather and lack of financing, you still want to buy a golf course, there is one nearby for sale. The Stonybrook Golf Course in Litchfield County, a public nine-hole course on 64 acres, includes a clubhouse, a colonial home, a separate guesthouse, and ponds with an asking price of \$2.75 million. Potential buyers are considering other uses as a horse farm, a vineyard, or a private family compound. ●

*Christine Bates is a registered real estate agent in New York and Connecticut with William Pitt Sotheby’s and has written monthly for Main Street Magazine since it’s first issue.*

PUBLIC GOLF COURSES IN OUR REGION				
NAME	LOCATION	HOLES	YARDS	PAR
Hotchkiss	Lakeville, CT	9	3,043	35
Canaan Country Club	North Canaan, CT	9	2,835	35
Quarry View Golf Course	East Canaan, CT	9	1,576	31
Undermountain Golf Course	Copake, NY	9	1,586	32
Copake Country Club	Craryville, NY	18	6,169	72
Meadow Greens Golf Course	Ghent, NY	9	3,011	36
PRIVATE GOLF COURSES IN OUR REGION				
NAME	LOCATION	HOLES	YARDS	PAR
Sharon Country Club	Sharon CT	9	3,135	36
Silo Ridge	Amenia NY	18	6,617	72
Lake Waramaug Country Club	New Preston, CT	9	3,128	35
Torrington Country Club	Torrington, CT	18	6,518	72
Bull’s Bridge Golf Club	South Kent, CT	18	6,992	72
Millbrook Golf & Tennis	Millbrook, Y	9	2,936	72
Norfolk Country Club	Norfolk, CT	9	2,805	36
Wyantenuck Country Club	Great Barrington, MA	18	6,403	72
Columbia Golf & Tennis	Claverack, NY	18	6,043	70

# LET US ADD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER TO YOUR HOME!

*Custom wreaths, roping, centerpieces, décor, & gifts*



## COUNTRY GARDENERS FLORIST

518-789-6440

5 RAILROAD PLAZA, MILLERTON, NY  
COUNTRYGARDENERSFLORIST@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.COUNTRYGARDENERSFLORIST.COM



**demitasse.**

*It's time to holiday shop.  
Personal shopping.* We have a/c.

New Products.  
New Store.  
New York.

demitasseny.com  
32 Main Street, Millerton, NY

P 518.272.8881 • E info@snyderprinter.com • 691 River Street, Troy, NY



**SNYDER**

**PRINTER**

www.snyderprinter.com

**Eastern States**  
**WELL & PUMP SERVICES**  
LLC



**(518) 325-4679**  
HILLSDALE, NY • info@eswps.com  
www.easternstateswellandpumpservices.com  
Mass. Lic. #101, 704 & 949 • NY. Lic. #10061 • Cogn. Lic. #85 & 364

**Tonya's House of Hair**



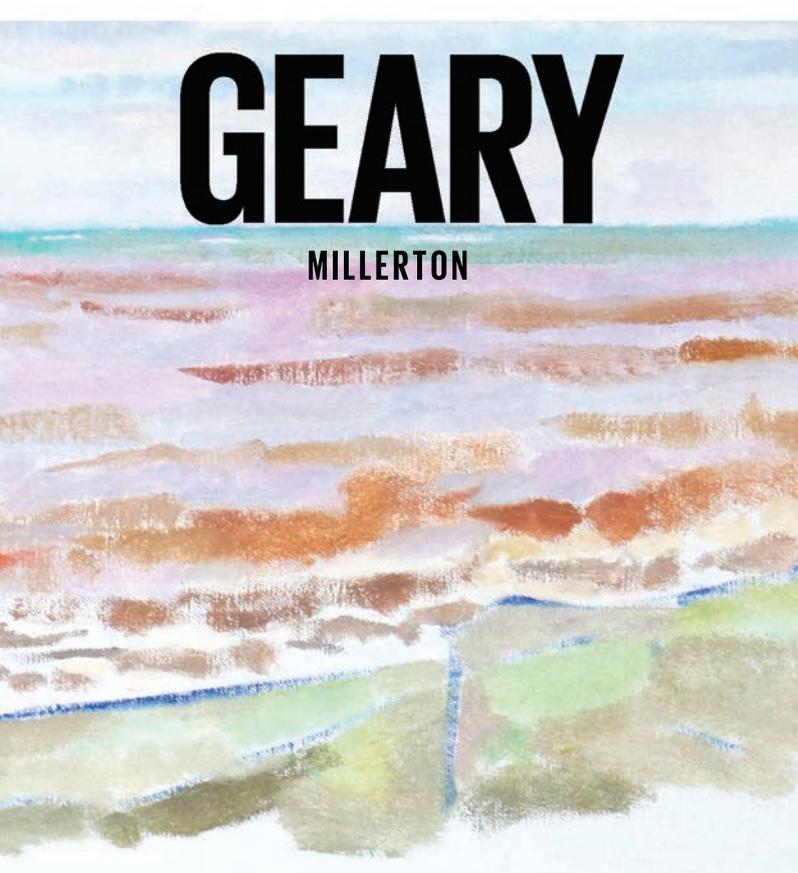
- Cuts • Coloring • Perms
- Highlights • Ear piercing
- Plain manicures

Hours: Mon & Tues 9-4, Thurs 9-7  
Fri & Sat 9-4, closed Wednesdays

**(518) 325-5544**  
9030 State Route 22, Roe Jan Plaza Suite 1  
Hillsdale, NY 12529

Tonya Carter, owner

**GEARY**  
MILLERTON



geary.nyc      34 Main Street      info@geary.nyc  
Millerton, NY 12546

**RAYNARD & PEIRCE**  
REALTY, LLC

96 Main Street, PO Box 1152, Canaan, CT 06018  
Wendy Eichman, Broker | 860-453-4148 | info@raynardpeircere.com

**7 OLD TURNPIKE ROAD SOUTH**  
East Canaan, CT 06024




**SPACIOUS 5 BR ANTIQUE HOME**  
Antique, 5 bedroom, 3 bath: \$339,000  
Spacious Antique home built in late 1700's. Home includes large living room with fireplace, five bedrooms (two with fireplaces and shared bath on main floor), three full baths and family room with cathedral ceiling. Two car garage. Property consists of 1.55 acres that include a second home which is currently rented to a long term tenant.  
Wendy Eichman, Broker: 860-671-0627

**32 HOUSATONIC AVENUE**  
North Canaan, CT 06018




**CORNER LOT w/ MOUNTAIN VIEWS**  
Ranch, 3 bedroom, 2 bath: \$430,000  
A beautiful one level ranch, located on corner lot, on a dead end road, with mountain views. Large back yard, shed & 2 car attached garage. Full basement, plus additional crawl space for storage. The deck off the back of this home over looks mountains & nature. Additional rooms include - family room, office, laundry room, and mud room with storage all on one level.  
Nikki Blass, Realtor: 860-480-6064

www.raynardpeircere.com

facebook      Instagram

# The spirit of giving

## *persevering to feed others*

By Griffin Cooper  
griffin@mainstreetmag.com

In a year marred with tragedy, mountains of anxiety and a landslide of mass confusion, perhaps the most enduring notion of 2020 has been humankind's uncanny ability to combat chaos with compassion. As fear and uncertainty grew at an historic rate this year and loved ones as dependent as they were isolated, communities across the area rallied like never before to give what little they had to feed those in need. Local food pantries became the crux of this communal effort and this year, despite the odds, pantries everywhere functioned as the arms that reached out to the hungry directly. With the help of local food banks and a little creative thinking, compassion stemmed the tide of uncertainty and the true meaning of the word community once again connected neighbors in a year that has seemed to be unimaginable.

As the calendar turns to December, and the traditions that connect us all this time of year begin, so too does the number of people who depend on selfless support. Here are the stories of a few of those organizations who fought through the past year despite massive challenges to feed others and what lies ahead for them in the coming months.

### The Red Hook United Methodist Church Food Pantry

The Red Hook United Methodist Church (UMC) Food Pantry joined the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York in 2008. Former pantry leader Pat Brammer spearheaded the initial grant process that led to the purchase of two large chest freezers, two refrigerators, and was instrumental in forming the pantry itself. After Ms. Brammer passed away in 2019, members rallied to implement a food distribution system from the Red Hook UMC and even delivered all the way down to New York City.

"Before the COVID-19 outbreak, we operated entirely indoors," says pantry member Janice Williams. "We

operated primarily as what you would call a Client Choice Pantry. Our target population was anyone in need within the Red Hook School District and we averaged around thirty families each week." However, by mid-March, as with nearly every business in the area, the process changed entirely.

The Red Hook UMC pantry transitioned to pre-packed food choices and began distributing outside the church's building. Despite the mind-numbing logistics, the pantry's dedication to feeding others led them to their formal registration process, and to this day will serve any and all who come. "We still continue to distribute non-perishables, as well as frozen meats, eggs, cheese, butter, bread, and whatever produce is available," Janice says. "The combination of distributing food pre-packed and an increased number of clients, has created a large increase in our food requirements. We submit statistics monthly on the number of families, adults, children, and seniors who visit the Regional Food Bank. During October of this year we had an average of fifty families per week."

Like many businesses who were forced to endure the shock of a new reality, the Red Hook UMC relied on the surrounding community for support. "The community support since March 2020 has been tremendous," says Janice. "We have received additional grants at the Regional Food Bank, direct grants from Dutchess Responds, milk and egg vouchers from Stewart's Shops, and a huge outpouring from local foundations and individuals." According to Janice, the distribution process is continuing to evolve and there is a small core group of people that keep the pantry running and able to continually adapt. "We want to be a resource to anyone in need in the community," says Janice. "Increasing our food variety and expanding our supply of personal care goods is essential. We continue to



look forward to working cooperatively with community organizations assisting anyone in need."

### The North East Community Center

The North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton, NY, has coordinated a Fresh Food Pantry program for many years that supplies local produce, eggs, and milk to other area pantries in Pine Plains, Amenia, and Dover Plains. "2020 is the first time the NECC has had its own more complete emergency food distribution program," says NECC Food program director Jordan Schmidt. "The program started this past April and has been distributing food weekly by pickup and delivery since then. The intention was originally to serve seniors and other clients who were homebound or unable to travel for groceries. When the pandemic hit NECC pivoted to meet a growing local need for food assistance. We are currently serving about forty households each month with clients ranging from babies to seniors."



Above, top to bottom: Food being prepared at Red Hook UMC. Freund's dairy cooler at Fishes & Loaves. Images courtesy of subjects of photo.

Continued on next page ...

In March, when food needs were extraordinarily amplified by the pandemic, the NECC was forced to quickly expand from their traditional food distribution plan. “Providing delivery has meant that we can offer contactless groceries to households with elevated risk and to low income residents in quarantine,” Jordan says. “As the pandemic progresses, we have realized that there is a significant need for delivery-based emergency food service in a region in which transportation can be challenging.”

Typically, during the Holiday season, the NECC’s teen program supports holiday food baskets offered by the Millerton Presbyterian Church by baking pumpkin pies and providing produce from local farms for the baskets. This year, because the teens are unable to bake due to safety precautions, they are instead putting together pumpkin pie “kits” complete with ingredients and hand-made recipe cards. In a show of endearing seasonal spirit, the NECC food and supply pantry is coordinating with other local pantries to make sure folks receive food for a holiday meal.

“The community has been incredibly generous in helping us to launch and expand our programs,” says Jordan. “Throughout the spring and summer we functioned almost exclusively on donated funds, food, and volunteer hours. While the pandemic has meant extreme challenges from a food security perspective, it has also illuminated the dedicated and collaborative group of people and organizations working on food access in this region. It has been a community tour de force”

### Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry

In 1992, Canaan, CT’s Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry began as a one-room pantry for non-perishable food at Pilgrim House in North Canaan, CT, as a mission of the North Canaan Congregational Church. Nearly thirty years later, the pantry has become a small-town staple and has since expanded to include meat, produce, and dairy, and gradually acquiring eight freezers and four refrigerators to preserve items. Throughout the decades, visiting families slowly grew to an average of eighty households visiting weekly.

Since the onset of COVID-19, that figure has increased to over one hundred families seeking assistance in meeting their nutritional needs, due to the small wave of economic crisis. “COVID-19 caused a change in protocol,” says member Louise Riley. “Patrons were once able to pick out their own food by shopping our shelves; since March of this year, however, we have closed Pilgrim House to the public and volunteers pack boxes for curbside pick-up.”

Though Louise doesn’t see procedures reverting to self-selection in the near future, her and the other volunteers at Fishes & Loaves are grateful for the immediate supportive response from the community including the local Stop & Shop where they pick up meat, bread, and pastries as well as the many local faith-based organizations and senior living homes that have contributed food and funds. “This Holiday season is more challenging than usual because there is not as much availability of food from the Connecticut Food Bank,” Louise says.

“For example, last year we were allocated 64 turkeys plus accompanying vegetables and stuffing. This year, we will only receive 28 turkeys and there is no guarantee that we will get vegetables. To stay strong, we have begun a drive for ‘Thanksgiving Fixins’ on social media and



Above, top to bottom: Vegetables at Fishes & Loaves. Teens at NECC preparing food. Below, left: Boxes of food being prepared by Fishes & Loaves. Images courtesy of subjects of photo.

by sharing with local organizations.”

### The People’s Pantry GB

Aptly named, The People’s Pantry of Great Barrington, MA, was founded in 1999 as an all-volunteer organization. Thanks to the surrounding community, it has grown slowly and steadily and has moved from church basement to school cafeteria and finally a permanent home in Saint James Place, right in the center of Great Barrington. “From the beginning, we have served the people of the South Berkshire area without any income requirements,” says Beth Moser, vice president of the pantry’s board. “Our local community could hardly be more supportive.”

Like most organizations, almost everything about the pantry has had to change since March. “Simply put, people used to come indoors, now they don’t,” says Beth. “The pantry was previously staffed by teams of volunteers but most of those volunteers were seniors who could not risk exposure to the virus and we have had to hustle to create new teams of younger folks.”

Adaptation has bred evolutionary change and the pantry now includes a Spanish speaker in each team as the number of Spanish speaking families has increased. Naturally, the pantry has had to obtain much more food as well. “The two main players in making this happen are The Food Bank of Western Mass and Berkshire Bounty,” says Beth. “The Food Bank immediately increased the amount of food we could order. They also provided an extremely generous grant. Berkshire Bounty delivers food donated from local supermarkets and holds monthly food drives. Our local grocers – especially Guido’s Fresh Marketplace – and small farmers have stepped up in truly remarkable ways.”

As time marches on toward an uncertain future, pantries everywhere have found solace in the fortitude of the giving spirits that surround them each day. “The pantry has been embraced by our neighbors,” says Beth. “Our donation boxes are full most days and the level of financial support is tremendous. The entire experience has been deeply moving to those of us involved.” ●



# HILLSDALE FINE WINE



# SPIRITS

*Wishing our customers a happy  
& healthy holiday season!*

*Offering a wide variety of wines and spirits from around the globe in varying sizes • A full wall of sparkling wines and champagne • Many local wines and spirits • Miscellaneous chilled whites, roses and bubbly • Our everyday 3/\$20 sale section where you can mix & match 3 wines for \$20 • Tons of Rose – Rose all Day! • Check out our Facebook page for specials and updates*

Hours: Sunday 12 to 5pm • Monday 12 to 6 Tuesday through Thursday 10 to 6pm • Friday and Saturday 10-6pm  
Curbside pick-up available!

## 518.325.4010

8 Anthony Street in Hillsdale, NY, behind the IGA Supermarket



# Have a happy & healthy holiday season!

Stop in for all your holiday favorites and enjoy our newly remodeled store.

We offer both delivery and curbside pick up!

Hours:  
Sunday – Thursday 7am – 6pm  
Friday 7am – 7pm  
Saturday 7am – 6pm



2628 Route 23, Hillsdale, NY • 518-325-4341  
hillsdalesupermarket@gmail.com

Happy Holidays!

◆ Church Street ◆  
**DELI & PIZZERIA**

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER  
 SALADS • SANDWICHES • SUBS •  
 WRAPS • BURGERS & DOGS •  
 PIZZA • & MORE!

**(518) 329-4551**  
 1677 COUNTY RT. 7A, COPAKE



# REVEAL YOUR BEST!

**Portraits by Matt Oner**  
 Headshots & portraits in studio (Copake) or at your location for online profiles, company websites, promotions. Great rates.

