

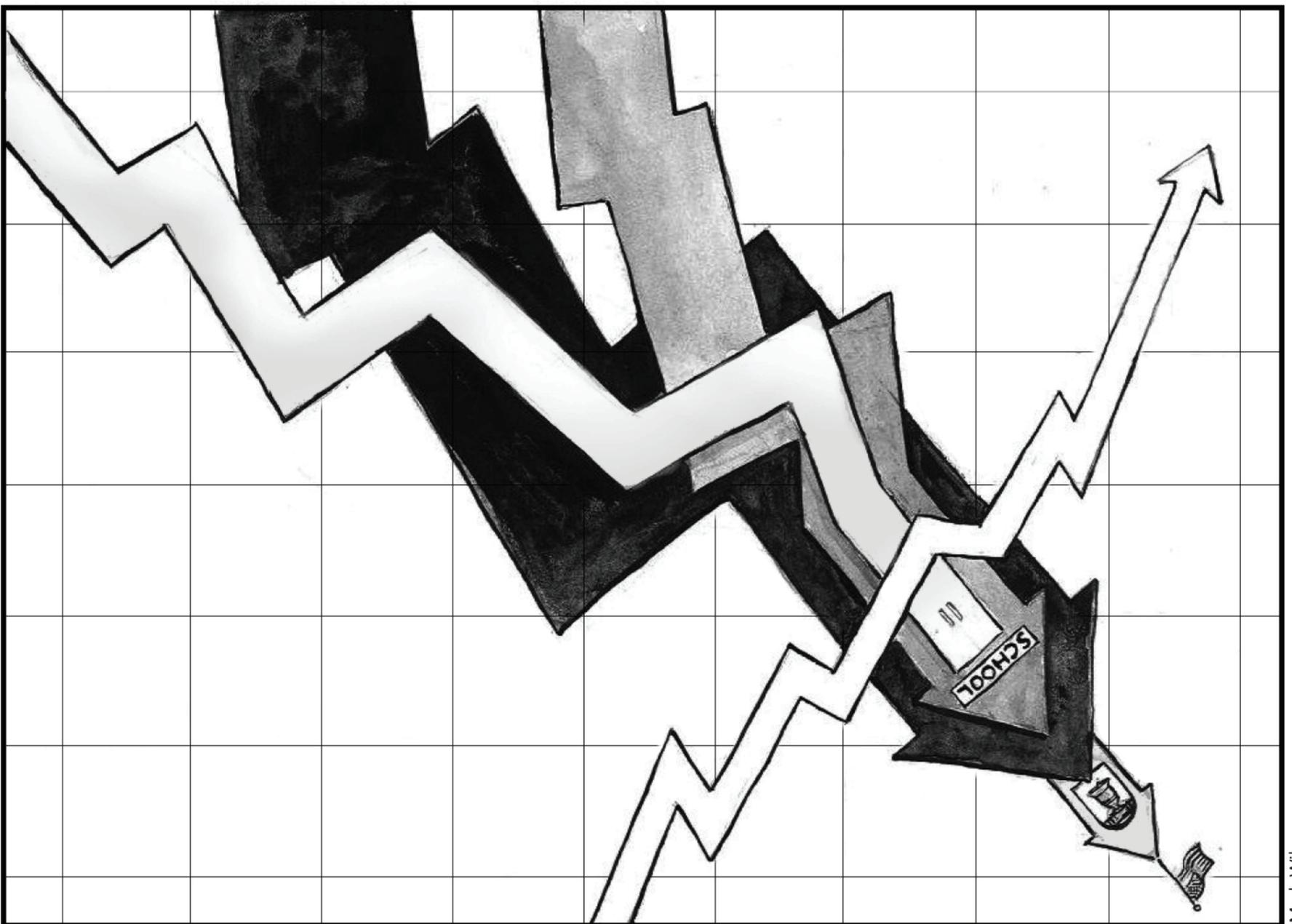
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The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires

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Taxing times in Vermont



Mark Wilson

Election results add to pressure for school funding changes

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Taxing times in Vermont

Election results add to pressure for school funding changes

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

The debate over school funding in Vermont is gaining new urgency after an election that wiped out Democratic supermajorities in both houses of the Legislature.

Even as the Democratic presidential ticket was carrying the state by more than 30 percentage points on Nov. 5, Republican Gov. Phil Scott won re-election to a fifth term by his biggest margin yet — and voters gave him nearly two dozen new allies in the Legislature.

The results were widely interpreted as a reaction this year's sharp increases in property taxes for education, which Scott has cited as part of what he calls a broader "affordability crisis" for the state.

"Vermonters had their pocketbooks in mind when they overwhelmingly voted for change, and more balance, because they could no longer afford the direction lawmakers had set," Scott said at a press conference on Nov. 13.

The Republican incumbent succeeded in his campaign on behalf of down-ballot candidates, flipping six seats in the 30-member state Senate from Democratic to Republican. The GOP also posted a net gain of at least 17 seats in the 150-member House, with one race still not settled as of late November. (In Bennington and Rutland counties, incumbent Democratic Reps. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, Stephanie Jerome, William Notte and Mike Rice all lost their seats.)

Although Democrats still will control both chambers when the General Assembly begins its new session in January, the change means Democrats by themselves will no longer have the votes to override Scott's vetoes, as they had done repeatedly over the past two years — including on this year's education funding bill.

Scott said he believes the start of property tax reform can be achieved in 2025.

"I do think we need a bridge to get us to where we need to go," he said. "But it has to come cou-

pled with structural changes — some of the things we have talked about in the past and some new ones."

State Rep. Seth Bongartz, D-Manchester, who won election in November to one of the two state Senate seats covering Bennington County, agreed that the election results will shift the dynamics of the state's education funding debate, though he sees the change from a different perspective.

With a greater number of Republican legislators come January, the public will hold both parties accountable, whereas this year Democrats absorbed a disproportionate share of the blame for failure to achieve reform, Bongartz said.

Small schools, fewer students

Vermont is hardly the only state trying to figure out how to pay for its schools. Funding for education is also expected to be a hot topic as new legislative sessions begin in January in New York and Massachusetts.

All three states in the region are grappling with how to absorb inflation — and the additional costs of schools' changing role in their communities — without putting even more burden on property owners.

But with a shrinking number of students and its overall population stagnant and graying, and without a dynamic metropolis like Boston or New York City to offset population losses in rural areas, the situation seems more critical in Vermont.

Like its neighbors, Vermont spends more per student and has smaller class sizes than most other states.

New York, which spent \$24,881 per student this year, has the highest spending per student in the nation, according to World Population Review, which bases its reports on United Nations data.

In this ranking, Vermont placed fourth, at \$21,219 per pupil, and Massachusetts ranked sixth, at \$19,193.

In 2022, Vermont had the lowest student-to-teacher ratio — 10.6 — of any state in the nation, according to the National Education Association. New York, at 11.1, had the third lowest.

Vermont schools employ twice as many teachers per student as California, Arizona or Utah, according to The 74, an online national education news site. Northeastern states tend to hire fewer teachers certified by alternatives to college degree

programs and also tend to have a greater proportion of teachers with master's degrees, according to the site.

Despite Vermont's tradition of small schools and local control, the state has pushed for consolidation in recent years in an effort to reduce costs. But there are some practical limits to school mergers in a rural state with mountainous terrain and winter weather that can make travel hazardous.

A state-commissioned study completed in September by Picus Odden & Associates concluded that Vermont schools are spending between \$400 million and \$462 million more than necessary. The study estimated the state could deliver an adequate education for a cost of less than \$13,000 per student but actually spent \$16,869 per student in the most recent fiscal year. But the consultants noted that the state's per-pupil education costs are driven up by its decision to maintain many smaller schools and districts rather than consolidating them.

Vermont NEA, a statewide teachers union, quickly dismissed the study, suggesting it does not recognize the model of small schools and small class sizes in Vermont — a feature that is often prized by voters in local communities.

"Like many other rural states, most of Vermont's districts and schools are very small, making it difficult to achieve the economies of scale of larger schools in larger districts," a state Agency of Education report concluded in November. "But in Vermont, this challenge is compounded because many districts tend to treat their small schools as if they were medium-size schools or even large schools when it comes to staffing."

Soaring costs — and taxes

Discontent with education funding has been percolating in Vermont for a number of years.

"It's been building," said Bongartz, the Manchester legislator.

But the debate reached a boiling point this year when, faced with a projected average property tax increase of 18.5 percent, voters rejected 29 of 95 local school budgets on town meeting day in March. The previous year, only two budgets were rejected.

In Rutland County, four school districts had to

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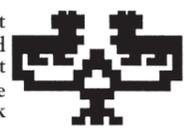


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pare their budgets and go back to voters at least twice more before winning approval. The Slate Valley district, based in Fair Haven, finally won voter approval on the fifth try.

“When Covid happened, everything came together in a perfect storm,” Bongartz said.

School districts faced new costs to provide mental health counseling services, health insurance expenses soared, and teacher salaries were increased to retain and recruit teachers as the labor market tightened, he explained. And inflation drove up nearly every other expense.

This year, Scott and legislative leaders were at a stalemate over education reform.

In passing the annual “yield bill,” which sets property taxes for education, lawmakers came up with about \$70 million in one-time stopgap aid and other measures to reduce the average property tax increase around the state to 13.8 percent.

Scott vetoed the bill in June, saying immediate comprehensive property tax reform was necessary, but the Legislature overrode the veto. Legislative leaders dismissed the governor’s ideas for further reducing the property tax increase as unworkable, and the state treasurer warned that Scott’s suggestion for pushing some of the cost of this year’s education funding into future years might harm the state’s credit rating.

The Legislature had instead established a Commission on the Future of Education in Vermont. The new panel was charged with conducting a two-year study of how to restructure education funding. The commission is scheduled to release an interim report in mid-December that might include some recommendations for immediate first-step reforms.

Bongartz said he expects some of those recommendations, and possibly other measures, will be implemented in the coming legislative session. Many officials now believe the public is not content to wait for the completion of the two-year study in 2026 before taking cost-saving measures,

he said.

The pressure could increase in early December, when the state tax department issues its first projection of property tax increases for the coming year.

Bongartz said he agrees with Scott that comprehensive property tax reform is needed.

“We need to just completely blow up the system and start over,” he said.

But replacing the current system could get murky quickly, given conflicting political views and the many interests at stake.

“I expect that it’s going to be a robust debate,” said Sue Ceglowski, executive director of the Vermont School Boards Association, in a telephone interview.

A mandate for equality

Under the current system, each school district sets a budget, and once voters approve it, the school district sends a bill to the state.

Vermont is one of just two states in which school districts bill the state to cover education budgets. The state, rather than individual school districts, collects education property taxes and then sends payments to the school districts.

The state calculates a “common level of appraisal,” which adjusts locally assessed property values to their estimated fair market value, with the aim of equalizing the tax burden between towns. But

for several reasons, the education tax burden in an individual town sometimes rises more rapidly than the budget set by the local school district.

Property taxes cover the largest share of education funding in Vermont, accounting for about two-thirds of revenue. Other revenue comes from the state lottery, a state sales and use tax, Medicaid transfers, and taxes on meals and lodging, wind and solar energy production, vehicle purchases and short-term rental payments.

