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observer

The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires

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Losing a place that challenged minds



Scott Langley photo

Simon's Rock prepares to leave the Berkshires as town debates future of its campus

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Losing a place that challenged minds

As Simon's Rock leaves the Berkshires, town debates future of campus

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass.

On a cold, clear day in late March, Adrian Zustra sits at a table in the student union.

The school year has stretched him, he said, in ways he expected and in ways he could not have imagined. On a day like this, he might be working out in the dance studio, and over the past few months he has been learning computer coding and contemporary spoken Mandarin.

And he is among the last group of students who will experience the rhythm of learning here.

In November, Bard College announced that after the spring semester ends on May 17, it will close the Great Barrington campus of Simon's Rock, the original "early college" where, for six decades, students have been able to start a rigorous college program at age 16 or 17.

Bard, which took control of Simon's Rock in the late 1970s but has continued to operate it as a separate early college program in the decades since, attributed the closing to declining enrollment and increasing competition from other early college programs around the country.

"It was confusing and shocking," Zustra said. "We were blindsided."

Bard says it will move a pared-down version of Simon's Rock to a new property, a former seminary near Bard's main campus in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. But Simon's Rock's professors have had to re-apply for positions at the new campus, and it appears many of them won't be making the move.

Like other students, Zustra is experiencing the change and the loss day to day.

A native of the Berkshires, he said he left the Berkshire Arts and Technology School in Adams to enroll at Simon's Rock, looking for the freedom to learn in ways that felt immediate, relevant and hands-on.

"I wanted something more challenging," he said, "something that would push me to grow more."



Scott Langley photo

Students cross a bridge as they head toward the library and classroom buildings on the wooded campus of Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Mass.

He chose a place with heft. Across its 60 years, Simon's Rock has become one of the top-ranked colleges in the country. In *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023-24 college rankings, Simon's Rock tied at No. 1 for best undergraduate teaching and ranked No. 2 among most innovative schools.

It also is one of the largest employers in the southern Berkshires. Provost John Weinstein said Simon's Rock now has 238 employees, including 48 full-time faculty members.

As of late March, the new campus in New York was expected to have a total of about 40 employees, including 14 to 18 faculty.

Zustra remembers coming to the all-student campus meeting in November where he would learn about the coming changes. The college had announced the gathering the night before, and he walked up without knowing its purpose. As the students came together, he saw faculty and staff leaving the building in small groups.

A shift on this scale has a broad impact in a town of 7,000 and in the region beyond, and it has left many uncertain about the future — not only for the students and staff, but also for what will become of the campus and its role in the wider community.

Townpeople will soon have an opportunity to weigh in. At Great Barrington's annual town meeting on May 2, voters are being asked to

approve a zoning amendment that town officials say would help guide the repurposing of the 275-acre campus.

A force in the Berkshires and beyond

Through generations of faculty, staff and alumni, Simon's Rock has grown a creative and intellectual hub in the Berkshires with substantial roots.

These are not always visible on the surface. Many local people, including some who spoke at the town Planning Board meeting on March 13, think of Simon's Rock chiefly as a boarding school two miles from downtown with a good gym and a theater.

But on summer days in the pandemic, thousands of people gathered outside when the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center re-imagined the campus as a drive-in movie theater.

And former students and professors have created their own deep wells in the wider community.

The Berkshire Fringe Festival and the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, both started by Simon's Rockers, have spanned many years and many voices.

The annual ThinkFood conference, organized by the college's Center for Food Studies, has gathered farmers, makers and nonprofits

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together to strengthen local food systems for more than a decade. Another long-running series has brought guest scholars, artists and speakers to Great Barrington to celebrate the legacy of the civil rights leader W.E.B. Du Bois in the town where he lived.

While many young people leave the Berkshires for college – or after college for their careers, many Simon’s Rock alums have stayed on or returned to the region to strengthen families, work and friendship and to grow their own communities in turn.

“We’re the reverse brain drain,” said Jonathan Lothrop, a 1986 graduate who later served more than a decade as a Pittsfield city councilor.

The Simon’s Rock alums who’ve stayed or returned cover many fields — a choreographer, a floral designer, an astrophysicist, a film maker and videographer and, in full disclosure, the editor and co-owner of the *Hill Country Observer*.

Some are entrepreneurs — like Gregg Charbonneau and Barth Anderson, co-founders of Barrington Coffee Roasting Co. – and others have been community leaders, from Lothrop to Tara Jacobs, who represents western Massachusetts on the Governor’s Council, to Hilary Somers Deely, president of the Laurel Hill Association in Stockbridge.

Multicultural BRIDGE founder Gwendolyn VanSant created a nonprofit to sustain food security and housing, physical and mental wellness, and she has influenced broad collaborations like the Pay Equity Project, through which 22 creative arts organizations in the region are working actively to improve pay and working conditions for their employees.

Theater artist Lia Russel-Self has been an artist in residence at The Mount and an associate producing director at WAM Theatre.

And Sara Katzoff, the Berkshire Fringe Festival co-founder, now teaches theater at Simon’s Rock and has launched new partnerships including a recent collaboration with The Foundry in West Stockbridge and 2nd Street Second Chances in Pittsfield, working with formerly incarcerated people to create a theatrical work from their lived experiences as they return to the community.

Learning to think and explore

This spring, Zustra is preparing for a performance where students can become choreographers and dancers, composers and musicians. He is reading short stories of love and independence written in South Korea, China and Myanmar.

He spoke warmly of the faculty in general, and of several of his teachers individually, among them Kati Garcia-Renart, his dance professor, who has given grace to students struggling in a difficult semester; Christopher Coggins, a professor of geography and Asian studies who taught him Mandarin in the fall; and Weinstein, who has taught him a course in queer Asian literature across time.

“The teachers care a lot about the students,” he said. “They try to meet our needs and hold us accountable. ... I can choose my classes and make my own schedule. There’s a freedom in that, and I love it. I care about what I’m learning.”

Over the decades, Simon’s Rock has been a

place where students sought out academically challenging work – and also where many escaped from high schools they found intellectually and creatively stifling.

Sarah Williams, who came to Simon’s Rock from Ohio in the late 1970s and now lives in Sheffield where she runs Sarah’s Organizing Services, remembers intense conversations in class and close friendships outside.

“The average class size was eight or 10 people, so we had to do the work, and it was liberal arts, so they want you to think and do the reading,” she recalled.

She would write a paper and then meet with her professor to talk through the assignment, and then write the paper again.

“You learn how to learn,” she said.

And people she met at the Rock are still her core friends more than four decades later.

“It makes a huge difference,” Williams said. “You feel for the first time in your life as though you fit in somewhere. ... Simon’s Rock saved my life.”

Lothrop said he too found affirmation in a place where his teachers expected him to be curious and inquiring — and where he would not be ostracized for having an active mind. He could challenge and play with ideas for the exhilaration of it.

“That’s revelatory for a young kid with a developing mind,” he said. “It was a remarkable experience, looking back.”

On the walls around Zustra at the student union, posters showed the world’s current students are exploring — new treatments for cancer, or the way a flock of birds flies in murmuration, or writing a one-woman play inspired by contemporary writers in Nigeria and Kenya.

Judith Monachina, director of the Berkshire Oral History Center and a former associate director of public affairs at Simon’s Rock, is still struck by the college’s sense of energy and momentum.

“A whole movement was built from it,” she said. “I guess we took for granted that it would always be here.”

Struggles of an early college

In an interview, Weinstein, the college provost, acknowledged conflicting emotions as he prepares to leave the campus where he has lived for five years and taught for two decades – and where he and his husband were married. An associate professor of Chinese and Asian studies, he took on the role of provost in 2020 and will go on to a leadership role at the new campus in the Hudson Valley.

“I think it was really hard on John Weinstein to have to be the one to try this out, and I think he’s done a really good job,” said Jennifer Browdy, a professor of comparative literature and media arts who completed her bachelor’s degree at the Rock and is among those who will teach at the new campus.

Browdy grew up between Manhattan and her family’s weekend and summer home just across the state line in Hillsdale, N.Y. She became familiar with Simon’s Rock through a neighbor there who served as the college’s academic dean for most of its first three decades.

As an alum who has taught at the college for more than 30 years, Browdy said Simon’s Rock has struggled financially for much that time. She feels the college never was able to achieve enough critical mass to be wholly sustainable on its own.

Simon’s Rock was founded in 1964 by Elizabeth Blodgett Hall, a longtime headmistress of Concord Academy. Hall’s experiences there led her to believe that many high school students were ready for more challenging academic work by the time they reached 11th or 12th grade. She built the new college’s campus on what had been her father’s estate.

Originally a school for women, the Rock went co-ed in 1970. By the mid-’70s, Simon’s Rock Early College offered students leaving 10th or 11th grade the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree in four years. The college’s reputation slowly grew, but in early 1979, with its enrollment slumping well below 200 and its financial resources dwindling, Simon’s Rock sought out a partnership with a larger institution that could continue its early college mission. Bard College took it over later that year.

Enrollment rebounded in the first few years after Bard took charge, and over the next couple of decades Simon’s Rock added a series new buildings — including the athletic center, science classrooms, the Daniel Arts Center and new dormitories – with a goal of boosting enrollment to 400.

Although Simon’s Rock has preserved its own identity because of its early college mission and its separate campus, faculty and board of trustees, Bard set its direction and ultimately controlled its fate.

This year, it had 280 students, down from 350 about a decade earlier. Browdy said the new campus will aim for about 200 students.

Simon’s Rock today is carrying the weight of its physical location, Browdy and Weinstein said, as buildings and infrastructure have grown older and need care.

The college also is facing potential financial judgments in two pending civil cases. One of those, set to go to trial April 7, was brought by the father of a Simon’s Rock student who died by suicide in her dorm room in 2016; it alleges college officials failed in their duty to care for her. And in March, a former Simon’s Rock student filed a federal lawsuit alleging that in 2020, the school did not protect her from being raped in her dormitory by a male classmate when she was 15.


Demographic challenges

Across the wider region, a series of small, private liberal arts colleges have shut down in

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recent years — including Green Mountain, Marlboro, Goddard and the College of St. Joseph in Vermont. All cited difficulty in maintaining enrollment at sustainable levels.

And experts have been warning that demographic trends will make it more difficult to recruit college-age students in the years ahead. Because of declining birth rates that began in the 2008-09 recession, the pool of 18-year-olds is projected to decline by 13 percent nationally over the next 15 years — and by 17 percent in the Northeast, according to an analysis by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education that was the focus of a December story in *Inside Higher Ed*.

Small, private colleges that lack robust endowments — and that depend heavily on tuition to cover their operating expenses — are considered most at risk from this trend.

But some small colleges have pushed back against the dire predictions. Just to the east in Massachusetts, Hampshire College was threatened with closure in 2019. A new president and the board of trustees at the time claimed the college was no longer sustainable because of low enrollment.

Margaret Cherullo, a sociology professor who retired in June after 46 years at Hampshire, suggested college leaders often focus on low enrollment to cover for more complex challenges and failures in college administration.

When Hampshire was threatened with closure, Cherullo was part of a nationwide movement of faculty, students and alums who rallied to save the college.

“We pooled our frequent-flyer miles,” she said, “and we went to places where we knew we had a lot of rich alums, like LA, and we slept on people’s couches.”

Simon’s Rock alums did not have the chance

to rally in the same way, Lothrop and Williams said, because Bard announced the final closure without letting the alums, faculty or students know in advance that the institution as they’d known it was at risk.

But Weinstein defended that decision in a Zoom meeting with alums after the November announcement.

“There was a real challenge with, for example, not saying ‘OK, if we don’t raise this money, the school is going to close,’” Weinstein said. “Once you make that kind of announcement, it has the potential to become a self-fulfilling prophecy, because students stop enrolling. In some sense, making that potential declaration was going to make it into a reality.”

Cherullo said Hampshire, like Simon’s Rock, was founded in the energy of the 1960s, and with a similar flexibility of mind. And in fact, many Simon’s Rock students have transferred to Hampshire over the years.

“I think all of these visionary, experimental, important, critical small colleges in this environment, they’re fragile,” she said, “even more so than six or seven years ago at the time of Hampshire’s crisis — and to my mind, all the more important to defend and support. It’s all the more important to articulate their reason for being.”

Teachers, students making plans

Ever since the November announcement, faculty and staff at the Great Barrington campus have been facing some tough choices. Any who want to continue at the new campus in New York have needed to reapply for their jobs, Browdy said. Many faculty members have 10-year contracts, but the contracts contain a clause allowing them to expire if the campus closes.

Some have already left for new jobs. Those

who choose to leave will not get severance pay or continued health care, according to the college’s employee handbook.

Weinstein explained that of the current 238 employees, 140 are full or part time with benefits, and the rest are part-timers who log a few hours per week, such as those who give music lessons or classes at the gym.

Browdy said she had been told the new campus would have 18 faculty members, perhaps not all full time.

Zustra said students are concerned for the faculty and staff who have rooted their lives here, with some of them living on campus.

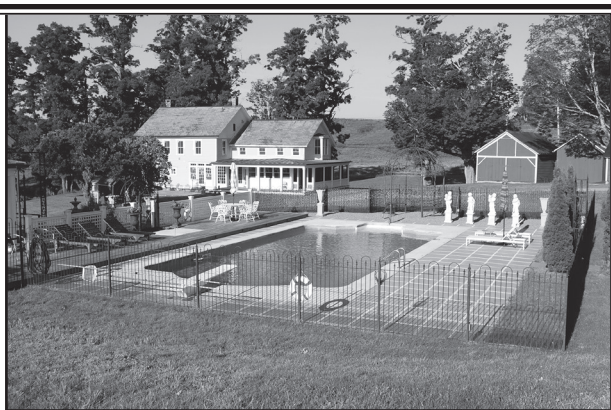
“A lot of the students are asking, ‘What’s happening to the teachers?’” Zustra said. “We’re young — we have time to figure out new opportunities.”

The new campus in Annandale-on-Hudson consists mainly of student housing, he said. Students will go to the main Bard campus, five minutes away, for dining halls, classroom space and resources. Most staff positions there are already filled.

The new Simon’s Rock will no longer offer its own bachelor’s degree, Browdy said, though students can go on to study at Bard.

Zustra is considering that choice, he said, in part because, as a first-year early college student, he is in an ambiguous position, having come to Simon’s Rock as an early college student midway through high school. He and many of his first-year classmates are working toward a two-year associate’s degree, and so they do not have high school diplomas and have not taken the standardized tests most high school students take in their junior or senior year.

Second-year students can transfer to other colleges more easily as they complete their associate’s degree, he said.