*"Matt was so easy to work with, I trusted him, the result was great!"*

Please contact: matt@mattoner.com  
 646-932-6637 www.mattoner.com

*Covid 19 Safety Protocols Followed*



**T-SHIRT FARM**

Custom screen printing & embroidery  
 Toys, games & puzzles • Rock & Roll apparel  
 Home of the black cow • Gift certificates available

22 Main Street • Millerton, NY 12546  
 518-592-1777 • sal.tshirtfarm@gmail.com • www.TshirtFarmNY.com



Proudly serving Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Ulster, Berkshire & Litchfield counties for over 10 years

**HUDSON VALLEY OVERHEAD DOORS & OPERATORS**

**REPAIRS**  
 • Broken springs  
 • Broken Cables  
 • Damage Sections

**TROUBLESHOOTING**  
 • Garage Door Openers  
 • Preventative Maintenance on Doors and Openers

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION**

845-876-2772 • www.hudsonvalleydoors.com • 12 Enterprise Dr., Rhinebeck



# GIFTS FOR EVERYONE — EVEN SANTA!

*Holiday trays & decorations, wine bags, notepds, jewelry, ornaments, cards, canvas tote bags, and much more*



CALL (518) 567 6737  
 20 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY  
 OPEN THURSDAY-MONDAY 11-4  
 MERWINFARMANDHOME@GMAIL.COM

**MERWIN** Farm and Home

# COMMUNITY TRADITION CONTINUES

*despite Covid-19*

By Sara Jack, Audra Leach,  
and David Moran  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Brightly-colored poinsettias fill the greenhouse. Trees cover the lawn. Holiday music brings the sounds of joyful and industrious elves tying and decorating wreaths, bows, bows, and more bows, and of course the cheese, milk, and eggnog! Welcome to a shopping experience at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Agricultural Education Center.

## Connect with 70 years of Housatonic students

This holiday experience connects the public to seventy years of students and their long-standing holiday sales enterprise, one established by a program that has been well-rooted since 1939. Presently, four generations of shoppers patronize the Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday store and are treated to a personal experience of working with students to select just the right tree species, height, and form to be a centerpiece of their holiday.

As shoppers select the right tree, busy elves are decorating, harmonizing to holiday favorites, and preparing local and northern New England wreaths with their own hand-tied bows and natural decorations, all the while your tree is being freshly-cut and securely tied on to your vehicle to make the journey home.

A variety of roping, boxwood, centerpieces, kissing balls, and Holiday (cemetery) boxes can also be purchased. You may even score some locally harvested winterberry or holly.



Housatonic greenhouse-grown poinsettias offer traditional and novelty colors and await your selection in the warm greenhouse and a trip to the Hudson Valley Fresh and Cabot cooler to support your local farmers is a nice way to round off the purchase with eggnog, milk, and cheese.

## Who you support when you shop

While you are shopping, you are also supporting students as they achieve National Agricultural, Food and Natural Resource Educational Standards (AFNR), Common Core Standards, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) infused education, 21st Century Skills, and a Portrait of Graduate qualities that Housatonic Valley High School aspires for all its graduates. This real-life and hands-on experience allows students to participate in the various roles of

business operation, which include production, sales, marketing, service, plant identification, Christmas tree-grading, wreath decoration, wreath creation, chainsaw safety and use; and a healthy dose of safety and career ready practices.

## Serious personal service

Shoppers are greeted with personal service and students are eager to reach out and share their knowledge, and in turn feel the appreciation that so many would come and support their education and opportunities. Opportunities that may be realized by this holiday financial support include competing in a National Career Development Event in Public Speaking, Parliamentary

Continued on next page ...

All images show students and products from years past from the Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Holiday Store. Images courtesy of Audra Leach.

Procedure or in as many as thirty-five specific competitions that range from environmental to engineering, plant, animal, and food sciences.

These same students may compete against the Canadian Provinces, or perhaps China. Students have the opportunity to exchange with various states during the summer, attend the life-changing Washington Leadership Conferences or receive financial support to start a business or attend post-secondary education, which a high percent of our students advance towards.

**The reach and implications are greater than what you can imagine**

The give-back is tremendous and the community has a significant role in supporting the Agricultural Education Department. These hard-working students of the National FFA are part of the largest inter-curricular youth leadership program in the United States (totaling over 760,000 students), and one of only twenty such programs in the state of Connecticut.



These students are motivated to participate in life and can be found quite active in their community; this recent season alone FFA members have helped to distribute over 2,400 boxes of food to the public, and even in the face of the pandemic continue to meet regularly to see how they can make a difference in their community.

A portion of the community support to the Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday store program will be donated to the four local food banks and the rest of the profit earned will be that much less that taxpayers need to contribute to the local school budget because students will use this funding to support extraordinary activities that support premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

Your support at the holiday store reaches back through nearly four generations of students and their families – and it all began with a little shack on Route 7.

It is the most wonderful time of the year, and that is because of *you* and *your* support of this Region 1



tradition. Everyone at the holiday store looks forward to your experiencing the colors of the holiday, the blue and gold of our FFA students. Thank you for your support, and have a happy and healthy Holiday season! •

*Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday Store. Located at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Agricultural Science and Technology Department's greenhouse. Dates: Open from November 28-December 23, from 10:00am-4:30pm. Or visit the online store at housatonic-valley-ffa.square.site. The holiday stores products include trees, wreaths, poinsettias, arrangements, and small selection of items from local businesses.*

*If you have any questions please call or email Sara Jack at sjack@hvrhs.org or (860) 824-5123 x356. Please visit the FFA website at https://www.ffa.hvrhs.org/.*

*Any student that serves you will be following the CDC safety protocols to protect you and your loved ones while you shop. Masks must be worn while on campus, hand sanitizer will be provided, appropriate social distancing, one way traffic, and no more than five customers in the greenhouse at one time.*

All images show students and products from years past from the Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Holiday Store. Images courtesy of Audra Leach.

# FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS...

Taylor Oil Inc. & Taylor Propane  
wish you and your family a happy  
and healthy holiday season!



Stay warm this fall and winter with Taylor Oil & Taylor Propane providing you and your family with home heating oil, propane, & more.

**TAYLOR**  **oil  
HEAT**

**TAYLOR**  **PROPANE**

**1-800-553-2234**

**[www.GMTaylorOil.com](http://www.GMTaylorOil.com) • "Like" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TaylorOilInc](https://www.facebook.com/TaylorOilInc)**

Taylor Oil Inc., is a family owned and operated local business, serving the local communities for the over 90 years.  
Offices in Dover Plains, Pawling, Millerton, Pine Plains, Millbrook. "We're here to serve you!"

"We like your smile  
when we're done."

# Berkshire Roofing

**RESIDENTIAL ROOFING SPECIALIST**

Written estimates • Fully insured • Big crew, fast service!

860-480-6490 | [www.bgrco.net](http://www.bgrco.net)



# MANE STREET Salon

518 789 3484 + [MANESTREETMILLERTON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MANESTREETMILLERTON@GMAIL.COM)  
7 CENTURY BLVD. MILLERTON, NY

## — SHARON — **AUTO BODY**

Jim Young  
OWNER

[jim@sharonautobody.com](mailto:jim@sharonautobody.com)

28 Amenia Road | PO Box 686 | Sharon, CT 06069  
T: 860 364 0128 | F: 860 364 0041

[sharonautobody.com](http://sharonautobody.com)

Your pet will leave happy, feeling good and most importantly, looking great!

## **POOCHINI'S** Pet Salon

**DAWN GARDINA**

Providing grooming & boarding services  
46 Robin Road • Crayville, NY  
518.325.4150 • 518.821.3959  
[pochinipetsalon@gmail.com](mailto:pochinipetsalon@gmail.com)  
Follow us on Facebook!



**HAPPY PAW-LIDAYS!**

**KraftMaid**  
VANTAGE

KITCHENS FOR THE REAL LIVING ROOM



Advice.  
Assistance.  
Limitless  
options.

LUMBER • MILLWORK • BUILDING SUPPLIES  
**HERRINGTON'S**

We share your passion.®

Hillsdale, NY: 518.325.3131 • Marble & Tile Design Center: 518.325.5836

Lakeville, CT: 860.435.2561 • Hudson, NY: 518.828.9431



[herringtons.com](http://herringtons.com) • 800.453.1311 • KITCHEN, BATH & TILE DESIGN SERVICES

Whatever the weather, you can  
count on Herrington Fuels.



Propane • Heating Oil • Heat Systems • Service/Repair • Tank Monitoring  
24/7 Emergency Service • Diesel/Kerosene • Wireless Services

**(518) 325-6700** [HERRINGTONFUELS.COM](http://HERRINGTONFUELS.COM)

# Support and shop local

By Thorunn Kristjansdottir  
info@mainstreetmag.com

We've heard the pleas for shopping and supporting local, especially during the past nine months. But now is truly the time to heed the call.

The Holidays are just mere weeks and days away, and yes, unfortunately, Covid numbers have kept surging. But as a result of that, many of our families and friends have been affected yet again – and it's not always about positive Covid test results, but about employment, food insecurities, resources, and our community's economic health.

## Love thy neighbor

We live in a small community, and so we are all integrally connected – how closely connected quickly became apparent to all of us this past March. And now we're here, in December, the one month out of the year that we should especially keep such things as gratitude, giving, sharing, helping, joy, and reflection in mind. And I'm sure we're all thinking of those things a little differently, and a little more seriously this year.

I wanted to take a moment to implore all of our readers to try to pay it forward this Holiday season, to love thy neighbor, in any way that you are able to. Helping, giving, contributing does not always mean it has to be a monetary donation. There are countless ways that we can make all the difference in a person's life! And with that said, I wanted to outline a few ways that each and every one of us can make the difference this Holiday season.

As I mentioned above, we live in a small community, but are in such close proximity to some of the largest metropolitan cities in this country. We have an influx of part-time residents (many of whom are now full-time residents), and so the size of our community ebbs and flows. And that is part of what I love about this area, the diversity of people who call this awesome place

home. But in order to make sure that we all thrive here, we need to keep an eye on all of our neighbors.

## How you can help

There are countless ways in which you can make all the difference in someone's life this Holiday season. We have even included a few stories in this issue such as one about the various area food pantries, and about the Edith Casey Stocking Fund. And yes, those are definitely some of the incredible ways in which one can help.

In our region, there are numerous toy and clothing drives that are always looking for donations for families in need. You can't go wrong by donating food, whether it be to a local food pantry or community center like the North East Community Center, that in turn then get it to the people who need it. There are also soup kitchens in our region who always welcome donations as well as volunteers. And speaking of volunteering, despite Covid having changed the game for so many organizations including not-for-profits, volunteers are always welcome. Just give them a call and ask how you can help.

There are many other ways to help as well like ringing the Salvation Army bells or to sponsor a family in need, or making a monetary donation. Every little bit can make all the difference in someone's life during this challenging time.

## Support local businesses

I also want to take a moment to talk about our local businesses, and the ways in which we can help them during this challenging time. Our local businesses are also part of the backbone of our local communities. They are the ones that employ so many of our inhabitants. And without them, there wouldn't really be a viable community. It is imperative that they survive this pandemic.



Photo: istockphoto.com contributor FotoMaximum

This Holiday season I specifically want to ask you to make a point of shopping locally. Yes, I know that Amazon makes it oh so easy, and it feels so safe because it is a completely contactless transaction. But try to at least purchase one or two (or many more) Holiday gifts from a local business this Holiday. If we all do that, it could literally mean the difference between surviving this pandemic or having to shut its doors forever.

Speaking of contactless shopping, did you know that so many of our local retailers offer online shopping too? Some even offer shopping by appointment, they offer curb side pickup, and some will even deliver to your home! So you see, Amazon has some serious local competition – and let's root for the local team in this case! And if you're not sure what to get someone, you can always get them a gift card to a local business or restaurant.

Speaking of our local restaurants, so many of them have had a really rough year. We've all heard the plea to "eat out" from a local restaurant once a week, and that has been

terrific. But this Holiday season, perhaps you'd like to continue to help support a local restaurant by getting take-out from them, dining in, or giving a loved one a gift card for a meal to their favorite restaurant. And here's another reason why this is a great idea, it's because we all have enough *stuff* and so a great meal from your favorite restaurant could be just the perfect gift for that special someone. The restaurateurs and their staff will appreciate your business regardless of which option you go with – believe me!

If your budget is tight, don't worry. There's still plenty that you can do to help your neighborhood businesses. You can recommend a local business to friends and family, you can talk up a business that you are a fan of, on social media you can like their page and you can share their posts – don't underestimate your social clout!

Let's all try to pay it forward this Holiday season, and by so doing we will ensure that each and every one of us will have a happy, healthy, and prosperous Holiday. ●

**SHELDON MASONRY & CONCRETE LLC**  
 "All phases of masonry construction"



Stonework | Brickwork | Blockwork  
 Poured concrete foundations & slabs  
 Insured | Free Estimates

*Season's Greetings!*

Matt Sheldon | 860.387.9417 | Lakeville, Salisbury, Millerton & beyond  
 sheldonmasonry.com | sheldonmasonryconcretellc@gmail.com



**Everything you need  
 to make your pet's  
 holiday a happy one!**

*Catering to the needs of the  
 well-loved pet since 1993*

Monday – Friday: 9 to 5:30; Saturday: 9 to 4  
 333 Main Street, Lakeville CT  
 (860) 435-8833

**Petpourri**

Lightning Protection!



**ASSOCIATED  
 LIGHTNING**  
 Rod Company, Inc

www.alrci.com

518-789-4603  
 845-373-8309



**WES**  
 845-605-1099  
**AUTOBODY**

- 24 Hour Towing
- Aluminum and Steel Welding
- Insurance Claims
- Complete Auto Body Repair
- 4x4 Truck Accessories
- Environmentally Friendly

3718 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545

www.WesAutobodyWorks.com



**HARNEY & SONS**  
 MASTER TEA BLENDERS  
 EST. 1973

**There's no place  
 like Harney  
 for the holidays**  
 www.harney.com

**HOLIDAY**  
 Black Tea with Holiday Spices  
**HT**  
 UNIQUE & UNCOMMON  
 HARNEY & SONS FINE TEAS  
 5 Tea Sachets • Net Wt. 3.9 oz

**= MADSEN =**  
**OVERHEAD DOORS**

Fast, friendly service since 1954



*Holiday Greetings*

Madsen Overhead Doors offers numerous door options to fit any budget!  
 Residential, Commercial & Industrial Doors, Electric Operators,  
 Radio Controls, Sales & Service.

673 Route 203, Spencertown, NY 12165  
 Phone (518) 392 3883 | Fax (518) 392 3887  
 info@madsenoverheaddoors.com  
 www.MadsenOverheadDoors.com

**Clopay**  
 America's Favorite Doors®

# An American Christmas

## FINDS ITS ROOTS IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

By Griffin Cooper  
griffin@mainstreetmag.com

Much like the memories of yore, the origins of many beloved customs often get lost within the fog of passing time. Each year, as the calendar turns to December, we collectively search our attics for the yuletide decor that will adorn our homes but once a year. Almost unconsciously, families around the country venture out in search of the perfectly-shaped pine tree, lights, and ornaments that habitually inform our notion of what it means to be in the Christmas spirit. So it goes with every cultural touchstone, the fog of time sets in and history becomes custom. For the folkways of the American Christmas, its origins are deeply rooted in the Hudson Valley and tied to one of the area's most influential literary legends.

### The man behind the American Christmas

Author Washington Irving is most famously remembered for stories that have become indelibly associated with the American holiday of Halloween. The ethereal literary impact of stories like *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle* still resonate with the supernatural landscape of the Hudson Valley.

However, perhaps the most widely read American short-story writer, essayist, biographer, historian, and diplomat of the early 19th century has another credit to his name, one that is possibly the most culturally significant of them all.

Like all things, time casts its shadow over memory and today, few people may know that the very same tales that would eventually bring Irving notoriety first appeared alongside a collection of sketches that would have a profound impact on our concept of an American Christmas.

Irving first accounted for the customs, decorations, and foods of a rural Christmas in Yorkshire in a series of fictional recollections that appeared in *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon*, published in 1819-1820, the very same book that first recounted Irving's tales of both the famous spectral horseman as well as the man who slept through revolution.