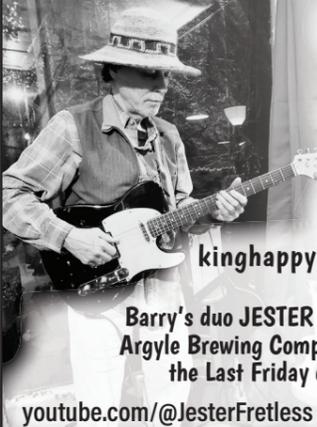
The current system was put in place in the late 1990s after the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the previous system, because of wide disparities in property values between towns, violated the state constitution’s guarantee of equality in education.

The intention was for the new system to provide equal education opportunity statewide without losing local control, but Bongartz contends the implementation has been counterproductive.

Sometimes property owners in a school district that is conservative in its spending will wind up with a higher-than-average property tax bill, while in other cases property owners in a district that’s more generous in its spending will wind up with a lower-than-average tax bill, he said.

“The system is just so complicated that no one can understand it,” Bongartz said.

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Barry Hyman

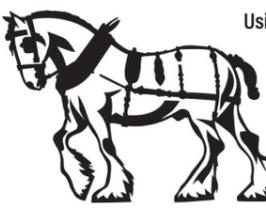
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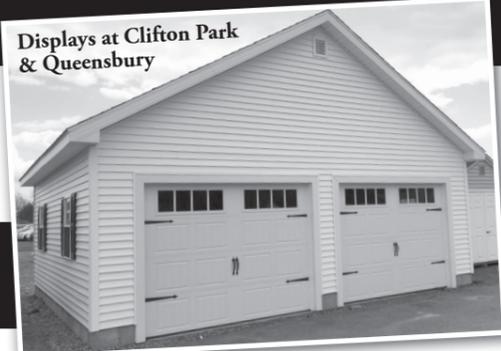
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This is because of the mandate to provide equal education to all students statewide.

“Since Vermont pools education funds at the state level, higher spending in other districts can lead to higher statewide tax rates to cover the total statewide cost of education,” the Agency of Education report released Nov. 15 concluded. “Everyone in the state helps pay for every child’s education.”

Some suggestions for reforming the system include:

- establishing a baseline “foundation aid” stream of state funding to supplement the property tax;
- establishing a multi-year state school aid stabilization fund;
- establishing a tax cap based on spending per voter, with a mechanism whereby voters in a school district could override the tax cap;
- allowing Vermont school districts to establish special education collaboratives, similar to the BOCES system in New York; and
- increasing the share of property taxes paid by second-home owners.

In addition, Scott has proposed establishing a statewide health insurance plan for teachers, which would reduce costs of coverage through economies of scale.

As of 2018, 33 other states, including New York, used a baseline system, in which the state provides a set payment that each school district uses as a first step in drafting a local budget.

The Vermont chapter of the National Education Association teachers union has called for switching the main source of revenue for the state education fund from residential property taxes to an income tax, but that idea does not appear to be drawing broad-based support.

“Taxing working Vermonters on the value of their homes is regressive and leaves millions of dollars in the pockets of the wealthiest Vermonters,” said Don Tinney, the union’s president, in a news release. “Using an income tax to support our schools would raise more from Vermont’s wealthiest representatives.”

Changing N.Y. aid formula

In New York, the debate over education funding in the coming legislative session will center not so much on the level of funding but on distribution of funding.

The state budget for the fiscal year that began April 1 provided a record \$34.5 billion in school aid. This included \$24 billion in foundation aid, an increase of \$2.6 billion from the previous year, fully funding foundation aid for the first time.

Now lawmakers in Albany are expected to update the formula for distributing foundation aid, as the current system is considered outdated.

In New York, the school property tax collection system works in the opposite direction from Vermont’s. The state sets aid to school districts in the state budget, then issues a payment to individual school districts, which then determine how much to levy from local property owners to supplement the state funding. The school districts individually levy and collect property taxes.

Foundation aid is the largest pool of state funding to New York’s school districts.

The state has commissioned the Rockefeller Institute of Government, an academic think tank, to conduct a study of the foundation aid system and make nonbinding recommendations for changes. The institute is expected to release its report in early December.

One thing all sides seem to agree on is that New York’s system of foundation aid to school districts is highly complex.

“We have to have lawyers and our research team explain the formula,” said state Assemblyman Matt Simpson, R-Lake George. “It’s complicated.”

The formula for distributing foundation aid has not been updated since it was established in

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- from Hudson: 1 hour, 55 minutes
- from Manchester: 35 minutes
- from Pittsfield: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs: 45 minutes
- from Williamstown: 1 hour

See map on page 8

GETTING TO GREENWICH

- from Bennington: 45 minutes
- from Glens Falls: 45 minutes
- from Hudson: 1 hour, 40 minutes
- from Manchester: 50 minutes
- from Pittsfield: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs: 30 minutes
- from Williamstown: 1 hour

See map on page 8

2007. In preparing its upcoming report, the Rockefeller Institute held a series of five public forums around the state this summer, the nearest of which was Aug. 14 in the Albany suburb of Guilderland. Speakers at the Guilderland forum voiced concern that the current aid formula relies on outdated statistics that no longer reflect the degree of poverty, the percentage of students speaking English as a second language, or the increasing role of schools in providing mental health resources and social-services safety nets.

“Our student demographics are rapidly shifting, our kids are showing up to school with bigger and more urgent needs, and our schools are playing a larger role in our students and families than ever before,” said Malinda Person, president of New York State United Teachers, at the Guilderland hearing.

The state’s current aid formula is based on 2000 U.S. Census data for poverty and 2007 labor costs. The formula is based on K-12 education costs, but in recent years the state has consistently emphasized the importance of public pre-kindergarten programs. Court decisions also have increased the cost of providing special education services.

Another issue is that the formula does not factor in the state property tax cap that was implemented in 2011. The tax cap limits the annual increase in the dollar amount of property taxes collected by a school district to 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, unless local voters approve the district’s budget by a supermajority.

continued on page 20

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ELECTION 2024 RESULTS

Here are the results of the Nov. 5 election for federal and state offices across the region. Winning candidates are in boldface type if the outcome is not in dispute. Incumbents are marked with an asterisk (*). Uncontested races are not shown.

Statewide results for the presidential race are listed in the main table; a separate county-by-county tally of presidential returns is provided in the chart on this page. All figures from Massachusetts and Vermont are final, official returns certified by the secretaries of state. Figures for New York are unofficial returns but include counts of absentee ballots reported as of Nov. 29 from Columbia, Rensselaer, Warren and Washington counties.

MASSACHUSETTS

The voter registration deadline is Oct. 26. Vote-by-mail application deadline is Oct. 29. Early voting is offered Oct. 19 through Nov. 1; schedules vary by town and city and will be posted by Oct. 11 at www.voteinMA.com. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 5. Mail ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 5 and received by 5 p.m. Nov. 8 (or by Nov. 15 if postmarked from outside the United States).

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Shiva Ayyadurai and Crystal Ellis (i) 18,419 (0.5%)
Claudia De La Cruz and Karina Garcia (SL) ... 12,887 (0.4%)
Kamala D. Harris and Tim Walz (D) 2,126,545 (61.6%)
Chase Oliver and Mike Ter Maat (L) 17,734 (0.5%)
Jill Stein and Gloria Caballero Roca (G-R) 26,544 (0.8%)
Donald J. Trump and JD Vance (R) 1,251,308 (36.2%)

U.S. SENATOR

John Deaton (R) of Swansea 1,365,445 (40.1%)
*** Elizabeth Warren (D) of Cambridge 2,041,693 (59.9%)**

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 1ST DISTRICT

Nadia Donya Milleron (i) of Sheffield 133,552 (37.4%)
*** Richard E. Neal (D) of Springfield 223,325 (62.6%)**

STATE SENATOR (Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, Hampshire Dist)

*** Paul W. Mark (D) of Becket 62,249 (70.9%)**
David Rosa (R) of Dighton 25,494 (29.1%)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE -- 3rd Berkshire District

Leigh Davis (D) of Great Barrington 13,819 (57.5%)
Marybeth F. Mitts (i) of Lenox 10,222 (42.5%)

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Question 1 -- Auditing the Legislature

A Yes vote gives the state auditor specific authority to audit the Legislature.

Yes 2,326,932 (71.6%)
No 924,294 (28.4%)

Question 2 -- Eliminate MCAS requirement

A Yes vote eliminates the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System to graduate from high school.

Yes 2,004,216 (59.1%)
No 1,388,560 (40.9%)

Question 3 -- Unionization for rideshare drivers

A Yes vote gives rideshare drivers who work for companies like Uber and Lyft the option to join a union.

Yes 1,771,770 (54.1%)
No 1,504,681 (45.9%)

Question 4 -- Legalization of psychedelic substances

A Yes vote would have allowed people over 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and created a commission to regulate those substances.

Yes 1,444,812 (43.2%)
No 1,902,527 (56.8%)

Question 5 -- Minimum wage for tipped workers

A Yes vote would have raised the minimum hourly wage for tipped workers to the full state minimum wage in increments over five years, at which point employers could have pooled all tips and distributed them to all non-management workers.

Yes 1,200,980 (35.9%)
No 2,147,245 (64.1%)

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Kamala D. Harris and Tim Walz (D, WF). 4,389,828 (55.9%)
Donald J. Trump and JD Vance (R, C) 3,469,339 (44.1%)

U.S. SENATOR

*** Kirsten Gillibrand (D, WF) 4,483,539 (58.4%)**
Michael D. Sapraicone (R, C)..... 3,150,881 (41.1%)
Diane Sare (i) 36,526 (0.5%)

C – Conservative Party
D – Democratic Party
GR – Green-Rainbow Party
i – independent (no party)
L – Libertarian Party
P – Progressive Party
PJ – Peace and Justice Party
R – Republican Party
SL – Socialism & Liberation
SW – Socialist Workers
WF – Working Families Party

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 19TH DISTRICT

(11 counties including Columbia and most of Rensselaer)
*** Marcus Molinaro (R, C) 181,291 (49.1%)**
Josh Riley (D, WF) 187,771 (50.9%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 20TH DISTRICT

(Albany, Schenectady, southern Saratoga and parts of Rensselaer and Montgomery counties)
*** Paul D. Tonko (D, WF) 217,999 (61.1%)**
Kevin M. Waltz (R, C) 139,038 (38.9%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 21ST DISTRICT

(15 counties incl. Warren, Washington, northern Saratoga)
Paula Collins (D, WF) 127,588 (37.8%)
*** Elise M. Stefanik (R, C) 210,197 (62.2%)**

STATE SENATE

41st district (Columbia, Greene and parts of Ulster and Dutchess counties)
*** Michelle Hinchey (D, WF) 100,153 (58.6%)**
Patrick Sheehan (R, C) 79,872 (41.4%)

43rd district (Rensselaer and parts of Albany and Washington counties)
*** Jake Ashby (R, C) 81,604 (54.7%)**
Alvin Gamble (D)..... 67,671 (45.3%)

44th district (Saratoga and part of Schenectady County)
Minita J. Sanghvi (D, WF) 64,514 (41.7%)
*** James N. Tedisco (R, C) 90,013 (58.3%)**

