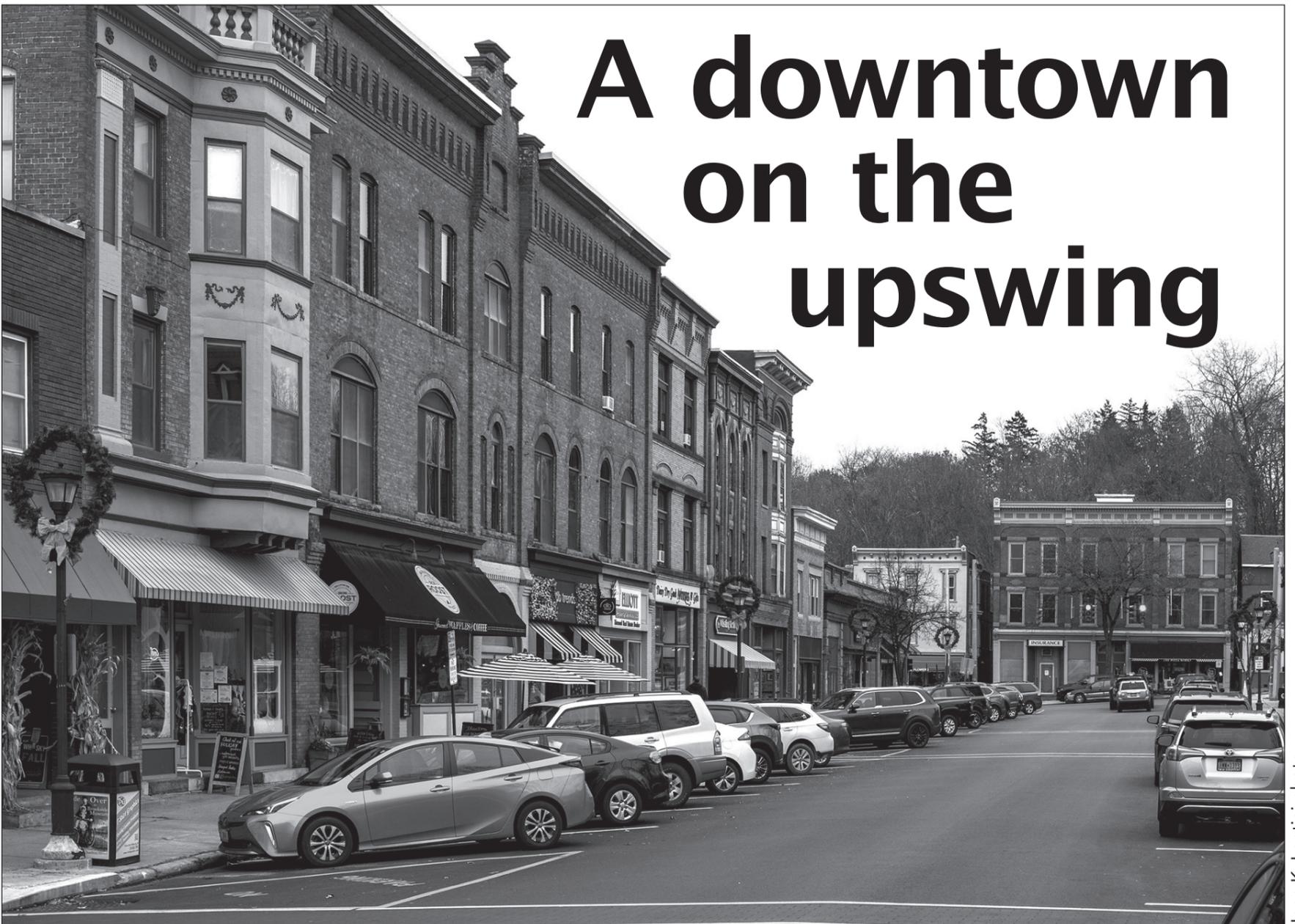


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A downtown on the upswing

In Saratoga's shadow, Ballston Spa finds its own path to success

By **STACEY MORRIS**
Contributing writer

BALLSTON SPA, N.Y.

Ten minutes down the road from Saratoga Springs, the village of Ballston Spa has quietly emerged as a destination all its own.

With its walkable downtown and rows of shops, restaurants, antiques dealers and historical attractions, the village is a kind of urban oasis sitting just beyond the sprawling suburban cul-de-sacs and strip malls of Clifton Park and Malta.

And over the past couple of decades it has built a loyal following, both among visitors from around the region and among the independent entrepreneurs who've transformed its downtown, storefront by storefront.

"I didn't think I wanted to be north of Albany but fell in love with Ballston Spa the moment I got here," said Corina Oberai, who opened her jewelry and fine crafts store, Corina Contemporary Jewelry, 17 years ago in the village.

Oberai grew up in Poughkeepsie and lived in Burlington, Vt., and Pittsfield, Mass., before settling in Ballston Spa. A quick walk around the village was all the convincing it took.

"I stopped into Coffee Planet and noticed vegetarian options, there was also a solid presence of artists here, and when I saw the First Friday brochure, I knew I wanted to be a part of this place," she recalled.

Until recently, given Saratoga Springs' reputation as a tourist destination and a center of the arts, Ballston Spa often receded into the shadow of its neighbor to the north.

But while the Spa City's glittering charity galas and national sporting events set it apart, its fame and opulence can be a mixed bag. To be sure, the revitalization of downtown Saratoga Springs over the past few decades is a success story that has made it the envy of other small cities across the Northeast. But that success has come with some unintended consequences — sky-high rents and real estate prices, problems



Joan K. Lentini photo

The row of 19th century buildings along Front Street in Ballston Spa have been revitalized in recent decades, making the village a hub for shopping and dining.

with traffic and parking, and a thriving nightlife that lately has given rise to occasional headline-making altercations at the downtown bars.

As in Saratoga Springs, Ballston Spa's downtown was nearly deserted in the 1970s, Village Historian John Cromie says. But its path to revitalization has been different. The village may not have a frenetic influx of tourists during July and August, but today it enjoys a steady, year-round flow of foot traffic on its sidewalks.

Front Street is often abuzz with events — summer farmers markets, outdoor concerts, the winter chocolate festival — as well as the customers heading in and out of its clothing and gift boutiques, bakeries and restaurants.

Around the corner is Milton Avenue, and a nearly mile-long stretch of storefronts chock-a-block with restaurants, taverns, a library, thrift stores, boutiques and antique stores. There's also a growing commercial presence on many of

the side streets just off the main drag.

"One of the things that makes Ballston Spa so unique," Cromie said, "is it's probably the only intact village in the Capital Region: a place where banks, churches, stores, a pharmacy, hair salons, restaurants, the library and insurance agencies are all available downtown."

And it's an economically diverse community, he said, where the affluent rub elbows easily and often with those of more modest means.

"There aren't many places like Ballston Spa anymore," Cromie said.

A history of tourism, industry

The village incorporated in 1807 and was named in part after the Rev. Eliphalet Ball, a Presbyterian minister who moved to the region in about 1770 and built a settlement with some parishioners who followed him upstate from the Westchester County town of Bedford.

"People in New York City would call it 'Ball's town,' and the name stuck," Cromie said.

He explained that Ball also effectively became a real estate agent for portions of the Kayaderossera Patent, a land grant made in 1701 by Great Britain's Queen Anne that included more than 400,000 acres across most of what is now Saratoga County as well as parts of Fulton, Montgomery and Schenectady counties. The area wasn't surveyed until 1771 because of delays resulting from the French and Indian War.

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“What I figure is when the patent was being divided up amongst financial interests, there were commissioners appointed who had to hire surveyors,” Cromie explained. “Those expenses had to be paid, and they needed a real estate agent, and it appears that’s what Reverend Ball was. He had a personal interest in it, because he and his parishioners had been kicked out of their church downstate and needed to relocate.”

“Spa” was added to the village’s name because of its reputation for welcoming tourists to its mineral baths and resort hotels for a 40-year-stretch that predated Saratoga Springs’ mineral spa tourism. Cromie said that between 1790 and 1830, Ballston Spa was home to luxury hotels, including the Aldridge Hotel (which today has become the Brookside Museum), McMaster House, the Eagle Hotel, and the three-story Sans Souci, which offered on-site mineral baths and was the largest hotel in the United States when completed. Ballston Spa was so popular as a tourist destination during this era that it also became an entertainment hotspot, with taverns and saloons, theater, billiard rooms and venues offering live shows, music and dancing.

But the end of mineral-bath tourism didn’t spell the end for Ballston Spa. Thanks to the undulating power of the Kayaderosseras Creek, which begins 17 miles north in Corinth and winds through the county before emptying into Saratoga Lake, Ballston Spa morphed into an industrial center in the mid-19th century. It became the site of cotton and paper mills, tanneries and a manufacturer of axes.

Today, one of the remnants of the mill era is the Axe Factory Preserve, at 15 Axe St., which features historic ruins and scenic walking trails along the creek.

“Because the creek has high banks and a long stream, it was the perfect place for all these mills,” Cromie said.

Most of the mills vanished by about 1900, Cromie said, although the Ballston Knitting Co., known for its popular Ballston socks, lasted into the 1990s.

In the early 20th century, Ballston Spa transformed again into an agricultural hub for area farmers shipping their products by rail to New York City and other major markets of the Northeast. But many of the region’s smaller farmers disappeared after World War II as technology permanently changed agriculture.

“But we still had a nice little village,” Cromie said, “and soon engineers and scientists from companies like General Electric and the Watervliet Arsenal came here to raise their families.”

Then the opening of the Adirondack Northway in 1965 pulled traffic away from the village

Ballston Spa attractions

- **The National Bottle Museum**, at 76 Milton Ave., preserves local and national bottle history with permanent and temporary exhibitions such as those on Ballston Spa bottles, commemorative shot glasses, and Coca-Cola bottles.
- **The Saratoga County History Center At Brookside Museum**, at 21 Fairground Ave., occupies a two-and-a-half story mansion originally built as the Aldridge Hotel in 1792. The building became a repository for local history in 1970, with rotating exhibitions, meeting space, gardens, archives, artifact storage and a research library. See www.brooksidemuseum.org.

- **Iron Spring Park**, at 198 Front St., is set on a scenic hillside with a bandstand for summer concerts, benches for relaxation, and the Old Iron Spring. Drilled in 1874, the spring remains a source of drinking water today, and the park provides access to the half-mile-long Old Iron Spring Fitness Trail.
- **Wiswall Park**, at the corner of Front and Low streets, has been a gathering place for more than a century and today hosts events such as weekly farmers markets, concerts and Victorian festivities in December. Water from the Sans Souci spring flows at a fountain in the park.

and spawned a wave of suburban development as housing subdivisions and shopping malls sprang up near the highway’s exits. The result was period of sharp decline for the village’s downtown throughout the 1970s and beyond, though it remained the seat of Saratoga County government.