Irving was famous for using pseudonyms in life as well as literature. In *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon*, Irving's narrator Geoffrey Crayon observes life in the English countryside and fondly recalls stories of family Christmases spent at an estate known as Bracebridge Hall. Though the book is based in fiction, Irving relays the customs of what would become the American Christmas in such a precise way that it no doubt became a backdrop for Holiday festivities in the early days of American culture.

Irving's narrator includes "old games" of "hoodman blind, shoe the wild mare, hot cockles, steal the white loaf, Bob apple, and snap dragon." He goes on to include the "Yule clog [sic], and the Christmas candle, were regularly burnt, and the mistletoe, with its white berries, hung up, to the imminent peril of all the pretty housemaids."



Above: An engraved vintage family illustration of a husband bringing home a Christmas tree to his wife and children from a Victorian newspaper dated 1865 that is no longer in copyright. Image istockphoto.com contributor Tony Baggett.

Continued on next page ...

Perhaps the most sought after Christmas storyteller, Charles Dickens, was no doubt inspired by Irving's yuletide narrative. Dickens was just eight years old when *The Sketchbook* was published, and two decades later he would use Irving's tales as inspiration for the immortal Holiday classic: *A Christmas Carol*.

Today, Irving's picturesque estate called Sunnyside in Irvington, NY, serves as testament not only to the author's literary legacy but to his impact on American culture as well. Keepers of Irving's now century-old home say there are elements within *The Sketchbook* that would later inform "Dickens' beloved scene from Christmas Past, a scene that authors, artists, filmmakers and merchandisers have since seized upon as the quintessence of the English holiday."

There is still another contribution that has found its way from Irving's pages and into our modern Christmas custom – a considerably jolly one.

### Here comes Santa Claus

On December 6, members of the Catholic faith all over the world observe the Feast of Saint Nicholas, or Saint Nicholas Day. Coincidentally, December 6, 1809 is also the publication date of Washington Irving's first book, *A History of New York*, now over two centuries old. Irving's famous book first introduced the world to Knickerbocker, which became a synonym for New York.

Perhaps most appropriately, it may also be the book responsible for introducing Americans to St. Nicholas himself, the very same character who would eventually become synonymous with the man we now know as Santa Claus.

According to the folks from Historic Hudson Valley, in *A History of New York*, "St. Nicholas appears in a vision to none other than Olof Van Cortlandt, the first of the Van Cortlandts to set foot on what was then New Amsterdam in 1637. In Irving's imagination the Van Cortlandt's decision to settle Manhattan Island was inspired by jolly old St. Nick."

From Irving's *A History of New York*, courtesy of Historic Hudson Valley:

*"And the sage Oloffte dreamed a dream – and, lo! the good St. Nicholas came riding over the tops of the trees, in that self-same wagon wherein he brings his yearly presents to children. And he descended hard by where the heroes of Communipaw had made their late repast. And he lit his pipe by the fire, and sat himself down and smoked; and as he smoked the smoke from his pipe ascended into the air, and spread like a cloud overhead.*

*And Oloffte bethought him, and he hastened and climbed up to the top of one of the tallest trees, and saw that the smoke spread over a great extent of country – and as he considered it more attentively he fancied that the great volume of smoke assumed a variety of marvelous forms, where in dim obscurity he saw shadowed out palaces and domes and lofty spires, all of which lasted but a moment, and then faded away, until the whole rolled off, and nothing but the green woods were left. And when St. Nicholas had smoked his pipe he twisted it in his hatband, and laying his finger beside his nose, gave the astonished Van Kortlandt a very significant look, then mounting his wagon, he returned over the treetops and disappeared.*

*And Van Kortlandt awoke from his sleep greatly instructed, and he aroused his companions, and related to them his dream, and interpreted it that it was the will of St. Nicholas that they should settle down and build the city here; and that the smoke of*



*the pipe was a type how vast would be the extent of the city, inasmuch as the volumes of its smoke would spread over a wide extent of country. And they all with one voice assented to this interpretation excepting Mynheer Ten Broeck, who declared the meaning to be that it would be a city wherein a little fire would occasion a great smoke, or, in other words, a very vapping little city – both which interpretations have strangely come to pass!"*

While today we may be accustomed to those Holiday traditions that seem to have always been, the tree, stockings, gifts, the titular Saint Nick and the general merriment that seems to swell within us each year, it is important to look back sometimes. As 2020 rounds into 2021 and we once again decorate our lives with festive spirit, singing our collective hearts to cheer, it's comforting to know that our most joyful time of year finds its roots right here in the Hudson Valley. ●

*All research information courtesy of Historic Hudson Valley. Visit them online at [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org) to explore all things Hudson Valley.*

Above: An engraving of famed author Washington Irving. Image istockphoto.com contributor GeorgiosArt.

**RUGE'S** | Automotive  
Inc.

Small-Town Feel with Big-Brand Appeal

**You Deserve It.**



[rugesauto.com](http://rugesauto.com)



Jeep



Ruge's Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM  
6882 Route 9 Rhinebeck, NY  
845.876.1057



Ruge's Chevrolet  
3692 US-44 Millbrook, NY  
845.677.3406



Ruge's Subaru  
6444 Montgomery St. Rhinebeck, NY  
845.876.2087

# Quality concrete with quality service

*Covering all of your concrete needs including fiber reinforced concrete,  
flow fill, pool mix, and pump mix.*



**R&R**   
*Ready Mix Concrete*

(845) 478-4050 • PO Box 1199, Dover Plains, NY

We are a family-owned business and our mixes are NYS Engineered Certified Mix Designs. With our new batch plant located at 4177 Route 22 in Wassaic, NY, we can load our front discharge mixers in less than 8 minutes with complete accuracy for yardage and mixes. Our plant location affords you timely deliveries both north and south on Route 22 from Hillsdale to Brewster, as well as on Routes 44 and 343 from Pleasant Valley to all points west, and Routes 44 and 55 to western Connecticut from Sharon to Lakeville, Kent and New Milford. Give us a call today at (845) 478-4050 or visit us online or on Facebook and let us help you with all of your concrete needs. 

Celebrating winning Best of Columbia County  
2 years in a row!

# Gina's K-9

## Bed & Breakfast

- Quality care pet sitting • Vet recommended
- 20 years experience • No cages or kennels
- Dogs participate in family lifestyle
- 1/2 acre fenced in exercise yard
- Daycare & playdates available
- A creek to swim in!

**518-329-4675**

Fully insured & member of NAPPS  
(National Association of Professional Pet Sitters)



# The Motorworks

Foreign, Domestic & Vintage Service  
NY State Inspection Station

**518-789-7800**

23 South Center Street, Millerton, NY  
[www.TheMotorworks.biz](http://www.TheMotorworks.biz)



LOCAL  
INDEPENDENT  
LISTENER SUPPORTED  
THE SMALLEST NPR STATION  
IN THE NATION.

PLEASE FEED THE COW.

THANK YOU!

[www.robinhoodradio.com](http://www.robinhoodradio.com)



### ROBIN HOOD RADIO

WHDD AM 1020 Sharon CT  
WHDD FM 91.9 Sharon CT  
WBSL FM 91.7 Sheffield MA  
WLHV FM 88.1 Annandale-on-Hudson NY  
WHDD FM 97.5 Kent CT/Dover NY

# danica

CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY & MOVEMENT EDUCATION

★ ★ ★  
*Happy Holidays to all - give the gift of*  
**Physical Therapy • Pilates • Tai Chi**

Dr. Bente Dahl-Busby, PT, DPT, PMA®-CPT

*~ Adding Life to Your Years ~*

101 Gay Street (Rte 41), Sharon, CT 860.397.5363  
[danicacenter.com](http://danicacenter.com) • [info@danicacenter.com](mailto:info@danicacenter.com)

### RED HOOK/RHINEBECK, NY



HIGHEST SALE  
DUTCHESS  
COUNTY  
IN 4+ YEARS

**SOLD 2020**

Highest Sale EVER in Rhinebeck/  
Red Hook, NY Ask \$20m

### KENT, CT



**PRICE IMPROVEMENT**

Private Country Estate. Stone & Shingle Main House. Pool. 2-Story Pool House. Tennis. Panoramic Views. 66± Acres.  
**\$6,900,000. Joseph Lorino. 860.868.7313.**

### FALLS VILLAGE, CT



c1932 Modernist Residence & Studio/Workspace. 4 Bedrooms. Separate 2-Car Garage. Stone Terrace. Fire Pit. Hiking Trails. Brooks. Waterfalls. Gardens. 90± Acres.  
**\$3,700,000. Graham Klemm. 860.868.7313.**

### CORNWALL, CT



Totally Renovated 2 Bedroom Cottage. Detached Garage. Horse Barn. Paddock. Pond. Sweeping Views. Central Location. 118± Acres.  
**\$2,495,000. Graham Klemm. 860.868.7313.**

**#1 for Selling & Renting Fine Country Properties!**

**KLEMM REAL ESTATE Inc**  
LITCHFIELD COUNTY'S PREMIER BROKERS

Lakeville/Salisbury 860.435.6789 > Litchfield 860.567.5060 > Roxbury 860.354.3263  
Sharon 860.364.5993 > Washington Depot 860.868.7313 > Woodbury 203.263.4040

Source: SmartMLS, CC & DC MLS, MHMLS and Klemm Private Sales 1/1/93 - 11/12/20



[klemmrealestate.com](http://klemmrealestate.com)

# PORTRAITS IN BRONZE & PASTEL



[www.peggykauffman.com](http://www.peggykauffman.com)

# The trail less traveled

By Ian Strever  
info@mainstreetmag.com

It's a brilliant fall morning. You wake up, look out the window at the maples ablaze in yellow and decide to go for a hike. You throw a water bottle and a granola bar in a day pack, lace up your trail runners, and dash to the nearest trailhead, only to find it crammed with cars from around the Tri-state region and beyond. You park thirty yards down the road and find yourself passing people all day long. Is this what hiking is supposed to be?

That depends.

## Are you a hiker or...?

Are you a hiker, or do you hike? When the weather is nice, everyone hikes – sometimes. We go to places with easy access and known, moderate trails. The trail we choose could present a challenge and a vigorous workout, but we pretty much know what's coming. Climb to a view, stop for a break, come back down.

The difference between going on a hike and being a hiker is exploration. Hikers will explore less popular trails in search of new views, new experiences. They will hike through ankle-deep oak leaves just to revel in the sound, and practically genuflect in a glade of pines. They might not see spectacular vistas or gushing cascades, but they can be comfortable in what Keats called “negative capability.” When trails are poorly marked or don't resemble what's on the map, hikers are willing to dwell in uncertainty and even confusion for their own sakes as essential components of a vital human experience.

## Are you in?

Hikers will seek the mere suggestion of a trail, sometimes even bush-whacking to inaccessible summits and venturing out in torrents to experience nature in all of its varied

wonder. John Muir, the quintessential hiker, rode out a thunderstorm in the top of a pine tree, howling with delight. Hikers will see rime frost and ice-sheathed branches, waterfalls that flow only during tropical storms, and the surreality of moonlit vistas. They will see deer highways tramped through deep snow and porcupines waddling along forgotten paths in the deep forest. They'll come back muddy, wet, and cold, and smiling.

So are you in?

## Here's a tip or two to get you started...

While ours is not the most unexplored area in the world, it offers plenty of opportunities to become a hiker. A simple rule of thumb is to avoid any of the bigger trailheads and well-known byways. So skip the Appalachian Trail and opt for state forests, secondary trail systems, conservation areas, and open space. What follows will get you started, but a step-by-step trail guide kind of misses the point, don't you think?

In Connecticut, the Mohawk State Forest is really many tracts of land scattered throughout the Northwest Corner, and the segments of the Mohawk Trail that thread through those tracts wend through some of the quietest spots in the state. While the *Connecticut Walk Book* is the best guide to Connecticut trails both here and throughout the state, it is not comprehensive, and visits to the various sections of the forest will offer countless opportunities to get lost in the hardwood stands and pine groves.

Continued on next page ...



Above: Fire towers and lookouts like the one atop Haystack Mountain in Norfolk, CT, reward the hiker with additional views of the Berkshires.

October Mountain and Beartown State Forests in Massachusetts offer similar havens, but much more space (16,000 and 12,000 acres respectively, compared to the tiny 4,000 of Mohawk), which means one could spend a lifetime exploring them. Even on bike, I've barely scratched the interior of these spaces, and both have bird's nests of trails around ponds and through forgotten meadows.

The best long hike in the area that isn't the Appalachian Trail is the South Taconic Trail, which now runs from Route 23 in Hillsdale, NY, to Shagroy Road in Millerton. The southern section from Millerton to Brace Mountain is a relatively recent addition that includes a deep, spring-fed pond and several panoramas of the Eastern Catskills, but also some seasonal waterfalls in less-trafficked sections.

### Privacy that's hidden in plain sight

National Scenic Trails like the Appalachian Trail and state-sponsored trails like the South Taconic Trail will attract larger crowds than local trails, so if you are looking to avoid swarms of people, look to town parks, trails, and preserves. Plenty

of them are hidden in plain sight around our area, and from Dover's Stone Church to Cornwall's Cathedral Pines, one can, like Emily Dickinson, "keep the Sabbath [...] With a Bobolink for a Chorister – And an Orchard, for a Dome."

Or, if you want to hike around a theme, try fire towers and lookouts like Stissing Mountain in Pine Plains, NY, Laura Lookout in Stockbridge, MA, or the fire tower in Beebe State Forest in Austerlitz, NY. One could also just hike to interestingly-named locations like Seldom Seen Pond in Great Mountain Forest (CT), the Rattlesnake Preserve in Cornwall, CT, or Ice Glen Trail in Stockbridge. Whatever floats your boat, as they say, as long as it gets you outside and curious about what's around the bend.

Town websites will sometimes give you leads to get started, often in the form of conservation trusts that have secured parcels of land for public use. There are too many to list here, but I prefer simply keeping an eye out for neglected trailhead signs or large swaths of undeveloped land. Stop by them and look for trail markings or maps, and come back with your hiking boots, backpack, and no expectations for what



Above: Get equipped to brave the elements and find otherworldly scenes like this ice-encrusted view from Mt. Washington.

the area might hold. These areas are usually quiet spaces where deer abound and the trickle of a stream may be all you hear.

A note of caution: make sure you're not trespassing on private land. Hopefully you'll see a sign to that effect, and although my general philosophy is to go for it if you don't see one, I suppose I shouldn't publicly endorse that approach.

### Be a prepared hiker

It is December, though, when the dwindling daylight and increasingly colder temperatures coincide with an opportunity to equip yourself or your favorite hiker with gear that's discounted as steeply as a summit pitch. Every hiker should have a backpack that is ready to go at a moment's notice, preferably in the back of their car. Something in the range of 25 liters provides enough room to stash additional non-cotton clothing layers, a waterproof shell, a wool hat and neck gaiter, four items that can stay in the pack at all times.

Everything else in the pack falls under the heading of "just in case": a first aid kit, compass, matches, bandana, knife, and headlamp all may weigh you down a bit, but if you ever need them, they will be worth their weight in gold. For those who have just about everything, a low-capacity water filter

such as a Lifestraw is a lightweight option for getting drinking water in a pinch, and more and more, a rechargeable fuel cell or solar-charged battery seems like a necessity for powering the phones that contain our maps. Although I favor old-fashioned paper maps and would always welcome a gift of a detailed topographic trail map, the convenience of keeping one on my phone usually outweighs digging through my collection of maps to find the one I need for a given area. A salty veteran backcountry sky instructor turned me onto the Gaia GPS app, which allows users to download topo to their phone so they can still be used outside of cell range, which is a lot of the time in any wild and scenic area.

All of this gear, however, should serve as a support for the experience of exploring. When a trail is harder or longer than we expected, or when there is no trail at all, these serve as insurance against the unexpected. And the more time we spend in places where we don't have all the answers, the better we get at finding them on our own. ●



Above: Popular trails don't have a monopoly on great views. This unexpected vista came from exploring an undeveloped tract of private land in the Northwest Corner.