STATE ASSEMBLY

106th district (parts of Columbia and Dutchess counties)
*** Didi Barrett (D, WF) 39,413 (57.1%)**
Stephan L. Krakower (R, C) 29,649 (42.9%)

107th district (parts of Columbia, Rensselaer, Washington and Albany counties)
*** Scott H. Bendett (R, C) 39,705 (52.9%)**
Chloe E. Pierce (D) 35,360 (47.1%)

112th district (parts of Saratoga, Schenectady and Fulton)
Joe Seeman (D, WF) 29,988 (40.9%)
*** Mary Beth Walsh (R, C) 43,376 (59.1%)**

How area counties voted in the 2024 presidential race

	Kamala Harris (D)	Donald Trump (R)	Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (i)	Jill Stein (GR)	Chase Oliver (L)	Claudia De La Cruz (SL)
Berkshire County, Mass.	47,094 (68.9%)	19,805 (29.0%)	—	568 (0.8%)	323 (0.5%)	221 (0.3%)
Columbia County, N.Y.	20,396 (57.4%)	15,168 (42.6%)	—	—	—	—
Rensselaer County, N.Y.	39,503 (50.6%)	38,492 (49.4%)	—	—	—	—
Saratoga County, N.Y.*	63,852 (50.6%)	62,278 (49.4%)	—	—	—	—
Warren County, N.Y.	17,099 (47.9%)	18,604 (52.1%)	—	—	—	—
Washington County, N.Y.	11,224 (39.4%)	17,268 (60.6%)	—	—	—	—
Bennington County, Vt.	12,326 (60.0%)	7,697 (37.5%)	288 (1.4%)	—	84 (0.4%)	66 (0.3%)
Rutland County, Vt.	16,573 (51.3%)	14,887 (46.0%)	553 (1.7%)	—	151 (0.5%)	78 (0.2%)

Party key: (D) Democratic; (R) Republican; (L) Libertarian; (GR) Green-Rainbow; (SL) Socialism & Liberation; (i) independent
* Figures for Saratoga County are unofficial, election-night returns; figures for other counties are final, official results.



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113th district (parts of Saratoga, Warren and Washington)
Jeremy Messina (R, C) 30,731 (45.3%)
* Carrie Woerner (D) 37,127 (54.7%)

STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSAL

A Yes vote amends the state constitution to protect against unequal treatment based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability and sex "including sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy."
Yes 4,541,686 (61.9%)
No 2,792,928 (38.1%)

SARATOGA COUNTY TREASURER

* JoAnn Kupferman (R, i) 67,632 (56.7%)
Michele D. Madigan (D) 51,735 (43.3%)

VERMONT

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Claudia De La Cruz and Karina Garcia (SL)..... 1,710 (0.4%)
Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter (SW) 211 (0.1%)
Kamala D. Harris and Tim Walz (D) 235,791 (64.4%)
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. & Nicole Shanahan (i) ... 5,905 (1.6%)
Chase Oliver and Mike Ter Maat (L) 1,828 (0.5%)
Donald J. Trump and JD Vance (R) 119,395 (32.6%)
Cornel West and Melina Abdullah (PJ) 1,549 (0.4%)

GOVERNOR

Esther Charlestin (D, P) of Middlebury 79,217 (21.9%)
June Goodband (PJ) of Springfield 4,512 (1.2%)
Kevin Hoyt (i) of Bennington 9,368 (2.6%)
Eli "Poa" Mutino (i) of Barre 2,414 (0.7%)
* Phil Scott (R) of Berlin 266,439 (73.6%)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian Diamondstone (PJ) of Putney 13,671 (3.9%)
John S. Rodgers (R) of Glover 171,854 (48.9%)
* David Zuckerman (D, P) of Hinesburg 165,876 (47.2%)
(Legislature must decide after no candidate gets 50 percent.)

U.S. SENATOR

Steve Berry (i) of Manchester 7,941 (2.2%)
Mark Stewart Greenstein (i) of Brattleboro 1,104 (0.3%)
Matt Hill (L) of Burke 4,530 (1.2%)
Gerald Malloy (R) of Weathersfield 116,512 (32.1%)
* Bernie Sanders (i) of Burlington 229,429 (63.2%)
Justin Schoville (PJ) of Barnard 3,339 (0.9%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

* Becca Balint (D) of Brattleboro 218,398 (62.5%)
Marc Coester (R,L) of Westminster 104,451 (29.9%)
Jill "Jessy" Diamondstone (PJ) of Dummerston 7,552 (2.2%)
Adam Ortiz (i) of Newport 19,286 (5.5%)

STATE TREASURER

Joshua Bechhoefer (R) of Cornwall 135,763 (39.1%)
* Mike Piciak (D) of Winooski 211,134 (60.9%)

SECRETARY OF STATE

* Sarah Copeland Hanzas (D) of Bradford .. 205,378 (59.7%)
H. Brooke Paige (R) of Washington 138,673 (40.3%)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

* Charity Clark (D) of Williston 200,711 (60.9%)
Kevin Gustafson (PJ) of Rutland Town 17,159 (4.9%)
Ture Nelson (R) of Berlin 128,798 (37.2%)

STATE SENATE

Bennington District (two seats)

Steve Berry (i) of Manchester 2,459
Seth Bongartz (D) of Manchester 10,053
Cynthia Browning (i) of Arlington 2,867
Joseph "Joe" Gervais (R) of Arlington 8,647
Rob Plunkett (D) of Bennington 9,160
Lawrence "Spike" Whitmire (i) of Shaftsbury 3,539

Rutland District (three seats)

Martha Cassel (D) of Rutland Town 12,040
* Brian "BC" Collamore (R) of Rutland Town 18,380
Dana Peterson (D) of Rutland Town 9,704
Robert J. Richards (D) of Fair Haven 9,235
* David Weeks (R) of Proctor 16,097
* Terry K. Williams (R) of Poultney 15,998

STATE HOUSE

Bennington District 1 (Pownal, Readsboro, Searsburg, Stamford and Woodford)

Bruce Busa (R) of Readsboro 1,242 (49.5%)
Jonathan Cooper (D) of Pownal 1,265 (50.5%)
(Legislature to resolve dispute over ballot error.)

Bennington District 2 (two seats; town of Bennington)

Anthony A. Cook (R) 1,363
* Timothy R. Corcoran II (D) 2,136
William "Will" Greer (D) 1,858

Bennington Dist. 3 (Glastenbury, Shaftsbury, Sunderland)

* David K. Durfee (D) of Shaftsbury 1,342 (56.2%)
Victor K. Harwood Jr. (R) of Shaftsbury 1,046 (43.8%)

Bennington District 5 (two seats; Bennington, Pownal)

* Jim Carroll (D) 1,763
* Mary A. Morrissey (R) 2,157
Michael Nigro (D) 1,940

Bennington-Rutland District (Dorset, Landgrove, Peru, Danby, Mount Tabor)

Sandra "Sandy" Pinsonault (R) of Dorset 1,475 (54.6%)
* Mike Rice (D) of Dorset 1,225 (45.4%)

Rutland-Bennington District (Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rupert, Wells and Timmouth)

* Robin Chesnut-Tangerman (D) of M.S. 1,135 (43.9%)
Chris Pritchard (R) of Pawlet 1,450 (56.1%)

Rutland District 2 (two seats; Clarendon, Rutland, Wallingford and West Rutland)

David Bosch (R) of Clarendon 2,836
* Tom Burditt (R) of West Rutland 3,014
Dave Potter (D) of Clarendon 2,234

Rutland District 4 (Rutland city and town)

Christopher Howard (R) of Rutland Town 1,458 (55.9%)
Anna Tadio (D) of Rutland City 1,148 (44.1%)

Rutland District 6 (city of Rutland)

* Mary E. Howard (D) 849 (51.4%)
Cindy Laskevich (R) 802 (48.6%)

continued on page 19

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A Saratoga senator who led a governor's impeachment

Maury Thompson

After 20 rounds of balloting, delegates from Washington, Saratoga and Schenectady counties remained deadlocked as they attempted to nominate a candidate for New York's newly redrawn 28th Senate District, with each county's delegates backing their own favorite son.

Schenectady County, with five delegates, consistently voted for Austin A. Yates at the Republican nominating convention, which was held Aug. 1, 1895 in Ballston.

Washington County, with eight delegates, voted for L.M. Howland. The county's delegates pushed for adherence to the unwritten "rule of rotation," a tradition in which the honor of being the home county of the region's senator rotated between counties. It was Washington County's turn, they argued.

Saratoga County voted for Edgar Truman Brackett, having earlier rejected three-term incumbent Republican Sen. Harvey J. Donaldson of Saratoga County, who wanted to run again.

"The backers of Harvey J. Donaldson in Saratoga County now concede that the nomination for a fourth term, which he greatly desired, will be refused him with unanimity, and it is thought by many that Edgar J. Brackett of Saratoga Springs will secure the plum," the *Mechanicville Mercury* had reported on June 22, about six weeks before the Aug. 1 convention.

On the 21st convention ballot, Schenectady County shifted its vote to Brackett.

A ceremonial vote was taken to make it unanimous, and the campaign was under way.

The next week, on Aug. 9, *The Granville Sentinel* published a satirical poem, "Senate Convention," about the nomination contest:

*Howland laid down
With a terrible frown
And Hobbie wept,
While Burleigh slept
As all were lying
Baker decrying
And frowning
And weeping
And sleeping
And dreaming.
The "boys" were cleaning
And screening
And dividing
The ten thousand golden eggs
Pulled off Howland's leg
Without any racket
Each filling a jacket
To nominate Brackett.*

(H. G. Burleigh of Whitehall and I.V. Baker of Comstock were Republican political bosses in Washington County who were often at odds with one another. William Hobbie of Greenwich was a Republican state assemblyman.)

Brackett went on to win the general election easily against Democrat Charles Oscar McCreedy of Ballston Spa by a vote of 18,558 to 10,117.

McCreedy, a lawyer, was a former Ballston postmaster, former secretary of the state Forestry Commission and former Saratoga County Democratic chairman. At the time of the election, he worked in the postal printing office in Washington, D.C.

Brackett spent \$2,028.90 on his campaign, the equivalent of \$76,244 in today's dollars.

A lawyer and businessman, Brackett was born in Wilton in 1853, and spent many of his childhood and teenage years in Iowa. He returned to Saratoga County in 1872 to open a law practice in Saratoga Springs.

He founded Adirondack Trust Co. in 1901 and founded McGregor Links, a prestigious golf course in Saratoga Springs, in 1921. He also was a founding director of Adirondack Electric Power Co. in 1911.

Brackett's philanthropy included contributing the organ at the Saratoga Springs Methodist Episcopal Church; \$30,000 to endow a department chairmanship at Cornell College, his alma mater; and funds to construct an arch on the Cornell campus in memory of his mother.

He served in the state Senate from 1896 to 1906 and from 1909 to 1912. He was elected Senate minority leader in 1911-12.

His elevation to leadership of his party's Senate caucus made national news, but not for his political wisdom. The *Birmingham Age-Herald*, and possibly other newspapers, published a humorous, slightly exaggerated anecdote about Brackett's receding hairline.

"If there is the slightest element of jealousy in Senator Edgar Truman Brackett, Republican leader of the upper house, it will doubtless crop out during this session to the legislature. There is every reason why it should," the Alabama newspaper wrote.