“During this time, we lost what was sustaining Ballston Spa,” Cromie said. “From 1965 through 1985, it had no reason for existence. ... And then, people rediscovered Ballston Spa, and now the reason for existence is itself.”

Cultivating a community

Dana Womer remembers her first visit to the village after moving east from her native Minnesota seven years ago.

At the time, Womer and her husband, Dave, a Saratoga County native, were living Galway when a friend invited them to the Ballston Spa Christmas parade.

“I was bowled over by the sense of community,” Womer recalled. “We just loved the feeling, and we knew we wanted to live here.”

Womer soon joined the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association as a volunteer and eventually became its executive administrator. The organization is run by 15 volunteer board members and made up of business owners, village residents and those working for local nonprofits.

“I started volunteering heavily for the board because I love Ballston Spa, and when the administrator position opened, I jumped,” Womer recalled.

She said the retail growth in the village has

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been steady despite the disruption of the pandemic.

“Weathering that was a real feat, but most of the businesses are still here,” she said, noting that new businesses, such as Sustainable Sundry (a zero-waste cleaning product refillery) continue to crop up.

“The other unique thing about Ballston Spa is the majority of downtown businesses are owned by women,” she said. “And that just adds to the collaborative spirit here.”

A tapestry of tastes

The Medbery Inn & Spa is the crown jewel of Front Street and features the Front Street Social Club restaurant as well as hotel rooms and a spa offering mineral baths and a menu of services.

Jamie and Jessica Fronk moved from Los Angeles to open the Front Street Social Club in 2019, serving what the owners describe as “American cuisine with a Latin flair.” When the pandemic decimated indoor dining, Jessica Fronk said, DoorDash saved the day.

Today, though, the demand for sit-down dining is again robust, and on any given night, Jamie and Jessica can be found in the eatery’s bustling kitchen prepping Baja fish tacos and fried chicken with beignets for a full house.

Some of the other businesses on the north side of Front Street are The Sweetish Chef, a sugar-free and grain-free bakery; the Rilassare day spa, Iron Roost Restaurant, Front Street Home, Daisy Dry Goods, Whistling Kettle



Joan K. Lentini photo

Kevin Borowsky, co-owner and manager of The Whistling Kettle in Ballston Spa, delivers afternoon tea to customers.

Restaurant, and O’Brien Pharmacy — a village mainstay since 1960.

The south side of Front Street includes Wiswall Park, a barber shop, liquor store, deli, Henry’s Tavern, and Next Door Kitchen and Bar.

A block away on Science Street is the sour-dough-centric Night Work Bread Company, while Augie’s Italian Restaurant draws diners to Low Street. The village also has eateries offering everything from brewpub fare and pizza to Turkish and Indian cuisine.

“When I was a kid, Ballston Spa was noted for having lots of bars,” Cromie recalled. “Now it’s known for having lots of restaurants.”

Oberai, who recently moved her jewelry studio to 10 Washington St. off of Milton Avenue, said the recent addition of The Speckled Pig Brewery across the street has given the neighborhood an added dimension.

“It felt a little empty for awhile, but now it’s like every evening is a street festival,” she said.

Womer said the village has increasingly become a destination for lovers of antiques. There are plenty of individual antique emporiums throughout the village, and the mammoth space that is Waverly Square Antiques, at 19 Low St., features 38 vendors under one roof.

Sherrie Fonda, director of design operations at Front Street Home, said the local business has built a loyal following of customers seeking one-of-a-kind furniture, artwork, table settings, custom fabrics and design services.

“We offer things you can’t find at big box stores,” Fonda said. “And it’s a big part of why people come to the village — all the individually owned businesses.”

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NEWS & ISSUES

Food fight? Debate over farm bill nears

Local advocates keep tabs as Congress weighs shifts in agriculture funds, policy

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

With the threat of a government shutdown now averted until after the start of the new year, congressional leaders have reserved floor time in December to debate a new farm bill in the U.S. House.

But most political observers say the massive bill, which will set spending levels and policies for agriculture and nutrition programs for the next five years, is very unlikely to be ready for action that soon.

As the bill takes shape over the coming weeks and likely months, its progress will be closely watched by area farmers and their advocates — as well as by activists concerned about issues ranging from food aid to climate change.

“The 2023 farm bill is the most important piece of legislation for New York farmers,” said Steve Ammerman, a spokesman for the New York Farm Bureau. “It provides essential crop insurance and risk management programs, conservation and research funding, and

nutrition support, all of which are vital to our food system.”

Although farm advocates are pushing for action early in 2024, some members of Congress want to delay serious discussion of the farm bill until summer or early fall, when it can take prominence in the presidential and congressional election campaigns.

The last farm bill, enacted in 2018, expired on Sept. 30. But its current funding levels and provisions were extended for one year as part of legislation to avert a government shutdown that passed the House on Nov. 14 and the Senate on Nov. 15.

Farming advocates say provisions of the 2018 bill need to be updated to reflect major shifts in the agriculture industry in the past few years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation and the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

In Saratoga County, Northumberland town Supervisor Bill Peck, who owns Welcome Stock Farm in Schuylerville, said the wars have increased costs for farmers in the region.

Peck, who in years past was as an agricultural adviser to former U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vt., explained that the war in Ukraine has reduced grain exports into the United States. The reduced supply has increased prices for livestock feed, he said, and the war between

Israel and Hamas is expected to increase fuel prices.

Republican infighting

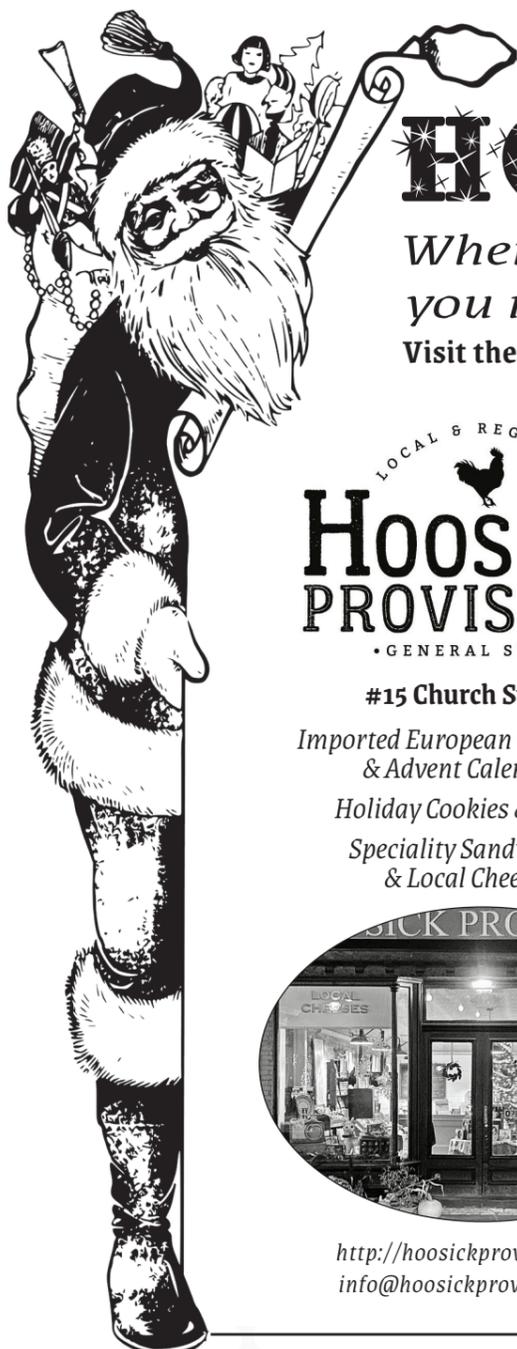
Political observers around the region say that given the sharp divisions in Congress, it’s difficult to predict what might transpire with the farm bill.

In particular, with Republicans controlling the House by a razor-thin margin, GOP leaders have repeatedly struggled to unite their caucus, and a hard-line faction within the party has worked to thwart proposals — and leaders — it deems insufficiently conservative.

“The wheels are off the bus right now,” said David Catalfamo, a Republican political strategist from Wilton mounted two unsuccessful bids for state Assembly in 2020 and 2022.

Robert Turner, a political science professor at Skidmore College, said the delays in crafting a new farm bill are emblematic of a trend in which definitive action can be blocked by the Freedom Caucus, a group of conservative Republicans that have withheld their votes on legislation such as the transportation and budget bills, as they demand spending cuts and policy changes.

Turner said these types of large spending bills typically become the focus of controversy and often wind up being temporarily extended



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while conflicts are worked out. In past sessions, new bills usually could be achieved through negotiation.

“This is the story of so many things where the Freedom Caucus is exerting power over the traditional mainstream Republicans,” he said.

The group, with 52 members, has enough votes to block Republican-backed legislation. That has forced Republican leaders in a couple of cases this year to rely on votes from Democrats to pass legislation to keep the government operating. After one such vote in late September, a group of hard-line Republicans retaliated by ousting Speaker Kevin McCarthy, setting off several weeks of paralysis as Republicans tried to find a new leader to unite their caucus.

Then on Nov. 14, new Speaker Mike Johnson again had to rely on Democrats to pass legislation to keep the government open, which included the one-year extension of the farm bill. The legislation passed by a vote 336 to 95, with 127 Republicans and two Democrats voting against it.

All five U.S. representatives from the region — Republicans Marc Molinaro and Elise Stefanik and Democrats Becca Balint, Richard Neal and Paul Tonko — voted in favor of the legislation.

Dairy supports, SNAP benefits

Last month’s vote to extend the previous farm bill was considered vital by the region’s dairy farmers because it prevented the nation from falling off the so-called “dairy cliff.”

If the 2018 farm bill had not been extended by early January, the dairy price support payment system would have reverted back to a methodology set up in 1949 — an outcome U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer,

D-N.Y., had warned would result in “a double whopper” of lower prices paid to farmers coupled with higher prices for consumers.

AgriPulse, a trade journal, estimated retail milk prices would have soared to \$10 a gallon.

The vote marked an early test of Johnson’s leadership and had major significance for upstate New York, Vermont and rural Massachusetts — a region in which the dairy industry remains a major economic force.

Dairy price support programs would have been the first major casualty of inaction on the farm bill. Other agricultural price support payments are made annually at harvest time, but dairy price support payments are made monthly.

The major sticking point in the debate over a new farm bill at this point is funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously known as food stamps. Nutrition programs such as SNAP and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, commonly known as WIC, account for about 85 percent of spending in the farm bill.

Republicans want to cut funding for SNAP and conservation programs while increasing crop subsidies for peanuts, cotton and rice. The Hill newspaper reported on Nov. 9.