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New uses for a college campus?
As a smaller version of Simon’s Rock prepares to move southwest to its new home, people in Great Barrington and beyond have been discussing and debating potential future uses of the campus.

At the annual town meeting on May 2, the Great Barrington Planning Board will ask voters to approve a new overlay district in the town’s zoning law to specify some possible uses at the site and restrict others.

Lothrop has assembled a group of local Simon’s Rock alums to discuss ideas for repurposing the campus.

And a separate informal group that includes two town officials has been meeting privately since the fall to consider the possibilities. Peter Most, a local real estate lawyer, spoke at the Planning Board’s March 13 meeting and at earlier public forums on behalf of this group, which has been reported to include about 20 members.

The local online news site The Berkshire Edge has quoted Steven Picheny, a Great Barrington resident known as a vocal advocate for local development, as saying the group includes Select Board Chairman Stephen Bannon; Planning Board member Pedro Pachano, state Rep. Leigh Davis (who confirmed her involvement in an interview); Great Barrington Public Theater Artistic Director Jim Frangione; Erica Jaffe, chairwoman of the Berkshire South Regional Community Center; Berkshire Film and Media

Collaborative Executive Director Diane Pearlman; and Egremont Municipal Housing Trust member Doug Mishkin. Picheny also is a member, Davis confirmed.

Bannon did not respond to a request for an interview, and Most declined to be interviewed.

But Most did speak to an online meeting of Lothrop’s alumni group on March 23, where he was identified as representing a for-profit development group called Rock Forward.

Lothrop wouldn’t discuss the session, but another alum who participated and asked not to be identified said Most told the alumni that his group’s main goal is to buy the whole property, keep it intact and avoid having it redeveloped for luxury housing. Most told the group Rock Forward hopes to reuse many of the existing buildings for “workforce housing” for people who are priced out of the Great Barrington housing market and also for senior housing.

At the March 13 Planning Board meeting, Most also spoke briefly of possibilities for a local artisanal food court or farmers market.

The campus is not yet for sale and has no asking price. The college property is assessed at \$44 million.

Campus overlay district
The zoning use classification of the campus now is educational, said interim town manager Chris Rembold, who spoke by email but declined

a request for a phone interview.
Educational zoning provides a broad exemption, he said, and without the current educational use exemption, which will end when college closes, some buildings and uses on the campus, including the athletic center and performing arts center, would not be allowed in a residential zoning district.

In proposing a new zoning overlay, the Planning Board wants to make sure that local zoning can allow existing uses on the site, Rembold said, and allow for new uses.

The proposed overlay district would allow some uses not included in the current zoning: hotels, motels or overnight cabins, contractors and landscapers yards, and light manufacturing.

The proposal sets out nine goals for the area, including the protection of open space, natural habitats, ecosystems and drinking water, the preservation of the existing buildings, creating employment and housing and supporting “the general health, welfare and economic vitality” of the region.

The question is what potential uses would advance these goals.

An overlay district can give a town or community a measurable influence in the kinds of proposals that come in, Planning Board Vice Chairman Pedro Raphael Pachano said at the board’s March 27 meeting, because it can expedite some possible
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NEWS & ISSUES

Farm to fashion

N.Y. backs efforts to link fiber producers to bigger markets

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

GREENWICH, N.Y. Just as the farm-to-table movement took off two decades ago to supply restaurants with produce from local farms, a newer “farm-to-fashion” movement has begun to open new markets for area farms that raise sheep, alpacas and other animals for their fiber.

The new, multi-pronged effort is connecting local fiber raisers and regional processors with New York City designers and garment manufacturers, increasing the demand for local fiber while manufacturers promote the importance of domestic fiber.

The concept draws inspiration from the local food movement, said Mary Jeanne Packer, founder and co-owner of Battenkill Fibers, a mill in Greenwich that employs 16 people spinning locally produced fiber into yarn.

“That next step becomes, ‘Who made my clothes? Where are the animals that made our clothes?’” Packer explained.

The strategy already has brought modest growth to the region’s fiber industry, but supporters hope it will gain momentum as they identify new markets and develop the infrastructure needed to support more production.

Earlier this year, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul included a \$100,000 line-item grant in her state budget proposal to assist with developing “a fiber sorting and aggregation center” that would pool locally raised fiber to fill orders from garment manufacturers. Hochul also has proposed a new grant program for small farms and fiber raisers.

Assemblywoman Carrier Woerner, D-Round Lake, explained that raisers of animals such as



Joan K. Lentini photo

Mary Jeanne Packer, the founder and co-owner of the Battenkill Fibers mill in Greenwich, NY, checks through some of the yarn the mill makes from locally raised wool.

sheep, alpacas, goats and llamas would bring their fiber to the center, where it would be graded and combined with fiber of the same grade from other farms. The facility would accumulate fiber lots ready for quick sale to large-scale customers.

Most of the region’s fiber raisers currently produce small volumes of fiber from herds that are manageable for an individual or couple. The result is that manufacturers interested in using locally raised fiber must contact farms individually to line up enough fiber and then wait for the next shearing — a process that can take months.

“The designers, they don’t want to wait 10 months,” Packer said. “They want it now.”

The new sorting and aggregation center most likely will be located in Mechanicville, in unused space in the same building where a new scouring facility will soon be operating, said Packer and Lilly Marsh, owner of Lilly Marsh Studios in Glens Falls.

Packer and Marsh both are directors of the Hudson Valley Textile Project, which is setting up and will operate the scouring facility. Hudson Valley Textile Project is a nonprofit coalition of fiber industry entrepreneurs that focuses on developing intermediate processing operations between farmers and the fashion industry.

Assembling pieces of a puzzle
Pieces of the region’s fiber industry puzzle

have been gradually coming together since late 2022, when Hochul signed the New York Textile Act, a law written and sponsored by Woerner and state Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-Saugerties, who is chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The law established fiber textiles as a priority for Empire State Development Corp., the state’s economic development agency, and established an industry “working group” to advise the state on farm-to-fashion development.

The first major initiative was a \$10 million state grant to establish the Fashion Innovation Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy. The research and development center’s

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mission is to promote collaboration among universities, businesses and agricultural leaders to use locally produced textiles and help position New York as a leader in sustainable fabric production.

In December, the new center at RPI announced it was seeking applicants for an initial round of competitive grants of up to \$10,000 each for initiatives in fiber processing and development. The center is expected to announce the grant recipients soon.

Clean Fleece New York, the new scouring facility at Mechanicville, is another piece in the puzzle. The facility repeatedly washes and squeezes fiber to remove dirt and impurities, using equipment resembling an oversized ringer washing machine, and then dries the fiber.

The Mechanicville facility has completed testing and is now beginning to accept fleece for processing, Packer said in a telephone interview in March.

Commercial scouring facilities, the closest of which is in South Carolina, typically will only handle quantities of 1,000 pounds or more.

Clean Fleece will handle quantities of 100 pounds or more.

The new facility fills a gap for local farms that typically produce significantly less than 1,000 pounds of fiber per shearing, and its proximity to local producers will greatly reduce transportation time.

Colleen DiVincenzo, the manager of the Clean Fleece facility, described its niche in an April 2023 Zoom presentation.

“What we would consider a reasonably sized flock in our region may have 300 to 500 pounds, which is still a huge pain to wash by hand,” she explained. “However, it’s not enough to meet the minimum of a more commercial-scale facility.”

Packer said in the same presentation that Clean Fleece “is going to make for us is a faster turnaround, a cleaner product, and, hopefully, a little cost savings.”

Another piece in the puzzle, yet to be realized, is to upgrade a small-scale dye house in Schoharie County. The facility needs an additional water supply to be able to increase its capacity, Packer said in an interview in March.

A dye house in Philadelphia that many local producers had been using was damaged by flooding in 2022 and did not reopen.

Expanding to meet demand

The demand for local fiber had been steadily increasing over the past decade and then spiked dramatically during the Covid-19 pandemic, when garment manufacturers had difficulty importing fiber from other countries, Packer said.

At the same time, people staying at home at the height of the pandemic took up knitting and weaving as hobbies, which increased demand for specialty yarns.

Lilly Marsh Studios of Glens Falls, which weaves locally produced fiber into garments, scarves and blankets for farmers to sell, or for wholesale customers, is an example of a local textile operation that benefited from the increased demand.

The operation recently moved into larger quarters at 182 Maple St., a building newly added to The Shirt Factory, a former industrial complex that provides studio spaces to an eclectic range of nearly 100 artists and artisans.

Marsh said she needed a larger space to accommodate several new looms she bought from a weaving center in Indiana that was going out of business.

“I’ve doubled my capacity and hired three employees,” she said.

On the fashion front, the New York fiber industry has begun to have success in supplying fiber to small-brand garment manufacturers. But large brands continue to be a challenge, primarily because of the lower prices they expect to pay, said Laura Sansone, director of the New York Textile Lab, a consulting firm that works with fiber raisers and processors and designers within a 300-mile radius of New York City.


“We’re simply not there as a region yet,” she said.

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One of the challenges to pricing is that typically only about 20 percent of the wool or fiber sheared from animals is suitable for garment manufacturing, Packer said.

She added that research is under way to develop new uses for lower-grade wool for such products as fiber wall decor, blankets, rugs and insulation. There is no added cost to the farmer when less wool is discarded, and developing new uses for low-grade wool will lower the overall price of wool, she explained.

“We have to find uses for all the wool that comes off an animal,” she said.

Growing agricultural niche

One long-range goal of the region’s fiber industry is to convince the state to offer incentives to garment manufacturers in Southern states to open additional manufacturing plants in New York.

“That’s really the goal — to say, ‘You love our fiber. Come, be close to it,’” Woerner said in a 2022 interview.

Sansone, director of the New York Textile Lab, also works with an organization that certifies that fiber raisers use environmentally sustainable methods. The certification increases the chance of selling fiber to companies that

cater to environmentally conscious customers.

Woerner has said fiber farming can be a vital part of keeping agricultural land from being developed at a time when traditional dairy farms struggling to survive. Fiber farms are “value-added” operations that keep the land in production, she explained in 2022.

“It’s a growing sector and one that we are really ready to take a part in,” Woerner said.

Fiber farming also increases tourism, as many raisers offer farm tours and other events that draw interest from outside the region, said Laura Oswald, the economic development director for Washington County. An annual self-guided tour offered by the county’s fiber producers is scheduled for the weekend of April 26-27 (details are at washingtoncountyfibertour.org).

Elsewhere in the tri-state region, the nonprofit group Western Massachusetts Fibershed has been working to collect and pool wool from small farms to create a reliable supply for local crafters and artisans. The group, which hopes to lay the groundwork for a functioning local textile economy, covers the Pioneer Valley and the Berkshires — a region that produces more than 21,000 pounds of sheep’s wool annually, according to a report

published last year in the *Greenfield Recorder*. The region’s fiber producers and artisans show off their work and wares at the Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft Festival, held annually on Memorial Day weekend at the Cummington Fairgrounds in Cummington, Mass.

Western Massachusetts Fibershed is a chapter of the national nonprofit organization Fibershed, and Vermont fiber producers have set up a state chapter as well.

Vermont Fibershed’s immediate goal is to establish an online directory of Vermont fiber producers, processors, production weavers, knitters, felters, sewers, dyers and other services, according to the organization’s website. The next project will be to compile a list of near-by out-of-state processors and dye houses.

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, a nonprofit economic development organization, has identified fiber production among its priorities. The fund recently received a Vermont Housing and Conservation Board grant to conduct a wool inventory in Vermont that will develop baseline information about the quantity and quality of wool being raised annually in Vermont for commercial production, the fund recently reported on its website.

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EDITORIAL

In northern New York, the election that wasn't

In the great campaign for the special election that wasn't, voters in New York's northernmost congressional district might have revealed just how much our politics have been transformed by the arrival of the second Trump presidency.

But any new message from the voters remains on ice for now. Although the stage was set for a new political contest back on Nov. 11, when the president-elect nominated U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik to become the next ambassador to the United Nations, no special election was ever scheduled to fill Stefanik's House seat.

That's because she never resigned from her seat. Republicans had emerged from the November election with a narrow 220-215 House majority, and two other GOP members soon quit for positions in the Trump administration, reducing the party's control of the chamber to a historically tiny margin. Speaker Mike Johnson pressed Stefanik to delay her departure at least until those vacant seats could be filled.

So she stayed on through January and February and into March, even as she was replaced on the House leadership team and many of her staff moved on to other jobs. She bade farewell to her constituents and went through the Senate confirmation hearing for her new position.

And then on March 27, President Trump abruptly pulled her nomination to the U.N. post.

"There are others that can do a good job at the United Nations," Trump wrote on his Truth Social website, later adding, "With a very tight majority, I don't want to take a chance on anyone else running for Elise's seat."

Stefanik's district has turned a deeper shade of red as its boundaries have been redrawn in recent years, and she won re-election in November by a margin of 24 percentage points. Did the president really think that another Republican candidate running in the district might lose?

Well, there are some signs of a backlash against parts of the new administration's agenda. For example, imposing huge tariffs on goods from Canada, which of course prompted retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports to Canada, might not prove to be the most popular idea in a border district where cross-border business operations have grown substantially in recent decades.

The tariffs, along with the president's menacing comments about annexing Canada, also have prompted lots of Canadians to boycott U.S. goods and cancel plans for vacations south of the border. That might not be so good for Lake George.

If there had been a special election to fill Stefanik's seat, the candidates would have been chosen by party leaders in the 15-county district, rather than through a primary. Democratic leaders had already lined up behind Blake Gendebien, a dairy farmer from St. Lawrence County.

But there were some signs of turmoil on the Republican side. By late March, the district's GOP leaders had expressed a preference for state Sen. Dan Stec, R-Queensbury, whose current Senate district substantially overlaps the congressional district, though two other finalists remained.

Not on the GOP short list was Anthony Constantino, who became popular with MAGA loyalists last year after tangling with city officials over a huge illuminated "Vote for Trump" sign atop the roof of his Sticker Mule plant in Amsterdam.

Constantino threatened to run as an independent if the GOP backed Stec. A three-way race, of course, might have given Gendebien a much better chance of winning. Perhaps that is why Stefanik is back to representing the North Country.



Letters to the editor

Push for efficiency excludes health care

To the editor:

America's current obsession with efficiency is absurd when you look at American health care.

Our health care is the epitome of inefficiency, and it accounts for more than 17 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product. In Vermont, our 2019 health-care cost of \$6.5 billion accounted for roughly 18.5 percent of the state's 2019 GDP of \$35 billion and is a major driver of ever-increasing school budgets.