"Seated only two chairs from him is William Pierson Fiero, a gentleman of the old school,

continued on page 20

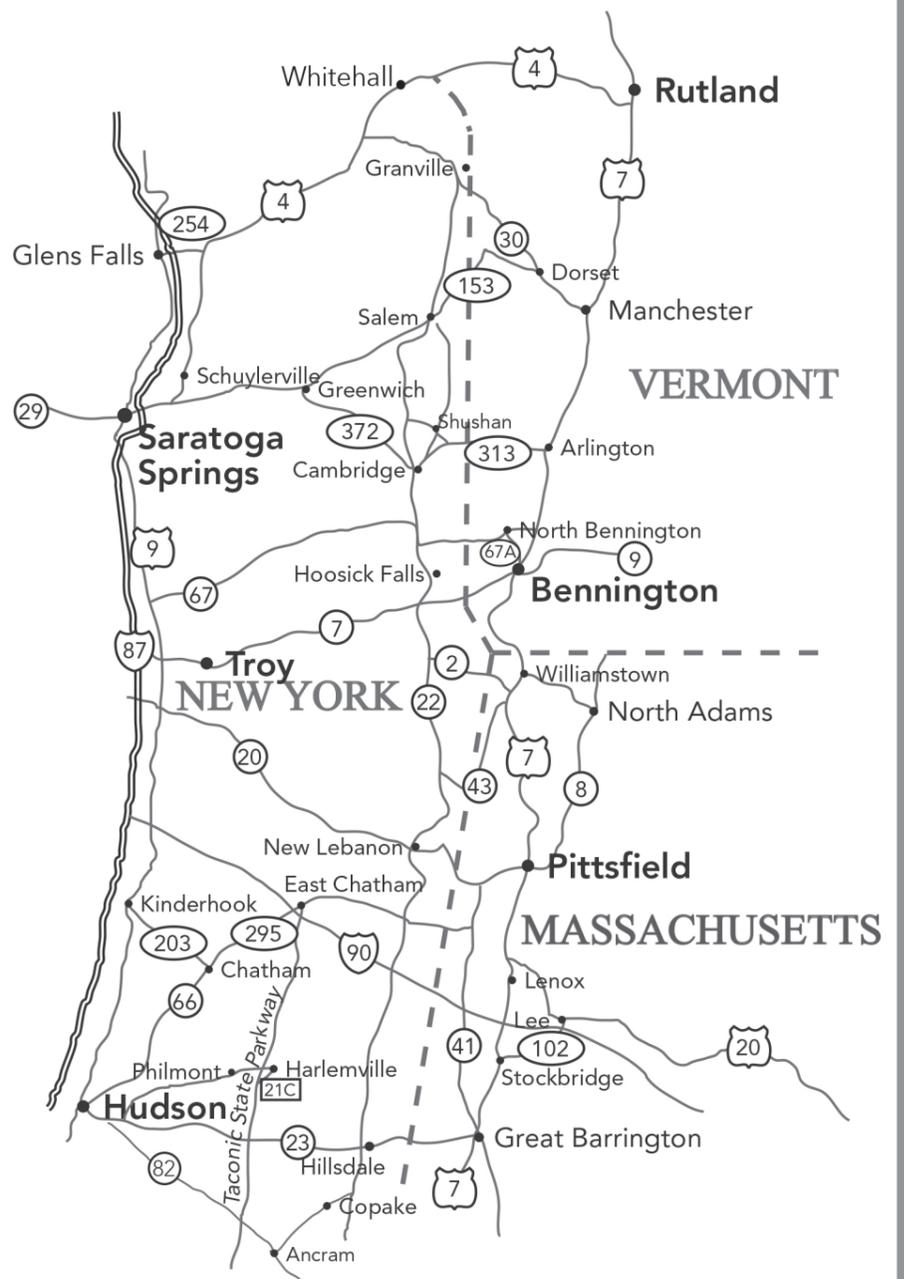
News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

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

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The spirit of living in the moment

Saratoga entrepreneur leaves legal career to make organic tequila

By **STACEY MORRIS**
Contributing writer

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

Lisa Elovich started her own business nine years ago with 80 cases of organic tequila and a dream.

Now, in a day's work for the owner of a boutique tequila company, there are tastings at area liquor emporiums, orders to fill for restaurants throughout the state, charity events to book, and progress checks to make at the organic farm in Mexico where the crucial ingredient for her product is grown.

Elovich left behind a high-powered legal career that included serving as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan and later as an administrative law judge for the state Office of Children and Family Services.

But she took her change in profession as an invigorating challenge rather than an anxiety-inducing leap into the unknown. She says she had the confidence to become an entrepreneur mainly because she believed wholeheartedly in her product and its intent — a philosophy she said is reflected in the business name: One With Life.

"I feel like today's consumers are smarter when it comes to celebratory drinking," Elovich said. "There's more of a balance nowadays: They like to sip on a good tequila rather than shoot it back to get drunk. Enjoying a good tequila to have fun is part of a balanced approach to life."

The company name, she added, reflects her philosophy of "staying in the present moment and enjoying it."

Although One With Life is headquartered in Saratoga Springs, Elovich said that, by law, the agave plants she relies upon must be grown in Mexico for her to call her product tequila.

Because it was important to her to offer a small-batch organic product, Elovich chose to partner with the third-generation organic agave farm, Tequila Las Americas, which grows its 100 percent blue agave in Jalisco, a Mexican state on the country's Pacific coast. The area is known for having good well water and volcanic, nutrient-rich soil, she said.

Elovich visits Mexico several times a year to check on the progress of the agave crop as well as distillery operations there.

"The best part of owning this company is meeting with the farmers and producers and seeing how much care goes into the growing and distilling process," she said. "Agave plants must grow for at least seven years before they're ready for harvesting to use in tequila."

One With Life offers three varieties of tequila — blanco, reposado and anejo — which each reflect varying degrees of aging and range from \$42 to \$70 per bottle. They are sold throughout New York, Florida, Connecticut and online.



Joan K. Lentini photo

Lisa Elovich, right, the owner and founder of the One With Life brand of organic tequila, is joined by Joyce Perry, director of Whispering Willow Wild Care, and the barred owl Ophelia at an event held in November at All Star Wine & Spirits in Latham, N.Y.

"Blanco is right out of the ground, while our reposado is aged 9 months in American oak, and the anejo 18 months," Elovich explained.

She credits her team of brand ambassadors for the company's 200-plus accounts at liquor stores and restaurants.

"They've helped me grow the brand in a grassroots kind of way by developing relationships with accounts and becoming a part of the community," she said. "A lot of people discover us through our tastings at liquor outlets and also charity events."

Supporting care of owls

The One With Life logo features a majestic

rendition of the tree of life — with an owl perched in it, keeping watch — plus the slogan "99% peaceful, 1% wild."

For Elovich, the owl in her logo is more than just a symbol of wisdom. It also represents the focus of One With Life's sister charity, Whispering Willow Wild Care, which offers rehabilitation for birds of prey and other wildlife as well as community educational services.

Joyce Perry, the executive director of the Schenectady-based nonprofit, regularly partners with Elovich at liquor stores and outdoor venues for hybrid events that combine tequila tasting with educational sessions that feature an array of birds. The cast for these events includes an

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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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owl, hawk, raven and a talking crow.

“People love meeting the birds,” Perry said. While Elovich serves mini-cocktails and shots of her product, Perry offers a presentation on the mission of Whispering Willow, which offers nearly 100 programs annually at schools, libraries, nursing homes and festivals in addition to rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife.

“It’s a win-win for the people attending, because they get a tasting and learn more about birds,” Perry said.

She added with a laugh, “Lisa’s tequila is excellent – I never drive to these events.”

Perry said the collaboration began when one

of her volunteers approached Elovich six years ago after noticing the acronym in the company’s name.

“Teaming with One With Life has definitely spread more awareness about our mission,” she said.

Links to local foods

Another aspect of Elovich’s community outreach and relationship building involved partnering with local food purveyors.

“We have a strong appeal upstate and like to collaborate with local producers of organic products to pair with our tequila,” Elovich explained.

So at tastings and events, One With Life uses locally grown fruits and herbs as well as mixers such as the lavender lemonade made by Slate Valley Farms of Granville.

Elovich proudly noted that One With Life recently earned a 94-point rating from Wine Enthusiast magazine as well as a gold medal from Tequila Aficionado magazine.

“And our bottles appeared in two motion pictures, ‘Don’t Look Up’ and ‘Instant Family,’” she added. “It definitely brought us some street cred.”

John Brophy, a wine consultant at Purdy’s Discount Wine & Liquor in Saratoga Springs, said One With Life Tequila has become a

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favorite amongst his customers.

“A lot of people pay attention nowadays to what goes into their wine and spirits, and I think the fact that it’s an organic tequila helps a lot,” he said. “It’s a really quality product at a competitive price, and the fact that it’s a local company is a plus for our customers.”

One With Life has also gained devoted fans from farther afield. Janice and Bill Lozano, who live in Ulster County, regularly make the drive north for what has become their favorite brand of tequila.

“We’ve always enjoyed tequila, but One With Life takes it to a different level with its clean taste,” Janice Lozano said. “There’s a

definite difference from other brands who add flavorings and colorings. We drive to Heller’s Wine & Liquor store in West Sand Lake because we like supporting a mom-and-pop liquor store as well as a woman-owned business. We’ve met Lisa at tastings and love her approach to life.”

With her company’s 10th anniversary on the horizon, Elovich said she couldn’t be happier in her new career.

“It’s important to follow your passion and not be too identified with any one thing,” she said. “I was a lawyer for 28 years and had a lot of different roles within the legal profession. My last 10 years I served on a parole board, and it was very dark and heart wrenching. I wanted to

try something new, and tequila came to mind because I’ve always associated it with joy and laughter.”

Now that she’s found her own sense of joy, Elovich’s mission is to impart it to others.

“The idea behind my tequila is very celebratory and about spreading kindness,” she said. “People tend to look at tequila as something wild. I see it as a chance to connect with the part of us that can let our guards down, not take life too seriously, and be joyful.”

Visit www.onewithlifetequila.com for more information about One With Life Tequila and its upcoming tastings and events.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Women who reshaped life and art

In portraits, illustrator Anita Kunz reveals a sisterhood across time, space

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

STOCKBRIDGE, Mass.

In November 1936, Amrita Sher-Gil was winning recognition throughout India as an artist.

She was drawing crowds in Mumbai for her paintings: a woman sleeping on her back, three girls sitting together with sun washing over a cheek, a shoulder — bringing out the nap of cloth with a vivid sense of heat and light.

As her name spread across the country, Sher-Gil was standing awed in the Ajanta caves in Maharashtra, absorbing colors imagined 2,500 years before.

She described them as “painting with a kernel,” an essential core. Women kneel together, gesturing as they talk. Padmapani, the Bodhisattva of compassion, holds a lotus with petals brushing skin and a background of firelight and the green of water running through limestone.

“I think all art, not excluding religious art, has come into being because of a sensuality so great that it overflows the boundaries of the mere physical,” Sher-Gil wrote to a friend. “How can one find the beauty of a form, the intensity or subtlety of a color, the quality of a line, unless one is a sensualist of the eyes?”