Peck, the Schuylerville farmer, said the effort to cut SNAP funding has elevated the farm bill, which often involves balancing geographic interests within agriculture, into a topic of national debate. The new legislation now has become a local issue for urban and suburban congressional representatives, not just those from rural districts, he explained.

The new bill also may need to address the emerging use of artificial intelligence. Satellite imagery and AI-assisted farming equipment

are good ways to address the labor shortage but must be regulated to protect data security, agricultural leaders in Congress have said.

Some farmers in the area are using AI-assisted tractors, but Peck said that to the best of his knowledge, no one locally is yet using fully automated tractors.

The labor shortage is among the most significant issues locally Peck said.

“There’s labor difficulties, like in every sector of the economy,” he said.

Peck said the H2-A immigrant farm worker visa program needs to be streamlined, and the duration workers are allowed to stay in the United States should be lengthened.

“They don’t allow enough time for them to come in, and the process is onerous,” he said.

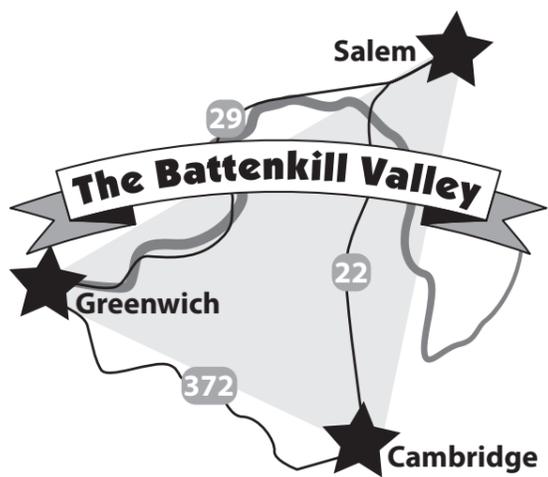
The new bill also needs to continue grant programs to build farm worker housing, he said.

The increase in severe storms in recent years also makes it imperative to national security to maintain agriculture in each region of the country, countering the long-running trend of centralizing agriculture in the Midwest, Peck said. Without diverse regional agriculture, there is a danger that a severe storm hitting the one region of the country could wipe out most of the nation’s food supply, he explained.

“If we have to go around the world to feed our people, then we’re going to be in trouble,” he said.

Wide-ranging priorities

Among the changes the New York Farm Bureau is seeking is an expansion of the dairy “margin coverage” program that provides payments to farmers when the gap between milk prices and feed prices hits a certain threshold.



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See map on page 12

“We would like the program to continue but expand the amount of milk that can qualify, increasing it from five to 10 million pounds per farm,” Ammerman said.

Molinaro, R-Rhinebeck, introduced bipartisan legislation in June to increase the amount of milk that can qualify from five million to six million pounds per farm, and to reset cost formulas every five years based on three-year averages. Molinaro’s legislation had five co-sponsors from four states, three Republicans and two Democrats, as of Nov.17.

Tonko, D-Amsterdam, said nutrition and environmental programs under the farm bill are important.

“During my farm bill listening sessions earlier this year, I heard constituents from across our district reiterate the need to expand access to healthy food and reduce food insecurity, the necessity of supporting our local producers and fostering rural economic growth, and the urgency to protect our environment and combat climate change through agriculture,” Tonko said in a statement. “To that end, I’ll be pushing hard in the upcoming farm bill negotiations to protect and increase access to food assistance, particularly by preventing further cuts to SNAP funding.”

Another priority, he said, is making sure local farmers receive a share of the \$19.5 billion allocated to the National Resources Conservation Service by the Inflation Reduction Act, a major bill passed last year that includes

many initiatives to combat climate change.

Molinaro, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, said he hopes the new farm bill will incorporate legislation he introduced to increase funding by \$3 million for a federal program that assists farm families that have members with disabilities – as well as legislation he introduced to provide low-interest loans to food distribution businesses and prioritize projects in economically distressed areas.

Other priorities, he said, include stopping China and other adversarial nations from buying up farmland in the United States, making it easier for farmers to qualify for funding for soil conservation projects, and increasing funding for programs that help local fruit and dairy farmers access foreign markets.

“The farm bill is a jobs bill and has historically passed with strong, bipartisan support,” Molinaro said in a statement. “In the upcoming Farm Bill, I’ve prioritized bringing farmers, families and businesses to the table.”

Balint, D-Vt., said she hopes the bill could include legislation she introduced in September to streamline the process of qualifying for federal funding to establish vegetative plots, known as buffers, between active farm fields and water bodies. These buffer zones reduce the chance of flooding, erosion and water pollution.

Balint said she introduced the legislation in response to severe flooding in Vermont this

summer. U.S. Sens. Peter Welch, D-Vt., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., introduced companion legislation in the Senate, but neither the House nor Senate legislation had any co-sponsors as of Nov. 17.

Balint “is working hard to ensure the farm bill works for small farmers and provides protections and resources for the types of family farms we have across Vermont,” said Sophie Pollock, the congresswoman’s spokeswoman, in a statement. “She is also focused on protecting SNAP benefits for families in need. SNAP is a proven anti-poverty and anti-hunger program that keeps working families afloat.”

Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, has advocated for continuing to make chocolate milk and other flavored milk eligible for schools to serve under the federal school lunch program — and for adding whole milk to the types of milk that are eligible.

John Sheehan, a spokesman for The Adirondack Council, said the regional environmental organization’s policy priorities in a new farm bill include continued funding of the Conservation Stewardship Program, which addresses soil health, climate change, water quality and incentivizes carbon-sequestering forests; creating a system for collecting cropland production data about the additional work and value involved in rotating cover crops; and continuing to provide crop insurance discounts to farmers who plant cover crops.

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• from Manchester: 50 minutes
• from Pittsfield: 1 hour, 30 minutes
• from Saratoga Springs: 30 minutes
• from Williamstown: 1 hour
See map on page 12

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- from Williamstown: 45 minutes

See map on page 12

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ELECTION 2023

Here are the results of major races in the Nov. 7 local elections in New York and Massachusetts. Winning candidates are in bold type. A brief summary follows the results for each county.

Vote totals shown for Berkshire, Warren and Washington counties are final, official tallies that include absentee or mail-in ballots. The results for Rensselaer and Saratoga counties are election-night totals, the most recent available from county election officials as of Nov. 30. Columbia County's totals are unofficial but are updated through Nov. 21.

MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE COUNTY

Pittsfield mayor

John Michael Krol 3,467 (37.3%)
Peter M. Marchetti 5,816 (62.7%)

North Adams mayor

Aprilyn Carsno 163 (8.6%)
*** Jennifer A. Macksey** 1,728 (91.4%)

Pittsfield voters chose Marchetti, the City Council president and a councilor for most of the past two decades, to succeed two-term Mayor Linda Tyer. Marchetti easily defeated Krol, a former councilor who had cast himself as the candidate of change.

In North Adams, Macksey, the first woman to serve as mayor, cruised to a second term.

NEW YORK

COLUMBIA COUNTY

District attorney

Ryan M. Carty (R, C) 9,502 (47.4%)
Christopher Liberati-Conant (D) 10,538 (52.6%)

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County judge (2 seats)

Joyce Crawford (R, C) 8,115
 Robert "Bob" Gibson (R, C) 9,034
Brian J. Herman (D, WF) 9,706
Michael C. Howard (D, WF) 10,957

County coroner

Russell M. Gonzales (D) 10,084 (51.6%)
 * Kevin Marchetto (R, C) 9,442 (48.4%)

Ancram supervisor

Bonnie J. Hundt (D) 369 (48.0%)
James E. MacArthur (R) 398 (51.8%)
 Will Weiss (i) 2 (0.2%)

Chatham supervisor

* **Donal Collins (R, i)** 900 (51.0%)
 Christopher W. Spencer (D, i) 865 (49.0%)

Stuyvesant supervisor

Lee Jamison (D) 269 (38.0%)
 * **Ron Knott (R, C)** 438 (62.0%)

In the marquee countywide race, voters chose Liberati-Conant, an assistant state attorney general, to succeed longtime Republican District Attorney Paul Czajka, who didn't run again. Liberati-Conant defeated Carty, Czajka's chief assistant prosecutor, after a campaign in which he called for reforms including the creation of specialized domestic violence and sex crimes bureaus within the DA's office.

Democratic candidates also swept the other contested countywide races, winning two open County Court judgeships and defeating Marchetto, who was appointed to his position as coroner earlier this year.

But Republicans prevailed in the only three town supervisor races that were contested this year, including in Ancram, where MacArthur will succeed Democratic incumbent Art Bassin.

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C – Conservative Party * – incumbent
 D – Democratic Party Winners are in bold type.
 i – independent or no party
 R – Republican Party
 WF – Working Families Party

RENSELAER COUNTY

County sheriff

Kyle Bourgault (R, C) 19,798 (52.2%)
 Brian G. Owens (D, i) 18,163 (47.8%)

Brunswick supervisor

* **Philip Herrington (R, C)** 2,707 (61.4%)
 Thomas J. McGrath (D) 1,702 (38.6%)

Grafton supervisor

* **Ingrid Gundrum (D, C)** 507 (58.3%)
 Frank W. Lewandusky III (R) 362 (41.7%)

Hoosick supervisor

Gary Contessa (D, i) 423 (31.7%)
 * **Mark E. Surdam (R, C)** 912 (68.3%)

Poestenkill supervisor

* **Keith A. Hammond (R, C)** 693 (44.5%)
Tom Russell (D) 863 (55.5%)

Troy mayor

Carmella R. Mantello (R, C) 4,473 (54.8%)
 Nina M. Nichols (D, WF) 3,686 (45.2%)

County voters chose Bourgault, an administrative sergeant in the county sheriff's department, to succeed two-term Republican Patrick Russo as sheriff. Bourgault
continued on next page



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defeated Owens, a retired Troy police chief.

In Troy, Mantello prevailed in a spirited race to succeed term-limited Mayor Patrick Madden (D).

SARATOGA COUNTY

Malta supervisor

* Mark Hammond (R, C) 1,601 (46.7%)
 Cynthia C. Young (D) 1,828 (53.3%)

Moreau supervisor

Jesse A. Fish Jr. (D, i) 2,948 (77.6%)
 * Theodore T. Kusnierz Jr. (R, C) 851 (22.4%)

Town of Saratoga supervisor

* Ian C. Murray (R, C) 706 (55.6%)
 James M. Sullivan (D) 563 (44.4%)

Saratoga Springs mayor

* Ronald J. Kim (D, WF) 3,172 (38.0%)
 Christian E. Mathiesen (i) 1,420 (17.0%)
 John Safford (R) 3,752 (45.0%)

Saratoga Springs county supervisor (two seats)

Gordon Boyd (D, WF) 4,037
 Michele D. Madigan (D, i) 4,464
 * Matthew E. Veitch (R, i) 4,871

Saratoga Springs public safety commissioner

Timothy Coll (R, i) 4,072 (49.2%)
 Kirsten M. Dart (i) 2,396 (29.0%)
 * James A. Montagnino (D) 1,806 (21.8%)

Wilton supervisor

* John J. Lant (R, C) 1,799 (54.6%)
 Toni Sturm (D) 1,494 (45.4%)

Republican challengers toppled Democratic incumbents in the races for Saratoga Springs mayor and public safety commissioner amid Democratic divisions over police reform. Both races featured third-party candidacies fueled by the issue – and also by public feuding between incumbents Kim and Montagnino.