# SACRED CIRCLES COMMUNITY

an intentional community for spiritual and personal growth

- Online Private Community
- Weekly Classes
- Interactive Instruction
- Members Only Webinars
- Office Hours + Mentoring
- Healing Circles
- VIP Benefits

[WWW.SACREDCIRCLES.COMMUNITY/JOIN](http://WWW.SACREDCIRCLES.COMMUNITY/JOIN)

ENERGY HEALING + CONTEMPORARY SHAMANIC TEACHINGS  
email: [terri@terrilundquist.com](mailto:terri@terrilundquist.com)

## Are you looking for the perfect handcrafted item to complete your seasonal shopping?

Come out and find it while supporting local artists!

The North East Community Center invites you to visit  
the businesses of downtown Millerton on Saturday, December 12, 2020,  
and while you are here, visit our own Artisan Craft Fair 3pm-6pm

Celebrate the season by visiting our **Farmers Market from 10am-2pm**, peruse the restaurants and  
businesses in the village, and then join us from 3pm to 6pm for the Craft Fair at the  
Millerton Methodist Church, 6 Dutchess Avenue, Millerton, NY

With the generous support of **Arts Mid-Hudson** and the **North East Community Center**,  
numerous artisans from around the Tri-State area will present their beautiful wares  
at a craft fair in a quaint, seasonal, and safe setting.

**arts**  
Mid-Hudson

[www.neccmillerton.org](http://www.neccmillerton.org)

NECC is an equal opportunity employer and program provider

**NORTH EAST  
Community  
Center**  
THRIVING TOGETHER

**ROOSTERS  
ROUTE 82**  
HOME & HARDWARE CENTER

Hardware  
Home Goods  
Pet & Bird Supplies  
Farm Feed  
Paint & Lumber  
Lawn & Garden Center  
Automotive  
Repair Services

**HOLIDAY GIFTS  
CUT TREES  
WREATHS  
& MORE**

6047 Route 82, Stanfordville, NY 12581 • 845-868-7401 • www.roostersroute82.com

**R&R  
Servicenter, LLC**

**Steve J Mosher**  
C: 914.474.5206

Specializing in: Ponds, Landsculpting, Riding Arenas, & Roads

**Cascade  
Spirit Shoppe**

Fine Wines & Spirits • Custom Engraving  
Gift Cards & Custom Gift Baskets

Tel: 845.373.8232 • Fax: 845.789.1234  
5058 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501  
Open 7 Days: Mon-Sat 11am-7pm,  
Sun 12-5pm

**CORBIN  
CRUISE**

**Custom Metal  
Fabrication & Design**

Furniture, Fixtures and  
Interior/Exterior Installations  
Stainless Steel – Brass – Bronze  
Aluminum Welding

347.860.3173 – corbincruise.com

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL**

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

**Hylton Hundt**

518.789.9390  
Route 44 East | Millerton  
hyltonhundtsalon.com

*Give them a gift they'll actually use!*

A HYLTON HUNDT GIFT CERTIFICATE  
FOR ANY OF OUR HAIR SERVICES:  
COLOR • CUT • BLOW-DRY • & MORE

*Thank you for your support during these challenging times!*

# Christmas cheer & charity

By Lisa LaMonica  
info@mainstreetmag.com

It's comforting to remember some of the notable people who have made our holidays and traditions more shiny and bright this Holiday season. Virginia O'Hanlon was the little girl who at eight years old wrote to *The Sun* newspaper: "Dear Editor, I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

She received a reply forever famously known as, "Yes Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus."

This literature has become a part of annual Christmastime celebrations ever since its initial publication. Virginia spent her final days at the Barnwell Nursing Home in Valatie, NY, and passed away at 81 after living in North Chatham for many years. The North Chatham Historical Society honors Virginia at Christmas by reading her letter and the beautiful reply at her grave site in the North Chatham Cemetery every year.

## The Santa Claus Club

The first Santa Claus Club in the nation was started in Valatie, NY, in 1946. It was started by 15 local men who provided holiday toys to children after clothing mills vital to the area's workers had died out. These 15 men used their army



separation pay to prevent a bleak holiday for families. A tradition of Santa's Parade through the village, with the music of *Here Comes Santa Claus* played at 3:30 in the afternoon, and Santa himself visited the homes of children under ten years old on Christmas Eve. It has been a thriving annual tradition ever since, with other communities nationwide adopting the practice.

## Edith Casey and the Stocking Fund

Edith Casey was truly a remarkable person. A still loved public servant of Columbia County, NY, for 40 years, Edith worked in the Department of Social Services carrying out child welfare work, beginning in July of 1920 and retiring in the 1950s. After graduating from State College for Teachers in Albany, NY, she became the director of Children's Bureau, Columbia County Welfare Dept. Edith toured the county helping unmarried mothers and finding homes for orphans. During her career, she assisted thousands of disadvantaged children. In the 1920s she would sometimes need to be accompanied by a state trooper when picking up children, after an incident where she was stoned by a family in West Taghkanic.

The Edith Casey Stocking Fund was co-founded in 1920 by Edith, a child agent for the Columbia County Committee of State Charities, now the DSS, and Henry James, an editor of the *Daily Star*, which would later become the *Register-Star*. For 100 years now, this fund has given holiday gifts to many of the less fortunate among us to ensure that needy children experience holiday joy, providing at least two gifts for each child.

Area stores collect new, unwrapped gifts from the community to disperse to local families in need who register. The fund strives to



remind people to take time during the busy holidays and give what they can to help those in need. Year round this fund also helps low income families with prescription drug costs and co-pays.

While talking with members of the Hudson Area Library History Room recently, Joe D'Onfrio recalled when his father was a custodian of the Dept. of Social Services and helping Edith deliver gifts at Christmas time to youngsters all over the county. The Edith Casey Stocking Fund and its message is something that is near and dear to many of our hearts, we hope this fund continues its life-altering and generous work, and we will all continue to admire the dedication and life of Edith Casey.

Happy Holidays. ●

Above, top to bottom, L-R: Members of the Valatie Santa Claus Club.. Image courtesy of the Valatie Santa Claus Club.. Virginia O'Hanlon, courtesy Library of Congress. Edith Casey, courtesy of *Register Star*. Left: Santa Claus, courtesy of Valatie Santa Claus Club.



studio Cicetti architect  
 austerlitz, new york  
 www.studiocicetti.com  
 718.687.0450  
 info@studiocicetti.com

## FARM FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES

### Cut Your Own or Pre-Cut

Tall Trees - Handmade Wreaths - Kissing Balls  
 Roping - Brush Bundles - Tree Stands & More



Order your fresh cut tree online!  
 Contactless Payment and  
 Curbside Pickup available!

Open every day through Christmas Eve.

[www.seekontreefarm.com](http://www.seekontreefarm.com)

A fun family outdoor tradition for over 40 years!

## OFFERING DIY WORKSHOPS!

Stop in or check us out on Facebook for upcoming classes



## MERWIN Farm and Home

518 567 6737 • 20 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY  
 OPEN THURSDAY-MONDAY 11-4 • MERWINFARMANDHOME@GMAIL.COM

## Michael D. Lynch\*

ATTORNEY AT LAW

106 Upper Main Street • PO Box 1776 • Sharon, Connecticut 06069  
 (860) 364-5505 • [MLynch@MichaelLynchLaw.com](mailto:MLynch@MichaelLynchLaw.com)  
[www.MichaelLynchLaw.com](http://www.MichaelLynchLaw.com)

\* Also admitted in New York State

Select Sotheby's  
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## THE MOVIEHOUSE

Build on the towering legacy or unfold  
 a new bold vision to take the magic of  
 big screen cinema to the next level.



Annabel Taylor | Associate RE Broker | m. 518.763.5020 | [annabel.taylor@selectsir.com](mailto:annabel.taylor@selectsir.com)  
 Raj Kumar | Associate RE Broker | m. 201.689.0533 | [raj.kumar@selectsir.com](mailto:raj.kumar@selectsir.com)

Listing by The Lillie K. Team at Select Sotheby's International Realty | 270 Broadway Saratoga Springs, New York | o. 518.580.8500 | [selectsothebysrealty.com](http://selectsothebysrealty.com)

*Have a happy & healthy holiday!*



## SUSTAINABILITY:

BUILDING + DESIGN + MANAGEMENT



(518) 755-0329 + 41 BENDER BLVD. GHENT NY  
[INFO@CLAVERACKBUILDERS.COM](mailto:INFO@CLAVERACKBUILDERS.COM) + [CLAVERACKBUILDERS.COM](http://CLAVERACKBUILDERS.COM)

# In the Holiday spirit

This season, "A Christmas Carol" presents its 15th annual show at The CENTER For Performing Arts at Rhinebeck

By Regina Molaro  
info@mainstreetmag.com

Just a few miles from the Village of Rhinebeck, NY, is The CENTER For Performing Arts – a local theatre whose actors are eager to spread some holiday cheer through their annual presentation of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

The production, which runs from November 19 through December 20, is currently in its 15th year at The CENTER. As in previous years, it will utilize the same script – a faithful rendition of Dickens' immortal ghost story.

*A Christmas Carol* is directed by Lou Trapani, managing director of The CENTER. Beyond acting as producer and director, Trapani also plays Ebenezer Scrooge – a miser who detests the Christmas holiday and all the goodwill and cheer that accompanies this festive season.

Trapani, who has been at The CENTER since 1995, has been managing director since 1999. He has produced and directed more than 100 shows at The CENTER and acted in countless other productions. Trapani has also been on the board of directors since 1997.

"*A Christmas Carol* is the most satisfying production The CENTER presents. Audiences love the story and particularly our take – the addition of 33 of the world's most beloved Christmas carols. Not only is our production a carol in the Dickensian sense, it is a compilation of many carols," says Trapani.

Unlike the miserly character he plays, Trapani truly embraces the spirit of giving. "Since I wrote the

script, direct it, play Scrooge, and produce the show, it's my gift to The CENTER." Trapani never draws a salary for the work he does for this annual production and he doesn't charge royalties. Every year, this sends *A Christmas Carol* into the top slot as The CENTER's highest-netting show. Since this classic is presented every holiday season, the net revenue it garners enables The CENTER to settle its year-end debts and start anew.

"Personally, I relish playing Scrooge as I view his function in the play as the essence of redemption. We all need to believe in redemption," says Trapani.

## Tapping into the past

Initially published in London in 1843 and illustrated by British caricaturist and illustrator John Leech, *A Christmas Carol* presents the story of Scrooge who is transformed from a greedy businessman to a more gentle, loving man after he's visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come.

Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* during an era in history when the British were reevaluating past holiday traditions, including Holiday caroling.

"For the past ten years (of The CENTER's production), 33 of the world's most beloved Christmas carols have been sung by the various characters – appropriate to their character and the drama of the scene. This year's script and carols remain the same. Musical directors Paul and JoAnne Schubert faithfully accompany 33 traditional Christmas carols, which were researched and chosen by myself and Barbara Rankin," says Trapani.



Above: Lisa Lynds – as one of many ghosts – with Lou Trapani as Scrooge. Image courtesy of The CENTER For Performing Arts.

We're all aware of the many ways in which 2020 defied norms. Due to an ongoing pandemic, all 28 roles in this year's production are being played by eight actors. Rather than being played live, the accompanying music has been pre-recorded for the 2020 show.

The CENTER's outdoor venue is just one example of the ways in which 2020's performance deviates from seasons past. "As indoor productions are currently not allowed, the only way to perform is to perform outdoors," adds Trapani. The cast will entertain audiences from The CENTER's rear loading deck, which has been converted into a stage.

Creativity certainly isn't limited to the stage or the myriad ways in which the talents behind The CENTER build sets, select costumes,

Continued on next page ...



Above: Joe Felece as Jacob Marley and Lou Trapani as Scrooge. Image courtesy of The CENTER For Performing Arts.

act, sing, or play music. When they apply their creativity to problem solving, creative types often come up with innovation solutions, which include finding ways to perform during a pandemic.

During the summer, actors performed in the open air as the audiences watched from their seats on the lawn. “We began outdoor performances with *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in July and followed with *A Chorus Line* in August. We then followed up with *Songs for a New World* and *American Son* in September,” says Trapani. In October, The CENTER featured five weekends of classic Universal horror films – from *Dracula* to *Frankenstein*, *The Mummy*, and beyond.

Between the major shows, students from The CENTER’s Kids on Stage program took the spotlight to

entertain spectators and lift spirits. Dancers from The CENTER’s in-house school also dazzled audiences. In addition, several music concerts were held and other workshop presentations also helped to keep the community engaged.

“We are very, very mindful of COVID-19 and have been complimented by the county as being an exemplary model of how to obey all the rules – and then some – while conducting business,” says Trapani.

Since outdoor seating on the lawn isn’t possible during the colder days of November and December, The CENTER planned a clever “drive in” concept. “We installed a sound system that sends the sound from The CENTER’s show to an FM radio station, which audiences can tune into from their cars,” reveals Trapani.

Although there are no set pieces or props for this year’s production, costumes will be plentiful. “This year’s production also relies on the skill of the actors to convey all the majesty of a theatrical production,” says Trapani.

### The cast

Beyond Trapani as Ebenezer Scrooge, this year’s cast includes Andy Crispell who plays Bob Cratchit; Ellie deMann as Young and Old Alice, and Fred’s Wife; Emily DePew as Mrs. Cratchit and the Lady Bountiful; and Joe Felece who plays Marley’s Ghost and other supporting roles.

Eight-year-old Harriet Luongo will star as Tiny Tim, Boy Scrooge, and an urchin, while Lisa Lynds will play – as she has for the past 15 years – the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet To Come. Duane Olson will play Young Scrooge, Nephew Fred, and several other roles. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased via the box office or online via [www.centerforperformingarts.org/whats-playing](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org/whats-playing).

The CENTER, which was incorporated in 1987, operated as a summer tent theatre from 1994 to 1997. The barn-style building that houses The CENTER was completed in 1998 and began offering year-round operations in July of that year. To date, well over 300,000 guests have attended more than 1,500 productions and approximately 5,000 students have honed their skills by participating in The CENTER’s education programs. •

*The CENTER For Performing Arts at Rhinebeck is located at 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. You can call the box office at (845) 876-3080.*

PAINTINGS  
AND PRINTS

# KAREN LESAGE

**ART**

**NEW!** SHOWROOM  
50 Main Street,  
Millerton, NY  
By appointment or chance

860.318.5236  
karen@karenlesage.com  
www.KARENLESAGE.com



"Green Thursday" 40"x60" oil on canvas



## north elm home



*North Elm Home Furnishings*

*a must stop for your holiday shopping!*

Furniture • Mattresses • Home Accents • Art • Gift certificates & gift wrapping available



Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-4  
5938 North Elm Ave., Millerton, NY 12546  
t: 518.789.3848 f: 518.789.0234  
www.northelmhome.com



BAR • TAPAS  
RESTAURANT

518.789.0252  
52 Main Street, Millerton  
52main.com

Dine in • Take out • Curbside pick-up

## A Toast: "To our ancestors!"

Genealogy and Family History Research



**Keren Weiner, Genealogist**

kweiner2@gmail.com • www.kerenweinergenealogy.com

SERVING NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT & MASSACHUSETTS



**HOLIDAY GREETINGS!**

*Scott D. Conklin*  
**FUNERAL HOME, INC.**



518-789-4888

37 PARK AVENUE, MILLERTON, NY  
WWW.CONKLINFUNERALHOME.COM

SCOTT D. CONKLIN  
OWNER / MANAGER

**Jack's**  
**Auto Service**  
INC.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS WE WISH YOU PEACE,  
HEALTH AND HAPPINESS THROUGHOUT THIS HOLIDAY  
SEASON AND A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH HOPE!

- JACK, LINDA, KAITLIN, JIM, BRIAN & JP

4228 ROUTE 22 WASSAIC, NY 12592 845-373-9757  
WWW.JACKSAUTOSERVICE.COM  
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Let us help you  
deck the halls this  
holiday season!