There is nothing efficient about a health-care system that pays for care through hundreds of different private insurers, administering thousands of different insurance contracts, in addition to many different state and federal government programs that each have their own eligibility requirements.

Our journey to health care essentially involves countless trains traveling many different tracks. Passengers rarely know how much the journey will cost before they embark, or exactly when and where they will be forced to cough up some portion of the price.

Nor do they know for sure what awaits them until they arrive at the destination. They nervously travel from one payment station to the next, coughing up premiums, deductibles, co-pays or the entire price if their ailment isn't "covered" by their insurance.

All along the journey, money changes hands for the cost of the train crews, tracks and train cars, the fuel, the train stations, the ticket sellers. Money pays for the trip, not the health care at the destination.

You can't hope to make the system itself more efficient by addressing the operation of a single train, or even a single train station. We all need to ride the same train, at the same price, to the same health-care destination. Yes, that means single payer.

Lee Russ
Bennington, Vt.

Treatment of Palestinians amounts to apartheid

To the editor:

Apartheid, really? Really.

Apartheid is a word and term that has been used in the news during the ongoing war on Gaza.

Really? Yes, this has been really happening, and the argument that it is not seriously avoids the reality of what takes place in Gaza and in the West Bank. And not just during this war.

The term apartheid is not used lightly. It is the conclusion of investigations and reports by respected organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and

continued on page 12

Your letters

The *Observer* welcomes letters from readers. To be considered for publication, letters to the editor must be signed and must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the

right to edit letters for length so as to allow presentation of a wider range of viewpoints. Send your letters by mail to Hill Country Observer, P.O. Box 158, Cambridge, NY 12816. Or e-mail them to fdaley@hillcountryobserver.com.

We've changed our publishing schedule

Beginning with this issue, the Observer will publish every other month throughout the year, with new papers due out at the beginning of April, June, August, October, December and February.

Our change from 10 to six issues per year is partly a function of the shifting national media landscape that has dramatically altered the economics of newspaper publishing over the past decade or more. But it's happening now for personal reasons that reflect the Observer's status as an independent, family-owned enterprise: namely, the declining health of our founder and longtime publisher, Jenny Stern, and the time constraints of her husband

and main caregiver, our current publisher and editor Fred Daley.

Although our new issues will appear less frequently, the Observer will continue to produce the kinds of in-depth news and feature stories that have helped it to build a devoted readership over the past 20-plus years — the kinds of stories best suited to print journalism. We will still cover the issues, trends and politics as well as the rich history and cultural scene in this region where New England and New York meet.

If you are a subscriber or advertiser in the midst of a prepaid, multi-month run, we will automatically extend your run to make up for the issues that are being eliminated as part of

this change. (Advertisers who prefer to have us apply their credit in a different way should consult their Observer representative.)

Calendar listings should continue to be submitted directly to calendar@hillcountryobserver.com by the 20th of the month preceding publication — e.g., by May 20 for a listing in the June-July issue.

As we have done for years with our wintertime double issues, we will restock copies at selected high-volume distribution points in the second month of each two-month cycle. If anyone has any difficulty finding a copy, please let us know.

We hope you will keep reading, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

Campus continued from page 5

uses and slow or prevent others.

Board Chairwoman Brandee Nelson recused herself from the conversation, explaining that she is a civil engineer employed by Tighe & Bond in Westfield and indicating that that firm has been hired to work on plans for the campus.

Susan Witt, director of the Great Barrington nonprofit the Schumacher Center for a New Economics, sees challenges ahead in reusing the property. (She said she considered the Simon's Rock campus among other sites for a possible Schumacher College, an educational center to foster the ideas at the core of her center's mission.

At Simon's Rock, she said, the connected infrastructure and the size may make the property a larger task than one organization can

readily take on.

Keeping a place for inquiring minds

Lothrop said he understands the value of many kinds of uses. In his time on the Pittsfield City Council, he was involved in the continuing challenge of creating affordable housing and renovating historic buildings.

And he suggested the Simon's Rock property could be open to a cooperative structure.

Theoretically, he explained, if a group like Rock Forward does acquire the property, individual groups could take over the operation of parts of it — the science building, the arts center, the athletic center. (The college today holds summer programs with the Flying Cloud Institute and summer performances with Great Barrington Public Theatre.)

Lothrop recalled the expansion of Pittsfield's

downtown under its Arts District overlay, when Barrington Stage moved to North Street and the Berkshire Theatre Group partnered with the Colonial Theatre. The Beacon Cinema brought film downtown, and local restaurants multiplied. The result became the city's downtown cultural district.

"What kind of cluster do we have," he asked, mentioning the many arts nonprofits and creative organizations in the southern Berkshires that could weigh in — Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Tanglewood, Shakespeare & Company, the Norman Rockwell Museum and more.

He looks back on Simon's Rock as a transformational time in his own life, and one that shaped his future, and he said he hopes in some form to see that spirit live on — a spirit of independent minds, of conversation and human interaction, and an excitement for ideas.

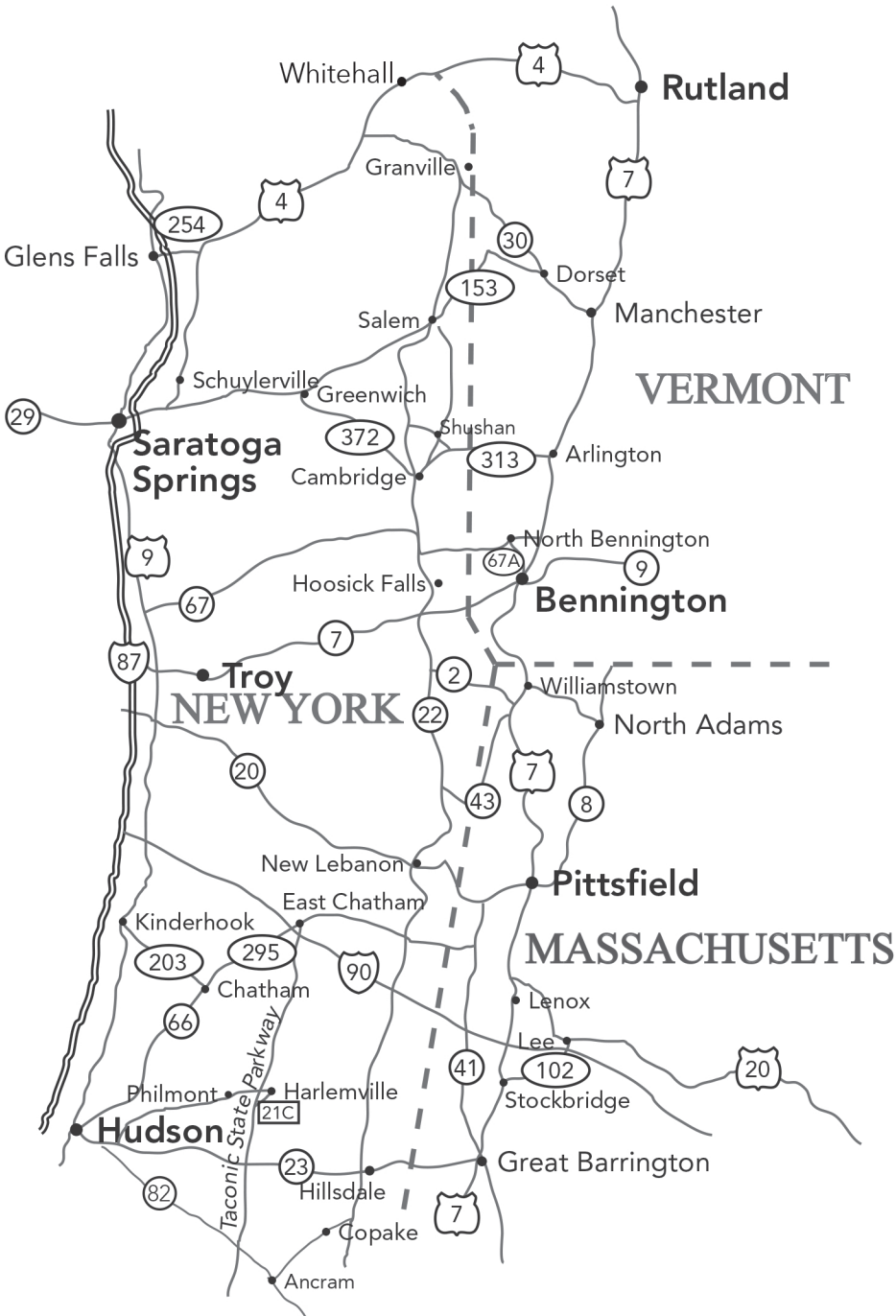
News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

We're told we live in an information age, yet the traditional gathering of news is in decline.

Conventional news organizations are scaling back their efforts to ferret out the facts, even as they spread each factoid ever more widely via 24-hour broadcasts and the Internet. Is this the best way to keep you informed?

At the *Hill Country Observer*, we still take time to connect the dots, to put the news and issues of our region into a broader perspective. We only publish once a month, but we shine a light on stories and trends that aren't getting much attention elsewhere.

Judging from our growing circulation, readers like the results. Tell us what you think.



Letters continued from page 10

B'Tselem, Israel's own leading human rights group.

What is apartheid? Apartheid is a horrible crime against humanity in which people are born, live and die unequal. One racial group discriminates against, violently oppresses and dominates another. Apartheid in South Africa ended 30 years ago because of the global solidarity of ordinary people of conscience, including many Vermonters and their communities.

Since its inception, Israel has institutionalized a regime of racial domination and oppression. Israeli apartheid is a racialized system of laws, policies and practices cementing Jewish Israeli dominance over Palestinians living within Israel's borders, in the West Bank and in Gaza.

The war on Gaza is a result of Israeli military occupation and apartheid. Israel has killed nearly 50,000 people, destroyed 90 percent of the homes, all universities and hospitals, and all water, transport and energy infrastructure.

What does this matter? The Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only continue while apartheid exists, with ongoing killing every day. This grim situation continues to be supported by the United States, with billions of tax dollars being spent to supply the destruction.

Our government's determination to cut costs here at home is contradicted by this spending. American tax dollars will only continue to be spent while apartheid exists and Palestinians are punished for their right to exist.

Richard Jorgensen
Shaftsbury, Vt.

Far from being green, LED lights pose hazards

To the editor:

Most of our county's municipal lighting has switched to the biggest culprit in exploding global light pollution and excessive skyglow: light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. The multibillion-dollar lighting industry has not been upfront about this change.

Any artificial light is pollution where nature is concerned, of course, but legacy, incandescent lighting mimics natural light properties and is the safest kind. LEDs are electronic devices that are highly biologically disruptive, with extreme reach. These devices emit a form of light that is completely foreign to every living thing.

Injecting LED lighting into complex ecosystems is an environmental stressor and stress amplifier our rural, agricultural region can ill afford.

LEDs are marketed as sustainable, "green" and energy efficient, yet the lighting industry knows the environment is in LED-caused trouble. The industry's publications cite research showing, under LED lighting, a 40 percent to 60 percent drop in pollinators and a 60 percent loss of the periphyton mass on which aquatic life depends.

They also note timing or phenological mismatches, habitat incursions, biodiversity depletion, top-down and bottom-up cascading damage, lower crop yields and LED adjustments that only end up transferring negative impacts from one species onto another.

Other independent study details color signal confusion in nocturnal insects under LEDs, or how a sweep of bright LED light can stun exquisitely light-attuned creatures like amphibians and can cause irreversible retinal damage for night-active mammals (including humans) even at a distance.

New findings from 2021 sound the alarm about modern light pollution's destabilizing

effect on microbiomes, calling it a severely under-explored area of research. Even newer research documented that, when exposed to typical streetlamp-like lighting at night, entire colonies of desert mice died within days. This is a tiny fraction of published scientific findings from researchers around the world.

LEDs are efficient all right: at hurting wildlife and slicing through essential interconnections in nature. The scope and variety of LED-induced harm makes disintegration of entire ecosystems near inevitable. The industry knows LED light hurts people too, either insidiously (multiple cancers, heart disease, metabolic, mental, and mood disorders, stroke, immunosuppression,

virus transmission, poor birth outcomes, shortened life spans, neurodegenerative diseases) or more immediately (eye pain, nausea, epileptic seizures, migraines, distorted vision, lupus flares, dizziness, malaise.)

State and federal regulators know it too. They know that mere "harm reduction" methods like shields and orange bulbs can't necessarily protect anyone — nor vital aspects of nature — and they know the standards utility companies apply don't account for medically vulnerable members of the public, children, the elderly or anybody the standard-setting groups may view as "unique populations."

The industry knows that even among healthy

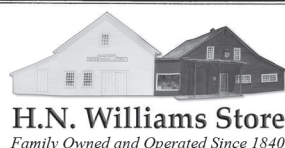
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See map on page 11



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young adults, one person’s reaction to light can be 50 times more pronounced than the next person’s, and that following industry guidance for lighting a space “will discriminate against some occupants [of the lit space] some or all of the time.”

Last year, the International Agency on Research on Cancer put artificial light at night on its high priority evaluation list, citing “relevant human cancer, animal cancer and mechanistic evidence.”

In October, the International Energy Agency wrote that according to current product safety standards, LED streetlights may be in “Risk Group 2,” meaning hazardous to look at for more than one-quarter of a second – and that

these lights “should bear a safety mark.” Did IEA just figure this out? Will there be a public statement? A safety recall? Small wonder the phrase “asbestos-scale liability” is turning up in LED articles lately.

Commercial lighting and energy interests aren’t ecologists. They’re not our health proxies or doctors, have no concept of “do no harm,” and can’t be left to call the shots on this critical topic. Year-round, population-scale “dosing” with phototoxic, brain-disruptive, oncogenic light may work well for their business model, but forced toxic exposure is illegal for a reason. So is failure to warn.

Nobody should have to fear being sickened by lights they can’t avoid and had no say in

installing. Luckily, public lighting belongs to the taxpaying public, and utility companies are expected to answer to their customers. And unlike contamination in water or soil, light-borne poison has an easy, effective fix: switch back to the old bulbs. Relief will be immediate.

A town can always save money and energy by using fewer lamps, timers or motion detectors. There are even super-efficient incandescent technologies developed by University of Rochester and MIT. It makes no sense to continue using demonstrably harmful LEDs when proven safer alternatives exist.

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Pungent flavor, spicy heat

Poultney farm finds niche in organic garlic, peppers

By STACEY MORRIS
Contributing writer

POULTNEY, Vt.