Safford will become the city's first Republican mayor in a decade, and the results will give the GOP two of the five seats on the City Council, replacing what had been a 5-0 Democratic majority.

Elsewhere in the county, voters in Moreau resoundingly booted Kusnierz, a three-term incumbent who was seen as an ally of Saratoga Biochar Solutions, a company that has proposed building a local plant to turn sewage sludge into fertilizer. Fish, a former town water superintendent, was backed by the anti-biochar group Moreau United.

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WARREN COUNTY

County clerk

Carrie Black (D, i) 7,774 (52.9%)
Emily McCabe McCarthy (R) 6,915 (47.1%)

Glens Falls 2nd Ward county supervisor

Haley Gilligan (D) 329 (63.3%)
* Peter V. McDevitt (C) 191 (36.7%)

Glens Falls 3rd Ward county supervisor

Magen MacDavid (R, i) 251 (43.8%)
Nancy Turner (D) 322 (56.2%)

Glens Falls 5th Ward county supervisor

Nicholas Collins (R) 123 (31.3%)
* Bennet Driscoll (D) 270 (68.7%)

Queensbury county at-large supervisor (four seats)

James Dobkowski (C) 888
* Nathan Etu (R) 3,154
Robin Larkin (D) 2,565
* Brad Magowan (R) 2,883
Michael Parwana (D) 2,326
Brady Stark (R, i) 2,753
David Strainer (D, C) 3,570
* Michael Wild (R, C) 3,332

WASHINGTON COUNTY

County clerk

Linda J. Boyce (R, C) 4,859 (54.7%)
* Stephanie C. Cronin (i) 4,025 (45.3%)

Greenwich supervisor

* James Nolan (D) 787 (54.8%)
Don Ward (R) 650 (45.2%)

Hartford supervisor

Barbara S. Beecher (C) 140 (27.8%)
Scott Hahn (R) 364 (72.2%)

White Creek supervisor

Renee McEvilly (R) 291 (34.2%)
Lance Allen Wang (D) 560 (65.8%)

Cronin, the incumbent county clerk, lost her seat after being snubbed by county Republican leaders who'd backed her in two prior elections. Boyce, a social services caseworker for whom Fort Ann Supervisor Sam Hall acted as spokesman, pledged to reopen the county motor vehicles office to walk-in appointments.

— Compiled by Fred Daley

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Talked up for governor's race, he stayed in the back rooms

Maury Thompson

There was a big push for women's suffrage in New York in 1894 as the state constitutional convention was set to begin.

Former U.S. Rep. Henry Gordon Burleigh, R-Whitehall, who was weighing a run for governor, was not ready to fully embrace the "petticoat platform" of the suffragettes.

"Ex-Congressman Henry G. Burleigh of Whitehall hurried into the Fifth Avenue Hotel as if something of extraordinary importance was on his mind," *The New York World* reported in an article republished May 25 in *The Granville Sentinel*.

Former Rep. George West, R-Ballston Spa, had offered to endorse Burleigh for governor if Burleigh would run on a suffragist platform.

But Burleigh wanted to consult with Republican bosses Thomas Platt and Warner Miller before responding.

"He saw them both," the *World* reported. "Afterward he said that, while he endorsed some parts of the petticoat platform, he promised to study others very carefully before committing himself unequivocally to it."

West, who was known as "Uncle George" and also as the "paper bag king" for his ownership of a number of paper mills, did endorse Burleigh.

"I am seventy years old, have gout in my foot, rheumatism in the other and lumbago, and yet I am working actively in the interest of ex-Congressman Henry G. Burleigh," West told reporters at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City, *The Morning Star* reported on Aug. 6.

"I think Burleigh is the man to nominate for governor," West continued. "He knows everybody, too, and when elected he will not

have to be introduced to the people of the state. I hope he will be nominated, and if he should be, he will be elected."

Burleigh had business and social connections in Lake George and Ticonderoga, where he had begun working at age 14 and was involved in the lumber, coal and transportation industries. He was elected town supervisor of Ticonderoga in the 1860s and served as a local bank president, then moved to Whitehall as his transportation business grew. There, he served as a state assemblyman for a time before winning his seat in Congress.

In the end, Burleigh did not formally enter the governor's race in 1894. But he did remain a key player behind the scenes.

He took part in a meeting in Albany at which GOP gubernatorial hopefuls Warren Miller, James A. Roberts and supporters of Leslie Russell met to discuss pooling their bases of support in an attempt to prevent former Vice President Levi P. Morton from getting the nomination, *The Evening World* of New York reported on Sept. 5, 1894.

Morton went on to win the Republican nomination, however, by garnering an overwhelming majority in the first ballot at the state GOP convention. Nominations in that era were decided by party conventions instead of primary elections.

Morton went on to defeat Democrat David Hill, a former governor attempting a political comeback, in the general election, winning by about 12 percentage points.

Reformers or renegades?

The 1894 race was not the first time that Burleigh had considered a run for governor.

In 1890, Burleigh, along with U.S. Sen. Chauncey Depew, U.S. Secretary of War Elihu Root and others, was part of "The Miller Men," a close-knit group that sought an alternative 1891 GOP gubernatorial candidate to state Sen. Jacob Sloat Fassett, the choice of influential state Republican leader Thomas Platt.

Former U.S. Sen. Warner Miller, the losing GOP gubernatorial candidate in 1888, was leader of the group. (New York governors served three-year terms then.) Miller felt that Platt had purposely not done enough to support his candidacy.

Several newspapers suggested that Burleigh, himself, should run for governor.

"Governor Burleigh! That's what they are calling our Henry G. in New York now, and that's what they are talking of making him when Senator Fassett comes up for that office," *The Glen's Falls Messenger* reported on May 9, 1890, republishing an editorial from the *Troy Budget*. "Governor Burleigh! Verily, that hath a pleasant sound, like music blown over a bank of violets, or like one of Patti's upper register trills ground out of a loaded phonograph! Gov. Burleigh! By all means!"

A week earlier, *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls had reported about "a tilt" between Burleigh and Fassett when Burleigh was at the state Capitol lobbying on transit legislation.

Burleigh owned a large fleet of steamboats and had interests in banking, iron ore,

continued on page 20

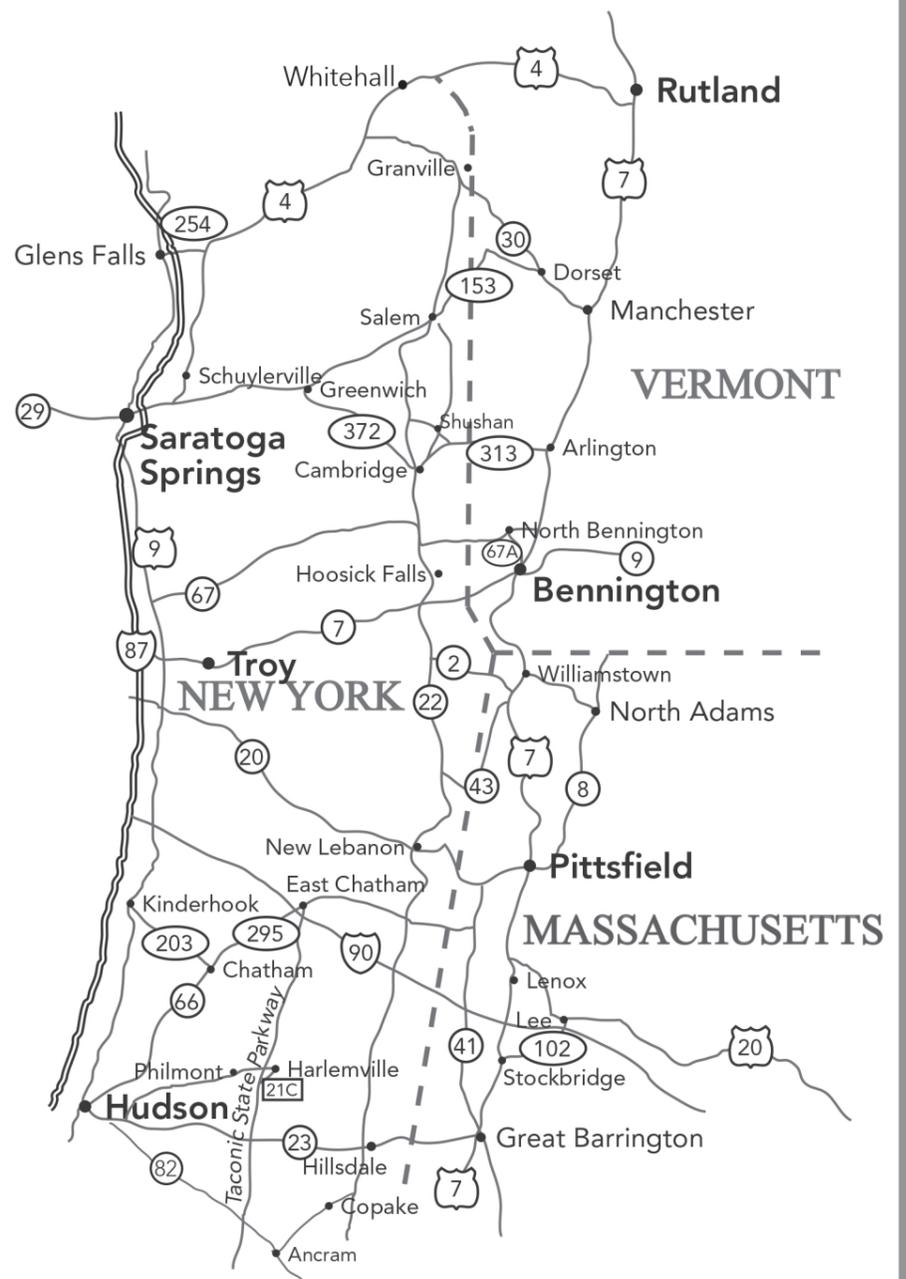
News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

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.

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ARTS & CULTURE

A little-known giant of American theater

College helps to celebrate the work of Irene Fornes

By **KATE ABBOTT**
Contributing writer

NORTH ADAMS, Mass.

*The wildness comes from despair?
... Sometimes it comes because something has
changed inside. A light has gone out, ... something that
makes us feel joy, feel compassion, feel for others.*

A group of friends are keeping a light alive for each other. They are talking in a lighted room on a winter night, like college students in a dorm or actors in a coffee shop.