**ROARING OAKS**  
**FLORIST**  
*Unique designs created with personal attention.*

349A Main Street, Lakeville, CT  
(860) 364-5380 • www.roaringoaksflorist.com

# A Holiday tradition lives on:

## *Hudson's 2020 Winter Walk*

By Griffin Cooper  
griffin@mainstreetmag.com

Despite the myriad of cancellations and postponements that have littered an historically stressful year, there will be at least one annual local tradition that will attempt to persevere this year – though it will look much different. The Hudson Valley has long been a nerve center for arts in the area and 2020 has no doubt wrought its infamous hardship on the local artistic community. For the past eight months, annual events have been cancelled, concert halls fell silent, and galleries desolate. While some have resolutely transitioned to virtual presentation, the niche is still not quite filled. The same can be said for Hudson, NY's iconic Hudson Hall who found itself in a familiar stress-inducing stalemate this year after hosting the City's annual Winter Walk every year for the past two decades. Still, the titular venue has refused to end the year without a little festive fight, punching back at a year of tragic uncertainty with a little yuletide hope.

### Hudson Hall

Hudson Hall has long been a cultural beacon in the Hudson Valley. By offering a dynamic year-round schedule of music, theater, dance, literature, workshops for youth and adults, as well as family programs and large-scale community events, the venue has fully embraced the spirit of the artistic community that roots itself in our area. Located in a historic landmark that houses New York State's oldest surviving theater, Hudson Hall underwent a full restoration and reopened to the public in April 2017 for the first time in over five decades. The Hall seeks to bridge the divide between Hudson's underserved populations, more affluent residents, and the flourishing arts scene, and its programs are designed to respond to the economic and cultural needs of its diverse community.

In 2019, through an extensive program encompassing live performance, art exhibitions, city-wide festivals, free

community events and workshops, Hudson Hall served an audience of 50,000 and employed over 400 artists and skilled technicians, making it a valuable contributor to Columbia County's \$8 million creative economy. Approximately 70% of Hudson Hall's programs are free of charge or subsidized to ensure equitable access to the arts. Perhaps its biggest claim to local fame began in 1997 when it produced its first Winter Walk, a Holiday event that has become anticipated annually by thousands as Warren Street transforms on the first Saturday of December each year into a cascade of Holiday happenings mixed with the city's well established artistic hue. As we all have come to know, this year, things have changed.

### Winter Walk 2020: The Hudson Safe Edition

Only once before has Hudson's beloved Winter Walk been so adversely affected. In 2003, when a winter Nor'easter dumped two feet of snow on Hudson, that year's Winter Walk was postponed a week. Given that history of resolve, the Hudson Hall was not willing to allow the uncertainty of 2020 abscond with the spirit of the iconic event. This year, the leaders at Hudson Hall have successfully sought a way to carry on the tradition during this challenging time, while keeping the community safe and are thrilled to announce *Winter Walk 2020: The Hudson Safe Edition*.

This year, instead of closing off Warren Street for a large celebration involving tens of thousands people on a single evening, there will be twenty days of decorated windows, holiday shopping, festive cheer, and community celebration along the historic Hudson street. Winter Walk 2020 begins on Saturday, December 5 and continues through the month of December. Many of the things everyone has come to expect from Winter Walk – holiday lights, lavishly decorated shop windows, Santa's Village in the Seventh Street Park, Holiday shopping in unique local shops, fireworks that light up the winter sky, and the



Image courtesy of Hudson Hall

presence of Santa himself – are a part of Winter Walk 2020, re-imagined for the pandemic.

“For the past two decades, Hudson Hall's Winter Walk has energized the local economy and helped highlight the region's unique retail, dining and cultural sectors,” said Columbia Economic Development Corporation president and CEO F. Michael Tucker in a press release. “This year's Hudson Safe Edition is set to continue this important tradition in a safe and responsible way and CEDC is proud to be a part of it.”

Per the same release, Winter Walk kicks off on December 5 at 5pm with Sax O'Clas, a Winter Walk regular, strolling down the street playing cool jazz on his saxophone – a truly Hudson-style Santa. Throughout the evening, folks can enjoy a winter evening's walk along Warren Street, taking in the wondrous shop windows and festive sights while doing some Holiday shopping and greeting friends (at a safe distance). At the Seventh Street Park, families can visit Santa's Village, a Hudson tradition for decades. At Hudson Hall, Winter Walkers can peer into Hudson Hall's window to catch a reimaged video version of choreographer Adam Weinert's beloved Hudson Holiday classic, *Rip*

*The Nut* (a mashup of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* and Washington Irving's *Rip Van Winkle* created especially for Winter Walk), with designs by R.B. Schlather. As always, the evening will conclude at 8pm with a fireworks display over Promenade Hill to light up the sky for miles around for people to watch in place, safely distanced.

The festivities of Winter Walk 2020 will then continue in the following weeks. Hudson Hall welcomes families for free timed-entry Zoom visits for children with Santa Claus in a room decorated especially for the jolly old fellow. In the Seventh Street Park, the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas Tree takes place on December 12 and the nightly lighting of the candles on the Hanukkah menorah from December 10-18.

Despite the unforeseen rigors of the past year, and the nervous anticipation of a long upcoming winter, a small but enduring light shines over the city of Hudson this Holiday season. Folks are encouraged – masks adorned and safety ever-present – to rediscover why the Holidays and the arts are so intertwined. For their hope, their passion, and the eternal bond they keep with the surrounding community. ●

*Wreaths, swags,  
boxwood trees, &  
table arrangements  
for sale*



Ann Hunter, 518-672-7398  
901 West End Road Hillsdale, NY  
Open Thanksgiving to Christmas  
10am – 4pm



**BUDDHI TRIBE**  
YOGA + WELLNESS

**NEW MEMBERSHIPS + OFFERINGS**

Introducing our all-new virtual library of yoga, meditation, breath work + more on demand 24/7 online at [BuddhiTribe.com](http://BuddhiTribe.com).

Live-stream classes held daily! Also offering outdoor classes + safe in-studio classes.

**FREE CLASSES**

These are difficult times...join us for weekly community classes on Zoom.



5 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Millerton, NY 12546  
[www.BUDDHITRIBE.com](http://www.BUDDHITRIBE.com)



CREPES, FRESH JUICE, SEASONAL LOCAL PRODUCE,  
DAIRY, BREAD, EGGS, ART GALLERY & POP UP EVENTS

THE  DIG

[WWW.THEDIGONMAIN.COM](http://WWW.THEDIGONMAIN.COM)  
EMAIL: [THEDIGONMAIN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THEDIGONMAIN@GMAIL.COM)  
518-771-3444 | 3 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | HOURS ON WEBSITE



**NORTH EAST  
MUFFLER INC.**

*Custom Bending up to 3 inches*

Open Mon.–Fri. 8 to 5; Sat. 8 to 1

*John & Cindy Heck*  
Route 22, Millerton, NY  
(518) 789-3669



**Bain**

**REAL ESTATE**

PROUDLY SERVING  
NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT FOR 48 YEARS

*In 2020 we closed 100 transactions – 25 additional still pending*

*We're small but effective! You can trust us to care for you and your  
real estate needs in these challenging times.*

860-927-4646 • 860-364-4646 • 860-672-2626 • [www.bainrealestate.com](http://www.bainrealestate.com)

# The sports enthusiast *Holiday edition*

By John Torsiello  
info@mainstreetmag.com

The easiest aspect of Christmas shopping for a sports enthusiast (whether it be a spouse, significant other, best friend, brother, sister, boss, whomever), is that there are so many toys and so much equipment on the sports market.

The smart approach is to make sure you know what your giftee enjoys about sports, or might enjoy. Are they active participants in, say tennis or golf, or would they perhaps like to exercise at home on a treadmill or stationary bike? Nothing can spoil a Christmas morning more than to receive a gift that implies you need to get into shape — you know — like unwrapping a gift certificate for a gym membership when you didn't ask for one.

Listen, you can spend under \$100 or thousands of dollars for sports-themed gifts to put under or near the Christmas tree. Just make sure, like any gift really, that it will be appreciated and, more importantly, used by the person receiving the gift.

## The winter sports

Winter, of course, is at hand and that means snow and skiing. Jim Shockley, branding and equipment

director and Mohawk Mountain Ski Area in Cornwall, CT, had a few suggestions for gifts:

“Toko Wax kits (\$159) are great because they allow you to wax your skis at home and not waste time when you get to the slopes. Helmets (\$89 and up), gloves (\$39.95 and up), a face mask and goggles (\$19.95 to \$149.95) in this socially-distanced world are also a thoughtful and very appropriate gift this Christmas. And how about a pack (six) of tickets (\$395) to Mohawk Mountain?”

## For the golfers and tennis players in the family

For the golfer, new clubs, which range from a couple hundred bucks for a driver or a putter to over a thousand for a set of irons, depending upon the quality and brand, will do the trick. There are a number of training aids on the market, such as hitting nets and putting greens that can be set up in the basement or garage for hours of fun and practice during the winter.

Kyle Adams, Golf Professional at Copake Country Club in Craryville, NY, advised gifters to stop by the club's pro shop and pick up a logoed Copake CC sweatshirt, which “have been a huge hit.” He added, “We also have Imperial and New Era logoed hats, golf towels and golf balls, all great gifts for under \$100. We take special orders on golf clubs and memberships for gifts over \$100.”

Tennis players never have enough tennis balls and two dozen cans wrapped up and sitting under the tree will be appreciated. Apparel is always a hit, but I would shy away from sneakers and racquets, as they



Above: There are many options for sports-related apparel for the sports enthusiast in your family. Left: Fishing accessories are always a good option when finding a present for the fisherman in your family.



Continued on next page ...

are very personal choices and might have to be returned if they don't fit the giftee's needs and likes.

As Bernice Paolantonio, adult tennis programs manager at Torrington, Connecticut's Pinewoods Health and Racquet Club, put it, "A Pinewoods gift certificate might be the thing that brings the tennis procrastinator to us. We offer adult and junior programs for all ages and abilities."

**For the hunters and fishermen**

Fishing and hunting gear is a winner for the outdoorsman or woman, as is camping and hiking gear and apparel. Because we may be dealing again with personal preference, gift certificates might be the best option for these individuals.

Harold MacMillan, owner of Housatonic River Outfitters in Cornwall Bridge, CT, said beginner fishing rods, reels, and line outfits are a super gift and cost around \$189.95. There's also a beginner fly tying kit for \$150. "We also sell a kid's tackle box, spinning rod, and reel for only \$59.95. This equipment is not something you find in big box stores, but it very good quality."

MacMillan said his shop also offers customized fleece products, shirts, vests and the like, for around \$50. "We also have guided fishing tours people can give as gifts to the person who loves to fish and lessons for between \$250 and \$500. A lot of people have been giving gift certificates because they aren't sure exactly what the person they are giving to likes."

MacMillan said people in the Tri-corner area started shopping early this year, "probably because they are afraid they won't be able to get the items they want with the year we have had with COVID-19 and the supply chain."

**You can't go wrong with apparel**

Sticking with the outdoor theme, Gregor McCluskey's Braeval shop in Litchfield, CT, features a wide array of fine apparel. The Braeval Paddock shirt (\$215) has two flat sewn yet expandable pleated pockets and elbow patches for durability. "Each shirt features long tails, keeping the shirt tucked in while fly fishing, shooting, or saddling up a horse," said McCluskey.

And the Gunninson Over Shirt, again for \$215, is designed to be worn as a jacshirt and functions as a layering piece over the company's Tiera fabric shirts, providing the benefits of the self-regulating fabric along with protection with Braeval's Brush Cutter Canvas or Woodland Woolens.

**Perhaps an E-bike?**

If money is no object, E-bikes, which can run between a few thousand bucks to \$16,000 or more, have become the rage and will help get your loved ones outside. Traditional bicycles will be in the same price range.

Those buying E-bikes ("E" is for electric) tend to be Baby Boomers that have had some bicycling experience in the past, and because topography challenges of where



they live or health conditions forced them to believe they couldn't ride anymore.

Jay Elling at Berkshire Bike and Board in Great Barrington, MA, said E-bikes, "have revolutionized cycling in our area," i.e. Dutchess, Berkshire, and Litchfield counties in the three-state region. The store has sold a number of E-bikes, costing anywhere from \$2,500 to \$3,500 apiece, this year alone. There are basically three things that drive the price of the bike; the first is the motor, the second is the battery, and the third is the bicycle itself, the frame, materials used and components that go into the bike.

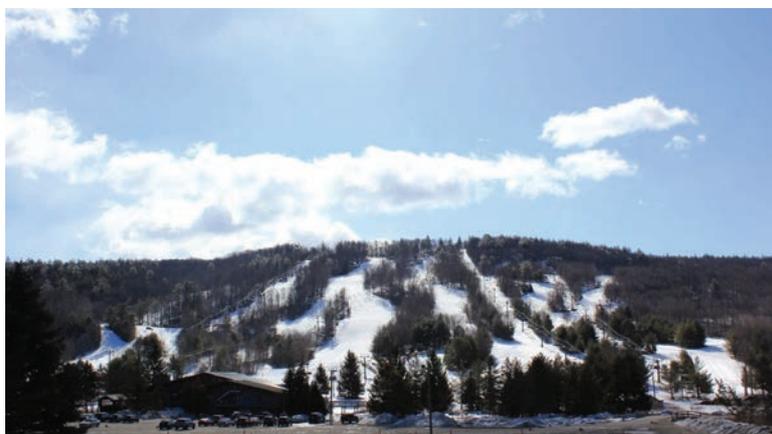
A lower-end E-bike will generate about 400 watt hours, while one on the higher end of the price range will generate about 700 watt hours, giving riders between 50 to 60 miles of use from the motor. And if the motor quits, you can still peddle your way back home – something you can't do with a motor vehicle.

Sports and technology are synonymous. There are many sports-themed video games for the kids, and if your loved one is in the car a lot, and who isn't, Sirius XM radio and its sports packages are a way to block out the noise and blow away the time while sitting in traffic or taking a long trip.

Christmas is a special time for kids and adults that think like kids. Sports gifts can make anyone feel young on that magical morning. ●



Top to bottom: You can't ever go wrong with tennis balls for the tennis player in your family. Bob Ensign, owner of Covered Bridge Electric Bike Rental, shows off an E-bike. Below, left: Mohawk Mountain offers plenty of gift options for the skiers and snowboarders in the family.



# Happy Holidays!

Love, Millerton ♡



## In Millerton you can eat, drink, shop, & be entertained!

*Come to Millerton: we have it all! Visit one of these businesses to shop to your heart's content, be entertained for hours, dine and drink!*

*By shopping locally you support not only the local economy but specifically you support the local businesses that provide our services, feed our stomachs, quench our thirsts, entertain us, clothe us, and are the fabric of the communities that we live in.*

*Millerton's businesses welcome you!*

### **Eat & Drink**

52 MAIN  
52main.com  
AVOCADO CAFE  
theavocado.cafe  
FOUR BROTHERS  
fourbrotherspizzainn.com  
GOLDEN WOK  
goldenwokmillerton.com  
HARNEY & SONS TEA  
harney.com  
IRVING FARM  
COFFEE HOUSE  
irvingfarm.com  
MANNA DEW  
518-789-3570  
MILLERTON WINE & LIQUOR  
518-789-3899  
OAKHURST DINER  
518-592-1313  
ROCK STEADY FARM  
rocksteadyfarm.com  
ROOKIE FARM BAKERY  
rookiefarmbakery.com  
ROUNDTUIT  
518-789-9616  
TALK OF THE TOWNE  
518-789-8255  
TARO'S PIZZERIA  
518-789-6630  
TROTTA'S LIQUORS  
518-789-3535

### **Entertainment**

THE MOVIEHOUSE  
themoviehouse.net  
KID'S TIME  
518-789-9643

### **Shopping**

AGWAY  
awayny.com  
BASIL AUTO SALES  
518-789-4088  
BCB STUDIO  
South Center Street  
BRICKBLOCK AUTO PARTS  
brickblockautoparts.com  
CHARLOTTE TAYLOR  
518-592-1800  
COTTAGE + CAMP  
cottagecamp.net  
COUNTRY GARDENERS  
FLORIST  
countrygardenersflorist.com  
DAISI HILL FARM  
518-789-3393  
DAVE'S TV  
davestv.net  
ED HERRINGTON'S INC.  
herringtons.com  
ELIZABETH'S FINE JEWELRY  
elizabethsjewelry.com  
FAWN SHOPPE  
fawnshoppe.com  
GEARY  
geary.nyc  
GILDED MOON FRAMING  
gmframing.com  
HUNTER BEE  
hunterbee.com  
KAMILLA'S FLORAL  
BOUTIQUE  
kamillas.com  
KAREN LE SAGE ART  
karenlesage.com  
McENROE'S  
mcenroeorganicfarm.org  
MERWIN FARM & HOME  
518-567-6737  
MILLERTON ANTIQUES  
CENTER  
518-789-6004  
MILLERTON FARMER'S  
MARKET  
millertonfarmersmarket.org  
MILLERTON'S NAPA  
AUTO & TRUCK SUPPLY  
napaonline.com  
MONTAGE ANTIQUES  
860-485-3887  
NORTH EAST FORD  
northeastfordmillerton.com  
NORTH ELM HOME  
northehelmhome.com  
OBLONG BOOKS & MUSIC  
oblongbooks.com  
OLD MILL OF IRONDALE  
518-789-2022  
T-SHIRT FARM  
tshirtfarmny.com  
THE DIG  
thedigionmain.com  
WESTERLIND  
westerlindoutdoor.com