Three thousand miles away, in Odesa, in the Ukraine, Anna Akhmatova was returning to writing poems after 10 years away, and she was embarking on a requiem she would write for 25 years. She would become an international voice,



Photo courtesy of Norman Rockwell Museum

The artist and illustrator Anita Kunz has created nearly 300 portraits of women, some famed and others little known, who shaped the course of history or made important contributions to the arts, science and other fields. “Original Sisters” opened in November at the Norman Rockwell Museum.

and in the last years of her life she would be nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature for two years running.

But in 1936, Stalin was purging the country around Akhmatova, having hundreds of

thousands of people arrested, killed or sent to labor camps like the one where her son was confined for years and where her husband died. She had already lived through revolution and a world war, censorship and terror.

“Now all’s eternal confusion,” she said, but she kept on writing.

Imagine these two women together now in one room, 90 years later. Around them gather 280 more – women coming together across time and space. Internationally recognized illustrator and artist Anita Kunz has brought a labor of love to the Berkshires in “Original Sisters,” a new exhibit of portraits at the Norman Rockwell Museum, guided in this incarnation by the museum’s curator of exhibitions, Jane Dini.

Portraits of strength, courage

As a Canadian artist living and working in London, New York and Toronto, Kunz has created socially and politically themed work, in her own words, for publications from Time to The New Yorker and Rolling Stone as well as magazines from Switzerland to Korea and Japan.

In “Original Sisters,” she has reached out to a community of women through centuries and around the world — at a time when she has felt a need for courage.

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www.cambridgevalleyart.org

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Kunz said she began this work in the pandemic. As the lockdown took hold, she thought of women living in dark and difficult times, and she wanted to honor their strength. So she began to paint a new woman each day.

In these rooms, women stand together who have commanded fleets of ships and mapped the human genome and the night sky. They have uncovered fossils and learned the structures of metamorphosis.

“Original Sisters’ is a love note to women on whose shoulders I stand,” Kunz said.

Fatima al-Fihri is known as having founded al-Qarawiyyin, the oldest continually living university in the world, in Fez, Morocco, in the year 880. Her university holds the world’s oldest library.

And standing here within a few feet of her, Shamsia Hassani, a contemporary Iranian born artist, has become the first graffiti artist in Afghanistan. In her own words, Hassani’s art “gives Afghan women a different face, a face with power, ambitions and willingness to achieve goals.” She often paints women as well, each one bright with energy and color, “a human being who is proud, loud and can bring positive changes to people’s lives.”

As Kunz’s work has grown, she has met more and more women new to her. Over and over, she said, she would find herself thinking, “She is awesome – how didn’t I know about her?”

She found suggestions from friends in many fields, she said. She scoured the Internet, blogs and searches, and she delved into a series of obituaries The New York Times has published in the last few years to commemorate women from the 19th and 20th centuries whose lives and achievements were ignored on the newspaper’s obituary pages at the time of their deaths.

“Women have been responsible for remarkable achievements in all areas of life,” Kunz writes in the opening of the exhibit’s catalog, “and have made major contributions throughout the ages. Yet ... they are not known or remembered in the way they should be.”

Pushing boundaries, making waves

Wall texts in the show reveal patterns in the lives of many of the women gathered here. They are deeply intelligent, forceful, active in ways that can define and reshape worlds far beyond their home communities — and they can protect and transform those communities and the world beyond.

Rachel Carson, walking in tide pools, set currents in motion that would lead to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Autumn Peltier has addressed the Global Landscapes Commission at the United Nations as chief water commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation.

These women are scientists and activists and leaders of political movements, and they are musicians and writers, athletes and astronauts. And they are artists — the kinds of artists, Kunz said, that she had never learned about before she started down this path.

In studying art history, she said, her professors and the artists she studied were overwhelmingly white and male.

“I never had any women teachers,” Kunz said,

“and the art history I received was mostly Western and European artists.”

In her own work, she has pushed some of those boundaries. Twenty years ago, she became the first woman artist celebrated in a solo show in the Library of Congress.

Art and humor illustrators in the press have a long history of keeping a check on people in power, Kunz said, though she feels this influence has weakened in the United States over the past 20 years since Sept. 11 — in part because editors have acted with less courage and have imposed more restrictions, with the result that artists have lost the freedom to create with strong voices on many platforms.

This pattern is another reason Kunz has felt the need to work in her own space, on her own terms. She has made an international career in print illustration and in satire and humor, and though she said some of the editors she works with can give their artists flexibility in their work, she has wanted more time to evolve her own ideas as she has become more established.

In 2017, she painted the Women’s March from her own direct experience. She remembers the charged excitement of a downtown filled with so many women that they overflowed public spaces with a positive and active energy.

And then Covid came. And she began a new search for creative life force.

At the Faison artist residency on Peaks Island,

Maine, she heard for the first time of Jane Bakes, a trans woman who had lived here. Kunz looked for more of her story and could find very little.

“How many stories have been lost?” she asked.

So Kunz began to paint women she felt should be known. She learns and celebrates their stories, their brilliant vigor and pleasure, curiosity and beauty, for their grit and love of life. Walking through the rooms at the Rockwell, she traced lineages and found kinship among them.

Here is Sojourner Truth — born into slavery in New York state 10 years after Elizabeth Freeman led Massachusetts to declare it illegal under the new state constitution — speaking across the country for abolition and women’s rights.

And here, close enough to call to her, Dorothy Height is leading the National Council of Negro Women in national efforts to end lynching.

And Billie Holliday is singing “Strange Fruit” in a Greenwich Village nightclub, singing in the



CONGRATULATIONS!

The Folklife Center has received the **Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership 2024 Director’s Award**

for its original video series, **Champlain Canal Stories.** “This outstanding work complements the previous successes” with *Battenkill Inspired* and *Lake George On the Water.*

“These [video] projects collectively encourage a broader appreciation and better understanding of the interconnected waterways of the national heritage area.”

MUSIC

Bluegrass Music Jams
First Thursdays, Dec 5 & Jan 2
6:30-8:30 pm

Colgate Resolutions
Live a cappella music
Thursday, January 9
7 pm (doors open 6:30)

FOLKLIFE GALLERY

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www.folklifecenter.com

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Arts & Culture

AREA EXHIBITIONS

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, multiple artists
 • outdoor: Jiminez Lai's "Outcasts from the Underground" AND Riley Hooker's "Body, Language"
 • through Jan. 26: "Shaboom: Presumed Ignorant"

Art on Main Gallery • 38 Main St., W. Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-2288
 • through Dec. 1: Alice Dugan's "Canvas and Clay: Paintings and Pottery"
 • Dec. 7-22: Holiday Small Works Show

BenningtonMuseum.org • 75 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571 • Online, too
 • through Dec. 31: "Uncanny Valley"
 • through Dec. 31: "Women in Wartime" AND "The Circus is Coming to Town"

BerkshireBotanical.org • 5 W. Stockbridge Rd., Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-3926
 • through Dec. 2: "90 Years Young: Berkshire Botanical Garden 1934-2024"

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 (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpvu1J8etvDgSsr2bmDeSEuuzV2DNIFMu>)
 • Link at URL to local literary history driving tour

Cambridge (NY) Historical Society & Museum • 12 Broad St. • by appt.through Dec. 18 • www.instagram.com/Cambridge.NY_Hist.Soc.Museum
 • through Dec. 5: "Welcome Home" 18th & 19th Century quilts
 • through Dec. 5, 2025: "The Storied Life of Main Street" • "The Ondawa-Cambridge Chapter of the DAR Celebrates 130 Years"

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
 • through Dec. 1: "Echoes," 6 artists' journeys through collage, painting, and sculpture
 • Dec. 6-Jan. 26: "Unexpected Light"

ChapmanMuseum.org • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
 • ongoing: "Hands-on History: Experiences of Hometown Life"
 • through Dec. 1: "Glen Street, 1880s"
 • through Jan. 5: "Stitched in Time, 1850-1950 Quilts"
 • through Oct. 5: "1868 Bedroom" & "1910 Bedroom"

ClarkArt.edu • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA
 • Dec. 14-Mar. 9, 2025: "Wall Power! Modern French Tapestry from the Mobilier national, Paris"
 • through Jan. 26: "David-Jeremiah: I Drive Thee"
 • through Feb. 17: "Abelardo Morell: In the Company of Monet and Constable"

ClaverackLibrary.org • NY Rte. 23 & NY Rte. 9H • 518-851-7120
 • through Dec. 7: Maureen McNeil's "One Clover, and a Bee. And Revery." Hand Sewn Textiles & Recycled Material

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"

D'Arcy Simpson Art Works • 409 Warren St., Hudson, NY • Fri.-Mon., 12-5 pm
 • Opening Nov. 30: Jordan Nobuko Baker Paintings; Xan Peters Sculptures

510 Warren St. Gallery • Hudson, NY
 • through Dec. 1: "Holiday Show" Works by Peggy Reeves
 • Opening Dec. 7: Ken Tannenbaum's "Photography to Chat About"

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>
 • Basement Folklife Gallery:
 • Jan. 6-Jun. 30, 2025: "Wool & Waters" (scientific data of water quality into fiber art) and "Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere" (UNESCO international network)--through Dec. 31: "Breaking the Chains: Lincoln & Douglass Linocuts of Stephen Alcorn"
 --ongoing: "Hometown USA and Shutter Squad" youth photography
 • Upstairs display:
 --through Dec. 31: "Painting the Border: A Child's Voice"

Framework by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.
 • 431 North St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-6501 • M-Th, 10 am-2 pm
 • Dec. 8-23: Marguerite Bride: "Memories in Watercolor"

HancockShakerVillage.org • 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-0188
 • through Dec. 1: Mother Ann

HudsonHall.org • 327 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438
 • Dec. 8-22: Community Canvas: A Winter Walk Youth Exhibition

HydeCollection.org • 518-792-1761
 • through Jan. 5, 2025: "Growing Up in a Renaissance Palazzo" AND Zack Lobdell: "Ethos" AND "Growing Up In Hyde House"
 • through Apr. 20, 2025: Mia Westerlund Roosen: The Carmelites

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

JacobsPillow.org • On demand at <https://watch.jacobs-pillow.org> • <https://www.youtube.com/c/JacobsPillow> • [danceinteractive.org](https://www.danceinteractive.org) • <https://www.jacobs-pillow.org> • <https://www.princess-lockeroo.com> • "Princess Lockeroo & The Fabulous Waack Dancers"

LABspace • 2642 NY Rte. 23, Hillsdale, NY • Sat. & Sun., 1-5 pm • julielabspace@gmail.com
 • Dec. 14-Feb. 23: "HOLIDAY"

TheLafferGallery.com • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181
 • through Dec. 8: "Duality"

LAPINcontemporary.com • Norad Mill, 60 Roberts Dr., Studio 308, N. Adams, MA
 • through Dec. 28: "Seeing Landscape"

LARAC.org • Lapham Gallery • 7 Lapham Pl., Glens Falls, NY • 518-798-1144
 • through Dec. 24: Holiday Shop

Monument Arts & Cultural Center • 44 Gypsy Ln., Bennington, VT • monumentcentervt.org
 • ongoing: "The Norman Rockwell Mystery" AND Portals to the Past - Covered Bridges in Art & History