In “The Summer at Gossensass,” internationally acclaimed Cuban-American playwright Maria Irene Fornes follows three women fascinated by Ibsen’s “Hedda Gabler” in the months when the play was first written – as they stand together for the right to create, to define their own experiences and choose their own intimate relationships.

Across the second half of the 20th century and more, Fornes had a profound influence on theater in this country and beyond, said Laura Standley, an associate professor of theater at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Standley considers Fornes one of the most influential playwrights of the last 75 years.

Fornes, who died in 2018, wrote more than 50 plays in her lifetime, and she won high honors – nine Obie Awards, and her play “What of the Night?” (1990) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in drama. Her plays have been performed around the world, and yet many people in America have never heard her name.

Standley and one of her students, Georgia Dedolph, want to change that. This winter and spring, MCLA has opened a yearlong Fornes Festival in celebration of her life and work, they explained in a discussion on campus on a sunny fall afternoon.

The college’s cultural events program, MOSAIC, and its theater program and fine arts department are joining in a national initiative with the Fornes Institute, an organization dedicated to preserving the playwright’s legacy, offering local performances and events over two semesters.

MCLA will present two of Fornes’ early

short plays Dec. 1-3 and “The Summer in Gossensass” from March 29 to April 7, as well as a guest lecture, panel discussion and a screening, on Feb. 9, of “The Rest I Make Up,” a 2018 documentary by the filmmaker Michelle Memran.

Pioneering writer and teacher

Standley recalled vividly her first encounter with Fornes’ storytelling. She had the chance to perform in Fornes’ “Fefu and Her Friends” and found herself immersed in a fascinating and powerful exploration of curiosity and friendship. It was unlike any play she had ever encountered.

“I had never read a play that so completely explored my own experience of being a woman in this world,” Standley said.

Though she was studying theater in graduate school then, she had never heard of Fornes and her work — never read or heard about her plays, had them assigned in class or had a chance to see them performed.

“They are diverse, experimental, complex,” she said. “And they center women. ... They have been life-changing for many people, including me.”

She explained how Fornes, as a writer, director and teacher, influenced generations of award-winning playwrights, including the Latina writer and activist Cherríe Moraga and Pulitzer Prize-winning writers Tony Kushner, Paula Vogel, Lanford Wilson, Sam Shepard and Edward Albee.

Many now see Fornes as the mother of contemporary Latinx theater, an LGBTQ+ trailblazer and a genius.

Dedolph, who first made contact with Fornes’ work as a student in Standley’s classroom, said the playwright’s stories continue to feel contemporary and deeply relevant today.

“I’ve never read a play I’ve related to more,” she said. “I read all of her published plays, and when we were talking about a directing project for this fall, we had to do this. It’s necessary.”

She will lead the next step in the celebration, directing two of Fornes’ early short plays, “Tango Palace” (1963) and “Dr. Kheal” (1968), in performances Dec. 1-3.

Off-off Broadway leader

Fornes was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1930, and came to New York with her mother and sister when she was 15. She left school early to work, Dedolph said, and she would always be self-taught and driven, with a deep and unceasing curiosity and humor.

She moved to Greenwich Village, Standley said, and absorbed herself in a world of abstract art, jazz, John Cage, and Beat poets reading in the cafes. The Village in the 1950s and ‘60s was a center of artistic expression and experimentation, and Fornes worked with many innovative minds.

She knew the collective of dancers, composers and visual artists at the Judson Church Theater — Merce Cunningham, Anna Halprin and Simone Forti.

She became a key figure in the off-off-Broadway movement and explored experimental theater with performers like the circle at Cafe La Mama, which was founded in 1961 by African-American theater director, producer and fashion designer Ellen Stewart.

One of the better-known stories about her, Dedolph said, tells the origin of her first play. By 1961, Fornes was Susan Sontag’s partner. They were sitting together in a cafe, and Sontag was struggling with writer’s block. A friend tried to invite them to a party, and Fornes said, “We’re going to write,” and brought Sontag home.

Fornes pulled a cookbook off a shelf, picked out sentences that intrigued her and wrote the opening of a dialogue. She often turned to and taught writing using this kind of collage technique.

“Her writing has a magic, gritty and rebellious quality,” Dedolph said.

Fornes later would found the INTAR Hispanic Playwrights-in-Residence Laboratory in New York City. There, from 1981 to 1992, she taught a series of award-winning and widely produced Latinx playwrights.

She encouraged her students to find ideas anywhere – in photographs, newspapers, artifacts, overheard conversations. In one case she drew inspiration from a set of records for learning Hungarian. She encouraged writers to interview people and let those conversations offer starting

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points.

Fornes wrote the conversations she wanted to write, Standley said. She took on pressures to conform (and uncountable harsh reactions from critics) and forged on with the courage to speak with passion and honesty.

“She belongs to a group of playwrights disappeared by critics,” Standley said, “because the critics didn’t understand her. Her plays were not published or staged. That’s the argument that has kept her out of the history books.”

Absurdist comedy to intense realism

Many of Fornes’ characters struggle with confinement and an intense drive to change their lives. They fight for a need to express their curiosity about the world, Standley said, even when their attempts to learn and explore are thwarted. They are finding life and beauty even when they are stuck in desperate and terrible circumstances and are afraid their desires will never be fulfilled.

In her early work, Fornes often turned to satire and parody. In Paris, she had the chance to see “Waiting for Godot,” Standley said.

“I didn’t understand a word of it,” she wrote, “but I understood the world where it had taken

place.”

She drew influences from absurdists like Ionesco and from abstract art, playing with space, composition and texture, puppets and masks. She created characters with intensity, Standley said, and plays that create parallel worlds. Theater-makers have compared her to the deep color in Frida Kahlo’s paintings or the works of Vermeer or Zubarán.

In “Tango Palace,” Dedolph said, a vicious clown is living in a room filled with objects that represent “the acme of artistic expression,” trying to force their worldview onto an earnest young artist, and the artist struggles with pressure to compromise his passion and integrity, fighting for the strength to break free.

In the 1960s and ‘70s, Fornes began directing her own plays, because she felt other directors were diluting and denying their energy.

“She became dissatisfied with the comedies she had been writing,” Standley said. “She felt they were inadequate ways of confronting the world.”

She began to feel that she was hiding behind comedy because showing her feelings and ideas more clearly left her feeling exposed. And so her plays begin to shift toward a kind of intense

reality. In the spring, Standley will direct one of her later and longer works, “The Summer at Gossensass.”

The drama, set in the 1890s, focuses on women who are excited by a new play — Ibsen’s “Hedda Gabler” — as the first whispers reach London about the play opening in Munich.

Fornes became intrigued by the experiences of three real people, women who heard about Ibsen’s play as a revolutionary exploration of the lives of women and want to perform it in their own city, in their own language.

They are plotting together, deeply excited: Elizabeth Robbins, an actor, playwright and essayist, novelist and suffragist; Marion Lea, an actor; and Lady Florence Bell, a journalist, essayist and lover of arts. They pore through newspapers by kerosene lamplight as keenly as contemporary friends scrolling on their phones.

The three women were central players in the theater scene in their lifetime, as friends and colleagues of the famous actors and writers Edwin Booth, Oscar Wilde, Henry James and James O’Neill (the father of Eugene O’Neill).

And they were taking on no small an adventure, Standley said. It was impossible

continued on page 20

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Arts & Culture

AREA EXHIBITIONS

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour
• through Feb. 17: Dion "TYGAPAW" McKenzie: 3WI

BenningtonMuseum.org • Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571
• through Dec. 31: A History of Bennington & "Haunted Vermont" & "All that Glitters . . . Vermont's 'Mineral Wealth'"
• through 2024: (Aug. 11) Dark Goddess: Sacroprofanity • (Nov. 10) Vermont Rocks! • (Dec. 31) The Circus is Coming to Town

BerkshireHistory.org • links at URL
• The Invisible Community: African Americans in Berkshire County (1830-2012) & Berkshire County Historical Society YouTube Channel
• Berkshire Co.'s Literary History driving tour

BerkshireMuseum.org • Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-7171
• through Jan. 7: Festival of Trees: Nostalgia & "120th Anniversary: Building the Museum - 1939-1978" & "One of a Kind Wonders"

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
• Dec. 1-Jan. 28: "Vanishing Point"

ChapmanMuseum.org • Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
• Ongoing: "Explore the History of Glens Falls & Queensbury" & "Experiences of Hometown Life"
• through Dec. 31: "Taking a Picture: Techniques in Early Photography (1880-1930)"
• through Jan. 7: "Perfect Gems of Photography: Adirondack Landscapes by Seneca Ray Stoddard & Jesse Sumner Wooley"

ClarkArt.edu • Williamstown, MA
• through Jan. 21: "Elizabeth Atterbury: Oracle Bones"
• through Feb. 11: "50 Years & Forward: British Prints & Drawings Acquisitions"

CollarWorks.org • Troy, NY
• through Dec. 19: Jennifer Maher Coleman: "Check Out my New Toy"

Courthouse Gallery • Lake George, NY • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks
• through Dec. 18: Jeff Wigman: "Excelsior"

510WarrenStreetGallery.com • Hudson, NY • 518-822-0510
• Dec. 1-31: H. David Stein: "Waxing Poetic"
• Jan. 5-28: Jim Koester: "In the Heart of Downtown"

Folklife Gallery • www.CrandallLibrary.org/
Folklife-Center • Glens Falls, NY
• Folk Arts All Around Us & On View
• through Dec. 31: "Champlain Canal Stories - 200 Years from Waterford to Whitehall"
--The Friends Gallery:
• Dec. 4-29: Fine Arts Exhibit 2023

HartCluett.org • Troy, NY • 518-272-7232
• through Dec. 22: "The Pursuit of Happiness"

HudsonHall.org • Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438
• Dec. 2-22: Community Canvas: Winter Walk Youth Exhibition

HydeCollection.org • 518-792-1761
• through Dec. 31: "Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region" & Edgar Degas, Private Impressionist: Works on Paper by Artist & His Circle & "Ron Jude: 12 Hz" & "Degas at The Hyde: A Master of Form" & "Illustrations: Honoré Daumier, Winslow Homer, & Anthony Saris"

Image Photos Gallery • 413-298-5500
• photography of Clemens Kalischer

JacobsPillow.org • Browse on demand at <https://watch.jacobspillow.org> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/JacobsPillow>

JackShainman.com • Kinderhook, NY • 518-758-1628
• through Dec. 16: "Michael Snow: A Life Survey (1955-2020)"

LABspace • Hillsdale, NY • julielabspace@gmail.com • Sat.-Sun. 1-5 pm
• through Feb. 11: "Holiday"

TheLafferGallery.com • Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181
• Dec. 2-Jan. 7: 12th Annual Juried Group Show "Upstate Artists"