### **Services & much more**

4 SEASONS POOL SERVICE  
518-789-0591  
AA+D ARCHITECTURE  
alleedesign.com  
ARNOFF  
arnoff.com  
ASSOCIATED  
LIGHTNING ROD  
alrci.com  
BASIL AUTO SALES  
518-789-4088  
BATTLEHILL FORGE

battlehillforge.com  
BUDDHI TRIBE  
buddhitribe.com  
CROWN ENERGY CORP.  
crownenergycorp.com  
DANCEWORKS  
danceworksmillerton.com  
DAVIS & TROTTA LAW  
davisandtrotta.com  
DEXBURY & HERMANS  
INSURANCE  
518-789-3633  
DOMENICK LOPANE JR.  
LANDSCAPING  
845-518-0632  
DOWNEY, HAAB &  
MURPHY PLLC.  
518-789-4442  
DUTCHESS COUNTRY  
REALTY, INC.  
dutchesscountry.com  
ECO BUILDERS  
845-233-0928  
ELYSE HARNEY  
REAL ESTATE  
harneyre.com  
FAMILY FITNESS FACTORY  
518-592-1229  
FLOODS SANITATION  
518-789-4678  
HAIR MODERN  
hairmodernllc.com  
HYLTON HUNDT SALON  
hyltonhundtsalon.com  
H&R BLOCK  
hrblock.com  
IRONDALE SCHOOLHOUSE  
irondaleschoolhouse.org  
KENT GLASS  
kentglass.net

KIKI'S NAIL SALON  
518-592-1129  
LEDGEWOOD KENNELS  
ledgewoodkennel.com  
LESLIE HOSS FLOOD  
INTERIORS, INC.  
lestlifloodinteriors.com  
LITTLE RED BIRD STUDIO  
littleredbirdstudio.weebly.com  
LOPANE & CO.  
lopanecpas.com  
MAIN STREET MAGAZINE  
mainstreetmag.com  
MANE STREET SALON  
518-789-3484  
MASHA'S FITNESS STUDIO  
mashasfitnessstudio.com  
MILLERTON SERVICE  
CENTER  
518-789-3462  
MILLERTON VETERINARY  
millertonvet.com  
MOORE & MORE PRINTING  
518-789-4508  
NECC  
neccmillerton.org  
NEW AMORE NAIL SPA  
518-592-1133  
NEW ENGLAND DRY  
CLEANERS  
518-789-4684  
NORTHEAST MILLERTON  
LIBRARY  
nemillertonlibrary.org  
NORTHEAST MUFFLER  
518-789-3669  
NORTHWEST LAWN  
& LANDSCAPE  
518-789-0672

OVERMOUNTAIN BUILDERS  
overmountainbuilders.com  
PRECISION AUTO STORAGE  
precisionautostorage.com  
PRUTTING + CO CUSTOM  
BUILDERS  
prutting.com  
SALISBURY BANK &  
TRUST CO.  
salisburybank.com  
SALON K HAIR SALON  
518-789-4754  
SCOTT D. CONKLIN  
FUNERAL HOME  
conklinfuneralhome.com  
SEAGULL ROOFING  
518-789-3342  
STEED HOME RESTORATION  
steedhomerestoration.com  
STEED REAL ESTATE  
steedrealestate.com  
TAYLOR OIL INC.  
gmtayloroil.com  
THE HAIR LOUNGE  
518-592-1167  
THE MILLERTON INN  
themillertoninn.com  
THE MILLERTON NEWS  
tricornernews.com  
THE MOTORWORKS  
themotorworks.biz  
THE MUSIC CELLAR  
music-cellar.com  
THORUNN DESIGNS  
thorundesigns.com  
VALENTINE MONUMENT  
WORKS & SANDBLAST  
518-789-9497  
WATSON LIVRY  
845-464-8178

Three Dimensional Coloring  
Soy-Based Color  
All phases of hair care

# Shear Illusions Salon LLC

Rebecca Welsh – proprietor  
860 364 5111  
Visit us at our NEW location:  
19 West Main Street  
Sharon, CT 06069

tristate antique restoration

SPECIALIZING IN ANTIQUE FURNITURE RESTORATION

CONALL HALDANE | proprietor  
191 wilsie bridge road | ancrandale, ny 12503  
518 329 0411 | www.tristateantiquerestoration.com

# Native Habitat Restoration

Returning Balance to Nature

Invasive Plant Control • Field Clearing  
Pollinator Habitats • Forestry Mowing  
Wetland Restoration

(413) 358-7400  
nativehabitatrestoration@gmail.com  
NativeHabitatRestoration.weebly.com

Licensed in MA, CT, NY, VT – Over 40 Years of Experience

SalisburyArtisans.com

860-435-0344 salart@snet.net

# YOGA

with director & founder of Yoga at Space  
**SARAH GETZ**

ONLINE & ON DEMAND • YOGAATSPACE.COM

# RONSANI BROTHERS PAVING

- Residential & Commercial Paving
- Specializing in Home Driveways, Private Roadways, Parking Lots
- Stone, as well as Oil & Stone finishes
- Fully insured

(518) 429-1797  
ronsanibrotherspaving.com

# The gift of place

## *Dewey Memorial Hall, Sheffield, MA*

By CB Wismar  
info@mainstreetmag.com

It was a gift, created out of love, respect and the spirit of the community. After 133 years, the gift endures and continues to honor the man whose name it bears – Orville Dewey.

Dewey Memorial Hall in Sheffield, MA, is no common effort at celebrating the life of a stalwart community resident. It is not a statue tucked on a corner, attracting flocks of pigeons that would decorate it. It is not a fading sign near a minor bridge or a dedicated mile or two of highway.

The Hall is an impressive presence in a quaint New England town ... an anchor for the civic life of a community that has changed dramatically since Orville Dewey bookended his life in this place. He left a young scholar and returned, many years later, as a recognized, celebrated and sometimes controversial preacher and social thought leader. He was always, however, a presence and his devotion to his hometown never seemed to waiver.

So widely was Dewey respected that it was openly acknowledged that Orville Wright, co-creator with his brother Wilbur of the first successful heavier than air flying machines was named for Orville Dewey.

### Endurance

Dewey Memorial Hall recognizes the impact Dewey's life had on the community and continues to be a place where the people of Sheffield can gather for listening, learning, dancing, laughing, celebrating, and sharing. Although the raging pandemic of 2020 may have kept its doors closed, temporarily, the prospect of an end to quarantine and

isolation will find Dewey Memorial Hall still standing, still welcoming the community that was the recipient of the gift.

Dewey Memorial Hall was never intended to be anything other than a place where the community could assemble and share. The original thinking, which Dewey had started as he returned to Sheffield from a career that had taken him from three years at Williams College (he was so well prepared that he skipped his freshman year) to Boston, New York ... to Washington, across Europe then back home to Sheffield, was to create a welcoming space where ideas could be shared.

### "Good and kindly feelings ..."

Central to his thinking had been a voracious appetite for reading, so the first gatherings above the general store were named the Sheffield Friendly Union and the effort began to accumulate a library and provide that magical element of community – a central place to gather. In the words of the organizing group in 1871, the Friendly Union was formed "to increase good and kindly feelings and promote intelligence and cheerfulness."

It was not to be a church that could, by the very nature of dogma and belief, divide a community. Dewey experienced that kind of dramatic division in his own life. Best known as a leader of Unitarianism, his departure from stricter Calvinistic theology had him banned from his own home church in Sheffield until 1876 when the National Centennial afforded him a chance to return. He was 82 years old. The Friendly Union would not be competitive to the Grange with its focus on the agricultural life of the community. The Friendly Union would be just that – welcoming and bonding for a community.



### The continuum of history

The importance of a community place, of finding a location to share common experiences is as old as humanity, itself. Archaeologists have combed and sifted through hundreds of locations where gatherings were held, where religious rites were conducted, where laws were passed, leaders selected, and culture sustained. The common space in the most primitive communities hosted athletic, artistic, spiritual and political life experiences.

Rings of weathered stones in Portugal still bear witness to the Almendres Cremlich dating from

Above: The interior of Dewey Hall, which is well-suited for many types of events. Images courtesy of Dewey Hall.

Continued on next page ...



Above: An art exhibit (pre-Covid) at Dewey Hall. Below, right: The fieldstone, marble, and shingle building is both unique in its looks as it is important to the community. Images courtesy of Dewey Hall.

6000 BCE. Villages in ancient Greece were built around the agora, a place of meeting, political and eventually commercial life. The Agora of Athens has become iconic as the wellspring of philosophy after hosting Socrates, Plato and their followers. The still mysterious generation and use of Stonehenge on the plains outside of Salisbury, England looks back to 3000 BCE to see the dedication and determination of people to come together. From 930 to 1798 AD the people of Iceland would gather every year for their national parliament, Alþingi, at Þingvellir to maintain a sense of order and common good. It was their “place.”

Closer to home, the creation of Faneuil Hall in Boston was prompted by the need for a place that could both foster commerce and conversation ... a space where the community could gather to transact its daily business and to share ideas.

**What \$10,000 could buy**

When Orville Dewey died in 1882, seven days short of his 88th birthday, the community experienced a significant loss – a loss that motivated his children, supported by long-time friends and associates, to decide that the best way to com-

memorate his legacy was to give the community the space he had always wanted it to have.

Raising money from across the region, the fund grew along with the plans. Five years after Dewey’s death, Dewey Memorial Hall opened its doors to the people of Sheffield. Inside the fieldstone, marble, and shingle building was a room to hold the all-important library that had been so important to the community organization. And, there was a central space with amazing acoustics that would welcome lectures and debates, concerts and, eventually dances ... weddings, parties, anniversary celebrations, the longtime home of the Sheffield Senior Center, and, each holiday season, a party hosted by Volunteers in Medicine to honor their volunteers. Musicians who have graced the stage at Dewey Memorial Hall over the years have noted that significant amplification is not needed. The design and construction of the main room is so well done that sound travels easily in the space.

There were art installations and concerts promoted by local arts groups from string quartets to swing band concerts. The Hall has been available to all for their use and enjoyment. And, there has been dancing. The contra dances at Dewey have become legendary. Groups from all of the Northeast have been attracted to the traditional dances in the Hall.

**The gift that will keep on giving**

When the COVID-19 pandemic made large gatherings impossible, the normally vibrant – even hectic – cultural season in the region came to an abrupt halt. Concerts and programs scheduled for Dewey Memorial Hall were swept away in the same tidal wave that sent every cultural group scurrying to find “virtual venues” to sustain connections with their audiences. With social distancing strictly adhered to and the “abundance of caution” that seems to be the defining moment for every effort to present theater and concerts, Dewey Memorial Hall manager, Maggie McRae and Board of Trustees member Beth Carlson came up with a series of outdoor events to keep the community both entertained and engaged.

With sustaining funding always an issue for performing arts venues, an online fund raising concert was presented on October 29 featuring local musical powerhouse, Wanda Houston and her talented band. The concert, entitled *Keep the Lights On* honored long-time board member Priscilla Cote, was streamed and made available through the Hall’s website. Presented without cost, donations were requested with the hope, the belief that the community would respond and provide on-going support for the gift that has been a continuous presence in Sheffield for nearly 134 years ... for “this place.” •

*Continuing information about Dewey Memorial Hall is available on their website [www.deweyhall.org](http://www.deweyhall.org).*



PLANTING & TRANSPLANTING • HARDSCAPING & MASONRY  
 LAWN CARE & SEASONAL MAINTENANCE • EXCAVATION  
 DRAINAGE INSTALL & REPAIR • FENCE INSTALLATION  
 GARDEN BED INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE  
 LANDSCAPING DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
 WINTER SERVICES

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!



(860) 364-0142

SHARON, CONNECTICUT • ABLANDSCAPINGONLINE.COM

@A.B.LANDSCAPING



# Get rewarded this holiday season!



Community Banking at its Best

Use your Bank of Greene County Visa® debit card for all your purchases and earn points!

Stop by any branch or visit us online at [www.tbogc.com](http://www.tbogc.com) to find out how!

[www.tbogc.com](http://www.tbogc.com) • 518.943.2600



# WOOD STOVE GALLERY

A DIVISION OF  
MONTEREY  
MASONRY

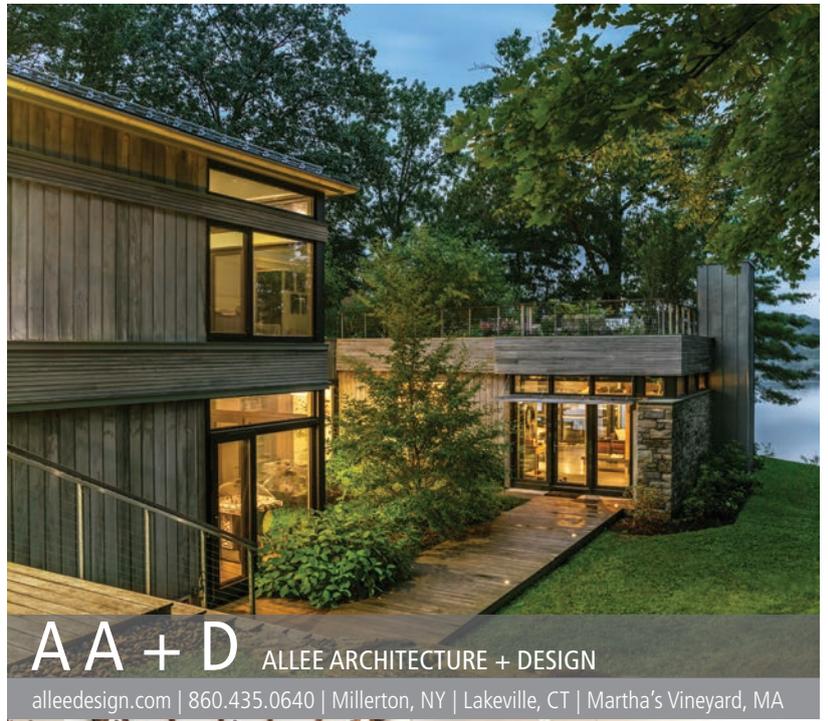
FINE EUROPEAN WOOD STOVES



OPEN 8AM - 4PM WEEKDAYS • WEEKENDS BY APPOINTMENT

(413) 528-3300

789 S. MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA  
WWW.WOODSTOVEGALLERY.COM



AA + D ALLEE ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

alleedesign.com | 860.435.0640 | Millerton, NY | Lakeville, CT | Martha's Vineyard, MA



**DRIVE SAFELY THIS  
HOLIDAY SEASON  
& WINTER!**



**Factory Lane Auto Repair**

(518) 398-5360 | 3 Factory Lane | Pine Plains, NY

# MONTAGE ANTIQUES



**WISHING PLENTY FOR ALL  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

25 MAIN STREET MILLERTON, NY | 860-485-3887  
WWW.MONTAGEANTIQUES.COM | @MONTAGEANTIQUES



# My tacky tree of gratitude

By Dominique DeVito  
info@mainstreetmag.com

I confess right off that I am not much of a Christmas person. Unlike those who can't wait to hear Christmas music on the radio and see decorations in the stores, I tend to bah-humbug my way through most of December, coming around a little by, maybe, the 20th or so. For me, the blatant consumerism is a turn-off, and the pressure to come up with gifts for "everyone on your list" is excessive if not debilitating.

Hey, I'm being honest.