At the peak of the growing season, Quill Hill Farm's fields will be filled with elegant rows of emerald green, accented by a sheltering bed of golden mulch.

Garlic is the main crop at the five-acre certified organic farm owned by Laura Ramos and Adam Fronhofer, and the verdant landscape complements the farm's flavorful mission.

Ramos and Fronhofer also grow a variety of red, yellow and orange chili peppers, as well as herbs that become ingredients for the small-batch condiments they make at harvest time.

The couple started Quill Hill in 2014 as a mixed vegetable farm, tilling a half-acre of soil for produce they intended to sell at area farmers markets. But later that year, a monster hailstorm decimated all of their crops, effectively sending them back to square one.

"It was a crash course in being a Vermont farmer," Fronhofer recalled. "But the community was great in helping us out."

Neighboring farmers donated seedlings, and farmers market customers stopped by with meals. One neighbor even gave them a pig.

As Ramos and Fronhofer look back on that challenging episode 11 years later, it seems the forced agricultural reboot may have served a higher purpose. The disruption ultimately led them to narrow the scope of what they would grow. They focused first on heirloom garlic.

"That first year, the garlic we grew resulted in smaller-than-average heads because of the hail," Fronhofer recalled. "We didn't know what to do with it, so we turned it into powder, and everyone loved it."

Ramos remembers being pleasantly surprised at how much she liked the taste of small-batch garlic powder.



Joan K. Lentini photo

Laura Ramos and Adam Fronhofer and their son Tiago, 2, hold jars of the garlic powders they produce from organic garlic grown at their Quill Hill Farm in Poultney, Vt.

"Powders I've tried in the past didn't taste fresh, but when you process it naturally, ours really tastes like fresh garlic," Ramos said. "Customers tell us that all the time."

Preserving the flavor

The positive reception inspired the couple to expand their flavor profiles of powdered garlic to include varieties ranging from rosemary, chipotle, and sriracha to smoked garlic chili and maple garlic sugar.

As for the fresh taste of their powders, Fronhofer said it's the result of a painstakingly detailed field-to-jar process that includes hand-harvesting the garlic, followed by a methodical cutting of its sturdy stalks and placing it on trays in the farm's "curing barn," where the garlic dries naturally at room temperature, allowing the skins to dry out but not the garlic itself.

"Then the garlic is skinned using a machine that combines water and friction," he explained. "After that, we break the garlic

down by hand and open the cloves."

Then the cloves are run through a food processor that slices them into thin chips, after which they're dehydrated. The chips are placed in airtight buckets and used when needed for fresh batches of garlic powder.

"Storing it in cold temperatures in sealed buckets preserves the freshness," Ramos said. "So does making small batches of powder vs. making it all at once and storing the powder."

Processing the garlic for storage happens in an intense two-week window beginning in late October, she said.

"When we sell for seed, the garlic has to look perfect, which isn't always the case," Ramos said. "The wonky-looking ones, or heads that are too large or small, are perfect for processing into powder."

Even the garlic scapes are put to good use by pickling them with fresh dill and spices. The farm sells jars of garlic scapes on its website along with jars of garlic cloves pickled in sweet herbs.

Peppers for hot sauce

As they expanded and perfected their garlic production and processing, Fronhofer and Ramos decided to expand their crops to include a dozen varieties of spicy chili peppers. Fronhofer, a pepper aficionado, sensed a

Do LED lights hurt your eyes?

A growing number of people are experiencing serious medical symptoms in response to LED lighting: Eye pain, headaches, disrupted sleep, nausea, racing heart. Others suffer adverse reactions and neurological disturbances such as seizures, migraines, loss of balance, disorientation, or a general sense of things being "off" or "wrong" when they are under LEDs. Some affected individuals have existing light-sensitive medical conditions, but others do not. Their symptoms occur only when they are exposed to LED light.

The Soft Lights Foundation in the US, and UK-based charity Light Aware, advocate for people suffering LED-light-caused health impacts of every kind. We are in touch with thousands of light-sensitive and light-disabled people worldwide, and want to learn just how widespread the problem actually is. If you or a family member are negatively affected by LED lighting, flashing or non-flashing, your experiences are important and we are interested in hearing from you. **For many of us being hurt, no variety of LED is safe.**

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burgeoning market, and readily took on the challenge of growing peppers in a colder climate.

“There are a lot of misconceptions because peppers are a subtropical plant, but the breeding of them has come a long way,” he said.

They now grow varieties that range from the super-spicy Carolina Reaper to cayenne, habanero, Fresno and ghost peppers as well as the milder poblanos, bells, jalapenos and Anaheims.

Quill Hill sells its peppers mainly to regional hot-sauce makers, including the Vermont-based companies Butterfly Bakery in Barre, Sugar Bob’s of Chester, Benito’s Hot Sauce of Morrisville, 802 Heat of Ludlow, and Salsa Sisters of Brattleboro. Dried versions of the peppers are available on the farm’s website.

Quill Hill starts its peppers in mid-March in a heated greenhouse, where they stay until they’re ready to put into the ground at the end of May.

“We do an acre-plus of peppers now,” Fronhofer said.

The couple’s future plans include construction of an on-site commercial kitchen that would allow Quill Hill Farm to start offering its own line of pepper sauces.

They recently bought 25 acres of extra growing space at a nearby farm, and last year, their garlic production topped 6,000 pounds.

“Garlic is something that’s pretty much universally loved, and not just for the flavor,” Fronhofer said. “As far back as the beginning of written language, garlic was used for medicinal purposes.”

The hard-neck garlic grown at Quill Hill Farm has a higher allicin content than the soft-neck variety found in most supermarkets, Fronhofer explained, “and the allicin is garlic’s medicinal quality.”

Rhythm of a farm

With growing season now upon them, Ramos and Fronhofer were gearing up in March after an all-too-brief winter break.

“Garlic starts coming out in July, and by November, we’re sold out,” Ramos said. “We harvest peppers at the end of August through the frost. It all happens really quickly.”

A harvest celebration ritual that’s become a yearly tradition involves the couple preparing a pepper- and garlic-centric harvest dinner for neighbors and friends.

“The amount of garlic we consume is

amazing,” Ramos said with a laugh. “Garlic is very simple to enjoy. One of our favorite ways is roasting whole heads with olive oil and smearing it on good bread. It doesn’t have to be complicated.”

Soon afterward, the frozen ground signals the online stampede of shoppers for gift-giving season and the selling of holiday gift boxes, spice sets and colorful bags of peppers. The brief lull from January through mid-March allows the couple more time with their three sons and a bit of a slower pace before the spring planting of the bulbs.

Now, they can marvel that it all began with a fateful hailstorm.

“We went with the adage, ‘grow what you love,’” Fronhofer said. “Not only do Laura and I love food, we love making it flavorful. Without trying to, we’ve turned into a flavor farm.”

Quill Hill Farm’s garlic, spices, pickles and pepper products can be found on its website and at regional garlic festivals, including the annual Garlic Town USA event in downtown Bennington, this year scheduled for Saturday, Aug 30. Visit www.quillhillfarm.com for more information about Quill Hill Farm and its products.

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From Claverack to the frontier

Columbia County native played key roles in early days of Arizona, Alaska

By PAUL POST
Contributing writer

HUDSON, N.Y.

Like so many teenagers of his era, John Clum was eager to see the latest Western movie when he went to Hudson's old Walter Reade Theater on a summer day in 1956.

But this film was special. "Walk the Proud Land" was making its world premiere, and its star, Hollywood legend Audie Murphy, played the hero with whom Clum shared a name: Columbia County native John Philip Clum, who left Claverack as a young man, went west and led an adventure-filled life as colorful as that of the fictional Indiana Jones.

John Philip Clum (1851-1932) captured Geronimo and became the first mayor of Tombstone, Ariz., where he founded *The Tombstone Epitaph*, now the oldest continuously

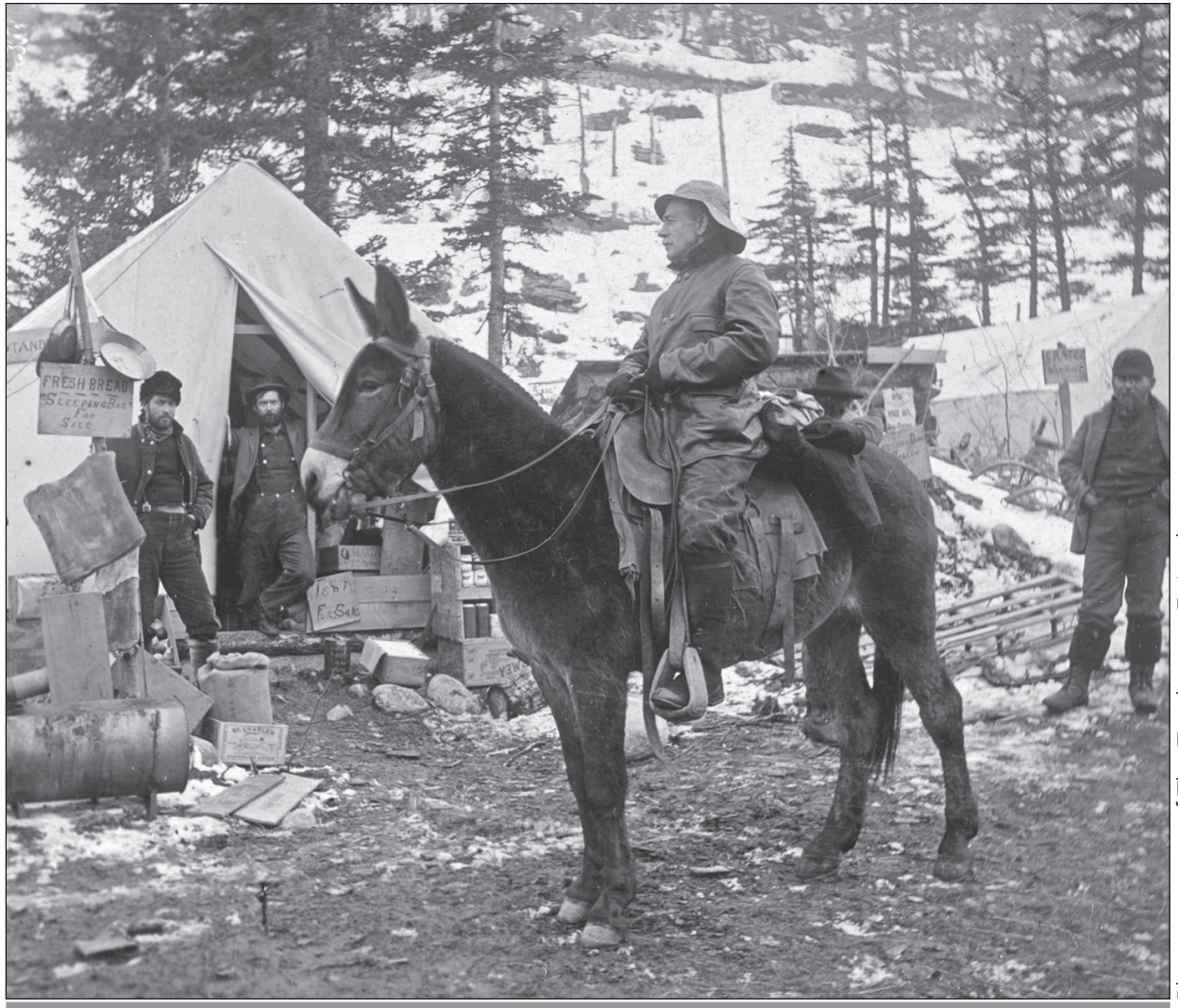


Photo courtesy of The Tombstone Epitaph

Postal Inspector John P. Clum, atop a mule, talks with miners in Nome, Alaska, in 1898. Clum, who grew up in Columbia County, N.Y., ran a newspaper in territorial Arizona before heading north.

run newspaper in the state. He also was a close friend of Wyatt Earp and was working in his newspaper office when the infamous OK Corral gunfight broke out just blocks away in 1881.

Later, after surviving an assassination attempt near Tombstone, Clum went to Alaska around the time of the Klondike gold rush and established a postal system there, traveling throughout the remote wilderness territory by foot, horseback or dogsled.

"John Philip Clum helped civilize the West and Alaska," said Mark Boardman, the Epitaph's current editor. "He was not a frontiersman. He wasn't the type of guy who would blaze trails and start up a town someplace. He was the guy who would come in afterwards and offer something that would make a difference.

"In Tombstone's case, that was primarily the Epitaph, although his work as mayor also had a

big impact," Boardman explained. "In Alaska, those little towns were already there, but by giving them the ability to communicate with other towns and states, he gave them a status and ability they didn't have before."

Hometown pride of the '50s

"Walk the Proud Land" debuted on Aug. 1, 1956. In Hudson, John Clum, now 85, said he and other members of his family were invited to attend — even though he didn't think he was a descendent of John Philip Clum.

"The film's staff contacted all Clums to see if we had ancestral connections," he recalled. "Our family was invited to the premiere, but our history wasn't complete enough to prove a direct connection."

But at 17, it was a thrill to have the same first and last names as a famous character portrayed



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on the silver screen. Clum said the Walter Reade Theater at the corner of 7th and Columbia streets was the largest of Hudson’s three movie houses at the time, with more than 800 seats.

“It was the place to go,” he said. “My first boss played piano for silent films there when he was a teen.”

The *Register-Star*, the local daily newspaper, ran big feature stories beneath banner headlines telling about John Philip Clum and the new film released by Universal International Pictures. One of the film’s co-stars, portraying Geronimo, was Jay Silverheels, already famous for his role as Tonto in the long-running television series “The Lone Ranger.”

A historical photo accompanying the *Register-Star* stories showed Clum holding a rifle, wearing a wide-brimmed cowboy hat, boots and gun belt, surrounded by a group of loyal scouts at the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in southeastern Arizona, where he founded a first-of-its-kind tribal police force charged with keeping law and order among the native population.

The Apache called him “Nan-tan Betun-nay-ki-aye” or “the captain with the high marble dome” — a reference to Clum’s high, balding forehead.

The movie, based on a biography written by Clum’s son Woodworth, deals almost exclusively with his role as the San Carlos reservation’s Indian agent — effectively its civilian administrator — from 1874-77.

President Ulysses S. Grant had created the San Carlos reservation less than two years before Clum arrived, and those first years were marred by corruption, violence and disputes between the reservation’s white military and civilian overseers. Clum’s effort to establish a form of limited self-government for the Apache people within the reservation — including a tribal police force and court system — was considered a success and a model for other Indian reservations.