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd., Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100
 • through Feb. 9: "Norman Rockwell: Illustrating Humor"
 • through Feb. 23: Norman Rockwell: Home for the Holidays
 • through May 26: Anita Kunz' "Original Sisters: Portraits of Tenacity and Courage"
 • through Jan. 4, 2026: "Illustrators of Light: Rockwell, Wyeth, and Parrish from the Edison Mazda Collection"

NorthCountryArts.org
 --Shirt Factory • Ste. 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY
 • through Jan. 7: "The Sweetheart Deal"

Olana State Park • Hudson, NY • olana.org
 • through Jan. 5: "A Closer Look: Frederic Church's Atmospheric Eye"

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • 362 1/2 Warren St., Hudson, NY
 • through Jan. 13: "ALL small"

The Park-McCullough House • 1 Park St., North Bennington, VT
 • Ongoing: "Women of the House & Women of the Community"

Schick Art Gallery • Saisselin Art Bldg., Skidmore, Saratoga Springs, NY
 • through Dec. 8: Molly Burt Westvig

ShakerMuseum.us • Kinderhook Knitting Mill, Kinderhook, NY • 518-610-8543
 • The Collection: Over 18,500 objects on line
 • through Dec. 22: "Cradled"

SohnFineArt.com • 69 Church St., Lenox, MA • 413-551-7353
 • through Jan. 13: "Creatures of Curiosity," feat. Jeff Robb, JP Terlizzi, Hans Withoos

Spencertown Academy • 790 NY Rte. 203, Spencertown, NY
 • through Dec. 15: Small Works 2024: Regional Fine Arts and Crafts

SVAC.org • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405
 • through Feb. 9: Fall/Winter 2024 Member Exhibition

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2024

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

1

 **WoodTheater.org** • Billy Gilman: Christmas & Hits • 3 pm

 **CaffeLena.org** • Fred Small • 7 pm

 **CaffeLena.org** • Playwright's Jam • 1:30 pm

 **StoneValleyArts.org** • Movie Marathon • 2-9 pm

 **Tang.Skidmore.edu** • Tang Guide Tour • 2 pm

misc.

Museum Store Sunday • #ShopWithAPurpose

LittleTheater27.org • Fall Barn Sale • 8 am-4 pm • 27 Plum Rd., Ft. Edward, NY • 518-368-9463

SaratogaSpringsYouthBallet.org • Movement Class & Performance of Excerpts from "The Nutcracker" • 1 pm • Free • Reg. req'd. at sspl.libcal.com • Saratoga Springs Li-brary, Henry Ave.

WashingtonCountyFair.ticketspice.com • Drive-Thru Holiday Lights (through Dec. 30) • appts. 4:30-8 pm • URL for tickets & nightly events

ClarkArt.edu • 1st Sun. Free: "Lights, Camera, Landscape!" • 1-4 pm

Upstate Model Rail-roads • Open House w/ running layouts & Freight Yard sale • 12-3 pm • 22 Hudson Falls Rd, Door 21, S. Glens Falls, NY

2

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Mud Pond Hike (beg., 2.1 mi) • 10 am • A \$5/C \$1 • REQ'D: ap-proprate attire, snack, water, bug spray, common sense & 24-hr Adv. reg. at 518-793-0511

3

 **CaffeLena.org** • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Siri Allison • 7 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Dartmouth Prof. Kimberly Juanita Brown: "Photography, Anti-blackness, & the Politics of the Visual" • 5:30 pm • Free • Manton Ctr.

GreenMtnAcademy.org • Dr. W. John Kres ("To Know Our Trees: A Vital Responsibility for Today and the Future") • 5:30-7 pm • \$22 • Live stream to SVAC

4

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

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Poetry, feat. Effy Redman • Sign-up, 6:30/readings, 7 pm

atUPH.org • Women Aren't Funny, feat. Kaneez Surka • 7:30 pm

misc.

LARAC.org • Artsy Holiday Potluck: Show & Share • 5-7 pm • Free • RSVP at 518-798-1144 x2 or programs@larac.org

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • New Moon through the Observatory • 6 pm • BYOTelescope if need assistance • A \$5/C \$1 • Adv. reg. at 518-793-0511

8

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • One More Time • 1 pm (w/ dish to share) • Cambridge, NY

atUPH.org • See Dec. 7 • 3 pm

CaffeLena.org • Sirsy • 3 pm

WoodTheater.org • Anthony Nunziata: My Italian Christmas • 3 pm

TheEgremontBarn.com • Farmsteads for Farmers Benefit Concert • 7 pm • \$40 • 17 Main St., Egremont, MA

 **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org** • See Dec. 7 • 1 pm • Colonial

TheGlensFallsSymphony.org • "Holiday Pops!" w/SaratogaSpringsYouthBallet.org; and S. Glens Falls & Warrensburgh HS choruses • 4 pm • \$29/33/43 • Glens Falls Sr. HS

 **BerkshireTheatreGroup** • Dorset Inn Playhouse • MonumentCenterVT

misc.

DestinationWilliamstown.org • See Dec. 6 • 8 am-4:30 pm • Events at URL

WarrensburghBeautification • See Dec. 7 • 9 am - 2 pm

WashingtonCounty.fun • See Dec. 6

continued on page 19

9

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Baker to Moreau Overlook Hike (mod.-hard, 2.5 mi.) • 10 am • ages 13+ • +18, \$5 • REQ'D: appropriate attire, snack, water, bug spray, & 24-hr Adv. reg. at 518-793-0511

10

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

CaffeLena.org • Chuck Lamb Trio w/Jimmy Greene • 7 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Christophe Koné: "Uncanny Creatures: Doll Thinking in Modern German Culture" • 5 pm • Free • Manton aud.

misc.

TheFoundryWS.com • MYO Wacky Holiday Ornament w/SALA Boutique • 5:30 pm • Free • Donations welcome

11

misc.

NorthChathamLibrary.org • "Hands-On Terrarium Gardening Workshop" • 10 am • Free • 103 Depot St., Chatham • register@northchathamlibrary.org

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Beginner Birding at Big Bend • 8:30 am • ages 13+ • BYOBinocs., if you have • \$5/A, \$1/<18 • 24-hr Adv. reg. at 518-793-0511

TheFoundryWS.com • Christmas, Hanukkah, & Kwanzaa Trivia & Prizes • 7 pm • Free • Dona-tions welcome

15

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

ClarkArt.edu • J. Park (piano), E. Arron (cello), A. Moretti (violin), & C. Chen (viola) • 2 pm • Conforti Pavilion • Adv. reg. REQ'D.

SaratogaChamberPlayers.org • String sextet pieces • 3 pm • 175 5th Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY

Mahaiwe.org • Close Encounters w/Music: Vivace Chamber Orchestra • 4 pm

HubbardHall.org • Cógig-Celtic Music Concert • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org • The Millstone Rounders • 7 pm

 **WoodTheater.org** • The Nutcracker Ballet • 1 pm

 **BerkshireTheatreGroup** • Dorset Inn Playhouse • Fort Salem • TheParkTheaterHudson • Shakespeare.org • ValatieCommunity

TheFoundryWS.com • --Veronica Cunningham reads Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales" • 2 pm • Free • Donations • --A Night of Drama (Does "A Christmas Carol") • 7 pm

 **BenningtonMuseum.org** • Don Trachte: A Tale of Two

continued on page 19

16

 **HudsonCrossingPark.org** • Carols by Candlelight • 6:30 pm • Free, \$5 donation for Battenkill Commy Svc. welcomed • 30 Ferry St., Schuylerville, NY

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

misc.

TheFoundryWS.com • A Very Very Cassie & Maggie Christmas • 7:30 pm

17

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rochmon Record: 2024 Retrospective • 7 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • "Reflections" Gallery Talk • 11 am • Adv. reg. REQ'D.

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Eagle Watch, convoy style • 9 am • BYO hat, gloves, binocs. (if have) • Adv. reg. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

18

 **CaffeLena.org** • Bluegrass Jam • 7 pm

SJCA • "When Klezmer Meets Hanukah" • in person & zoom • 7 pm • Adv. reg. REQ'D. • Tix. & Zoom link at 518-371-0608 or 518-584-8730

 **BerkshireTheatreGroup**

misc.

LARAC.org • Create Watercolor Holiday Cards • 10 am-12 pm • \$10 sugg. don. • Drop-in

Cambridge Hist. Soc. & Mus. • Victorian Christmas • 6 pm • 12 Broad St, Cambridge, NY

Maplewood Pkwy. Methodist Church • Free Commy. Meal • 5-7 pm • 15 Maplewood Pkwy., S. Glens Falls, NY