LARAC.org • Glens Falls, NY • 518-798-1144
--Lapham Gallery • 7 Lapham Pl.
• through Dec. 24: Annual Holiday Shop, feat. 50+ reg'l. artists
--Mountain Gallery • 21 Bay St.
• through Dec. 20: Member's Show

Norman Rockwell Museum • Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100
• multiple virtual exhibitions at URL
• "Norman Rockwell: The Business of Illustrating the American Dream"
• 323 "Saturday Evening Post" Covers
• through May 27, 2024: "Between Worlds: The Art and Design of Leo Lionni"

NorthCountryArts.org • Glens Falls, NY • 518-222-1471
--The Shirt Factory • 71 Lawrence St.
• through Jan. 7: Celebration
--2nd Floor Gallery at City Hall • 42 Ridge St.
• Dec. 4-Jan. 5: Drew Monthie

Olana State Park • Hudson, NY • olana.org
• through Mar. 31: "Spectacle: Frederic Church and the Business of Art"

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • Hudson, NY
• through Dec. 10: Joyce Kozloff: "Uncivil Words" & "BOOKED: An exhibition of book-themed paintings, sculpture, and works on paper"
• through Apr. 7: Robin Hill: "All That You Touch"
• Dec. 16-Jan. 21: "4th Annual All Small" (group)

PoultneyMuseum.org • Poultney, VT • 802-884-8269
• Welsh-American Gene. Society rotating exhibits

Saratoga-Arts.org • Saratoga Springs, NY • 518-584-4132
• through Jan. 6: 2023 Members Exhibition

SeptemberGallery.com • Kinderhook, NY
• through Dec. 17: "Of Waves," Jane Bustin & Anne Lindberg

ShakerMuseum.us • Chatham, NY • 518-794-9100
• through Dec. 17: "The Alchemy of Re.Use," by hettler.tüllmann • The Kinderhook Knitting Mill, 8 Hudson St.

SohnFineArt.com • Lenox, MA • 413-551-7353
• through Mar. 11: Salon Des Hivers (feat. 21 artists)

Southern Vermont Arts Center • Manchester, VT • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org
• through Jan. 7: Ashley Bryan: "The Spirit of Joy" & "The Wee Worlds of Salley Mavor"
• through Mar. 3: Fall/Winter 2023 Member Exhibition
• Jan. 20-Apr. 21: Nayana LaFond: "Portraits in RED: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples Painting Project"

SpringStreetGallerySaratoga.org • Saratoga Springs, NY
• through Feb. 10: Anne Diggory: "Near and Far"

StoneValleyArts.org • Poultney, VT
• through Dec. 10: Artist Member Show

SusanEleyFineArt.com • Hudson, NY
• through Dec. 10: "Black and White Show" (feat. 8 artists)
• through Jan. 6: Sasha Hallock & Liz Rundorff Smith • "But We've Come So Far"

Tang.skidmore.edu
• through Dec. 10: "Elevator Music 47: Xenometok for Mutualism" & "Forms of Awakening: Selections of Himalayan Art"
• through Dec. 30: "Unset Texts" & Paula Wilson: "Toward the Sky's Back Door"
• through Sep. 7, 2025: Yvette Molina "A Promise to the Leaves" (evolving installation centered around earth, air, water, fire, & the cosmos)

ValleyArtisansMarket.com • Cambridge, NY
• through Dec. 24: 2023 Members Holiday Show
• Jan. 18-Feb. 12: Mary Lou Strode: "Then and Now, a Retrospective"

VTSU Castleton Bank Gallery • Rutland, VT
• through Dec. 31: "Hand in Glove" portrait series by Nick Mango

WorldChildrensMuseum.org • Glens Falls, NY
• Online exhibits • Express Yourself Art Studio
• Cultural Exhibits: ¡Hola, Mexico! • Thailand: Beauty and Beasts • World Music • Home & Family Life • World Fashion • Dragon Boat Race



Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

2 *cont'd. from page 17*

pm

• **HOLIDAY MARKETS** • (schedules at URLs &/or Facebook)

• **Adams, MA, Art Mkt**
 • **Cambridge, NY** (Fbook)
 • **CambridgeValleyArts.org**
 • **DowntownPittsfield.com**
 • **EclipseMill.com**
 • **ExploreTheShires.com**
 • **GlensFallsCollaborative.com**
 • **Great Barrington Arts Market**
 • **HartCluett.org**
 • **HudsonHall.org**
 • **Warrensburgh, NY** (Fbook)

3 *cont'd. from below*

Springs, NY

• **HOLIDAY MARKETS** • (schedules at URLs &/or Facebook)

• **Adams, MA, Art Mkt**
 • **Cambridge, NY** (Fbook)
 • **CambridgeValleyArts.org**
 • **DowntownPittsfield.com**
 • **EclipseMill.com**
 • **ExploreTheShires.com**
 • **GlensFallsCollaborative.com**
 • **Great Barrington Arts Market**
 • **HartCluett.org**
 • **HudsonHall.org**
 • **LARAC.org**
 • **Warrensburgh, NY** (Fbook)

9 *cont'd. from page 17*

ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"

CrandellTheatre.org • "The Grinch" • "High Noon's Hidden Backstory"

Mahaiwe.org • "Mickey's Christmas Carol (1983)"

misc.

SalemCourthouse.org

--Art Adventure for Adults
 • 10:30 am-12 pm • Reg. req'd. @ 518-854-7053
 --Love & Light Memorial Tree Lighting

• **HOLIDAY MARKETS** • (schedules at URLs &/or Facebook)

• **BrooksideMuseum.org**
 • **DeweyHall.org**
 • **GildedAge.org**
 • **Village of Chatham, NY**

Mahaiwe to screen classic movies, HD theater broadcasts this winter

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass.

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will screen a series of classic movies and HD broadcasts from London's National Theatre this winter.

Newly announced screenings are: "Funny Girl" (1968) on Jan. 13, "Skylight" (London's National Theatre in HD) on Jan. 20; "Groundhog Day" (1993) on Feb. 2; "Romeo & Juliet" (London's National Theatre) on Feb. 10; "When Harry Met Sally" (1989) on Feb. 14, and "Vanya" (London's National Theatre) on Feb. 24.

These programs join a schedule of previously announced events that includes "Mickey's Christmas Carol" (1983) on Dec. 9, "Waitress: The Musical" (in HD) on Dec. 10, "The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992) on Dec. 15, "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) on Dec. 22, and seven remaining titles in the Met Opera's Live in HD 2023-24 Season.

Adult tickets are \$8 for the classic film screenings and \$17 for the Live in HD broadcasts from London's National Theatre. Reduced rates are available for ages 12 and under for the films and for ages 21 and under for the HD broadcasts.

To purchase tickets, visit mahaiwe.org or call or visit the box office, at (413) 528-0100, from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

3



CrandallLibrary.org • Downtown Acoustic Music Folks • 2-4 pm

TanneryPond.org • North Country Singers' Celeb. • 2-4 pm

WTFestival.org • Sammie & Dan • 3 pm • Clark Auditorium

Mahaiwe.org • CEWM. org: "Nocturne--Night and Dreams" • 4 pm

CaffeLena.org • Darling-side w/Opener Field Guide • 7 pm • Spa Little Theater



BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • See Dec. 2 • 1 pm



• **Dorset Players.org**

CaffeLena.org • Playwright's Jam: R. Messina Reading of Naughty! • 1 pm



CrandellTheatre.org • "Killers of the Flower Moon" • "The Holdovers"

ImagesCinema.org • "Elf" • "The Holdovers"

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • First Sunday Free (Family) • 1-4 pm

SaratogaJewishCultural-Festival.org • Fabric Memoirs, feat. Susan Rivers • 2-4 pm • 509 Broadway, Saratoga

continued above

10



atUPH.org • Christmas Oratorio Tea • 1 & 5 pm

Battenkill Bell Ringers • 2 pm • Free • 197 Sunnyside Rd, Queensbury, NY

ClarkArt.edu • Performing Artists in Residence • 2 pm

HubbardHall.org • Cógí Christmas Tour • 6 pm

StoneValleyArts.org • Community Music Jam • 6:30-9 pm

CaffeLena.org • Accent • 7 pm



WoodTheater.org • ABT's "The Nutcracker Ballet" • 1 pm



• **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**
 • **Dorset Players.org**
 • **FortSalem.com**

Mahaiwe.org • "Mutts Gone Nuts: Santa Paws" • 2 & 5 pm

misc.

GildedAge.org • Artist Holiday Mkt • 10 am-4 pm

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 11 am-5 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • Kid PJ Party w/Games & Santa's Elves & Kids' Holiday Shop • 3 pm

4



CaffeLena.org • Open Mic • 7 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Holdovers"

5



CaffeLena.org • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Christie Keegan • 7 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Holdovers"

CrandallLibrary.org • "Theater Camp"

misc.

NPS.gov/MAVA • Martin Van Buren Birthday Comm. • 11 am • Kinderhook Reformed Church Cemetery

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 1-5 pm

6



CaffeLena.org • Folk Club Kids • 10:30 am

WoodTheater.org • Anthony Nunziata: My Italian Christmas! • 7 pm



atUPH.org • Women Aren't Funny - Erin Harkes Comedy Special • 7:30 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Holdovers"



RoeliffJansenHS.org • Pamela McColl: illus. pres. of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" • 5:30 pm • 8 Miles Rd., Copake Falls, NY

CaffeLena.org • Poetry Open Mic, feat. James Schlett • 7 pm

misc.

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 1-5 pm

11



CaffeLena.org • Open Mic • 7 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"

misc.

TheFoundryWS.com • Adult Holiday Game Night • 5:30 pm

12



CaffeLena.org • Chuck Lamb Trio, feat. Ken Pelpowski • 7 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"



CrandallLibrary.org • Ken Tingley Book Talk • 7 pm

misc.

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 1-5 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • Make Holiday Ornament (Adults) • 5:30 pm

13



CaffeLena.org • --Folk Club Kids
 --Michael Mills

misc.