From Claverack to the West

John Philip Clum was born in Claverack on Sept. 1, 1851. He was raised on his father’s farm and educated at Claverack College, a quasi-military academy for boys that operated from 1779 until 1902. Its alumni included Martin Van

Buren of Kinderhook, who became the eighth president of the United States, Stephen Crane, author of the Civil War novel “The Red Badge of Courage,” and several other government and business leaders of the era.

Clum then went to Rutgers College, where he played football and founded a rowing team while pursuing studies for the ministry. But with little money, he was forced to leave after one year and came back to his father’s farm. He found the small operation couldn’t support him, though, so at age 20 he landed a job with the federal War Department’s newly formed meteorological service. He headed west to Santa Fe, N.M., as a weather observer in September 1871.

At the time President Grant established the San Carlos reservation in 1872, the federal Office of Indian Affairs had become plagued by corruption, so the government delegated responsibility for managing Indian reservations to charitable organizations run by various Protestant denominations. The Dutch Reformed Church, to which Clum had belonged back in Claverack, was put in charge of San Carlos.

Church leaders got in touch with Clum, who accepted a commission as Indian agent and went to work at the reservation in August 1874, when he was 22. He found an almost impossible situation, rife with abuse, as military commanders and civilian agents kept money that was supposed to feed and house the Apache, whom soldiers sometimes killed and tortured just for sport.

“He was a bit cocky and had ideas that he was going to reform the reservation he encountered,” said Jeane LaPorta, the Claverack town historian. “He didn’t like what he saw, the poor conditions. He was going to change the way they operated.”

As the idealistic Clum fought to give the Apache people dignity and self-respect, he constantly butted heads with military leaders who saw them as enemies — and settlers to whom the Apache were no better than vermin.

“He was continually fighting against forces over which he really had no control and over which he would not be able to win,” said Boardman, the Epitaph editor. “I don’t think Clum was liked very much. The Apache were warriors. They fought and they killed. It was just part of their culture, and it had been that way

for centuries. Some of their cousins, the Hopi and Navajo, had become peaceable over time. The Apache didn’t. They were ready to fight for any reason and they definitely did attack settlements.

“If settlers had their choice, I think the Apaches would have been wiped out or moved back to Florida way earlier than they were,” he added. “Anybody who was sticking up for the Apaches would have been considered an enemy — a turncoat against his race even.”

Frontier news editor

Clum’s surprise April 1877 capture of the

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legendary Apache military leader Geronimo — at gunpoint, but without a shot being fired — gave the Army a black eye.

But 10 weeks later, disillusioned and fed up with superiors who disapproved of his methods, Clum resigned and moved to Florence, Ariz., where he bought and ran the weekly *Arizona Citizen* newspaper, which he later relocated to Tucson before selling his interest in it in 1880. The most exciting years of Clum's Western odyssey, though, were just over the horizon.

Tombstone, where silver had been discovered in 1877, was a mining boomtown in what was then the territory of Arizona, long before it became the 48th state in 1912.

"John was attracted to it like everybody else," Boardman said. "There was money, opportunity, a chance for him to make a great new life so he went for it. Like so many others — the Earps, the (Cochise County) Cowboys — he was there because he thought, 'I'm still a young guy, I can have a huge impact,' and he did in a relatively short period of time."

Clum began publishing the *Epitaph* on May 1, 1880 and organized a Vigilance Committee to end lawlessness, an effort that helped him win election as Tombstone's first mayor in 1881. That fall, on Oct. 26, Clum was hard at work typing up stories in the *Epitaph* office when the brothers Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp and Wyatt's friend Doc Holliday walked down Fremont Street en route to the most famous gun battle in the history of the old West.

Virgil Earp, who was the town marshal and deputy U.S. marshal, led the four lawmen into a confrontation with several members of the Cowboys, a group of cattle rustlers and horse thieves. The result was about 30 shots fired in half a minute, leaving three of the Cowboys dead.

Almost humorously in retrospect, Clum didn't actually see the gunfight but was no doubt among those first on the scene immediately afterward.

"Clum himself said, 'I was so busy putting the newspaper together I didn't even notice what was going on. By the time the guns had gone off I realized something was going on and then it was all over,'" Boardman said. "What a great story: a newspaperman so engrossed in writing that he doesn't cover the biggest story of all time for his area. Supposedly, he didn't get out the door until after the whole thing was done. It only lasted about 30 seconds."

Clum's close friendship with and support for the Earps made him a target. In mid-December, unknown assailants tried to shoot and kill him as he rode in a stagecoach en route to catching a train east toward Washington, D.C., where he planned to spend Christmas with his parents and son.

Assassins did kill Morgan Earp and seriously wounded Virgil.

The environment was so dangerous that Clum sold the *Epitaph* on its second anniversary and left Tombstone, setting the stage for more adventures years later in Alaska.

In film and television

Although "Walk the Proud Land" gave Clum the most recognition by far, he was prominent enough in Western lore to be represented in numerous movies spanning 60 years, from "Frontier Marshall" (1934) to the 1994 movie "Wyatt Earp" starring Kevin Costner. On television, he was featured in a 1970 episode of "Death Valley Days" called "Clum's Constabulary," and he was also part of the 1955-61 series "The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp" with Hugh O'Brian in the title role.

Clum never went back to Claverack before his death on May 2, 1932 in Los Angeles.

A historical marker in a park at the corner of routes 9H and 23B in Claverack mentions Clum and "Walk the Proud Land."

LaPorta, the town historian, said she believes Clum's early upbringing figured prominently in shaping his character and fame as an early civic leader in the West.

"How much of Claverack did he take with him? It was his foundation, his background, his church and education. I like to say he brought some of it with him," she said. "During the early years of our country, Claverack was a crossroads between Manhattan, Boston and Albany. Claverack played a role in John Philip Clum's view of the world, his progressive thinking and formation."

"He was an upstanding person," she added. "He had ideals, he was young and he was going to change things. That part came through in that movie."

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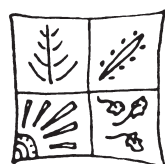
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Arts & Culture

AREA EXHIBITIONS

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • outdoor, self-guided tour, multiple artists • online catalog of 62 current and 33 past exhibitions

- through June 8: "Staging Area: A Barn Raising in Two Parts"

BenningtonMuseum.org • 75 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571 • Online, too

- Apr. 1-27: • Vermont Arts Exchange: "From Studio to Streets: 30 Years of Community Engagement through Art"
- April 3-May 18: Annual Student Art Show

BerkshireArtists.org
--**Art on Main Gallery** • 38 Main St., W. Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-2288

- Apr. 3-27: Flora Fauna Stone

--**Colonial Theatre** • 111 South St., Pittsfield

- through Apr. 29 : "Coming of The Light"

BerkshireBotanical.org • 5 W. Stockbridge Rd., Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-3926

- through Apr. 20: "Artscheming, Daydreaming"
- Apr. 25-Jun. 1: Richard James: "Lucid Illusions"

BerkshireHistory.org/InvisibleCommunity

- 780 Holmes Rd., Pittsfield, MA • 413-442-1793
- The Invisible Community: African Americans in Berkshire Co. (1830-2012) • Links at URL & Berkshire Co. Hist. Soc. YouTube Channel
- through May 16: guided tours only, Saturdays, 11 am • register at URL

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915

- through Apr. 6: "If These Walls Could Talk"
- Apr. 11-Jun. 1: "Uncanny Perceptions"

ChapmanMuseum.org • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826

- ongoing: "Hands-on History: Experiences of Hometown Life"
- through May 11: "Porches & Piazzas"
- through May 25: "Dning Out"
- through Oct. 5: "1868 Bedroom" & "1910 Bedroom"

ClarkArt.edu • FREE admission through March 2025 • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA

- May 20-Sep. 21:"Paginations--Bold by Design: Mid-century Modern Graphic Art"
- through May 18: "Paginations"
- through Jun. 15: "Pastoral on Paper"
- through Jan. 25, 2026: "Mariel Capanna: Giornata"

Clermont State Historic Site • 87 Clermont Ave., Germantown, NY • FriendsOfClermont.org • 518-537-6622

- through Jun. 2025: "Redefining The Family: The Livingstons and the Institution of Slavery in Early America"

DArcySimpsonArtWorks.com • 409 Warren St., Hudson, NY • Fri.-Mon., 12-5 pm •

- "Gallery Winter Group Show" (10 artists)
- Slideshow Gallery: Mary Breneman Online PopUp Show

510 Warren St. Gallery • Hudson, NY • 518-822-0510

- Apr. 4-27: "Histoires D’eau" photography by Lionel Delevingne

Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library

- www.CrandallLibrary.org/Folklife-Center • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • Online: Documentaries, Concerts, Stories at https://www.youtube.com/@thefolklifecenteratcrandal8195
- Friends Gallery, 2d floor:
- May 1-30: Tri-County Literacy Center Art Show and Fundraiser
- Basement Folklife Gallery: --through Jun. 30, 2025: "Wool & Waters" (scientific data of water quality into fiber art) and "Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere" --through Dec. 31: "Breaking the Chains: Lincoln & Douglass Linocuts of Stephen Alcorn" --ongoing: "Hometown USA and Shutter Squad" youth photography
- Poetry Gallery: --through May 31: "Off Season" Motel Signs Along Routes 9 & 9N"

Framework by Downtown Pittsfield Gallery • 431 North St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-6501 • M-Th, 10 am-2 pm

- Dot Gallery • Dottie’s Coffee Lounge, 444 North St., Pittsfield, MA
- Apr. 6-May 22: Allan Seppa: Photography of Southwest America

Hudson Opera House • HudsonHall.org • 327 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438

- through May 18: Wolfgang Tillmans (courtesy of Second Ward Foundation)
- May 23-Jun. 8: "The Art of Happiness"

HydeCollection.org • 518-792-1761

- Hyde House & Permanent Collection • CUSP: Brian Dickerson, Melinda Stickney-Gibson, & Millicent Young
- Apr. 12-May 18: 2025 High School Juried Show
- May 31-Sep. 21: Prosperity and Exclusion: European Prints from 1500-1850
- through Apr. 20, 2025: Mia Westerlund Roosen: The Carmelites
- through May 11: Odili Donald Odita: "A Survey of Context" • "Cypriot Pottery" • "Highlights from The Georgi Collection"

Image Photos Gallery • 413-298-5500

- photography of Clemens Kalischer

LABspace • 2642 NY Route 23, Hillsdale, NY • Sat. & Sun., 1-5 pm • julielabspace@gmail.com

- through Apr. 27: Cathy Wysocki: "It has always been the mind"

TheLafferGallery.com • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181

- Apr. 26-Jun. 1: "Vernal Visions," feat. Julie Branch, Tracy Helgeson, Robert Moylan, David Arsenault

LAPINcontemporary.com • Norad Mill, 60 Roberts Dr., Studio 308, N. Adams, MA

- through Apr. 6: John Gerding: "Elements" • Douglas Gilbert: "New Works"
- Apr. 12-Jun. 15: "An Ode to Spring: Celebrating Nature’s Renewal"

LARAC.org • Lapham Gallery • 7 Lapham Pl., Glens Falls, NY • 518-798-1144

- through Apr. 2: "Forever Now," feat. 120 Intercollegiate Regional
- Apr. 11-May 14: "From Eden," feat. Kris

Gregson Moss & Joan Reid

- May 23-Jun. 25: "In My Place," feat. Sue Beadle & Eden Compton

MASS MoCA • Adams, MA

- opening May 24- Apr. 5, 2026: Vincent Valdez: "Just a Dream"
- through Apr. 30: Osman Khan: "Road to Hybridabad"
- through May 31: Amy Yoes: "Hot Corners"
- through Aug. 31: "Like Magic"
- through Nov. 30: Amy Podmore: "Audience"

MonumentCenterVT.org • 44 Gypsy Ln., Bennington, VT

- Opening Apr. 2: "Nature’s Canvas--The Spirit of Africa" and "Wildlife of Africa"
- "Pastel Panorama - A Symphony of Styles" • "The Norman Rockwell Mystery" • "Portals to the Past - Covered Bridges in Art & History"

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100

- through May 26: Anita Kunz: "Original Sisters: Portraits of Tenacity and Courage" • Special Gallery Tours & Story Time, Apr. 21-25
- through Jun. 15: "All for Laughs: The Artists of the Famous Cartoonist Course"
- through Jan. 4, 2026: "Illustrators of Light: Rockwell, Wyeth, and Parrish from the Edison Mazda Collection"

NorthCountryArts.org • Suite 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY

--Shirt Factory Gallery

- through April 19: "Inspiration"
- May 3-June 14: "Expressions"

--Mezzanine Gallery, Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, NY

- through June 28: Member Show

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • 362½ Warren St., Hudson, NY

- April 12-May 11: Elena Sisto: "She Opened Her Ear to the Great Below" • Elizabeth Hazan: "Weather" • Lothar Osterburg: "At Work" • Alex Cohen: "Invitation to Wander" • Rotem Amizur: "Threads and Cuts"

Schick Art Gallery • Saisselin Art Bldg., Skidmore, Saratoga Springs, NY

- through April 25: "Telepathic Jungle," collage processes of 11 artists across range of materials

SeptemberGallery.com • 4 Hudson St, 3rd floor, Kinderhook, NY

- thorough May 11: "I Was Here" (textile & figuration works by six artists)

SohnFineArt.com • 69 Church St., Lenox, MA • 413-551-7353

- through April 28: "POV"

SparkofHudson.org • 502 Union St., Hudson, NY • info (temp): 518-943-3400

- through April 25: Jackie Fischer: "Millennial Nostalgia"

Spencertown Academy • 790 NY Route 203, Spencertown, NY


- through April 20: "From Pencil to Brush: Looking at the Artist’s Process"

continued on page 23

Arts & Culture


THE CALENDAR APRIL - MAY 2025

Tue. April 1

 **CaffeLena.org** • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Al Ciejka • 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • Earth Month Film Fest: “Every Little Thing” • 7 pm

Wed. April 2


 **NRM.org & The Mount** • Dramatic reading: Shirley Jackson’s “The Tooth” • Doors 5 pm/reading 6 pm • NRM, Stockbridge, MA

CaffeLena.org • Poetry Open Mic, feat. Daniel Nest-er • 7 pm

misc.


DeweyHall.org • Game Night • 7 pm

Thu. April 3


 **CaffeLena.org** --School of Music Slow Jam w/Adirondack Song Dogs • 1 pm --Bright Series: Abby Posner • 7 pm

 • **Monument Center**

Park Theater Hudson • A Gal re of Poetic Autop-sies: Jane Ormerod & John Lawson • 7-10 pm • 723 Warren St.