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2024

Thurs	Fri	Sat	
<p>5</p> <p> FolkLifeCenter.com • Bluegrass Music Jam: Denise Radtke & Frank Orsini • 6:30 pm • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Tatiana Eva-Marie & The Avalon Jazz Band • 7 pm</p> <p> ParkTheaterGF.com • Ethan Setiawan & Fine Ground, w/guest Alan Epstein • 7 pm</p> <p> ParkTheaterHudson.com • "The Passion According to G.H." • 7-9 pm • 723 Warren St.</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Hollywood Auteurs: "Bonnie and Clyde" (1967) • 6 pm • Free • Manton Center</p>	<p> Tang.Skidmore.edu • Curator's Tour: "The Forms of Things Unknown" • 12 pm</p> <p> BattenkillBooks.com • Fiction Bkclub: Daniel Mason's "North Woods" • 6:30 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> HartCluett.org • Holiday Greens Show's "Deck the Halls w/Music" • 57 Second St., Troy, NY --today through Dec. 8: 12-5 pm • \$20/A; free/<16 --tonight: 5-8 pm • Community Night • Free</p> <p> WashingtonCountyFair.ticketspice.com • See Dec. 1</p>	<p>6</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • The Wanda Houston Project • 6 pm • Manton aud.</p> <p> Mountain Top Library • Greene Room Players' Songbird Concert • 7 pm • Free • 6093 Main St., Tannersville, NY</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Sirsy • 8 pm</p> <p> ParkTheaterHudson.com • Deni Bonet & Chris Flynn • 8 pm</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup • Dorset Inn Playhouse • MonumentCenterVT</p> <p> Mahaiwe.org • "Gladiator II" w/ post-show Q&A w/ producer Douglas Wick • 7 pm • Great Barrington, MA</p>	<p>7</p> <p> ConcertsInTheVillage.org • Four Hands at One Piano • 3 pm • Sugg. \$25; students & children, free • Van Buren Hall, 6 Chatham St. (US Rte. 9), Kinderhook, NY</p> <p> FlowChartFoundation.org • "This Land: An American Song Recital" • 3-4:30 pm • \$20/A, \$10/students • 348 Warren St., Hudson, NY</p> <p> billywylder.com/shows • Billy Wylder • Doors 6/7 pm • Adv. tix at URL • Little City Cider, 139 Shields Dr., Bennington, VT</p> <p> ArgyleBrewing.com • Roadside Blues Band • 6 pm • Cambridge, NY</p> <p> atUPH.org • Schenectady-Saratoga Symph. Orch. Poinsettia Pops • 7 pm</p> <p> SpencertownAcademy.org • Vintage Jazz Concert, <i>continued on page 19</i></p>
<p>12</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Kaki King • 7 pm</p> <p> TheFoundryWS.com • Topsy Carol McBoozle's Holiday Sing-Along • 7 pm • Free • Donations welcome</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup • MonumentCenterVT</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Hollywood Auteurs: "A New Leaf" (1971) • 6 pm • Free • Manton Ctr.</p> <p> SVAC.org • Virtually w/ Marcie Scudder • 5:30 pm</p>	<p> on Zoom • Free, reg. req'd.</p> <p> BattenkillBooks.com • Poetry Night • 6:30-8 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Homeschool Pop-up: Evergreens • 10 am • Homeschoolers 6-12 yrs., all welcome • \$1/C • Adv. reg. at 518-793-0511</p> <p> LARAC.org • Ladies' Night at LARAC • 4-6 pm • 7 Lapham Pl., Glens Falls, NY</p> <p> WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1</p>	<p>13</p> <p> ArgyleBrewing.com • Thom Powers & Friends • 7-9 pm • Cambridge, NY</p> <p> SPAC.org • Sounds of the Season: Time for Three • 7 pm • Spa Little Theater</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Evening of Holiday Music w/Tim Jones • 7:30 pm • Colonial</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • The Empty Pockets' "Mistletones Holiday Tour" • 8 pm</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup • Dorset Inn Playhouse • Fort Salem • MonumentCenterVT • TheParkTheaterHudson • Shakespeare.org • ValatieCommunity</p> <p> WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1</p> <p> EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6</p> <p> HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7</p>	<p>14</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Kids Concert w/Terry A La Berry & Friends • 12 pm • Colonial, 111 South St., Pittsfield, MA</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Little Folks: John & Trish • 3-4 pm • Free • Sean Rowe • 8 pm</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Williams College Chamber Music Gala • 4:30 pm • Free • Manton aud.</p> <p> ArgyleBrewing.com • Carson Murphy & Laura Leigh • 6 pm • Cambridge, NY</p> <p> The Strand Theatre • The Bluebillies • 7 pm • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY</p> <p> WoodTheater.org • The Nutcracker Ballet • 1 & 6 pm</p> <p> NorthBerkshireDance.org • Contra • 7:30-10:30 pm • Pay-as-can, barter • 906 Main, Williamstown, MA</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup • Dorset Inn Playhouse • Fort Salem • MonumentCenterVT • Shakespeare.org • ValatieCommunity</p> <p> Mahaiwe.org • "Selected Shorts - Holiday Tales," w/ Jane Curtin, Joanna Gleason, Michel Gill, Bhavesh Patel • 1 pm</p> <p> TheFoundryWS.com • Staged Reading: "Replacing Prancer" • 7 pm <i>continued on page 19</i></p>
<p>19</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • The Singing Anchors Reunion Holiday Show • 7 pm</p> <p> Mahaiwe.org • Cows & Holly: Sandra Boynton • 7 pm</p> <p> ParkTheaterGF.com • Music of Thelonious Monk (Siegel, Emmond, Niedbalski) • 7:30 pm</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup</p> <p> ClarkArt.edu • Hollywood Auteurs: "The Godfather" (1972) • 6 pm • Free • Manton Ctr.</p>	<p> BattenkillBooks.com • Dona Ann McAdams: "Black Box: A Photographic Memoir" • 6 pm • Cambridge, NY</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> LARAC.org • See Dec. 18 • 2-4 pm</p> <p> WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1</p> <p> EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6</p>	<p>20</p> <p> atUPH.org • It's a Jazzy Christmas • 7:30 pm</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Rees Shad & the Conversations w/ opener Matt Griffin • 8 pm</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup • TheParkTheaterHudson</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • "Holiday reading of 'Santaland Diaries'" • 7:30 pm • Colonial</p> <p> Mahaiwe.org • "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) • 7 pm</p> <p>misc.</p> <p> WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1</p> <p> EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6</p> <p> HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7</p>	<p>21</p> <p> ArgyleBrewing.com • Shannon Tehya & Northern Borne • 6 pm • Cambridge, NY</p> <p> BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • The Wizards of Winter • 7:30 pm • Colonial</p> <p> CaffeLena.org • Nefesh Mountain: The Love & Light Tour • 8 pm</p> <p> Mahaiwe.org • John Pizzarelli Big Band - Dear Mr. Sinatra • 8 pm</p> <p> LenoxContraDance.org • Holiday Double Dance & Potluck • 5-10:45 pm • 65 Walker St., Lenox, MA</p> <p> FriendsOfClermont.org • Clermont Hist. Site Holiday Open House • 11 am-4 pm • Free</p> <p> WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1</p> <p> EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6</p> <p> HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7</p>

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DEC - JAN 2024 - 25

22 Sun

 **WoodTheater.org** • A "Classic" Christmas Lee & Friends • 3 pm

CaffeLena.org • "A Joyful Noise!" Gospel Din. w/ Soulist Garland Nelson • 5 pm



• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• TheParkTheaterHudson



Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Adv. reg. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • REQ'D: sensible clothes & adv. reg. at 518-793-0511. --Stories by the Fire • 12& under: 4-5 pm; 13+: 5-6 pm --Walk a Winter Wonderland (Nature Trail; 3 mi.) • 12 pm • All ages

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

29 Sun

 **Crescendomusic.org** • "Bach-Circle: Christmas Oratorios & Contemp. Female Voices: "Bringing Heaven to Earth" • 4 pm • 352 Main, Great Barrington

CaffeLena.org • Lost Leaders • 7 pm

misc.

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

23 Mon

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Kneehigh Naturalist • 10 am • ages 3-10 (& sibs) • REQ'D.: Weather-appr. clothes & adv. reg. at 518-793-0511

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

25 Wed

 **Parks.ny.gov/Moreau** • Hike at Big Bend (3 mi.) • 1 pm • Adv. reg. REQ'D.

misc.

26 Thu

 **CaffeLena.org** • Racquette River Rounders Boxing Day Reunion • 7 pm

misc.

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

27 Fri

 **CaffeLena.org** • Stephen Kellog • 5 & 8 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Free • Drop-in • Crafts with Friends • 11 am • All ages

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

28 Sat

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Met Live in HD: "The Magic Flute" • 1 pm • Adv. reg. • Manton

CaffeLena.org • New American Cuisine • 4-5:30 pm

misc.

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

31 Tue

 **Mahaiwe.org** • B'shire Bach Soc.: NYE • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org • Los Sugar Kings • 7 & 9 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Din./Com.: Sean Donnelly • 8 pm



WoodTheater.org • 1st Night of Funny • 7 pm

misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Kids' Noon Year's Eve Party • 11:15 am-12:15 pm
EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6
HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

Jan 1 Wed

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • First Day Hike (2.1 mi. OR 3 mi.) • 10 am • Free • Adv. reg. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

Jan 2 Thu

 **FolklifeCenter.com** • Bluegrass Music Jam • 6:30-8:30 pm • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY

Jan 3 Fri

 **CaffeLena.org** • The Niels • 8 pm

misc.

EdithWharton.org • NightWood • 5 pm • Res. REQ'D. at URL OR 413-551-5100

Jan 4 Sat

 **CaffeLena.org** • Little Folks: The Niels • 1-2 pm

 **CoCoContra.org** • See Dec. 7

misc.

EdithWharton.org • NightWood • 5 pm • Res. REQ'D. at URL OR 413-551-5100

Jan 7 Tue



CaffeLena.org • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Claire Nolan • 7 pm

Jan 9 Thu

 **FolklifeCenter.com** • Colgate Resolutions, a cappella • Doors 6:30/7 pm • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY



SVAC.org • West Coast Swing Dance • 5:30 pm

Jan 10 Fri

 **ParkTheaterGF.com** • Ariel Posen • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Allison Lupton, Shane Cook, & Kyle Waymouth • 8 pm



AllAbilitiesNY.org • "A Trip to the Moon" • 7 pm • 214 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY

Jan 11 Sat

 **CaffeLena.org** • Old Friends Beckoned/New Sounds Reckoned • 8 pm



NorthBerkshireDance.org • Contra • 7:30 pm • Pay-as-can, barter • 906 Main, Williamstown, MA

Jan 11 cont'd.



AllAbilitiesNY.org • See Jan. 10

WoodTheater.org • Big Gay Drag Show • 7 pm

DorsetPlayers.org • Jason Lorber's Comedy at the Core, feat. Dorset Players Improv • 7:30 pm • 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, VT

Jan 12 Sun

 **CaffeLena.org** • Ellis Paul • 4 pm



WoodTheater.org • Moochie The Dumpster Kat • 3 pm

Jan 15 Wed

misc.

Maplewood Pkwy. Meth. Ch. • Free Com-mty. Meal • 5-7 pm • 15 Maplewood Pkwy., S. Glens Falls, NY

Jan 16 Thu

 **CaffeLena.org** • Blake Christiana • 8 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Hollywood Auteurs: "The Exorcist" (1973) • 6 pm • Manton aud.

Jan 17 Fri

 **CaffeLena.org** • Nordlys Global Voices: Fränder • 8 pm



atUPH.org • The Magicians Guild Presents: Ben Seidman • 7:30 pm • ages 12+

Jan 18 Sat

 **BattenkillChorale.org** • "Finest French: Louis Vierne's 'Solemn Mass;' w/ Durufle, Langlais, Villette, & Messiaen" • Immac. Conc. Ch., 73 Main, Hoosick Falls, NY • 7 pm • Tix at URL/door

CaffeLena.org • Jenna Nicholls • 8 pm



LenoxContraDance.org • 7:15 pm • 65 Walker St., Lenox, MA



atUPH.org • See Jan. 17 • 7:30 pm • ages 12+

Jan 19 Sun

 **atUPH.org** • David Greenberger & the Huckleberries • 3 pm

BattenkillChorale.org • See Jan. 18 • 4 pm

Jan 22 Wed



CaffeLena.org • Benefit NFP Journ., feat. Rex Smith-"Journalism in Challenging Times" • 7 pm

Jan 23 Thu



ClarkArt.edu • Hollywood Auteurs: "Phantom of the Paradise" (1974) • 6 pm • Manton aud.



Mahaiwe.org • Scott Eyerly's Virtual Met Opera Lect.: Verdi's Aida • 5:30 pm

Jan 24 Fri

 **CaffeLena.org** • Nate Sabat & Rakish • 8 pm

Jan 25 Sat

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Met: Live HD - "Aida" • 12:30 pm • Adv. reg. enc. • Manton aud. • 413-458-0524

CaffeLena.org • East-bound Jesus - Benefit Comfort Food Community • 8 pm



Mahaiwe.org • Met Opera Live in HD: Verdi's "Aida" • 12:30 pm

DorsetPlayers.org • "Sleeping Beauty" • 2 & 7

Jan 25 cont'd.

pm • 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, VT

WoodTheater.org • "Colorworld Live!" • 2 & 6 pm

Jan 26 Sun



WoodTheater.org • See Jan. 25 • 2 pm

Jan 29 Wed



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

Jan 30 Thu



CaffeLena.org • Lee Dew-zye • 7 pm



ClarkArt.edu • Hollywood Auteurs: "Young Frankenstein" (1974) • 6 pm • Manton aud.