DeweyHall.org • Dewey Drop-In: Jazz Jam



• **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**



ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"



Cambridge Hist. Soc. & Museum • 12 Broad St., Cambridge, NY
 --Advent Window Reveal & Public Tours • 5 pm
 --Victorian carols (w/Bliss & Robbie McIntosh) & "Night Before Christmas" • 6 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • Holiday Trivia & Prizes • 7 pm

HancockShakerVillage.org • "Radiant Nights" Preview • 5:30-7 pm

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 1-5 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

Thurs

Fri

Sat

THEATER LISTINGS

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Stockbridge, MA • A Christmas Carol • Dec. 7-23 • Wed.-Fri., 7 pm; Sat., 2 & 7 pm; Sun., 12 & 5 pm; Sensory Friendly: Wed., Dec. 20, 6 pm

Dorset Players.org • Dorset, VT • 802-867-5570 • "The Games Afoot (or Holmes for the Holidays)" • Dec. 1-3 & 8-10 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm
• "A Charlie Brown Christmas" • Dec. 16, 2 & 6 pm

FortSalem.com • 11 East Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-9200 • "There's (Still, Definitely) No Business Like Snow Business" • Dec. 8-10 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

UniversalPreservationHall.org • Saratoga Springs, NY • 518-346-6204 • "Tony N' Tina's Wedding" • Jan. 18-21 • Thu.-Sat., 7 pm; Sat. 2 pm; Sun., 1 & 6 pm

7

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • Bluegrass Music Jam • 6:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Peppino D'Agostino • 7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Fort Vine • 7 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • Kongero • 7:30 pm

 **DeweyHall.org** • Tap-Roots LAST CHANCE Square Dance • 6:30 pm

 • **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**

 **ImagesCinema.org** •

"The Holdovers"

ClarkArt.edu • Great British Films: "Lawrence of Arabia"

 **SVAC.org** • Wee Read Storytime • 10:30 am • Free

BattenkillBooks.com • Fiction Bk Club: "The Words that Remain" • 6:30 pm

misc.

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 1-5 pm

GlensFallsCollaborative.com • Ladies Night • 4-8 pm • Events at URL

LARAC.org • Ladies Night • 7 pm • Lapham Gallery

14

 **CaffeLena.org** • Hen-house Prowlers • 7 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Live! Folklife Concert: Drank the Gold & Dan Berggren Celebrating the Holiday Season • 7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Caity & The Gallaghers • 7:30 pm

 **TheFoundryWS.com** • Krampus Dance Party/Costume Contest • 7 pm

 • **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**



ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"

ClarkArt.edu • Great British Films: "Secrets & Lies"

misc.

WorldChildrensMuseum.org • Free Day! • 10 am-3 pm

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 1-5 pm

1

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Holiday Walk Weekend Concert: Johnny Irion & Band • 6 pm

atUPH.org • Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy: A Celtic Family Christmas • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Planet Light: A Heard Holiday • 8 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Saints in the City (Springsteen Tribute) • 8 pm



Williams.edu • PACHEDU, (F)All Ensembles • '62 Center



• **Dorset Players.org**



ImagesCinema.org •

"The Holdovers"

CrandellTheatre.org • "The Holdovers"

Mahaiwe.org • "Titanic: The Musical" (in HD)

StoneValleyArts.org • Silent B&W Films w/Live Accomp.

misc.

• **HOLIDAY SPECIALS** • (schedules at URLs &/or Facebook)

- **Ballston.org**
- **Cambridge, NY** (Fbook)
- **DowntownPittsfield.com**
- **ExploreTheShires.com**
- **GlensFallsCollaborative.com**
- **HartCluett.org**

8

 **ParkMcCullough.org** • Sage City Symp. • 7-8:30 pm • Free • Bennington, VT

StoneValleyArts.org • Extra Stout: A Celtic Winter • 8 pm • Poultney, VT

Williams.edu • Williams College Chamber Music Gala • 7 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"

TheFoundryWS.com • Cult Film Classic: Santa vs. the Devil • 7 pm



• **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**
• **Dorset Players.org**
• **FortSalem.com**



WCHS-NY.org • Local History Bk. Club: Books by Fred G. Godfrey (1915-2006) • 12-1 pm • Folk Life Ctr., 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY

misc.

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 12-5 pm

Saratoga-Arts.org • Winter Wonderland Wkend Art Mkt • 4 pm • 320 Broadway

15

 **Berkshires** • "I'll Stand By You," feat. Samantha Talora & Ron Ramsay • 7 pm • Adv. res. rec'd. • St. Ann Church, 134 Main St., Lenox, MA • info@samandron.com

atUPH.org • It's a Jazzy Christmas • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Billy Keane & the Waking Dream • 8 pm



• **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**



ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"

Mahaiwe.org • "The Mup-

pet Christmas Carol"

StoneValleyArts.org • "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) • 7-9 pm • Free



ClarkArt.edu • Fresh Takes: Emerging Art Historians Explore the Collection • 12 pm

misc.

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 12-5 pm

GildedAge.org • Ghost Tour w/Robert Oakes • 8 pm • Reg. req'd.

2

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

CaffeLena.org • --Little Folks w/Peggy Lynn & Dan Berggren • 3-4:30 pm
--Folk: Jamcrackers • 8 pm

ClarkArt.edu • "Continuum: Techung, YESH" • 6 pm

atUPH.org • Schen. Sara. Symp. Orch.: "Poinsettia Pops" • 7 pm

SPAC.org • We 4 Kings • 7-9:30 pm • Spa Little Theatre

HubbardHall.org • Concert & Commy. Celeb. • 7:30 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Honeysuckle • 8 pm



BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Alb.

Berk. Ballet: The Nutcracker • 1:30 & 5 pm

Williams.edu • PACHEDU, (F)All Ensembles • 7-8 pm • '62 Center



• **Dorset Players.org**

TheFoundryWS.com • Censored: Banned Books & More • 7 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Grinch" • "The Holdovers"

CrandellTheatre.org • "Elf" • "Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour" • "The Holdovers"

misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Family Day & Children's Shopping • 10 am-4

cont'd. on page 16

9

 **ClavarackLibrary.org** • Trifem Bell Choir • 6 pm • Free

SaratogaJewishCulturalFestival.org • Songs of Light & Hope: A Chanukah Concert & Sing-along • 7 pm • Clifton Park, NY

Saratoga.com • Time for Three • 7 pm • Spa Little Theatre

TheFoundryWS.com • Topsy Carol Sing Along • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Hot Club of Saratoga • 8 pm

SVAC.org • Maxine Linehan's "This Time of Year" Concert • 8-10 pm



WoodTheater.org • ABT's "The Nutcracker Ballet" • 1 & 6 pm



• **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**
• **Dorset Players.org**
• **FortSalem.com**

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD: "Florenca en el Amazonas" • 12:55 pm • Reg. rec'd.

FortSalem.com • Studio Dec. '23 Showcase • 4 pm • 11 E. Broadway, Salem, NY

VermontPublicTheater.com • Dan Butler reads Capote's "A Christmas Memory" • 7 pm • 139 Shields Dr., Bennington

cont'd. on page 16

16

 **DeweyHall.org** • Berkshire Strings Jams • 10 am

atUPH.org • Judy Collins Holidays & Hits • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Evening w/Caitlin Canty • 8 pm

Mahaiwe.org • John Pizzarelli Trio --Stage & Screen • 8 pm



HubbardHall.org • Winter Dance Showcase • 2 pm • Cambridge Cent. Sch. Aud.

WoodTheater.org • "Clara and the Land of Sweets" • 2:30 & 5:30 pm



• **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**



ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"



ClarkArt.edu • Manton Curator Anne Leonard: "50 Years and Forward" • 11 am

misc.

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 11 am-5 pm

ParkMcCullough.org • Santa in the Stable • 1-4 pm

Olana.org • Winter Solstice • 1-5 pm

HudsonHall.org • Kwanzaa: Operation Unite NY • 5 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2023-24

Sun Mon Tues Wed

<p>17</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • 30th Anniv. Holiday Folk Show • 3 pm & 7 pm</p> <p> GildedAge.org • Holiday Cabaret ("Swingin' in the Season") & Tea • 3:30 pm</p> <p> Saratoga.com • Kat Edmondson • 4 pm • Spa Little Theatre</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Aaron Dilloway • 5 pm</p> <p> Mahaiwe.org • Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy: A Celtic Fam. Christmas • 7 pm</p>	<p>7 pm</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup.org</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 11 am-5 pm</p> <p> WorldChildrensMuseum.org • St. Lucia's Day • 1-2 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Open Mic • 7 pm</p> <p> TheFoundryWS.com • Making Spirits Bright w/Joe Rose & Friends • 7 pm</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"</p>	<p>19</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Rochmon Record: 2023 Retrospective • 7 pm</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 1-5 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p> DeweyHall.org • Deck the Hall: Berkshire Holiday Exp. • 5:45 pm</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Bluegrass Jam w/Red Spruce • 7 pm</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup.org</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "The Boy and the Heron"</p>	<p>misc.</p> <p> BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 1-5 pm</p>
<p>Dec 24 Sun</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "Maestro" • "It's a Wonderful Life"</p> <p> CrandellTheatre.org • "It's a Wonderful Life"</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 11 am-5 pm</p>	<p>Dec 25 Mon</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "Maestro"</p>	<p>Dec 26 Tue</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Racquette River Rounders Boxing Day Reunion • 7 pm</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "Maestro"</p>	<p>Dec 27 Wed</p> <p> GildedAge.org • Marionettes: "The Reluctant Dragon" • 3:30-4:30 pm</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "Maestro"</p>	<p>Dec 28 Thu</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Stephen Kellogg: Sit Down & Stand-up Tour: Songs, Stories & Stand-up • 7 pm</p> <p> TanneryPond.org • North Country Jazz Project • 7:30-8:30 pm</p> <p> ImagesCinema.org • "Maestro"</p>	<p>HCO</p>