 **Tang.skidmore.edu** • “a field of bloom & hum” ex-hibit film series: “The Dancer from the Dance” • 6 pm • details at URL

ClarkArt.edu • “Shotgun Stories” (2007) • 6 pm • Free

 **Williams.edu** • Reflection Circle on “Being Muslim” w/ Muslim Chaplain • 4-5 pm • Paresky Center, Chaplains’ Office 205

BattenkillBooks.com • Book Club: “You Dreamed of Empires” • 6:30 pm

misc.

MassAudubon.org • Sunset Beaver Watch • 6-7:30 pm • Adults • Pleas-ant Valley Wildlife Sanc-tuary Lenox • Reg. at URL

Fri. April 4

 **TheFoundryWS.com** • Rob Flax’s Boom Chick Trio • 7:30 pm

CafeLena.org • The Spe-cial Consensus • 8 pm

RBLodge.com/Spring–fest • Weekend of Music & Community • 8 pm • See URL for events schedule • Sheffield, MA

 • **Dorset Players** • **Hubbard Hall** • **Monument Center** (see Theater Listings, p. 23)

Tang.skidmore.edu • Queer Archives Symposium (multiple performing arts) • See URL or call 518-580-8080 for schedule of events


misc.

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free, no park fee --Wiggly Wanderers • 9:30 am • Ages 0-5 yrs • No strollers --Nature Center • 10 am-3 pm

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Tree Identifica-tion Hike • 11 am-12:30 pm • Ages 8+ • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262

MassAudubon.org • Sunset Beaver Watch • 6-7:30 pm • Adults • Pleas-ant Valley Wildlife Sanc-tuary Lenox • Reg. at URL

Sat. April 5

 **BenningtonMuseum.org** • Music by Vitalia Olson • 10 am-12 pm

DeweyHall.org • Berk-shire Strings Saturday Jam • 10:30 am


RBLodge.com/Spring–fest • See Apr. 4 • 2 pm-midnight • Sheffield, MA

CaffeLena.org --Little Folks Series, feat. Evie Ladin & Keith Terry • 3 pm --Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light • 8 pm

ClaverackLibrary.org • The Wicker’s Creek Band & Beer Tasting • 4 pm

SPAC.org • Alfredo Rodri-guez Trio • 7 pm • Spa Little Theater

Skidmore.edu • String Festival, feat. Sphinx Virtuosi • 7:30 pm • Zankel Music Ctr.


 **Tang.Skidmore.edu** • “What If We’re Beautiful,” feat. Brian Lawson & Aaron Loux perf. choreography to Daniel Thomas Davis, played by Hub New Music • 5 pm

WoodTheater.org • The Body Barre: Dancing through Decades • 7 pm • Ages 21+ only


 • **Dorset Players** • **Hubbard Hall** • **Monument Center** (see Theater Listings, p. 23)

Tang.skidmore.edu • Queer Archives Symposium • See URL or call 518-580-8080 for schedule of events

HudsonHall.org • Open rehearsal of “Giulio Cesare” Opera • 2-5 pm • Free (see Theater box for paid perfor-mance run)

 **Tang.skidmore.edu** • “a field of bloom & hum” exhib-it film series: “Eternal Homes of the Tran-sient Heart” • 2 pm • details at URL

JacobsPillow.org & TheTriplex.org Fund–raiser • “The Red Shoes” & Cocktail reception • 3 pm • \$75 tix. at www.thetriplex.org

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Free Gallery Tours for Parents & Infants • 10:15 am

HudsonHall.org • “Family Connections: Excavating Teen Angst: A Conversa-tion w/ Jonathan Lerner & Ben Lerner” • 6 pm • Free, res. rec’d. • 71 N 3rd St., Hudson, NY

misc.

SalemCourthouse.org • April Fools’ Race • 9 am-12 pm • Begins & ends at Salem Washington Academy • Reg. req’d. at URL


SustainableSaratoga.org • Saratoga Sustainabil-ity Fair • 10 am-2 pm • Free, family-friendly • Billie Tisch Center for Integrated Sci-ences, Skidmore College

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • All ages • Free, no park fee • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511 --Timberdoodles: The Ameri-can Woodcock • 12 pm --Woodcock Walk • 7:30 pm

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reser-vation • Mindful Spring Walk • 1-3 pm • All ages • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262

BenningtonMuseum.org • Antiques Appraisal Fair • 1-4 pm • \$10 per item & max. 5 items

Sun. April 6

 **RBLodge.com/Spring–fest** • See Apr. 4 • 12-8 pm • Sheffield, MA

Skidmore.edu • String Festival, feat. Sphinx Virtuosi • 2 pm • Zankel Music Ctr.

CaffeLena.org • Lojo-brown • 7-9 pm

 • **Dorset Players** • **Hubbard Hall** • **Monument Center** (see Theater Listings, p. 23)

CaffeLena.org • Play-wright’s Jam for local writers, actors, & directors • 1:30 pm

SJCA • The Braid’s “Hold Me, Heal Me,” live on Zoom • 2 pm • sjca.sjcf-at-gmail.com

ArtOmi.org • Writers Reading • 3-4:30 pm • Flow Chart, Hudson, NY

misc.


CaffeLena.org • Songwrit-ing Club w/Rachel Sumner • 10 am-12 pm

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free, no park fee • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511 --Nature Center • 10 am-3 pm --Match the Hatch: Compar-ing Aquatic Insects to Fly Ties • 10 am • Ages 13+ • Free

ClarkArt.edu • First Sun-days Free

SalemCourthouse.org • Grand Re-opening Celebra-tion! • 3 pm • Events at URL

Mon. April 7


 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic • 7 pm

DeweyHall.org • Berk-shire Strings Moderate Jam • 7 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Beginner Birding • 8:30 am • Ages 13+ • Free, no park fee • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511


Tue. April 8

 **CaffeLena.org** • Jazz: Chuck Lamb Trio w/Wallace Roney, Jr. • 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • Earth Month Film Fest: “The Last of the Sea Women” • 7 pm


 **BerkshireCommunity–Landtrust.org** • “Fighting for Food, Home, & Earth: What Do We Do Now?” • Doors 6/6:30 pm panel • Free • Adv. Tix. REQD • 2 Van Deusenville Rd, Great Barrington, MA

Wed. April 9


 **CaffeLena.org** • Skidmore Jazz Ensembles Community Concert • 7 pm

DeweyHall.org • Dewey Hall Jazz Jams • 7 pm

Music.Williams.edu • Kate Liu, piano • 7:30 pm • Free • Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

 **RSYP.org** • “Recovery City” & Q&A w/Director Lisa Olivieri • 5-8 • Free • TheT-

riplex.org • RSVP to laura@rsyp.org or elliot@rsyp.org

 **Williams.edu** --An Evening with Yashica Dutt (“Coming Out as Dalit,” expanded ed.) • 4:30-5:30 pm • The Williams Bookstore

Tang.Skidmore.edu • Textile artist Mark Newport • 6-7 pm • Free


misc.

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reser-vation • Forest Bathing Walk • 1-2:30 pm • Ages 8+ • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262

LikeMindedObjects.com • Fix-It Picnic • 5-7:30 pm • Hudson Area Library, 51 North 5th St. • Reg. req’d., at URL


MassAudubon.org • Amazing Amphibians @ The Mount • 6-7:30 pm • Fam., child. ages 5-17 • Lenox • Reg. at URL


Thu. April 10

 **CaffeLena.org** • Pat Mc-Gee & Friends • 7 pm


CrandallLibrary.org • Folklife Series: Cecilia (CeciliaMusic.ca) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

ParkTheaterGF.com • The Jacob Jolliff Band • Doors 6/7 pm show • All ages

 **SJCA** • The Braid’s “Hold Me, Heal Me,” live on Zoom • 7 pm • sjca.sjcf-at-gmail.com

 **ClarkArt.edu** • “Stellet Licht” (2007) • 6 pm • Free

Tang.skidmore.edu • “a field of bloom & hum” exhibit film series: “The Personal is Political” • 6 pm • details at URL


 **Williams.edu** --Reflection Circle • See Apr. 3 --“The Encyclop die Un-bound: Diderot, d’Alembert, & the Radical Vision of Knowledge” • 4-5:30 pm • Sawyer Library

MASSMoCA.org • Black Feminist Book Club • 5 pm

HoosickHistory.com • Kathryn Sheehan: Spiritual Movement & Alternative Mediciens of the Gilded Age • 6 pm • Louis Miller Museum

NorthshireBookstore.com/Saratoga • “Let’s Give Back to Our Earth--DO-ABLE Eco-Friendly Actions for Children & Families” • 5:15-6:30 pm • Children/ family-friendly

Fri. April 11


 **SalemCourthouse.org** • Cecilia (CeciliaMusic.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

Skidmore.edu • Senior Recital: August Duclos • 7 pm • Zankel Music Ctr.


TheFoundryWS.com • Charming Disaster • 7 pm • 2 Harris St., W. Stockbridge, MA

StoneValleyArts.org • Alice Di Micele • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Richard Baratta Gotham City Latin Jazz Sextet • 8-10 pm

 • **‘62 Center** • **Dorset Players** • **Ghent Playhouse** • **Hubbard Hall** (see Theater Listings, p. 23)

WoodTheater.org • Reading of Dan Slavin’s new play: “Dual Plans” • 7:30 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Karl Whit-tington: “Queer Making: Artists & Desire in Medieval Europe” • 5:30 pm • Free

misc.


MassAudubon.org • Growing Beautiful Native Gardens • 10 am-12 pm • Greylock Glen, Adams, MA • Reg. req’d at URL

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Res-ervation • Discover Greylock Explorers Club • 1-3 pm • Ages 8+ • Call ahead for meeting loc.: 413-499-4262

WoodBlockCenter.com • Lancelee James Trimm’s “Unframed” preview • 2-6 pm • proceeds to CiviCure’s Hoosick revitalization efforts

MassAudubon.org • Sunset Beaver Watch • 6-7:30 pm • Adults • Pleas-ant Valley Wildlife Sanc-tuary Lenox • Reg. at URL

Sat. April 12


 **BenningtonMuseum.org** • Heavy Metal Strings • 2-3:30 pm

Skidmore.edu • Chamber Brass & Woodwind Ensem-bles • 3 pm • Wilson Chapel

CaffeLena.org • Momen-tum Series: Roomful of Blues • 4 & 8 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • Noah Bailey w/The Little Man Who Makes The Music • 7:30 pm

WoodTheater.org • Crazy on You & The Tom Prettys • 7:30 pm

 **NorthBerkshireDance.org** • Community Contra Dance • 7:30-10:30 pm • 906 Main St., Williamstown

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR APRIL - MAY 2025



• ‘62 Center
• Dorset Players
• Ghent Playhouse
• Hubbard Hall
(see Theater Listings, p. 23)

HudsonHall.org • Open rehearsal of “Giulio Cesare” Opera • 2-5 pm • Free



ClavarackLibrary.org • Movie Sing-a-Long w/popular musical/novel by Gregory Maguire • 2 pm • All abilities for a wicked good experience! • Res. enc’d: 518-851-7120 or info-at-clavaracklibrary.org

misc.

LARAC.org • Chip Carving Workshop w/Dennis Wilson • 9 am-4 pm • Adv. reg. req’d.

CCE.Cornell.edu/Warren • Sourdough • 10-11 am • 377 Schron River Rd., Warrensburg, NY

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free, no park fee • Needle-Felted Psanky Easter Eggs • 10 am-12 pm • Ages 13+ • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511

GlensFallsRepairCafe.org • 1st Repair Cafe of 2025 • 10 am-1 pm • Crandall Public Library

queermenoftheberkshires.org • LBGTQ+ Eco-Hike: Wahconah Falls, Dalton, MA • 10:30 am-12 pm • Reg. at URL

HydeCollection.org • Creative Coffee Hour: Needle Felted Sunsets • 11 am-12:30 pm • Adults • Reg. REQ’D

HancockShakerVillage.org • Baby Animals Fest. (through May 4) • daily, 11 am-4 pm

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Mount Greylock Photo. Gr. Meet-up: Roaring Brook • 1-2:30 pm • All ages • Meet at Roaring Brook Rd trailhead, Williamstown

FriendsofClermont.org • Earth Day Story Hour & Nature Walk for Fam. • 2 pm • Free • Visi-tor Center

Tang.Skidmore.edu • Fam. Sat.: multi-generational art-making wkshps • 2-3:30 pm • Free • Best for ages 5+

Adirondack Trout Unlimited 2025 Conservation Banquet • 5-9 pm • 1 Elks Lane, Saratoga Springs, NY • Order tickets at AD-KTU.weebly.com

Sun. April 13



CaffeLena.org --Skidmore Songwriters • 2 pm --Mindy Smith • 7 pm

The GlensFallsSymphony.org • De Blasius Chamber Series: New Canaan Chamber Music • 3 pm • at the Hyde Collection

Skidmore.edu • Young Kim & Skidmore Pianists • 4 pm • Zankel Music Ctr.

StoneValleyArts.org • Community Music Jam • 4-6 pm



• Dorset Players
• Ghent Playhouse
• Hubbard Hall
(see Theater Listings, p. 23)



GrantCottage.org • Saratoga 250 pres: County Historian Lauren Roberts • 1 pm • Saratoga Spa State Park Admin. Bldg

BenningtonMuseum.org • Richard Smith: “Ethan Allen & the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga: America’s First Victory” • 2-3 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Philip S. Palmer & Erica Ciallela: “Belle da Costa Greene: A Librarian’s Legacy” • 2 pm • Free

misc.

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free, no park fee • Hiking Challenge • 9:30 am • Ages 13+ • Adv. reg. req’d ASAP @ 518-793-0511

Mon. April 14



CaffeLena.org • Open Mic • 7 pm

DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Monday Night Moderate Jam • 7 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free, no park fee • Adv. reg. req’d ASAP @ 518-793-0511 --World Aquatic Animal Day Celebration • 11 am • Ages 6-12 yrs --Full Moon Hike • 7:30 pm • All ages

Tue. April 15



CaffeLena.org • Rochmon Record Club: “Fleetwood Mac,” aka their “White Album” • 7 pm



ImagesCinema.org • Earth Month Film Fest: “Holy Cow” • 7 pm



ClarkArt.edu • Ines Beleza-Barreiros: “Thinking Visually: Reparation, Gesture, Reparation” • 5:30 pm • Free • Manton Research Ctr.

misc.