Jan 31 Fri



CaffeLena.org • The Suitcase Junket • 8 pm



WoodTheater.org • Banff Centre Mtn Film Fest. World Tr. '25 • 7 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2024

Dec 6 *cont'd.*

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • NightWood • 5 pm • Res. REQ'D. at URL OR 413-551-5100

DowntownPittsfield.com • Festive Frolic • 5-8 pm • Multiple events at URL

Dec 7 *cont'd.*

HubbardHall.org • Holiday Breakfast: Honoring Our Farming Heritage • 9 & 11 am

Mahaiwe.org • Met Opera in HD Encore: Mozart's "The Magic Flute" • 1 pm

Roeliff Jansen Commy. Library • "The Last Dragon Puppet Show" • 1-2 pm • Free, drop-in • Hillsdale, NY

TheTwoOfUsProductions.org • Live/virt. reading • "A Christmas Carol" • 7 pm • Free • RSVP for Zoom • Donations

Tangent-arts.org • "God of Carnage" • Doors 6 pm, read. 7 pm • \$10 • 48 Main, Millerton, NY



StoneValleyArts.org • "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) • 7-8:15 pm

misc.

HartCluett.org • See Dec. 5

DestinationWilliamstown.org • See Dec. 6 • 8 am-8 pm • Events at URL

WashingtonCounty.fun --See Dec. 6 --Whitehall Annual Christmas Parade • 5-8 pm • Free • 161 Main

WarrensburghBeautification • 36th Christmas in Warrensburgh • 9 am-6 pm • Events on Facebook

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • Friends Christmas Craft • 10 am-12 pm • Free • Drop-in

UUSaratoga.org • Holiday Sale • 10 am-3 pm • 624 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

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

Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs • Winter Faire & Angel Room • 10:30 am-2:30 pm • 62 York Ave., Saratoga

Springs, NY

CambridgeValleyArt.org • Self-guided Fine Art Tour & Sale • 11 am-4 pm • 7 artists & locs at URL

DowntownPittsfield.com • Festive Frolic • 12-3 pm • Multiple events & markets at URL

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

HancockShakerVillage.org • Radiant Nights • 5-8 pm • Tickets at URL • Pittsfield, MA

Hudson Hall.org • Hudson Winter Walk • 5-8 pm • Free • Warren St.

ManchesterMerriment.org • Holiday Tractor Parade • 5:30 pm • Manchester, VT

ParkMcCullough.org • Wreath-making Workshop • 6-8 pm • \$55/\$65

Dec 8 *cont'd.*

LARAC.org • Winter Arts Festival • 10 am-4 pm • Queensbury Hotel

ParkMcCullough.org • Wreath-making Workshop • 11 am-1 pm • \$55/\$65 • 1 Park St., Bennington, VT

CambridgeValleyArt.org • Self-guided Fine Art Tour & Sale • 11 am-4 pm • 7 artists & locations at URL

HartCluett.org • See Dec. 5

VTArtXchange.org • Bennington College Sculpture Show: "Draw Yourself Sleeping" • 1-4 pm • Train Depot, 5 Depot St., N. Bennington, VT

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

Dec 15 *cont'd.*

Paintings: The Norman Rockwell Mystery • 2-3 pm • 44 Gypsy Lane, Bennington, VT

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Anna Rotty: "Free Viewfinding Photo. Wkshop" • 10:30 am • ages 12+ • BYOCamera • Free • adv. reg. REQ'D. at education@clarkart.edu

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • EARLY & adv. reg. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511 --"Ugly" Sweater DIY • 11 am • All Ages • \$5/18+, \$1/C • BYO old or thrift-shop purchased sweater/sweatshirt

SVAC.org --Birch Bark Ornaments • 1-5 pm • 14+ yo • \$95/110 + \$35 materials --Full "Cold" Moon Hike (beg.) • 5 pm • \$5/A, \$1/C

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

THEATER LISTINGS

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • 413-997-4444 • Unicorn Theatre: "A Christmas Carol" • Dec. 5-22 • Wed. (18), Thu., Fri., Sat., 7 pm; Sat., 2 pm; Sun., 12 & 5 pm; Dec. 11, 6 pm, Sensory Friendly

• Colonial Theatre: • Mutts Gone Nuts: Santa Paws • Dec. 15 • 2 & 5 pm • "Holiday reading of 'Santaland Diaries'" • Dec. 20 • 7:30 pm

Dorset Inn Playhouse • 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, VT • 802-867-5777 • DorsetPlayers.org • Elf: the Musical • Dec. 6-8 & 13-15 • 6th, 13th, & 14th at 6:30 pm • 7th, 8th, & 15th at 2 pm

FortSalem.com • 11 East Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-9200 • "Snow Business" • Dec. 13-15 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

MonumentCenterVT.org • 44 Gypsy Ln., Bennington, VT • 802-318-4444 • Annie The Musical • Dec. 5-14 • Thu.-Sun., 7 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 pm

TheParkTheaterHudson.com • 723 Warren St., Hudson, NY • "Doctor Marigold" by Charles Dickens • Dec. 13-22 • Fri., 7 pm; Sun., 3 pm

Shakespeare.org • 70 Kemble St., Lenox, MA • 413-637-3353 • "Emma: A Lively, Costumed Reading" • Dec. 13-15 • Fri. & Sat., 7 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 pm

ValatieCommunityTheatre.org • 3031 Main St., Valatie, NY • "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus" • Dec. 13-15 • Fri. & Sat., 7 pm; Sun., 2 pm

Exhibitions *continued from page 15*

• through Feb. 23: "Lineages: Artists Are Never Alone"

SparkofHudson.org • 502 Union St., Hudson, NY • info (temp): 518-943-3400 • through Dec. 7: "Our Town on the River: Showcase of Hudson Artists"

StoneValleyArts.org • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT • Sat. & Sun., 1-4 pm • through Dec. 13.: 2024 SVA Members' Show

SusanEleyFineArt.com • 433 Warren St., Hudson, NY • through Dec. 22: Ellen Hermanos: A Retrospective • Jan. 9-Mar. 2: "Janus," curated by Katharine Dufault, feat. 14 artists

Tang.skidmore.edu • 815 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY • through Dec. 15: "Establish, Ensure, Provide, Promote: Election 2024" • through Jan. 5: Mark Dion & Alexis Rockman: "Journey to Nature's Underworld" • through Sep. 7: Yvette Molina "A Promise to the Leaves"

ValleyArtisansMarket.com • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • One-of-a-kind creations online • Dec. 26-29: After Christmas Sale

WorldChildrensMuseum.org • 89 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY • Cultural Exhibits



Dec 14 *cont'd.*



Mahaiwe.org • "Olaf's Frozen Adventure" (2017) • 4-7 pm



ClarkArt.edu • Curator Kathleen Morris: Lecture on "Wall Power!" • 11 am • Free • Manton aud.

NorthChathamLibrary.org • Paula Pugliese: "The History of Christmas Seals" • 1 pm • 4287 Rte. 203

Parks.ny.gov/Moreau • ages 13+ • PER program: \$5/A; \$1/<18 • 24-hr. adv. reg. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511 --Sustainable Fashion: history & cost of fast fashion, how to slow it down • 10 am --Visible Mending for Holey Clothes, w/Japanese "sashiko" • 11 am

misc.

ParkMcCullough.org • Santa's in the Stable! • 1-4 pm • Free • Storm date: Dec. 15

Ugly Mud Studio • Ugly Mud Holiday Sale • 1-6 pm • 2407 Rte. 66, Ghent, NY

WashingtonCountyFair • See Dec. 1

EdithWharton.org • See Dec. 6

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 7

Facebook.com/Granville-Lighted-Tractor-Parade • 5:30-7:30 pm • Free to public • 82 Church St.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Dreamscapes Gala • 6-10 pm

Election *continued from page 7*

Rutland District 7 (city of Rutland)

Chris Keyser (R) 1,157 (58.0%)
* **William Notte (D)** 837 (42.0%)

Rutland District 9 (Brandon)

* **Stephanie Zak Jerome (D)** 1,056 (45.6%)
Todd Nielsen (R) 1,260 (54.4%)

Rutland-Windsor District (Mount Holly, Shrewsbury and Ludlow)

Adrienne Raymond (D) of Shrewsbury 1,153 (43.3%)
Kevin C. Winter (R) of Ludlow 1,572 (57.7%)

—Compiled by Fred Daley

Thompson *continued from page 8*

whose hair sweeps down the sides and back of his head in such profusion that it looks like a silvery waterfall," the report continued. "Senator Brackett, whose years number the same as the newcomer in the Senate, years ago lost his last lock, and all his coaxing and urging have failed to bring back any of the lost strands."

Brackett had a reputation as a long-winded but compelling speaker with boundless energy.

"Born a debater, his experience has given him a breadth and depth that qualify him to contend with the best, while as a parliamentarian, no one who witnessed the Constitutional Convention of last fall, where for days he matched the best in the state, will for a moment place him in the second class," the *Mechanicville Saturday Mercury* reported on June 15, 1895.

Brackett "was perhaps more largely quoted in the newspapers for years than any other public man," *The Glens Falls Times* reported after his death.

Brackett tested the waters for a run for governor in 1906, initially drawing strong support. But the Republican nomination went to Glens Falls native Charles Evans Hughes, who defeated the Democratic nominee, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst.

Brackett was noted for his role as Senate prosecutor in the impeachment trial of Gov. William Sulzer, a Democrat, in 1913. It was Sulzer's own party that had pushed for his

impeachment after Tammany Hall became disenchanted with the governor because of his push for reform.

Sulzer was removed from office on charges he diverted campaign funds to buy stocks and that he committed perjury.

Brackett died Feb. 27, 1924.

"In his early manhood he shared an aptitude for politics, and his ability as a politician soon brought him to the front ranks of the Republican Party in Saratoga County and the state," the *Ballston Spa Journal* reported the next day.

"For a quarter of a century he has been recognized as one of the big men of the Republican Party and as one of the most able lawyers in the state," the *Ballston Spa Daily Journal* wrote in an editorial. "He was a man firm in his convictions and, once he believed he was right, he backed the opinion with all his dynamic energy."

It was said by one Tammany Hall politician that Brackett could "handle thirty bills at once and not lose his head," *The New York Times* wrote on Feb. 29.

"Edgar Truman Brackett should have come out of a book, but no novelist could have created him," the Times wrote in its tribute. "Long a god of the machine in Saratoga, he had strong bursts of independence; and there were Governors with whom, it seemed, he loved to pick a quarrel."

Mauvy 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.

Schools *continued from page 5*

One factor in the foundation aid formula involves setting a dollar amount that property owners could be expected to pay in each district. Education officials say the state's expectations have been harder to achieve since the tax cap was implemented.

"Given the current tax cap formula, this collectible amount may not align with our community's expectations," said Jeffrey Simons, superintendent of East Greenbush school district in Rensselaer County.

The issue has been particularly problematic in school districts with a high concentration of lake-front properties.

"Some are what I would call property-rich and income-poor districts," said Roger Catania, who represents the 4th Judicial District, stretching from Fulton and Schenectady counties north to the Canadian border, on the state Board of Regents. "Year-round residents there are generally working families, but these districts rely heavily on vacation property taxes, which is a revenue stream which doesn't keep pace with costs due to the tax cap."

Critics say the current aid formula also has become particularly problematic in school districts with a high concentration of farmland.

"Schuylerville is land rich with cows and corn," said Erin LaBombard, president of the Schuylerville school district's teachers union. "The formula is valued on land for condos and commercial use, not grazing and growing."

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