On the other hand, I'm a fan of the Advent season. I like its message of reflection in anticipation of Christmas, the birth of Christ. I like gathering greens to make a wreath. I like lighting candles any day, but the tall purple and pink Advent candles that count down the last four weeks of the liturgical year are especially reverential, as they represent hope, faith, joy, and peace on the path to the birth of a savior. And every year the celebratory "thing" I look forward to most is a simple paper Advent calendar. The kind with the perforated squares that you carefully tweak open to reveal a drawing in keeping with the theme of the calendar, be it Christian or secular. The calendar

provides a way to find a daily simple pleasure as December unfolds.

I was having a particularly rough time with the Christmas season a few years ago, even with a lovely Advent calendar at the ready. Money was tight, time was tight, my nerves were shot, I couldn't seem to get warm, I was tired all the time. I just couldn't capture any of that joy that seemed to be so available for everyone else. I felt strangled by expectations that seemed completely overwhelming.

## The tacky Christmas tree

One afternoon, I was shopping for a sweater at the Salvation Army, which in its own way was decorated for Christmas, with lots of holiday chatchkes and trimmings. There on a shelf was something reminiscent of Charlie Brown's little Christmas tree that everyone laughed at because it seemed so sad at first. What I saw was a wire "tree" that was just a few feet tall, with 27 "branches" that could be bent up or down, and that were all teal-colored tinsel.

This "tree" was unlike anything my family had – or might ever – welcome into our home, because it was, well, tacky. Its base was a simple wooden block. There was nothing particularly magical about it. Maybe at one time it had been part of a Christmas-themed land-

scape – who knows. But as soon as I saw it, I knew I had to have it.

The first thing I liked about it was that it made me smile. It was so different from any kind of Christmas tree I'd ever had before that it was refreshing. It didn't ask me to meet any prior expectation about how or when it would be decorated "just so." In fact, it was so small that, unlike the way the Peanuts gang transformed Charlie Brown's tree into one that was as loaded and magical as a tree could be, there was no way that lights or balls or garland or anything was going to give this bundle of hard wires a makeover worthy of a window display. So what was I going to do with it?

## "I'm grateful for..."

I had a packet of paper stars that I had bought when my kids were in grade school that were supposed to be rewards for completing assignments, but things hadn't gone that way, and there they were in the drawer. They were primary colors suitable for grade school: yellow, red, blue, green, orange, purple.

Continued on next page ...

And it came to me: every day, I will write on a star something I'm grateful for, and I'll make the star into an ornament by punching a hole at the top and tying a ribbon through it, then hanging it on my tacky tree. And that's what I did. Reflecting on things I was grateful for helped remind me of the many blessings in my life.

I realized I was grateful for big things – family and people I loved (so many!!), my health, the work that provided income, my cats – and also little things like warm socks, dark chocolate, or a fire in the fireplace.

The challenge was not at all in coming up with something every day, but in deciding which of the many choices would make it on to a star that day.

**More than just a tree...**

My Tacky Tree of Gratitude became a Christmas centerpiece for me. It grounded me and lifted me. It kept me thinking all day what I would choose to put on a star that night. As it filled, I read and re-read the stars and was grateful for all of it all over again. By Christmas I was

not only so full of thanks, but also in a habit of being grateful. I left the stars on the tree until New Year's, when I took them down and didn't save them, but said goodbye and thank you to all of them, then burned them in the fire in another kind of ceremony.

Now there isn't a Christmas season I go into without shaking the dust off my teal-tinseled tacky tree, whose branches I bend into place as I open my own heart to the blessings that will come even at this high-pressured, over-extended time of year. I have an Advent calendar, too, and I try to make arrangements of fresh greens and remember to light the Advent candles.

This December marks the last in what will be a ten-month stretch of months dominated by the worries of the pandemic. Thanksgiving gatherings cancelled. Christmas caroling; town celebrations; visits from Santa; company parties; year-end travel plans; and so much more of what was once a normal part of celebrating this most special time of year – cancelled.

We all need a Tacky Tree of Gratitude to help lift our spirits. Or



a countdown calendar of some kind with uplifting messages for yourself, your kids, your friends, your coworkers, your pets, anyone, that can be shared virtually. There are lots of ways to make these yourself. A simple Google search will reveal dozens of “advent” calendars that yield treats ranging from pictures to inspirational sayings to treats, toys, favors, charitable acts – you name it. Gather yourself or gather friends over Zoom to share ideas and create personalized projects.

**Goodbye 2020**

There's a lot to be upset about this year, and you may feel like crawling into bed and waiting for 2021, saying the Grinchiest “Bah Humbug” to 2020 that you can muster. There's room for that, too. Take it from someone who sneered for years, even in the worst of times there are things we can find to be grateful for, things that are simple and close to home – and possibly totally tacky!

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. ●



Directly above: istockphoto.com contributor Valery Yurasov. Above, top: istockphoto.com contributor avean

# KOHLER®

IN POWER. SINCE 1920.



**WHENEVER THERE'S AN OUTAGE, YOUR KOHLER® GENERATOR KEEPS YOUR LIGHTS ON, YOUR FRIDGE COLD AND YOUR HOUSE COZY.**

**OnCue** \* Monitoring Software – Get alerts and manage your generator from anywhere through computer or smart phone application

**Generator Sales • Service • Installation • We service all brands of generators**

**Contractors please call for special trade pricing**

**Call for a free estimate today... (518) 398-0810**

40 Myrtle Avenue, Pine Plains, NY  
bcigenerator@gmail.com • bcigenerator.com

**KOHLER®**  
IN POWER. SINCE 1920.

Authorized Dealer

**BCI**  
**GENERATOR**  
— SALES & SERVICE —

**Ronnybrook  
Egg Nog.  
It's that good.**



FRESH • ALL NATURAL • MADE ON OUR FARM  
**518.398.6455**  
www.ronnybrook.com



# Lindell Fuels, Inc.

Fuel Oil • Propane • Heating  
Air Conditioning

CT Registration # HOD.0000095  
CT License # HTG.0690604-S1 | CT License # PLM.0281220-P1



P.O. Box 609 | 59 Church Street  
Canaan, CT 06018  
860 824 5444  
860 824 7829 fax

## QUATTRO'S POULTRY FARM & MARKET

**Our own farm-raised**  
chickens • pheasants • ducks • geese • venison • capon  
*Order your Christmas Goose!*

**Visit our Custom Butcher Shop  
for Fine Quality Meats**

A UNIQUE SHOP FOR CUSTOM-CUT PRIME MEATS

Steaks • Chops • Leg of Lamb • Crown Roasts • Prime Rib  
Fresh or Smoked Hams

Our own Smokehouse Specialty Meats & Sausages

ITALIAN SPECIALTIES:

Cheeses, Pastas, Olive Oil, Vinagars

Also LOCAL Breads, Vegetables, Honey, Jams, Grains & More!



**VISIT OUR FARM STORE**  
RT. 44, PLEASANT VALLEY NY 12569  
(845) 635-2018



## Millerton Service Center

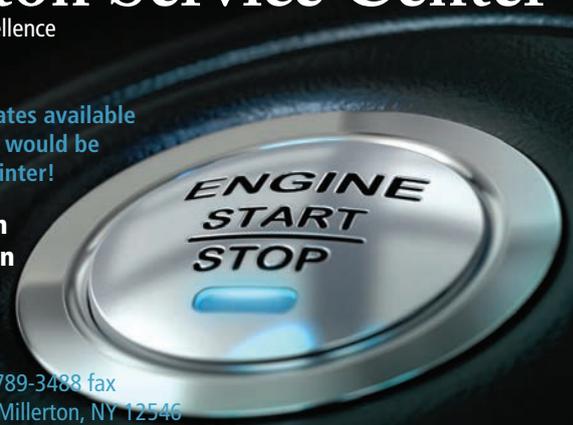
ASE Blue Seal of Excellence

Holiday gift certificates available  
Remote car starters would be  
the ideal gift this winter!

**Michael D. Lyman  
& Adam M. Lyman**

Repairs & Service  
Used Car Sales

518-789-3462 • 518-789-3488 fax  
52 South Center St. • Millerton, NY 12546



## LAKEVILLE INTERIORS



DESIGN CENTER

CUSTOM WORKSHOP

UNIQUE GIFTS & HOLIDAY DECOR

7 HOLLEY ST. LAKEVILLE, CT 06039  
860.435.9397 LAKEVILLEINTERIORS.COM

### ROOFING & SIDING SPECIALISTS

*New Construction and Repairs*

Roofs: Asphalt | Cedar | Slate | Metal

Siding: Wood | Masonry | Metal | Fiber Cement

Chimney Repair | Seamless Gutters

Pressure Washing | Painting

### FULL-SERVICE CONSTRUCTION

Classically Designed New Houses

Authentic Restoration Of Period Houses

Additions | Renovations | Woodworking | Cabinetry

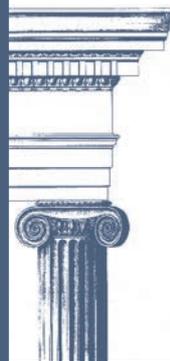
### FINE STONEMWORK & MASONRY

*From Design to Construction*

Stone Walls | Pools, Hot Tubs & Spas

Terraces, Patios, Walkways & Steps

Fireplaces, Firepits & BBQs | Chimneys | Kitchen & Bath



## SILVER MOUNTAIN BUILDERS

KEVIN M. ROONEY

T | 845-518-3504

E | kevin@silvermountainbuilders.com

[www.SilverMountainBuilders.com](http://www.SilverMountainBuilders.com)

*The full-service general contracting company  
serving the NY-CT-MA area for over 35 years.*

# Home-grown magic: *Great Mountain Forest's Witch Hazel*

By Mary B. O'Neill, Ph.D.  
info@mainstreetmag.com

No disrespect to mountain laurel as the Connecticut State shrub, but perhaps it's time to pass the torch to the humble, medicinal, and magical witch hazel.

This wonder shrub finds a suitable home in the woodlands of the north-east part of the country. While mostly present on the eastern side of Connecticut, you can find a healthy dose of it in the woods of Great Mountain Forest (GMF), whose over 6,200 acres straddle Falls Village and Norfolk.

## How to spot a witch hazel

Flanking the Chatteleton Road, on the western side of the forest, grows GMF witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), one of its more storied forest products. You can identify the witch hazel shrub by its grey meandering branches and the surprising and stunning autumn bloom of its yellow tendrilled flowers – think of forsythia on a bad hair day.

These flowers and the shrub's seed pods appear after the leaves have fallen, making witch hazel all the more mysterious and dramatic. The seeds lie on the forest floor maturing and biding their time, and then, due to their two-seed pod, they spring from their dried casing and travel upwards of 20 feet. This distance from the mother shrub enhances their ability to survive and thrive.

## Indigenous plant for indigenous peoples

Witch hazel is known for its medicinal qualities that Native peoples harnessed

for their use. These included easing sore muscles, treating wounds, and brewing a medicinal tea. The shrub contains flavonoids and tannins that are astringent and help stop bleeding.

Its name has less to do with black magic than its branches' flexibility. The word "witch" derives its meaning from Middle English for *wych* or *wyche*, meaning pliant or flexible. It is thought that Mohegans showed English settlers how to use its Y-shaped branches for "dowsing," which is the ability to find water underground, also called water witching.

## Harvesting witch hazel at GMF

Since 2002, GMF has harvested its annually certified organic witch hazel. The harvesting process begins in late autumn and early winter after the leaves have fallen. GMF contracts with second-generation witch hazel harvester Eugene Buyak to chop the shrub the old fashioned way – with an ax.

Buyak then hauls the branches from the forest in his adapted doodlebug vehicle. As the doodlebug drags a load of witch hazel out of the woods, it spreads the newly fallen acorns. This acorn dispersal aids in the regeneration of oak trees in the area.

Rotating around the prolific witch hazel stands, which need a minimum of ten years to regrow, Buyak harvests over a hundred tons of witch hazel each season. He chips the branches and stems in a specialized chipper and sells them to American Distilling, owner of Dickinson Brands.



Above: Witch hazel's autumn flower. Below, left: One ton of newly-harvested witch hazel ready to be doodlebugged. Photos by Jody Bronson, GMF Forest Manager.

## American Distilling

American Distilling's T.N. Dickinson's and Dickinson's Original labels have been familiar sights in medicine cabinets since the late 1800s. According to its website, American Distilling is the world's largest witch hazel supplier in the world. Not only do they distill it, but they also perform research into the plant's properties and benefits and have an in-house team of botanical extraction and application scientists.

## Three times is a charm

The cornerstone of American Distilling's process for turning the chipped stems of witch hazel into the clear astringent liquid is triple filtration. The plant extracts first enter a filtration process that analyzes it for clarity, color, odor, pH, alcohol percentage, and microbial contamination. The second filtration further tests the product for integrity and safety. It is filtered one more time before being transferred to a storage container for shipping.

## Global reach of a local product

The spindly branches of GMF's witch hazel shrub have a global reach. The distilled extracts from the shrub cuttings sourced from the forest are a key ingredient in products that beautify consumers worldwide. It works magic in soothing irritations and inflammation from your top to well, literally, your bottom.

Next time you reach for a cotton ball and a bottle of witch hazel, you can clarify your skin and conscience with this homegrown, organic, and sustainably-produced liquid magic. ●

*For information about Great Mountain Forest, visit [www.greatmountainforest.org](http://www.greatmountainforest.org). To learn more about witch hazel, go to [www.americandistilling.com](http://www.americandistilling.com). This article was adapted from the November Great Mountain Forest newsletter. The author is the GMF director of communications as well as a regular contributing writer for Main Street Magazine.*



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CRANE'S FAMILY!**

sales – service – parts  
 Sales: Rich Crane, richie@cranesope.com  
 Service: Todd MacNeil, todd@cranesope.com  
 Wendy – Evan – Dave – Bob

**860-824-7276 Fax 860-824-7759**  
 337 Ashley Falls Rd (Route 7)  
 Canaan Ct 06018  
**WWW.CRANESOPE.COM**



Outdoor Power Equipment

**W.B. CASE**  
 PLUMBING HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
 LLC.

15 years in business • Oil, Propane, Solar Thermal, Geothermal and Biomass heating systems • HVAC system design and installation • HS Tarm and Froling wood boiler dealer and installer • New construction, renovations and service of all Heating, Air Conditioning, Plumbing systems and well services

Williston B. Case III, Owner

**SHARON, CT 860 364-2169**  
 Fully Insured / License # P1 0280455 SI 0390683 STC 0000179 HIC 0634668

Prevention, wellness  
 and healing in partnership  
 with caregivers



*Happy Paw-lidays!*



**Millerton Veterinary Practice**

CAROLYN CANNON, DVM

**Integrative medicine & surgery | Therapeutic Laser  
 Acupuncture | Chiropractic**

518-789-3440 | millertonvet.com | MVPonlineRX.com

**TIME TO GET BUBBLY**

**ONLY AT THE SHARON PACKAGE STORE**

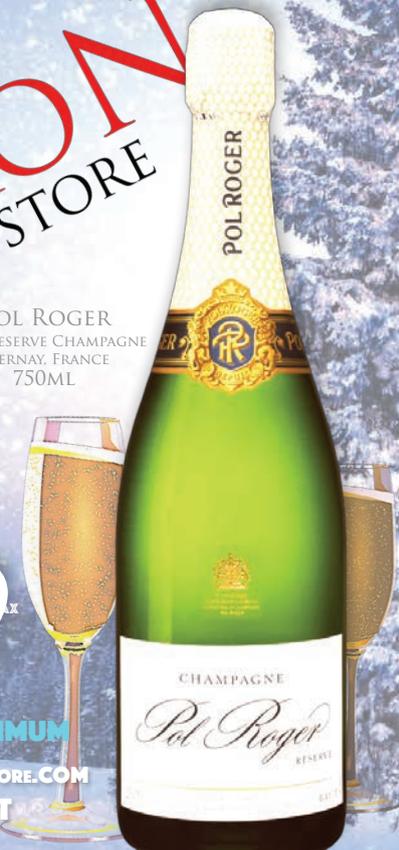
POL ROGER  
 BRUT RESERVE CHAMPAGNE  
 EPERNAY, FRANCE  
 750ML

~~\$65.99~~  
 CT BEVERAGE MEDIA GROUP  
 SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