HudsonFalls.sals.edu • World Art Day Celebration! • 1-4:30 pm • 220 Main St

Wed. April 16



Music.Williams.edu • Midweek Music in the Chapel • 12:15 pm • Free • Thompson Memorial Chapel

CaffeLena.org • Bluegrass Jam w/Red Spruce • 7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Marty O’Reilly • Doors 7/8 pm show • Ages 16+



• Dorset Players
(see Theater Listings, p. 23)



Williams.edu • An Evening w/Eiko Maruko Siniawer (“Tokyo”) • 4-5:30 pm • The Williams Bookstore

Q–MOB • LGBTQ Bus./Prof./Comm. Leaders Networking • 5:30-7:30 pm • Brazzucas, 75 North St, Pittsfield, MA

WoodTheater.org • Book Club: “What My Bones Know” • 6:30 pm • 207 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY

misc.

MassAudubon.org • Spring Migration Bird Walk • See Apr. 16

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free, no park fee --Invasive Removal Tutorial • 10 am • Ages 13+ • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511 --Easter Craft • 1-3 pm • All ages • Adv. reg. req’d @ FriendsofMoreauLake.org

HudsonFalls.sals.edu • Stuffed Animal Sleepover • 6-6:30 pm • Ages 2+ • Free • 220 Main St, Hudson Falls

Thu. April 17



CaffeLena.org • The April Fools Comedy Folk Music • 7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Matt Niedbalski, feat. Keith Pray (sax & organ) • Doors 7/7:30 pm show • Ages 18+

CrandallLibrary.org • Windborne (WinborneSingers.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

Skidmore.edu • Vocal Soul Collective • 7 pm • Filene Recital Hall

Williams.edu --Ancient Greek Music • 7-8:30 pm • Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall --James Allister Sprang “Rest Within the Wake” orch. jazz comp. w/somatic listening • 8-9 pm • ‘62 Center Main-stage



• Dorset Players
(see Theater Listings, p. 23)



ClarkArt.edu • “The Last Picture Show” (1971) • 6 pm • Free



Williams.edu --Reflection Circle • See Apr. 3 --Public Affairs Forum--How Did We Get Here--and What Now? w/David Brooks & Deval Patrick • 6-7:30 pm • Chapin Hall

SalemCourthouse.org • 250th Anniv., feat. Ken Gottry • 6:30-7:30 pm

misc.

LARAC.org • Sculptural Jewelry w/Kris Gregson Moss • 3-5 pm • Adv. reg. req’d.

HydeCollection.org • Painting w/Patrice: Boats inspired by Monet • 5:30-7:30 pm • Adults • Reg. REQ’D

MassAudubon.org • Spring Salamander & Frog Search • 6:30-8 pm • Fam., child. ages 5-17 • Greylock Glen, Adams, MA • Reg. REQ’D at URL

Fri. April 18



SalemCourtthouse.org • Windborne (WinborneSingers.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

TheFoundryWS.com • Cuarteto Rotterdam • 7:30 pm

Williams.edu • James Allister Sprang • See Apr. 17

CaffeLena.org • 65th An-niv. Folk Heritage: Dan Berggren • 8-10 pm



• Dorset Players
• Ghent Playhouse
(see Theater Listings, p. 23)

MettabeeFarm.com • “The Mistake” (Hiroshima) • 7 pm • Sug. don. \$15-20 • 551 Harlemville Rd., Hillsdale, NY



ClarkArt.edu • Fresh Takes tour • 12 pm • Free

Williams.edu • Ben Long-streth --“Taking Climate Change Seriously: Supporting wind & solar isn’t enough” • 12-1 pm • The LOG • Res. REQD --Environmental Career Convo: Climate Law & Advocacy • 1-2 pm • The LOG

misc.

MassAudubon.org • Spring Migration Bird Walk • See Apr. 16

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free • Radical Rabbits! • 11 am • All ages • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511

HudsonFalls.sals.edu • Lego Challenge Palooza! • 11 am-1 pm • Free • 220 Main St

Sat. April 19



DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Jam • 10:30 am

Williams.edu • James Allister Sprang • See Apr. 17 • 2-3 pm

Caffelena.org • The Slavobovian Circus of Dreams Unplugged • 8 pm

SpencertownAcademy.org • Spottiswoode & His Enemies • 8 pm



• Ghent Playhouse
• Hudson Opera
(see Theater Listings, p. 23)

OldChathamQuakers.org • “The Mistake” (Hiroshima) • 2 pm • Free • 539 Co. Rte. 13, Old Chatham

misc.

HudsonCrossingPark.org • Annual K9 Easter Egg Hunt • 8 am - late pm

MassAudubon.org • Adults • Reg. REQ’D at URL --Birding Workshop: Warblers by Ear • 9 am-12 pm • Greylock Glen, Adams, MA --Spring Amphibian Search at Pleasant Valley • 6:30-8 pm

GlensFallsCollaborative.com • Glens Falls Cleanup Day • 9-11 am • All ages • Gather at 28 Ridge St • Reg. at URL

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free • Phragmites Basket Weaving • 10 am-12 pm • All ages • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Signs of Spring Mindful Talk • 1-3 pm • All ages • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262

Sun. April 20



ImagesCinema.org • Earth Month Film Fest: “Flow” • 1:30 pm

misc.

HudsonCrossingPark.org • Ann. K9 Easter Egg Hunt • 8 am - late pm

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free • Nature Trail Walk • 11 am • All ages • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511

Mon. April 21



CaffeLena.org • Open Mic • 7 pm

DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Moderate Jam • 7 pm



NRM.org • Anita Kunz (“Original Sisters”) Gallery-

Tour & Activities (through Apr. 25) • Free --Tour Times • 10:15 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm --Story Time--Inspiring Tales of Courageous Women • 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Meet Me at the Clark (for people living w/dementia & care partners) • 1 pm • Adv. reg. REQ’D at 413-458-0563

misc.

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Stonewall Hike • 10 am • Ages 13+ • Free • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511

Tue. April 22



Skidmore.edu • Skidmore in Concert: Orchestra • 7 pm • Zankel Music Ctr.



Tang.skidmore.edu • “Hell is Real:” A New Play Reading • 6:30 pm



ImagesCinema.org • Earth Month Film Fest: “Singing Back the Buffalo” • 7 pm

SJCA • Panel Disc. film “The Syrian Bride” on Zoom • 7 pm • Reg. REQ’D • sjca.sjcf-at-gmail.com

misc.

ClarkArt.edu/events • School Vac. Wk Activities • Free • See URL for 3-days’ schedule

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Earth Day Open House • 1-3 pm • All ages

ClarkArt.edu/events • Foraging Walk • 5:30 pm • Free • Adv. reg. REQ’D

Wed. April 23



Music.Williams.edu • Free • Midweek Music • 12:15 pm • Chapin Hall



• Dorset Players
• Hudson Opera

Tang.skidmore.edu • “Hell is Real:” A New Play Reading • 6:30 pm

misc.

MassAudubon.org • Spring Migration Bird Walk • See Apr. 16

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Beg. Birding • 8:30 am • Ages 13+ • Free • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511

ClarkArt.edu/events • School Vac. Wk. • Free • See Apr. 22

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Forest Walk & Yoga • 11 am-1 pm • All

continued on next page

Arts & Culture


THE CALENDAR APRIL - MAY 2025

April 23 cont'd

ages • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262

HubbardHall.org • Breaking Bread Potluck • 6:30-8:30 pm


Thu. April 24


 **CaffeLena.org** • Honey-suckle • 7 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Bon Débarras (BonDebarras.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

Skidmore.edu • Skidmore in Concert: Chorus • 7 pm • Zankel Music Ctr.

 • **'62 Center** • **Dorset Players** • **Wood Theater** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

 **ClarkArt.edu** • “Days of Heaven” (1978) • 6 pm • Free

 **Williams.edu** • Reflection Circle on “Being Muslim” • See Apr. 3

BattenkillBooks.com • Poetry Night • 6:30 pm • Cambridge, NY


misc.

ClarkArt.edu/events • School Vacation Week • Free • See Apr. 22

MassAudubon.org • Spring Wildflower Explor. Pleasant Valley’s All Persons Trail • 10-11 AM • Adults • Reg. REQ'D at URL

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Geocaching 101 • 1-2:30 pm • All ages, no exp. necessary • download free geocaching.com app to start

Fri. April 25


 **SalemCourtnouse.org** • Bon Débarras (BonDebarras.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

ParkTheaterGF.com • Jim Tews • Doors 7/8 pm show • Ages 18+


Music.Williams.edu • Berkshire Symphony • 7:30 pm • Chapin Hall

CaffeLena.org • Laurie MacAllister of Red Molly • 8 pm

MASSMoCA.org • Ani DiFranco • 8 pm

 • **'62 Center** • **Dorset Players** • **Fort Salem** • **Ghent Playhouse** • **Wood Theater** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

StoneValleyArts.org • SVA Literary Open Mic • 7 pm

 **Williams.edu** • LOG Lunch w/Sue Van Hook: “Emergent World of Mushroom Materials for Circular Economies” • 12-1 pm • Res. REQD • The LOG


ClarkArt.edu • Poetry Reading by Christine Kelly & Tan Lin • 6 pm • Free

misc.

MassAudubon.org • Spring Migration Bird Walk • See Apr. 16


Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Arbor Day Forest Health Walk • 11 am-1 pm • Ages 8+ • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262

Sat. April 26

 **SPAC.org** • Chamber Music Soc. Linc. Ctr: “Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence” • Doors 2/3 pm concert • Spa Little Theater

Music.Williams.edu • Williams Gospel Choir • 4 pm • Free • Chapin Hall

CaffeLena.org • Mark Cosgrove & Good Medicine • 8 pm

 • **'62 Center** • **Fort Salem** • **Ghent Playhouse** • **Hudson Opera** • **Wood Theater** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD: “Le Nozze di Figaro” • 1 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • “A Crucible: A Puritanical Celebration of Witches & Turkeys,” a comedy • 7:30 pm

misc.

Maple Leaf Quilters • 2025 Fest. Quilts • 9 am-5 pm • \$8/under 12 free • 1612 Post Rd, Rut-land, VT

SustainableSaratoga.org • Urban Forestry Project: Tree Toga planting • Check-in 9-9:30 am at Pitney Meadows Comm'ty Farm • sign up at URL

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation --Park Serve Day! • 9 am-12 pm • Ages 14+ • at Bellows South Trailhead, Greylock Glen • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262

HudsonFalls.sals.edu • Trashion Show Earth Day Extravaganza • 11 am-12:30 pm • Free • 220 Main St, Hudson Falls, NY

FriendsofClermont.org • Chancellor’s Sheep & Wool Showcase • 11 am-4 pm • \$15/vehicle, cash only


LARAC.org • It’s a Wrap: Feltmaking w/Barbara Ryan • 1-3 pm • Adv. reg. req’d.

AncramCenter.org • Storytelling w/Sarah Katan • 1-3 pm • Free, ages late teens-adults • Roe Jan Library, Hillsdale, NY • Pre-reg. REQD ASAP: director@roejanlibrary.org

SalemCourthouse.org • Repair Café • 1-4 pm • Qs or to volunteer: hebronsalemrepair-cafe@gmail.com

Tang.Skidmore.edu • See Apr. 12

Sun. April 27


 **ClarkArt.edu/events** • Music in the Manton: Umi Garrett • 2 pm

BenningtonMuseum.org • Junkman • 2-4 pm • Free • Paresky Court

StoneValleyArts.org • Jazz Cafe • 3 pm • Free

HubbardHall.org • Music From Salem • 4 pm • \$30/ pay what will • Cambridge, NY • Tix at URL

CaffeLena.org • “A Joyful Noise!” Gospel Dinner w/ Garland Nelson & Friends • 5 pm


 • **Fort Salem** • **Ghent Playhouse** • **Hudson Opera** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

misc.

Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Free, no park fee • Earth Day Hike @ Lake Bonita • 9 am • Ages 13+ • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511

Maple Leaf Quilters • See Apr. 26

Mon. April 28


 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic • 7 pm


DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Monday Moderate Jam • 7 pm

misc.


Parks.NY.Gov/Moreau • Stonewall Hike • 10 am • Ages 13+ • Free • Adv. reg. req’d @ 518-793-0511


Tue. April 29

 **CaffeLena.org** • The Michael Mills Magic Show • 7 pm

 **Williams.edu** • French Film Fest: Julie Delpy’s “Les Barbares” (2024) • 7 pm • Images-Cinema.org

Wed. April 30


 **CaffeLena.org** • Lena Go Round--Songwriters Showcase w/Erin Harkes • 7:30-9:30 pm

 • **Hudson Opera** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

misc.

Mass.gov/locations/ Mount-Greylock-State-Reservation • Forest Walk & Yoga • 11 am-1 pm • All ages • Pre-reg. REQD: 413-499-4262


Thu. May 1

 **CaffeLena.org** • Tannahill Weavers • 7 pm

SPAC.org • Veronica Swift • 7 pm • Spa Little Theater


Music.Williams.edu • Jazz Nights--Combo • 7:30 pm • Free • Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

CrandallLibrary.org • Pat Byrne (PatByrne-music.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

 **Williams.edu** • Reflection Circle • See Apr. 3

BattenkillBooks.com • Book Club: “The Tenant of Wildfell Hall” • 6:30 pm

Fri. May 2

 **ClarkArt.edu/events** • Music in the Manton: Benjamin Hochman • 6 pm

SalemCourtnouse.org • Pat Byrne (PatByrne-music.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

ParkTheaterGF.com • An Evening w/Gibson Brothers • 7 pm • All ages

TheFoundryWS.com • Talia Rose & Heather Scott • 7:30 pm

Williams.edu • Williams Jazz Orch. • 7:30 pm • Free • Brooks-Rogers Recit-al Hall

CaffeLena.org • Joe Louis Walker • 8 pm

 • **Fort Salem** • **Hudson Opera** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

WAMTheatre.com • Fresh Takes Play Read. & Devel.: “Cry It Out” (Molly Smith Metzler) • 2 & 7 pm • Hot Plate Brewing, Pittsfield

misc.


SalemCourthouse.org • Online Auction opens • 8 am (through May 8, 8 pm) • In-Person pre-view, 5-8 pm


Sat. May 3

 **DeweyHall.org** • Berkshire Strings Jam • 10:30 am

CaffeLena.org • --Little Folks, feat. Deb Cavanaugh & Dandelion Wine • 3 pm • --Kyran Daniel • 8 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • Kenny Goes to Sleep • 7:30 pm

 • **Fort Salem** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

 **BenningtonMuseum.org** • Black Box, a photographic memoir • 2-3 pm

misc.