<p>Jan 1 Mon</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Jeannine Laverty • 7 pm</p>	<p>Jan 7 Sun</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Nora Brown & Stephanie Coleman • 7 pm</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Playwright's Jam • 1:30 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Free First Sunday (Family) • 1-4 pm</p>	<p>Jan 14 Sun</p> <p> TanneryPond.org • Coffeehouse: Jim Gaudet & The Railroad Boys • 3-5 pm</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Nordlys Global Voices: Wesli • 7 pm</p>	<p>Jan 19 Fri</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • The Brother Brothers • 7 pm</p> <p> UPH.org</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Fresh Takes: Emerging Art Hist. Expl. the Clark • 12 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • Winter Book Sale • 12 pm</p>	<p>Jan 25 Thu</p> <p> ParkTheaterGF.com • Songwriters' Showcase • 7 pm</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Lee Dewyze w/Opener Frank Viele • 7:30 pm</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Restored: "All that Money Can Buy" • 6 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • Folklife Program • 7 pm</p>	<p>Jan 28 Sun</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • March for Our Lives Benefit • 3 pm</p> <p> TanneryPond.org • Coffeehouse w/Ray Alexander, Jazz Piano • 3-5 pm</p>
<p>Jan 4 Thu</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • Bluegrass Music Jam • 6:30 pm</p> <p> SVAC.org • Wee Read Storytime Finale • 10:30 am</p>	<p>Jan 10 Wed</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Okan • 7:30 pm</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • Virtual: Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Convo w/Rebecca Serle • 8 pm</p>	<p>Jan 16 Tue</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Rochmon: George Harrison ("All Things Must Pass") • 7 pm</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Introspective Gallery Talk • 11 am</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • Glens Falls Feeder Canal • 7 pm</p>	<p>Jan 20 Sat</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Kids Open Mic w/Rick Bolton • 2 pm</p> <p> UPH.org</p> <p> Dionondehowa • See Dec. 21 • 1-4 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • See Jan. 19 • 10 am</p>	<p>Jan 26 Fri</p> <p> atUPH.org • The Marshall Tucker Band • 7:30 pm</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Mile Twelve • 8 pm</p>	<p>Jan 30 Tue</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • Virtual: Dr. Robert Lustig: "Lure & Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, & Modern Medicine"</p>
<p>Jan 5 Fri</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Rock & Recitation in Memory of Josh Chambers • 7 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> DowntownPittsfield.com • 1st Fridays Artswalk • 5-8 pm</p>	<p>Jan 11 Thu</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Brad Brose & His Bad Bros • 7 pm</p>	<p>Jan 17 Wed</p> <p> CrandallLibrary.org • Stories of Exile: Book Discussion • 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Jan 21 Sun</p> <p> UPH.org</p>	<p>Jan 27 Sat</p> <p> atUPH.org • Taylor Swift live DJ set w/Laser Dance Party • 7:30 pm</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Chandler Travis 2 By 2: Buttercups w/Rikki Bates & Channy N Johnny • 8 pm</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD: "Carmen" • 12:55 pm • Reg. rec'd.</p>	<p>Jan 31 Wed</p> <p> ParkTheaterGF.com • Rochmon Record: Jackson Browne ("Running on Empty") • 7 pm</p>
<p>Jan 6 Sat</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Little Folks w/Molly & Eben • 3 pm</p> <p> UPH.org</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD: "Nabucco" • 12:55 pm • Reg. rec'd.</p>	<p>Jan 13 Sat</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Roomful of Blues • 8 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> SVAC.org • Embroidering Moss • 10 am-4 pm</p>	<p>Jan 18 Thu</p> <p> ParkTheaterGF.com • M. Niedbalski Trio, feat. R. Lindquist & J. Emmond</p> <p> UPH.org</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Restored: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" • 6 pm</p>	<p>Jan 22 Mon</p> <p> UPH.org</p>	<p>Jan 28 Thu</p> <p> UPH.org</p>	<p>Jan 30 Tue</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD: "Carmen" • 12:55 pm • Reg. rec'd.</p>

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

Thurs

21

 **CaffeLena.org** • New American Cuisine • 7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Matt Niedbalski Trio • 7:30 pm

 • **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "The Boy and the Heron"



Dionondehowa • Biological Warfare & Weaponized Insects • 5-8 pm • 148 Stanton Rd., Shushan, NY • Reg. 518-320-0502

misc.

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 1-5 pm

Fri

22

 **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org** • The Wizards of Winter • 7:30 pm • Colonial

CaffeLena.org • Folk Heritage: Lost Radio Rounders' Holiday Sampler • 8 pm

 • **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "Maestro"

Mahaiwe.org • "It's a Wonderful Life (1946)"

misc.

WoodTheater.org • Family Holiday Party: Shrek the Halls • Doors 11 am/Short film 12 pm

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 12-5 pm

Sat

23

 **CaffeLena.org** • Nefesh Mountain: Love & Light Tour • 8 pm

 • **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org**

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "It's a Wonderful Life" • "Maestro"

CrandellTheatre.org • "It's a Wonderful Life"

misc.

WorldChildrens-Museum.org • Snowflake Watercolor Painting • 10:30 am-11:30 am

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Mkt • 11 am-5 pm

Dec 29 Fri

 **CaffeLena.org** • Peter Yarow • 8 pm

 **GildedAge.org** • Mari-onettes: "The Reluctant Dragon" • 3:30-4:30 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** --"Fallen Leaves" --"Monster"

misc.

ClavarackLibrary.org • Family Kwanzaa Celeb. • 2 pm • Pre-reg. rec'd. at 518-851-7120 or info@clavarack-library.org

Dec 30 Sat

 **Manchester, VT** • Taconic New Year's Family Concert • 2-3 pm • 138 Cemetery Ave.

CaffeLena.org • Peter Yarow • 3 pm

DeweyHall.org • Sheffield Contra Dance • 6 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • The Met: Live in HD: "The Magic Flute" • 12:55 pm • Reg. rec'd.

 **ImagesCinema.org** --"Fallen Leaves" --"Monster"

Dec 31 Sun

 **Mahaiwe.org** • Berkshire Bach Society: Bach at New Year's--A Very Baroque Celeb. • 6 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • New Years Eve w/Max Creek • 8 pm • Colonial

ParkTheaterGF.com • New Year's Eve Dinner & Comedy Show • 8 pm

 **WoodTheater.org** • First Night of Funny • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org --"Monster" --"Fallen Leaves"

Ventfort Hall to host holiday cabaret, 'Swingin' in the Season,' Dec. 17

LENOX, Mass. Celebrate the season at Ventfort Hall with a holiday cabaret performed by singer Sherri James Buxton, accompanied by pianist Bob Shepherd.

The program, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, will feature seasonal songs from Broadway

musicals and the Great American Songbook as well as traditional favorites and some audience participation. There will be a sing-along of traditional carols including "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with parts to 12 (or more) audience members.

Buxton is an elegant interpreter of a wide

range of genres – from standards and show tunes to jazz.

Tickets are \$45 and are available online at gildedage.org/events or by phone at (413) 637-3206. The Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum is at 104 Walker St. in Lenox.

Ballston Spa *continued from page 4*

'It takes a few pioneers'

Although Ballston Spa is bustling today, it hardly seemed so 20 years ago when Kevin and Meaghan Borowsky decided to open their restaurant and tea shop, The Whistling Kettle, in one of what were then several empty storefronts on Front Street.

In their lengthy search for suitable space, the couple ruled out Saratoga Springs.

"There's good visibility and foot traffic in Saratoga, but it's a competitive environment and the rents were too high — even back then," Kevin recalled.

The Borowskys had initially nixed Ballston Spa as "too sleepy." But when they revisited the village a year later and noticed major renovations under way at what is now The Medbery Inn & Spa, they decided the time was ripe to join in the downtown's revival.

"We saw a storefront for rent and met with the owners, who said they wanted a quality addition to the community," Borowsky recalled. "We sold them on our vision, and they helped us with the renovations."

Twenty tons of debris-removal later, the couple's dream was a reality.

"Affordability was a key factor," Borowsky said. "I don't think we would have survived our first few years if we'd been in Saratoga. We were new to the restaurant business and needed a few years to work out our business model."

Thanks to the combination of reasonable rent and a supportive community, Borowsky said the success of their Ballston Spa venture allowed them to expand; they now have additional restaurant locations in Schenectady and Troy, a tea bar in Albany, and growing online tea sales.

Betsy Sepowitz, who opened her Nourish Designs gift store two years ago at 87 Milton Ave., said she also has found Ballston Spa a place to thrive.

"I've lived here 20 years," Sepowitz said. "Ballston Spa is a tremendously supportive and collaborative community. ... There's a lot of outreach going on."

In addition to selling fair trade artisan creations ranging from pottery and woodwork to stained glass, Sepowitz sells her own mandala artwork and offers classes in topics such as mindfulness drawing.

"My motto is 'selling gifts that give back,'" she said. "Every purchase provides funding for meals for kids in upstate New York."

Cromie said that one of reasons for the

downtown's success is its aesthetic appeal, thanks to the integrity of its rows of 19th century buildings. Very few have been lost since the Depression era.

"There's a very Victorian feel to the village," he said.

Borowsky said he's been delighted by the village's evolution over the past two decades, but not surprised.

"I think having a diverse ecosystem of businesses in a good location helps," he said. "It takes a few pioneers with vision to show it can be done, and that attracts like-minded people."

Mindful of Ballston Spa's identity and its potential, Cromie said the village's comprehensive plan has been crafted with the goal of preserving its the charm and history as well as its economic viability.

"The village's master plan is that everyone lives here," Cromie said. "No one is classed out."

Visit www.ballston.org for a complete listing of Ballston Spa retail businesses, restaurants and service providers.

The village's 2024 Chocolate Festival will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, offering "sweet spots" at participating businesses with chefs from around the region purveying chocolate creations at \$1-2 per sample.

Fornes continued from page 14

enough that women in the 1890s would want to produce, direct and perform a play at all, but these three were already having to hide their writing and creative work — even to the extent of burning their own notes. To perform a play about women who are strong, outspoken and complex would expose them to outrage.

But when only a dozen copies of Ibsen's

play exist, all in Norwegian, the stakes grow quickly higher. The woman who had the British rights to perform "Hedda Gabler" was the mistress of the prince of Wales. The rights to English translations went to a man who knew no Norwegian, and the early translations left out, blunted, censored and misrepresented the original work.

Elizabeth, Marion and Lady Bell are fighting passionately even to see the script, sneaking

backstage for a glimpse of a few pages. They are risking violent backlash and charging into an international battle over censorship — and all to feed and grow their delight in theater, their passionate need to create and understand and be heard, and to illuminate one another's minds.

"A play needs a listener, a respondent, a witness, an advocate," Standley said, invoking Fornes' thoughts. "Find a way to let art be generous and kind."

Thompson continued from page 12

lumbering, ice harvesting and papermaking.

"The latter accused Burleigh and his friends of splitting the Republican Party, and Burleigh retorted that Tom Platt was sending the party over Niagara Falls as fast as he could," *The Morning Star* reported.

"Burleigh and his friends" considered themselves reformers. Others viewed the group as renegades.

The Buffalo News called the Miller group "Tammany Republicans," suggesting their purpose was to provide "cover" for Democrats.

Burleigh did publicly endorse and campaign locally with Fassett in the fall of 1890.

But in December, the Miller group met at the Windsor Hotel in New York City and rescinded their support of Fassett.

At the state Republican Convention in June 1891, Burleigh backed U.S. Rep. James Wadsworth, who finished a distant second of five candidates on the first ballot, which Fassett handily won.

Burleigh said Fassett had been his second choice.

"Ah! Here is our old friend Burleigh. Henry G. Burleigh of Whitehall — familiarly known as the Bouncing Burleigh," the *Buffalo Courier* wrote in a sarcastic editorial. "He is the most genial, bustling, ubiquitous Republican in the state."

In the general election, Fassett lost to Democrat Roswell Flower by about 48,000 votes,

doing particularly poorly upstate.

Burleigh, Miller and their friends, of course, got the blame.

The mood at the state Republican headquarters changed dramatically when upstate returns started to come in, the *Pittsburgh Dispatch* of Pennsylvania reported on Nov. 9, 1891.

"Until these returns began to come in, there was rejoicing," the paper reported. "When their import was fully understood, there was bad language."

Maury Thompson was a reporter for The Post-Star of Glens Falls for 21 years before retiring in 2017. He now is a freelance writer focusing on the history of politics, labor and media in the region.

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