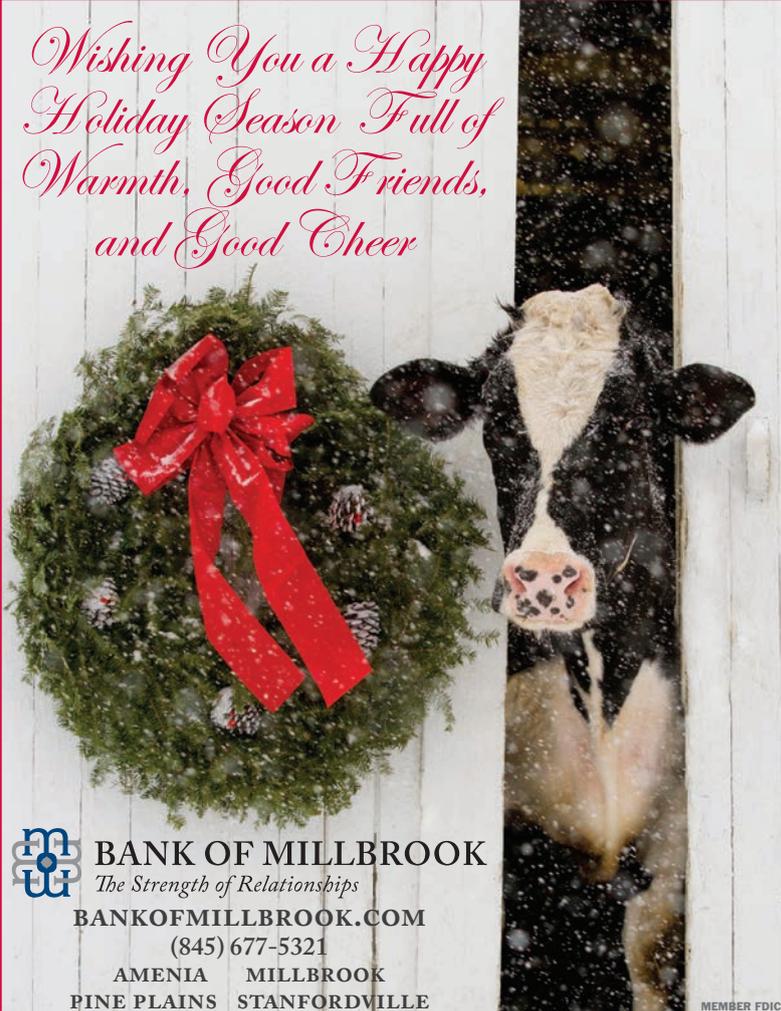
**\$43.99**

**NOV-DEC ONLY!!!**  
**10% BELOW STATE MINIMUM**

**WWW.THESHARONPACKAGESTORE.COM**  
**1 GAY ST. SHARON, CT**  
**(860) 364 - 5760**



*Wishing You a Happy  
 Holiday Season Full of  
 Warmth, Good Friends,  
 and Good Cheer*



**BANK OF MILLBROOK**  
*The Strength of Relationships*  
**BANKOFMILLBROOK.COM**  
 (845) 677-5321  
 AMENIA | MILLBROOK  
 PINE PLAINS | STANFORDVILLE

MEMBER FDIC



### Keren Weiner Genealogy

Family history research projects. 155 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA. (413) 499-9980. [kerenweinergenealogy.com](http://kerenweinergenealogy.com)

For Keren Weiner, the profession runs in her family. “My mother had a keen interest in our family history and maintained contact with distant cousins and my sister is a genealogist of world renown,” she says. “I gifted a friend with a genealogy project on her family sixteen years ago and was immediately transformed by the experience.” Keren’s work consists of research in archives, document gathering, interviews with family members, location visits when possible, collection of photographs, entering data into a software program, and creation of family trees – all toward writing the family history in a report complete with images, maps, and photos – followed by presentation of the research to clients and their families. “Clients reach out to me from all over the US. Following their roots led me to archives in twenty-five American states, as well as in many other countries,” Keren says. “Most of us think of genealogy in terms of names and dates in boxes on the tree. But each of our ancestors lived a life filled with interesting stories. I take the extra time to try to find these stories for my clients whenever possible so that they can almost time travel.” Keren says she finds pleasure in finding people or the documents that are hard to find, seeing the delight when clients receive the results of the research, the camaraderie among genealogists and people who work in historical and genealogical societies.



### Seekonk Tree Farm

Family-owned Christmas tree farm. 32 Seekonk Cross Rd., Great Barrington, MA. (413) 528-6002. [seekonktreefarm.com](http://seekonktreefarm.com)

Started in 1978 by Peter Sweet Sr. on a part-time basis, Seekonk Tree Farm is a second-generation Christmas Tree farm that sits in the beautiful Berkshires with scenic views, open pasture, crop land, and distant mountains. Peter spent his career as the industrial arts teacher at Searles Middle School in Great Barrington and after forty years, is still taking meticulous care of his trees. Seekonk Tree Farm is a full-service Christmas tree farm with thousands of fresh, healthy, beautifully shaped trees available for choose and cut, or pre-cut for safety and convenience. The folks at Seekonk will trim, shake, or drill the base of the tree if necessary and wrap it in twine for easy transport. Decades of family-friendly service and passionate dedication have made Seekonk an area favorite for healthy, happy trees. This year, Seekonk will also offer online ordering of its Christmas trees, wreaths, and more for safe contactless payment and pick up at the farm. The entire Sweet family says they have loved watching folks from all across our region continue their traditions and create new holiday memories. With the opening of their new farm stand, they are continuing to expand their offerings. Alongside their outstanding trees, Seekonk boasts berries, vegetables, gladiolas, honey, eggs, rough cut lumber, hand crafted items as well as wreaths, kissing balls, roping, brush bundles, centerpieces, grave blankets, and more.



### Millerton Wine & Spirits

Wine shop featuring a collection of both known yet mostly artisanal wines and spirits. 34 Main St., Millerton, NY. (518) 789-3899

Formerly Little Gates & Co. Wine Merchants and relaunched in November, Millerton Wine and Spirits in Millerton, NY, is the creation of a relationship that spans two plus decades of friendship. Owners Christopher Jeans and Paul Harney pride themselves on educating local wine lovers and selling fine wines and spirits as well as local cider. Millerton Wine & Spirits is now available to serve adult customers from all throughout the Tri-state area, and while the interior of the store is beautiful there is an abundance of great value to be found. This brand-new local business specializes in providing the very best offering of a product and its geographic area; emphasizing again, the value alternative. Jeans and Harney say that being classified as an essential business and providing comfort to their patrons during the past eight months is clearly the most rewarding part of what they do. The folks at Millerton Wine & Spirits are hoping to be part of a continuing economic development in the town of Millerton and its surrounding communities and hope that people will come in and meet them so that they can get to know what their interests are. Jeans and Harney say they are thrilled to be a part of this new and exciting endeavor and environment where there is still so much to learn and enlighten the client about the ever-evolving world of fine wine and spirits.



### Demitasse

A unique shop in Millerton, NY, offering a wide array of gifts. 32 Main St., Millerton, NY. [demitasseny.com](http://demitasseny.com)

Demitasse first opened its doors during the Phase 3 reopening in the Hudson Valley. In the following months, owners Hayden Geer and her husband, Richard, have been excited to provide a laid back environment in which to browse and enjoy discovering an eclectic array of gifts – from throw pillows and quilts to scented candles, puzzles, men’s shaving supplies, ceramics, dog accessories, sunglasses and reading glasses, and on and on... Demitasse also offers the opportunity to shop privately by appointment, online or by phone and they will deliver within 30 minutes of the store. Hayden and Richard, originally from Charleston, SC, say they enjoy being a bit irreverent and strive to keep items very affordable while looking forward to the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people – from buyers to neighbors, and of course customers. Hayden says she would like to stay in a small space and make the most of it, whereas their space is on the smaller side but very cute. “I don’t believe you have to be big to be successful,” she says. “My husband is my partner in this unexpected endeavor. He is responsible for the organic warmth the store offers. Yes, it’s true he built the swing bed out of pines from our place in SC.”

## INSURING YOUR WORLD

Health insurance renewals are upon us and will continue to renew through January of 2021. We are approaching open enrollment in not only the private insurance markets but also if you qualify for an Affordable Care Act policy. Generally speaking these policies are for folks that have a reported income of between \$25,000 and \$50,000/year and can be up to 100% funded by the State. For children, Child Health Plus is a great option to get you children covered for a small premium and is not necessarily income dependent, and children can be taken off family plans which can result in lower copays as well as much reduced monthly premiums for the parents. An average family plan can save around \$500/month by taking the kids off and placing their coverage through Child Health Plus, thereby reducing coverage from a Family Plan to a 2-Person plan. In times like we have today, these are easily made changes that will result in large yearly savings for a family. Speak to your employer about setting up an FSA (Flexible Spending Account), which allows you to fund deductibles as well as other expenses with pre-tax dollars. Look into changing your plan to a Bronze High deductible plan if you are healthy and set up an HSA (Health Savings Account), which is another way to pay your health expenses with pre-tax dollars. And lastly, ask your employer if they have looked into setting up a HRA (Health Reimbursement Account), which can reduce premiums for the employer as well as save the employee money. Now is the time to take a look at your options and make some smart moves to save money as well as improve your coverage!



Kirk Kneller  
Phone 518.329.3131  
1676 Route 7A, Copake, N.Y.

Kneller Insurance  
Agency

## Winter nutrition for Whitetails

Winter nutrition is very important for both deer as well as the individuals who hunt them. During colder months, there is less food for deer to eat and as a result they tend to become smaller. Deer cannot meet energy intake requirements during the winter because of digestive and anatomical limitations. To fully support a healthy whitetail deer population, adequate amounts of diverse food must be made available throughout the year, especially during the winter, when energy needs are at their highest.

A high protein diet is highly beneficial for male deer to produce big antlers that reflect their genetic potential. White-tailed deer have high-energy requirements during the winter so that they may keep warm, especially for fawns that require even more energy because they tend to have low body reserves. The energy provided by the foods not only help regulate body temperature, it also helps fight severe winter conditions. The two minerals that are the most essential to whitetails are calcium and phosphorus. Finally, whitetails need water every 24-48 hours to maintain health. Like for most animals water is a critical nutrient and these requirements are partially met by moisture within the vegetation they eat.

Winter can be a rough time for deer if they are not provided the right nutrition. Foods with high protein become less palatable and soft and hard mast foods and woody brows will become a primary source of nutrition in addition to agricultural crops and seasonal food plots. The bottom line is that to ensure a healthy white-tailed deer population, landowners need to understand not only how to provide nutrition for deer during the winter, but throughout the entire year with a diversity of forages full of protein, energy, and minerals.

Phone 518-789-4471  
Route 22 Millerton, NY  
www.agwayny.com



## Celebrate with a bottle of bubbly!

The Holidays are upon us and what better way to celebrate, or give someone a gift that is sure to please, than with a bottle of bubbly! You've most likely sipped both Champagne and sparkling wine and may have wondered what the difference is.

True Champagne comes from the Champagne region in the northeastern part of France. While all Champagne is sparkling wine, not all sparkling wine is Champagne. In order to be labeled Champagne, the wine must come from the Champagne region of France and adhere to a strict set of legal guidelines. The most common ones you will find in your local wine shop are dry. That would be Brut Nature, Extra Brut or Brut. If you like a sugary kiss to your bubbly, look for Extra Dry, Sec, Demi-Sec or Doux. Sparkling wine comes from just about everywhere wine is made.

While many are made in the same way as Champagne, others get their fizz from other less expensive and time-consuming methods. For example, Prosecco is produced using the Charmant method, a secondary fermentation in large tanks as opposed to in the bottle. This results in wines that are slightly less fizzy than those made with traditional methods.

So, Champagne or sparkling wine? What should you buy? It depends on what you prefer! For that special occasion you can't go wrong with a bottle of Champagne. But if you like to sip a flute of bubbles on the regular, sparkling wine is your go-to. Value wines like cava, cremant or prosecco are fantastic bases for cocktails or as a secret ingredient in dessert recipes.



(860) 435-1414  
19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
wine@salisburywines.com  
www.salisburywines.com

## HOSTING FOR THE HOLIDAYS DURING A PANDEMIC! MAKE SURE THE AIR IN YOUR HOME IS CLEAN!

With the Holidays and colder weather coming, we find ourselves spending more time indoors. Wherever you're eating this year, you want to make sure the air in the room is safe for the influx of people due to the Holidays. ASHRAE, The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, the standard setter for the industry, has set out Covid-19 guidelines on proper ventilation and air cleaning for indoor spaces.

First, making sure any air vents and filters are completely cleaned out is important for proper air flow and ventilation. Then figure out how many CFM (Cubic Feet per Minute) of airflow is the minimum required for your specific situation including the increased number of people there for the Holidays. ASHRAE states that in a home the ACH (Air Changes per Hour) should be a minimum of 1/3. However, in order to achieve this, you need to calculate how many CFM you need to produce based on the size of the house and number of people in it. Here is a simple calculation you can use:

- Number of People x 15 CFM = \_\_\_\_CFM
- Cubic Feet of your house ÷ 8 minimum air changes per day ÷ 60 minutes per hour = \_\_\_\_CFM of outside air.

The larger of the two calculated numbers is the minimum CFM your ventilation system should produce in your house this Holiday season to protect your loved ones. Should your air ventilation system not be producing enough air, or maybe not very clean air, Air Cleaning Blowers™ that blow and clean air without any filter media, are an easy addition to any house or system to help protect your family.

Air Cleaning Blowers, LLC  
180 South Street, Suite H, Highland, NY  
(845) 244-3091





*Wishing you a  
happy & healthy  
holiday season!*

*Ghent*  
WOOD PRODUCTS

(518) 828-5684  
1262 RTE 66, GHENT, NY  
GHENTWOODPRODUCTS.COM



a little  
extra

## Interest Plus Checking

reward rates<sup>1</sup>

**1.50% Annual Percentage Yield\***  
on balances from **\$.01 to \$25,000**

**1.50% APY\* to 0.30% APY\*** on  
balances above **\$25,000**  
depending on the balance in the account

base rate

**0.05% APY\*** on all balances when  
qualifications are not met

it's easy to qualify<sup>1</sup>:

- 1 have at least 10 debit card purchases post and clear to your account each monthly qualification cycle
- 2 sign-up for e-Statements and receive your monthly statements electronically
- 3 have 1 direct deposit or electronic payment post and clear to your account each monthly qualification cycle

✓ ATM Fee Refunds Nationwide<sup>2</sup>

learn more at  
[earnmore.salisburybank.info](https://earnmore.salisburybank.info)



Connecticut  
860.435.9801

Massachusetts  
413.528.1201

New York  
845.877.9850

<sup>1</sup> To earn the Reward Rates and ATM fee refunds, all qualifications must be met in the qualification cycle. The "qualification cycle" is a period beginning the first business day of each month through last business day of the month. The "statement cycle" ends the last business day of the month. Make 10 debit card purchases per monthly qualification cycle (transaction must be posted and cleared, not pending). You must be enrolled in our e-Banking service and authorize the Bank to deliver your monthly statements electronically to qualify. If you do not log into your e-Banking account for twelve (12) months, you will be automatically un-enrolled from e-Banking, and e-Statements will expire. A \$5.00 monthly service charge for paper statements will be charged each month you do not receive your account statement electronically. As long as you are enrolled when your statement cycles, you will not receive a monthly service charge for that month. You must have at least one direct deposit or one electronic payment post and clear to your account each monthly qualification cycle.

<sup>2</sup> ATM Fee Refunds up to \$25.00 per cycle when all qualifications are met. ATM Fee Refunds are automatically paid on the last day of your monthly statement cycle. International ATM fees are not refunded.

\*APY - Annual Percentage Yields are accurate as of October 9, 2020. Minimum deposit to open account is \$25. Reward Rate tiers are as follows when qualifications are met: If your daily balance is \$.01 up to \$25,000, the interest rate paid on the entire balance will be 1.489% with an annual percentage yield of 1.50%. An interest rate of .30% will be paid only for that portion of your daily balance that is greater than \$25,000, and the annual percentage yield for this tier will range from 1.50% to .30% depending on the balance in your account. The Base Rate of 0.05% APY will be earned on all balances if qualifications are not met. Rates may change at any time, and may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Available for personal accounts only. Certain restrictions may apply, please contact a Customer Associate at 860.596.2444.

Please see our separate Fee Schedule for other fees that may apply to this account.