Salem Area Woman’s Club • 27th Ann. Women’s Health Day • 8 am-2:30 pm • Reg. form & prepay REQD by Apr. 25 • For form: 518-677-5562

HancockShakerVillage.org • Baby Animals Fest., w/ champ. sheep shearer, Fred DePaul • 11 am-4 pm

GlensFallsBrewfest.org • 2025 Glens Falls Brewfest • 4-7 pm • 1 Civic Center Plaza


Sun. May 4

 **CaffeLena.org** • The Resonant Rogues • 7 pm

Williams.edu • Chamber Music Studio Recital • 2 pm • Free • Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall


Saratoga Chamber Players • Adirondack Spring, feat. Andrius Zlabys • 3 pm • 175 Fifth Ave., Saratoga Springs

SpencertownAcademy.org • Tenor Brian Giebler w/pianist Steven McGhee • 3 pm

 **MASS MoCA** • Trisha Brown Dance Co.: “Roof Piece” • 2 & 4:30 pm

 • **Fort Salem** (See Theater Listings, pg. 23)

CaffeLena.org • Playwright’s Jam • 1:30 pm

 **FriendsofClermont.org** • Clearing Iroquoia: Travis M. Bowman & Matthew A. Zembo • 2 pm • Free

Mon. May 5

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic • 7 pm


DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Moderate Jam • 7 pm


misc.

queermenoftheberkshires.org • LGBTQ+ Eco-Hike: Campbell Falls, New Marlborough, MA • 11 am-12:30 pm • Reg. at URL


WashingtonCounty. Fun/art-ag-tour • Art + Ag Tour • 11 am-4 pm • Self-guided tour map, host farms, & artists at URL


Tue. May 6

 **Williams.edu** • Flute Studio Recital • 7:30 pm • Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

 **CaffeLena.org** • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Stephanie Bandosik • 7 pm

Wed. May 7


 **Music.Williams.edu** • Free • Chinese Music Ensemble • 7:30 pm • Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

 **CaffeLena.org** • Poetry Open Mic, feat. Leslie B. Neustadt & Richard Michelson • 7 pm

misc.

DeweyHall.org • Game Night • 7 pm


Thu. May 8

 **CaffeLena.org** • Angelina Valente • 7 pm


CrandallLibrary.org • Johnny Campbell w/Kristofer Ross • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

TheFoundryWS.com • Itay Dayan Quartet • 7:30 pm

Williams.edu • Middle Eastern Music Ensemble • 7:30 pm • Free • Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

 **Williams.edu** • Reflection Circle • See Apr. 3

Fri. May 9

 **SalemCourtnouse.org** • Johnny Campbell w/Kristofer Ross • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

Williams.edu • Concert Choir & Chamber Choir • 7:30 pm • Free • Chapin Hall

CaffeLena.org • The Wild-woods • 8 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Strange Souls: The Doors Reimagined • 8 pm

continued on next page

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR APRIL - MAY 2025

**Williams.edu** • Spring “Pachedu” • 7-8 pm • ‘62 Center Mainstage

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Dr. John Sladek: “August Kretschmer & Stoneware Decorators” • 3:30-5 pm

Sat. May 10

**Williams.edu** • Concert Choir & Chamber Choir • 7:30 pm • Free • Chapin Hall

CaffeLena.org • House of Hamill • 8 pm

**Williams.edu** • See May 9


misc.

GrasslandBirdTrust.org • Raptor Fest • 8 am-1 pm • 2 Durkeetown Rd, Fort Edward • Adv. ticket rec’d

FriendsofClermont.org • Harvesting History Fam. Wkshp: Seed Paper • 11 am • Free • Visitor Center


Tang.Skidmore.edu • See Apr. 12

Sun. May 11

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Jed Distler presents “Fearless Monk” • 2-3:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Drank the Gold • 7 pm

Mon. May 12

**CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic • 7 pm


DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Moderate Jam • 7 pm

Tue. May 13

**CaffeLena.org** • Chuck Lamb Trio w/Camille Thurman • 7 pm

**SJCA** • Panel Disc. film “Divided We Fall” on Zoom • 7 pm • Reg. REQ’D • sjca.sjcf-at-gmail.com

Wed. May 14


**CaffeLena.org** • John Gorka • 7:30 pm


Thu. May 15

**CaffeLena.org** • Singing Through the Hard Times: a 90th B-day Celeb. for Utah Phillips • 7 pm


ParkTheaterGF.com • Jazz Night w/Tarik Shah • 7:30 pm • Ages 18+

CrandallLibrary.org • Kathleen Parks Band (KathleenParksMusic.com) • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

**• Wood Theater**
See Theater Listings, below)


**ClarkArt.edu** • “The Quiet Man” (1952) • 6 pm • Free

Fri. May 16

**SalemCourtthouse.org** • Kathleen Parks Band • Doors 6:30/7pm show • Free

CaffeLena.org • Don Armstrong • 8 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Caleb Caudle & The Sweet Critters • 8 pm • Ages 18+

**• Dorset Players**
• Wood Theater
See Theater Listings, below)

Williams.edu • Yona Kruger ‘25, “Love Letters &


Thank-You Notes to Williamstown” • 7-8 pm • ‘62 Center Centerstage

misc.

MaldenBridgecc.org • Plant & Tag Sale, Artisan Market • 10 am-4 pm (3 days) • 1087 Albany Turnpike

Sat. May 17

**CaffeLena.org** • Bettye Lavette • 8 pm

**• Dorset Players**
• Wood Theater
(see Theater Listings, below)

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD: “Salome” • 1 pm


misc.


HoosickHistory.com • Hoosick Hist. & Heritage Fair • 10 am-3 pm • Hoosick Falls Armory & Bennington Battlefield St. Hist. Site


MaldenBridgecc.org • See May 16

HubbardHall.org • Spring Gala: A New Beginning • 6-9 pm

Sun. May 18

**TheFoundryWS.com** • Cantrip • 7:30 pm

**• Dorset Players**
• Wood Theater
See Theater Listings, below)


**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Bennington Hist. Soc.: “Ira Allen of Vermont” • 2-3 pm


misc.

MaldenBridgecc.org • See May 17


queermenoftheberkshires.org • LGBTQ+ Eco-Hike: Great Barrington, MA • 6:30-8 pm • Reg. at URL


Wed. May 22

**ClarkArt.edu** • “Jean de Florette” (1988) • 6 pm • Free


**BattenkillBooks.com** • Poetry Night • 6:30 pm • Cambridge, NY


Thu. May 23


**CaffeLena.org** • Sawyer Fredericks • 8 pm

**• Dorset Players**

Fri. May 24

**CaffeLena.org** • See May 23

**DeweyHall.org** • Sheffield Contra Dance • 6:30 beg. lesson/7-10 pm dance

**• Dorset Players**

misc.

Tang.Skidmore.edu • See Apr. 12


Sat. May 25

**• Dorset Players**

Wed. May 29

**CaffeLena.org** • 65th Anniversary Folk Heritage Series: Roy Book Binder • 7 pm

Fri. May 31

**HubbardHall.org** • Music From Salem: Cello Concert • 4-6 pm

‘62 Center for Theatre & Dance • Williams College, Williamstown • Williams.edu

- Nicolas Noreña/The Millions Underscores’ “Seconds” • Apr. 11 & 12 • 8 pm • Mainstage
- “Everybody. You’re Dying Everybody. Starting Now!” • Apr. 24-26 • 7:30-9 pm

DorsetPlayers.org • 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, VT • 1-802-867-5777

- “Meteor Shower,” by Steve Martin • Apr. 4-13
- Apr. 4, 5, 11 & 12 @ 7:30 pm; Apr. 6 & 13 @ 2 pm
- “Company,” music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim • May 16-25 • May 16, 17, 23, & 24 @ 7:30 pm; May 18 & 25 @ 2 pm

FortSalem.com • 11 E. Broadway, Salem, NY • 1-518-854-9200

THEATER LISTINGS

- “Sweeney Todd,” music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim • Apr. 25-May 4 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

GhentPlayhouse.org • 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, NY

- “Working - The Musical” • Apr. 11-13, 18-19, and 25-27 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

HubbardHall.org • Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2495

- “Dancing at Lughnasa” by Brian Friel • Apr. 4-13
- Fri. & Sat., 7:30-8:30 pm; Sun., 2-4 pm

Hudson Opera House • 327 Warren St., Hudson, NY • HudsonHall.org

- “Giulio Cesare” opera by G.F. Handel, with early music band Ruckus • Apr. 19-May 2 • Apr. 19, 6 pm • Apr. 23, 27, & 30, 3 pm • Wed. & Sun., 3 pm • Apr. 26 & May 2, 7 pm

MonumentCenterVT.org • 44 Gypsy Ln., Bennington, VT • 802-318-4444

- “South Pacific” • Apr. 3-5 • Thu. & Fri., 7 pm; Sat., 2 & 7 pm; Sun., 2 pm

(Charles R.) WoodTheater.org • 207 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-480-4878

- AllAbilitiesProductions.org: School House Rock! Live! • Apr. 24-26 • Thu. & Fri., 7:30 pm • Sat., 2 pm
- Disney’s “Descendants: The Musical” • May 15-18 • Thu. & Fri., 7 pm; Sat. & Sun. 2 pm

Exhibitions *continued from page 19*

StoneValleyArts.org • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT

- Apr. 26-Jun. 8: Artist Member Show

SusanEleyFineArt.com • 433 Warren St., Hudson, NY

- through Apr. 27: “Dismantle,” feat. Ana Maria Farina, Susan Lisbin, Maria Manhattan, Marianne van Lent
- May 1-Jun. 8: “Springburst,” new abstractions by John Vitale & Friederike Oeser

SVAC.org • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • through Jun. 22: “Spring 2025 Solo Exhibition”

Tang.skidmore.edu • 815 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

- through Apr. 13: Everforward, Neverback
- through Jul. 20: “a field of bloom and hum: 100 Years of Art that Celebrate Queer Identities & Communities”
- through Sep. 7: Yvette Molina “A Promise to the Leaves”

ValleyArtisansMarket.com • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • One-of-a-kind creations online

- through Apr. 7: Clarence King: Landscape and Still Life Paintings
- Apr. 11-May 5: Mark Madden: “Obsessed With Owls” wood carvings and photos

WoodBlockCenter.com • 1 Main St., Hoosick Falls, NY • Proceeds support CiviCure’s Hoosick revitalization efforts

- Apr. 13-26: Lancelee James Trimm: “Unframed”

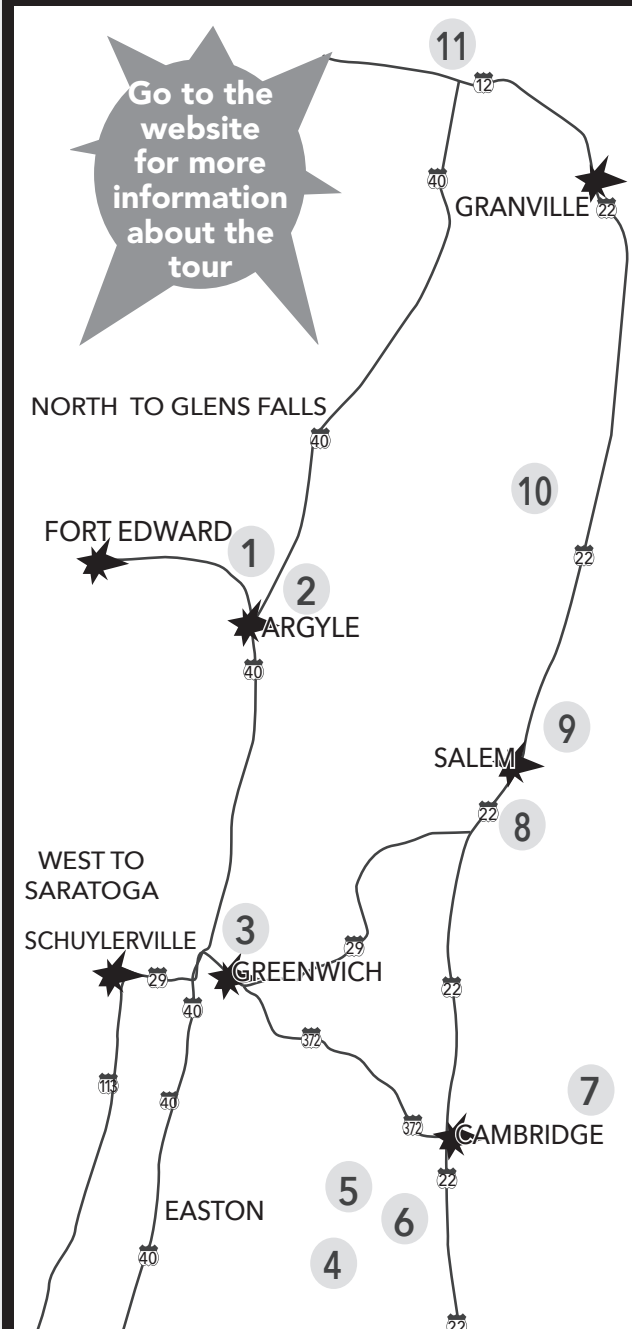
WorldChildrensMuseum.org • 89 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY • Online museum at URL



Free Self Guided Tour

Please do not bring your dogs with you on the Fiber Tour.
Wear comfortable shoes and casual clothes, and be prepared for the weather
and the occasional nibble from a friendly fiber animal.

2025 Washington County Fiber Tour Map



**Saturday & Sunday
April 26 & 27**

2025 Participating Farms

1. Jumpin' Juniper Fields
2. Mis-Fit Acres
3. Battenkill Carding and Spinning Mill
4. South Dominion Vineyard
5. Alpacas of Haven Hill
6. 4E's Farm
7. Caer Luna Farm
8. Fiber Kingdom
9. Quarry Ridge Farm
10. Simple Pleasures Farm
11. Dandy Gander Farm

Farms are open both days 10 - 4
(unless noted otherwise).

washingtoncountyfibertour.org

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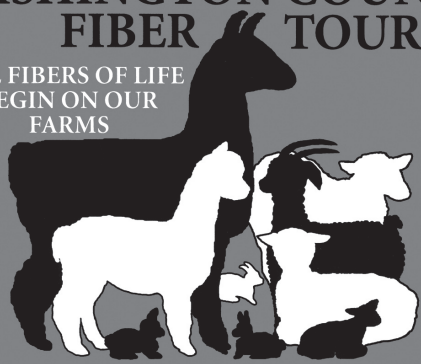
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For a list of farms, map and directions for a self-guided tour

washingtoncountyfibertour.org